

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes 2016/17

Scrutiny Committees
1. Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services
2. Learning and LAESCYP (Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People)
3. Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection
4. Regeneration, Planning & Countryside
5. Social Services
<p>The Council has five Scrutiny committees, and each sets its own work programme to review policies, decisions and services of the Council and other organisations operating in the County Borough to ensure they meet the needs of local communities.</p> <p>The five Scrutiny Committees have agreed their Work Programmes and will be considering the items and issues as shown in this document at their meetings over the coming twelve months or so.</p> <p>Some key principles Councillors considered when they prepared the work programmes include: topics should add value and support corporate priorities; where appropriate involve partners, stakeholders and the public; allow some flexibility to enable topics to be included as they arise; seek improvement in service provision; and be achievable within available resources.</p> <p>There are many different ways you may wish to get involved in the work of scrutiny, including: suggesting a topic for scrutiny; providing information and evidence to inform a particular piece of review work - either written or in person; or attending a meeting to listen to discussion.</p> <p>For more information about overview and scrutiny, contact the Scrutiny Team: email scrutiny@merthyr.gov.uk or telephone 01685 725454.</p>

Please note that the work programmes are subject to change at each meeting.

Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme Descriptors 2016/17

(The Work Programme is reviewed at each meeting and as such is subject to change)

Date / Timing	Overarching Item	Officer & Cabinet Member	Scrutiny Focus
5 th July 2016	Debt Recovery Firms	Cllr Phil Williams. Mark Thomas / Mike Parry	Scrutiny & Challenge: - Petition Submission: Merthyr Council Stop Using Debt Recovery Firms. A member of the public has contacted the Chief Executive campaigning that MTCBC stops employing the services of debt recovery companies. "The use of debt recovery companies by the council clearly victimizes the least financially secure people in the town who are struggling to keep up with council tax bills, rent (often due to bedroom tax) and even parking charges..."
	Older People's Commissioner for Wales – Guidance	For information	Progress report - Older People's Commissioner for Wales - Guidance on Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments (EHRIA) and Scrutinising Changes to Community Services in Wales.
	Performance	EMcW/Cllr P Williams	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan – Priority Area 1-7 Reports. An update on progress against the Corporate Plan
	Cwm Taf Public Services Board.	For information	Progress report - Joint Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Public Services Board. An information report providing information setting up the joint PSB; together with information regarding setting up the joint scrutiny committee (MTCBC and RCTCBC).
	Performance	EMcW/Cllr P Williams	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan – Annual Delivery Document
27 th September 2016	Performance	EMcW/Cllr P Williams	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service Performance Reports – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corporate Services 2. Legal & HR 3. Finance An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge. *Appendices = Performance Board Updates. To include a synopsis from the Performance Board on each report.
	Performance	EMcW/Cllr P Williams	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Annual Performance Report. The annual performance report on the Corporate Plan.

(Work programme Version August 2016)

Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

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8 th November 2016	Child Sexual Exploitation - Rotherham MBC - Action Plan	Cllr L. Matthews / LCJ	<p>Scrutiny and Challenge: - A review of processes and policies was undertaken as part of a Safeguarding Review panel and an action plan produced. "MTCBC Safeguarding Review Improvement Action Plan". The action plan to come to this committee.</p> <p>Referral from Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. At the Regeneration Scrutiny meeting on 26th January the Committee was provided an action plan – "MTCBC Safeguarding Review Improvement Action Plan". The Licensing section actions were reported to the committee. The Committee however felt that ownership of monitoring the actions of the action plan should be by the Governance Scrutiny Committee as it was authority-wide. The Governance Scrutiny Committee to consider how to deal with this matter. (A report on the matter was agreed at Council on 02/12/2015 MTCBC Corporate response to the Casey report"</p>
	Performance (Business Change report – others available to scrutiny Ewan Mc Williams to update the committee))	EMcW/Cllr P Williams and various Officers responsible for the areas as shown across 1 - 8	<p>Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan – Priority Area 1-7 Reports. An update on progress against the Corporate Plan. Service Performance Reports:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business Change 2. Communication & Marketing 3. ICT 4. Performance 5. Finance 6. Legal 7. HR and Payroll 8. Customer and Service Support 9. Annual Performance Report 2015/16 (Report on the delivery of the Councils Corporate Priorities) <p>An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.</p>
	The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act – 6 months on....	Cllr Phil Williams / GC	<p>Scrutiny & Challenge:- The Act became law on 29th April 2015 and came into effect on 1st April 2016. The new law has 7 Wellbeing Goals and all the public bodies know what they must work towards. The Committee requires a report on progress in implementing the requirements of the Act.</p>
	Task and Finish Group Update - Use of External Debt Recovery Companies	Members of the T&F Group (Cllr B Smith, Cllr D Isaac and Cllr T Lewis)	An update on the meeting between the T&FG, Mr Williams, and officers of the Authority.

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	Business Change		
20 th December 2016	Performance	EMcW/Cllr P Williams/MT/KO'D	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Performance report on Equality Objectives as part of Corporate Services.
	Cwm Taf Public Services Board	EMcW / Cllr PW	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 introduced Public Service Boards. The roles and responsibilities of PSB's have been made statutory. A report on how the Cwm Taf Service Board is progressing.
31 st January 2017	The Wellbeing Assessment (sitting as the PSB Scrutiny Committee)	RCT Officers (see email 8 th November 2016.)	<p>The Wellbeing Assessment (under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act) is currently being drafted by a group of officers (the Population/Wellbeing Assessment Core Group), reporting to the Cwm Taf Public Services Board. Under the Act, the Wellbeing Assessment must to be consulted on by the scrutiny function of the PSB.</p> <p>The Core Group has also built in time in the next stage of the project (following the production of a Draft Wellbeing Assessment Report) for formal scrutiny of the work. In the absence of a joint committee to undertake scrutiny of PSB work at this time, officers will attend the relevant committee in each authority to present the Draft Report.</p>
	Cwm Taf Population Needs Assessment (sitting as the PSB Scrutiny Committee)	RCT Officers (see email 29 th November 2016.)	The Cwm Taf Population Needs Assessment (under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act) is currently being drafted by a group of officers (the Population/Wellbeing Assessment Core Group), reporting to the Cwm Taf Public Services Board. Under the Act, the Wellbeing Assessment must to be consulted on by the scrutiny function of the PSB.
	Performance	EMcW/Cllr P Williams	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service Performance Report (Subject Area - to be confirmed). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.

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	Estyn Inspection follow up and LEA preparedness	DH / Cllr Harvey Jones / GC	Scrutiny & Challenge: - Following Estyn's inspection of education services for children and young people in November 2012, the authority was identified as requiring special measures. It was not until January 2016 that the LEA was removed from special measures. This Committee is seeking an update position as to where the Authority currently stands should there be a further inspection.
14 th March 2017	Performance	EMcW/Cllr P Williams	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan – Priority Area 1-7 Reports. An update on progress against the Corporate Plan Service Performance Reports – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corporate Services 2. Legal & HR 3. Finance An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Performance and Challenge against “Strategies on a Page”	Gareth Chapman/Ellis Cooper/Cllr Brendan Toomey/ Cllr Phil Williams	Scrutiny & Challenge: Performance against each of the “strategies on a page”. Follow on from 1 st March 2016 meeting. An update on the delivery against the strategies and how they are progressing.
25 th April 2017	Performance	EMcW/Cllr P Williams	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service Performance Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business Change 2. Communication & Marketing 3. ICT 4. Performance An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.

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	Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2016/17	HJ / Cllr Phil Williams	Scrutiny & Challenge:- The Scrutiny Committees are required to prepare annual report on the work they have carried out through the year. With there being local government elections in May 2017, it is suggested that the draft report is agreed at this meeting.
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Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme Descriptors 2016/17

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Date / Timing	Overarching Item	Officer & Cabinet Member	Scrutiny Focus
4 th July 2016	Performance	Cllr PW/ SP/Cllr DJ	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 7 Report. An update on progress against the Corporate Plan Service Performance Report (Neighbourhood). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Scrutiny report	Update from Chair of Committee	Feedback: - The Scrutiny Report “Overcoming the Blight of Fly-tipping and Litter in the County Borough” was presented to Cabinet on 15 th June. The Chair is to provide feedback on the Cabinet meeting and Cabinets decision(s)
26 th September 2016	Fly-tipping / Litter	EC / CE / Cllr DJ / Appropriate Officers	Scrutiny & Challenge: - See report “ Overcoming the Blight of Fly-tipping and Litter in the County Borough ” agended at Cabinet on 29 th June. Recommendation:- A report is presented to the Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee within 3 months of this report being considered by Cabinet, on the progress of the Strategic Group, and also on progress in dealing with the fly-tipping and litter issues in the County Borough
	Recycling / landfill Published & Verified Data	CE / Cllr DJ and appropriate Officer	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Recycling / Landfill performance data will have been published in August. A report to scrutiny providing details of the figures.
	Performance	CE / Cllr DJ and appropriate Officer	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service Performance Report (Neighbourhood). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Performance (From last meeting)	Cllr PW/ CE /Cllr DJ / EMcW	Scrutiny & Challenge:- An update on progress against the Corporate Plan, Priority Area 7 - “A Sustainable Environment” Link to report

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7 th November 2016	Performance	As advised by Performance Dept	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service Performance Report – Regulatory (Public Protection). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Annual Return: Fifth Assessment Framework for Welsh Public Library Standards 2015/16.	Jane Selwood – Libraries (TRUST)	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Earlier this year the committee ratified the Welsh Public Library Standards return. The Library Service reported on the performance of the service over the last year (first year as Trust). The response from the Welsh Government will be the subject of the item.
19 th December 2016	Performance of Leisure Trust	Richard March / MT/JS / Wendy Groves	<p>Scrutiny & Challenge: - A 6 monthly update of progress and performance in achieving the stated targets and outcomes for the Trust.</p> <p>One of the Councils 7 Priority Areas as per the Corporate Plan is “Active Lifestyles” - By 2017, we want to see a sustained increase in the participation of physical activity from all residents in Merthyr Tydfil, and a contribution to improved health and well-being.</p> <p>In the Summary of the WAO Improvement Assessment 2015/16 Performance Assessment (Waste and Active Lifestyles (June 2016) they comment that “The Council is making progress on its planned improvements in waste services, and performance in its active lifestyles priority area is mixed but there are weaknesses in the Council’s performance information in these areas.”</p> <p>As the Leisure Trust is a key contributor towards our key priority, performance has dipped in the last 12 months and as such the Trust to give an update on performance and their efforts to improve performance. This item follows on from performance item on Active Lifestyles on 26th September.</p>

Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee

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	Performance	EMcW with appropriate Officers	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 7 Report. An update on progress against the Corporate Plan Service Performance Report (Neighbourhood). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Key Transformation Budget Projects 2016/17	CLE + various, Cllr DJ	Monitoring & Scrutiny : An update on key significant transformation budget projects for 2016/17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an update on Highways and Engineering (moved from Nov meeting – email CLE 18 th August 2016)
30 th January 2017	Performance	CLE / MC & LE	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service Performance Report (Corporate Property and Estates). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge. To include where you are Carbon Reduction strategy and plan for energy efficiency.
	Corporate Plan	Ewan McWilliams	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 7 Report. An update on progress against the Corporate Plan Service Performance Report (Neighbourhood). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Performance	Steve Peters	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service Performance Report (Public Protection). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
13 th March 2017	Fly-tipping / Litter	GC/EC/Cllr BT/Cllr DJ and appropriate Officers Attendees as per 11 th April	Scrutiny & Challenge: - See report “Overcoming the Blight of Fly-tipping and Litter in the County Borough” agended at Cabinet on 15 th June. Recommendation - A follow up meeting (similar to the scrutiny meeting on 11 th April 2016) be scheduled by the Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee on its work programme early next year. This will be a workshop/state of the union-style meeting

Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee

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		2016	
24 th April 2017			Scrutiny & Challenge:-
			Scrutiny & Challenge:-
	Performance		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service Performance Report (Public Protection). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
Additional items to consider for Work programme	Crime and Disorder	SP/Cllr DJ and appropriate officers	Scrutiny & Challenge:- There have been significant changes following the demise of the Local Service Board and the introduction of the Joint Cwm Taf Public Service Board. The Committee requires a report on progress in order that it can resume scrutiny of the work of the community safety partners. The terms of reference of the committee are to scrutinise the work of the community safety partners insofar as their activities relate to the community safety activities of; substance misuse; anti-social behaviour; offender management; community cohesion; domestic abuse & sexual violence; and counter terrorism & extremism. The role of the committee in whichever form it is applied should be as a 'critical friend' of the Community Safety agencies, providing it with constructive challenge at a strategic level rather than adversarial fault-finding at an operational level.

Neighbourhood Services and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme Descriptors 2016/17

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Regeneration, Planning and Countryside Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme Descriptors 2016/17

(The Work Programme is reviewed at each meeting and as such is subject to change)

Committee	Regeneration, Planning and Countryside		
Date / Timing	Overarching Item	Officer & Cabinet Member	Scrutiny Focus
12 th July 2016	Planning: Annual Performance Report (APR)	Judith Jones & Huw Roberts	Scrutiny & Challenge:- As of November 2015 all Local Planning Authorities are required to submit an APR to Welsh Government which assesses the performance of Development Control in terms of determining planning applications and also reports on customer survey feedback.
	Performance	MP/AO/Cllr Barry	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 5 & 6 Reports. An update on progress against the Corporate Plan Service Performance Report (Community Regeneration). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
4 th October 2016	Performance		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 5 & 6 Reports. An update on progress against the Corporate Plan Service Performance Report (Community Regeneration). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Awareness Raising – “Countryside” elements of the Committees remit.	JW - Group Leader - Planning policy and Implementation section.	The Chair has asked for an update on this issue from the Group Leader ‘Planning policy and Implementation section’ to include an outline of his areas of responsibility, including any targets he is working towards. “The Countryside elements that fall within Judith Jones’s (Head of Planning and Countryside) remit relate to ecology, biodiversity and landscape which sit under the umbrella of implementation within the ‘Planning policy and Implementation section’, for which Justin Waite is the Group Leader”.
Special 26 th October 2016 (meeting cancelled)	Performance	EMcW / CL/AO	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 6 Report – Employability. An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks; issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.

Regeneration, Planning and Countryside Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme Descriptors 2016/17

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15 th November 2016	Destination Management Plan	CL / AO / Cllr. CB / RB	Scrutiny & Challenge:- A report detailing how the adopted Destination Management Plan is being delivered across the County Borough: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Progress on the overall delivery of the newly adopted DMP in relation to key actions and outputs, the Visit Merthyr film and guide and the trends in terms of visitors to the County Borough, the length of stay and the focus of activity. (ii) Progress on the local delivery including stakeholder engagement, local work-plans and groups / structures established (iii) Update on product development including Cyfarthfa Heritage Area, Rock UK and BPW; detail on the relationship between MTCBC and the Leisure Trust. (iv) Progress on regional delivery and the projects the local authority are delivering and / or opportunities being pursued (v) Progress on the trans-national opportunities identified through the European funded Atlantic and Interreg Programmes.
	Performance	Alan Owen, Chris Long and Zoe Thomas	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 5 & 6 Reports (Employability and Economic Growth).
	Performance	Ken Bateman	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service Performance Report (Building Control). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
13 th December 2016	VVP	CL / AO / ZT and Cllr. CB	Scrutiny & Challenge:- A report detailing the progress of the Vibrant and Viable Places Programme in Merthyr: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Progress on project delivery as the Programme draws to a close in March 2017 including re-profiles undertaken and an update on the remaining budget. (ii) Risks affecting the Programme during its final year of delivery and the mitigations in place (iii) Update on completed projects and the sustainability of those projects (iv) Progress on the developments of VVP2 including WG Guidance issued, project ideas and stakeholder engagement. (v) Update on the Building for the Future ERDF funded programme which will compliment a number of key priority projects identified in the current VVP Programme.

(Work programme Version August 2016)

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7 th February 2017	Planning: Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	Judith Jones	Scrutiny & Challenge:- The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that an AMR is produced and submitted to WG each year. The AMR reports on the success (or not) of the LDP in delivering/implementing policies.
	Performance		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 5 & 6 Reports. An update on progress against the Corporate Plan Service Performance Report (Community Regeneration). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge. *Appendix = Performance Board update. A synopsis from the Performance Board
	Social Enterprise	CL / AO / IE and Cllr. CB	Scrutiny & Challenge:- A report on the Social Enterprise Strategy detailing: (i) Update - Revised Social enterprise strategy, developed through the Merthyr Tydfil Social Enterprise Network. (ii) SEWCED Legacy – The continued Economic impact of the financial Investment and organisations future requirements. (iii) Social services and wellbeing act – opportunities for social Enterprises (iv) Current support provisions and the LA's role in helping organisations access the support.
	Performance		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service performance Report (Planning). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Housing Allocation Policy (Draft)	SP / JP / Cllr CB	Scrutiny and Challenge: All Local Authorities have to publish a scheme which determines the priority and procedure for the allocation of social housing. A new policy is being drafted throughout the summer of 2016, with a view to receiving full Council Approval in Nov/Dec 2016. It is suggested that the Committee review its initial implementation in 2017.
	Housing Renewal Funding	SP / JP / Cllr CB	Scrutiny and Challenge: The Authority only has one Renewal Area (Bedlinog Ward) and the funding is ending on 31 st March 2017. Three members of staff rely on the funding, although they undertake other functions within the Council. In addition there is and will be ongoing requests for repairs to properties that have been part of the scheme. A report providing the risks being faced and areas

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			of concern.
21 st March 2017	Economic Growth Plan	AO, CL and Cllr. CB	Scrutiny & Challenge:- A report to provide an update on the Economic Growth Plan and it's key areas of focus to: increase employment, encourage business growth and investment and to tackle social disadvantage.
	Performance	To be confirmed	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 5 & 6 Reports. An update on progress against the Corporate Plan Service Performance Report (Community Regeneration). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Local Housing Market Assessment	Julian Pike	Scrutiny & Challenge:- of the Local Housing Market Assessment – conducted by ORS (Consultants). This was discussed at the November meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. The report will be available for the scrutiny meeting to view and comment on as necessary.
2 nd May 2017	Performance	EMcW	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Service performance Report (Planning). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.

Regeneration, Planning and Countryside Scrutiny Committee

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Additional items to consider for Work programme			

Learning and LAESCYP (Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People) Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme Descriptors 2016/17

(The Work Programme is reviewed at each meeting and as such is subject to change)

Committee	Learning and LAESCYP			
Date / Timing	Overarching Item	Officer & Cabinet Member	(Other)	Scrutiny Focus
20 th June 2016	Pupil Outcomes			Scrutiny & Challenge:- Education of Looked After Children
	Pupil Outcomes			Scrutiny & Challenge:- Attendance and Exclusions
	Performance	Cllr H Jones / EMcW / DH		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 1 Report. An update on progress implementing the Corporate Plan. *Appendix = Draft Service Performance Report (Learning). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
12 th September 2016	Pupil Outcomes	Cllr H Jones / DH		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Flying start outcomes
	Provisional Examination results.	Cllr H Jones / DH		Scrutiny & Challenge:- A report providing the provisional results for all key stages for Merthyr Tydfil Schools
	Commissioning the consortium	Cllr H Jones / EMcW / DH	Hannah Woodhouse and Cllr David	Scrutiny & Challenge:- A report detailing the current effectiveness and shortcomings of the consortium in relation to the recent Estyn inspection Plus a review of the CSC business plans for the short and long term.
31 st October 2016	Leadership	DH/Cllr H Jones		Scrutiny & Challenge:- SER KQ 3.3 Partnership working SER KQ 3.4 Resource management

Learning and LAESCYP (Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People) Scrutiny Committee

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	Service Level Agreements			Scrutiny & Challenge:- At the 25th January 2016 meeting, the committee wanted to monitor:- The consultation with the Unions and the feedback as far as the lunches and breakfast clubs is concerned; and the educational inclusion SLA and the feedback from the schools forum; and the impact these have on the local authority and the schools
	Performance	Cllr H Jones / EMcW / DH		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 1 Report. An update on progress implementing the Corporate Plan. Service Performance Report (Learning). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
5 th December 2016	Schools Attendance At Scrutiny	Cllr HJ, DH, Head & Chair of Governors Schools		Scrutiny & Challenge : Attendance by the headteacher and chair of governors of Afon Taf High School.
	Estyn Local Authority Link Inspector (LALI) Visit	DH/Cllr HJ		Scrutiny & Challenge:- To receive feedback from the Chief Education Officer on the Estyn Local Authority Link Inspector (LALI) visit in September/Oct 2016
	School organisation			Scrutiny & Challenge:- Report on school organisation framework and surplus places and 21st Century Schools programme. SER KQ 2.4 Access and school places
	School Improvement			Scrutiny & Challenge:- SER KQ 2.1 Support for School Improvement
23 rd January 2017	Wellbeing			Scrutiny & Challenge:- Wellbeing SER KQ1 1.2 Wellbeing SER KQ 2.3 Promoting social inclusion and wellbeing
	Pupils with			Scrutiny & Challenge:-

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	ALN			Provision for pupils with ALN SER KQ2 2.2 Support for additional learning needs
	Central South Consortium	Cllr H Jones / EMcW / DH	Hannah Woodhouse and Cllr David	Scrutiny & Challenge:- A report to scrutiny on standards cross the CSC and in Merthyr. This is part of a programme to report to all 5 LA's across the consortium area Can we adjust the work programme?
	Leadership			Scrutiny & Challenge:- SER KQ 3.1 Leadership including governance SER KQ 3.2 Improving quality
27 th February 2017	Pupil outcomes			Scrutiny & Challenge:- SER KQ1 1:1 Standards
	Self-evaluation			Scrutiny & Challenge:- Summary SER
	Performance	Cllr H Jones / EMcW / DH		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 1 Report. An update on progress implementing the Corporate Plan. Service Performance Report (Learning). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge. *Appendix = Performance Board update. An synopsis from the Performance Board.
17 th April 2017	Schools Attendance At Scrutiny	Cllr HJ, DH, Head & Chair of Governors Schools		Scrutiny & Challenge : Attendance by the headteacher and chair of governors of XX School. The meeting will involve a 15 minute presentation by the school focusing on the good features and the challenges that the school is facing. The Committee will also be asking the local authority officers how they identified what, if anything, was needed at the school and how the school responded. The Committee is also keen to understand how both the school and the local authority have made good progress together.
	Central South Consortium	DH	Hannah Woodhouse	Scrutiny & Challenge : At the 12 th September 2016 meeting HW suggested that the committee may wish to

Learning and LAESCYP (Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People) Scrutiny Committee

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	Update of progress in meeting ESTYN Recommendations		e of CHC	have a regular update on the CSC's progress in addressing the ESTYN recommendations following the inspection of the CSC – report dated February 2016 . This could be in the form of a briefing note for the Committee.
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Possible focus for a task and finish group

- Committee needs to engage with the secondary schools and the college as the County Borough is losing pupils to RCT; and about a borough wide learning together initiative. This follows information received at Chair attendance at Service Challenge Sessions (Self Evaluation)
- Review of what the Authority and Schools are providing in relation to ALN across the County Borough. To include the role of Greenfield Special school

For future consideration (some need to be taken off)

To be confirmed (in addition to June 2015)	Adult, MIA, Community Learning & Communities First	LB, DH, Lead HOS & Cllr BC	Wider LAESCYP Services	Information & Overview : A brief outline of key LAESCYP and Education issues currently delivered by Social Regeneration and an opportunity to scope out how the new committee will address issues.
To be confirmed	Merthyr Youth Forum / Cabinet	DH/LPL	Wider LAESCYP Services	To meet with the Merthyr youth forum / cabinet, inviting them to give us an insight on how they see their role, achievements, how they perceive opportunities for the youth of Merthyr Tydfil etc.
To be confirmed	Nursery Admissions	AL	Pre Scrutiny & Follow Up Issues	Scrutiny & Challenge : A report updating committee on progress towards reconfiguring the funding and delivery of nursery provision to meet statutory requirements and defining sufficiency
To be confirmed	Home To Schools Transport	AL	Pre Scrutiny & Follow Up Issues	Information & Overview : A report updating committee on progress towards reconfiguring the funding and delivery of HTST
To be confirmed	Learning Support		Pre Scrutiny & Follow Up	Information & Overview : A report detailing the outcomes of a review of the appropriateness of the current service level agreements with schools in relation to

Learning and LAESCYP (Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People) Scrutiny Committee

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	Assistant Review		Issues	LSAs
To be confirmed	Effectiveness of Governors	GW/DH	Wider LAESCYP Services	Information & Overview : To have sight of the Governors survey. How effective are Governors in the overall school improvement.
To be confirmed	Human Resources Department Restructuring.		Wider LAESCYP Services	Information & Overview : Impact of restructure on schools i.e. better service; school improvement
To be confirmed	School Budgets (Afon Taf High School)		School Budgets	Information & Overview: Meeting 7 th September 2015. Afon Taf High School overspent against its plan in year 1 by £60k and closed the financial year-end £342k in deficit. Internal audit are currently reviewing the current financial position of Afon Taf High School and the reasons for their large financial deficit. The committee has asked for sight of the report when it is available.
To be confirmed	Free School Meals (attainment)		Pupil Outcomes	Information & Overview : Meeting 7 th September 2015. Meeting with CSC. One of the areas for improvement “A sharper pace and urgency to focus on the achievement of children claiming free school meals in particular across the region, so that they achieve accelerated improvement against their peers”. Need to follow up on this at a future meeting with the CSC and the Chief Education Officer. What is the CSC doing to support this LEA?
To be confirmed	School Balances		School Budgets	Information & Overview: The committee requires a report on school balances with reference to the likely pressures on school balances in the coming financial years.
To be confirmed	Effectiveness of Capita 1 system		Pupil Outcomes	Information & Overview: The software system Capita One provides management information systems for local authorities to for example measure attendance, provide attainment figures (trends etc), safeguarding etc. An update on the effectiveness of the system is required.
To be confirmed	Loss of Pupils to RCT schools		Pupil Outcome	Information & Overview: Committee needs to engage with the secondary schools and the college as the County Borough is losing pupils to RCT; and about a borough wide learning together initiative. This follows information received at Chair

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				attendance at Service Challenge Sessions (Self Evaluation)
To be confirmed	Additional Learning Needs		Pupil Outcomes	Information & Overview: The committee requires an update report on what the Authority and Schools are providing in relation to ALN across the County Borough.
To be confirmed	Absenteeism		Pupil Outcomes	Information & Overview: A report providing levels of school absenteeism, to include comparison with like schools and the development of any procedures to raise attendance. Top also meet with a member of the Absenteeism Group.
To be confirmed	Do schools receive Internal Audit Reports? Do they discuss with the Governing Bodies		Pupil Outcomes / Governance	Information & Overview: This suggestion emanated from the Audit Committee on 9 th November (Cllr's Clive Jones / Kate Moran). Is there general access to schools minutes and agenda's
To be confirmed	B Squared Assessment Software and Capita 1 System		Pupil Outcomes / Governance	Information & Overview: At the 30/11/2015 meeting committee informed that B Squared Assessment Software has not been introduced in schools as yet. This software package will assist with collation and production of data / information in relation to Provision for ALN Pupils. An update is required as to whether this software is now being introduced / purchased.
To be confirmed	Greenfield School -t capacity		Pupil Outcomes	Information & Overview: At the 30/11/2015 meeting committee informed Greenfield School is at capacity. As such are other Schools struggling with resources, are there more children in mainstream schools.
To be confirmed	Invite SENCO's to a Scrutiny meeting		Pupil Outcomes	Information & Overview: Following the 30/11/2015 meeting. To get an understanding of the work they do and their experiences of working with Local Authority.
To be confirmed in new Work Programme for 2016/17. Placed as standing item for time being.	Performance Board – Learning report 25 th January		Performance	Report recommendation is “Scrutiny to schedule a reoccurring agenda item in their forward work programme to monitor the delivery of the agreed action points detailed in this report.”

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To be confirmed in new Work Programme for 2016/17	Service Level Agreements		Pupil Outcomes	Scrutiny and review:- Suggested by the Chair. Following the 25 th January 2016 meeting, the committee still wants to monitor consultation with the unions re lunches and breakfast clubs, and also the educational inclusion and the feedback from the schools forum and the schools themselves; and the impact for the local authority and the schools.
To be confirmed	NEETS		Wider LAESCYP Services	<p>NEETs going to scrutiny after the Destination Survey for 2015 is published, as the department would then be in a position to report on Merthyr's performance in comparison to the rest of Wales.</p> <p>The Department (Chris Hole) highlight the following themes to Scrutiny so that it is able to explore further as the coming year progresses, especially as there is a general awareness of the improvements seen in recent years to the overall NEETs figure with a continued decrease in young people identified as NEET which for 2015 is 1.6% as previously reported.</p> <p>Key messages/themes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The council currently has access to the Merthyr Tydfil pre-release data for 2015. The full report is due to be published in the spring of this year however no set date is currently available. When published this will enable the authority to benchmark its current performance against the rest of Wales. 2. However through local analysis of trend data for the past 3 years (2013 - 2015) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. An increasing number of young people are staying on in education, however significant increases have been seen in young people opting for school 6th forms outside of Merthyr Tydfil (excluding Greenfield) b. Whilst the number of young people classified as unable to take up a post 16 provision is small, Mental Health issues are identified as the prevailing factor (in 2015 70% of the current 10 unable to access provision)

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				<p>c. After initial progress there has been a significant reduction in young people securing apprenticeships</p> <p>3. A further theme not covered by the Destination survey but requiring exploration in the coming year is the retention of young people by sector (Work based Learning, Tertiary College etc.) once they have taken up a progression route after leaving school</p> <p>These suggested themes would give some clear priorities for future scrutiny meetings within what is a fairly wide partnership agenda.</p>
To be confirmed	Surplus Places		Pupil Outcomes / Governance	Scrutiny and review:- Report of what impact this will have on schools in the future and how it will impact on funding allocation.
To be confirmed	Schools Budget Formula / Schools funding formula		Pupil Outcomes / Governance	Scrutiny and review:- This is an ongoing issue as far as this scrutiny committee is concerned which has not been addressed satisfactorily to date.
To be confirmed (agreed at 20th June 2016 meeting)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite the LAESCYP Monitoring Group to a future meeting. • Arrange School visits for the Committee when required to those schools where scrutiny can make an impact. • Attendance training and impact of the SLA's. What are schools doing themselves? • Impact on SLA's. • Expectations and attainment of Looked after Children. • Impact of Capita One, e.g. now that it is imbedded is it capturing the right data that schools and the LEA needs, is it more effective? • Confirmation when GCSE Results are being included on the Forward Work Programme. September meeting? • Industrial Relations with the Education Department. • HR SLA's to be included in the Forward Work Programme for September. • LAC placed out of county do better than those in county. Why? Theresa is collating data so the Department can drill down. When data analysed it will come to scrutiny

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TBC	Merthyr Youth Forum / Cabinet	DH/CH		Information & Overview : To meet with the Merthyr youth forum / cabinet, inviting them to give us an insight on how they see their role, achievements, how they perceive opportunities for the youth of Merthyr Tydfil etc. Listening To Young People/ Youth Engagement and Progression
TBC	Leadership Capacity - Identifying and developing Leaders / Leadership skills within Schools	DH	Governance in Schools	Information & Overview : At the meeting on 12 th September Hannah Woodhouse from the CSC suggested that this may be an area that the scrutiny committee may wish to monitor i.e. ensuring that there is Leadership capacity in the LEA is identified and developed. What is the LEA doing in this area?
TBC	Action Points following Learning & LAESCYP Performance Board meeting Nov 2015. Update on item 1) for this meeting	DH, Sarah Bowen	Pupil Outcomes	Scrutiny and Challenge: At the last Learning & LAESCYP Performance Board 5 areas for improvement were identified – 1) Parental Engagement (Lead Officer Sarah Bowen); 2) More Able and Talented Pupils (Dorothy Haines); 3) Governance & Governing Bodies (Dorothy Haines); 4) Collaboration (Dorothy Haines); and 5) Corporate Support Services (Glynis Estabanez). (These were identified in the Performance Board report to Learning & LAESCYP meeting on 25 th January 2016). Numbers 1 to 4 managed by the L&L scrutiny committee; and 5) by the Governance Scrutiny Committee. Above suggested by Cllr P. Williams. From 22nd February 2016
As per text	Visits to Primary Schools in County Borough	Committee Task and Finish Group (email DH 16 th November 2016)	Pupil outcomes	1. Troedyrhiw Primary Community School (After 23 rd January / before 17 th February 2017) 2. Ysgol Gymraeg Rhyd-Y-Grug (Mid to late March 2017)

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TBC	Greenfield School		Pupil numbers	Greenfield School is reaching capacity. With secondary / primary schools if capacity reached they are able to transfer to other schools. This is not the case with Greenfield due the support provided there. The committee wishes to keep an eye on any capacity issues. (December 2016 meeting suggestion)
TBC	21 st Century Schools		School builds	At the Dec 2016 meeting the committee heard from the Head and Chair of Governors that the school had no or very little say about the school build / alterations, when it should have. Eg. No cloak room to hang up coats – children carrying coats class to class, colour of classrooms (pained white – dirty very quickly). Whilst they raised their concerns, they were not listened to. Lesson for furture / committee to keep an eye on.

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Committee	Social Services Scrutiny Committee			
Date / Timing	Overarching Item	Officer & Cabinet Member	(Other)	Scrutiny Focus
28 th June 2016	Annual Report	LCJ, AL, MA, LM	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Annual Council Reporting Framework. The Director of Social Services annual statutory report to Welsh Government
	Performance	EMcW/LCJ/Cllr L Matthews	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 2, 3 & 4 Reports. An update on progress implementing the Corporate Plan Performance Board Report – Improving Wellbeing. A synopsis from the Performance Board. *Appendix = Draft Service Performance Reports. An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
20 th September 2016	CTSAB/CTSCB Annual Plans 16/17	Nicola Kingham and officers and elected member	Social services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- update on the safeguarding board plan. Looking at the areas we have covered and safeguarding priorities
	Performance	EMcW/LCJ/Cllr L Matthews	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 2, 3 & 4 Reports. An update on progress implementing the Corporate Plan Service Performance Report (Improving Wellbeing). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Corporate safeguarding reference Group Update	Alex Beckham and portfolio member	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Reference group set up a year ago and a report to review progress and plan drawn up from development sessions.
	Annual Report	Alex Beckham	Social	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Information on data regards conferences and reviews and

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	on LAC reviews and CP conferences	and portfolio member	Services	current registration status
	Learning Disabilities inspection	MA/LCJ/Cllr Matthews	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- An update on inspection.
1 st November 2016	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Safeguarding Action Plan	Alex Beckham	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- An update in relation to the action plan set up as a result of the self-evaluation following the Rotherham report.
	CTSAB/CTSCB Annual Reports 15/16	Nicola Kingham and officers and elected member	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- These separate reports summarises the work undertaken by the CTSCB and the CTSAB to achieve its objectives during 2015/16. They also summarise the areas of development identified for 2016/17
6 th December 2016	Regional Adoption Annual Report	AL/ Angela Harris & Rachel Evans (Vale of Glamorgan)	Adoption Services	Monitoring & Scrutiny: An update and some early performance information in relation to our regional adoption collaborative
	Annual Report on adult safeguarding processes	Alex Beckham and portfolio member	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Report providing update on adult protection referrals and details as required.
	Looked After Children Strategy Implementation	AL & Port. Member/ Sarah Skuse	Children Services	Monitoring, Scrutiny & Challenge: A quarterly update on progress implementing the LAC strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges. The strategy is seeking a reduction in the number of LAC and CPR over the next few years
	Caseload size in children's services	AL / Portfolio Member	Children Services	Monitoring, Scrutiny & Challenge: The committee has requested a report on the caseloads size for Children's Services.

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24 th January 2017	Looked After Children Strategy Implementation	AL/ Cllr LM	Children Services	Monitoring, Scrutiny & Challenge: A quarterly update on progress implementing the LAC strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges. The strategy is seeking a reduction in the number of LAC and CPR over the next few years
	Dom care contract	MA/LCJ/Cllr Matthews	SS	Scrutiny & Challenge:- update on first quarter of new dom care contract – looking at value for money and data. Where we were /where we going?
	Budget update	Stacey Evans/LCJ/Cllr Matthews		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Update on budget and looking at areas that may overspend. Look at grant funding areas. Eg ICF
	Communities First – Where we were? Where we going?	Ryan Stokes/LMCJ	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- data from the three areas and updates CF moving forward.
	Performance (Reports received – 29/11. Check with Ewan if current and who to invite)	EMcW/LCJ/Cllr L Matthews	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 2, 3 & 4 Reports. An update on progress implementing the Corporate Plan Service Performance Report (Improving Wellbeing). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Cwm Taff Integrated Family Support Team Annual report - April 2015 / March 2016	AL/ Goulding, Jay (RCT) (see Jay email 30/11/16 – report is in the file)	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- The provide provides an Annual Report on progress within the Cwm Taf IFST and the wider implementation.
7th March 2017	CSSIW report action plan update	AL/LCJ/MA	SS	Scrutiny & Challenge:- At the May meeting CSSIW reported to committee on their report. An action plan was needed to address the recommendations in the report. This will be the second update, then every six months thereafter.

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	Review of family support services	AL/LMCJ		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Where we were /where we going in future. Started work august 2016 so this would be a review of where we are at.
18 th April 2017	Performance	EMcW/LCJ/Clr L Matthews		Scrutiny & Challenge:- Corporate Plan, Priority Area 2, 3 & 4 Reports. An update on progress implementing the Corporate Plan Service Performance Report (Improving Wellbeing). An update on progress implementing the service strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges for example activities from the Performance Board challenge.
	Looked After Children Strategy Implementation	AL & Port. Member	Children Services	Monitoring, Scrutiny & Challenge: A quarterly update on progress implementing the LAC strategy and the associated risks, issues and challenges. The strategy is seeking a reduction in the number of LAC and CPR over the next few years
	CTSAB/CTSCB Annual Plans 17/18	Nicola Kingham	Social services	Scrutiny & Challenge:-
To be confirmed	SS&WB	Jonathan Strong	Social Services	SSWB – An update as to where the Authority is in relation to the implementation of the Act.
	Annual Performance Evaluation for 2015-2016	CSSIW	Social Services	Monitoring & Scrutiny: The CSSIW will be publishing the evaluation report on 30 October 2016 and wish to present it to this scrutiny committee before 31 December 2016

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	WCCIS	Mark Anderton/LCJ/ Cllr Matthews	SS	Scrutiny & Challenge:- Updating scrutiny on new database and links to performance – how we will report in future.
	YOS inspection Was due 1 st October 2016 but the inspection was cancelled (email AL 27/09/2016)	AL/LCJ/Cllr Matthews	Social Services	Scrutiny & Challenge:- findings from inspection

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Date / Timing	Overarching Item	Officer & Cabinet Member	Scrutiny Focus
<p>Wednesday 18th January 2017</p> <p>(Joint meeting with the Audit Committee)</p>	Budget Requirement 2017/18 to 2020/21	Leader/Cllr PW/ GC/ SJ/ Ellis Cooper / Chief Executive and other Portfolio members	Scrutiny & Challenge: - Proposed revisions to the Medium Term Financial Plan including the implications of the Provisional Local Government Settlement 2017/18 announced in December 2016.
	Housing and COTS Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's)	Lisa Curtis-Jones / Steve Peters / Mark Anderton / Angela Edevane / Julian Pike and Portfolio Councillors Cllr L Matthews/ Cllr Chris Barry	Scrutiny and Challenge: - The Regeneration, Planning, and Countryside Scrutiny Committee set up a Task and Finish group to look at the relationship between the COTS Team and the Housing Team in respect of Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's). At a meeting on 28 th September 2016 it was agreed that a joint report from COTs and Housing Grants will be presented to this joint committee as the subject falls under the remits of two scrutiny committees (Regeneration and Social Services Scrutiny Committees) . To include: Who does what and when; Staffing issues; the Joint Working arrangements; and info re. Individual case complaints (redacted).
	Tackling Poverty Agenda	LCJ / Chris Hole / Cllr PW / Cllr Linda Matthews	Scrutiny & Challenge: - A report outlining the proposed governance arrangements of the tackling poverty agenda. The report to identify the critical areas for development that will enable elected members and officers to better understand how community based preventative services contribute to the strategic priorities of the council.