



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19TH JULY 2023

**EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Member's comment and approval on the draft Work Programme of the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year, attached as **Appendix A**.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members of the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1. Agree on issues for inclusion on the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year (as set out in **Appendix A**) with appropriate amendments as necessary;
- 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;
- 2.3. Agree that the Work Programme be reviewed at regular intervals to ensure the items identified for inclusion are relevant and that any additional referrals are incorporated; and

- 2.4. Consider, where appropriate, any items which could be presented to the Committee as Information Reports, to allow Members the flexibility to consider any urgent item or the opportunity for some unallocated items already identified by the Committee to be brought forward for Members consideration.
- 2.5. Consider and determine any other matter that Members may wish to scrutinise over this period.

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.
- 3.2. In consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee together with appropriate Council Officers, and the relevant Cabinet Members, through the one-to-one engagement session, an initial list of work topics for the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee has been produced and is attached at **Appendix A**.

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. There are a number of areas which have been taken into account when developing the Draft Work Programme:
 - 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 AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION**

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
- The delivery of services against the proposed objectives of decisions
- Matters of strategic significance to the Council, partners and stakeholders
- The development of policy of 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 Act (Wales) (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.

5.4. Most importantly Members are advised to maintain focus, when planning their committee work programme, to enable the approach level of questioning and challenge to take place.

5.5. Members are also advised to consider what, if any, additional focused development and training requirements, they might have in order to assist in ensuring Scrutiny is providing good governance to the Council. Members are advised to contact the Chair to discuss.

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 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 Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee in consultation with Council Officers as well as the relevant Cabinet Member.
- 7.2. This Committee will act as consultees where matters are considered under the Welsh Government School Organisation Code. In addition, Members will also have the opportunity to pre-scrutinise Education items that are not within the remit of the School Organisation Code.

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

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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19TH JULY 2023

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDIX A

**EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME
2023/24**