



**REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

10.00 am FRIDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

COMMITTEE ROOMS A/B - NEATH CIVIC CENTRE

PART 1

1. To receive any declarations of interest from Members
2. To receive the Minutes of the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee held on 21 July 2017 (*Pages 5 - 8*)
3. To receive the Minutes of the Community Safety and Public Protection Sub Committee 27 July 2017 (*Pages 9 - 12*)
4. To receive the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2017/18. (*Pages 13 - 14*)
5. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).
6. Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972
7. Access to Meetings to resolve to exclude the public for the following item(s) pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

PART 2

8. To select appropriate private items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board Reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).

S.Phillips
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

14 September 2017

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: **Councillor S.K.Hunt**

Vice **Councillor L.Jones**
Chairperson:

Councillors: J.Evans, D.Cawsey, C.J.Jones, S.Jones,
D.Keogh, D.M.Peters, S.Pursey, S.Rahaman,
A.J.Richards and R.L.Taylor

Notes:

- (1) If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*
- (2) If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.*
- (3) For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised - though Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.*

- (4) *The relevant Cabinet Board Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/ Consultation purposes.*
- (5) *Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet Board papers with them to the meeting.*

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REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

21 July 2017

Chairperson: Councillor S.K.Hunt

Vice Chairperson: Councillor

Councillors: C.J.Jones, S.Jones, D.Keogh, D.M.Peters,
S.Pursey, S.Rahaman, A.J.Richards and
R.L.Taylor

**Officers In
Attendance** A. Collins and N.Evans

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors D.W.Davies and A.Wingrave

Observers Linda Whitaker -

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

The following Members declared an interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Cllr. S Pursey the report of the Head of Property and Regeneration – Vibrant and Viable Places Progress Report as he sits on the Plaza group.

Cllr. S. K. Hunt The report of the Head of Legal Services – Public Footpath – Community of Seven Sisters as he is the applicant.

2. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 23RD JUNE 2017.**

The Committee noted the minutes.

3. **TO RECEIVE THE SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

The Committee noted the work programme.

4. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

4.1 NPT Homes Progress Report – to May 2017

Members considered progress report that gave an overview of the progress made by NPT Homes in respect of the promises made to tenants in the Council's Offer Document.

Members asked for clarity on the issue of anti social behaviour and the findings of the internal audit. Officers stated that a significant amount of work had been undertaken on anti social behaviour and this had been done in conjunction with the tenants. It was further clarified that lawyers are used where appropriate (e.g. for injunctions with the power of arrest). Members noted that the latest report stated that there has been an improvement and monitoring is undertaken by the board.

Members asked whether there was a risk associated with welfare reform. It was noted that there was a risk but not great enough to affect the sustainability of the organisation. The risks were due to the Universal Credit now being paid directly to individuals as opposed directly to NPT Homes however, NPT Homes have undertaken a great deal of work educating tenants on the changes. It was further clarified that should a tenant hit 8 weeks of arrears then the Department of Work and Pensions will step in and pay the rent (by reducing the residual benefit payable to the tenant) and then make alternative arrangements paying the future rent direct to the landlord.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

4.2 NPT Homes Adoption of Community Housing Cymru's Model Rules for Wales

Members considered a report that gave information on NPT Homes' intention to adopt the CHC's Model Rules for Wales. Officers asked Members to note that NPT Homes were adopting this in line with Welsh Government guidance.

Members raised concern in relation to the make up of the board and rules in relation to quorum. Officers stated that to improve the functionality of the Board they were now looking at skills of those applying for a position. Members also queried why the number of tenant members would be reduced from 4 to 3 and it was confirmed that this would not be an issue because there had been a vacancy for over a year which the NPT homes had not been able to fill.

Officers advised that the new Members of the Board had a wide range of skills and included former Chief Executives of different organisations.

Following scrutiny the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

4.3 Vibrant and Viable Places Progress Report

Members considered a report on the successful delivery of the Vibrant and Viable Places Regeneration Programme for Port Talbot.

Members asked whether the amount of areas used for housing was the best use of space. Officers advised that due to the guidelines for receiving funding that generally housing was the preferred option and with a shortage in the County Borough this was welcomed. It was further noted that in the instance of Aberafan House it was not economically viable to continue the building as an office block, and that the former Police Station and Glanafan School were now deemed to be surplus to their original uses.

Members asked for clarity in relation land at Burrows Yard that had been deemed contaminated. Officers stated that investigations were ongoing to identify remedial works at a lower cost. As it currently stands it is a possibility that the costs of remediation might make the site too expensive to use by Coastal Housing and if the site is not used for housing then Welsh Government would need to be consulted should an alternative use be identified.

Members asked whether there will be any future funding for such schemes and officers stated that there had been talk of a Vibrant and Viable Places 2 programme but as yet no firm details had been confirmed.

Members asked for further information in relation to the Homes above Shops initiative particularly in the Station Road area. Officers stated that this had not progressed because the works required would have potentially had a detrimental impact on the food businesses. Officers continued that the Council still owned the previous Eden Nightclub and it was the intention to seek to still convert the space above to homes.

Members raised their concern on whether the proposed retail units at the Police Station would be economically viable unlike Custom House. Officers stated that with the new transport hub in development the retail units will have sufficient customers to be viable.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

CHAIRPERSON

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

27 July 2017

Chairperson: Councillor S.K.Hunt

Councillors: C.J.Jones, S.Jones, D.Keogh, D.M.Peters,
S.Rahaman, A.J.Richards and R.L.Taylor

Officers In Attendance S.Morris, M. Thomas, Emma.John,
Mrs.K.Jones, S.Burgess and N.Evans

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors D.W.Davies, A.Wingrave and
M.Protheroe

1. **TO RESOLVE TO ACT AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN LINE WITH SECTION 19 OF THE POLICE AND JUSTICE ACT 2006**

Members resolved to act as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

2. **LOCAL AUTHORITY NEW DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (WALES) ACT 2015**

Members considered the report that highlighted the new duties and responsibilities on the Local Authority in relation to the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. The report contained the outcome of the consultation that had taken place on the draft Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy for the County Borough.

Members commented that the report was thorough, but queried whether the strategy made enough provisions for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. Members advised that the approach for the LGBT community should be reflected differently, as the issues encountered by this particular group are different. Officers stated that during the consultation views were sought from

the LGBT forum which is run jointly between Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and City & County of Swansea; however there was a need to develop this area of work as the strategy progresses. Similar concerns were expressed about male victims. The final version of the plan should be reviewed to reflect a commitment to extend the strategy in due course to meet all needs. Additionally the committee felt the title of the strategy was not helpful in projecting a message of inclusion and requested that the title be amended to reflect a commitment to address the needs of all of the people affected by this agenda.

Members raised concerns regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner's comments which suggested that there should be more scope for regional and wider collaborative working. Members added that due to the unique issues likely to be encountered within each local authority area, reaching a regional consensus on key priorities could prove problematic.

Following scrutiny the committee was supportive of the draft strategy to be considered by the Cabinet Board in September 2017.

3. **PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE WELSH GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Members considered the Authority's proposed response to the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) regarding the Welsh Government's review of Community Safety.

Members queried when the response was due. Officers stated that the response was due imminently, but further comments could be forwarded to the WLGA after the initial response was submitted.

Following scrutiny the committee was supportive of the response to be submitted to the WLGA.

4. **COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

Officers stated that the Air Quality Progress Report and the Local Community Cohesion Plan would be considered at the next Committee on the 19th October 2017.

5. **NEATH TOWN CENTRE UPDATE STATEMENT - DISCUSSIONS REGARDING FUTURE COMMITTEE WORK**

Members agreed that the item should also include the Pontardawe and Port Talbot areas, following reports of antisocial behaviour in these areas. Members agreed to identify local areas which were experiencing similar issues for inclusion on future agendas.

6. **OTHER TOPICS AS ADVISED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Members requested for work to be undertaken to establish whether hate crime in the county borough had risen following the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. Officers agreed to liaise with the Community Safety Team regarding this matter.

7. **URGENT ITEMS**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute No. 8 below, the Chairman agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an Urgent Item pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason:

Due to the time element

8. **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT**

Members noted the Community Resilience and Engagement Report.

CHAIRPERSON

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(DRAFT)
Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Committee Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2017/18

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
23 June 2017		
21 July 2017		
22 September 2017		
27 October 2017	Tourism Task and Finish Group Update Report (Visit Wales to attend)	Scrutiny Officer/Andrew Collins

8 December 2017		
26 January 2018		
9 March 2018		
20 April 2018		