

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY,
COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

14th SEPTEMBER 2015

AGENDA ITEM 4

PROPOSED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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 Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 To agree the proposed shortlist of topic areas as shown at Appendix 1 for inclusion on its Work Programme; and
- 2.2 Subject to 2.1 above, to develop the draft 'scopes', outcomes and timescales to be determined at the next meeting of this Committee.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee held on 6th 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 Committee Members agreed a long list of possible topic areas and authorised the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to undertake a more detailed review to inform the Committee in producing a

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

shortlist of topics at its September 2015 meeting. The long list of possible topic areas are set out below:

- Recycling
- Library Service
- Economic Development (LDO)
- Customer Feedback/Complaints
- Communities First
- Procurement

3.3 As the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee (under sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act, 2006) Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee were also asked to give due consideration to the topics relating particularly to the Crime and Disorder Committee as follows:

- Community Safety and Crime Reduction
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse

3.4 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 6th July 2015, Council officers have applied a series of questions, as set out in the 6th July 2015 report, to each of the possible long list of topic areas. The results of this process are set out at Appendix 1.

4.2. As Committee Members will note, although each topic area on the long list as shown at paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 above, are worthy of review, by applying the series of questions it has been possible to prioritise and in doing so, produce a shortlist.

4.3 Since this time, Council officers have considered the shortlist of topics, in consultation with the Chair, the results of this work have been incorporated into Appendix 1.

4.4 Based on this, Members are requested to:

4.4.1 Consider the proposed shortlist of topic areas as shown at Appendix 1.

- 4.4.2 Set out a timetable for the delivery of the Work Programme and the method of scrutiny to be applied to each agreed topic area at the next meeting of this Committee.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The Council's Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee agreed a revised approach to work programming at its meeting on the 6th July 2015.
- 5.2 The revised approach has been used to formulate a work programme that aims to demonstrate the rationale for topic selection together with the intended outcome(s) from the Committee's work.
- 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.

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE APPENDIX 1**PROPOSED SHORTLIST OF TOPIC AREAS (FROM THE LONG LIST OF POSSIBLE AREAS)**

Possible topic		Is it line with a corporate priority?	How well is the service performing?	Does it represent a high financial risk?	Is it identified as a strategic risk?	Is scrutiny likely to impact in service improvements or other measurable benefits?	Will the outcome involve additional expenditure and is it likely that such resources will become available?	Is the scrutiny activity timely – will changes be possible at this stage?	Include as a shortlisted topic?
Topic area(s)	High level scope	Yes / No		Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
RECYCLING									
- Participation rates in recycling across the County Borough	- To identify a number of the lowest participation rates (the baseline), agree a programme of work to support improvement and report back to scrutiny committee	Yes	The latest full yr performance result (for 14-15) represented below welsh average performance i.e. 53.82% compared to 56.24%. However, performance has improved to 61.22% in Q1 of 15-16	Yes – if the Council fails to recycle at least 58% by March 16	Yes	Yes	Possibly not	Yes	Yes
- Review of new Community Recycling Centres	- Review the arrangements / impact of the new facilities in Llantrisant and Treherbert	Yes	Not yet known	Yes, if the Council fails to recycle at least 70% within its first year of operation	No (however, a key element of the Council's recycling arrangements)	Yes	Unknown	Possibly (requirement for the new arrangements to become embedded and a suite of evidence to be compiled to enable the Scrutiny Committee to form a view on)	Yes

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Topic area(s)	High level scope	Yes / No		Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
<u>LIBRARY SERVICE</u>									
- Mobile library service	- Review take up of mobile library service to better understand usage and barriers to usage following the service change in 2014	No	No specific information included within the Council's Performance Report	No	No	Yes	Unknown	Possibly – A key service particularly for households unable to reach library buildings within town centres - Requirement to ensure no duplication with work proposed by the Fin & Perf Scrutiny Committee	Yes

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Topic area(s)	High level scope	Yes / No		Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
<u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u>									
- Local Development Order (LDO)	- Review arrangements for the proposed LDO in Treforest	Yes	No specific information included within the Council's Performance Report	No – albeit, the impact of improving prosperity will / should have a positive impact on a number of Council services	Yes (regeneration related)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown – work currently underway to agree draft Local Development Order for Treforest Industrial Estate for consultation	No (not at this stage)
<u>CUSTOMER FEEDBACK / COMPLAINTS</u>	It is proposed that the area of Customer Feedback / Complaints is used as a source of information to inform other reviews rather than a self standing review in its own right								No – unless a specific line of review is identified
<u>COMMUNITIES FIRST</u>	- Review of current arrangements in place to inform future delivery	Yes (linked to tackling poverty)	No specific information included within the Council's Performance Report	No	Yes - linked to improving community resilience	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown – a review of Communities First is currently underway	No – await outcome of review
Procurement	An all encompassing theme that is connected to all areas of the Council's work. Further dialogue with the Scrutiny Committee to identify if a specific topic(s) should be explored in more detail								

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE APPENDIX 1

PROPOSED SHORTLIST OF TOPIC AREAS (FROM THE LONG LIST OF POSSIBLE AREAS)

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Topic area(s)	High level scope	Yes / No		Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Crime & Disorder									
Community Safety & Crime Reduction	Further dialogue required with Scrutiny Committee to determine potential topics to consider under this area								
Anti-Social Behaviour									
Domestic Abuse									
Substance Misuse									