

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Written	1 st June 2023
Report Author	Councillor Lisa Mytton - Chair of Learning & LGES Scrutiny
Service Area	Scrutiny
Exempt/Non-Exempt	Non-Exempt
Committee Date	22 nd April 2024

Forward Work Programme 2023/24

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 previously presented to the Learning & LGES Scrutiny Committee. 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).

Right Issue	Right Way	Right Time	Right Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the issues • Get the Work Programme right 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee meetings • Task and finish groups • Inquiry days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-decision • Current priorities • Not too early • Not too late 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits • Community-based meetings • Committee room meetings

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 FWP (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, Vice Chair, Cabinet Member, Director and supported by officers from the Policy and Improvement Section. The Chair engaged with Scrutiny Members who were also given the opportunity to feed into the FWP. The items for consideration were subsequently agreed at the scrutiny meeting on the 19th of June 2023.

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, Vice 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 2023 - 2028	April 2023	Council Website
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No