



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19th OCTOBER 2020

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME: 2020- 2021 MUNICIPAL YEAR

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee with a Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2020/21 (October to December 2020 in the first instance).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:-

2.1 Acknowledge the contents of the proposed draft Finance & Performance Scrutiny Work Programme for the 2020/21 Municipal Year (October –December 2020), attached as Appendix 1 to the report;

2.2 Consider progress, achievements, and the effectiveness of the scrutiny work programme and scrutiny practice; and,

2.3 Consider and determine other matters it may wish to consider, challenge and scrutinise over this period, taking consideration of the factors set out in section 4.

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 (taking a 3 month view) and taking into account any additional consultative documents or legislative matters requiring attention.

4. BACKGROUND

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, initially on a three month basis so as to provide members of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to undertake a review of the work programme in December 2020.

4.4 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 With this in mind the Finance & Performance Scrutiny forward work programme, attached at Appendix 1, sets out a manageable and realistic scrutiny activity for the next three months allowing for the more pressing matters to be considered whilst having the flexibility to respond to emerging issues.

4.6 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 on this date.

4.7 The Committee is invited to consider areas for further scrutiny by the committee.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

5.1 The Finance & Performance Scrutiny Work Programme has been developed in discussions with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee and the relevant senior officers.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

9.1 This work programme takes consideration of the Council's Corporate Plan, the work programme of the Cabinet and the service response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 Members of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee are asked to identify any items they would like to review in greater detail and to agree the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the 2020/21 Municipal Year (up until December 2020 in the first instance).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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FINANCE & PERFORMANCE

‘Holding the Executive to account in respect of all three priorities within the Council’s Corporate Plan.... People (Ensuring People are independent, healthy and successful), Places (Creating Places where people are proud to live, work and play) and Prosperity (Enabling Prosperity creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper) as well as its key principle ‘Living within our Means’.

Each of the Council’s Scrutiny Committees is responsible for setting and agreeing its own work programme by identifying a list of themes and topics which fall under the remit of each individual Scrutiny Committee. Following discussion with the Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny Members a practical, realistic and timetabled programme can then be developed.

The scrutiny forward work programmes should provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected; be outcome focussed; ensure that the method of scrutiny is best suited to the topic area and the outcome desired; align scrutiny programmes with the Council’s performance management and improvement arrangements.

Throughout the year, there are a number of ways in which additional issues can be considered for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme and ideas for inclusion may come from a number of sources such as:-

- Individual Councillors;
- Performance or budget monitoring information;
- Inspection reports;
- Referrals from Council (such as Notices of Motion), Cabinet/Audit or other scrutiny committees;
- Service users;
- Monitoring the implementation of recommendations previously made by the Committee; and
- Local Residents.

The Cabinet is also required to produce forward work programmes and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee keeps abreast of forthcoming items or topics which may enable scrutiny to be involved in the development of Council policy prior to its formal consideration by Cabinet. It is important

to bear in mind that an element of flexibility is applied to each individual work programme that provides Committees with the capacity to scrutinise new / urgent issues that arise during the year.

| FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | | | | | |
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| Date/Time | Overarching Item | Officer | Cabinet Member | Invited/ In attend ance | Scrutiny Focus |
| Monday, 19th of October 2020, Virtual | Treasury Management Training Session | External Trainers - Airlingclose | Councillor Norris, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services | Yes | To receive an overview of Treasury Management, delivered by Airlingclose (the Council's Treasury Management Advisors), to assist Members in undertaking their role |
| | 2020/21 Work Programme | Service Director, Communications & Democratic Services | | | Scrutiny & Challenge – For Members to consider the work programme for the 2020/2021 Municipal year. |
| | Treasury Management Annual Report | Head of Finance: Education and Financial Reporting. | | | For Committee Members to consider the Council's Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20 |

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| | <p>Community Infrastructure Levy Annual Monitoring Report</p> <p>Quarter 1 Performance Report</p> <p>Engagement on the Council's Budget</p> | <p>Director of Prosperity and Development</p> <p>Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services</p> <p>Service Director, Communications & Democratic Services</p> | | <p>Scrutiny & Challenge Scrutiny will undertake pre scrutiny of the Community Infrastructure Levy Annual Monitoring Report</p> <p>For Committee members to consider the Council's Quarter 1 Performance Report (2020/21)</p> <p>To receive an overview of the Council's approach to the 2021/22 Budget Consultation Process</p> |
| <p>Monday, 16th November 2020 Virtual</p> | <p>Budget Consultation 2021/22 (Phase 1)</p> | <p>Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services</p> | | <p>For Committee members to feedback their views as part of phase 1 of the 2021/22 Budget Consultation process</p> |

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| Monday, 21st December 2020 Virtual | Quarter 2 Performance Report | Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services | | For Committee members to consider the Council's Quarter 2 Performance Report |
| | Digital Strategy update | Service Director – Digital & ICT | | For Committee members to receive an update in respect of the Council's Digital Strategy. |
| | Tourism Strategy update | Director of Prosperity and Development | | For Committee members to receive an update in respect of the Council's Tourism Strategy. |

Training Requirements:-

To be considered at the first Scrutiny Committee

- Treasury Management Training – October 2020