



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# **SCRUTINY :** **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES,** **PLANNING AND** **COUNTRYSIDE MEETING**

MONDAY, 13TH MARCH, 2017

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Roberts (In the Chair)

Councillors H Barrett, J McCarthy, W R Smith and  
Raymond Thomas

**Cooptees:**  
Nicola Mahoney

**Officers:**  
Ewan McWilliams (Corporate Performance Manager), Suzanne  
Davies (LSB and Partnerships Manager) and Maria Purnell  
(Performance Officer)

**Outside Bodies:**  
Lee Jones & Sally Burke (South Wales Police), Gary Black (RCT  
CBC) and Julie Beck (Safer Merthyr Tydfil)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Michelle Hemmings  
(Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
913	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence received from Robert Holdaway (Co-optee).

914	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	Nicola Mahoney declared an interest in the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership update report.
915	Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership update	<p>Chair asked for everyone to introduce themselves and welcomed Sally Burke, Lee Jones and Gary Black to the meeting.</p> <p>Steve Peters took the Committee through the report and presentation in detail in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Drug litter</li> <li>• Multi agency partnership that has been undertaken</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Sally Burke spoke to the Committee in relation to the changes that have taken place in Cwm Taf.</p> <p>Lee Jones then referred to events such as the champions league final and how policing for this event had a significant impact. He also advised that their office is also responsible for victim support services and their continued main priorities are ensuring partnership working around early intervention and positive action.</p> <p>Gary Black provided a brief outline on channel panel regeneration coming into force and offender management.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Sally Burke, Lee Jones and Gary Black.</p> <p>Officers provided advice and background information in relation to the following questions from the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Member asked how many times they can go through this process and what happened to offenders committing further crimes.</li> <li>• A member enquired how this related to low level crime and how it affected their families.</li> <li>• Members raised the issue of continuity of police officers at meetings.</li> <li>• A Member enquired whether Police received funding for Cwm Taf to carry out services e.g. CCTV.</li> <li>• In relation to funding, how will this affect the effectiveness of the partnership and the various partners?</li> <li>• A Member enquired with regard to road safety and whether presentations could be given to certain areas.</li> <li>• Questions were also raised concerns about drug users, boys on push bikes carrying metal bars, spate of car thefts and lock-ups and requested that Police look at this issue.</li> </ul>

		<p><b>RESOLVED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The contents of the report be noted and a further recommendation 2.3 be added:-</li> <li>• 2.3 The possibility of a joint neighbourhood scrutiny committee with a neighbouring Authority (possibly Rhondda Cynon Taf) .</li> <li>• This is happening with PCB already and makes sense with regard to resources and partners time.</li> </ul>
916	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair gave an update from the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2017 with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Report – Corporate Plan Priority Area 7 – A Sustainable Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Committee requested a list of the hotspots across the County Borough. Chair advised if we were given the list then they would be made available to the public and therefore just the number of hotspots in each ward would be provided (as follows):-</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Town – 20, Penydarren – 7, Dowlais – 10, Gurnos – 5, Plymouth – 4, Vaynor – 5, Merthyr Vale – 7, Treharris – 4, Cyfarthfa – 3, Bedlinog -1, Park - 2, Taff Trail – 1. Total – 69.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With regard to the purchase of additional CCTV, the matter was brought up in the fortnightly councillor fly tipping meeting and agreed there are no resources available to carry out the extra requirements of deploying more cameras. However, moving forward there was a suggestion from the Committee that even in the absence of cameras, the Authority should consider putting up signs in the hotspot areas, which in itself might deter fly-tipping. In response to this an extra 20 fly tipping and 20 dog fouling signs have been ordered.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Performance Report – Community Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bi-weekly meetings are often cancelled due to shift patterns of the police and Committee felt that this was unacceptable. Committee were advised that despite the difficulties around sustaining the frequency of meetings agreed, the feedback being received is that some of the perpetrators of drug littering have been addressed by the support of the Police through the Criminal Behaviour Order process restricting their movements with the town centre. The Police have actively contributed addressing this issue. Therefore, it was not</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p>wished for any criticism of Police to be conveyed and the matter will be raised at the full meeting of the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extract from the report – <i>“Not all existing high risk businesses were inspected within 28 days of their due date, or new businesses inspected within 28 days of commencement of trading as required by the Food Law Code of Practice”</i>. It was questioned was this down to resource issues and that is it an identified risk to the service. The Committee commented that the wellbeing of consumers and the general public is paramount and suggests that whilst the figure improved last year, the department works towards the 100% figure as per the Code of Practice. It was advised that whilst the Committee’s comments are noted, although they will work towards the target it was unlikely to be achieved as although we mitigate the risk by ensuring high risk premises are visited, and if they are outside the 28 days then it is a matter of day/weeks rather than months. New businesses are risked assessed on the type of operation undertaken and high risk premises are prioritised. Low risk new premises e.g. sweet shop will be outside of the 28 days.</li> </ul> <p>A Member enquired as to the position with regard to fly tipping and what happened to the follow up meeting.</p>
917	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the meeting.
918	Scrutiny Committee Work Programme	The Chair updated Members on the Scrutiny Work Programme.
919	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no other business deemed urgent.