



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 NOVEMBER 2023

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to review the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme to consider if there are any further matters to be brought forward from the Cabinet Work Programme for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 2.1. Agree on issues for inclusion on the Overview and 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;
- 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 items to be brought forward for Members consideration potentially freeing up time for more urgent items to be scrutinised; and
- 2.5. Agree which matters (if any), should be referred to the thematic Scrutiny Committees for inclusion in their individual Work Programmes.

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 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme attached at Appendix A was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 17 July 2023 where it was agreed 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;
- 5.3 Attached at Appendix B is the Cabinet Work Programme for Members to consider whether there are any items which should be brought forward to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for pre-scrutiny. This includes, where appropriate referring such matters to the relevant thematic Scrutiny Committees
- 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. 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

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 A 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 Member.

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).