

Neighbourhood Services, Planning and Countryside Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Descriptors 2020/2021

(The Work Programme is reviewed at each meeting and as such is subject to change)

| Date / Timing | Overarching Item | Officer & Cabinet Member | Scrutiny Focus |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 28 th September 2020 | Forward Work Programme 2020/2021 | Cllr Declan Sammon (Chair) and Scrutiny Committee Members | The Committee to discuss the draft Work Programme and to officially agree and sign off the Work Programme for 2020-2021. |
| | Coronavirus Update – Response and Transition to Recovery | Judith Jones / David Hughes / Paul Davies | Scrutiny & Challenge: - The committee has requested a report to give an update on how Neighbourhood Services are responding to the demands and challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This report should also outline the services transition to recovery and lessons learned going forward. |
| 2 nd November 2020 | Environment Act (Wales) 2016 - Re: Weed Spraying | Rob Barnett / Paul Jones | Scrutiny & Challenge: - Public authorities must now seek to 'maintain and enhance biodiversity' in the course of exercising their functions' (but without prejudice to the proper exercise of those functions) and in so doing 'promote the resilience of ecosystems'. Therefore, the committee seeks to develop a clear understanding of the Councils policy of weed spraying within the County Borough. The report should comprise of two main areas and how they impact on the Environmental Act (Wales) 2016, the first part should explain Councils the current policy for highway weed spraying (i.e. road and street spraying) and the second part of the report should focus on and give details on the Japanese Knotweed policy (including private land). In addition to this, the committee would like further information on what weed spraying options can/could be offered to residents. |
| | Community Asset Transfer Policy | Judith Jones / Lisa Emmerson / Andrea Jones | Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Council is committed to being sustainable and resilient and therefore, the committee has requested a report to be presented on the Community Asset Transfer Policy with specific focus on the following areas: ➤ community engagement; ➤ leases to community groups; and ➤ promoting biodiversity. |
| | Forward Work Programme | Chair and Committee Members | Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report. |
| 7 th December 2020 | Fly Tipping | Judith Jones / Paul Jones | Scrutiny & Challenge: - Fly Tipping |

As per the Audit Wales (AW) scrutiny forward work programmes should: provide a clear rationale for topic selection; be more outcome focussed; ensure that the method of scrutiny is best suited to the topic area and the outcome desired; align scrutiny programmes with the council's performance management, self-evaluation and improvement arrangements.

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| | | | <p>The fly-tipping theme has been regularly presented to the committee in previous years. As this is a contentious topic, the scrutiny members would like a report that gives a current update on fly-tipping within the borough, which also makes specific reference to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ review of surveillance cameras ➤ overview of Fly-Tipping Policies (private land / Council land) ➤ latest figures/data and the affects, if any, of recent HWRC closure dog fouling (Public Spaces Protection Orders) |
| | TBC | | |
| | Forward Work Programme | Chair and Committee Members | Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report. |
| 18th January 2021 | Property Services information report | Judith Jones / Chris Jones | Scrutiny & Challenge: - The committee seeks to develop a clear understanding of the Property Services department and requests a report be presented to committee giving an overview of the service area. In addition to this, the report should include a detailed programme plan of the service and identify the key areas for development and improvement for 2020/21. |
| | Self-Evaluation Findings: Questions 1, 2 or 3 TBC - The SER cycle is still to be agreed | Cllr David Hughes / Judith Jones / Rob Barnett | Scrutiny and Challenge: Made up of 3 key questions the re-focused self-evaluation process supports Chief Officers and service teams to reflect on what they achieved and identify and set priorities for improvement. The Committee will receive the service's response to the second key question which is linked to Service Delivery. They will be required to scrutinise the proforma outlining the findings of the process (along with relevant supporting evidence); and review the validity of the judgment ascribed. |
| | Forward Work Programme | Chair and Committee Members | Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report. |

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| 1st March 2021 | Energy Saving / Carbon Management | Judith Jones / Chris Jones / Iain Goldsworthy | Scrutiny & Challenge: - A Carbon Management report was presented to scrutiny on 11th March 2019 (and updated on 16 th September 2019), whereby the officers attending stated several saving achieved since the employment of the new Carbon Management Officer. The scrutiny members have requested an update on the savings made to date, and what impact has this work had on the carbon footprint of the borough. The report should also refer to statutory and other measure reported by the team and if the Authority is on track of achieving its targets. |
| | Nature Recovery Action Plan | Matt Davies | Scrutiny & Challenge: - The committee received a report regarding the Council's Nature Recovery Action Plan on 13 th January 2020. The Scrutiny Members have requested a report that provides a current position statement on the actions within the plan along with any details of issues/barriers experienced and how these have been overcome. In addition to this, the committee would like to receive specific information on the grass cutting priority plans. The report is also to consider key areas for development and improvement for 2020/21. |
| | Forward Work Programme | Chair and Committee Members | Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report. |
| 12th April 2021 | Update report on Black Bin Charges | Judith Jones / Paul Davies / Stephen Thomas | Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Council introduced a charging policy of £15.00 to replace black bins some time ago. The Committee has requested an update report detailing how much money has been generated and/or saved by the Council with the introduction of this charge for the replacement bin. The report should also include specific data such as the number of black bins replaced in comparison to previous years. In addition to this, the committee wish to be provided with information on where bins are not being replaced and what the Council policy is on this matter. |
| | Improving Recycling Rates | Judith Jones / Paul Davies / Stephen Thomas | Scrutiny & Challenge: - Improving the recycling rates is one of the key priorities to Neighbourhood Services. To ensure that the Authority continues to deliver a waste and recycling service that meets the needs and aspirations of our residents whilst continuing to attain the ever more |

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| | | | <p>stringent statutory recycling targets, the Committee has requested a report specifically on the areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ details on education and enforcement solutions in order to improve the quality of materials and increase participation in recycling services. ➤ frequency of residual waste collections ➤ 'Keeping Up With The Joneses' campaign update ➤ vehicle breakdowns (e.g. what are the barriers? how much does this cost the Authority in comparison to previous years?) |
| | <p>Self-Evaluation Findings: Questions 1, 2 or 3</p> <p>TBC - The SER cycle is still to be agreed</p> | <p>Cllr David Hughes / Judith Jones / Rob Barnett</p> | <p>Scrutiny and Challenge: Made up of 3 key questions the re-focused self-evaluation process supports Chief Officers and service teams to reflect on what they achieved and identify and set priorities for improvement. The Committee will receive the service's response to the second key question which is linked to Service Delivery. They will be required to scrutinise the proforma outlining the findings of the process (along with relevant supporting evidence); and review the validity of the judgment ascribed.</p> |
| | <p>Forward Work Programme</p> | <p>Chair and Committee Members</p> | <p>Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report.</p> |
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| Additional Topics for Consideration | | |
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| <p>Responsible Dog Ownership</p> <p>(The scrutiny focus would need to be reviewed when the PSPO has been agreed.)</p> | <p>Judith Jones / Paul Jones</p> | <p>Scrutiny & Challenge: - This committee has an obligation to ensure the County Borough is as clean and safe as possible, therefore the scrutiny members have requested a report on 'Responsible Dog Ownership'. This report should give a brief overview on dog fouling and the data/statistics within the County Borough (compared to national data supplied by Keep Wales Tidy), also providing specific details to answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are the current actions taken with regards to dog fouling, stray dogs, animal attacks? ➤ What is being done by the department to raise awareness and encourage responsible dog ownership in Merthyr Tydfil, to reduce dog fouling, prioritise domestic pet welfare, minimise dog attacks on children / adults, and safety in outdoor spaces such as parks? ➤ Controlling dog fouling under public spaces protection orders was introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, who would enforce a PSPO? |
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