

Governance, Performance, Business Change, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme Descriptors 2020/21

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

Date / Timing	Overarching Item	Cabinet Member & Officer(s)	Scrutiny Focus	Cross-Cutting Strategies and Plans
22nd September 2020	Coronavirus Update – Response and Transition to Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member – Governance; Performance; Business Change & Corporate Services • Head of Protection & Safety Services 	<p>Scrutiny & Challenge: Local councils have faced unprecedented events during 2020 as a result of the pandemic and, more specifically, the impact of the prolonged period of lockdown.</p> <p>The Committee seeks a report that will enable them to review how the Council has responded to these circumstances; and how it has worked differently to manage/mitigate identified risks. The report should acknowledge what the Council did well, what opportunities were identified and seized and what lessons have been learned; showing how these will be used to take the next required steps in the short and long-term.</p>	Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan
	Draft Committee Work Programme 2018/19	Committee Chair & Committee Members	The Committee to discuss the draft Work Programme and to officially agree and sign off the Work Programme for 2020-2021	Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)
13 th October 2020	Corporate Wellbeing Plan: Environmental Wellbeing theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member – Neighbourhood Services, Planning & Countryside • Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Planning & Countryside 	<p><u>Item deferred from 2019/2020 Work Programme (as a result of the pandemic)</u></p> <p>At the scrutiny meeting held on April 2019, Committee Members requested the Environmental Wellbeing theme within the Corporate Plan be presented at Governance Scrutiny, with a specific focus on the following elements:</p> <p><i>“It has been over 12 months since new measures were introduced. Members want to explore:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>whether there has been any increase of incidents of fly-tipping.</i> • <i>whether costs have increased?</i> • <i>does policy require change? (e.g. black bin charge; waste transfer note charge etc.)”.</i> 	<p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan</p> <p>Wales Towards Zero Waste</p>

As per the WAO 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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			The Committee will, through questioning; seek to understand the impact of the pandemic on services officers deliver. Members aim to identify how lessons learned will help inform and shape services going forward to ensure identified needs can continue to be met in safe and responsive ways.	
	Committee Work Programme 2020/21	Committee Chair & Committee Members	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.	Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)
24 th November 2020	Corporate Wellbeing Plan: Living Well Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member – Social Services • Chief Officer – Social Services 	<p>Scrutiny & Challenge: The Committee seeks a report outlining progress made against the Living Well theme within the Corporate Plan. The report will outline progress made against the objective set down under this theme; and will identify challenges faced and opportunities identified and actioned.</p> <p>Additionally; the Committee seeks to understand the impact of the pandemic on officers delivering both Children's and Adult social services and of the services users seeking support. Members also seek to identify how lessons learned will help inform and shape services going forward to ensure identified needs can continue to be met in safe and responsive ways.</p>	<p>Focus on the Future – wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan</p> <p>Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p> <p>ACRF Report 2019-2020</p>
	Committee Work Programme 2020/21	Committee Chair & Committee Members	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.	Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)

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12 th January 2021	Corporate Wellbeing Plan: Working Life Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member – Community Regeneration & Public Protection • Chief Officer – Community Regeneration; Public Protection & Housing • Head of Housing & Community Regeneration • Head of Protection & Safety Services 	<p>Scrutiny & Challenge: The Committee seeks a report outlining progress made against the Working theme within the Corporate Plan. The report will outline progress made against the objective set down under this theme; and will identify challenges faced and opportunities identified and actioned.</p> <p>Additionally; the Committee seeks to understand the impact of the pandemic on a wide range of services: Housing and Homelessness; Economic Development & Business Support; Protection & Safety Services; Sports Development/ Heritage & Culture services so Members can clearly identify how lessons learned will inform and shape activities going forward. The Committee also seeks to understand how the impact of lockdown and subsequent lessons learned will support wider economic recovery across the County Borough.</p>	<p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> <p>Economic Growth Strategy</p>
	Committee Work Programme 2020/21	Committee Chair & Committee Members	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.	Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)
9 th February 2021	Corporate Wellbeing Plan: Best Start Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member – Education • Chief Officer – Education 	<p>Scrutiny & Challenge: The Committee seeks a report outlining progress made against the Best Start theme within the Corporate Plan. The report will outline progress made against the objectives set down under this theme; and will identify challenges faced and opportunities identified and actioned.</p> <p>Additionally; the Committee seeks to understand the impact of the pandemic on officers delivering Education; early years and childcare; youth and adult education services. Members seek to identify how lessons learned will help inform and shape services going forward to ensure identified needs can continue to be met in safe and responsive ways.</p>	<p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>

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9 th February 2021	Agile Working Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive • Head of HR • Organisational Development Manager 	Oversight and Scrutiny: Committee Members have requested a short report be brought before them relating to the Agile Working policy that was approved at the Full Council meeting on 7 th October 2020.	Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance) Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
	Committee Work Programme 2020/21	Committee Chair & Committee Members	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.	Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)
23 rd March 2021	Refocused Statement of Wellbeing and Corporate Plan – Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member – Governance, Performance, Business Change & Corporate Services • Head of Corporate Services 	Scrutiny & Challenge: The Council is required to meet its statutory duty of refocusing and publishing its Statement of Wellbeing and Corporate Wellbeing Plan annually. Committee Members are required to scrutinise both of these documents to review how well the Council is meeting its requirements against the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.	Focus on the Future – wellbeing in our community Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan Economic Growth Strategy
	The impact of Council Tax Debt Collection Process & Universal Credit on Tackling Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be confirmed 	<p>Scrutiny & Challenge: Following a visit to Citizens Advice Bureau; a recommendation was made by the Committee Chair to further explore this topic. A CAB representative will be invited to attend to give a report on the impact of the processes and outline some of the issues people face within communities across the County Borough.</p> <p>Additionally; the Committee wants to understand the impact of the pandemic on CAB services. Members seek to identify how lessons learned will help inform and shape services going forward to ensure identified needs can continue to be met in safe and responsive ways.</p>	Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)

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23 rd March 2021	Committee Work Programme 2020/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Chair & Committee Members 	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.	Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)
4 th May 2021	Report on Service Charges in relation to waste bins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Member – Neighbourhood Services Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Planning & Countryside 	Members have requested the report on black bin charges that is being presented in Neighbourhood Services on 12 th April 2021 be presented at Governance Scrutiny Committee 4 th May 2021.	Focus on the Future – wellbeing in our community Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance) Wales Towards Zero Waste Strategy

Additional topics for consideration			
Topic	Cabinet Member & Officer(s)	Description	Scheduled
Local Authority Support to the Third Sector Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair of Governance Scrutiny Committee Chief Officer – Community Regeneration; Head of Housing & Economic Development EU & External Funding Manager 	This item was originally received as a result of a WAO report. Subsequent to the item being discussed at the scrutiny meeting an email was sent to the Chief Executive and the Cabinet Portfolio Member. As a result of scrutiny's involvement a report was submitted to the Governance Services Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13 th February.	

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Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member – Governance, Performance, Business Change & Corporate Services • Head of Human Resources • 	<p>Following updates received during 2019/2020; Committee Members request officers return to the Committee to offer further updates on the current status with particular reference being made to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capability process; • A breakdown of where SPODs; • An update on work-based stress and the Council’s response to this; • A breakdown of the current situation in relation to agency workers <p>Additionally, the Committee is aware the Human Resources Team has undertaken significant work to support the change of working practice for officers across the Council to work remotely/agilely.</p>	
Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Merthyr Tydfil/ New Pathways 	<p>Members requested a report outlining the impact of domestic abuse and sexual violence on local people. In relation to sexual violence, the Committee should outline the impact of sexual violence on communities (i.e.) STI’s; pregnancies; impact on mental health and offer basic detail on the support structure available for victims.</p>	
Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive Officer • All Chief Officers 	<p>Members have requested an update on progress made against the priority actions laid down in the Council’s Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan.</p>	

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