



SCRUTINY : REGENERATION AND PUBLIC PROTECTION MEETING

4.00 pm TUESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 2022

COUNCIL CHAMBER - MICROSOFT TEAMS

A Pre-Meeting will take place prior to this Meeting and a separate invitation will be sent from Scrutiny Support Officers to Committee Members only

Please note that today's Meeting will be recorded.

This recording may be broadcast on the Authority's internet

All attendees will be in view of the camera and, by attending you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings being used as outlined above.

This Agenda has been prepared by the Democratic Services Department. Any member of the public requiring information should contact the department on (01685) 725284 or email democratic@merthyr.gov.uk.

Any reference documents referred to but not published as part of this agenda can be found on the Council's website or intranet under Background Papers.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)

Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of

the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 relating to Council Tax, the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct

Note:

(a) Members are reminded that they must identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest and

(b) Where Members withdraw from a Meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chair when they leave

Work Programme

3. Forward Work Programme 2022/23
To consider the attached report **5 - 14**

Reports

4. Empty Buildings in the County Borough
To consider the attached Presentation and verbal Update **15 - 32**

5. Scrutiny Referrals

Reflections

6. Report Recommendations
Did we address the recommendations in each report and how have we added value?
7. Feedback on Scrutiny Activities
Any outstanding actions? Feedback from workshops / task and finish groups / enquiry days, etc.
8. Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair

COMPOSITION:

Councillors: L Davies (Chair)
D Sammon (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: C T Jones, S Thomas, J Thomas and
A Williams-Price

Co-optee(s): H Hopkins, H Jackson, A Millar and
R Stone

together with appropriate officers

*If you would prefer a copy of this agenda in another language please contact
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County Borough Council

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	3 rd October 2022
Report Author	Councillor Lee Davies – Chair of Regeneration, Public Protection and Housing (inc. Crime and Disorder) Scrutiny Committee
Service Area	Scrutiny
Exempt/Non-Exempt	Non-Exempt
Committee Date	11 th October 2022

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Forward Work Programme 2022/23

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To provide Scrutiny Members with the proposed Scrutiny Forward Work Programme (FWP) (Appendix 1) for consideration to agree its work programme and to use it to prepare in advance of future scrutiny meetings.
- 1.2. To remind Scrutiny Members that they need to consider the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in all aspects of scrutiny work.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Scrutiny Members agree the items set out in the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme (Appendix 1)

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Scrutiny Members will be aware of the work programme report presented to the Regeneration, Public Protection and Housing (inc. Crime and Disorder) Scrutiny meeting on the 5th of July 2022. This provided Scrutiny Members with the four principles of scrutiny (as set out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny) are listed below:
 - Provides constructive, critical friend challenge to executive policymakers and decision-takers

- Amplifies and enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities
- Led and owned by independent minded Councillors on behalf of the public
- Drives improvement in public services

3.2. Building on this, we have used the '4R's' model (which sets out how good scrutiny should work).

Right Issue	Right Way	Right Time	Right Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the issues • Get the Work Programme right 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee meetings • Task and finish groups • Inquiry days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-decision • Current priorities • Not too early • Not too late 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits • Community-based meetings • Committee room meetings

3.3. Scrutiny is required to prepare and keep under review a programme for their work. By reviewing and prioritising issues, Members are able to ensure that the work programmes deliver a member-led agenda and add value to delivery of outcomes for our residents.

3.4. The scrutiny forward work programme (appendix 1) identifies the topics for consideration at scrutiny. Following the last Scrutiny on 6th September 2022, further scrutiny work planning sessions involving with the Chair, Scrutiny Members, the Director, supported by officers from the Policy and Improvement Section, took place. The items for consideration were subsequently agreed by all Members of this Scrutiny in readiness for this meeting on 11th October 2022.

3.5. The Scrutiny FWP sets out the items for consideration by scrutiny; however, the Scrutiny FWP is subject to change when the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is produced. This will allow Scrutiny Members the opportunity to undertake pre-decision scrutiny, i.e., prior to items being presented to Cabinet for approval.

3.6. Quarterly technical meetings with the Chair, Cabinet Member and Director will also enable scrutiny to build in items for pre-decision. The technical meetings will also ensure that the Scrutiny FWP captures public voice through member engagement with their constituents. Other key considerations such as Corporate Risk and strategic priorities can also be considered.

3.7. It is important that the Scrutiny FWP remains flexible enough that we can add value and ensure we are still scrutinising the things we should. For example, task and finish groups are likely to be developed from the items in the Scrutiny FWP.

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Statement of Well-being and the Corporate Well-being Plan	March 2022	Council Website
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Regeneration, Public Protection and Housing (Inc. Crime and Disorder) Scrutiny

Date / Timing	Overarching Item/Issue	Why is this on the work programme?	Cabinet Member & Officer	How will this be scrutinised?	Scrutiny Focus – What are we trying to achieve?
Page 8 5 th July 2022	Scrutiny Forward Work Programme	Link to Well-being Objectives, priorities for improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Life • RTI Plan – Economic Recovery Ensuring public voice. Drive improvement.	Chair of Regeneration and Public Protection Scrutiny	Venue: MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Committee style meeting	Adding value through critical friend challenge and ensuring a robust work programme is in place. This will adhere to the 4 principles of scrutiny and 4R's model.
	Crime and Disorder	Link to Well-being Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Well • Working Life Ensuring public voice. Drive improvement. A requirement of this scrutiny function. A cross-cutting item. High impact on the residents.	Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Crime and Disorder Head of Service	Venue: MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Committee style meeting	Adding value through gaining a fuller understanding of the subject matter to be able to provide critical friend challenge and include appropriately in the work programme. The loop will be closed by inclusion in the work programme leading to stronger plans and accountability.
6 th September 2022	Scrutiny Forward Work Programme	Link to Well-being Objectives, priorities for improvement:	Chair of Regeneration and Public Protection Scrutiny	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams	Adding value through critical friend challenge and ensuring a robust work

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Life RTI Plan – Economic Recovery <p>Ensuring public voice. Drive improvement.</p>		<p>Scrutiny Type: Scrutiny Meeting</p>	programme is in place. This will adhere to the 4 principles of scrutiny and 4R's model.
	Housing and Homelessness	<p>Link to Well-being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living Well Working Life <p>Housing (Wales) Act 2014</p> <p>Corporate Risk</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Head of Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Senior Housing Officers</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams</p>	Scrutiny seeks to receive a progress review of the issues, as well as the developments since item was brought forward in the cycle last year. Information should be provided on any continuing challenges presented by a change in Welsh Government legislation pertaining to housing and homelessness. This topic will allow critical friend challenge and add value by scrutinising mitigation actions against the Homelessness corporate risk and consider these proposals going forward to improve outcomes.
				<p>Scrutiny Type: Scrutiny Meeting</p>	
11 th October 2022	Scrutiny Forward Work Programme	<p>Link to Well-being Objectives, priorities for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Life RTI Plan – Economic Recovery <p>Ensuring public voice. Drive improvement.</p>	Chair of Regeneration and Public Protection Scrutiny	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)</p>	Adding value through critical friend challenge and ensuring a robust work programme is in place. This will adhere to the 4 principles of scrutiny and 4R's model.
				<p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	

	Empty Buildings in the County Borough	<p>Link to Well-being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Life • Environmental Well-Being • Living Well 	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Public Protection</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Head of Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Head of Public Protection</p> <p>Public/Environmental Health Manager</p> <p>Senior Regeneration Officers</p> <p>External Representatives Owners of certain empty buildings with the County Borough</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)</p>	<p>Scrutiny to explore the current issues relating to empty buildings within the County Borough and provide critical friend challenge of the current practices in place to address issues. Will also allow Members to explore opportunities and/or restrictions influencing progress. and how we can work with building owners to improve quality and use of buildings. Potential to invite building owners and offering critical friend challenge to them.</p>
				<p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	
	Public Transport (Bus Service)	<p>Link to Well-Being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Life • Living Well <p>Ensuring a public voice</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Head of Housing and Regeneration</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)</p>	<p>To provide critical friend challenge of the current service and the issues and challenges that are faced. Scrutiny of this item will also enable and bring forward the voice of the public with this item being a topic of high topic amongst members of</p>
				<p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	

			Senior Regeneration Officers Transport Officers Representatives from Stagecoach		the public.
22 nd November 2022	Crime and Disorder – Non-Emergency Number (101) Issues and Anti-Social Behaviour	Link to Well-Being Objectives: • Living Well Crime and Disorder a requirement for this Scrutiny	Cabinet Member for Public Protection	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)	Scrutiny seeks a review of the issues which are currently faced, giving a voice to the public in a topic of significant interest. By offering the invite to Police representatives, this will allow Members to provide critical friend challenge of the current service and, if appropriate, provide recommendations/proposals on improvements and options on how collaborative may improve the delivery of services.
			Deputy Chief Executive Head of Public Protection Representatives from South Wales Police	Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	
17 th January 2023	Fly-Tipping in the Borough	Link to Well-Being Objectives: • Environmental Well-Being • Living Well Ensuring voice of the public	Cabinet Member for Public Protection	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)	To provide critical friend challenge to current practices providing input and feedback from residents. Challenge how better collaboration can improve outcomes and support continuous improvement of the service.
			Deputy Chief Executive Head of Public Protection Public Health Manager	Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	

	Vermin Issues within the Borough	<p>Link to Well-Being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Well-Being • Living Well 	<p>Cabinet Member for Public Protection</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Head of Public Protection</p> <p>Public Health Manager</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)</p> <p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	To provide critical friend challenge to current working practices allowing input/feedback from residents. Challenge how different approaches and enhanced collaboration may improve service performance going forward.
7 th March 2023	Hoovers Redevelopment	<p>Links to Well-being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Life • Environmental Well-Being • Living Well 	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Head of Regeneration and Housing</p> <p>Senior Regeneration Officers</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid) Workshop (TBC)</p> <p>Scrutiny Type: Potential workshop to be followed by Committee Style Meeting</p>	Scrutiny seeks to review progress on the redevelopment of the site and provide critical friend challenge to options available, with recommendations to be considered based on any on-going proposals. Potential workshop to develop detailed understanding of any plans/reports.
	SPF Levelling-Up Fund	<p>Links to Well-being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Life • Environmental Well-Being • Living Well • Best Start <p>RTI Plan – Economic Recovery</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Head of Regeneration and Housing</p> <p>Senior Regeneration Officer/SPF Fund Manager</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid) Workshop (TBC)</p> <p>Scrutiny Type: Potential workshop to be followed by Committee Style Meeting</p>	Potential workshop to give Members an understanding of the process and guidance relating to the fund. Outcomes to be fed back at Scrutiny, which will also allow Members to provide a critical friend challenge to plans, with the aim of improving outcomes and service delivery.

2 nd May 2023	Sexual and Domestic Violence	<p>Links to Well-being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Well <p>Crime and Disorder a requirement for this Scrutiny</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Public Protection</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Head of Public Protection</p> <p>Representatives from New Pathways</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid) Workshop (TBC)</p> <p>Scrutiny Type: Potential workshop to be followed by Committee Style Meeting</p>	<p>Workshop, including input from support organisations such as New Pathways, to allow Members understand scope of overarching item. Outcomes/recommendations to be fed back at Scrutiny, aiming to improve outcomes and recommendations on any collaborative working.</p>
	Night-Time Economy	<p>Links to Well-being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Life • Environmental Well-Being • Living Well 	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Public Protection</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Head of Regeneration and Housing</p> <p>Head of Public Protection</p> <p>Senior Regeneration Officers</p> <p>Public Health Manager</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)</p> <p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	<p>Scrutiny seeks to review current arrangements relating to night-time economy within the County Borough and how it impacts on services/departments whilst considering public views on the arrangements. Will allow Members to provide a critical friend challenge and explore opportunities for improvement.</p>

Additional ideas for consideration by Scrutiny have been identified below through input from the Chair, Scrutiny Members and Director when considering strategic plans of the Council. Further consideration of ideas will be considered once a Cabinet Work Programme has been confirmed, however, work will continue with Scrutiny Members, especially to capture the voice of our residents, to further develop the forward work programme

in using our framework. Workshops will continue to develop the plan and outcomes will be used to inform the forward work programme and will be presented continually through the Scrutiny cycle.

Overarching Item/Issue	Potential Right Way?	Potential Right Time?	Potential Right Place?
Future plans for the town centre	Information gathering/Workshop to consider details in any relevant plans/reports.	Chair will discuss with Director and Head of Service to confirm best time to bring forward to ensure Scrutiny has full and desired impact.	Council Chamber/Meeting Rooms (Hybrid)
Leisure Trust (inc. Cyfarthfa Foundation)	Workshop where all members will be invited on potential options for future of the Trust for conclusions to be considered in report (October).	As early as possible in cycle depending on date of report. Chair would be declaring interest, but due to public interest in topic, would be best to do it sooner, possibly in October.	Council Chamber/Meeting Rooms (Hybrid)
Road safety issues including affect of new 20mph speed limit	Information gathering on the positives/negatives of the introduction of the speed limit and the potential impact on communities.	To be considered further in cycle if applicable.	Council Chamber/Meeting Rooms (Hybrid)
Air Quality (including affects of A465 dualling and changing of town routes)	Information and data gathering on the effects on air quality, specifically relating to the dualling of A465, and outcomes of town/Twyn area reconfiguration.	To be considered later in the cycle, possibly quarter 3 or 4.	Council Chamber/Meeting Rooms (Hybrid)





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