

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 Monday, 6th February, 2016 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

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

County Borough Councillors

J.Bonetto	(Mrs.)S.Pickering
W.J.David	S.Powderhill
P.Jarman	G.Smith
(Mrs.)S.Jones	P.Wasley
B.Morgan	R.Yeo

Non-Committee Members in Attendance

County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Equalities and the Welsh Language

County Borough Councillor G.Smith – Chair of Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

County Borough Councillor C.J.Willis – Scrutiny Performance Management Co-ordinator

Officers in Attendance

Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services

Mr.C.B.Jones – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Mr.N.Wheeler – Director, Highways & Streetcare

Mr.P.Mee – Service Director, Public Health & Protection

Ms.S.Nowell – Head of Service Locality (Taf)

Ms.R.Baker – Cwm Taf Partnership Analyst

Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, A.S.Fox and S.Rees-Owen.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor J.Bonetto declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 3

– Understanding Our Communities : Draft Cwm Taf WellBeing and Population Needs Assessments – “I am a member of the Community Health Council”.

16 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – to approve as accurate records the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the following dates:-

- 26th September, 2016
- 13th December, 2016

17 **UPDATES**

The Chairman informed the Committee that the notification advising Members of the cancellation of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 4th January, 2017 also included a copy of the Cabinet Work Programme which was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on the 15th December, 2016, giving Members of this Committee and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the four themed Scrutiny Committees the opportunity to submit topics to undergo pre-scrutiny; no topics had been submitted.

He further advised that the comments of Committee Members in respect of the Wales Audit Office Corporate Reports as discussed at the meeting held on the 26th September had been feedback to the Cabinet and the pre-scrutiny undertaken in respect of Digital Workplace Agile Working as discussed at the meetings held on the 13th December, 2016 is to considered at the Cabinet meeting scheduled to take place on the 16th February, 2017

At the request of the Chairman, it was AGREED – that a progress report in respect of Fuel Poverty be presented to Members at the next meeting of this Committee.

18 **UNDERSTANDING OUR COMMUNITIES : DRAFT CWM TAF WELLBEING AND POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENTS**

The Committee received Ms.S.Nowell, Head of Service Locality (Taf), who with the aid of PowerPoint slides gave her detailed observations on the work that had been undertaken by the multi agency workstream which had been tasked with producing the:-

- Well-being Assessment required under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 (as shown at Appendix 2 to the report); and
- Population Needs Assessment required under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, 2014 (as shown at Appendix 3 to the report)

Both documents were in draft format thereby giving Members the opportunity to make comments as statutory consultees on the Well-being Assessment, which would be conveyed to the Public Services Board on the 14th February, 2017; and to be engaged on the Population Needs Assessment, the

comments of which would be relayed to the Social Services and Wellbeing Partnership Board on the 9th March, 2017.

As stated above the report set out the requirements and the process adopted in Cwm Taf to undertake the work needed for both Assessments as one project, it also highlighted some of the challenges and lessons learnt together with details on the next steps and governance arrangements for approval for both assessments.

Well-Being Assessment

The Well-being Assessment provided analysis of the common themes arising from the initial engagement exercise namely: Cultural, Economic, Environmental and Social. In addition to the themes, it was discovered that there were many common, cross-cutting issues across all four areas and that the segregation of the four themes of well-being was artificial. It was more about the way that organisations could work together and with communities differently for the well-being of future generations. This was the main focus of the Assessment Report that was to be presented to the Cwm Taf Public Services Board for them to consider in their response to the assessment, in developing their Well-being Plan.

It was further reported that there were a number of connected issues within the data and information contained in the briefing documents e.g. the importance of building on strengths in local communities, crime and anti social behaviour, movement and connections (in terms of transport and social links), awareness and information, prevention, infrastructure including housing, the outdoor environment, the importance of a good start in life.

By the approach used, it was recognised by `critical friends` as an attempt “to develop conversation across traditional policy silos”. It was therefore important to ensure that these interconnections, particularly between the four themes as well as the diversity of the issues were not lost but explored further in the development of the Well-being Plan.

Population Assessment

The Population Assessment provided an analysis of the common themes arising from the initial engagement exercises namely: Carers, Older People, Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment, Learning Disability, Mental Health, Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence and Children & Young People.

It was reported, that as with the Well-being Assessment, there were many cross cutting and common issues, not least because people “belong” to more than one client group (or “theme” as identified by the Act) and have a range of needs. It was therefore important to explore these overlaps and ensure effective integrated approaches, as well as the development of joint commissioning arrangements.

The briefing documents for the common themes of both Assessments were attached to the report, when it was reported that the next stage is to identify what Partners will do together to tackle some of the issues raised.

Following the observations made by the Head of Service Locality (Taf) and the Officers in attendance at the meeting, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Equalities and the Welsh Language stated that having read and been involved in some of the areas/themes included within the assessments, it was evident that there was a need to work differently as this was the first time that these Assessments had been required and therefore partnership working across the region was important.

The Chairman then invited Members to give their comments on the two Assessments and Officers responded to the queries raised.

A Member raised concerns on the impact that an area within Rhondda Cynon Taf which has a high proportion of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) has on local residents and their well-being and that whilst Members of the Development Control Committee considers each application on its merits, more often than not the Planning Inspectorate overturns the decision made by that Committee.

In response the Service Director, Public Health & Protection stated that for the first time sustainable development has a statutory setting in the Well-being Assessment, which will give greater weight to the sustainability of communities when considering the impact of shared housing. Work is being undertaken by the Council in Treforest and more would need to be done to illustrate to the Planning Inspectorate the adverse impact that HMOs can have on surrounding properties and its inhabitants.

In response to a concern expressed by a Member in respect of the Wellbeing Assessment where, following qualitative evidence from boys who are looked after in RCT presented a picture of low wellbeing and `offensive` quotes made by these individuals were inserted in the document, reassurance were given by the Officers that these `blunt` quotes would be deleted and reflected in a different way.

The definition of wellbeing as illustrated under the heading `What is Wellbeing?` was described in many ways, however a specific definition – "*the balance point between an individual's resource pool and the challenges they face*" was chosen and related to Dodge et al 2012, which has indicated by a Member pre dated Welsh Government legislation and she therefore wondered why this reference was used.

Overall Members were of the view that the documents made useful reading but authors needed to be mindful of those individuals who have not got access to the internet or use of a computer and cannot therefore access the links as inserted throughout the document and were further of the view that there were too many.

Whilst it was acknowledged that this was a `moving` and `working` document, it was indicated by a Member that since the production of the said document, the Welsh Government had announced its scheme for childcare provision and therefore the bullet points under the heading "People in decent work improving their overall wealth" as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the Wellbeing Assessment needed to be updated to reflect the Council's position. The Member was of the view "*this would be one outcome that would minimise the need for too much time for something that is already going to be delivered and other areas of Children's Services could be looked at*".

Further, the same Member highlighted that under the heading "What additional information would help in relation to this headline?" as outlined in paragraph 3.4 of the Wellbeing Assessment in respect of EU funding, this paragraph also needed to be revised as a result of the announcement made by the Prime Minister today.

Members were of the view that the `Beat the Street` initiative as identified in the Wellbeing Assessment which aimed to improve active travel rates could've been better promoted throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils and many schools missed the opportunity of getting involved as they were informed too late. It was therefore essential that initiative such as this were marketed by all Partners.

The Elected Parent/Governor representative reported that Cwm Taf educational attainment statistics needed to be updated as the outcomes were more positive than outlined in the document.

Members were also of the view that there should be a better strategy for affordable housing especially in the southern part of Rhondda Cynon Taf and the problems experienced with `absent` landlords resulting in episodes of anti social behaviour. In response the Service Director, Public Health & Protection reported that Welsh Government had introduced some additional controls in respect of tenancy management issues and he referred to the Rent Smart Wales scheme for landlords and the different schemes that are in place for HMOs which are used to good effect by the Council.

Officers took on board the comments made in respect of the definition of `wellbeing` and stated that these together with the comments made at tonight's meeting would be fed back to the Cwm Taf PSB and the Cwm Taf Social Services Wellbeing Partnership Board respectively; and it was **RESOLVED –**

1. To note the issues as set out in the covering report at Appendix 1;
2. That the views/comments of Members of this Committee as outlined above, in respect of the draft Cwm Taf Wellbeing Assessment, as part of the formal consultation required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, be taken to the meeting of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board on the 14th February, 2017, for approval;

3. To note that Members were satisfied with the contents of the draft Population Needs Assessment and that they will be given further opportunity to comment on this Assessment when it is taken to full Council and the Cwm Taf Social Services and Wellbeing Partnership Board for approval;
4. That future scrutiny of the Wellbeing Assessment and the Population Needs Assessment be undertaken by the respective Scrutiny Committees of the Council and the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

L.M.ADAMS

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 6.43 p.m.