



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : REGENERATION, PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE MEETING

TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor G Jones (In the Chair)

Councillors H Barrett, S P Brown, K Moran and M O'Neill

Councillors C Barry and P Williams – Cabinet Members

Cooptees:

Merryl Kay Jones

Officers:

Steve Peters (Head of Public Protection), Chris Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager), Julian Pike (Group Leader - Housing Renewal) and Ryan Barry (Tourism Officer)

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1142	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Carter, Councillor E C Galsworthy and Mr H Jackson Co-opted Member.
1143	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	Councillor H Barret Declared his Interest in Item Three – Housing (Wales) Act 2014 – One Year On as he is on the Board of Merthyr Valleys Homes and a Private Landlord.

		<p>Councillor G Jones Declared his Interest in Item Three – Housing (Wales) Act 2014 – One Year On as he is a Private Landlord.</p> <p>Councillor K Moran Declared her Interest in Item Three – Housing (Wales) Act 2014 – One Year On as she is a Private Landlord.</p> <p>Councillor M O’Neill Declared his Interest in Item Three – Housing (Wales) Act 2014 – One Year On as he is a Private Landlord.</p>
1144	Housing (Wales) Act 2014 - One Year On...	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor C Barry, Councillor P Williams, Steve Peters and Julian Pike to the Meeting.</p> <p>Julian Pike referred to the ‘Housing (Wales) Act 2014 – One year on’ report and led the Committee in detail through the 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"> • Paragraph 4.5 of the report – Could a figure be given for the 16% increase • Paragraph 5.2 of the report – What are the ongoing costs for the Licence and Support Costs and have they been built into the budget proposals for next year – Is this figure in the Departments budgets as well - £100,000 costs for the software package – Is this value for money • Paragraph 6.0 – Figure 4.0 of the report – How accurate are the figures compared with other Authorities – Are any other Councils having grants – Is there comparative data • Is it just a reporting system – How does it inform and improve what the Council is doing • Paragraph 4.7 of the report – Will the new system assist with on line usage • What is the impact on staff training – Will there be full coverage and will the public be able to access this • Is this system for the Council or will it link up with all private landlords as well • The need for the public to know what is available • Is there work ongoing with Tai Calon and Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association to occupy properties • Is the situation getting worst or is the recording more accurate • Will this option save some clients money and will it help the public • With some posts being grant funded has a risk analysis being undertaken to ensure the service provided does not deteriorate • What will be the impact of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act over normal demands

		<p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Members and Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
1145	Merthyr Tydfil Destination Management Plan	<p>The Chair welcomed Chris Long and Ryan Barry to the Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair referred to the 'Merthyr Tydfil Destination Management Plan' report and advised that the Committee had not had sight of the newly developed Destination Management Plan and would therefore recommend that this matter be deferred to afford the Committee an opportunity to consider the Plan.</p> <p>Councillor C Barry advised that the Destination Management Plan had only been presented at the Tourism Board Meeting earlier in the day and that copies of the Plan were available to the Committee and would be circulated at the Meeting.</p> <p>Councillor P Williams advised that the Destination Management Plan would be considered at the Meeting of Cabinet scheduled for 20 April 2016 and suggested that a Special Scrutiny Committee be convened prior to Cabinet as the views of the Scrutiny Committee could then be considered at Cabinet.</p> <p>The Committee then agreed that a Special Meeting be convened prior to Cabinet to consider the Destination Management Plan.</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"> • An explanation of acronyms in the report was requested • The Collabor8 project – How wide was the area • What has been the impact in terms of improvement and understanding and what issues were thrown up • Is there any involvement in Garw Nant • Is Splash still ongoing • Possibility if Scuba Diving <p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Members and Officers for attending and for the update to the Committee.</p>
1146	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	<p>The Committee were circulated with the responses that had been received in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in progress of Disabled Facility Grants between COT's Team and the Housing Grants Team • When last was the Disabled Facility Grants audited <p>After consideration by the Committee of the responses received the Committee agreed that:</p> <p>(a) A formal request be made from the Committee for an audit of the Disabled Facility Grants</p>

		(b) The Chair to raise the issue of Disabled Facility Grants and COT's at the next Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee
1147	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been considered at the Meeting.
1148	Work Programme	The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Scrutiny Committee Work Programme' report and after consideration by the Committee the Work Programme was agreed.
1149	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.