



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : CORPORATE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES MEETING

TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH, 2024

PRESENT: Councillors: B Carter (Chair)
W R Smith (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: D Jones, L Minett-Vokes and L Mytton

Coopteers:

C Payne (Public Appointment) and G Thomas (Public Appointment)

Officers:

E Cooper (Chief Executive), A Owen (Deputy Chief Executive), J Jones (Director of Neighbourhood Services), L Curtis Jones (Director of Social Services), G Metheringham (Head of Additional Learning Needs), A Mogford (Policy and Improvement Officer) and S Jablaoui (Performance and Scrutiny Officer Officer)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer) and E Galeozzie (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
761	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Davies.
762	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.

763	<p>Refocus of the Corporate Well-being Plan 'Acting Today for a Better Tomorrow'</p>	<p>The Chair welcomed Ellis Cooper, Alyn Owen, Lisa Curtis Jones, Judith Jones, Andrew Mogford and Gavin Metherringham to the Meeting. Apologies were also received from Councillor A Barry Cabinet Member.</p> <p>Ellis Cooper referred the Committee to the 'Refocus of the Corporate Well-Being Plan – 'Acting Today for a Better Tomorrow'' report.</p> <p>Andrew Mogford gave the Committee an overview of the report and advised that he would be seeking the views of the Committee in relation to strategy links, useful information for residents and budget spend against key outcomes.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised on the report and were responded to in detail by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern regarding details missing from the report • Paragraph 4.3 – Consultation exercise – How many people participated in the exercise • Paragraph 5.13 – Equalities – Availability of an alternative language when undertaking a smart survey • Paragraph 5.11 – Customer Services – The language used in automatic response messages • How can residents help us – Duplication of wording in this box • Paragraphs 7.3 / 7.4 – Delivering our Objectives – Inclusion of the process and next steps • Layout of the report – Beneficial to have a breakdown of the Strategy and the Policy that sits under this Objective to make it clearer • Ideas to Develop – Would it be easier to read in a pie chart format • Ellis Cooper advised that when further thoughts were received from Members and the data populated then the report would be updated and recirculated • Are all the diagrams up to date • Will case studies be linked to the key action tables – (Andrew Mogford advised that a booklet of case studies would be made available on the Website for each year with links to the document) • Request for clear language to be used in the report and clarity in relation to abbreviations • Is the document time bound or time specific • Possibility of having the document twice a year as not to have too much information at one time <p>The Committee then agreed that a Workshop be held and that the document be populated prior to the Workshop and for the Workshop to be held before the Meeting of Full Council scheduled for 17 April 2024.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
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764	Forward Work Programme 2023-2024	<p>The Chair referred to the Forward Work Programme 2023-2024 and asked for any suggestions going forward.</p> <p>The following items for consideration were then proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies and Policies – Aging Action Plan, Poverty Action Plan, Communications and Citizens Strategy • Proposed extra column for narrative if Statutory Organisations are involved • Budget Setting Process – General ideas if anything could be done differently for a smoother process • Communications – Are we communication effectively to the public – Lessons learned – How to do better
765	Scrutiny Referrals	There were no Scrutiny referrals.
766	Report Recommendations	The Committee agreed that a Workshop be convened.
767	Feedback on Scrutiny Activities	A Committee Member referred to a previous Workshop in relation to Customer Services and the update report was still awaited.
768	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>Councillor B Carter advised that this was his last Scrutiny Meeting as Chair of the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair also advised that Saeif Jablaoui Scrutiny Officer was leaving the Authority for a new job and he extended his thanks and best wishes.</p> <p>The Committee also extended best wishes to the Chair and Saeif Jablaoui.</p>