



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21

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

11 FEBRUARY 2021

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY
SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21**

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

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to review and agree its Work Programme up until the end of April 2021.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:-

- 2.1 Review and agree the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2020/21 as attached at Appendix A
- 2.2 Agree that the Work Programme be reviewed at quarterly intervals to ensure the items identified for inclusion are relevant and that any additional referrals are incorporated.
- 2.3 Consider and determine any other matters that members may wish to scrutinise over this period.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is proposed that Members of the Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to consider its work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year and that the proposed work programme allows for an element of flexibility and taking into account any additional consultative documents or legislative matters requiring attention.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 4.1 Members will recall that the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020, published at the end of April, provided the opportunity for committee functions to operate virtually. At that time, Members supported the proposal for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as the Council's overarching Scrutiny Committee, to take a council-wide approach and consider those key matters that ordinarily would have been under review by the four themed scrutiny committees.
- 4.2 At its meeting on the 30th July 2020, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the Council's Performance Report, 31st March 2020 year end, as part of the temporary arrangements set in place to progress and establish virtual committee arrangements. All members of the council were invited to attend and contribute to this matter.
- 4.3 Following the Council's Annual General meeting held on the 16th September 2020 Scrutiny is now able to present its forward work programmes for the 2020/21 Municipal Year with the opportunity to review the work programme quarterly.
- 4.4 The Committee continues to acknowledge the current pressures on the Council as it focuses on the impact of the pandemic and its associated plans for response and recovery. Committee recognises the desire to resume a 'business as usual' approach in terms of the scrutiny work programme, however, Committee will need to be mindful of these ongoing pressures. Members are asked to acknowledge the balance required for a flexible and supportive scrutiny work programme that has clear objectives, expectations and lines of questioning. Importantly, this approach allows for business critical matters to be prioritised.
- 4.5 Members are reminded that given the current climate the forward work programme priorities are subject to change should other specific business need to be considered by the Committee.
- 4.6 The Committee is invited to consider areas for further scrutiny by the committee.
- 4.7 In terms of the Scrutiny Work Programmes, it was agreed at the meeting by Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (and previously by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs), that they were in need of review as in previous years

they had become laden with reports that were often for information only where the impact of the work was likely to be minimal. This had detracted from the more valuable and targeted outcomes which is of value to the Council and to the local residents of RCT.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report and no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed necessary for the purposes of this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The considerations and comments of Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs as well as members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee have been sought in respect of the draft Scrutiny Work Programmes and it is for Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee to agree the proposed items at this meeting

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

9. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 9.1 The proposals to address the WAO report proposals includes arrangements to strengthen the Council's consideration and scrutiny of its work, through 'the lens of the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act'. These arrangements will be embedded into the business of the Council as set out in the Policy Statement agreed by Cabinet on [2 November 2016](#).
- 9.2 The proposals outlined within the report will work to ensure a sustainable and robust scrutiny structure is in place which will effectively challenge policy decisions taken forward.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The Council is continuing its work to strengthen its scrutiny arrangements and these enhancements support the council in responding to the findings arising from the recent WAO report and will further strengthen governance and accountability arrangements.

