

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	4 th August 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	2 nd May 2023

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).



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. These were discussed and developed following a series of scrutiny work planning sessions held with the Chair, Scrutiny Members, the Director and supported by officers from the Policy and Improvement Section. Due to its significant local importance, the first item for consideration was subsequently agreed by all Members of this Scrutiny in readiness for this scrutiny meeting on the 6th of September 2022, with focused meetings to follow to develop the forward work programme further, including quarterly technical meetings as detailing in 3.6

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 2022-23

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?
5 th July 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: MS Teams</p> <hr/> <p>Scrutiny Type: Committee style meeting</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.
	Crime and Disorder	<p>Link to Well-being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living Well Working Life <p>Ensuring public voice. Drive improvement. A requirement of this scrutiny function. A cross-cutting item. High impact on the residents.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Crime and Disorder</p> <p>Head of Service</p>	<p>Venue: MS Teams</p> <hr/> <p>Scrutiny Type: Committee style meeting</p>	
6 th September 2022	Scrutiny Forward Work Programme	<p>Link to Well-being Objectives, priorities for improvement:</p>	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>	<p>programme is in place. This will adhere to the 4 principles of scrutiny and 4R's model.</p>
	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>	<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>
				<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>	<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>
				<p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	

	<p>Empty Buildings in the County Borough</p>	<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> <hr/> <p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</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>Public Transport (Bus Service)</p> <p>Postponed until later in cycle (information received on Regional</p>	<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> <hr/> <p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</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 importance amongst</p>

	Transport meetings and work with TFW)		Senior Regeneration Officers Transport Officers Representatives from Stagecoach		members of 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 Deputy Chief Executive Head of Public Protection	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid) Workshop - TBC Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting followed by further workshop	Initial scrutiny to provide critical friend challenge of current reporting methods and working practices within Local Authority (Community Safety Team), and if appropriate, offer recommendations to strengthen current service. Future workshop will allow Scrutiny to undertake a thorough 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 to the workshop, 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.

17 th January 2023	Fly-Tipping in the Borough	<p>Link to Well-Being Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Well-Being • Living Well <p>Ensuring voice of the public</p>	<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>	<p>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.</p>	
		Vermin Issues within the County 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>
			Housing Support Grant (HSG) Funding	<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>

25 th January 2023	Crime and Disorder Workshop – Non-Emergency Number (101) and Anti-Social Behaviour	Link to Well-Being Objectives: • Living Well Crime and Disorder a requirement for this Scrutiny	Cabinet Member for Public Protection Deputy Chief Executive Head of Public Protection Community Safety Team Representatives from South Wales Police	Venue: Committee Room	Workshop allows a greater in-depth look at the service and issues faced relating to the overarching items in question, adding value through critical friend challenge. The Scrutiny workshop will be strengthened by attendance of partners such as South Wales Police and Community Safety Team, providing a more detailed view of the services provided, and developing relationships between Scrutiny and the Crime and Disorder function. Feedback will be given at following Scrutiny verbally.
				Scrutiny Type: Workshop	
7 th March 2023	Hoovers Redevelopment Postponed until later in/next cycle due to information being received making it better placed later	Links to Well-being Objectives: • Working Life • Environmental Well-Being • Living Well	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration Deputy Chief Executive Head of Regeneration and Housing Senior Regeneration Officers	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid) Workshop (TBC)	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			Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid) Workshop (TBC)	

		<p>Being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Well • Best Start <p>RTI Plan – Economic Recovery</p>	<p>Executive</p> <p>Head of Regeneration and Housing</p> <p>Senior Regeneration Officer/SPF Fund Manager</p>	<p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting (potentially followed by Workshop)</p>	<p>challenge to progress and plans, with the aim of improving outcomes and service delivery. Potential further workshop to give Members an understanding of the process and guidance relating to the fund. Outcomes to be fed back at future Scrutiny.</p>
21 st April 2023	Self-Evaluation Report (Workshop)	<p>Link to Well-being objectives and priority for improvement –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Life • Environmental Well-being • Living Well <p>RTI Plan</p>	<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: Committee Room</p> <hr/> <p>Scrutiny Type: Workshop</p>	<p>The corporate self-evaluation process is a key element of the Council's Governance Framework. The process requires all Chief Officers to annually review the current position for all services in relation to Outcomes, Provision and Service Delivery and Leadership and Management. Through completion of the process, they will identify areas where good practice has been noted; along with any areas of development and, more specifically, explicitly note their priorities for improvement.</p>
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 is a</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Public Protection</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid) Workshop (TBC)</p>	<p>Refocused Scrutiny will have input from Safer Merthyr Tydfil, to allow Members understand scope of overarching item and</p>

		requirement for this Scrutiny	<p>Head of Public Protection</p> <p>Representatives from New Pathways</p>	<p>Scrutiny Type: Potential workshop to be followed by Committee Style Meeting</p>	<p>overview of the Welsh Government and local VAWDASV Strategy, allowing Members to offer critical friend challenge to current funding mechanisms and services provided, and if appropriate, offer recommendations.</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>
			<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)</p>		
Feedback on Workshop: Self-Evaluation Report	<p>Link to Well-being objectives and priority for improvement –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Life • Environmental Well-being • Living Well • RTI Plan 	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Public Protection</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)</p>	<p>Scrutiny Type: Series of workshops followed by Committee style meeting</p>	<p>The corporate self-evaluation process is a key element of the Council's Governance Framework. The process requires all Chief Officers to annually review the current position for all services in relation to</p>
			<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)</p>		

					<p>Outcomes, Provision and Service Delivery and Leadership and Management. Through completion of the process, they will identify areas where good practice has been noted; along with any areas of development and, more specifically, explicitly note their priorities for improvement.</p> <p>Opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of the workshop including whether it met its purpose.</p> <p>Reflect on whether any proposals or recommendations during the workshop were considered by officers and how they may be addressed.</p>
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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	Council Chamber/Meeting Rooms (Hybrid)

		time to bring forward to ensure Scrutiny has full and desired impact.	
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)