



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : GOVERNANCE, PERFORMANCE, BUSINESS CHANGE AND CORPORATE SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor T Skinner (**In the Chair**)

Councillors T Rogers, J Amos, C Davies, D Jones, H R Jones,
D Sammon, W R Smith and D Roberts

Councillors A Barry and G Thomas – Cabinet Members

Officers:

Ellis Cooper (Deputy Chief Executive), Steve Jones (Head of Finance), Alyn Owen (Chief Officer (Community Regeneration)), Chris Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager), Andrew Mogford (Strategic Business Analyst), Ryan Barry (Tourism Officer), Rhian Prosser (Town Centre Manager) and Cheryl Jones (Rights of Way Project Officer)

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
490	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Carter, Anne Morgan Co-opted Member and Kaitlin Sutton Youth Forum Representative.
491	Declarations of Interest (including whipping)	No Declarations of Interest were made.

	declarations)	
492	MTCBC Transformation & Efficiency Programme	<p>Ellis Cooper referred the Committee to the MTCBC Transformation and Efficiency Programme' report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee on the report and were responded to in detail by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the impact of cuts being measured on the population and the impact on the local society for example in terms of debt, poverty, anti-social behaviour • Would it be possible to see an example of a business case • Austerity and the effect • The impact of Universal Credit • Where to get stronger links between the Officers and Scrutiny • How can the Authority try and improve the services to the public • Current situation on the partnership with Cwm Taf • Paragraph 5.1 – Expansion and more details requested on what this means <p>The Committee were advised that a suite of business cases could be provided and the Officers would come back to the Committee on this.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The judgements and evaluations be noted.</p>
493	Wellbeing Objective - Developing the Environment & Infrastructure for Business to Flourish (Working Life 2)	<p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the 'Working Life (WL2) – Developing the Environment and Infrastructure for Business to Flourish' report and referred in detail to Paragraph 4.5 of the report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee on Appendix 1 and were responded to in detail by the Officers:</p> <p>Wellbeing Project 1: Relocation of the Central Bus Station – Phase Two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When is the development due to start • Infrastructure for the whole of the County Borough - No timetables etc visible at bus stops - Who has the responsibility • Problem of vandalism to bus shelters over the past number of years • What has been the delay • Location of the new bus station – How close to the train station • Any early indications on the existing plots • Could there be an open space left in the Town Centre • Financial forecast for redevelopment – Allocation of

finance

- Impact of City Deal – How do all the plans tie in
- Town Centre Footfall
- What is being done in terms of Regeneration – What is the Strategy for protecting growth and to protect the Town Centre
- What is the Strategy for investment and to retain business in the Town Centre
- Judgement of project adequate – Are the Officers satisfied with this judgement of adequate
- Ratios of chain and local stores in the Town Centre – Business rate costs
- Update requested on development to the top of the Town area

Request made to see the Economic Impact Assessment and the Town Centre Action Plan

Wellbeing Project 2: Active Travel Routes

- Does the Authority have its own initiative in relation to Cycle Lanes
- Use of the Taff Trail – Active Travel
- Key Stakeholders – Are Schools involved in the consultation - Has there been consideration of a Pilot scheme to encourage more cycling and walking to School – Road safety and Cycle safety – Could there be incentives for walking to school
- Litter on walkways
- Parking of Scooters and vehicles on pavements – Obstruction of routes
- Feasibility of free car parking – Impact on active travel – Loss of Revenue to the Authority – What has been discussed to date – Is there a general direction
- Could the area between ASDA and the Mountain Railway be looked at as a connected Right of Way

The Chair advised that she would be happy to look into Parking as part of the future Work Programme

Wellbeing Project 3: Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Could the outcome of the Pilot of the 30 hour Childcare offer be looked at – Could the result be provided – Is there any information around the 30 hour funding – What is being done to address the cost of Childcare
Consideration of adding to the target – Social Enterprise – Child Care Providers

Declaration of Interest

Councillor C Davies Declared his Interest in this item as he is involved in the Plant Bach Settling Committee and Flying Start but has received Dispensation in relation to this.

Councillor D Sammon left the Meeting at 5.15 pm.

		<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
494	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair advised that a referral had been received from Councillor A Barry in relation to Capital Monitoring and the reports that had been considered at the Cabinet Meetings held 22 November 2017 and 25 October 2017 which referred to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Brandy Bridge • Road Slippage, South of Pontygwaith <p>The Committee then agreed that the referral be considered in the first instance by the Neighbourhood Services, Planning and Countryside Scrutiny Committee prior to consideration by the Committee and the Audit Committee.</p>
495	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the items that had been discussed at the Meeting.
496	Forward Work Programme	The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Scrutiny Work Programme' report and the Committee agreed the Work Programme.
497	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.