



CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9.30 am WEDNESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER - PORT TALBOT CIVIC CENTRE

Part 1

1. Declarations of Interests
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (*Pages 3 - 10*)
3. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (cabinet reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
4. Forward Work Programme 18/19 (*Pages 11 - 14*)
5. Urgent Items
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**

Thursday, 7 February 2019

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: **Councillor A.N.Woolcock**

Vice Chairperson: **Councillor S.Rahaman**

Councillors: M.Crowley, S.E.Freeguard, M.Harvey, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, L.Jones, S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry, L.M.Purcell and A.L.Thomas

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 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 papers with them to the meeting.*

Agenda Item 2

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CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present: **17 December, 2018**

Chairperson: **Councillor A.N.Woolcock**

Vice Chairperson: **Councillor S.Rahaman**

Councillors: M.Crowley, S.E.Freeguard, M.Harvey,
S.K.Hunt, A.Llewelyn, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison
and S.M.Penry

Officers In Attendance: H.Jenkins, G.Nutt, S.Phillips, K.Jones,
C.Griffiths, C.Furlow and C.Davies

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors C.Clement-Williams, D.Jones,
R.G.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer,
P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards and A.Wingrave

Invited Members: Councillors G.M.D.Cawsey and S.H.Reynolds

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

The following Members made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Councillor. A.N.Woolcock Re: Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer on the Commercialisation of Services as he represents the Council on APSE's National Council.

Councillor. M.Harvey Re: Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer on the Commercialisation of Services as he is employed by South Wales Police.

2. PRE-SCRUTINY

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:-

Cabinet Proposals

2.1 Cabinet Response to the Council Task and Finish Group on the Valleys

Members received the Cabinet's response to the Council's Task and Finish Group's recommendations on the Valleys, including the work being led by the Welsh Government's Valleys' Taskforce "Our Valleys Our Future" as detailed within the circulated report.

Following receipt of the response, Members highlighted and accepted the concerns regarding the budget constraints however felt that there were missed opportunities for the Valleys prior to austerity.

Members were impressed with the growth poles however felt that there was need for more alignment of the Council's general policies, such as considering some elements of the Local Development Plan. It was highlighted that the dialogue with National Resources Wales needed to be intensified and that the approach to services like libraries and care homes around the County Borough needed to be reconsidered. It was noted that these concerns needed to be detailed within the analysis.

The Chief Executive explained that he felt that the policies were aligned. It was mentioned that the Local Development Plan needed to be more flexible however, Members needed to consider the complexity of the Local Development Plan and to utilise the review wisely.

Members commended the report and the opportunities within it. It was noted that this had provided good opportunities, however there was concern that there had not been any funding provided.

Members highlighted that the Amman Valley Railway Society Tram System was not included within the document. Officers

apologised for this and highlighted that the Authority would work with any organisation that wished to be involved.

Members highlighted that with the workforce reducing it was not feasible to site the Public Sector within the Valleys even though this was Welsh Government's view.

The Chair welcomed the Chair and Vice Chair of the Valleys' Task and Finish Group, to today's meeting.

The Chair of the Valleys' Task and Finish Group commended the information detailed within the Cabinet's response and the comments from the Chief Executive. It was noted that the Chair of the Valleys' Task and Finish Group felt that the funding in relation to transport detailed on page 9 of the circulated report, implied that it would be a funding cut and highlighted that transport was important and needed to be re-emphasised during these difficult times.

The Vice Chair of the Valleys' Task and Finish Group mentioned that there was a need to improve transport, as it was difficult to encourage young people to utilise bus passes when there were no buses available.

The Leader expressed his thanks to the Valleys' Task and Finish Group on the plans for the Valleys.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that Cabinet be asked to consider the following recommendations:-

1. That the response, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the circulated report and within the analysis, be endorsed particularly the points raised within growth poles;
2. That the Chief Executive enter into partnership with the Bevan Foundation and confirm this Council's support for their proposed work, as contained in Appendix 3 of the circulated report, to build economic development in the valley communities of South Wales, and to make a contribution of up to £10,000 to the work.

3. URGENT ITEM

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute No. 5 below, the Chairperson agreed 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.

4. COMMERCIALISATION OF SERVICES

(Cllr.A.N.Woolock re-affirmed his interest at this point and withdrew from the meeting)

(Cllr. S.Rahaman took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting)

Members received information on the Cabinet extending the support being provided by the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) to the Council.

Members asked whether the cost of the Job detailed within the report would be included in the £50,000. Officers confirmed that it would.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by Cabinet.

CHAIRPERSON

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

16 January, 2019

Chairperson: **Councillor A.N.Woolcock**

Vice Chairperson: **Councillor S.Rahaman**

Councillors: M.Crowley, S.E.Freeguard, M.Harvey,
N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, L.Jones, S.A.Knoyle,
S.Miller, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry and
A.L.Thomas

Officers In Attendance S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, A.Evans, A.Jarrett,
K.Jones, C.Griffiths, H.Jones and C.Davies

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors C.Clement-Williams, R.G.Jones,
E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees,
P.D.Richards and A.J.Taylor

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members noted the minutes of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee held on the 24 October, 31 October and 21 November, 2018.

2. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:-

Cabinet Board Proposals

2.1 Joint Coroner Service

Members received details of the proposal to increase the financial contributions made to the Joint Coroner Service between Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the City and County of Swansea, resulting from the adoption of the

JNC Framework for Coroner's Pay, as detailed within the circulated report.

Members queried the comparisons with other authorities, as it was felt that the authorities detailed within the report did not reflect the same circumstances. Officers explained that the criteria was set by Joint Negotiation Committee established by the UK Government, requiring each Authority to set the coroners' salary based on institutions that were within the area, such as prisons and hospitals and in line with the JNC Guidance set out in the report..

Members asked whether the wage structure would be varied across different authorities and Officers confirmed that the wage structure would be varied as each Local Authority was required to set their own coroner's pay.

Members queried whether the requirement for an increase in pay was due to the original salary being set too low. Officers explained that originally there had been no national guidelines. This increase had arisen from the guidance provided by the JNC and UK Government

Members asked whether this would warrant all staff requiring job evaluations. Officers explained that this would not be the case as this would fall under a different policy.

Members questioned the inclusion of Neath Port Talbot Council in the discussions and were advised that the Authority's Head of Legal Service had been involved in all key decisions regarding the coroner's service.

Members queried the involvement of the Lord Chancellor should there be dispute. Officers confirmed that, in principal, if the Coroner was not happy with the proposals then the Lord Chancellor would be involved in any appeal who could set the level that each authority should pay.

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

3. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for 2018/19.

CHAIRPERSON

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(DRAFT)
Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2018/19

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
23 May 2018		
7 June 2018		
27 June 2018		
18 July 2018		
1 August 2018		

12 September 2018		
3 October 2018		
24 October 2018		
31 October 2018		
21 November 2018		

5 December 2018		
16 January 2019		
23 January 2019		
13 February 2019		
20 February 2019		
6 March 2019	Periodic report on the progress of work against the Wales Audit	Karen Jones

	Proposals for Improvement	
27 March 2019		
17 April 2019		
8 May 2019		
29 May 2019		

Items to be programmed in for future meetings

- To view the impacts of the decisions on the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy and the Valleys Action Plan annually (Karen Jones)
- PSB – Annual report (after 29th May 2019) – Karen Jones