



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : REGENERATION AND PUBLIC PROTECTION MEETING

TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor J Amos (In the Chair)

Councillors C J Barry, M Colbran and G Lewis

Councillor G Thomas and Councillor A Barry – Cabinet

Youth Forum Representative:

Morgan Ellis

Officers:

Alyn Owen (Chief Officer (Community Regeneration)), Ryan Barry (Tourism Officer), Chris Hole (Head of Community Wellbeing), Cheryl Jones (Rights of Way Project Officer), Rhian Prosser (Town Centre Manager), Lance Whiteley, Jared Green, Lisa Clement- Williams and Maria Purnell (Performance Officer)

Mair Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
637	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Brown, Councillor E C Galsworthy and Mr H Jackson Co-opted Member
638	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.

639

Working Life;
Developing the
Environment &
Infrastructure for
Business to Flourish

The Chair welcomed Councillor G Thomas Cabinet Member, Alyn Owen, Chris Hole, Ryan Barry, Jared Green, Rhian Prosser, Lance Whiteley, Lisa Clement Williams and Cheryl Jones to the Meeting.

Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the 'Working Life: Developing the Environment and Infrastructure for Business to Flourish' report and the Committee received an update from the Officers in relation to the Wellbeing Projects.

The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by the Officers:

Wellbeing Project 1: Relocation of the Central Bus Station – Phase 2

- When will a response be received from Welsh Government

Request for outcome of Meeting with Welsh Government to be brought back to Committee

- Timescale of when the whole project is likely to be completed
- Assessment of Risk – Explanation requested on the meaning of I, L and S
- Project Performance (KPI's) – Number of departures from Merthyr Tydfil Central Bus Station – What benefit is obtained from these figures – What is the relevance of these figures
- What is the reason why the number of departures from the Central Bus Station has declined

Wellbeing Project 3: Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

- Project Performance (b) – Are the figures in the report figures of what is available – How will information be obtained to ensure that the childcare spaces are sufficient
- Progress since last highlight report – Consultation – What were the findings

Chris Hole advised that he would supply this information to the Committee

Homelessness

The Chair referred to Homelessness and requested an update on this at the next Meeting and that the appropriate Officers be invited to attend.

Councillor G Thomas advised that a Seminar in relation to Homelessness had been arranged for Members in the next few weeks.

Resolved that:

The content of the report be noted.

640	Enterprise and Business Support	<p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the ‘Enterprise and Business Support’ report and an update was given by the Officers on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Enterprise Sector • Orbit Business Centre • Town Centre Business Support • Meanwhile Project • Town Centre Retail Grant <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"> • Social Enterprise Strategy – Composition of the Enterprise Network • Meanwhile Project – of the nine businesses established how many are still open and flourishing • How many full time jobs have been created <p>Rhian Prosser advised that she would supply this information for the Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 6.6 – Why has there been a low take up of grant finance and what can be done to encourage take up • How many businesses are still operating in the initial rent period – Is it sustainable going forward • Paragraph 6.5 – Explanation requested • Paragraph 6.2 – Is there a time frame for completion of this work • Can the Orbit Business Centre be expanded • Staff numbers and delivery of Service <p>Morgan Ellis entered the Meeting at 3.03 pm.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
641	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	The Chair advised that there was no update on this item.
642	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> <p>A Member also referred to the need for meaningful KPI’s.</p>
643	Work Programme	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the ‘Scrutiny Committee Work Programme’ report and recommended that this item stand deferred to discuss the Programme with the Scrutiny Manager.</p> <p>The Chair also referred to establishing a Working Group to look at specific issues and suggested Homelessness in the first instance.</p> <p>A Member then supported this proposal and also</p>

		<p>recommended that Homelessness be a regular agenda item with the possibility of a Task and Finish Group being convened.</p> <p>The Committee then agreed with these recommendations.</p>
644	Any Other Business as deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.