



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**27 September 2023**

**DRAFT EDUCATION & INCLUSION WORK PROGRAMME**

**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 as approved at their meeting on the [19 July 2023](#)

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1. Consider, where appropriate, any items which could be presented to the Committee as Information Reports, to allow Members the flexibility to consider any urgent items to be brought forward for Members consideration potentially freeing up time for more urgent items to be scrutinised; and
- 2.2 Agree which matters (if any), should be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, or other thematic Scrutiny Committee for inclusion in their individual Work Programmes in accordance with the Committees Terms of Reference.

- 2.3 Agree on issues any additional 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;
- 2.4 That consideration of item 6 (if approved) is reflected within the published work programme of the Education & Inclusion Committee.

### **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 setting and agreeing its own Work Programme. However, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee also has a co-ordinating role and will ensure that there is no duplication of work across the thematic scrutiny committees.

### **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 Programmes 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
- 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 The Draft Education and Inclusion Work Programme attached at Appendix A has been compiled by Officers in consultation with the Education and Inclusion Chair and Vice Chair, the relevant Cabinet Members and also all Members of the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee where it was subsequently approved on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023. In considering their Draft Work Programme, the Committee also had sight of the Cabinet Work Programme to allow them to determine which items were appropriate to include within the Draft Scrutiny Work Programme.

5.3 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.

5.4 In their Co-ordinating role, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee also oversees the work of the thematic Scrutiny Committees and are responsible for approving the Work Programmes developed by the three thematic Scrutiny Committees to ensure a deliverable, coordinated and outcome focussed schedule of work programmes. This includes the Committee considering that where matters fall within the remit of more than one Committee, they should determine which Scrutiny Committee the matter should be referred to. Any 'in-year' or quarterly additions to a subject Scrutiny Committee Work Programme will need to be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee under this arrangement

5.5 Member's attention is drawn to the item relating to the Child Poverty. This matter was referred to 'an appropriate scrutiny committee' following consideration of a Motion at Full Council. Since the Education & Inclusion Work Programme was considered, members will be aware of pending development of a new Corporate Plan. Due to the statutory direction in place in respect of Child Poverty action

planning, and the integral role this subject may play in a future corporate plan, members may be minded to determine that consideration of this subject is taken forward by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in combination with its involvement and scrutiny of the draft Corporate Plan. A separate report has been presented for consideration in respect of this option.

## **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 for all Scrutiny Committees has been compiled following discussion with Overview and Scrutiny Committee in consultation with Council Officers, the Chair and Vice Chair as well as the relevant Cabinet Members.
- 7.2 The draft Work Programme for the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee has been approved by the Committee at their meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 prior to seeking approval from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## **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).