

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the inaugural meeting of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, on Monday, 15th June 2015 at 5.00 pm.

Present:

County Borough Councillor M Norris – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors:

(Mrs) J Bonetto	S Evans	P Griffiths
(Mrs) C Leyshon	(Mrs) S Rees	G Smith
R W Smith	(Mrs) J S Ward	P Wasley
E Webster	C J Willis	R A Yeo

Officers:

Mr C B Jones – Service Director Legal & Democratic Services

Mr S Gale – Service Director, Planning

Mr P Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement

Ms Ann Edwards – Scrutiny Support Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S Bradwick, G R Davies and (Mrs) S Jones.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the following declaration of interest was made at the meeting in respect of Agenda Item 3 - County Borough Councillor P Wasley – 'My daughter teaches within Rhondda Cynon Taf'.

3. MINUTES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Committee. He asked for their views with regard to changing the start time of the Committee meetings to 4 pm and as there were no objections from those Members present he agreed to explore this issue further.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

4. REPORT OF THE CIL SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

The Service Director Legal & Democratic Services reported to Members on the latest set of recommendations arising from the work of the Community

Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Scrutiny Working Group which had arisen from the former Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.

For the benefit of those Members present who were not part of this working group, the Service Director for Planning outlined the background to the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the Council's requirement to publish a Regulation 123 List. He explained that scrutiny had been asked by Cabinet to give consideration to a mechanism for the development and maintenance of the List and for monitoring its operation. However, the Service Director stressed that it was for Cabinet to decide what projects were placed on that list.

The Committee was advised that the (CIL) Scrutiny Working Group had considered a process for dealing with the Regulation 123 List when it had met on the 13th May 2015 and Members were now being asked to endorse this process which was set out at paragraph 4.3 of the report and agree that it should be forwarded to the Cabinet for their consideration.

Members asked how they could bring issues forward to be considered as potential projects for inclusion on the Regulation 123 List.

The Service Director for Planning explained that Members could provide him with the details by e-mail and he would then feed this information into the process.

A Member commented that he felt that it was important that any response to the Cabinet should emphasise that the Regulation 123 List needed to be a flexible list to react to changing requirements.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED**:

- (i) to note the content of the report;
- (ii) to endorse the proposed process for formulating, monitoring and revising the Regulation 123 List as set out at paragraph 4.3 of the report and that this process be forwarded to the Cabinet for their consideration;
- (iii) that the CIL Scrutiny Working Group should continue with its work with its existing membership until completion of all tasks.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

5. THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16

The Service Director, Performance and Improvement presented the Committee with a draft version of the Council's Corporate Performance Report for 2015/16. He informed Members that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires local authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions, and as part

of this, there is a requirement to publish improvement priorities and plans for achieving them.

The Service Director, Performance and Improvement referred to the scrutiny working groups which had been established to review and challenge evaluations of performance of priority plans and the development of future plans and explained that for the first time the performance evaluations for 2014/15 and the draft priority plans for 2015/16 had been considered at the same time to provide a more complete picture of performance. He drew Members' attention to 4.1 of the report which set out the main conclusions of each of the scrutiny working groups. He also referred Members to the proposed priorities for 2015/16 which were set out at paragraph 4.4. He explained that it is recommended to not include Medium Term Service Planning as a proposed priority for 2015/16 as this area should be a fundamental principle across the whole of the Council rather than a self standing priority.

The Service Director, Performance and Improvement explained that the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee was being asked to form a judgement on the extent to which the draft Corporate Performance Report for 2015/16 provides a fair and balanced assessment of performance for 2014/15 and also the extent to which it sets out what the Council aims to achieve in 2015/16. The Service Director added that this judgement would be incorporated into the report presented to Council on 24th June 2015.

Members considered the draft document and commented that it was detailed and as a result key messages were diluted.

A Member also commented that there was a need to use the document to inform the work of the scrutiny committees and the Chairman explained that this would be considered by the scrutiny chairs and vice chairs at their next meeting.

The Service Director, Performance and Improvement welcomed the feedback and indicated that he would consider making refinements to the document, where appropriate, in readiness for consideration by Council and publication. He also informed Members that a summary of the Corporate Performance Report, aimed at the general public, would be produced further to being reported to Council.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the draft Corporate Performance Report for 2015/16 as set out at Appendix 1 of the report:

- (i) Overall provides a fair and balanced assessment of performance for 2014/15;
- (ii) Overall sets out what the Council aims to achieve in 2015/16 subject to noting that improvements for 2016/17 should include making the document more concise, focussed and meaningful to the reader.

- (iii) Be reported to Council on 24th June 2015.

M Norris
Chairman

The meeting closed at 17.45 pm.