



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : REGENERATION, PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE MEETING

TUESDAY, 30TH JUNE, 2015

PRESENT: Councillor G Jones (In the Chair)

Councillors B Carter, H Barrett, S P Brown, E Galsworthy and M O'Neill

Councillor C Barry, Cabinet Member

Officers:

Judith Jones (Head of Planning), Gavin Lewis (Physical Regeneration Manager), Sarah Mee (European and External Funding Officer), Zoe Thomas (European & External Funding Support Officer), Steve Peters (Head of Public Protection), Julian Pike (Group Leader - Housing Renewal) and Richard Parry (Consultant for School Improvement)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Mair Morgan (Scrutiny / Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
139	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K Moran.
140	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.

141	Awareness Raising - Committee's Areas of Responsibility	<p>The Chair welcomed Judith Jones, Steve Peters, Julian Pike, Gavin Lewis, Zoe Thomas and Sarah Mee to the Meeting.</p> <p>Julian Pike referred the Committee to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Renewal and Disabled Facilities Grants within Merthyr Tydfil • Awareness Raising • Former Structure / New / Current Structure • Housing Renewal – Housing Renewal Team • Bedlinog and Trelewis Renewal Area • Projects • Cosy Homes Grants • Environmental Works • Large scale, area based Strategic Home Energy Efficiency Schemes • Works in Progress • Completed Homes • Houses to Homes Loans • New Money • Home Improvement Loans • Housing Grants / Disabled Facilities Grants • Budget Profile • Performance • Looking ahead – Challenges for Housing Renewal and Disabled Facilities Grants <p>Councillor B Carter left the Meeting at 2.50 pm.</p> <p>Members then raised the following questions on the Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is Performance Measured • How are areas being prioritised in the County Borough • How are the Houses to Homes Loans advertised • What if there are defaults on the Loan • Fees • Budgets • Mechanisms to assist in the quality of Risk Assessment – DFG's <p>Julian Pike and Councillor C Barry Cabinet Members then responded in detail to the questions that had been raised.</p> <p>Steve Peters then referred the Committee to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing, Public Protection and Housing • Structure / Service Costs • Responsibilities / Roles • Challenges • Performance • Forward Plan <p>Members then raised the following questions on the</p>
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		<p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenges of quality assurance, targets and performance • The Casey report • Performance Indicators • Licensing Procedures <p>Steve Peters and Councillor Barry then responded in detail to the questions that had been raised.</p> <p>Judith Jones then referred the Committee to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Countryside • Planning Policy and Implementation • Development Control • Building Control <p>Members then raised the following questions on the Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Determination • Enforcement • Performance Indicators <p>Judith Jones then responded in detail to the questions that had been raised.</p> <p>Gavin Lewis, Zoe Thomas and Sarah Mee then referred the Committee to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development and Strategic Tourism • Destination Management Plan • Social Enterprise Development – Local Delivery • Social Enterprise Development – Regional Co-ordination • Enterprise and Business Support • Orbit Business Centre • Enterprise Facilitation • Business Improvement District • EU Transnational Development – SHARE • EU Transnational Development – Future Programme Development • Rights of Way • Regional Collaboration • European Programme Development • Horizon 2010 • Erasmus + Programme • Voluntary Sector Funding / Ffos y Fran • Rural Development Plan • Town Centre Programmes • Town Centre Management • Business Improvement District (BID) • Townscape Heritage Initiative • Vibrant and Viable Places • Key Programmes
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth Plan • Key Priorities <p>Members then raised the following questions on the Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise Centre • Examples of Business Support • Orbit Business Centre • Rural Development Grant • European Programme Development • How is Performance and Success measured <p>Gavin Lewis, Zoe Thomas, Sarah Mee and Councillor Barry then responded in detail to the questions raised.</p> <p>Gavin Lewis also advised that further updates would be given to the Committee on each key element that would include Town Centre Programme, Vibrant and Viable Places and the Economic Growth Strategy.</p> <p>Councillor C Barry left the Meeting at 4.15 pm.</p> <p>Councillor H Barrett left the Meeting at 4.16 pm and returned at 4.18 pm</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Councillor Barry and the Officers for attending.</p>
142	Scrutiny Committees Membership, Remits and Meeting dates	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
143	Work Programme 2015/16	<p>Resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The contents of the report be noted and the Committee progresses with the preparation of the Work Programme • A Task and Finish Group be set up to meet with the Portfolio Member, the Corporate Director and his Senior Officers to consider suggestions for the Work Programme, and that a draft Programme be agendered for the next Committee Meeting • This Task and Finish Group comprise Councillor G Jones, Councillor H Barrett together with any Committee Member who wishes to form part of this Group.
144	Meeting Commencement Time	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>In future Pre Meetings be held prior to the commencement of the Committee Meeting at 2.00 pm and that the Committee start time be 2.30 pm.</p>
145	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	<p>The Chair advised that there was no update on this item.</p>

146	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair, Committee and Richard Parry reflected on the issues that had been considered at the Meeting.
147	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.

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