

**CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD
JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**



23rd April 2020

UPDATE ON THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS RHONDDA CYNON TAFF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 4

1. REASON FOR THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update for Members of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee in respect of the agreed forward work programme, annual report 2020/21 and proposals beyond the Councils' Annual General meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members:
- i. Acknowledge the content of the report and the update provided to Members by the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that they agreed to the Joint Committee's forward work programme at the meeting held on the 4th December 2020 and that from that point all meetings would convene on a virtual basis in line with [the Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020](#) which had been issued by Welsh Government.
- 3.2 At that time the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee were asked to acknowledge the current pressures on the Council as it focussed on the impact of the pandemic and its associated plans for response and recovery. Members are also reminded of the caveat that the draft forward work programme was subject to change as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequential unforeseen pressures on Council resources and officers.
- 3.3 With that in mind, it is proposed that the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny annual report 2020/21 is presented to the first appropriate meeting following the Annual General Meeting of the Councils of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council as an interim annual report to reflect the limited number of meetings which have been undertaken this year.

- 3.4 It is important that this interim report will include the joint scrutiny's activities during a difficult and unprecedented year yet reflect the impact of the pandemic on the delivery of the forward work programme and council resources. This extended timescale will enable the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee to include an overview of all the work undertaken albeit on a limited basis.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and due to unforeseen pressures on Council resources, a review was undertaken by senior officers from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council of the administrative arrangements of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.
- 4.2 It was agreed that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council would continue the role as the Host Authority for the 2020-21 Municipal Year and for a further review of the Administrative arrangements to take place at the end of this Municipal year.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that following the Councils' respective AGM's, the membership of the committee will be confirmed and a further governance report will be delivered to the first meeting of the 2021/22 Municipal Year, setting out the administrative arrangements and forward work programme resulting from the joint local authority discussions.
- 4.4 The agreed approach will ensure that Members of the JOSCS will continue to work together with shared responsibility for improved outcomes with the most appropriate support and resources in place.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Discussions with the relevant senior officers from both Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils will be undertaken in due course to determine the most appropriate governance arrangements to ensure the most effective outcomes are achieved for the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 7.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

8. LINKS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 The recommended approach set out supports the Public Service Board Wellbeing objectives by ensuring progress of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee is

robustly scrutinised by the Committee, the public and others with a vested interest.

8.2 The proposed approach will also support the requirements set out in the 'Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015' which states:

- Effective involvement of people and communities in decisions that affect them is at the heart of improving well-being currently and in the future; and, It is vital to factor people's needs; ensuring engagement is meaningful and effective.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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COMMUNICATION, RCTCBC