



## MINUTES OF MEETING

# **SCRUTINY : REGENERATION** **AND PUBLIC PROTECTION** **MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 13TH APRIL, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillors L Davies (Chair)  
G Lewis (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Colbran, K Gibbs, J Thomas and S Thomas

**Cooptees:**

M Ellis (Youth Forum Representative)

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

T Rogers (Cabinet Member) and G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**

A Owen (Interim Deputy Chief Executive), M Purnell (Performance and Scrutiny Officer), C Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager), S Gow (Environmental Health Manager), P Lewis (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager) and Z Thomas (European & External Funding Support Officer)

**Outside Bodies:**

M Wilkinson and S Thomas (New Pathways)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
534	Apologies for Absence	H Hopkins Co-opted Member was unable to join the Meeting due to Technical Issues.
535	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	Councillor L Davies Declared his Interest in Item 3 – Presentation on Sexual Violence as he formerly worked for New Pathways and Item 4 - Cyfarthfa Heritage Area 2021 as he works for the Redhouse (Merthyr Leisure Trust).
536	Presentation on Sexual Violence	<p>The Chair welcomed Mike Wilkinson Deputy Chief Officer and Sarah Thomas Head of Sexual Assault Services – New Pathways to the Meeting.</p> <p>The Committee then received the following Presentation from Mike Wilkinson and Sarah Thomas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About New Pathways</li> <li>• Our Services</li> <li>• Map of where the Organisation are based throughout Wales</li> <li>• New Pathways Data</li> <li>• Merthyr Tydfil Client Data 2021/2021</li> <li>• The effect of Covid 19 on referrals in Merthyr Tydfil</li> <li>• Adapting to Covid – Initial Response, Service Development, On going</li> <li>• Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC's)</li> <li>• What is a SARC</li> <li>• Who do SARC's work with</li> <li>• The benefits of SARC's</li> <li>• The role of an Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA)</li> </ul> <p>The following questions were then raised on the Presentation and were responded to in detail by Mike Wilkinson and Sarah Thomas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many ISVA's are there in Merthyr Tydfil – What are the Case Load numbers at the moment</li> <li>• What are the barriers preventing working with Education and Schools – Could a Meeting be arranged with Heads and then a decision could be agreed on the way forward</li> <li>• Adverse childhood experiences – The Services should go hand in hand</li> <li>• New rules in relation to Additional Learning Needs</li> <li>• Are Children given relationship guidance in schools</li> <li>• The need to teach from a young age – To take this issue up with the Welsh Assembly</li> <li>• Could young people be used as Ambassadors to speak to other young people and children</li> </ul> <p>The Chair then thanked Mike Wilkinson and Sarah Thomas for the Presentation to the Committee and the phenomenal work undertaken by the Organisation.</p>

537	Cyfarthfa Area 2021 Heritage	<p>The Chair welcomed Alyn Owen, Chris Long and Zoe Thomas to the Meeting.</p> <p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the 'Cyfarthfa Heritage Area' report and gave a background of the Cyfarthfa Heritage area.</p> <p>Zoe Thomas then gave an overview of the report and Chris Long gave a summary of challenges and outcomes.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by Councillor G Thomas and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park / VPR Application – Update requested</li> <li>• Furnaces – Has input and engagement been sought from the Heritage Trust</li> <li>• The Cyfarthfa Foundation – How many Trustees are there at the moment – How many will there be – What is the appointment process</li> <li>• Role of staff in relation to the funding</li> <li>• What is the priority in the schedule of works in relation to the Castle and Furnaces</li> </ul> <p>The Chair then thanked Councillor Thomas and the Officers for the report and update to the Committee.</p>
538	Working Life Corporate Self Evaluation 2021	<p>The Chair welcomed Paul Lewis and Susan Gow to the Meeting.</p> <p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the 'Corporate Self-Evaluation – Working Life' report.</p> <p>Chris Long, Paul Lewis and Susan Gow then gave an overview to the Committee on the judgements that had been reached.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The Committee agree the judgements reached.</p>
539	Coronavirus Report Update	<p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the 'Update Report: Council's Response to Coronavirus Pandemic' and together with Chris Long, Paul Lewis and Susan Gow updated on the current situation in relation to the pandemic.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on the number of COVID 19 related Scams reported</li> <li>• Vaccination Uptake Data – Further detail requested on Table 8</li> <li>• Concerns in relation to people congregating and anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Tourism</li> </ul> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for attending and the</p>

		<p>update to the Committee.</p> <p>Councillor G Lewis left the Meeting at 4.45 pm</p> <p>Councillor S Thomas left the Meeting at 5.55 pm.</p>
540	Work Programme 2020-2021	The Chair referred to the Forward Work Programme 2020/21 report and suggested that the Scrutiny Officer contact Committee Members for their suggestions and that a Meeting be held with himself the Vice Chair, Cabinet Members and Officers to discuss the Forward Work Programme and this was agreed by the Committee.
541	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	No referrals were made.
542	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues raised in the Meeting with a suggestion from a Member that the Presentation from New Pathways be made to all Councillors.</p> <p>The Chair supported this suggestion and advised that he would pursue the arrangement of a Workshop for all Councillors.</p>
543	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.