



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Monday, 1 July 2019 at 5.00 pm at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park. Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor M Adams (Chair)

Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor P Jarman
Councillor J Harries	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor D Macey	Councillor E Stephens
Councillor L Walker	Councillor G Caple
Councillor M Griffiths	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor W Jones	

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Cabinet Members in Attendance

Councillor M Webber, Cabinet Member for Council Business

Other Members in attendance

Councillor S Bradwick, Chair, Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee
Councillor T Williams, Vice Chair, Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee
Councillor R Yeo, Chair, Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

1 Apologies

An apology of absence was received from Councillors S Evans, H Boggis and M Griffiths

An apology was also received from the Chair of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, Councillor S Rees-Owen and the Vice Chair of Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee, Councillor G Thomas.

2 Declaration of Interest

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

3 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the following Overview & Scrutiny Committees as an accurate reflection of the meeting:-

Special Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 1st May 2019
Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 8th April 2019
Special Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 3rd April 2019

4 **Cabinet Work Programme**

The Cabinet Member for Council Business and Deputy Leader of the Council presented the forward plan of proposed Cabinet Business for the 2019/20 Municipal Year. Members were reminded that the work programme is subject to change to take account of any changes to the reports which require urgent attention.

The Cabinet Member acknowledged the importance of Scrutiny having more opportunities to undertake pre scrutiny which has strengthened the scrutiny process and is delivering more meaningful outcomes. Reference was also made to the steps taken to improve public engagement with the Council's scrutiny process such as the Scrutiny public engagement protocol and the intention to further promote the work of Scrutiny via social media. The Cabinet Member also reminded Committee that the Council's consultation process has increasingly involved the Scrutiny process.

A Member questioned the reporting mechanisms in place for the Council's Joint Committee arrangements such as the City Deal. In response, the Service Director Democratic Services and Communications responded that in future, the respective Annual Reports would be presented to the individual councils and clarified that it was not within the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny to undertake scrutiny of the Joint Committees.

The Cabinet Member for Council Business suggested that perhaps it would be of value to Overview & Scrutiny for the individual Members, appointed by RCT Council to the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee and City Deal Joint Committee, to deliver an informal progress report to O&S at regular intervals, namely Councillors Caple and Thomas.

A Member asked whether an update/statement by the Council in respect of Brexit would be forthcoming. The Chair suggested that it would be prudent to await the outcome of the election for the next Prime Minister to understand the next steps. The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications reassured Members that a steer would be in provided by Welsh Government or all local authorities as to how to progress.

The Cabinet Member for Council Business reminded Scrutiny that the Chief Executive had previously provided an update in respect of Brexit. She assured Members that the Leader of the Council is in constant dialogue with Welsh Government, who are in communication with Central Government, and at the appropriate time a briefing would be provided to all Elected Members.

Following consideration of the forward plan of proposed Cabinet Business for the 2019/20 Municipal Year it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the content of the Cabinet Work Programme for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

5 **Update Review -Overview & Scrutiny 'Fit for the Future'**

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented his report and reminded Members that the review had originally been presented to

Scrutiny on the 1st May 2019, to the Special meeting arranged to receive the proposals to improve the Council's scrutiny arrangements. A number of elements were earmarked for improvement such as to review and improve the terms of reference for every Scrutiny Committee, streamline the forward work programmes and provide a more formal structure to the Notices of Motions. Consideration was also to be given to the use of social media to promote scrutiny and improve public engagement.

Following support at the AGM for the proposals, a number of modifications have already been taken forward such as more formal arrangements for the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs meetings with the publication of their agendas and Minutes on the Council website as well as being fully engaged in the direction of Scrutiny.

The following has also been progressed:-

- The terms of reference have been reviewed and updated with key changes to include placing the 'economy' theme within the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee as appropriate and in keeping with the current work of that particular committee;
- The Crime & Disorder Committee, formerly sitting with the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, now forms part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee so as to recognise the more strategic role of the overarching committee with the intention that topics considered by Crime & Disorder Committee affect the Council as a whole; and
- More focussed and concise forward work programmes which are more user friendly. The work programmes have been formulated on a six month basis in the first instance so as to provide Members with the opportunity to evaluate them to assess their functionality.

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications also summarised Scrutiny's activity since May 2019 by way of the table set out at section 5 of the report which detailed the sequence of events. It was reported that the Cabinet Member/Scrutiny Chairs engagement sessions have been undertaken on a regular basis with positive feedback. Members were also reminded that the Senior Leadership Team recognise the importance of and are fully engaged with the scrutiny process as championed by the Service Director, Democratic Services and Communications.

The Chair explained that the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs have had the opportunity to consider the draft terms of reference for each of the scrutiny committees in advance of seeking the agreement of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. He also referred members to the individual scrutiny work programmes which were before members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their endorsement to the four themed scrutiny committees and agreement of its own work programme. The Chair highlighted a few key items from the O&S work programme such as the Special Meeting on the 22nd July 2019 to receive the consultation feedback for the Modernisation of Residential Care and Council's response to the Boundary Commission report. The recommendations from the Wellbeing of Future Generations Scrutiny Working Group in respect of developing infrastructure for low carbon vehicles through the Future Generations lens.

In the absence of the Chair of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Vice Chair of Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee, the Chair read

aloud from emails they had circulated to relay their comments in respect of their respective scrutiny work programmes going forward, to include items for inclusion (Investment in the County Borough's Industrial Estates to be added to the work programme for Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee).

The Chair of the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) assured Members that the Annual Report 2018/2019 would be reported to Full Council upon its completion by Merthyr Tydfil Council.

In response to a query regarding the reporting mechanism for the Police & Crime Panel, the Service Director Democratic Services confirmed that, as previously discussed, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would receive future updates and feedback from the Police & Crime Panel.

In conclusion, the Chairs of the Health & Wellbeing and Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, who were present at the meeting, provided an update regarding their respective work programmes as well as providing a progress report on their recent 1-1 engagements sessions. The Chair of Health & Wellbeing referred to key areas within his work programme such as two Notices of Motions (in respect of Autism and Motor Neurone Disease), tackling empty properties and Delayed Transfers of Care.

While discussing one of the key items for consideration on the forward work programme for the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, namely recycling, reference was made to the recent BBC's plastic waste documentary and Members also discussed the Council's policy on plastic, how it collects, disposes of and reuses its waste. Members agreed that the Council's current waste collection is effective and robust whilst also developing and upgrading its education centre in Bryn Pica, the new materials recovery facility (MRF) and taking forward the project for mattress recycling.

The Chair of Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee reminded Committee that as part of the recycling in communal areas working group, there would be an engagement event on the 3rd July 2019 in Rhydyfelin which would include door knocking, competitions and engagement with residents and social housing providers in order to overcome issues in respect of recycling in communal areas. It was agreed that the Council's waste policy (particularly its use of plastic) could be dealt with by the overarching Scrutiny Committee with a view to the Council becoming a 'plastic free Council'. It was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Agree the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of each of the Scrutiny Committees, (subject to the Chief Executive being added to the Lead Officer section of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee TOR);
2. Endorse the Scrutiny Work Programmes of the four themed Scrutiny Committees for their agreement at their respective meetings in July 2019; and
3. Agree the Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme for the 2019/20 Municipal Year until December 2019 (subject to the inclusion of a Crime & Disorder element to the agenda in September 2019 to present an overview of the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan and the inclusion of a report outlining the Council's Corporate Feedback System (CFS).

6 Training

The Service Director, Democratic Services and Communications asked Members to consider their training requirements for the year ahead, to consider if there is any specific training that will assist them to better undertake their scrutiny role. It was confirmed that a charring skills training session would be held for the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs on the 6th August 2019.

It was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the request for Scrutiny members to consider their training needs.

This meeting closed at 6.05pm

**Cllr M Adams
Chairman**