



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

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

**TUESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Amos (Chair)  
C J Barry (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Colbran, G Lewis and S Thomas

L Davies (Substitute Member)

**Cooptees:**

M Ellis (Youth Forum Representative)

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**

A Owen (Chief Officer (Regeneration and Public Protection)),  
M Purnell (Performance and Scrutiny Officer), C Long  
(Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager),  
D Ryan-Newton (Community Services Officer), J Green  
(Economic Development), L Whitely (Manager Orbit Business  
Centre) and R Prosser (Town Centre Manager)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
556	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Brown and H Hopkins and H Jackson Co-opted Members.

557	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
558	Economic Strategy Partnership Growth and	<p>The Chair welcomed Alyn Owen, Chris Long, Jared Green and Deb Ryan-Newton to the Meeting.</p> <p>Alyn Owen referred the Committee to the 'Economic Growth Strategy and Partnership' report and together with the other Officers responded in detail to the following questions that were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 1.2 – Who is the point of contact – Who forms the Strategic and Operational groups – Is there a criteria list that residents can access – What does each group do – Who do they feed back to – What is the involvement of Partners</li> <li>• How are Outcomes measured – Are there targets to see how well the Council is doing</li> <li>• Further explanation requested in relation to 'Visual Modular'</li> <li>• Is there a shortfall of skills in a particular area – Training for this shortfall</li> <li>• Staff Retention</li> <li>• Working families living in poverty – Is enough being done to bring wages into the County Borough</li> <li>• What scope is there to offer training facilities within Companies</li> <li>• The impact of Brexit</li> <li>• Request for a diagram illustrating how the groups are linked together</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The progress made to date on the production of an Economic Growth Strategy be noted.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for the update to the Committee.</p>
559	Introduction to the Geosense Intelligence System	<p>The Chair welcomed Rhian Prosser and Lance Whiteley to the Meeting.</p> <p>Chris Long outlined to the Committee the function of the Geosense Intelligence System in that it was a digital footfall system to show economic activity in the Town Centre.</p> <p>Lance Whiteley then made a Presentation to the Committee giving details of the System and how it works.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee on the System and were responded to in detail by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GDPR Implications</li> <li>• Difference between those working and those shopping in the Town Centre</li> <li>• Expansion Costs</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the trends that can be seen</li> <li>• Percentage of vacant properties – Position of the County Borough against the Welsh average</li> <li>• Can there be benchmarking against a similar Town</li> </ul> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for attending and the Presentation to the Committee.</p>
560	Welsh National Library Standards	<p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>This item be deferred.</p>
561	Work Programme 2018/19	The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Work Programme' report and the Committee agreed the Programme.
562	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	The Chair advised that there was no update for this item.
563	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the Meeting.
564	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.