

Scrutiny Report



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: 15 November 2018

Subject Scrutiny Adviser Reports

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Role
Liz Blayney – Scrutiny and Governance Manager	Present the Committee with the Scrutiny Adviser Reports for discussion and update the Committee on any changes.

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

Committee's Work Programme:

1.1 Consider the Committee's Forward Work Programme (Appendix 1):

Action Plan

1.2 Consider the Action Plan from the meeting on 20 September 2018 (Appendix 2);

Scrutiny letters and responses

1.3 Consider the responses to the letters sent by the Chair on behalf of the Committee (Appendix 3);

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The purpose of a forward work programme is to help ensure Councillors achieve organisation and focus in the undertaking of enquiries through the Overview and Scrutiny function. Effective work programming is essential to ensure that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.
- 2.2 Further information about the work programming process, including the procedures for referring new business to the programme, can be found in our Scrutiny Handbook on the Council's Scrutiny webpages (www.newport.gov.uk/scrutiny).

- 2.3 The Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the forward work programme. In order to 'lead and own the process', it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee's work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be co-ordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

Forward Work Programme Updates

- 2.4 The Committee's work programme was set in June 2018, including estimated timescales for when the reports will be considered by the Committee. This programme is then managed and implemented by the designated Scrutiny Adviser for this Committee under the direction of the Committee Chairperson.
- 2.5 The Committee agreed to keep a degree of flexibility within its work programme to enable the Committee to respond to urgent / emerging issues. This item is an opportunity for the Committee members to raise any suggested additions to the work programme.

Action Sheet – 20 September 2018

- 2.7 Attached at **Appendix 2** is the action sheet from the Committee meeting on 20 September 2018. The responses to completed actions are included in the table.
- 2.8 For the actions that do not have a response – these will be included on the action sheet at the next meeting to ensure that the Committee can keep track of outstanding actions.

Scrutiny letters and responses

- 2.6 The Scrutiny Committee received a response from the Leader of the Council relating to the letter sent after the meeting of 26 July 2018 (**Appendix 3**).

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following information is attached:

Appendix 1: The current Committee forward work programme;

Appendix 2: Action Sheet – 20 September 2018 Committee meeting;

Appendix 3: Scrutiny letters and responses

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- **Forward Work Programme**

Consider:

- Are there any amendments to the topics scheduled to be considered at the next Committee meeting?
- Are there any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the topic?
- Is there any additional information that the Committee would like to request?

- **Action Sheet – 20 September Meeting**

Consider:

- The responses to the actions from the meeting;
- Are you satisfied that you have received the necessary information?
- Are there any further issues arising from the responses that you would like to raise?
- For the actions that do not have responses – these actions will be rolled over to the next meeting and reported back to the Committee.

- **Scrutiny letters and response**

Consider:

- Are you satisfied with the response to the letter?
- Does the response require further action from the Committee?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Corporate Assessment, and the subsequent [follow up assessment](#) provide background information on the importance of good work programming. Specific reference is made to the need to align the Cabinet and Scrutiny work programmes to ensure the value of the Scrutiny Function is maximised.
- 5.2 The latest Cabinet work programme was approved by the Cabinet on a monthly basis for the next 12 months and includes the list of reports scheduled for consideration. Effective forward planning by both Cabinet and Scrutiny needs to be coordinated and integrated in relation to certain reports to ensure proper consultation takes place before a decision is taken. A link to the Cabinet work programme is provided [here](#) to the Committee as part of this report, to enable the Committee to ensure that the work programmes continue to reflect key decisions being made by the Cabinet.

6 Risk

- 6.1 If proper work programming procedures are not put in place, the organisation and prioritisation of the work programme is put at risk. The work of Overview and Scrutiny could become disjointed from the work of the rest of the Council, which could undermine the positive contribution Overview and Scrutiny makes to service improvement through policy development.

- 6.2 This report is presented to each Committee every month in order to mitigate that risk. The specific risks associated with individual topics on the work programme will need to be addressed as part of the Committee's investigations.

7 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- 7.1 Having proper work programming procedures in place ensures that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services, contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and ensures that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There will be financial consequences for some of the reviews undertaken. These will be commented upon by the Head of Finance as the reports are presented. The preparing and monitoring of the work programme is done by existing staff for which budget provision is available.

7 Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Cabinet Work Programme](#)
- The Corporate Assessment and [follow up assessment](#).

Report Completed: November 2018