



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : REGENERATION, **PUBLIC PROTECTION AND** **HOUSING MEETING**

TUESDAY, 25TH MAY, 2021

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

Councillors M Colbran, J Thomas and S Thomas

Cooptees:
H Hopkins (Public)

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), S Lewis-Abbott (Housing and Supporting People Manager) and S Stephens (Housing)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

| ITEM NO. | AGENDA MATTER | DECISION |
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| 13 | Apologies for Absence | Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Gibbs. Councillor M Colbran advised that he may have to leave the Meeting to attend another Meeting in his capacity as Mayor. |
| 14 | Declarations of Interest (including whipping) | No Declarations of Interest were made. |

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| | declarations) | |
| 15 | Draft Committee Work Programme 2021-2022 | <p>The Chair welcomed Councillor G Thomas and Councillor T Rogers Cabinet Members together with Alyn Owen to the Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the Draft Committee Forward Work Programme 2021/2022 report and suggested that one item be agreed for each Meeting and then going forward to agree items from the Cabinet Work Plan.</p> <p>The Chair also referred to the copy of the Cabinet Work Plan that had been circulated to Members and ideally he would like to discuss items at the Scrutiny Meeting prior to consideration by Cabinet.</p> <p>The Chair also suggested the Cyfarthfa Foundation and St Tydfil's Shopping Centre as items for consideration.</p> <p>A Member then referred to a recent Exempt Cabinet Report in relation to Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area and Glebeland Site and asked if this report could be brought before the Scrutiny Committee for discussion.</p> <p>Alyn Owen advised he would be happy to bring this report to the Scrutiny Committee as an exempt item.</p> <p>Reference was then made to the item for the next Committee Meeting in relation to receiving an update from South Wales Police with the Committee requesting details at this Meeting from the Police representative on information on Police Performance in relation to 101 call response times.</p> <p>Reference was also made to European Funding ending and its impact.</p> <p>Alyn Owen referred to the implications of withdrawal of funding and referred to ESF and ERDF Funding and the issues and implications of successor funds and suggested three separate Meetings over the next financial year to consider these matters in detail.</p> <p>The Committee then agreed that the items for the next Meeting be the Update from South Wales Police specifically in relation to 101 responses and the exempt report that had been considered by Cabinet in relation to the Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area and Glebeland site.</p> |
| 16 | Discussion around Housing and Homelessness | <p>The Chair welcomed Suzanne Lewis Abbott and Suzanne Stephens to the Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair then suggested that a Workshop be arranged with the relevant Bodies to discuss Housing and Homelessness with a report then being brought back to the Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Suzanne Stephens then gave a detailed update to the Committee in relation to current Homelessness numbers</p> |

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| | | <p>and the type of accommodation available and the work streams to meet the need.</p> <p>Suzanne Lewis Abbot then gave details in relation to building resilience into the Service, Housing Partnerships and how to tackle housing need and to meet the needs of individuals.</p> <p>Alyn Owen advised that this was a complex issue and referred to the role of Health, Social Services and Partner Organisations.</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"> • Identification of properties for use as a House in Multiple Occupation – What progress is being made – Buoyancy of the Market • Unoccupied properties not on the Market – Are checks being made on availability <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for the detailed update to the Committee and it was agreed that a Workshop be arranged with all appropriate parties to further discuss Housing and Homelessness.</p> <p>Councillor M Colbran left the Meeting at 4.35 pm.</p> |
| 17 | Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions | No referrals were made. |
| 18 | Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting | The Chair and the Committee reflected on the matters that had been discussed at the Meeting with the Committee agreeing that an informal Meeting be held with Members and Officers to discuss issues and share information and that the Scrutiny Officer arrange a date for this Meeting. |
| 19 | Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair | The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent. |