

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 JANUARY 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL, HR & REGULATORY SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report.

1.1 To present:

- a) the items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting scheduled to be held on 24 January and 13 February 2020 and seek confirmation of the information required for the subsequent meeting, scheduled to be held on 23 March 2020.
- b) a list of potential Forward Work Programme items for formal prioritisation and allocation to each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities.

2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2018–2022 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 22 February 2018 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2018 and 2022. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background.

- 3.1 Under the terms of Bridgend County Borough Council's Constitution, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee must publish a Forward Work Programme (FWP) as far as it is known.
- 3.2 An effective FWP will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected, as well as the approach that will be adopted; i.e. will the Committee be undertaking a policy review/ development role ("Overview") or performance management approach ("Scrutiny").
- 3.3 The FWPs will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with input from each SOSOC and any information gathered from FWP meetings with Corporate Directors and Cabinet.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 Attached at **Appendix A** is the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny forward work programme which includes the items scheduled for the next meeting which is set to be held on the 13 February 2020. It is for the Committee to determine any further detail to request as part of these reports including any additional invitees they wish to attend to assist the Committee in its deliberations.
- 4.2 In addition to this, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee have responsibility for setting and prioritising the overall forward work programme for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 4.3 Attached at **Appendix B** is the SOSCs FWP which includes the topics prioritised and agreed by the COSC for the next set of SOSCs in Table 1, as well as a list of proposed future topics at Table 2.
- 4.4 All lists have been compiled from suggested items at meetings of each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It also includes information proposed from Corporate Directors, detail from research undertaken by Scrutiny Officers and information from FWP Development meetings between the Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.5 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent' therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.¹
- 4.6 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 4.7 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

Identification of Further Items

- 4.8 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to ensure a strategic responsibility for Scrutiny and that its work benefits the organisation.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

¹ Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association 'If this were my child... A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers', June 2009

5.1 The work of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality impacts arising directly from this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the Planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery
- Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet
- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives
- Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service, Elected Members and members of the public
- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures that the public and stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 The delivery of the Forward Work Programme will be met from within existing resources for Overview and Scrutiny support.

9. Recommendation.

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Identify any additional information the Committee wish to receive in relation to their items scheduled for 13 February 2020 and their subsequent meeting including invitees they wish to attend within **Appendix A**;
- b) Confirm the items prioritised and delegated to the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees for contained within **Appendix B**;

c) Identify additional items using the criteria form for future consideration on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

DATE OF MEETING	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT
27 January 2020	SOSC3	CANCELLED
3 February 2020	SOSC 1	Education Outcomes
5 February 2020	SOSC 2	Home to School Transport
5 March 2020	SOSC2	Transformation Grant
9 March 2020	SOSC1	Learner Travel
18 March 2020	SOSC3	Plastic Free Bridgend
20 April 2020	SOSC2	Remodeling Children's Residential Services Project
23 April 2020	SOSC1	TBC
27 April 2020	SOSC3	TBC

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