



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20th JANUARY 2020

CABINET WORK PROGRAMME: 2019- 2020 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to consider the Cabinet Work Programme for the 2019-2020 Municipal Year (attached at Appendix 1) and to identify any opportunities to undertake pre scrutiny of the matters included within the forward work programme

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:-

- 2.1 Acknowledge the contents of the Cabinet Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2019/2020;
- 2.2 Identify any areas which Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee wish to scrutinise in greater detail particularly items for pre scrutiny for inclusion on the forward work programme of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (attached at Appendix 2);and
- 2.3 Request that the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications reports the Cabinet Work Programme at the start of the next Municipal Year to help shape the Overview & Scrutiny forward work programme for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In accordance with paragraph 12.1 (Part 4) of the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet Work Programme should be prepared to cover a period of three months, with an updated version provided at the end of this period. Following the amendments to the Leaders Scheme of Delegation at the Council AGM on the 25th May, 2016 it was agreed that going forward a detailed Cabinet Work Programme be published for a 6 month period, allowing sufficient notice and opportunity for consultation and / or pre scrutiny.

- 3.2 The updated Work Programme is attached to this report for Members' consideration and covers the 2019-2020 Municipal Year. For ease of reference the work programme is also be available on the main Cabinet webpage for Members and members of the public information.
- 3.3 To afford the Overview & Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to identify any matters within the Cabinet forward work programme taking into account interest in a particular service area.

4. PRE SCRUTINY

- 4.1 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider items within the Cabinet Work Programme to pre scrutinise. The identified item(s) will be included in its own work programme for pre scrutiny before any decision is taken by the Executive.
- 4.2 As Members are aware, the pre scrutiny process enables scrutiny to discuss proposed Cabinet reports, where a clear recommendation(s) exists, before decisions are taken by the Executive. It allows Members to identify relevant matters for pre scrutiny based on strategic impact, relevance to the Committee's work programme, public interest and/or financial implications.
- 4.3 The ability for all members to add-value through this approach is recognised by both the Council's Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet. This dialogue is creating more opportunity for scrutiny to have a wider field of vision in terms of future business and priorities to be considered in the short, medium and longer term.
- 4.3 The revised procedure for reporting 'Scrutiny Feedback' on all the Council's scrutiny committee agendas now enables a more efficient and transparent process and ensures that the Scrutiny Chairs, Vice Chairs and all members are better informed about the wider decision-making work programme and have better co-ordination of work flows.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 The Cabinet work programme has been compiled by members of the Senior Leadership Team in discussion with the relevant portfolio holder(s).
- 5.2 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee forward work programme has been developed through regular meetings between Scrutiny Chairs with associated Cabinet Members and Group Directors. These meetings address policy developments and scrutiny priorities and have strengthened Members' overall understanding of the Council's business.

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.

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 The proposals to address the Wales Audit Office 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 Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny work programmes for the 2019-2020 Municipal Year are attached and members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee are asked to identify relevant topics for pre scrutiny which will strengthen and reinforce the current arrangements in place. It will also ensure that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee fully evaluates the effectiveness of its overview and scrutiny function.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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COMMUNICATION**