

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

### REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

08 APRIL 2015

#### THE FUTURE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide proposals for the future provision of the Scrutiny Function in Bridgend

##### **2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priority**

- 2.1 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) has established four core principles which identify the most important qualities of scrutiny and accountability:
- i) constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge
  - ii) amplifies the voices and concerns of the public
  - iii) led by independent people who take responsibility for their role
  - iv) drives improvement in public services.
- 2.2 Following the recent WAO Improvement study, a series of characteristics of “Good Scrutiny” were developed and agreed with Auditors, Inspectors and Regulators to assess the effectiveness of scrutiny and to potentially minimise any duplication between these organisations and scrutiny. These characteristics are shown at Appendix A.

##### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee structure was last reviewed in 2008. Since that time, there have been a number of incremental changes to the corporate structure. Some changes to the remits of the committees have been undertaken but these changes have only been to realign the scrutiny committees to the directorate responsibilities.
- 3.2 In addition, there have been a number of legislative changes such as the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Regulations, and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.
- 3.3 With the significant challenges faced by the Authority to meet the requirements of the MTFs, savings have to be made across all departments and Directorates, with scrutiny being no exception. The re-structure of Legal & Regulatory Services minimised the number of job losses by combining the management of Scrutiny and Committee functions. Additionally, the role of Scrutiny Support Assistant was transposed into a more generic support function for the whole of the Democratic Services Team.

- 3.4 The revised scrutiny structure includes 2.6 (FTE) Scrutiny Support Officers. Therefore, the current structure and processes of the Scrutiny Committees need to be re-assessed to optimise the value that scrutiny can deliver.
- 3.5 When considering any proposals for the future delivery of the Scrutiny Function a number of factors need to be taken into account. These include but are not limited to the following:
- Involvement of all non-executive members
  - Political Balance/Remuneration
  - Registered Representatives
  - Scrutiny Co-opted Members
  - Optimising the value of Scrutiny
  - Use of Statutory Committees
  - Number and Frequency of meetings
  - Ad-Hoc Research and Evaluation Panels(REPS)
  - Greater use of the statutory committees i.e. Audit and Democratic Services
  - Meeting Corporate Priorities
- 3.6 Initial proposals for the future provision of Scrutiny including plans to reduce the number of scrutiny committees were considered by the Scrutiny Chairs. They indicated that changing the number of committees was unacceptable and that other factors to reduce resources needed to be developed. These could include:
- re-balancing the remits of the committees
  - better work programme planning,
  - minimising the number of committee meetings,
  - negating the need for a scrutiny covering report
  - reducing the length of scrutiny minutes.

#### **4. Current Situation / Proposal**

##### **4.1 Involvement of all Non-Executive Members**

4.1.1 There are 47 non-executive members who should have the opportunity to participate in scrutiny should they so wish to do so. There are 4 members who do not participate in scrutiny activities. There are 70 existing scrutiny committee seats which provide the 43 members with approximately 1.5 scrutiny seats each.

4.1.2 To ensure that there are sufficient seats on scrutiny committees for non-executive members and to provide an opportunity to enhance the focus of the meetings it is proposed to reduce the number of members formally appointed to each scrutiny committee to 12 Elected Members. This will also make minor savings in respect of the printed agenda packs.

##### **4.2 Political Balance/Remuneration**

4.2.1 The requirement to politically balance the Scrutiny Committees remains unchanged. The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for Wales has determined that if one scrutiny chairperson is remunerated with a Senior Salary then all scrutiny Chairpersons must be remunerated at the same level. Without a reduction in the

number of Committees/Chairpersons no savings can be made in respect of Senior Salaries.

#### 4.3 Registered Representatives

4.3.1 These voting roles are a statutory requirement for the Scrutiny Committee with the responsibility for education.

#### 4.4 Scrutiny Co-opted Members

4.4.1 The Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has historically had 4 non-voting co-opted representatives for which there are currently 2 vacancies. It is proposed that all 4 of the existing non-voting co-optee roles be removed.

#### 4.5 Optimising the value of Scrutiny

4.5.1 Following a recent work programming exercise it was identified that there was a significant volume of replication between the scrutiny committees. Members have expressed their concerns that this is a duplication of effort and distracts the committees from undertaking effective scrutiny of the service areas.

4.5.2 To address this concern it is proposed that each of the following topics be considered by only one scrutiny committee:

- Performance Monitoring
- Corporate Plan
- Business Planning
- Budget Monitoring

4.5.3 To maintain the specialised service area knowledge when considering these reports it is proposed that one member from each of the other scrutiny Committees be co-opted to the Committee when considering that item.

4.5.4 This process has been trialled in respect of the Corporate planning process with the Community Safety and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee facilitating the meeting. The Scrutiny Chairs carried out the role of the specialist representatives from the other scrutiny committees. The trial was considered successful with the topics being dealt with corporately and avoided duplication. This process was also used to consider the Business Planning Process but it was agreed that further work was required to develop the process for this topic.

4.5.5 During this trial all Chief Officers were invited to attend the meeting to consider these items. This was identified as being beneficial having cross cutting representation to provide a truly corporate view of the issues being considered.

#### 4.6 Use of Statutory Committees.

4.6.1 The remit of the statutory committees (Audit and Democratic Services) has been considered to determine if any existing roles or functions currently undertaken by scrutiny could be transferred to them. There are opportunities for scrutiny to transfer some roles that are also linked to the audit committee, these could include:

From CSG to Audit Committee

- To consider the content of the Relationship Manager's Annual Audit Letter incorporating the Appointed Auditor's Audit Letter;
- To consider audit and inspection reports from the Wales Audit Office and other external regulatory bodies as relevant to Legal & Regulatory Services;

From CRI to Audit Committee

- To consider the Council's Risk Management framework;
- To consider audit and inspection reports from the Wales Audit Office and other external regulatory bodies as relevant to the Resources Directorate;

From CRE to Audit Committee

- To consider audit and inspection reports from the Wales Audit Office and other external regulatory bodies as relevant to Regeneration & Development and Neighbourhood services;

From HW to Audit Committee

- To consider audit and inspection reports from the Wales Audit Office and other external regulatory bodies as relevant to the Wellbeing Directorate;

From CYP to Audit Committee

- To consider audit and inspection reports from the Wales Audit Office and other external regulatory bodies as relevant to the Children's Directorate.

#### 4.7 Number and Frequency of Scrutiny Meetings

4.7.1 The average number of Scrutiny Committee meetings per year between 15 May 2012 and 17 November 2014 were as follows:

	Averages		
	Scheduled	Special	Total
CRI	6.33	1.00	7.33
HW	6.67	2.00	8.67
CYP	7.00	0.67	7.67
CSG	6.00	0.33	6.33
CRE	6.00	0.33	6.33
Totals	32.00	4.33	36.33

4.7.2 The average number of meetings over the stated period per committee is 7.27 meetings per year.

4.7.3 Scrutiny also facilitates a number of Research & Evaluation Panels (REPs). These include:

- BREP – the support required for BREP is at least equivalent to that of a full Scrutiny Committee.
- LSB Scrutiny Panel – averages 4 meetings per year and the support required equates to 0.5 committees.
- SSARF REP – the support for this REP equates to approximately 0.25 committees.

- School Engagement REP is an ongoing commitment and will have approximately 4 meetings per year. The support for this REP equates to approximately 0.5 Committees.

4.7.4 With the current structure of Democratic Services the team is able to support a total of 52 scrutiny meetings.

4.7.5 It is considered that an appropriate level of support provided by each full-time Scrutiny Officer is a maximum of 16 Scrutiny committee meetings and 4 REP meetings with the 0.6 (FTE) Scrutiny Officer supporting 8 Scrutiny committee meetings and 4 REP meetings. With the existing level of Scrutiny Support the 2.6 FTE Scrutiny Officers are able to support a maximum of 40 committee meetings and 12 REP meetings. It should be noted that the current level of support cannot be guaranteed in the future and further staffing reductions may reduce the number of meetings that can be supported.

4.7.6 It was also identified that the existing structure of the Scrutiny Committees did not facilitate truly cross-cutting scrutiny. Therefore it is proposed that a number of meetings be identified to facilitate collaborative committees to deal with cross-cutting issues such as Supporting People, Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and the Bridgend Change Programme.

4.7.7 The priorities for the future should include the following reduced commitments for REPS:

LSB Scrutiny REP. (2 meetings)

This is due to become a statutory requirement following the implementation of the Future Generations Bill. A significant amount of work has been undertaken to re-establish this Panel and this work should continue to ensure that we meet this statutory requirement.

School Engagement REP. (4 meetings)

This panel was commended by Estyn in its recent inspection and although the format of these meetings may need revising there is a need to maintain this Panel and the educational standards this was set up to monitor.

Social Services Annual Reporting Framework (SSARF) REP. (2 meetings)

The development of the SSARF is better served in a REP format rather than a committee.

Budget REP. (6 meetings)

The BREP does provide both Members and Officers with an opportunity to consider future budget proposals and provides significant benefits to the budget approval process. However, the number of meetings will need to be rationalised.

4.7.8 With these priorities taking 14 of the available supportable meetings it is proposed that each of the 5 Scrutiny committees be allocated 6 scheduled meetings with the remaining 8 meetings being allocated to collaborative committees.

4.7.9 The frequency of committee meetings will be based on the requirements of the

provisional Forward Work Programme which is currently being developed. The schedule of Scrutiny meetings will facilitate opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny and where possible avoid school holidays.

#### 4.8 Ad-Hoc Research & Evaluation Panels (REPs)

4.8. With the reduction of staffing and the maintenance of the existing number of Scrutiny Committees there will be no capacity to have any ad-hoc REPs other than those identified in Paragraph 4.7.7.

#### 4.9 Achieving Corporate priorities

4.9.1 The current structure of committees is broadly similar to the Directorate structure. This could be considered as silo working with the Committees prioritising their work programme purely based on the Directorates and service areas they cover. This does not necessarily reflect the Corporate Priorities and a process is required to ensure appropriate consideration is given to the key corporate priorities.

4.9.2 It will be necessary for Corporate Directors to determine their requirements and timescales for achieving pre-decision, monitoring or investigative scrutiny. These plans need to be relatively fixed as the ability to add additional scrutiny meetings will not be possible. Once the Corporate Directors have identified their requirements, further assessment of the work programme can be undertaken in the first instance by the Scrutiny Chairs and subsequently by the individual Scrutiny Committee.

4.9.3 The Scrutiny Chairs proposed that once the Forward Work Programmes for each committee had been determined, they would monitor the programmes of each committee at their monthly meetings to ensure that the corporate priorities were being met. Proposals to consider a corporate priority topic would be included in the Forward Work Programme report which was submitted to every scrutiny committee meeting.

#### 4.10 Remits of the Scrutiny Committees

4.10.1 In addition to the transfer of the audit and inspection reports the remits of the Scrutiny Committees required further assessment particularly following the re-designation of the Corporate Director Wellbeing as the Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing and the Corporate Director Children being re-designated as the Corporate Director of Education and Transformation.

4.10.2 The Scrutiny Chairs considered a number of options of how the committee remits could be structured. These models included:

- A single committee  
This was similar to the Swansea model but there were concerns that this model was not favoured by the Auditors, Regulators and Inspectors.
- Mirroring the directorate structure  
The mirroring of Directorate service areas was disregarded due to the imbalance of service responsibilities between the Directorate roles.

- Corporate Prioritisation

This model proposed that a co-ordinating Scrutiny Committee be established to deal with corporate issues and to prioritise scrutiny investigations which were to be undertaken by 4 Subject focussed Scrutiny Committees. This option was disregarded as it was a significant change which ignored the perceived benefits of utilising member's experience and specialisms in the effective delivery of scrutiny.

- Thematic approach

This model followed a similar structure to the one in current operation but with some modification of the existing remits relating to subject matters rather than directorate structures. This was considered by the Scrutiny Chairs as the most appropriate model to adopt.

4.10.3 A list of the proposed revised Statutory and Scrutiny remits is shown at Appendix B. With these changes it would be appropriate to rename these committees. These are suggested titles which may better reflect the changes to the remits of the committees.

<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Community Safety & Governance	- Partnerships and Governance
Corporate Resources and Improvement	- Corporate Resources and Improvement
Community Renewal & Environment	- Community, Environment and Leisure
Health & Wellbeing	- Adult Social Care
Children & Young People	- Children & Young People

4.11. Improving Work Programme Planning

4.11.1 The average duration of a scrutiny meeting between May and November 2014 was 2 hours 50 minutes per meeting. This meeting length was considered reasonable but meetings which lasted over 3 hours were to be avoided. The Scrutiny Chairs considered that longer meetings reduced the focus of the committee and subsequently their effectiveness.

4.11.2 It is anticipated that the first 30 minutes of each scrutiny committee meeting be used to hone the views and questions of the committee before the invitees join the meeting. It is proposed that each committee meeting consider a maximum of 2 service area reports in detail which will ensure that they are considered in sufficient depth (approximately 1 hour). This will then allow time to determine their conclusions and review their forward work programme within the 3 hour limit for an effective meeting.

4.11.3 With 6 meetings proposed for each Scrutiny committee this will enable a maximum of 12 topics to be considered during the year by each committees Without the capacity to support additional meetings there is a need for each of the Scrutiny Committees to:

- Identify 12 topics for consideration which will provide the most significant value for the Authority and to the residents of the Borough of Bridgend.
- prioritise their workloads i.e. if a key topic arises one of the existing planned topics will have to be removed from the programme.
- focus their investigations to make best use of available resources.

- determine appropriate recommendations which will support the delivery the appropriate outcomes.

#### 4.12 Scrutiny Covering Reports

4.12.1 Covering reports from the Scrutiny Officers to the Scrutiny Committees have now ceased. Scrutiny Officers have now begun to work with the service officers to prepare their reports in accordance with the committee requirements. This process will continue to be developed and it is hoped that reports presented to the Scrutiny committees will fully meet their requirements. The involvement of scrutiny officers to support the authors of the reports will also reduce the likelihood of additional requests for information being made by the committee.

#### 4.13 Committee Minutes

4.13.1 Minutes of Committee meetings are considered overly long which increases the time taken for officers to draft and review them prior to being submitted for approval. The minutes for future meetings not only for scrutiny but for other committee meetings will be reduced in length and focus on the following areas:

- An overview of the content/purpose of the report
- A brief outline of the debate
- The reasons for the Committees conclusions/recommendations being made
- The conclusions/recommendations

#### 4.14 Recommendations Monitoring

4.14.1 Over the last few years it has been difficult to determine if recommendations made by Scrutiny Committees have been implemented. The Scrutiny Officers have developed a central recommendations monitoring process which should assist in confirming the impact that scrutiny has made.

4.14.2 It is proposed that where appropriate Scrutiny recommendations be passed to the Corporate Director with the responsibility for that service area who will include their response to the scrutiny recommendations in their report to Cabinet.

4.14.3 Further work will be undertaken with Cabinet to enhance this process and enable clear outcomes from the work undertaken by scrutiny to be identified.

#### 4.15 Additional Information requests monitoring

4.15.1 The Scrutiny Committees often request additional information to support the work that they are undertaking. The Team has developed an additional information requests monitoring process which will track the successful provision of this information in a timely manner.

#### 4.16 Scrutiny Impact Monitoring

4.16.1 Each year scrutiny has to provide a report to Council advising them of the activities outcomes that have been undertaken. In previous years this has been difficult to compile and therefore the team are now collating scrutiny impact information as part

of an ongoing process which will simplify this collation of this report. An example of the information being recorded is as follows:

Scrutiny Actions	Outcomes
Requested further data to provide information on budget savings alongside budget pressures and commentary to explain anomalies or extraordinary activities which may be 'masked' within top line figures. Enabled better understanding of the situation and of better reporting formats.	Improved quality of information used to inform recommendations and decision making on budgets and financial planning. In future Committees will be presented with information on both budget savings and budget pressures for each directorate, in order to have a fuller understanding of the overall budget position within each area.

#### 4.17 Additional activities

4.17.1 In addition the following activities should be undertaken:

- review of the co-option and invitee arrangements to provide balanced opportunities for Scrutiny to engage with suitable subject matter experts.
- identify the topics and membership of the Collaborative Committees and how they will operate in practice.
- Provide committee members with appropriate training to:
  - Enhance their knowledge of the additional subject matter that will form the remit of the revised committees
  - Develop question techniques and knowledge of how value can be achieved with good scrutiny
  - Develop the scrutiny chairing skills of those members identified as chairpersons of the Committees and the REPS.

### 5. **Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules**

5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's 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. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the BCBC constitution to be updated.

### 6. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equalities impacts in respect of this report.

### 7. **Financial Implications**

7.1 The requirements of the MTFs for the Legal & Regulatory Services Department and the other Directorates cannot be met without a significant reduction in staffing and resources. A reduction in resources may not be able to sustain the planned

scrutiny committee structure detailed in this report should further reductions to staffing be required.

## **8. Recommendation:**

### **8.1 That Council:**

- Note the budget pressures faced by the Legal & Regulatory Services Department and the Authority and the impact this will have on the future delivery of the scrutiny function.
- approve the proposals for the Future Provision of Effective Scrutiny as stated in Paragraph 4 of the report which include:
  - reducing the number of members formally appointed to each scrutiny committee to 12 Elected Members.
  - removing the 4 non-voting co-optee roles from the CYP Committee.
  - that each of the 5 Scrutiny committees be allocated 6 scheduled meetings with the remaining 8 meetings being allocated to collaborative committees to deal with cross-cutting issues.
  - the revised Statutory and Scrutiny Committee remits as shown at Appendix B.
  - Improving work programme planning as outlined in paragraph 4.11
  - The additional activities to be developed as identified in paragraph 4.17

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Background Documents: None

**CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD SCRUTINY**

<b>Outcome</b> What does good scrutiny seek to achieve?	<b>Characteristics</b> What would it look like? How could we recognise it?
1. "Better Outcomes"  Democratic accountability drives improvement in public services.	<b>a. Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overview &amp; scrutiny has a clearly defined and valued role in the council's improvement and governance arrangements.</li> <li>ii. Overview &amp; scrutiny has the dedicated officer support it needs from officers who are able to undertake independent research effectively, and provides councillors with high-quality analysis, advice and training.</li> </ul> <b>b. Practice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overview &amp; scrutiny inquiries are non-political, methodologically sound and incorporate a wide range of evidence and perspectives.</li> </ul> <b>c. Impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overview &amp; scrutiny regularly engages in evidence based challenge of decision makers and service providers.</li> <li>ii. Overview &amp; scrutiny provides viable and well evidenced solutions to recognised problems.</li> </ul>
2. "Better decisions"  Democratic decision making is accountable, inclusive and robust.	<b>a. Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overview &amp; scrutiny councillors have the training and development opportunities they need to undertake their role effectively.</li> <li>ii. The process receives effective support from the council's corporate management team who ensures that information provided to overview &amp; scrutiny is of high quality and is provided in a timely and consistent manner.</li> </ul> <b>b. Practice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overview &amp; scrutiny is councillor-led, takes into account the views of the public, partners and regulators, and balances the prioritisation of community concerns against issues of strategic risk and importance.</li> <li>ii. Overview &amp; scrutiny meetings and activities are well-planned, chaired effectively and make best use of the resources available to it.</li> </ul> <b>c. Impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Decision makers give public account for themselves at overview &amp; scrutiny committees for their portfolio responsibilities.</li> </ul>
3. "Better engagement"  The public is engaged in democratic debate about the current and future delivery of public services.	<b>a. Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overview &amp; scrutiny is recognised by the executive and corporate management team as an important council mechanism for community engagement, and facilitates greater citizen involvement in governance.</li> </ul> <b>b. Practice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overview &amp; scrutiny is characterised by effective communication to raise awareness of, and encourage participation in democratic accountability.</li> <li>ii. Overview &amp; scrutiny operates non-politically and deals effectively with sensitive political issues, tension and conflict.</li> <li>iii. Overview &amp; scrutiny builds trust and good relationships with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders.</li> </ul> <b>c. Impact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Overview and scrutiny enables the 'voice' of local people and communities across the area to be heard as part of decision and policy-making processes.</li> </ul>

Audit	Democratic Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review, scrutinise and issues reports and recommendations in relation the Authority's financial affairs,</li> <li>• Review, scrutinise and issues reports and recommendations on the appropriateness of the Authority's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements.</li> <li>• Oversee the Authority's internal and external audit arrangements (including the performance of external providers of Internal Audit) and review its financial statements.</li> <li>• To approve the Internal Audit Charter.</li> <li>• To approve the risk-based internal audit plan and to approve significant interim changes to the risk-based internal audit plan.</li> <li>• To contribute to the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme and in particular, to the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years.</li> <li>• To consider the Head of Internal Audit's annual report and opinion, a summary of internal audit activity (actual and proposed) and the level of assurance it can give over the Council's corporate governance arrangements.</li> <li>• To consider reports from Internal Audit on the adequacy of internal control.</li> <li>• To consider reports dealing with the management and performance of the providers of internal audit services.</li> <li>• To consider reports from Internal Audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale.</li> <li>• To identify issues from the Annual Improvement Report by the Wales Audit Office.</li> <li>• To receive the Regulatory Programme.</li> <li>• To identify areas for examination by Internal and External Audit.</li> <li>• To be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies, in accordance with the Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.</li> <li>• To maintain an overview of the Council's Constitution in respect of Contract and Finance Procedure Rules.</li> <li>• To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive Officer, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer.</li> <li>• To monitor Council policies on anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements.</li> <li>• To consider the Council's Annual Governance Statement.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To designate an officer as the Head of Democratic Services,</li> <li>2. To review the adequacy of provision of staff, accommodation and other resources to discharge democratic services functions, and</li> <li>3. To make reports and recommendations to Council, at least annually, in relation to such provision.</li> <li>4. At the request of the Council, review any matter relevant to the support and advice available to members of the Council, and the terms and conditions of office of those members.</li> <li>5. To make reports and recommendations to the Council following a review.</li> </ol> <p>A Panel constituted under The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Determine a complaint made by a Member regarding cancellation of family absence by the authority</li> <li>b) The Sub-Committee may confirm a decision made or substitute its own decision as to the Member's entitlement to a period of family absence in accordance with the 2013 Regulations.</li> <li>c) Determine a complaint made by a Member on maternity absence or parental absence regarding a decision made by the chair of the authority as to the Member attending any meeting or performing any duty;</li> <li>d) The Sub-Committee may confirm the decision of the chair of the authority or substitute its own decision as to the Member attending any meeting or performing any duty;</li> <li>e) The decision of the Sub-Committee is final.</li> </ol>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assess the Council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.</li> <li>• To review the Annual Statement of Accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.</li> <li>• To consider the External Auditor's report in relation to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.</li> <li>• To receive reports from the External Regulators as appropriate.</li> </ul>	
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<b>Partnerships and Governance</b>	<b>Corporate Resources and Improvement</b>	<b>Community, Environment and Leisure</b>	<b>Adult Social Care</b>	<b>Children and Young People</b>
<p>To consider the service provision, planning, management and performance relating to Partnerships and Governance;</p> <p>To consider policies, protocols and plans relating to Partnerships and Governance;</p> <p>To contribute to the annual consultation process in relation to relating to Partnerships and Governance;</p> <p>To consider the performance of Bridgend's Local Service Board in accordance with guidance;</p> <p>To consider the Council's policies and strategies in relation to collaborative and partnership working arrangements;</p>	<p>To consider the service provision, planning, management and performance relating to Corporate Performance and Resources;</p> <p>To consider policies, protocols and plans relating to Corporate Performance and Resources;</p> <p>To co-ordinate and contribute to the annual budget consultation process on behalf of the other Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committees and provide a strategic overview of Cabinet's draft budget proposals;</p> <p>To take an overview of the financial performance of all Directorates in the achievement of Corporate priorities;</p> <p>To consider the Council's</p>	<p>To consider the service provision, planning, management and performance relating to Community, Environment and Leisure;</p> <p>To consider policies, protocols and plans relating to Community, Environment and Leisure;</p> <p>To contribute to the annual consultation process in relation to relating to Community, Environment and Leisure;</p> <p>To develop and implement a Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework;</p> <p>To support collaborative Scrutiny Committees where topics relating to this and</p>	<p>To consider the service provision, planning, management and performance relating to Adult Social Care;</p> <p>To consider policies, protocols and plans relating to Adult Social Care;</p> <p>To contribute to the annual consultation process in relation to relating to Adult Social Care;</p> <p>To develop and implement a Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework;</p> <p>To support collaborative Scrutiny Committees where topics relating to this and other committees are identified and prioritised as part of the Scrutiny FWP</p>	<p>To consider the service provision, planning, management and performance relating to Education as well as Safeguarding &amp; Family Support;:</p> <p>To consider policies, protocols and plans relating to Education as well as Safeguarding &amp; Family Support;</p> <p>To contribute to the annual consultation process in relation to relating to Education as well as Safeguarding &amp; Family Support;</p> <p>To develop and implement a Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework;</p> <p>To support collaborative Scrutiny Committees where topics relating to this and other committees are identified and</p>

<b>Partnerships and Governance</b>	<b>Corporate Resources and Improvement</b>	<b>Community, Environment and Leisure</b>	<b>Adult Social Care</b>	<b>Children and Young People</b>
<p>To consider the content of the Local Service Board's Single Integrated Partnership Plan, and refer to other Overview and Scrutiny Committees any items within that plan which fall within their terms of reference, and which the Committee are of the view should be considered in more detail.</p> <p>To oversee the decision making of the Community Safety Partnership and its constituent bodies in respect of their community safety roles.</p> <p>To develop and implement a Forward Work Programme having regard to the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework;</p> <p>To support collaborative Scrutiny Committees where topics relating to this and other committees are identified and prioritised as part of the Scrutiny FWP</p>	<p>Business Planning Process and the content of the Corporate Plan and all Directorate Business Plans in line with Wales Programme for Improvement guidance;</p> <p>To consider the Council's Improvement Objectives;</p> <p>To develop and implement a Forward Work Programme having regard to the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework;</p> <p>To support collaborative Scrutiny Committees where topics relating to this and other committees are identified and prioritised as part of the Scrutiny FWP</p>	<p>other committees are identified and prioritised as part of the Scrutiny FWP</p>		<p>prioritised as part of the Scrutiny FWP</p>