



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4 FEBRUARY 2021

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME: 2020- 2021 MUNICIPAL YEAR

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide members of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to consider and agree its forward work programme for the next period of the 2020-21 Municipal Year (February-April 2021) and to identify any specific training needs relevant to their role in undertaking scrutiny.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:-

2.1 Acknowledge the contents of the attached draft Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and determine whether the items included are relevant and in line with the Committee's terms of reference; and

2.2 Identify any training requirements that Members consider would assist them in their role.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is proposed that Members of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to review the next phase of its work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year from February to April 2021.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Members will recall that following the introduction of social distancing measures at the end of March 2020 the Council saw the suspension of formal committees as it responded to the pandemic crisis. The decision making and governance continued to operate in compliance with the Council's Constitution to discharge key decisions.

- 4.2 The Council successfully rolled out its committee meetings on a virtual basis and it has since been acknowledged that the methodical approach to virtual meetings has equipped Members with the necessary support and knowledge to overcome any technical challenges and allowed them to fully participate in the Council's democratic process. The level of engagement and [number of virtual meetings](#) is testament to the success of those approaches to the virtual roll out.
- 4.3 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as the Council's overarching Scrutiny Committee undertook the substantive scrutiny role for a three-month period to cover the extended municipal year. In that time Scrutiny saw its forward work programme re-aligned to deal with one or two matters per agenda offering a combination of short reports and verbal updates from Officers.
- 4.4 As previously reported and as part of this temporary arrangement, the Overview & Scrutiny considered a number of matters that would have otherwise been considered by the four themed Scrutiny Committees, including the Council's Performance Report, 31st March 2020 year end with an invitation to all non-executive Members to engage in the scrutiny process.
- 4.5 The Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee held its first virtual meeting on the 19th October 2020 which included a return to the normal scrutiny business to include, amongst other matters, consideration of its forward work programme for the initial three-month period of the new Municipal Year 2020-21, specifically from October to December 2020 and an all Member training session on Treasury Management.
- 4.6 Since then, and in keeping with its terms of reference, the Committee has maintained its oversight and scrutiny by engaging in the Council's Budget process, providing comment on the draft Tourism Strategy (with a further opportunity to review this piece of work in March 2021), the CIL Annual Monitoring Report and the proposed changes to the Regulation 123 List in advance of the report being considered by Cabinet.
- 4.7 The resource constraints under which scrutiny operates has been widely promoted and an element of flexibility continues to be adopted whilst the council deals with high level operational matters. With this in mind and with officer support often limited, Members are asked to consider a forward work programme which may need to be changed at short notice.
- 4.8 It is proposed that Scrutiny continues to consider a work programme that is manageable and addresses the items which require a timely response as well being able to adapt to any necessary changes.

5. **TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

- 5.1 To fulfil their role as a Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee member, ongoing training requirements are a key consideration and therefore Members are asked to identify any gaps in their development particularly in relation to undertaking scrutiny of the items listed on the forward work programme.

6. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

6.1 The Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee forward work programme has been developed based on the new ways of working, in discussions with the Chair and Vice Chair as well as with the relevant portfolio holder.

6.2 Members are encouraged to contribute to their forward Work Programme by suggesting areas of possible scrutiny.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 12.1 (Part 4) of the Council's Constitution.

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

10.1 This is an information report presenting the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Work Programme in responding to the Covid 19 pandemic. No decisions are being taken in this report.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 The Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee work programme for the 2020-2021 Municipal Year is attached. Members of the Committee are asked to review its forward work programme to also ensure it fully evaluates the effectiveness of its scrutiny function during these uncertain times.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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