



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : REGENERATION, PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE MEETING

TUESDAY, 12TH JULY, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor G Jones (In the Chair)

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

Councillor C Barry and P Williams – Cabinet Members

Cooptees:

Merryl Jones and Howard Jackson

Officers:

Alyn Owen (Chief Officer (Community Regeneration)), Huw Roberts (Group Leader Development Control), Ewan McWilliams (Corporate Performance Manager), Sian Lyons (Performance and Risk Support Officer) and Zoe Thomas (European & External Funding Support Officer)

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
153	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Carter.
154	Declarations of Interest (including whipping)	No Declarations of Interest were made.

	declarations)	
155	Development Control Performance Report - Regulatory Services	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor P Williams, Councillor C Barry and Huw Roberts to the Meeting.</p> <p>Huw Roberts referred the Committee to the Development Control Performance Report – Regulatory Services’ report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Huw Roberts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 6.4 of the report - Explanation requested re: Public Access and Agents Forum – Are Minutes kept of these Meetings to react to the issues raised • Paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 of the report – What is Planning’s impact on the Countryside • Effect of the Planning Act 2015 – Has this altered the length of time of applications – Could there be an effect on the timings of applications to Committee • Could a breakdown of figures be given – The percentage of applications that are considered by Committee – Major applications – what percentage of major applications are delegated or are considered by Committee • How many applications agreed to are subject to Building Regulations undertaken by the Council and how much income is there from this • Paragraph 4.6 of the report – Key Indicators and Paragraph 7.2 of the report – Why is there a drop in the percentage • Department staffing – Expertise and Capacity • The number of years of Housing land – What is the impact in terms of Planning - Does this include greenfield and brownfield land • Appendix I Data – Why are there no figures for the two years in between – Comparisons with other Councils <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The judgements and evaluations be noted.</p>
156	Performance Report - Corporate Plan Priority Area 5- Economic Development	<p>The Chair welcomed Alyn Owen, Ewan McWilliams, Zoe Thomas and Sian Lyons to the Meeting.</p> <p>Ewan McWilliams referred the Committee to the Performance Report – Corporate Plan, Priority Area 5 Economic Development’ report.</p> <p>Councillor P Brown left the Meeting at 3.00pm and returned</p>

		<p>at 3.03 pm.</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"> • Paragraph 4.1– Who made the judgements • Paragraph 6.2 – Why is there a reduction – Breakdown of figures requested • Key Indicators – Which one is the most relevant • What would the Officers like to see changed to address the shortfall in Housing Land Supply from an Economic Development point of view • What would the Officers like to see included in the Local Development Plan • Paragraph 3.4 – How are skills being identified and what trends are coming through • With regard to Skills – How do the links between schools and the College fit in – What is their provision • Appendix II – Projects – What are 6.1 and 6.2 referring to • Paragraph 4.1- Median annual pay – Why is there a variance • Paragraph 1.1 – Benchmarking – Numerical targets together with monitoring and evaluation <p>Councillor E C Galsworthy entered the Meeting at 3.06 pm.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The judgements and evaluation be noted.</p>
157	Performance Report - Corporate Plan Priority Area 6 - Employability	<p>Ewan McWilliams referred the Committee to the Performance Report – Corporate Plan – Priority Area 6 – Employability’ 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"> • What are the drivers and numerical targets • Paragraph 7.4 – European Funding - Ways to get funding • What is the relationship with private providers and the College • Paragraph 6.4 – Age population in employment

		<p>fluctuation – Are there specific reasons why</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the Officers confident that there are the tools in place to make a positive leap • Availability of Vocational classes at Merthyr College – Number of pupils required for a course • Could a Matrix be provided – re need and supply of skills • Inspire to Work Programme – Is there an alternative project • Appendix II – Project (B) – What is the Progress on the Project <p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Members and the Officers for attending.</p> <p>The Committee then discussed the skills that were needed and the provision of training and the role of the College in this.</p> <p>The Committee then agreed that a representative from the College together with Alyn Owen be invited to attend a future Committee Meeting to address the issues raised by the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair advised that he would also raise this issue with the Chair of the Learning and LAESCYP Scrutiny Committee.</p>
158	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	The Chair advised that he had advised the Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services Committee of the Task and Finish Group in relation to Disabled Facilities Grants.
159	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items that had been discussed at the Meeting.
160	Scrutiny Committee Work Programme	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the ‘Scrutiny Committee Work Programme’ report.</p> <p>A Committee Member then referred to the issues of European Funding and engagement with other Council’s and the Welsh Government and that these issues could be part of the Work Programme.</p>
161	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.