



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : REGENERATION, PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE MEETING

TUESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor G Jones (In the Chair)

Councillors B Carter, S P Brown, E Galsworthy, D Jones and M O'Neill

Cooptees:
(none)

Officers:
Alyn Owen (Chief Officer (Community Regeneration)), Steve Peters (Head of Public Protection and Housing), Julian Pike (Housing and Community Safety Manager), Chris Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager) and Ryan Barry (Tourism Officer)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Karen Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
794	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence received from Councillor H Barrett and H Jackson (Co-optee).
795	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were made.

796	Scrutiny opportunity of the new DRAFT Council's Common Housing Allocations Policy	<p>The Chair welcomed Steve Peters and Julian Pike to the meeting in relation to the Council's Common Housing Allocations Policy.</p> <p>Debate ensued and the Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a number of properties that an individual or organisation needs to control before they are covered by this Policy? • Clarification on New Rents Smart Wales - have we made any progress on this? Is Cardiff Council administering this? • In relation to the members of the Common Housing Allocation Policy who have voluntarily signed up - can they at any point reserve the right to opt out? • What are the implications of staffing/resources of this Council in relation to the administration of this Policy? • Clarification on the role of Councillors in relation to this Policy. • What is the effect of non-bidding over a long period of time? • The criteria for citizens requiring an adapted property? • The definition of the Banding System. • Clarification on the online consultation exercise carried out? What were the responses as a result of this consultation? <p>Can these responses be included as feedback within the Policy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would the Authority accommodate Refugee families coming into the Borough? • Where applicants are deemed ineligible, what is the time period before they can re-apply? <p>Should this detail be highlighted within the Policy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the final draft to Cabinet and Council. • Timeline and cost of the Arbitras software system? <p>The Chair thanked Steve Peters and Julian Pike and commended them on the amount of work that has been carried out in bringing this Policy together.</p>
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		<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Committee notes the contents of the report. • The feedback, recommendations or comments made by the Committee are considered prior to finalisation of the Policy at Cabinet and Council.
797	Cessation of Specific Capital Grant funding (SCG) by Welsh Government and the implications for Merthyr Tydfil CBC and its Citizens	<p>Steve Peters and Julian Pike introduced the report in relation to the cessation of Specific Capital Grant funding by Welsh Government.</p> <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of the different schemes? • The current position in relation to the potential of 2 existing members of staff at risk of redundancy? <p>How will this affect the capacity and expertise within the service?</p> <p>When will a decision be made in relation to this service and an update be brought back to Committee?</p> <p>Have risk assessments been carried out on the services and, if so, what are the risks?</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>The Committee notes the issues set out in the report.</p>
798	Social Update Enterprise	<p>Councillor B Carter left the meeting at 3.20 pm.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Chris Long and Ryan Barry to the meeting in relation to the Social Enterprise Update.</p> <p>Debate ensued and the Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of the 30 businesses within the SEWCED Legacy Health Check Report. • Clarification on the success of smaller enterprises. • When will the Social Enterprise Strategy be finalised for Council approval? • Clarification on the Social Enterprise Network. • Use of the Social Enterprise Centre. • Concerns over pressures and capacity issues due to staff changes within the service.

		<p>The Chair thanked Chris Long and Ryan Barry for attending the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members note the contents of the report. • Officers highlight clear options in future reports for Members' consideration. • The SEWCED Legacy Health Check Report be sent out to Members following this meeting. • Progress updates on any capacity issues within the service be brought back to a future meeting if required.
799	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	There was no update on this item.
800	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues considered at the meeting.
801	Scrutiny Committee Work Programme	The Committee considered and agreed the Work Programme.
802	Any Other Business as deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.