



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL**  
**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**  
**COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE SUMMONS**

C Hanagan  
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
The Pavilions  
Cambrian Park  
Clydach Vale, CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: Sarah Handy - Members' Researcher & Scrutiny Officer (07385 401942)

**YOU ARE SUMMONED** to a Hybrid meeting of the **CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held on **TUESDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2023 at 5.00 PM.**

Non Committee Members and Members of the public may request the facility to address the Committee at their meetings on the business listed although facilitation of this request is at the discretion of the Chair. It is kindly asked that such notification is made to Democratic Services by Friday, 23 June 2023 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

It is the intention to live stream this meeting, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

**AGENDA**

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**1. SCRUTINY RESEARCH**

A scrutiny research facility is available within the Council Business Unit to support Members' scrutiny responsibilities and their roles as Elected Members. Such research strengthens Scrutiny Committee work programmes to ensure outcome-based topics are identified. For any scrutiny research requirements please contact [scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk)

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and

2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

### **3. MINUTES**

To approve, as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.

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## **REPORTS OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **4. CONSULTATIONS**

Information is provided in respect of relevant [consultations](#) for consideration by the Committee.

### **5. CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24**

To consider and agree the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2023-24.

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### **6. URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items, which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency

### **7. CHAIRS REVIEW AND CLOSE**

To reflect on the meeting and actions to be taken forward.

## **Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication**

### **Circulation:-**

The Chair and Vice-Chair:

(County Borough Councillor C Middle and County Borough Councillor G L Warren respectively)

County Borough Councillors:

Councillor J Barton, Councillor P Binning, Councillor V Dunn, Councillor E L Dunning, Councillor G Holmes, Councillor W Hughes, Councillor G Jones, Councillor A O Rogers, Councillor W Treeby, Councillor R Yeo, Councillor P Evans and Councillor G O Jones

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

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## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Hybrid meeting of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 22 March 2023 at 5.00 pm.

This meeting was live streamed, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

### **The following Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee Councillors were present online:-**

Councillor G L Warren	Councillor P Binning
Councillor V Dunn	Councillor E L Dunning
Councillor S Emanuel	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor W Hughes	Councillor G Jones
Councillor A O Rogers	Councillor R Yeo

### **Officers in attendance:-**

Mr S Humphreys, Head of Legal Services  
Mr R Waters, Director – Frontline Services  
Mrs S Handy, Members Researcher & Scrutiny Officer  
Mr A Stone, Capital Projects Officer  
Mr D Macey, Operation Heritage Manager

### **County Borough Councillors in attendance:-**

Councillor Crimmings, Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure

### **Apologies for absence**

Councillor C Middle	Councillor J Barton
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor W. Treeby

#### **52 Welcome**

The Vice Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The Vice Chair informed Members that Councillor Middle was unable to be here this evening and that he had given his apologies. The Vice Chair also welcomed Cabinet Member Councillor Crimmings to the meeting.

#### **53 Apologies**

Apologies of absence were noted from County Borough Councillors J. Barton, D. Grehan, C Middle and W. Treeby.

**54 Scrutiny Research**

The Members' Researcher and Scrutiny Officer referenced the research facilities that were available to Members within the Council Business Unit. Members were advised that if they have any specific queries to email them to [Scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk).

**55 Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the code of conduct, there were no declaration of interest pertaining to the agenda.

**56 Minutes**

The minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

**57 Consultations**

The Members' Researcher & Scrutiny Officer referenced the consultation links, which were available through the 'RCT Scrutiny' website. Members were reminded that information is provided in respect of relevant consultations for consideration by the Committee, which are circulated on a monthly basis and updated on a fortnightly basis.

**58 Report on the initial public engagement for the Authority's review of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan**

The Head of Flood Risk Management and Strategic Projects presented his report to Members in respect of the response of the non statutory public engagement exercise prior to review of the current Local Flood Risk Strategy and Action Plan.

Members were provided with a power point presentation and following the update, Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions.

A Member queried where was the highest risk of flooding in the County Borough. The Officer confirmed that it is difficult to answer as the data keeps changing. The highest ranked within RCT is the community of Pentre, however, it was emphasised that this can overlap. It is currently the highest ranked in RCT and also the highest ranked in Wales. The Member also referred Officers to the survey in the report which stated that 95% of people wanted to see greener areas in RCT. The Member questioned whether each individual person would be prepared to make sacrifices to contribute to the Climate Change agenda. The Officer advised that this was outside of his expertise, however, he did note that residents putting down grass instead of patio slabs would help in terms of flood risk management.

Discussions ensued and a Member asked whether the Council makes residents aware that they are at risk of flooding if they live on a flooding hot spot. The Member also queried whether estate agents are obliged to tell the resident before they buy a property that this area is at risk of flooding. The Member also emphasised that the Council should be encouraging and supporting local action groups in this area so that residents are encouraged to help each other in times of flooding and storms. The Officer advised that each point raised by the Member will be embedded within the revised strategy looking ahead at the next

5 years and what actions need to be taken by the Council. The Officer confirmed that the Council's tools, maps and data are a lot better than what they were previously as well as the Council's working partnership with NRW. In terms of making future house buyers aware, the Officer confirmed that flood risk reports are available for prospective buyers from a number of suppliers and a simple online search on NRW's website. In terms of supporting local flood risk action groups, it is part of the current Council's strategy and will be embedded in the flood risk management plan.

Another Member referred to the survey and questioned what action is being taken to assist specific areas such as pentre. The Officer advised that works have been carried out in pentre and are in development. He further commented that the number of residents who responded to questions on flood risk management was disappointing given the numbers that were affected by Storm Dennis. However, the Officer advised that the results are still really good and still valid in terms of Climate Change strategy and a way forward on the Review of the Local Flood Risk Strategy.

In respect of the Officer's previous comments regarding laying grass instead of patios, a Member questioned whether there is any standard advice on this that the Council is promoting to the public. The Officer confirmed that the report highlights that the Council needs to increase the amount of information available to the public in terms of self help information regarding climate change. The Officer confirmed that this will be in the next stage of the strategy development. Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the contents of the report and for the comments of the Scrutiny Committee to be fed into the revised local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan.

## 59 Heritage Services

The Heritage Operations Manager presented the report to Members and provided them with an overview of the service through the use of a power point presentation.

Following this, Members had the opportunity to scrutinise the report in further detail. The Chair thanked the Officer for the presentation.

A Member advised that he used to be a minor and the language that was used was completely different and referenced an example where at that particular time it wasn't accepted to be called 'Black'. The Officer agreed and noted that the language is always evolving.

Discussions ensued and another Member questioned if there's anything the Council intend to do about restoring chapels across RCT. The Officer advise that he is happy to support any community groups or charities but hat as a Council they do not have the resources available to them. As discussions ensured another Member noted that he did not agree with the removal of the statue in Bristol and noted that you cannot change history. The Member noted that he also did not agree with changing street names. It was also noted that the Member used to work in the colliery and noted that there was always good camaraderie amongst all the men.

Discussions continued and a Member queried whether there were any other plans to extend the roll out of QR Codes. The Officer advised that this will be a

part of the plan going forward. Another Member commented that we do need to preserve our heritage and queried what the Council are doing about this. The Officer confirmed that this is a priority for the Council.

Following discussion, Members **AGREED** to acknowledge the update.

**60 Information Report**

The Vice Chair advised Members that the report was provided for information and that if they have any questions to email them to [Scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk)

**61 Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business to report.

**62 Chairs Review and Close**

The Vice Chair informed Members that this is the last meeting of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee for the 2022-23 Municipal Year. The Vice Chair thanked the Chair for his hard work over the past year and thanked Committee Members for their commitment and dedication.

**This meeting closed at 6.14 pm**

**Vice Chair, Cllr G Warren**





## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

### CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

### REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for Members of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee to consider the draft Forward Work Programme 2023-24 and to determine if there are any additional items that they wish to include in their Scrutiny Work Programme.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Agree on issues for inclusion on the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year (as set out in **Appendix 1**) (with appropriate amendment as necessary); and,
- 2.2 Request that the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications notifies the appropriate Cabinet Member and responsible Officer, of the matters identified for pre-scrutiny in advance of Cabinet consideration.

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 There is a requirement to devise and publish a Work Programme for each of the Council's Scrutiny Committees as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules). The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is responsible for ensuring that there is no duplication of work across the thematic scrutiny committees and will be reviewing each work programme of the three thematic scrutiny committees.
- 3.2 In consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Scrutiny Committee together with appropriate Council Officers and the relevant Cabinet Members, through the one-to-one engagement sessions, an initial list of work topics for the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Scrutiny Committee has been produced and is attached at Appendix 1.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Members should be reminded that the Scrutiny Work Programmes will remain a flexible "working" document, which will allow for a more flexible approach to be adopted and to recognise the needs of emerging priorities and provides opportunity for Scrutiny Working Groups to be taken forward and training provision where requested.
- 4.2 The work programme should reflect the committee's aims and objectives as well as add value to the work of the Council. It is up to the Committee to agree the items for inclusion in its work programme, but ideas are brought together from a number of sources to assist Members in their choices. It is important that all Members have the opportunity to put forward items for consideration
- 4.3 Other principles which are taken into account:
- The work programme represents a mixed selection of topics;
  - It meets deadlines in relation to other Council meetings and those of external partners;
  - Consideration as to whether the topic duplicates review activity which is taking place elsewhere; and
  - Flexibility- to ensure that new topics can be factored in and changes accounted for.

### **5 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

- 5.1 To support effective scrutiny, challenge and policy development, Members are advised to determine matters for consideration within the committees work programme from a range of perspectives. These should include:
- Pre scrutiny of the identified key decisions proposed for Cabinet consideration over the next municipal year;
  - Task and finish groups are informal, usually small, time-limited groups established by the scrutiny committee to undertake a specific piece of work, and report back to that committee with their findings and recommendations.
  - The delivery of services against the proposed matters of strategic significance to the Council, partners and stakeholders; and,
  - The development of policy recommendation for consideration by the Cabinet.
- 5.2 To promote public participation in scrutiny, Members are advised to provide sufficient capacity within the work programme to accommodate matters identified for scrutiny by the public. A Public Participation Strategy, which will provide a mechanism for stronger participation by the public and residents, will shortly be presented for member consideration, in-line with the new requirements contained with the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act (2021).
- 5.3 Members are also advised to focus their scrutiny activities in areas, where maximum value can be achieved and to ensure that sufficient capacity is made available to respond to business yet identified by Cabinet for consideration and the Council's response to national policy drivers. If business needs require, and with the agreement of the Chair, additional meeting dates for the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Scrutiny Committee dates may be added to the Calendar of Meetings for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.
- 5.4 Most importantly, Members are advised to maintain focus, when planning their committee's work programme, to enable the appropriate level of questioning and challenge to take place.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only and further analysis of each of the Work Programme will be needed if the recommendations are to be taken forward.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 The draft Work Programme has been compiled in discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Scrutiny Committee in consultation with Council Officers as well as the relevant Cabinet Members.

**8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

**9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph Part 4 of the Constitution (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules).

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Climate Change, Frontline Services & Scrutiny Committee  
27<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

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

**APPENDIX 1**

**CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

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## Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

### Draft Forward Work Programme 2023-24

Date/Time	Overarching Item	Officer(s)	Cabinet Member(s)	Invited/ In attendance	Scrutiny Focus/Challenge
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 5pm Hybrid	2023/24 Forward Work Programme	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications	Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity  Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure  Cabinet Member Climate Change & Corporate Services		<b>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge</b> For Members to consider the work programme for the 2023/2024 Municipal year
18 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 5pm Hybrid	<b>Community Infrastructure Levy Annual Monitoring Report</b>	Director of Prosperity & Development	Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Development		<b>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge</b> For Committee Members to pre-scrutinise the Community Infrastructure Levy Annual Monitoring Report
	<b>Review of Mainstream School Transport</b>	Director Frontline Services / Geraint Roberts	Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure Cabinet Member for Education, Youth		For Scrutiny Members to receive the outcomes of the periodic review of the Council's mainstream

Date/Time	Overarching Item	Officer(s)	Cabinet Member(s)	Invited/ In attendance	Scrutiny Focus/Challenge
			Participation & Welsh Language		School Transport Provision
	<b>End of year 2022/23 Delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy Performance Report</b>	Lesley Lawson, Performance Manager	Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Corporate Services		To receive the Council's performance report in respect of its delivery of the Climate Change Strategy 22/23.
	<b>Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</b>	Roger Waters, Director Frontline Services	Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Corporate Services		<b>Scrutiny &amp; Challenge</b> An opportunity to pre scrutinise the LFRMS.
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 5pm Hybrid</b>	<b>Tree and Hedgerow Strategy</b>	Director of Prosperity & Development	Cabinet Member Climate Change & Corporate Services		For scrutiny members to scrutinise the RCT Tree, Woodlands and Hedgerow Strategy
	<b>EV Charging Strategy</b>	David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates	Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity Cabinet Member Climate Change & Corporate Services		For Members to receive an update on the Council's EV Charging Strategy and the practicalities of its roll out across the County Borough.
	<b>RCT's Town Centre Strategy</b>	Director of Prosperity & Development	Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity		To receive an update on progress made to date on the Council's Town Centre Strategy in RCT
	<b>Decarbonisation Action Plan</b>	David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates	Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Corporate Services		To receive an overview of the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan



Date/Time	Overarching Item	Officer(s)	Cabinet Member(s)	Invited/ In attendance	Scrutiny Focus/Challenge
	<b>Cardiff Capital Region Housing Viability Gap Fund for Undeveloped Sites</b>	Simon Gale, Director of Prosperity and Development	Cabinet Member For Prosperity & Development		For Members to receive an update on the Housing Viability Gap Fund for Underdeveloped Sites
<b>29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 5pm Hybrid</b>	<b>Review of the Welsh Government 20mph Speed Limit Roll Out</b>	Director Frontline Services and Tim Phillips	Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity  Cabinet Member Climate Change & Corporate Services		For Committee Members to review the first 6 months of the roll out of the how the Welsh Government's legislation to reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph and its practical implications in RCT
	<b>Bi-Annual Update on the Council's Climate Change Strategy Performance Report</b>	Lesley Lawson, Performance Manager	Cabinet Member Climate Change & Corporate Services		To receive the Council's bi-annual performance report in respect of its delivery of the Climate Change Strategy .
	<b>Highways Investment Scheme</b>	Director Frontline Services and Andrew Griffiths and Jacqueline Mynott	Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity		For Committee Members to receive an update in respect of the Highways Investment Scheme
	<b>Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund Annual Report</b>	Director of Prosperity & Development	Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity		Scrutiny will receive an update on the local investment plans submitted to UK Gov as part of the UK Gov commitment to level up

Date/Time	Overarching Item	Officer(s)	Cabinet Member(s)	Invited/ In attendance	Scrutiny Focus/Challenge
					all parts of the UK and provides funding for local investment between 2022 and 2025.
	<b>Coal Tips</b>	Roger Waters, Director Frontline Services	Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure / Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Corporate Services		An overview of the Council's review of Coal Tips throughout RCT
<b>26<sup>th</sup> February 2023 5pm Hybrid</b>	<b>Public Rights of Way Annual Report</b>	Countryside & Rights of Way Officer / Director of Prosperity & Development	Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity		An update on the process of general maintenance and upkeep of public rights of way
	<b>RCT's Recycling Performance 2023/24</b>	Director Frontline Services	Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure		Members to receive an update on strategy development and progress towards the Council's 80% recycling target, particularly focusing on the 3 weekly waste collection .
	<b>Heritage Services</b>	Visitor Attractions and Heritage Manager (Chris Richards	Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure		For Members to receive an overview of heritage services in RCT
	<b>Fibre Broadband Access in RCT</b>	Simon Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development / Service Director, Digital & ICT	Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity / Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Corporate Services		For Members to receive an overview of the Council's planned roll out of Fibre Optic cables in RCT

Date/Time	Overarching Item	Officer(s)	Cabinet Member(s)	Invited/ In attendance	Scrutiny Focus/Challenge
	<b>Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee Annual Report (INFORMATION REPORT)</b>	Christian Hanagan, Service Director Democratic Services and Communication	Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Corporate Services		Information Report For Scrutiny Members to acknowledge the work of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee

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