

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 13th September, 2017 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

H.Boggis	J.James
J.Bonetto	D.Macey
J.Brencher	E.Stephens
E.George	G.Thomas
P.Jarman	

Non Committee Members in Attendance

County Borough Councillor S.Bradwick – Chair of Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity
County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies – Chair of Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee
County Borough Councillor G.Holmes – Vice-Chair, Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee
County Borough Councillor S.Rees-Owen – Chair of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
County Borough Councillor W.Lewis – Vice-Chair of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
County Borough Councillor R.Yeo – Chair of Health & WellBeing Scrutiny Committee
County Borough Councillor J.Elliott – Vice-Chair of Health & WellBeing Scrutiny Committee

Co-opted/Ex Officio Members in Attendance

Mr.J.Fish – Elected Parent/Governor Representative (Education)
Mrs.S.Jones – Elected Parent/Governor Representative (Education)
Mr.R.Hull – Chair and Lay Member of the Audit Committee

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.P.Nicholls – Head of Legal – Litigation, Planning & Environment, Community & Children's Services
Mr.P.Howells – Head of Community Housing
Mr.P.Bond – Corporate Facilities Manager
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

8. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor J.Harries.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – to note that there were no declarations of interest made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda.

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED - to approve as accurate records the minutes of the meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on the 10th July, 2017 and the 30th August, 2017 subject to County Borough Councillor E.Stephens being included as being present at the meeting on 10th July and County Borough Councillor H.Boggis being included as present at the meeting held on the 30th August, 2017.

11. MATTERS ARISING

Minute No.4(4) – 10th July, 2017

Following the meeting held on the 10th July, 2017 where Members asked for an update in respect of the Notice of Motion that was considered at the Council meeting held on the 23rd March, 2016 (Minute No.135 refers) regarding supporting the Welsh Steel Industry in that “*In an effort to support the Welsh Steel Industry, this Council will, in future, make it clear in its Contract and Tender specification documents, that as a preference, all work and structures requiring the use of steel should be sourced from Welsh Steel Works*”. The Chair informed Members this issue was widely discussed in late 2015 and the UK Government issued a note on removing barriers to ‘prevent UK suppliers of steel from effectively competing for public sector contracts’. It was very general in its approach and did not cover the devolved areas in Wales. However, it did raise the profile of the issue in the Procurement world.

The Welsh Government then indicated that they would be issuing a Wales specific policy note on the use of steel in the Welsh public sector, this has been long awaited as there were problems with wording on the steel issue that would meet the various practical and legal requirements. A Welsh Government Group was established and a Procurement guidance note has been drafted but has yet to be approved and it was hoped that this would be progressed with the appropriate Cabinet Secretary in the very near future.

It was further reported that on receipt of the Procurement guidance, this Council implement its recommendations accordingly.

12. **THEMED SCRUTINY COMMITTEES WORK PROGRAMMES**

Members received the Chairs of the four themed Scrutiny Committees who provided detailed updates on their respective Work Programmes on an individual basis. Each outlined the progress made to date with particular regard to outcomes achieved.

In response to a query regarding the timely publication of Committee Minutes to the Council website, the Head of Democratic Services assured Members that she would look into the matter.

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee thanked the Chairs of the themed Scrutiny Committees for their updates and it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the progress made by each of the Scrutiny Committees and for further updates to be provided at regular intervals.

13. **WALES AUDIT OFFICE REPORTS**

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the report of the Chief Executive in respect of the Wales Audit Reports which provided Members with the opportunity to consider the progress made in respect of the five reports of the Wales Audit Office, to include the Annual Improvement Report 2016/17.

At this juncture in the proceedings the Chair read aloud an urgent item brought forward from Agenda Item 6 – Urgent Items. It was confirmed that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would hold a special meeting at the beginning of October 2017 to undertake pre-scrutiny of the following topic and which is included on the agenda for the meeting of Cabinet on the 28th September 2017, ‘Delivering the Corporate Plan’ – “the Way Ahead”.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** that subject to the comments of Members being fed back to the Cabinet, the contents and recommendations contained in the following reports be agreed by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

14. **FIRE SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING, SUPPORTED HOUSING AND COUNCIL OWNED BUILDINGS**

The Head of Community Housing Services presented the report of the Service Director, Public Health & Protection which served to update Members on the Fire Safety arrangements for Social Housing, Houses in Multiple Occupation and Council Owned Buildings in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Members were reminded that following an urgent report to Cabinet on the 22nd June 2017 in light of events at Grenfell Tower Block in London, it was agreed that the report be considered by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committees.

However, it was later considered more appropriate for the matter to be dealt with by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in view of the cross cutting themes.

Committee was referred to 7.3 of the report which confirmed that the Rhondda Cynon Taf's Project Team has carried out 491 annual safety inspections of licensed HMO with assurance that the remaining Licensed HMOs will undergo an annual inspection by September 2017.

Following consideration of the report Members relayed their gratitude to officers of the Council for their prompt response in carrying out checks across the County Borough following the tragic loss of life at the Grenfell Tower fire in London and it was **RESOLVED:-**

- 1) To receive and acknowledge the Cabinet report of the 22nd June 2017, and
- 2) To receive a further update at a future Overview & Scrutiny Committee in respect of external cladding applications on the Council's office accommodation and large schools following the appropriate checks.

L. M. Adams
Chair

The meeting closed at 5.50pm