



CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

***(Immediately Following the Joint Meeting of the Cabinet /
Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committees)***

WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER - PORT TALBOT CIVIC CENTRE

Part 1

1. Declarations of Interests
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting *(Pages 5 - 8)*
3. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (cabinet reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
4. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet (Finance) Sub Committee agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet Finance Sub - Committee reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
5. Forward Work Programme 19/20 *(Pages 9 - 12)*
6. 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
7. Access to Meetings
To resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No.2290 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

Part 2

8. To select appropriate items from the Private Cabinet agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (cabinet reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
9. To select appropriate items from the Private Cabinet (Finance) Sub Committee agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet Finance Sub - Committee reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)

S.Phillips
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

Thursday, 25 July 2019

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: **Councillor M.Harvey**

Vice
Chairperson: **Councillor S.Rahaman**

Councillors: S. ap Dafydd, S.E.Freeguard, N.T.Hunt,
S.K.Hunt, S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller,
R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, L.M.Purcell,
S.M.Penry, S.H.Reynolds and A.N.Woolcock

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.*

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CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

10 July 2019

Chairperson: Councillor M.Harvey

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S.Rahaman

Councillors: S.E.Freeguard, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, L.M.Purcell, S.M.Penry, S.H.Reynolds and A.N.Woolcock

Officers In Attendance S.Phillips, A.Evans, H.Jenkins, G.Nutt, K.Jones, C.Griffiths, H.Jones, A.Thomas, N.Chapple, V.Dale, A.Hinder, C.Jones, N.Sparkes, N.Jones and T.Davies

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

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the Minutes of the previous meetings of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee, held on 29 May and 19 June, 2019, be approved, subject to the addition of Councillor J.D.Morgan's attendance on 29 May 2019.

2. **NEATH PORT TALBOT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019**

In order to enable the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee to discharge the role given to it by Council, namely to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board (PSB), the Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board Annual Report 2018/19 was presented to Members. Members noted that although they did not have the remit to change the Annual

Report, as it was the work of the Public Services Board, they were able to request the attendance of PSB partners if more in depth scrutiny was deemed necessary.

Members discussed the work of the Local Area Coordinators in connection to Wellbeing Objective 2 (Safe Resilient Communities) as well as their ability to empower communities to support themselves. Members also discussed the role of the Police in relation to this Objective.

It was noted that although such issues as 'a first class digital and transport infrastructure' were not currently priorities of the PSB, it would be appropriate for Members to ask PSB partners why certain areas such as these had not been identified as a current priority, even though they had been included in the Vision of the PSB.

The recent closures of well established, local employers, including the proposed closure of the Ford plant in Bridgend was discussed in reference to Wellbeing Objective 4 (Wellbeing in the Workplace). It was noted that a Welsh Government work stream had been established in response to the proposed closure of the Ford plant. Concerns around recent changes to local health boards and queries concerning their performance were also discussed.

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Members requested that further scrutiny of Wellbeing Objectives 2 (Safe Resilient Communities) and 4 (Wellbeing in the Workplace) be added to the Forward Work Programme, and the relevant PSB partners be invited to attend.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

3. **PRE DECISION SCRUTINY**

Committee scrutinised the following Cabinet items:

Removal of Council Tax Discounts for Empty Properties and Second Homes

Members discussed removing the level of discount in respect of dwellings that were classified as long term empty properties and those that were classed as second homes.

Council Tax exemptions were discussed, including the entitlement for council tax relief re empty homes where the owner resides in Residential Care. The appeals process and discretionary powers of Council Tax Officers were discussed, as well as the conversion of non-residential buildings into houses. Officers advised that an initial six month period of council tax exemption would still apply to empty properties before requesting full Council Tax payments.

Members queried why the circulated information had been presented by way of parishes rather than electoral divisions. Officers advised that the Council Tax Regulations required billing and reporting to be provided at Community/Parish levels and thus information was not available at electoral division level.

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

Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators, 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019 (Full Year)

The 2018/19 full year performance was reported to Members for the Council's Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, for services within the purview of Cabinet.

Members discussed CP/015 (Percentage of schools that have adopted suitable programmes to address violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)), and specifically how this programme was being promoted in schools currently. Members noted that Officers would address the primary and secondary head teacher's forums in September with a view to further rolling out the programme to schools. Operation Encompass was also discussed, and Members noted this was an initiative which aimed to enhance communication between the Police and schools where a child was at risk from, or had witnessed, domestic abuse.

Members requested clarity on the term 'Channel Panel' referred to in CP/035. Officers explained this was a multi-agency meeting chaired by the Council, to identify individuals who may be at risk of being drawn into extremism or terrorism, before they became a threat to the community. There was a strong connection between the Channel Panel and other safeguarding agencies. The low number of referrals to the Channel Panel was attributed to a number of cases which did

not meet the threshold for the Panel but were signposted towards more appropriate pathways.

The following areas were also discussed:

- Calls abandoned/dropped calls
- New technologies and their impact on call queues
- Less resilience across all Council services due to budget pressures
- The need for different skill sets for call centre staff

Repeat offenders of anti-social behaviour were discussed in connection with CP/037, and Members felt this could be referred to the Community Safety and Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee for addition to their Forward Work Programme and further scrutiny.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

4. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for 2019/20.

CHAIRPERSON

(DRAFT)
Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2019/20

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
29 May 2019		
19 June 2019		
10 July 2019	Public Service Board – Annual Report	Karen Jones
31 July 2019		
11 September 2019		

25 September 2019	Public Services Board – updates on Wellbeing Objectives 2 (To build Safe, Confident and resilient Communities) and 4 (To Support wellbeing through work and in the workplace).	Public Services Board
2 October 2019	Periodic report on the progress of work against the Wales Audit Proposals for Improvement -	Karen Jones/ Caryn Furlow
30 October 2019		
20 November 2019		

4 December 2019		
8 January 2020		
22 January 2020		
5 February 2020	Public Services Board – updates on Wellbeing Plan	Public Services Board
12 February 2019		

19 February 2020		
11 March 2020		
1 April 2020		
29 April 2020		
27 May 2020		

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)