

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 13 March 2023

LOCATION: Hybrid

TITLE: Draft Forward Work Programme 2022/23

PURPOSE OF REPORT: Review the current work programme of the Committee

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION: The forward work programme of the Committee is reviewed and updated at each meeting

BACKGROUND:

Overview and Scrutiny Committees oversee the work of the Council to make sure that it delivers services in the best way and for the benefit of the local community.

The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to look at the services and issues that affect people in Ceredigion. The process provides the opportunity for Councillors to examine the various functions of the council, to ask questions on how decisions have been made, to consider whether service improvements can be put in place and to make recommendations to this effect.

Scrutiny plays an essential role in promoting accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the Council's decision making process and the way in which it delivers services.

The main roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees:

- Holding the cabinet and officers as decision-makers to account
- Being a 'critical friend', through questioning how decisions have been made to provide a 'check and balance' to decision makers, adding legitimacy to the decision making process
- Undertaking reviews of council services and policy
- Undertaking reviews to develop council services and policies
- Considering any other matter that affects the county
- Ensuring that Ceredigion is performing to the best of its ability and delivering high quality services to its citizens
- Assessing the impact of the Council's policies on local communities and recommending improvement
- Engaging with the public to develop citizen centred policies and services

Effective Overview and Scrutiny can lead to:

- Better decision making
- Improved Service Delivery and Performance
- Robust Policy Development arising from public consultation and input of independent expertise
- Enhanced Democracy, Inclusiveness, Community Leadership and Engagement
- Adds a clear dimension of transparency and accountability to the political workings of the Council
- Provides an opportunity for all Members to develop specialist skills and knowledge that can benefit future policy making and performance monitoring processes
- Creates a culture of evidence based self-challenge

CURRENT SITUATION:

Questions to consider when choosing topics

- Is there a clear objective for examining this topic?
- Are you likely to achieve a desired outcome?
- What are the likely benefits to the Council and the citizens of Ceredigion?
- Is the issue significant?
- Are there links to the Corporate Strategy
- Is it a key issue to the public?
- Have the issues been raised by external audit?
- Is it a poor performing service?

Choosing topics

Overview and Scrutiny Committees should consider information from the Corporate Strategy, the Corporate Risk Register, budget savings – proposals and impact, Quarterly Corporate Performance Management panel meetings and departmental input in choosing topics and designing their Forward Work Programmes, as well as any continuing work.

RECOMMENDATION (S):

To review and update the current Forward Work Programme.

Contact Name:	Dwynwen Jones
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Date of Report:	27 February 2023
Acronyms:	FWP – Forward Work Programme

Committee	Item (description/title)	Invited Speakers	Purpose i.e. monitoring, policy, recommendation
Corporate Resources			
21 June 2022	Draft Hybrid Working Strategy and Interim Hybrid Working Policy Corporate Bonds and Sureties Policy		
3 October 2022	<p>A.M.</p> <p>County Farms update</p> <p>Report on Empty Properties/Buildings</p> <p>P.M.</p> <p>Complaints, Compliments and FOI Annual Report</p> <p>Engagement and Participation Strategy – Talking, Listening and Working Together</p> <p>Tackling Hardship Strategy</p> <p>Victim Support Hate Crime</p>	<p>Marie-Neige Hadfield</p> <p>Cathryn Morgan</p>	<p>Cabinet 1.11.22</p> <p>Cabinet 4.10.22</p>

19 December 2022	<p>Coroner Report</p> <p>Report regarding purchase of car park for £600,000 at Cardigan.</p> <p>Development Group and Other Supporting Groups</p> <p>Revised Customer Services Charter</p>	<p>Elin Prysor</p> <p>Russell Hughes-Pickering</p> <p>Russell Hughes-Pickering</p> <p>Arwyn Morris</p>	
17 February 2023 1.30pm	Budget preparation		
13 March 2023	<p>Community Housing Scheme Proposal</p> <p>Update on Hybrid Working</p> <p>Report on the Amended Code of Conduct of Local Government Employees, Declarations of Interest Form and Declaration of Hospitality Form</p>	<p>James Starbuck</p> <p>Russell Hughes Pickering</p> <p>Elin Prysor/Geraint Edwards</p>	

Future meetings	12 June 2023	Work/Life Balance Policy		
	19 October 2023	Engagement Annual Report Tackling Hardship Compliments, Complaints and Freedom of Information Reports		
	Future meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Clic • Update on SMART towns • Update on Digital Connectivity • The efficiency of ICT and software within the Authority – on risk register. • Community Grant Scheme update. • Update on the Council's Assets. • Report on the Council's Corporate Estate. 		