



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES** **AND PUBLIC PROTECTION** **MEETING**

MONDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor D Roberts (In the Chair)

Councillors J McCarthy, W R Smith and Raymond Thomas

Cooptees:

Robert Holdaway

Officers:

Steve Peters (Head of Public Protection and Housing) and Jane Sellwood (Central Librarian)

Outside Bodies:

Ceinwen Statter

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Jayne Overbury (PA to the Mayor and Leader)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
479	Apologies for absence	Councillors H Barrett, S Slater and Nicola Mahoney.
480	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	Councillor W R Smith declared his interest in Item 3 of the Agenda and left the meeting. The 5th Quality Framework for Welsh Public Libraries – Welsh Public Library Standards Return 2015-16 as he is a Member of the Leisure Trust.

481	The 5th quality framework for Welsh public libraries - Welsh Public Library Standards Return 2015-16	<p>The Chair welcomed Jane Sellwood to the meeting and referred the Committee to the report and handed to Jane Sellwood to outline the purpose of the report.</p> <p>Jane Sellwood went through the report in detail and informed the Committee that Merthyr Tydfil is no longer on the bottom of the list and the percentage of children and adults now using the library has increased and updated on the performance of the Library Service, the following questions were raised by the Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the mobile library service being stopped how has this impacted on the general public? • With the introduction of the library being placed within Aberfan Community Centre can this be replicated in other community centres? • The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 established a legal framework to impose a duty on organisations to comply with one or more standards of conduct on the Welsh Language. How is this affecting out libraries? • The letter mentions that you are looking at different staffing models. Can you explain what this is about? • You mentioned during your last visit that there is reluctance amongst staff to gain qualifications with no prospect for promotion as a result. Have you been able to implement and address this, or is this still the opinion of staff? • The committee understands that Torfaen's libraries are working to become Wales's first Dementia Friendly library service. Have you considered anything similar? <p>The Chair congratulated the team in library service for their exemplary work and hitting the targets.</p> <p>The Chair then read out recommendation 2.1 of the report.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the officers for attending.</p> <p>Councillor B Smith re-entered the Committee Room.</p>
482	Performance Report - Public Protection Service	<p>The Chair welcomed Steve Peters to the meeting and referred the Committee to the report.</p> <p>Steve Peters went through the report in detail. He thanked Maria Purcell for her assistance in helping to prepare the template for this report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the Deregulations Act coming into force in 2015 how are taxi drivers now checked by Trading Standards. • Does the DVLA inform the Local Authority of any driving convictions?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we do out of office spot checks on taxi drivers? • Will these checks be carried out over the Christmas period? • A report should be brought back to this committee in January 2017. • All Landlords and agents must comply with the new Ren Smart Wales laws by 23rd November 2016. How is this progressing and what are the penalties if they haven't complied? • What is the knock on effect on how this scheme is being run and how is this information fed back to residents? • The responsibility for fly-tipping has been transferred over to the new team based down in Unit 20. How has this affected your team; have you lost any staff, and are staff free to carry out other duties instead? • Within the Registry Services how are these indicators checked? • How has the change in Trading Standards to become intelligence-driven affected service delivery? • Food Safety impact on how services are delivered, how are we fixed with staffing? • Will this problem be rectified as this could be a potential risk and are we going to go down this route? • Can this be taken forward? • Are all the Trading Standard measures internal? • With regard to underage sales are these figures being fed back and are we implementing this over the Christmas period? • When landlords have registered under the new legislation are you putting this information in the press to publicise to make tenants aware what is happening? <p>The Chair then read out the recommendation 2.1 of the report.</p>
483	Performance Report - Community Safety	<p>Steve Peters went through the report in detail and the following questions were then raised by Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance misuse where are we at the moment on this as it seems to be getting out of control? • How do these indicators work. • Service challenge was addressed and discussed there needs to be a balance. • Do you think a joint scrutiny should be set up with Cwm Taf Community Partnership Board? • Where does this scrutiny committee take place? Howard Jones to take this forward. • Anti-social behaviour are these figures just for Merthyr Tydfil?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community safety is delivered across a range of organisations, how is the management of data handles to ensure a full picture of community safety can be achieved? Public Protection Order will be in force in December will PSCO be able to challenge? <p>The Chair thanked Steve Peters for the delivery of items 4 and 5.</p>
484	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	Performance Reports the judgements and evaluations were noted and debated.
485	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair advised that there are no actions points but the work program does need to be set.
486	Rhaglenni Gwaith Pwyllgor Craffu 2016-17 / Scrutiny Work Programme 2016-17	<p>The Committee considered and agreed the Forward Work Programme.</p> <p>Move Crime & Disorder meeting from 30th January 2017 to 13th March 2017.</p> <p>To consider Joint Scrutiny with Cwm Taf?</p> <p>Also Performance Report – Community Safety add an item on the agenda after Christmas for Alyn Owen to attend.</p>
487	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no other business deemed urgent.