

**REPORT TO COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

8 OCTOBER 2015

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

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting to be held on 18 January 2016 and seeks confirmation of the information required for the subsequent scheduled meeting to be held on 27 January 2016.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 25 February 2015 formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background

3.1 At its meeting on 10 June 2015 the Community Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee determined its Annual Forward Work Programme for 2015/16.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

Meetings of the Community Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.1 In relation to the Committee's next scheduled meeting to be held on 18 January 2016, the table below lists the items to be considered and the invitees due to attend.

Topic	Invitees	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
Directorate Budget Consultation Process (accounts for time = 2 items)	Mark Shephard - Corporate Director – Communities; Sue Cooper – Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; Councillor Hywel Williams - Cabinet Member for Communities; Councillor Philip White - Cabinet Member Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing. (other invitees?)	Presented annually - Consideration of Directorate Budget for 2016/17	To be confirmed.

4.2 The table below lists the items to be considered and the invitees due to attend in respect of the subsequent meeting of the Committee to be held on 27 January 2016.

Topic	Invitees	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
Cultural Partnership Project	Mark Shephard - Corporate Director – Communities, Richard Hughes - Group Manager: Cultural Services, Councillor Philip White - Councillor Hywel Williams - Cabinet Member for Communities (other invitees?)	This item to be revisited once the NPDO has been established for an update and for further monitoring to be put in place.	To be confirmed.
Vibrant and Viable Places Programme	Mark Shephard - Corporate Director – Communities Councillor Hywel Williams - Cabinet Member for Communities (other invitees?)	The Committee wish to retain this on the Forward Work Programme as the scheme progresses in light of the risks identified on financial claw back or withdrawal of funding by the Welsh Government in relation to outcomes. To include 'Business Improvement District – Bridgend Town Centre', which goes to Cabinet on 25 May 2015.	To be confirmed.

4.3 The table below lists all potential items that the Committee received at their meeting on 10 June 2015, which are put to the Committees for reprioritisation as appropriate.

Topic	Proposed Date	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
Report on Housing - Registered Social Landlords	23 March 2016	To enable in depth discussion with RSLs and to address issues raised by Members following previous OVSC meetings. To include information on financial impact following the implementation of Universal Credit and the impact of the changes on the ability of RSLs to sustain business.	To be confirmed.
Depot Rationalisation	23 March 2016	To provide an update to the Committee on the progress of the Depot Rationalisation Project.	To be confirmed.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.4 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
- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how the services within the remit of their Committee affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee can therefore assist in these areas.
- 4.6 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.

4.7 Sickness

The Corporate Resources and Improvement Committee agreed that, in light of the figures reported for Sickness Absence for 2014-15 and the Committee's previous comments and concerns, there was a need for further examination of this particular area. Given the fact that this subject was cross-directorate and also reports that a number of concerns have been raised in other Scrutiny Committee's it was agreed that a Joint Research and Evaluation Panel for Sickness Absence be established comprising of the Chair and one other Member from each Scrutiny Committee.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The work of the Community Environment and Leisure 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 well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 None

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 None.

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

7. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the topics due to be considered at the meeting of the Committee for 18 January 2016 and confirm if it requires any additional specific information to be provided by the invitees listed or the Overview & Scrutiny Unit;
- (ii) Determine the invitees to be invited to attend, any specific information it would like the invitees to provide and any research that it would like the Overview & Scrutiny Unit to undertake in relation to its meeting for 27 January 2016;
- (iii) Revisit and consider the list of future potential items for the Committees Forward Work Programme and reprioritise as the Committees feels appropriate;
- (vi) Nominate a Member of the Committee to join the Chair on the Joint Research and Evaluation Panel for Sickness Absence.

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Background Documents: None