



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

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

**TUESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillors G Lewis (Chair)  
K Gibbs (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Colbran, L Davies and S Thomas

**Cooptees:**

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

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**

A Owen (Interim Deputy Chief Executive), C Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager), S Stephens (Housing) and M Purnell (Performance and Scrutiny Officer)

M Morgan\* (Democratic Services Officer), M Phillips (Democratic Services Officer) and M Edmunds (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
124	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from H Jackson Co-opted Member.
125	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.

126	Housing and Homelessness	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Housing and Homelessness' report and welcomed Suzanne Stephens to the Meeting.</p> <p>Suzanne Stephens then led the Committee in detail through the report and also gave an update in relation to the Winter Night Shelter.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Members on the report and were responded to in detail by Suzanne Stephens, Councillor G Thomas, Alyn Owen and Chris Long:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanation requested on Housing Allowances – Social and Private Landlords</li> <li>• Has the uplift in the Housing Allowance made any difference</li> <li>• How many are looking for Housing at the moment – How many are refusing engagement – Proposals for the Winter</li> <li>• Is there alternative funding in relation to the provision of a Winter Night Shelter – How are other Local Councils dealing with this</li> </ul> <p>Councillor G Thomas then updated the Committee in relation to a recent Meeting held with Welsh Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 4.4 – How many were accommodated in Chaplin's – How many places will there be going forward as opposed to previously</li> <li>• Is there anything in the report that needs to be changed due to the Firebreak Lockdown</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.3 – The scale of the problem – How many of the households in temporary accommodation were Covid related – The impact on individuals and staff – The need to find additional accommodation</li> <li>• The effect on Tourism</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.10 – Overview on a Winter Night Shelter and extra accommodation requested – Will the accommodation mirror the services of the Winter Night Shelter</li> <li>• Staffing capacity in the Housing Department</li> <li>• The effect of Legislation from Welsh Government on priority need – The impact on the housing waiting list</li> <li>• If there is no Winter Night Shelter how will warm clothing, blankets etc be distributed</li> <li>• Police and Crime Commissioner Funding in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour</li> <li>• How to get the message out re- Anti-Social behaviour – Can Communications get the message out in relation to the perceptions of people</li> </ul> <p>Councillor G Thomas then updated the Committee in relation to summit Meetings that had been held and that a report and actions arising from these Meetings would be brought to the Scrutiny Committee</p>
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		<p>The Committee then agreed that an update report from these summit Meeting be considered at the Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 1 December 2020.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Suzanne Stephens for the overview report to the Committee.</p> <p>Thanks were also conveyed to Suzanne Stevens for the work she had undertaken together with the work carried out by the Housing Department.</p>
127	Work Programme 2020-2021	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the Draft Forward Work Programme 2020/21.</p> <p>Reference was then made to the report on the Summit Meetings that had been agreed for inclusion at the 1 December 2020 Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair also asked Alyn Owen for an overview on the Firebreak Lockdown and how it would impact on the Department.</p> <p>The Chair also referred to the need for a rounded view on Anti Social Behaviour and Homelessness and how Anti Social Behaviour connected with other issues.</p> <p><b>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</b></p> <p>The Draft Forward Work Programme be approved.</p> <p>Councillor M Colbran left the Meeting at 3.43 pm.</p>
128	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	<p>There was no update on this item.</p>
129	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been considered in the Meeting.</p>
130	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p><b>Self – Evaluation Questionnaire</b></p> <p>Maria Purnell advised the Committee that the Questionnaires would be distributed in the next few weeks with a return completion date of 30 November 2020 and outlined its content.</p>