

## **Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12 June 2023</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Draft Forward Work Programme 2023/24</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>Review the current work programme of the Committee</b>
<b>REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION:</b>	<b>The forward work programme of the Committee is reviewed and updated at each meeting</b>

### **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.

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<b>Date of Report:</b>	5 June 2023
<b>Acronyms:</b>	FWP – Forward Work Programme

Committee	Item (description/title)	Invited Speakers	Purpose i.e. monitoring, policy, recommendation
<b>Corporate Resources</b>			
12 June 2023	SMART Towns Digital Connectivity update Engagement and Participation Plan Annual Report 2022-23	Arwyn Davies David Owen Cathryn Morgan	Chair's request Chair's request
19 July 2023	Menopause Policy Stress Management Policy Revised Annual Leave Policy Update on Clic (requested)	Geraint Edwards Geraint Edwards Geraint Edwards Joy Lake/Anna Gawthorpe	Pre-Cabinet Pre-Cabinet Pre-Cabinet Request
19 October 2023	Engagement Annual Report Update on Hybrid Working Tackling Hardship Compliments, Complaints and Freedom of Information Reports Work Life/Balance Policy	Cathryn Morgan Geraint Edwards/Russell Hughes Pickering Marie Neige-Hadfield/Alun Williams Geraint Edwards	For info For info Pre-Cabinet

	ICT and Digital Strategy	Alan Morris	
7 December 2023			
23 February 2024	Budget Preparation		
16 May 2024			
Future meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on the Corporate Estate</li> </ul>		
Task and Finish County Farms	Ongoing		