



POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17TH JANUARY 2017

SUBJECT: POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Forward Work Programmes are essential to ensure that Scrutiny Committee agendas reflect the strategic issues facing the Council and other priorities raised by Members, the public or stakeholders.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Assembly legislation.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the scrutiny committee meeting on 15th November 2016. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period January 2017 to June 2017.

4.2 The forward work programme is made up of reports identified by officers and members and has been prioritised into three priority areas, priority 1, 2 or 3. Members are asked to consider the work programme alongside the cabinet work programme and suggest any changes before it is published on the council website. Scrutiny committee will review this work programme at every meeting going forward alongside any changes to the cabinet work programme or report requests.

4.3 The Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1. The cabinet work programme is attached at Appendix 2.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been included in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Members consider any changes and agree the final forward work programme prior to publication.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To improve the operation of scrutiny.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Catherine Forbes-Thompson, Interim Head of Democratic Services
Consultees: Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
Appendix 2 Cabinet Work Programme

APPENDIX 1

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme January 2017 to June 2017			
Meeting Date: 17 January 2017			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses
HRA Charging Report (P1)	To advise members of Scrutiny of proposed forthcoming charges for 2017/18 and in particular any increased charges relating to the Housing Revenue Account prior to seeking Cabinet approval.	Charges that will be incorporated within the report will include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council house rents • Garage rents • Service charges relating to Sheltered Housing Schemes 	Shaun Couzens
Whole Authority Budget Monitoring Report 2016/17	To inform Members of projected whole-authority revenue budget expenditure for the 2016/17 financial year.	The report will provide information on the position of the whole-authority in respect of revenue budget monitoring for 2016/17. Detailed reports will already have been presented to Scrutiny Committees throughout the financial year. Consideration will be given to actual expenditure and income to date. A projection will be made of the likely outturn (year-end) position and where significant variations against budget are identified these will be commented upon.	Interim Head of Corporate Finance – Stephen Harris
Leaseholder Consultation Report (P3)	To provide a further report on leaseholder charges as requested by Scrutiny members	Key Issues will include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaseholder legislation • Leaseholder process, including procurement, consultation, nomination options, costs and payment options • Best Practice 	Shaun Couzens

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Meeting Date: 28 February 2017			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses
WHQS Programme Re-profiling and associated Capital Programme (P1)	To review progress with the implementation of the WHQS Programme, re-profile over the remaining years where necessary, and set out a capital programme budget for 2017/18.	To consider the implications of slippage within the internal and external works programmes, establish if works need to be re-phased. Examine the implications on the community sequence and potential overlaps between internal and external works. Review the resourcing issues given the commitment to deliver the WHQS Programme by 2020.	Shaun Couzens
HRA Budget Monitoring Report (P2)	To provide Scrutiny members with an update on expenditure of the Housing Revenue Account budget for the first six months of the year	Key issues include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the overall budget available for the delivering the Housing Service • Highlight any budget variations including projected overspends and underspends • Provide an indication of the revenue contribution to the Capital Programme 	Shaun Couzens
Wellbeing Objectives 2016/17 - Investment in Council Homes	To provide a 6 months update of progress against the Councils highest priorities identified within the Councils Corporate Plan 2016.	To provide an update against the Well-being Objective action plan using the Council Ffynnon scorecard which provides PI data regarding completion of internal and external works programmes and adds information on peoples satisfaction with the internal works. The update of the WBO should also identify any emerging slippage or additional progress against the action plan	

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Meeting Date: 11 April 2017			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses

Meeting Date: 6 June 2017			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses
Housing Service Charges (P2)	To present to Scrutiny proposals for the de-pooling of service charges in sheltered housing schemes and the introduction of service charging for provision of new services for general needs tenants	Key issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limitations on the Council's ability to introduce service charges arising from the current tenancy agreement. • The implications of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 as it relates to service charging of tenants of sheltered housing schemes. • Potential financial impact of de-pooling on tenants of sheltered schemes and associated implications for future viability of a number of schemes. 	Shaun Couzens

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Meeting Date: to be confirmed			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses
Care & Repair Merger (P2)	This is an information report to provide members with details of the merger of the Care and Repair Service between Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent	To advise members on the new arrangements as a result of the merger	
HR Policies and Welsh Language Standards 99-119 *NEW*	A number of HR related standards require internal HR policies to reflect the legal right of staff to be able to have internal discussions and paperwork relating to their employment available in Welsh. This report should be seen by Scrutiny, prior to Cabinet and Full Council. There will need to be a change to a number of HR policies. It is envisaged that a single report may cover all changes.	A generic overarching approach will be adopted to revise all affected HR policies in the same way. The report will cover how this approach will allow the authority to meet its legal requirements in complying with the Welsh Language Standards. The affected policies and the cross matching to each relevant standard will be explained in the report	Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language) Head of Human Resources This report will be drafted as a Corporate Services report since it relates to HR issues

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18TH JANUARY 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
<p>Welsh Language 5-Year Strategy</p> <p>Strategaeth 5 Mlynedd yr Iaith Gymraeg</p>	<p>The Welsh Language Standards require the authority to produce a 5 year Welsh language strategy that sets out a target to maintain, or improve, the number of Welsh speakers in the area and the steps that will be taken to achieve the target. The strategy has been developed with local partners but must be adopted by the local authority.</p>	<p>Public Protection</p>
<p>Treasury Management - Review of MRP Policy.</p> <p>Rheolaeth Y Trysorlys – Adolygiad o’r Polisi Isafswm y Ddarpariaeth Refeniw.</p>	<p>This report will set out options for revising the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy to identify potential savings to support the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).</p>	<p>Corporate Finance</p>
<p>Outcome of Informal Consultation on the Provisions to be Included in a Public Spaces Protection</p> <p>Canlyniad yr Ymgynghoriad Anffurfiol ar Ddarpariaethau i gael eu cynnwys yn y Gorchymyn Diogelu Mannau Cyhoeddus sy'n ymwneud â Rheoli</p>	<p>To provide an update on the outcome of the informal public consultation and to seek Members' views on proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders.</p>	<p>Public Protection</p>
<p>Newbridge School Specialist Resource Base</p> <p>Canolfan Adnoddau Arbenigol Ysgol Trecelyn</p>	<p>Following notification from the Governing Body of Newbridge School that they no longer wished to host the behaviour specialist resource base (SRB) at the school, the local authority needs approval from Cabinet to proceed with the consultation to close the SRB.</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>Lansbury Park Private Sector Capital Funding.</p> <p>Cyllid Cyfalaf y Sector Preifat Parc Lansbury</p>	<p>To seek Cabinet approval to deploy funds from the Private Sector Housing Capital Programme to assist private owners at Lansbury Park to partake in the external wall insulation scheme planned for Council properties during 2016/17 and 2017/18.</p>	<p>Housing Services</p>

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<p>Rowan Place, Rhymney – Proposed Demolition of Flats – Block 65-68</p> <p>Lle Rowan, Rhymni - Dymchwel Fflatiau Arfaethedig - Bloc 65-68</p>	<p>To seek Cabinet approval to demolish an additional block of flats in Rowan Place, Rhymney in conjunction with the improvement of the physical condition of the estate.</p>	<p>Housing Services</p>
<p>CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS INSTITUTE</p>		
<p>18TH JANUARY 2017</p>	<p>Key Issues</p>	<p>Service Area</p>
<p>Blackwood Miners Institute Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2014/2015 and 2015/2016</p> <p>Adroddiad Blynyddol a Datganiad o Gyfrifon Sefydliad y Glowyr Coed Duon 2014/2015 a 2015/2016</p>	<p>To receive the Annual Report and accounts for the period 2015/2016 and 2014/2015 prior to submission to the Charity Commission</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>
<p>1ST FEBRUARY 2017</p>	<p>Key Issues</p>	<p>Service Area</p>
<p>Housing Revenue Account Charges – 2017/2018 Taliadau Cyfrif Refeniw Tai 2017/2018</p>	<p>To seek Cabinet approval for proposed forthcoming charges for 2017/18 and in particular any increased charges relating to the Housing Revenue Account. Charges include: Council house rents and garage rents.</p>	<p>Corporate Finance</p>
<p>Children's Burial Fees</p>	<p>To seek the views of Cabinet on the current pricing policy for the interment of children within our municipal cemeteries and to provide options for Members to consider.</p>	<p>Communities</p>

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15TH FEBRUARY 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
Budget Proposals 2017/18 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2017/22	To seek Cabinet endorsement of final 2017/18 budget proposals prior to consideration by Council on the 22nd February 2017.	Corporate Finance
1ST MARCH 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
Corporate Plan (Well-Being Objectives)	To present to Cabinet (1st March 2017) the Council's draft Corporate Plan for 2017/18 and to seek the views and approval of Cabinet prior to its presentation to Council on 7th March 2017.	Public Protection
15TH MARCH 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
Rhymney 3-18 All Through School	To apprise Members of the outcome of the consultative process to establish a Rhymney 3-18 All Through School and determine whether to proceed to publish a statutory notice.	Education
Cabinet Forward Work Programme Blaenraglen Waith y Cabinet	To seek Cabinet endorsement of the Forward Work Programme for the period April 2017 to June 2017.	Democratic Services
EAS Business Plan	This report presents the South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan.	Education
21ST JUNE 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
Rhymney 3-18 All Through School	To make a final decision on the proposal to establish a Rhymney 3-18 All Through School.	Education
WHQS Re-profiling and Associated Capital Programme	To review progress with the implementation of the WHQS Programme, re-profile over the remaining years, where necessary, and set out a capital programme budget for 2017/18.	Housing Services

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CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF BLACKWOOD MINERS INSTITUTE		
2ND AUGUST 2017	Key Issues	Service Area
Blackwood Miners Institute	To receive an update report.	Economic Development