

# Scrutiny Report



## Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate

### Part 1

Date: 25 July 2022

### Subject Scrutiny Adviser Report

Author Scrutiny Adviser

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

| Invitee:     | Role             |
|--------------|------------------|
| Neil Barnett | Scrutiny Adviser |

## Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

### 1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

#### 1. Action Plan

Consider the Actions from previous meetings (Appendix 1):

- Note the responses for the actions;
- Determine if any further information / action is required;
- Agree to receive an update on outstanding issues at the next meeting.

### 2 Context

#### Background

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the Action Sheet from the Committee meetings. The updated completed actions are included in the table.
- 2.2 Any actions that do not have a response will be included on the Action Sheet at the next meeting to ensure that the Committee can keep track of outstanding actions.

### 3 Information Submitted to the Committee

3.1 The following information is provided to the Committee:

**Appendix 1** – Action Sheet from Previous Meetings;

#### **4. Suggested Areas of Focus**

4.1 The draft work programme contains suggested items for the work programme – Member input to the work programme is essential to the success of Scrutiny.

4.2 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.

## Role of the Committee

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

- Action Sheet from Previous Meetings - Appendix 1
- o Consider the responses to the actions from the meeting;
- o Are you satisfied that you have received the necessary information?
- o Are there any further issues arising from the responses that you would like to raise?
- o For the actions that do not have responses – these actions will be rolled over to the next meeting and reported back to the Committee.

- 4.3 For each item on the agreed work programme, the Committee should consider if they are well defined to ensure the Committee can effectively fulfil its role for each item.

### Defining Scrutiny Topics

For every item on the work programme / new referral, it should be clear:

- **What is the issue / activity / project under consideration?**
  - *A brief outline of the matter being referred / the question being asked*
- **What is Scrutiny being asked to do?**
  - *e.g. undertake a full review of the subject? Investigate / interrogate different policy options? Be consulted of final proposals before decision making? Monitor outcomes / implementation?*
- **What are the reasons for / expected benefits of involving Scrutiny in this matter?**
- **Is there a specific deadline for this piece of work?**

## Section B – Supporting Information

### 5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- 5.1 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. All undertakings of the Committee should impact on the Corporate Plan Commitments and the Well-being Objectives.

|                                   |  |   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Well-being Objectives</b>      | Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment | Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities | Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient | Build cohesive & sustainable communities |
| <b>Corporate Plan Commitments</b> | Thriving City  | Aspirational People   |  | Resilient Communities                    |
| <b>Supporting Function</b>        | Modernised Council   |   |  |  |

### 6 Risks

- 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 A 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 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The preparing and monitoring of the work programme is done by existing staff for which budget provision is available. 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.

### 8 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

- 8.1 The Annual Forward Work Programme does not directly address any aspects of the Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act. Each topic outlined in the Forward Annual Work Programme should be measured against the Act’s seven Wellbeing Goals and delivered in line with its Sustainable Development Principles;

#### Wellbeing Goals

- **A Prosperous Wales**
- **A Resilient Wales**
- **A Healthier Wales**
- **A More Equal Wales**
- **A Wales of Cohesive Communities**
- **A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language**
- **A Globally Responsible Wales**

## Sustainable Development Principles

- Does the report / proposal demonstrate how as an authority we are working in accordance with the sustainable development principles from the act when planning services?
  - **Long Term**  
*The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs*
  - **Prevention**  
*How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives*
  - **Integration**  
*Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies*
  - **Collaboration**  
*Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives*
  - **Involvement**  
*The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.*

## 9. Background Papers

[Good Scrutiny? Good Question! Wales Audit Office Improvement Study in Local Government. 'A Cunning Plan?' Devising a Scrutiny Work Programme' – CfPS Guide Corporate Assessment , Follow up in 2015 and Progress Report August 2016 Council Report – Scrutiny Committee Structures – May 2017](#)

Report Completed: 11 July 2022