

## **Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council**

**REPORT TO:** Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 22 November 2023

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

**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.

<b>Contact Name:</b>	Dwynwen Jones
<b>Designation:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Officer
<b>Date of Report:</b>	25 October 2023
<b>Acronyms:</b>	FWP – Forward Work Programme

Committee	Item (description/title)	Invited Speakers	Purpose i.e. monitoring, policy, recommendation
<b>Healthier Communities</b>			
24 May 2023	<p>CSSIW Inspection report and Action Plan</p> <p>Update on Domiciliary Care</p> <p>Regional Maternity and Early Years Strategy</p> <p>Joint Adoption Arrangements</p>	<p>Audrey Somerton-Edwards</p> <p>Donna Pritchard</p> <p>Iwan Davies/Elen James</p> <p>Audrey Somerton-Edwards</p>	<p>Committee's request</p> <p>Pre-Cabinet</p>
3 July 2023	<p>Through Age and Wellbeing Recruitment/Retention</p> <p>Direct Payments</p> <p>A report on the Housing Register</p>	<p>James Starbuck</p> <p>Donna Pritchard</p> <p>Llyr Hughes/Cerys Purches-Phillips</p>	<p>Committee's Request</p> <p>Committee's Request</p>
18 September 2023	<p>Housing Strategy</p> <p>IRO</p>	<p>Llyr Hughes</p> <p>Elizabeth Upcott</p>	<p>Pre-Cabinet</p> <p>Pre-Cabinet</p>

	To present to Committee the outcome of the Ceredigion Dementia Ceredigion Implementation Plan		Pre-Cabinet
22 November 2023	Report on the delivery of food hygiene/standards and animal feed inspections in Ceredigion  Pets as prizes  CIW update report after six months for a period of one year on action against progress  Statutory Director of Social Services Annual Report 22/23  Respite and Day Services  IRO	Carwen Evans  Heddwyn Evans Ricky Cooper  Audrey Somerton-Edwards  Donna Pritchard  Elizabeth Upcott	Requested by Committee  Pre-Cabinet As recommendation
8 February 2024	Budget Preparation		
11 March 2024	Invite: Barcud WWHA Caredig		
Future agenda items	Update on the Support and Intervention Service  May 2024 - Report on the 15 points referred to in the 'Pledge' – Domiciliary Care	Gethin Jones  Donna Pritchard/Heather West	