



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# **SCRUTINY : REGENERATION** **AND PUBLIC PROTECTION** **MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 17TH APRIL, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillors B Carter (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)

Councillors M Colbran and G Lewis

**Cooptees:**

H Hopkins (Public) and M Ellis (Youth Forum Representative)

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**

H Jones (Scrutiny Officer), A Owen (Chief Officer (Regeneration and Public Protection)), S Peters (Head of Public Protection and Housing), C Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager), D Ryan-Newton (Community Services Officer), S Lyons (Performance Officer), K O'Donovan (Corporate Risk and Equalities Manager), J Pike (Housing and Community Safety Manager), R Prosser (Town Centre Manager), Jared Green (Economic Development) and Ryan Evans (Community Safety Manager)

**Outside Bodies:**

PC P Ashby (South Wales Police)

Debbie Evans – Regional Advisor Domestic Violence

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
937	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Amos, Councillor C Barry, Councillor P Brown, Councillor E C Galsworthy and Mr H Jackson Co-opted Member.
938	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
939	Cwm Taf Community Safety Needs Assessment (Draft)	<p>The Chair welcomed PC Phil Ashby South Wales Police, Debbie Evans Regional Advisor Domestic Violence and the Officers to the Meeting.</p> <p>Steve Peters and Ryan Evans referred the Committee to the 'Cwm Taf Community Safety Needs Assessment (Draft)' report.</p> <p>Questions were then raised by the Committee on the report and were responded to in detail by PC Ashby, Debbie Evans and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acronyms – Index requested explaining their meaning</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.0 (4) – Are there any other reasons for this</li> <li>• Use of the drug 'Spice' in the County Borough – What steps are being taken to curtail this</li> <li>• County Lines – Organised Crime</li> <li>• Police Presence in the Town Centre</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.0 (7) – Reasons for the reduction</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.0 (10) – Why included – Any particular reason for this – Reflected across Wales or just in this area</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.0 (14) – Resources – Cost of clearing up</li> <li>• People in a 'Zombie' type state through drugs – Impact on visitors to the Town Centre</li> <li>• When will the Action Plan be ready</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.0 (11) – Reasons for this</li> <li>• Paragraph 2.2 – Figure 8 - Perception of the Police – Further information requested</li> <li>• Do all Partners attend Meetings - Is there an equal contribution</li> <li>• Paragraph 4 – Figure 14 / 15 – Explanation requested of the narrative in relation to the graphs</li> <li>• Paragraph 4 – Figure 21 - Explanation requested</li> <li>• What is the percentage of young people and adults using drugs</li> <li>• What support is available for those who do not know where to go</li> <li>• Is there a Mentoring Scheme for young people</li> <li>• Could a Presentation be made to the Youth Forum</li> <li>• Mental Health and Substance Misuse</li> <li>• What is the contact telephone number if people are seen in a 'Zombie' type state - Promotion of this</li> </ul>

		<p>contact number so the Public are aware of the number to report incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 2.2 – Figure 7 – Is there a category for Cyber Crime</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.1 – Figure 19 – Are there specific reasons for this</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.1 – Figure 20 – (08) – Explanation requested</li> <li>• Paragraph 4.3 – Explanation requested in relation to Fentanyl</li> <li>• Paragraph 8.7 – Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery - Is this a specific problem in Merthyr Tydfil and what is being done to tackle these issues</li> <li>• Request made for more clarity of format in relation to Graphs</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report and the findings of the Draft Cwm Taf Community Safety Needs Assessment 2017 be noted.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked PC Ashby, Debbie Evans and the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
940	Working Life 1 - Making Skills Work for Merthyr Tydfil: Developing the Workforce of the Future	<p>The Chair welcomed the Officers to the Meeting.</p> <p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the 'Working Life 1 – Making Skills Work for Merthyr Tydfil: Developing the Workforce of the Future' report.</p> <p>Deb Newton then led the Committee through the following Wellbeing Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measuring Subjective Wellbeing</li> <li>• Pathways to Employment for Children Looked After and Care Leavers</li> </ul> <p>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"> <li>• What was the eligibility criteria</li> <li>• What services are available to assist young people with CV's etc</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The report be noted.</p>
941	Working Life 2 - Developing the Environment and Infrastructure for Business to Flourish	<p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the 'Working Life 2 – Developing the Environment and Infrastructure for Business to Flourish' report.</p> <p>Alyn Owen also advised that in relation to Childcare Sufficiency Assessment any questions would be noted and referred to the appropriate Officer with responses brought back to Committee.</p> <p>Rhian Prosser and Chris Long then referred the Committee</p>

		<p>in detail to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocation of Merthyr Tydfil Bus Station – Phase 2</li> <li>• Active Travel – Phase 1</li> </ul> <p>Questions were then raised by the Committee in the report and were responded to in detail by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocation of the Bus Station – Update requested on Funding</li> <li>• Who are the Officers meeting with representative of Welsh Government</li> <li>• Why is the status Amber</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The report be noted.</p>
942	Environmental Wellbeing 2 - Communities protect, develop and promote our heritage and cultural assets	<p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the 'Environmental Wellbeing 2 – Communities Protect, Develop and Provide our Heritage and Cultural Assets' report.</p> <p>Kerry O'Donovan, Chris Long and Rhian Prosser then referred the Committee in detail to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urdd Sports Development Apprentice</li> <li>• Provision of Welsh Language Workplace Training Opportunities</li> <li>• Volunteering Programme in the Cyfarthfa Heritage Area (Phase 1)</li> <li>• Pontmorlais Townscape Heritage Quarter: Continuing the Renaissance</li> </ul> <p>Questions were then raised by the Committee on the report and were responded to in detail by the appropriate Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers at events</li> <li>• Pontmorlais – KPI indicators</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The report be noted.</p>
943	Homelessness in the County Borough	<p>The Chair welcomed the Officers to the Meeting.</p> <p>Julian Pike referred the Committee to the 'Homelessness in the County Borough – Update report' and responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness Strategy</li> <li>• Paragraph 4.0 – Figure 1 – S66, S73 and S75 – Explanation requested</li> <li>• The benchmarking of Homelessness against other Local Authorities</li> <li>• Return of money to Welsh Government</li> <li>• Paragraph 7.1 – What other Departments and Agencies need to get involved</li> <li>• Homelessness Strategy – Is this a new Document –</li> </ul>

		<p>Will it be presented to Full Council and if so when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The locations of where people were sleeping rough</li> <li>• How many grants were awarded and how many were as a result of homelessness</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.5 – What are the other reasons and what can be done</li> <li>• Paragraph 7.0 – How many properties are occupied and how many are on a long/short term lease – Are there proposals to increase the number of properties</li> <li>• Impact of Welfare Benefit Cuts – Request for a further report advising of the numbers affected</li> <li>• The culture of House sharing</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
944	Economic Strategy Partnership Growth and	<p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the ‘Economic Growth Strategy and Partnership’ report and advised that the first draft of the Strategy would be available later in the year.</p> <p>Jared Green then gave an overview of the Strategy to the Committee.</p> <p>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"> <li>• Update requested on the Town Centre Master Plan</li> <li>• Update requested in relation to Trego – Human Resources, Pedestrian Footpath, Road Layout, Way in and Way out</li> <li>• The Town Centre</li> <li>• Age demographic – What can Merthyr Town offer for example people over the age of forty</li> <li>• What is being done in relation to the Night Time Economy</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.7 – Details requested on the Apprenticeship Programme</li> <li>• Paragraph 6.2 – How much work is needed to be undertaken to meet the target</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The judgements and evaluations be noted.</p>
945	Developing a Work Programme for 2018/19	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the ‘Developing a Work Programme for 2018/19’ report.</p> <p>The Committee then agreed that the Scrutiny Manager liaise with the Chair and Vice Chair in relation to the development of the Work Programme.</p>
946	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow	<p>The Chair advised that there was no update on this item.</p>

	Up Actions	
947	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items that has been discussed at the Meeting.
948	Any Other Business as deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.