

# CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 19 October 2023

**Title:** Draft Forward Work Programme 2023/24

**Purpose of the 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.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.**

No

#### **Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

**Long term:** N/A  
**Collaboration:** N/A  
**Involvement:** N/A  
**Prevention:** N/A  
**Integration:** N/A

### **Recommendation(s):**

To review and update the current Forward Work Programme.

**Contact Name:** Dwynwen Jones

**Designation:** Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer

**Date of Report:** 10 October 2023

### **Acronyms:**

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  Workforce Plan  Update on Hybrid Working  Update on Clic (requested)  Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)	Geraint Edwards  Geraint Edwards  Geraint Edwards/Russell Hughes-Pickering  Joy Lake/Anna Gawthorpe  Duncan Hall	Pre-Cabinet  Pre-Cabinet  Pre-Cabinet
19 October 2023	To Elect a vice-chairman for the remainder of the 2023/2024 municipal year with immediate effect  Tackling Hardship  Compliments, Complaints and Freedom of Information Reports  Update on Banking Services Contract	  Cathryn Morgan  Marie Neige-Hadfield/Alun Williams  Duncan Hall	  Pre-Cabinet  For info  Chair requested following public request

7 December 2023	Engagement and Participation Strategy update monitoring report  ICT and Digital Strategy  Procurement and Commissioning Strategy	Cathryn Morgan  Alan Morris  Duncan Hall/George Ryley	Agreed at June's meeting to monitor progress 6 monthly  Pre-Cabinet  Pre-Cabinet
22 January 2024 SPECIAL	Invite to Openreach and Peter Williams, WG to update Committee on works planned/undertaken in County		
23 February 2024	Budget Preparation		
Special meeting to be arranged Feb/March 2024	Work Life/Balance Policy & Revised Annual Leave Policy  Flexible Working to include Hybrid Working Policy  Absence Policy	All Geraint Edwards	Pre-Cabinet
16 May 2024	Council Tax and Welfare Reform update	Ann Ireland	
Future meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on the Corporate Estate</li> </ul>		
Task and Finish	Ongoing		

County Farms	Next meeting November 8 <sup>th</sup> 2023 Council Chamber – not open to the public		
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