

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

29 May, 2019

Chairperson: Councillor S.Rahaman

Councillors: S. ap Dafydd, S.K.Hunt, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller, R.Mizen, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry, L.M.Purcell, S.H.Reynolds and A.N.Woolcock

Officers In Attendance: S.Phillips, A.Evans, A.Jarrett, G.Nutt, C.Griffiths, H.Jones, S.Griffiths, K.Davies, H.Thomas, N.Headon and C.Davies

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors L.Jones, R.G.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyear, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, A.J.Taylor and A.Wingrave

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Decision:

That the Minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet, held on 8 May, 2019, be approved.

2. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 18/19**

Noted by Committee.

3. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following Cabinet Board items:-

Cabinet Board Proposals

Submission and Acceptance of Grant Applications

Member's received information in relation to the submission and acceptance of grant applications, as detailed in the circulated report.

A formal amendment to the recommendation contained within the circulated report was proposed and seconded.

It was recommended originally in the circulated report that delegated authority be granted to:

- (a) the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors, the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer and all Heads of Service to submit grant applications for any matter within their respective areas or where the Council acts as a lead authority for regional collaboration;
- (b) the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors, the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer and all Heads of Service be granted delegated authority to enter into any grant agreement in respect of any grant funding subject to consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services or Head of Finance. Where two signatories were required to a grant agreement, the two signatories would be the Corporate Director or a Head of Service within that same directorate and the Director of Finance and Corporate Services or Head of Finance or in their absence the Chief Executive or Head of Legal Services;
- (c) the Head of Legal Services update the Constitution of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as may be appropriate to implement these changes.

However the Scrutiny Committee proposed the addition of the following:-

It is recommended that **in consultation with the Leader and/or appropriate Cabinet Member(s)** delegated authority be granted to recommendations (a)-(c) to remain unchanged.

Modern Slavery Statement in Respect of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

The Committee received information in relation to the adoption of a Modern Slavery Statement in respect of the Neath Port Talbot Council Supply Chain, following the adoption and implementation of the Welsh Government Ethical Employment in Supply Chains Code of Practice.

A discussion took place in relation to the implementation of the Code of Practice Commitments. Officers explained that as a council we are committed to support this principle, although it was recognised that some principles the Authority was unable to take to the next level.

Members welcomed the Modern Slavery Statement.

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

Capital Programme Outturn 2018-19

Members praised the work carried out by officers in the circulated report setting out the financial outturn position for the Capital Programme for 2018/19.

A discussion took place regarding the former Crown Foods Site. It was noted that progress was being made and that there was indicative funding for refurbishment of these offices, it was highlighted that this site would be marketed shortly.

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

Revenue Outturn and Reserves Position 2018-19

The Chief Executive thanked all those involved in the producing the Revenue Outturn and Reserves Position Statement 2018/19, as detailed in the circulated report.

Members questioned the detail of the Council underspend of £776k, and Members were advised that the detail of the underspend was shown in Appendix 1 of the circulated report.

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

4. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

5. **NEATH PORT TALBOT PLACE BRAND**

Members received a presentation on the Neath Port Talbot Place Branding exercise, led by the Tourism Team and discussed the Place Branding opportunities for Neath Port Talbot.

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

CHAIRPERSON