



**REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

10.00 am FRIDAY, 18 MAY 2018

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 20th April 2018. (*Pages 5 - 8*)
3. To receive the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2017/18. (*Pages 9 - 10*)
4. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).
5. 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

6. To select appropriate private items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board Reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).
7. 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

S.Phillips
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

Date Not Specified

Committee Membership:

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

Vice **Councillor L.Jones**
Chairperson:

Councillors: J.Evans, D.Cawsey, C.J.Jones, S.Pursey,
S.Rahaman, R.L.Taylor, R.W.Wood, H.Jones,
N.T.Hunt and S.M.Penry

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.*

REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

20 April 2018

Chairperson: Councillor S.K.Hunt

Vice Chairperson: Councillor L.Jones

Councillors: J.Evans, D.Cawsey, C.J.Jones, S.Rahaman,
R.W.Wood and H.Jones

**Officers In
Attendance** S.Ball and J.Davies

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

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

The following Member made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Cllr. L. Jones – Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection re Environmental Health and Trading Standards Changes to Officer Delegation Arrangements, as she has family members that are employed in the Environmental Health and Trading Standards section.

2. **MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 9TH MARCH 2018.**

The Committee noted the Minutes.

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

Members were informed of a workshop that had been arranged on the 10th May for the Committee to discuss items for inclusion on the scrutiny forward work programme for the civic year 2018/19.

Members were also informed of a training session for the Committee on the 15th May with Ian Botterill.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

4. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

4.1 Regeneration and Sustainable Development Performance Indicators for Quarter 3 of 2017/18

The Committee received information in relation to the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Performance Indicators for Quarter 3 of 2017/18 as contained within the circulated report.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

4.2 Planning Pre-Application Advice: Amended Service Protocol and Proposed Increase to Charges 2018/19

The Committee received information in relation to the Planning Pre-Application Advice – Amended Service Protocol and Proposed Increase to Charges 2018/19 as contained within the circulated report.

Members queried how the increased fees and charges for non-statutory pre-application planning advice compared with the rates charged by other local authorities. Officers reported that the increase to the charges were in line with most local authorities. Officers stated that the fees for the statutory pre-application service were set by the Welsh Government, while non-statutory pre-application planning advice was set by the Council. Officers explained that the increased fees and charges for non-statutory pre-application planning advice would be monitored, and if the increased charges were deemed to adversely affect delivery of the pre-application service, then the charges would be reviewed.

Members questioned whether there were adequate resources within the Planning Department to deal with a potential increase in demand from developers entering into Planning Performance Agreements, and whether this would have a detrimental effect on other day to day duties and performance outcomes. Officers stated that while the number of posts within the Planning Department had reduced in recent years, the workload at present was manageable. In this context, if a Planning Performance Agreement was entered into for a large project which required the allocation of a dedicated officer, Officers were satisfied that the service could continue to operate for all service users with no adverse impact on day-to-day performance.

Members questioned whether consideration had been given to charging voluntary and not-for-profit organisations for the service, as some were capable of paying the fees, especially as the Council was under financial pressure. Officers explained that the majority of the existing policy had remained in its current form for years, and that applications involving voluntary and not-for-profit organisations had not generated much work or taken up much staff time to date, therefore an amendment to the policy had not been considered necessary. Officers stated that they would monitor the situation.

Following scrutiny, the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

4.3 Environmental Health And Trading Standards Changes To Officer Delegation Arrangements

The Committee received information in relation to the Environmental Health And Trading Standards Changes to Officer Delegation Arrangements as contained within the circulated report.

Following scrutiny, the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

CHAIRPERSON

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(DRAFT)
Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2018/19

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
10 May 2018	Forward Work Programme Workshop	
18 May 2018		
22 June 2018		
27 July 2018		
14 September 2018		
26 October 2018		

7 December 2018		
18 January 2019		
1 March 2019		
12 April 2019		
31 May 2019		