

Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Descriptors 2021/22

(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 |
|---------------|--|---|--|--|
| 14/06/2021 | Draft Committee Work Programme 2021-2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> |
| 14/06/2021 | Nappy Recycling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Waste Services Manager | <p>Driving Improvement in Public Services: Nappy recycling is a topic which Committee Members unanimously agreed needs to be explored in more detail as it may help with future recycling targets and go some way towards fulfilling our collective responsibilities of reducing landfill/ incineration figures.</p> <p>CLlr Lee Davies and CLlr Declan Sammon undertook research and forwarded all information to MTCBC Officers. The Committee will now receive a report which has developed Committee Members findings to explore in greater detail the resources that would be required to roll out nappy recycling across Merthyr Tydfil County Borough.</p> | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> <p>Beyond Recycling</p> |
| 05/07/2021 | Asset Management Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Estates Manager | Scrutiny and Challenge: This report is to give Members details of what property assets are held by the Local Authority and discuss how the Authority decides on what assets should be disposed of and future plans for assets. | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> |
| 05/07/2021 | Planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Planning Officer(s) | Driving Improvement in Public Services: Planning has been a source of frustration for some residents due to the challenges faced to make decisions based on local needs without fear of financial penalty. This is a common query faced by Elected Members when working within their communities. | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</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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| | | | <p>A report has been requested to enable Committee Members to gain information on Planning, to understand what is involved in a material planning application and to explore whether the planning process can be changed and establish who would need to be lobbied in order to make changes.</p> <p>On completion of this, the Committee Chair will provide an update to the Committee to Members of the Planning Committee, who would also like information on how public involvement at meetings can be developed. It is proposed that following this item, a Members Workshop will follow in due course.</p> | |
| 20/09/2021 | <p>Recycling & Fly-Tipping</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Waste Manager • Environmental Health Manager | <p>Scrutiny and Challenge / Driving Improvement in Public Services: Committee Members have requested an update on recycling figures and future plans to improve recycling rates. The Committee would also like to explore data in relation to recycling rates in our schools.</p> <p>It is proposed a Task & Finish Group be set up to explore recycling throughout the County Borough with a view to identifying how it can be increased; and how this may impact on Fly Tipping statistics with possible actions and solutions offered.</p> <p>This report will then be forwarded onto the Regeneration and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee who now deal with fly-tipping.</p> | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> <p>WG Litter & Fly-Tipping Plan*</p> |

* Draft Plan – currently under development by Welsh Government

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| 20/09/2021 | Air Quality Management - Action Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Environmental Health Officer • Highways & Engineering Officer | <p>Information Report - Air Quality Management Area. As the Neighbourhood Services Committee have previously received two reports on this issue, it was felt that Members there would be value in receiving an update on pollution and air quality around Twynyrodyn Road and the Tesco Roundabout to scrutinise whether there have been changes noted since the one-way system was reversed.</p> | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> |
| 01/11/2021 | Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Principal Planning Policy Officer | <p>Provide Critical Friend Challenge to Executive Policy and Decision-Makers: Under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, all Councils have a duty to produce an LDP Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which must be submitted to the Welsh Government by the end of October each year.</p> <p>Scrutiny will – firstly consider whether the policies identified in the monitoring framework are being implemented, and secondly, consider whether the Plan as a whole is working successfully.</p> | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> |
| 01/11/2021 | Children's Play Areas / Playgrounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning | <p>Scrutiny and Challenge: The Committee requests a report on children's play areas within the County Borough as this topic is seen as Priority Investment by many members of the public.</p> <p>The report should give information on the lack of investment and damage to equipment; outline how much it would cost to update current play areas/parks to their original standard of equipment; and establish whether the location of play areas leads to damage of equipment (as play areas are often situated in isolated locations). Members to discuss the report and work with officers to explore possible solutions.</p> | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> |

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| 06/12/2021 | HWRCs – permits and booking systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Waste Services Manager | <p>Scrutiny and Challenge / Driving Improvement in Public Services: An update on how HWRC’s manage the delivery of permits and booking systems.</p> <p>The report should outline the “pros and cons” of the current system, and provide options for alternative procedures looking at what systems other Authorities have in place.</p> | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> |
| 06/12/2021 | Trade Waste Recycling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Waste Services Manager | <p>Scrutiny and Challenge: This report has been requested to update Committee Members on the implications of new legislation coming into effect in July 2021 which effects how trade waste is collected and disposed of.</p> | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> <p>Beyond Recycling</p> |
| 17/01/2022 | Carbon Management/ De-Carbonisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Chris Jones -Building & Property services Manager • Iain Goldsworthy – Energy Engineer | <p>Scrutiny and Challenge / Driving Improvement in Public Services: Committee Members have monitored the introduction of carbon management systems and processes and have requested an update on the impact of these (e.g.) savings achieved by the Council with the employment of a Carbon Management Officer.</p> <p>Additionally, an update is requested on what impact we are having in respect of reducing the organisation’s carbon footprint and include detail on what the Council is doing in relation to renewable energy.</p> <p>The report should also refer to statutory and other measures reported on by the team; enabling Committee Members to scrutinise whether the Council is on track of achieving its targets.</p> | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> |
| 17/01/2022 | Grass Cutting & Bio-Diversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning • Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning | <p>Scrutiny and Challenge / Driving Improvement in Public Services: The Committee has previously received reports regarding grass cutting and biodiversity. An update is requested on the new grass cutting schedules developed.</p> | <p>Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p> <p>Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance)</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street Scene Manager Ecologist | Additionally, Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act sets down a duty requiring all public bodies to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and, in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems. Committee Members are keen to review how the Council is meeting its bio-diversity obligations. | Environment (Wales) Act |
| 14/03/2022 | Furniture Reuse Shop | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Waste Services Manager | Driving Improvement in Public Service: Committee Members seek a report which offers Committee Members an update on the opening of the new 'Furniture Reuse Shop'. The Committee is keen to identify the benefits this shop offers to residents of the County Borough; including figures on items provided. | Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance) |
| 14/03/2022 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | | Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance) |
| 25/04/2022 | Fleet Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Member – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Chief Officer – Neighbourhood Services, Countryside & Planning Fleet Manager | Scrutiny and Challenge: Committee Members have received information on the fleet of vehicles due to be updated during the financial year. With this in mind, the Committee seeks a report outlining the fleet of vehicles being updated / replaced. This report should also give an update on the current status of breakdowns and missed collections. | Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance) |
| 25/04/2022 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | | Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan (Governance) |

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| Additional topics for consideration | | | |
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| Topic | Source of Suggestion | Description | Scheduled |
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