

Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2023-24

Regeneration, Public Protection & Housing (inc. Crime & 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?
27 th June 2023	Scrutiny Forward Work Programme	Link to Well-being objectives, priorities for improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil Focused on Learning • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil • A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil Tackling Poverty Agenda. Ensuring public voice. Drive improvement.	Chair of Regeneration, Public Protection & Housing (inc. Crime & Disorder) Scrutiny	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid) 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.
	Impact/Outcomes from report items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions confirmed the items which Members felt were key for the FWP which reflected the needs and voice of the community. It is aimed that including the items in the programme would allow Members to hold decision makers to account ensuring services are being delivered in line with expected performance standards, that they help shape council policies and services and add value to the organisation. • New for the 2023/24 municipal year, we will outline the impact made and outcomes on the FWP following each Scrutiny. • Although it is observed that there is quite a packed FWP, Members feel that all items are essential to ensure that this Scrutiny meets its objectives. 				
	Disabled Facility Grant (Housing)	Link to Well-being objectives, priorities for improvement:	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)	Scrutiny seeks to review the current budget/funding, management and assessment process relating

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil • A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil 	Deputy Chief Executive Head of Housing and Regeneration Senior Housing Officers	 Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	to the Housing aspect of DFGs. Topic will allow critical friend challenge and add value by scrutinising actions involved in the application and assessment process and where appropriate, offer recommendations/proposals going forward to improve outcomes for Local Authority and public. Potential to invite partner organisations such as Care and Repair.
Impact/Outcomes from report item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open discussion and challenge on the good practice and challenges which the service is facing, particularly with some services provided by external partners. • Agreed that a further report will be presented at the next scrutiny which will focus on the options available for the future of the service with Scrutiny offering appropriate critical friend challenge of these options and recommendations prior to business case escalating for decision. 					
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26 th September 2023	PASS – Business Plan & Quarterly Report	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection Deputy Chief Executive	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)	Scrutiny to receive a progress review of services provided by PASS including development of their business plan. Understanding of current position and challenges to

<p>Postponed until later in cycle – March 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Clean and Green Merthyr Tydfil 	<p>Head of Public Protection</p> <p>Other officers from PASS</p>	<p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	<p>receive critical friend challenge.</p>
<p>Impact/Outcomes from report item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item postponed until March – see notes on Taxi Rank item. 				
<p>St Tydfil’s Shopping Centre (including the Glebeland Site)</p>	<p>Link to Well-being objectives –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Senior Regeneration Officers</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)</p> <p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	<p>Following purchase of the centre, Scrutiny seeks to review progress of the plans for the site and will offer critical friend challenge of any future strategies to develop the centre and Glebeland site. Value will be added by offering recommendations to ensure any developments that take place will be of benefit and improve the town centre.</p>
<p>Impact/Outcomes from report item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical friend challenge provided to the current progress made since the purchase of the shopping centre. • On reflection, it was recognised that a further report on the overarching item should be brought later in the cycle due the expected fast nature of progress being made. • Confirmed that further report would be presented to this Scrutiny in January. 				

<p>Disabled Facility Grant (Housing) – Service Options</p>	<p>Link to Well-being objectives, priorities for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil • A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil 	<p>Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Director of Social Services</p> <p>Head of Adult Services</p> <p>Senior Housing Officers</p> <p>Property Services Manager/Officers</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid)</p> <hr/> <p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	<p>Following on from the Scrutiny in September, Scrutiny seeks to review the various options which have been identified for future functions of the service and service improvements. As a pre-decision item, critical friend challenge will be offered to these options and if appropriate, recommendations will be made.</p>
<p>Impact/Outcomes from report item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical friend challenge provided to the options available detailed within the report, with key questions asked to cover all options in order to achieve the best outcomes. • General support from Members for the recommendations made within the report (and business case appendix). • Scrutiny reflection identified good standard of questioning/challenge was made. 				

	Taxi Ranks (within the Night-Time Economy)	Link to Well-being objectives, priorities for improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection Deputy Chief Executive Head of Public Protection	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams (Hybrid) Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	Scrutiny to offer critical friend challenge to the proposals being made in relation to taxi ranks within the town centre, with particular focus on taxi ranks within the night-time economy. As a pre-decision item, if appropriate recommendations will be made to help the development of the proposals.
Impact/Outcomes from report item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item was late addition to FWP (and replaced the PASS Business Plan item). • Being a pre-decision item, strong critical friend challenge offered on the options available. • Discussion also touched upon other options regarding the safety of people within the night-time economy such as closing certain roads off. • Support from Members on the options provided within the report. It was agreed that work was needed to be done to improve safety for people within the night-time economy and the provision of such a taxi-rank could be a key step in achieving this. 					
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14 th November 2023	Local/Public Transport (Bus Service) Item postponed	<p>Link to Well-being objectives –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil <p>Key to ensuring a public voice</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Senior Regeneration Officers</p> <p>Transport Officers</p> <p>Representatives from Stagecoach</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams</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 members of the public.</p>
	<p>Impact/Outcomes from report item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item postponed. 				
	Hoovers Redevelopment Item postponed	<p>Link to Well-being objectives –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Senior Regeneration Officers</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams</p>	<p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>

					understanding of any plans/reports.
Impact/Outcomes from report item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item postponed. 					
Long Term Plan for Towns	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams	Following the announcement from Central Government relating to funding for the regeneration of local towns across the UK, Scrutiny seeks to review the initial plans on how the funding will be invested, how town boards will be developed, how local priorities are expected to be met and where appropriate, offer recommendations to the development of the Long-Term Plan scheduled to be finalised by the summer of 2024.	
			Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting		
Impact/Outcomes from report item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite funding still being in its infancy, it was key for Scrutiny Members to be introduced to the information currently available. Allowed initial challenge to the first stage of the funding plan development. Allowed Members to feed into this development and discuss how and where planning for the funding should progress. Members felt it was important that as plans develop, that officers continue to work with this Scrutiny to ensure critical friend challenge is made. This could be in other scrutiny activity formats such as a workshop. 					
Feedback on Site Visit: South Wales	Link to Well-being objectives –	Members of Regeneration, Housing & Public	Venue: South Wales Police HQ, Bridgend	Following the Crime & Disorder workshop held in January (in the previous	

	Police HQ and Public Service Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	Protection (inc. Crime & Disorder) Scrutiny	Scrutiny Type: Site Visit	municipal cycle), a site visit was arranged with the aim of understanding the set-up of the Public Service Centre and the improvement programme with South Wales Police has recently undertaken.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was evidenced that the improvement programme which has been undertaking has achieved a better service for the public and how contact is handled. There was a better understanding amongst Members of the set-up and how the Public Service Centre works. Other projects which Members were not aware of such as Keep Safe Cymru were identified. Members are to use this knowledge to better inform the public of their options in reporting matters and promote key projects. It was felt that working with external partners was essential for success of this scrutiny, particularly the crime and disorder aspect. 				
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?
23 rd January 2024	Housing and Homelessness	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil Housing (Wales) Act 2014	Cabinet Members for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection Deputy Chief Executive	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams	As an issue of high importance and high corporate risk, Scrutiny seeks to receive a progress review since the item was brought forward during the cycle last year. This should

		Corporate Risk	Strategic Housing Manager Other Senior Housing Officers	Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	include any developments and information on any challenges that has been faced, as well as the impact the changes in Welsh Government legislation has had on housing and homelessness in the County Borough. This topic will allow critical friend challenge and add value by scrutinising mitigation actions against the Homelessness is a corporate risk and it will be essential to consider proposals going forward, and how further collaborative working can improve outcomes.
Impact/Outcomes from report item:					
Empty Buildings in the County Borough Item postponed	Link to Well-being objectives, priorities for improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil • A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil 	Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration Cabinet Member for Public Protection Deputy Chief Executive	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams	Scrutiny seeks to explore progress made with regards to empty buildings within the County Borough and the impact of any schemes designed to increase their use, and whether this has had any impact with regards to homelessness and other	

			<p>Head of Public Protection</p> <p>Public/Environmental Health Manager</p> <p>Senior Regeneration Officers</p>	<p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	<p>key priorities. Members to explore opportunities and challenges relating to the overarching item, and how we could possibly work with owners to improve quality and use of buildings.</p>
<p>Impact/Outcome from report item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item postponed 					
<p>St Tydfil's Shopping Centre</p>	<p>Link to Well-being objectives –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Senior Regeneration Officers</p>	<p>Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams</p>	<p>Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting</p>	<p>As a direct action noted from the Scrutiny in September and the expected rapid progress being made, Scrutiny seeks to review the progress of the development of the shopping centre with critical friend challenge being offered to the current progress, future plans/strategies for the development of the centre with key focus of the financial position/implications of the purchase of the centre.</p>
<p>Impact/Outcome from report item:</p>					

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 March 2024	Prevention of Children Accessing Age-Related Goods	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection Deputy Chief Executive Head of Public Protection Licensing Officers	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	Scrutiny seeks to review the actions and current practices related in the prevention of children accessing age-related good. Members will offer critical friend challenge to these practices and if appropriate, provide recommendations for improvement.
	Impact/Outcome from report item:				
	Licensed Activities – Alcohol and Taxi Licence Fit and Proper Persons Controls	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection Deputy Chief Executive	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams	Scrutiny to review the processes and controls currently in place in relation to licenced activities, specifically alcohol and taxi licences. Scrutiny seeks to view whether the current practices are appropriate in

			Head of Public Protection Licensing Officers	Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	ensuring that only fit and proper persons are successful in their application ensuring safety of the public. If appropriate, recommendations will be made.
Impact/Outcome from report item:					
PASS – Business Plan & Quarterly Report	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil A Clean and Green Merthyr Tydfil	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection Deputy Chief Executive Head of Public Protection Other officers from PASS	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams	Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	Scrutiny to receive a progress review of services provided by PASS including development of their business plan. Understanding of current position and challenges to receive critical friend challenge.
Impact/Outcomes from report item:					

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?
9 th April 2024	Town Centre Masterplan	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection Deputy Chief Executive Senior Regeneration Officers	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	Scrutiny to offer a critical friend challenge to the town centre masterplan. Progress of the plan to be reviewed by Members including the current position, plans for the future and any challenges that are being faced. If appropriate, recommendations to be made by Members.
	Impact/Outcomes from report item:				

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?
TBC	Self-Evaluation Report (Workshop)	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focusing on Learning • A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil • A Clean and Green Merthyr Tydfil 	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection Deputy Chief Executive Head of Public Protection Senior Regeneration Officers Public Health Manager/Officers Licensing Manager/Officers Trading Standards Manager/Officers	Venue: Committee Room Scrutiny Type: Workshop	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.

Impact/Outcomes from report item:					
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?
14 th May 2024	Town Centre Buildings	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	Cabinet Member for Regeneration Deputy Chief Executive Senior Regeneration Officers	Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams	Scrutiny to explore the progress made relating to the redevelopment of 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.
				Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	
Impact/Outcomes from report item:					

	Transforming Towns Grant	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil 	Cabinet Member for Regeneration Deputy Chief Executive Senior Regeneration Officers	Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams	Closely linking with the 'Town Centre Buildings' item in this Scrutiny, Members seek to review the current programme and any progresses made, including examples, of projects that have been supported through the grant.
Impact/Outcomes from report item:					
	Feedback on Workshop: Self-Evaluation Report Workshop to be held on full report	Link to Well-being objectives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Aspirational Merthyr Tydfil focusing on Learning • A Healthier Merthyr Tydfil • A Safe & Prosperous Merthyr Tydfil • A Clean and Green Merthyr Tydfil 	Chair of Regeneration, Housing & Public Protection (inc. Crime and Disorder) Scrutiny	Scrutiny Type: Committee Style Meeting	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

				Venue: Council Chamber/MS Teams	<p>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>
Impact/Outcomes from report item:					

Additional Items for Consideration

- Progress on the development of the Synagogue
- SPF Report (following design of programme)
- Local Authority work relating to VAWDASV
- Ffos Y Fran Regeneration
- Progress of pilot scheme in Galon Uchaf/Penydarren (Rats/Accumulations)

Potential workshop/task & finish group/site visits items for consideration

- Scrutiny site visit to police control room
- Workshop on SPF funding
- Workshop or scrutiny visit to potential properties with Housing team so they know what is involved (from Scrutiny on 6th September 2022)
- Task & Finish Group on Fly-Tipping