

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 Wednesday, 16th September, 2015 at 5 pm.

Present:

County Borough Councillor M A Norris – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

S Bradwick	S M Evans	P Griffiths
(Mrs) S Jones	G Smith	(Mrs) J S Ward
E Webster	C J Williams	C J Willis
R A Yeo		

In Attendance

County Borough Councillor L M Adams – Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Mr R Hull – Chair of the Audit Committee

Officers in Attendance

Mr P.J Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Mr.P.Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement

Mrs S Davies – Head of Finance (Education) & Financial Reporting

Mrs A Edwards – Scrutiny Support Officer

17. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillor (Mrs) J Bonetto, (Mrs) C Leyshon and R Smith. An apology for absence was also received from County Borough Councillor J Watts, vice chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no declarations of interests made, pertaining to the agenda.

19. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held on the 27th July 2015.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AND FRONT LINE SERVICES

20. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2014/15 REVIEW

The Head of Finance (Education) & Financial Reporting updated Members on the Council's Treasury Management activity during 2014/15 and the actual Prudential and Treasury indicators for 2014/15.

The Head of Finance (Education) & Financial Reporting explained that Arlingclose had been appointed as the new Treasury Management advisors to the Council in March 2014. She also reported that in addition to the Member training provided by Arlingclose prior to the meeting, they would be happy to provide further specific training at a future date should Members so wish.

It was explained that in the economic climate the Council had maintained a low risk strategy throughout the year to ensure exposure to any capital loss was minimised and in line with this strategy no long term borrowing had been undertaken during 2014/15. The Head of (Finance) Education and Financial Reporting also reported that despite the Council's low risk strategy, its return on investments for the year was above the benchmark return explaining that in part this was due to the return received on the £1 million 5 year deposit placed with Lloyds in respect of the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme. She further explained that the scheme had proved successful and had been fully utilised and was now closed.

Following the presentation of the report the Head of Finance (Education) & Financial Reporting responded to Members questions.

RESOLVED: Members accepted the report with no further information requested.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

21. PROPOSED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Director of Legal & Democratic Services reminded the Committee that at the last meeting held on 27th July 2015, Members had identified several issues for potential scrutiny. He explained that following the 27th July meeting, these issues had been considered and that by applying a series of questions, it had been possible to prioritise and create a shortlist, the details of which were set out at Appendix 1 to the report. He advised the Committee that they also had to be mindful of their role in scrutinising the quarterly budget and performance information and the Scrutiny Support Officer provided members with a draft timetable in relation to this.

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement guided Members through the shortlisted topics and asked the Committee to identify those topics it wished to take forward for review. The Service Director also suggested that

subject to agreeing topics, officers could liaise with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee during the intervening period and produce a more detailed timetable that could be reported back to the Committee at its October meeting.

The Service Director also drew Members' attention to the proposed topics included as part of the Committee's desire to evaluate those areas subject to service changes which included the Library Service. He informed Members that the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee meeting on 14th September 2015 had determined to include a review of the take-up of the new Mobile Library Service as part of its work programme.

The Chairman suggested that it might be better to concentrate on other areas of work and allow the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Committee to deal with the Library Service.

Some Members felt that the Committee should still receive financial information in relation to this service change and also requested information in relation to the changes made to the Leisure Service. The Chairman advised Members that the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee could be requested to include a 'financial dimension' within the scope of the review to be undertaken by this Committee.

The Service Director, Performance and Improvement highlighted that the Committee would be receiving detailed financial information at its next meeting in relation to the quarterly budget and performance position which would include financial information in relation to Leisure Services. He added that an officer from Leisure Services could be requested to attend that meeting to answer questions, if Members so wished.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

- (i) that the following topic areas be included on the Committee's work programme:
 - Target Setting
 - Medium Term Service Planning
 - Use of accommodation
 - Service Change Evaluation
 - Day Centres
 - Youth/E3
 - Meals on Wheels
- (ii) that in conjunction with the Chair and Vice Chair, officers prepare a more detailed timetable of work to be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

- (iii) that the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee be requested to include a 'financial dimension' within the scope of its review of the Council's Library Service.

M A Norris
Chairman

The meeting closed at 5.35 pm.