

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 4th October, 2017 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies – Chair

County Borough Councillors

S.Bradwick
J.Cullwick
W.Lewis
C.J.Willis
R.Yeo

Also in Attendance

Mr.R.Hull – Chair and Lay Member of the Audit Committee

Officers in Attendance

Mr.P.Griffiths, Service Director, Performance & Improvement
Mr.S.Gale – Service Director, Planning
M.S.Davies – Head of Finance for Education & Schools
Mr.N.Griffiths – Head of Finance for Community & Children’s Services
Mr.MHughes – Head of Finance for Corporate & Frontline Services
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED - to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee held on the 24th July, 2017.

8. MATTERS ARISING

Minute No.5 (1)(i)

The Chair informed Members that the figure of 11.08% for the 2015/16 year in respect of the number of empty properties that had been returned to occupation was an All Wales Average performance and not Rhondda Cynon Taf’s performance for this period.

Minute No5 (1)ii)

The Chair informed Members that he had received an explanation in respect of the two performance indicators for Delayed Transfers of Care – one was in respect of patients aged 75+ and the other was for patients aged 18+.

9. CHANGE IN THE SEQUENCE OF THE AGENDA

The Chair informed Members that there would be a change in the sequence of the agenda, as shown below.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, REGENERATION AND PLANNING

10. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (‘CIL’)

In accordance with the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended), the Director, Regeneration and Planning attached to her report at Appendix A the annual report detailing the CIL income and expenditure and set out at paragraphs 5.1 – 5.5 of the report were details of the second of these annual reports since the Council introduced CIL in December, 2014.

At the meeting, the Service Director, Planning gave his detailed observations on this matter and explained that the CIL regulations also require the Council to publish an Infrastructure List, known as the Regulation 123 List, which sets out the infrastructure which the Council considers it is likely to apply for CIL revenue to.

He further explained that the Regulations require that CIL income must be split into three parts and the part relating to Community/Town Councils i.e. the distribution of 15% of the CIL receipts was set out as shown at Appendix B to the report.

Also attached to the report at Appendix C was a table setting out details of the schemes that had been removed, added or amended together with the reasons for any change.

Following the observations made at the meeting by the Service Director, Planning and a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To agree the contents of the CIL Annual Monitoring Report, as shown at Appendix A to the report;
2. That Cabinet be informed that Members wished to approve, the amended Regulation 123 List, as shown at Appendix B to the report for publication on the Council’s website for a period of 28 days and consultation as set out in paragraph 5.10 of the report;
3. That at the request of the Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee look at any further requirements of the CIL by way of the establishment of a Working Group comprising Members of that Committee.

11. **TRAINING – BUDGET CONTROL**

To assist Councillors in undertaking their role as a Member of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee, the Committee received the following Officers who with the aid of PowerPoint slides covered the following topics:-

Ms. Stephanie Davies – Head of Finance for Education & Schools

Education & Lifelong Learning – Revenue Budget 2017/18

The Head of Finance for Education and Schools informed Members that the overall budget for this Group was £177,855 which was split into the following three areas:

- Individual School Budgets (£146.950M) – Secondary and Primary, currently there is only one Middle School based in Llanharry i.e. pupils aged primary to secondary education which is to be increased in the future following the completion of such schools at Porth and Tonyrefail which will see a reduction in primary and secondary schools.
- Schools and Community (£20,194M)
- Access, Engagement & Inclusion (£10.711M) – which includes additional learning needs and education other than at school.

Mr. Neil Griffiths – Head of Finance for Community & Children’s Services

Community & Children’s Services – Revenue Budget 2017/18

The Head of Finance for Community and Children’s Services gave an overview of the type of services that the Group looks after with an overall budget of £138M which covers the following four areas:

- Adult Services (£73.8M)
- Children’s Services (£44.9M)
- Leisure, PHP & Housing (£16.1)
- Transformation (£3.2M)

Some key points were brought to the Committee’s attention such as the implementation of the Social Services and Well-Being Act, which resulted in a cultural shift of spending less in a crisis, less rescue and more repair; help people to stay independent not dependent. The challenge of this was the capacity and timeframes to effect change and the delivery of the efficiency agenda. Other challenge for the Group were loss of grants; recruitment and retention of Social Work and the impact of the National Living Wage.

Mr.M.Hughes – Head of Finance for Corporate, Frontline Services and the Chief Executive’s Division

Corporate & Frontline Services and the Chief Executive’s Division – Revenue Budget 2017/18

The Head of Finance for Corporate, Frontline Services and the Chief Executive’s Division reported that the total revenue budget for these three groups was £73.032M and includes amongst a long list - Home to School transport costs, Waste Services, Fleet Management, ICT, Customer Care, Financial Services, Procurement.

The Council’s 3 Year Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2019/20

The Officers reported on the Capital Programme which is a three year rolling programme which is currently £192M and includes schemes such as Taff Vale Redevelopment, Street Lighting, 21st Century Schools

Looking Ahead

In concluding the presentation, Mr.P.Griffiths, Service Director, Performance & Improvement reported that the provisional local government settlement is due on the 10th October, 2017 which would bring further significant financial challenges for the Council. However, there were solid foundations in place to meet future challenges, which had been confirmed by the Wales Audit Office in their latest report which stated “*The Council has a largely effective and improving savings planning approach, which supports future financial resilience*”. He further stated that the Council has a consistent track record of delivering balanced budgets.

Following the observations made by the Officers and the response to many questions asked by Members, it was **RESOLVED** – to accept the contents of the presentation

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE SERVICES

12. 2016/17 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services attached to his report, the Annual Treasury Management Review which was presented to Council on the 19th July, 2017 and which set out details of the activities undertaken by the Treasury Management function during 2016/17.

The Head of Finance for Education and Schools, during her presentation of the report, informed Members that at the meeting of this Committee scheduled to take place on the 23rd October, 2017 a further training session will be delivered by Arlingclose in respect of Treasury Management which will further assist Members in undertaking their role on this Committee.

RESOLVED – That Members wished to place on record that they were satisfied with the contents of the report and therefore did not wish to receive further details on any of the matters reported.

**G.R.DAVIES
CHAIR**

The meeting closed at 6.35 p.m.