

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Monday, 13th June, 2016 at 5 p.m.

Present:

County Borough Councillor M.J.Watts – Chair

County Borough Councillors

S.Bradwick	R.W.Smith	E.Webster
S.Evans	B.Stephens	C.J.Willis
(Mrs.)C.Leyshon	P.Wasley	R.Yeo

Education Co-opted Members

Mrs.S.Jones – Elected Parent/Governor Representative
Mr.J.Fish – Elected Parent/Governor Representative

In Attendance:

County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams (Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee) and S.Carter

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Bradshaw – Chief Executive
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.P.Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement
Mr.S.Gale – Service Director, Planning
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors G.R.Davies, P.Griffiths, S.Rees and (Mrs.)J.S.Ward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct and following the comments of the Director, Legal & Democratic Services, County Borough Councillors P.Wasley and E.Webster declared personal interests in Agenda Item 4 – Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) as they were Members of the Development Control Committee.

Note: Further declarations of interest were made later on in the meeting (Minute No.5 refers)

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held on the 11th April, 2016.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

4. THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17

In accordance with Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, the Chief Executive sought Members consideration to the draft version of the `Corporate Performance Report 2016/17` in order that any amendments deemed necessary could be made prior to the matter being reported to full Council on the 29th June, 2016.

Members were reminded of the six priorities that were agreed at the Council Meeting on the 24th June, 2015 for 2015/16 with progress being reported and monitored for each as part of the quarterly performance reporting arrangements. Further during 2015/16 the Council also reviewed its overall direction for the coming four years the outcomes of which informed revisions to its vision, purpose and ambition, which was set out in the `Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020` which was approved by Council on the 24th February, 2016, following pre-scrutiny and public consultation processes and contained the following priorities:-

- Economy – Building a strong economy
- People – Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone; and
- Place – Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.

To help ensure that the Council effectively discharged its legal duty, Scrutiny Working Groups met between March and May of this year to review and challenge the progress made by the six priorities for 2015/16 and Members of the Working Groups also considered the adequacy of the draft priority action plans compiled for 2016/17 to deliver the `Corporate Plan 2016-2020` The outcome of each of the Scrutiny Working Groups review was used to inform the compilation of the draft `Corporate Plan 2016/17`.

Set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report were details of the conclusions reached by the Scrutiny Working Groups following the two meetings held by each of the three Working Groups.

Members of this Committee considered the draft `Corporate Performance Report 2016/17` alongside the conclusion drawn by the Scrutiny Working Group process and made the following observations.

One Member made reference to the number of visits made to the Council's leisure centres which needed to be improved upon as it was amongst the

bottom quartile when compared to the data across Wales and he indicated that there was an opportunity to explore the use of these centres for other functions.

In response the Chief Executive reported on the changes that had been made to the leisure centre at Aberdare where there were no conference rooms but new gyms and a similar approach had been used in other centres as there is more income from gyms. He further added that membership and subscriptions were also being monitored on a monthly basis and the latest figures showed that there had been an increase in these areas.

A Member raised concern that Rhondda Cynon Taf was amongst the bottom quartile in respect of the length of time it takes for us to help people leave hospital and return to their home or care home.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Council and the Local Health Board were working in collaboration and the situation was improving as the comparison was against 2014/15 data across Wales and that for 2015/16 there had been over a 20% improvement.

The Chair of the Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee indicated that there was still further room for improvement in respect of delayed transfers of care as when his Committee undertook a piece of work in this area the issues were not just surrounding social care but health, primary health care, district nurses, community mental health services etc. and part of the process is whether the support is through the community or family. He further stated that on page 40 of the Council's draft Corporate Performance Report 2016/17 the words `almost all` on the last bullet point within that page should be deleted as it was not a true reflection of the service.

In response to a query made by a Member in respect the low number of visits to public libraries, the Chief Executive reported that many events had been introduced into the libraries e.g. reading weeks, `Communities for Work`, Wi Fi. The housebound service was also very popular but unfortunately that was not captured within the figures as not classed as visits to libraries.

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To agree the overall conclusions drawn from the Scrutiny Working Group process following its review of draft 2015/16 performance evaluations and draft 2016/17 priority action plans;
2. That based on the Scrutiny Working Groups conclusions and from reviewing the draft `Corporate Performance Report 2016/17` as shown at Appendix D to the report, Members formed the view that it sets out:
 - A balanced assessment of performance and progress for 2015/16; and
 - The Council's ambitions for 2016/17 in an understandable way that will enable progress and impact to be measured and scrutinised

3. To approve a final draft version of the `Corporate Performance Report 2016/17` subject to the additional comments made at this meeting, for reporting to full Council on the 29th June, 2016.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING

5. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (`CIL`)

The Director of Regeneration and Planning sought the Committee's comments in respect of the contents of the CIL documentation as shown at Appendices A, B, C and D to the report together with the updates for Appendices B and C (copies circulated at the meeting) prior to the report being presented to the Cabinet.

The Service Director, Planning gave his observations on CIL and circulated at the meeting additional information to Appendix B – "Regulation 123 List of Infrastructure" and Appendix C – "Proposed changes to the Council's Regulation 123 List".

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To agree the contents of the CIL Annual Monitoring Report as shown at Appendix A to the report;
2. To approve the amended Regulation 123 List as shown at Appendix B to the report and the additional information as circulated at the meeting, for publication on the Council's website for a period of 28 days and consultation as set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report;
3. To approve the subsequent adoption of the amended Regulation 123 List subject to Ystrad Barwig Farm being removed from the list and should only be considered for inclusion on the list if the application is approved by the Development Control Committee.
4. To approve the Payment in Kind – Land and Infrastructure Policy as shown at Appendix D to the report;
5. To note the request from Llanharan Community Council for the amount of local CIL over the capped amount in relation to the Llanilid planning application to be spent on infrastructure within the Llanharan Community Council area.

Note: During a discussion on the additional information circulated at the meeting, County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, P.Wasley, M.J.Watts and E.Webster who were also Members of the Development Control Committee wished to have their names recorded that they left the meeting when the discussion commenced in respect of Ystrad Barwig Farm and therefore took

no part in the proceedings. In the absence of the Chair, County Borough Councillor M.J.Watts and the Vice-Chair, County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)J.S.Ward (who had submitted her apologies for absence at this meeting), County Borough Councillor R.W.Smith was nominated as Chair for this item.

**M.J.WATTS
R.W.SMITH**

(CHAIRMEN)

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.