



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : GOVERNANCE, PERFORMANCE, BUSINESS CHANGE AND CORPORATE SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 2021

PRESENT: Councillors: T Skinner (Chair)
G Lewis (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: H R Jones, D Sammon, W R Smith and C T Jones

Cooptees:

C Payne (Public) and S Fureed (MTBWYF)

Other Councillors in Attendance:

A Barry (Cabinet Member) and G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

Officers:

A Owen (Interim Deputy Chief Executive), C Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager), S Gow (Environmental Health Manager), R Barry (Tourism Officer), S Stephens (Housing), P Lewis (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager), Z Thomas (European & External Funding Support Officer), M Purnell (Performance and Scrutiny Officer), D Bufton (Leisure and Cultural Development), D Ryan-Newton (Community Services Officer), A Beaumont (Community Regeneration) and L Whiteley (Estates)

M Morgan* (Democratic Services Officer) and M Edmunds (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
298	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from J Beard Co-opted Member.
299	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	C Payne Co-opted Member advised that her employer Merthyr Valleys Homes was mentioned in the report at Item 3 – Working Life Update.
300	Working Life Update	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor A Barry, Councillor G Thomas Cabinet Members, Alyn Owen, Chris Long, Paul Lewis, Sue Gow, Suzanne Stephens, Zoe Thomas, Deb Ryan-Newton, Lance Whiteley, Dan Bufton, Ryan Barry and Anouska Beaumont to the Meeting.</p> <p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the 'Working Life Update' Report and advised that an update would be given by each Officer for their Service area.</p> <p>Chris Long then gave an overview to the Committee in relation to Economic Recovery and responded in detail together with the Officers to the following questions raised on the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 3.4 -Town Centre Master Plan – Details of the funding for Jols – Details of the re-development of Marsh House - Details on the proposals for the Theatre Royal, The Miners Hall and the former Halifax premises • Paragraph 3.5 - Cyfarthfa Plan – Details on recruitment of Board Members • Paragraph 4.3 - Information sought on impact of withdrawal from the EU • Paragraph 5.4 – Are the figures down due to COVID 19 • Paragraph 8.6 – Update requested on the Bus Station • What is the involvement of the Local Authority in the Kick Start Scheme for young people • What is the impact on businesses on the High Street as a result of the pandemic • Paragraph 5.6 – Business, Education and Training Partnership – Can applications be made for funding for home learning equipment • Paragraph 6.13 – Conversion of property into flats – Is this a loan • Update requested on the General Hospital Site <p>Paul Lewis then gave an overview to the Committee in relation to his Service areas and responded in detail together with the Officers to the following questions raised on the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Anti Social Behaviour Fund COVID specific or will it be available in future years • Paragraph 6.3 – Explanation of what businesses are able to do for example in regard to the wearing

		<p>of face masks and the numbers allowed in the store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 6.9 – What can be done to ensure that people self isolate <p>Sue Gow then gave an overview to the Committee in relation to her Service areas and responded in detail together with the Officers to the following questions raised on the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sought on Legislation regarding Eviction • Appendix 2 – Could figures be given instead of percentages <p>Suzanne Stephens then gave an overview to the Committee in relation to Housing and Homelessness and responded in detail together with the Officers to the following questions raised on the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 6.12 – Explanation requested on the number of households • Paragraph 6.13 – Details requested on the conversion of properties <p>Councillor G Thomas then praised the work undertaken by the Officers over the past twelve months and the breadth of the Portfolio and suggested a Workshop for all Councillors in relation to Homelessness.</p> <p>The Chair then referred to the key strands that had been raised on the report and thanked all the Officers and the Cabinet Members for attending.</p> <p>Councillor G Lewis joined the Meeting at 4.50 pm.</p>
301	Work Programme 2020-2021	The Chair referred to the Forward Work Programme 2020/21 and advised that she would discuss with the Officers the issues of Agile Working and EU Funding and advise the Committee in relation to the items for the next Meeting.
302	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	There was no update for this item.
303	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been discussed in the Meeting.
304	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.