



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : REGENERATION, **PLANNING AND** **COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE** **MEETING**

TUESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor G Jones (In the Chair)

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

Cooptees:

Howard Jackson

Officers:

Ken Bateman (Group Leader Building Control), Julian Pike (Housing and Community Safety Manager), Ewan McWilliams (Corporate Performance Manager), Chris Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager), Deb Newton-Ryan (Community Services Officer), Ryan Barry (Tourism Officer) and Zoe Thomas (European & External Funding Support Officer)

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
513	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Carter, Councillor E C Galsworthy and Councillor C Barry Cabinet Member.

514	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
515	Performance Report (Corporate Plan) Economic Growth	<p>The Chair welcomed Ewan McWilliams, Chris Long and Zoe Thomas to the Meeting.</p> <p>Chris Long referred the Committee to the 'Performance Report (Corporate Plan) Economic Growth' report and updated the Committee.</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"> • Paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 – 2012 outcomes were unsatisfactory and in 2015 they were adequate – Who decides what the judgements are – Who challenges on the decision and how robust is the decision • Paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4 – What is the ranking for the Authority – Should this be included in the table • Paragraph 4.7 – Part of the last sentence omitted – Completion requested • Paragraphs 8.7 and 8.9 are duplicated • Paragraph 7.21 – Clarification requested – How do statistics improve the Committees understanding – Would bullet points or a narrative improve understanding • Paragraph 4.4 – Business deaths – Are the businesses that have died contacted – Is there anything to show what the reasons are for the death of the business • Paragraph 4.9 – Courses supplied by Merthyr College - Update requested regarding courses to meet the requirements of employers • What were the issues in relation to the Organisation as outlined in the update to the Committee • Paragraphs 8.7 and 8.9 – Youth unemployment – Update requested in relation to Communities First • Strategic Partnerships – What are the issues being raised • Paragraph 4.15 – Update requested in relation to City Deal • Update requested on the YMCA • Paragraphs 7.17 and 7.18 – Explanation requested on why the judgements differ as the outcome is unsatisfactory in Paragraph 7.17 and good in Paragraph 7.18 • Paragraph 1.3 – Employability in the County Borough is outside the control of the Authority – How can the Authority reconcile this <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The judgements and evaluations be noted.</p>
516	Destination Management Plan	The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Destination Management Plan Update' report.

	Update	<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 5.8 – Cyfarthfa Furnaces – What is the ultimate Plan • Has the Destination Management Co-ordinator position been filled • Attractions signage • Paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4 – Why is the Heritage Trust not listed in the report – Can a set of aims be supplied to the Committee • Paragraph 6.4 – What are the accurate figures for tourists – Are all attractions included in the figures • What is the Departments view in relation to the Local Development Plan • Information requested on an Atlantic Programme Project entitled Trail Gazers • Update requested on Dark Sky status – How much is incorporated into the Destination Management plan <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
517	Performance Report - Building Control	<p>The Chair welcomed Ken Bateman to the Meeting.</p> <p>Ken Bateman referred the Committee to the 'Performance Report – Building Control' report.</p> <p>Arising on Paragraph 1.2 of the report the Committee were advised that it should read December 2015 and not December 2016.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Building Regulation Function of the Service cost neutral to the Council • Paragraphs 6.9 and 6.11 – How much income will this bring in to the Authority • Appendix III – Building Control – How is the Business Case for a new post within Building Control progressing <p>Councillor H Barrett left the Meeting at 4.15 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the IT issues and what has the Department suggested – How do other Local Authorities address this – Is this a Corporate issue <p>The Committee then agreed that the Deputy Chief Executive be contacted regarding this issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there figures available giving details of Planning applications received and the Building Regulations

		<p>income received</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The judgements and evaluations be noted.</p>
518	Performance Report - Housing	<p>The Chair welcomed Julian Pike to the Meeting.</p> <p>Julien Pike referred the Committee to the 'Performance Report – Housing' report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 3.2 – Housing (Wales) Act 2014 – Advice given on this – Landlord awareness of the Act • Are affordable homes being built • Do any Housing Associations have building plans and if yes what are they • How closely does the Department work with the Planning Department • Paragraphs 5.6 and 5.8 – Adaptions – How is this work progressing – Examples requested of innovative means of meeting the needs of clients • Paragraph 1.3 – Is there an I T impact • Paragraph 8.2 – Have any families been resettled • Paragraph 6.2 – Finance in relation to adapting three bedroom dwellings • How will the Well-Being Duty affect the way a new Housing Strategy is developed <p>Mr H Jackson left the Meeting at 4.38 pm.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The judgements and evaluations be noted.</p>
519	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	<p>There was no update on this item.</p>
520	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been discussed at the Meeting.</p>
521	Scrutiny Work Programme 2016-17	<p>The Committee considered and agreed the Committee Work Programme.</p>
522	Any Other Business as deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>