



MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : TRANSFORMATION, COMMERCIALISATION AND CORPORATE CENTRE MEETING

TUESDAY, 1ST MARCH, 2022

PRESENT: Councillors: T Skinner (Chair)
J Amos (Vice-Chair)

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

Other Councillors in Attendance:

C Davies (Cabinet Member) and G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

Officers:

A Owen (Deputy Chief Executive), C Dinham (Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), P Lewis (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager), A Lewis (Head of School Planning Performance and Resource), S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer), S Jablaoui (Performance and Scrutiny Officer), A May (School Planning Officer), R Barry (Tourism Officer), Z Thomas (European & External Funding Support Officer), V Robst (Corporate Communications Officer) and D Broderick (Corporate Communications)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
693	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Davies and Mr G Williams Co-opted Member.
694	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
695	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Consultation and Engagement Process	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Consultation and Engagement Process' report and welcomed the Cabinet Member and Officers to the Meeting.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Member and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are Consultation / Engagement Processes open to abuse such as one person responding more than once and not being part of the group of people being invited to respond and comment • Paragraph 5.3 – Benefit to have a timeline included for projects so the public can be kept informed • The ability to differentiate between residents who live in the County Borough and those living outside the County Borough • Anonymous results – Not known where the submissions are from – Voting more than once – Age of responders • How to overcome the low responses from people in favour of a proposal as well as those against to obtain a true reflection of what the public thinks • Paragraph 8.9 – Where paper copies have been available during the Pandemic • Issue of Capacity – Is there a dedicated Consultation Officer – Staff numbers • Paragraph 6.1 – How can the response rate be increased • Clarification sought on the difference between Consultation and Engagement • Consultation and Engagement Framework 2022-26 – When will this be submitted to Full Council – Involvement and Input • Statutory Rules and Regulations – How many have to be contacted and how is the contact made • Contentious issues affecting the whole of the County Borough – The need to have a way to consult not just through Social Media but through for example the Contact Magazine as the Contact Magazine is available to every household • The need for everyone to be involved in engagement and for Councillors to become involved in engagement with the public • How can Scrutiny help • Paragraph 8 – Capacity issues - Can the measures be achieved

		<p>The Committee were also advised that a Workshop would be arranged in relation to the Framework</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Member and the Officers for the Presentation to the Committee.</p>
696	<p>Best Start to Life Thematic Report – Delivery of Key Objectives in the Corporate Plan: Focus on the Future: wellbeing in our community</p>	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Best Start to Life Thematic Report – Delivery of Key Objectives in the Corporate Plan: Focus on the Future: Wellbeing in our Community' report and welcomed the Officers to the Meeting.</p> <p>The Committee were advised of a further appendix that had been circulated to the Committee and this appendix was then shared with the Committee and Anthony Lewis gave details on the three key issues.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Member and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 5.7.1 - Pupils in Primary and Secondary Schools – Mental Ill Health issues – How are these issues being addressed – How is this dealt with on a day to day basis – How to improve identifying if help is needed and to provide the appropriate help and to encourage pupils to come forward – The size of NHS waiting lists – What can the Council and Officers do to expedite the help needed with the NHS • Paragraph 6.1 – What is the current percentage of pupils who are not up to these levels – What is the percentage and number of pupils • Spoken Language – The need for improvement and the need to get parents to support and how to work together to improve – Pupils leaving school with no qualifications and how to change this <p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Member and the Officers for the report and the response to the Committee on the questions raised.</p>
697	<p>Working Life Thematic Report – Review of Delivery of Key Objectives in the Corporate Well-being Plan</p>	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Working Life Thematic Report – Review of Delivery of Key Objectives in the Corporate Well-being Plan' report and welcomed the Cabinet Member and Officers to the Meeting.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 3.3 - Why are there no dates included in the report as start and finish dates together with finance and funding would be helpful to show the way things are going - Local Development Plan 2016-2023 – Explanation of the dates of the Plan • Paragraph 7.3 – Train Station development – Clarification sought on what is the current situation

		<p>and start date – Redevelopment of the YMCA – When will the essential work resume</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Member and the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
698	Forward Work Programme 2021/22	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the Forward Work Programme and stated that it would be nice if the Citizens Advice Bureau were able to attend a future Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair also referred to outstanding matters for the Work Programme and requested that if any Committee Members had any views she would include these in her leaving report.</p>
699	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair advised that the item on Human Resources was outstanding.</p>
700	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the matters that had been considered at the Meeting.</p>
701	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>