



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : REGENERATION, PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE MEETING

TUESDAY, 26TH JANUARY, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor G Jones (In the Chair)

Councillors H Barrett, E Galsworthy, K Moran and M O'Neill

Councillors P Williams and L Matthews – Cabinet Members

Officers:

Steve Peters (Head of Public Protection), Paul Lewis (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager), Chris Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager) and Zoe Thomas (European & External Funding Support Officer)

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
956	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Brown and Councillor B Carter.
957	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
958	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	The Chair advised that issues raised under Item 5 – Deregulation Act and Item 6 – Child Sexual Exploitation – Rotherham MBC would be referred to the next Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

959	Vibrant and Viable Places Programme Update report	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor C Barry, Councillor L Matthews, Chris Long and Zoe Thomas to the Meeting.</p> <p>Councillor C Barry referred the Committee to the 'Vibrant and Viable Places Programme Update' report and advised that under Paragraph 1.7 it should read 'March 2017' and not 'March 2016'.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the Department coped with the loss of the Physical Regeneration Manager – Are there plans to replace the post – Are there any projects or any applications for funding that have been delayed as a result of not filling the post • Who is monitoring the operation and delivery of the funding agreement to ensure the programme is on track – How often is this done – Who is this reported to • Who decides what projects are taken forward – Is there public consultation – Is there much interest and feedback from the public • Are the Stakeholder Conferences well attended • What is inbuilt to ensure value for money, slippage in the programme and how is it monitored • If outside Consultants are used for projects is the cost top sliced from the money available for the project – If there is an amount of money for a project and there is money for fees would this bring the money available for the project back • With regard to the St Tydfil's Hospital Project could reasons be given re: involvement in the Vibrant and Viable Places Programme • Paragraph 4.2 referred to lower valley funding which had been a huge success – Paragraph 7.3 refers to an opportunity to extend the boundary - What is the current situation • There are empty buildings – Do we as a Council contact other Councils and landlords to discuss how to get absent landlords to participate • Is the Old Miners Hall part of the strategy • Where is the Enterprise Centre located • In relation to Cyfarthfa Castle what positive feedback was received bearing in mind that it was declined – Were there costs when the scheme was
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		<p>declined and were any monies returned – How confident are the Officers that the scheme will be approved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Project update – Are the costs for this January or next January – Request for an update on projects – What is a THI • Are there any major speed bumps or is the project rolling along smoothly <p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Members and Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair also advised that if there were any further specific questions from the Committee that they be forwarded to the Scrutiny Manager.</p>
960	Deregulation Act	<p>The Chair welcomed Steve Peters and Paul Lewis to the Meeting.</p> <p>Paul Lewis referred the Committee in detail to the 'Deregulation Act' report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When was the scheme changed – Has the scheme been tested yet – Have there been any incidents that the Council have been advised of • In relation to Governance issues, could assurances be given to the Committee that the Department were doing everything that could be done under this particular Act • How can the Council be sure in terms of Safeguarding – Is the Council being proactive • Who has looked at the Action Plan and signed it off • Reference made to overarching of Safeguarding, Wellbeing and Social Services • The Council could refuse an application for a taxi licence which could then be granted in Court • The Council could not rely on Officers alone and there were diminishing resources – there was a need for vigilance • Are there any financial consequences to the Authority in implementing the Deregulation Act <p>Councillor E C Galsworthy left the Meeting at 3.44 pm and returned at 4.01 pm.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much was the loss of finance • If there are a lot of oversea applications would there be extra costs in obtaining details and who would be covering these costs • Are there any negative consequence in relation to Deregulation <p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Members and the Officers for the update to the Committee.</p>
961	Child Sexual Exploitation - Rotherham MBC	<p>The Committee were referred to the 'Child Sexual Exploitation – Rotherham MBC' report.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTCBC Safeguarding Review Improvement Action Plan – Who has the final ownership of the Action Plan • Where is the Action Plan reported –Is there feedback and comments • Should this issue be referred to the Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee as the issue covers a range of Services • Who sat on the Task and Finish Group – What was the outcome of this Group • Has the new computer improved the system <p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Members and the Officers for attending and for the update to the Committee.</p>
962	Forward Work Programme	<p>The Committee considered and agreed the Forward Work Programme.</p>
963	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been discussed in the Meeting.</p>
964	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>