

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM 4
PROPOSED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

23RD SEPTEMBER 2015

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To set out a proposed work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Agree the proposed shortlist of topic areas as shown at Appendix 1 for inclusion on its Work Programme; and
- 2.2 Set out a timetable for the delivery of the topics as shown at Appendix 1 and to those listed at paragraph 3.2.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the meeting of this Committee held on 29th July 2015, a proposed approach to assist the Committee in drafting a work programme was set out and agreed¹ (albeit, it was recognised that the 'approach' would be an evolving one and may / will be subject to refinement moving forward).
- 3.2. At the same meeting Members agreed a long list of topic areas that were the specific responsibility of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as shown below:-

¹ Agreed approach – the approach was also approved by the Council's other Scrutiny Committees as part of the July 2015 round of scrutiny meetings

- To ensure that the work of each of the Committees are `delivering effectively` i.e. scrutinising the scrutineer
- To challenge the work of the Scrutiny Committees
- To deal with all “Call-ins” (under the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules)
- To co-ordinate the implementation of the recommendations as set out in the Wales Audit Office document - `Good Scrutiny? Good Question`
- To identify an approach which will evaluate the impact of the work each Committee undertakes – which could develop into self evaluation arrangements for each Committee
- To produce an on-going Action Plan for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- That the work of the former Overview and Scrutiny Working Group dealing with `Fuel Poverty` is continued and the findings to be reported to full Council.
- LSB Scrutiny Working Group
- To further develop and publish a public facing Council’s Scrutiny Guide which will form part of an inclusive approach to the Council’s Scrutiny Arrangements.
- To produce and publish an Annual Scrutiny Report.

3.3 Using the above lists, Section 4 sets out the work undertaken in formulating a proposed shortlist of topic areas.

4. PROPOSED SHORTLIST OF TOPIC AREAS

4.1 Further to the meeting held on the 29th July 2015, Council Officers have applied a series of questions, as set out in the matrix attached to the reports of the Scrutiny Committees held in July. The results of this process are set out at Appendix 1.

4.2. Members will note from the specific areas of this Committee as shown at paragraph 3.2 above, the responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are somewhat different to the other “themed” Scrutiny Committees and it has therefore been difficult to prioritise.

4.3 However, since this time, Council Officers have considered the shortlist of topics, in consultation with the Chair and the results of this work have been incorporated into Appendix 1.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a revised approach to work programming at its meeting on the 29th July 2015.

- 5.2 The revised approach has been used to formulate a work programme that aims to demonstrate the rationale for topic selection in addition to the specific areas of responsibility of the Committee.
- 5.3 It is recognised that the revised approach is in its infancy and will need to be subject to Member and Officer reflection moving forward to ensure it is fit for purpose.
