



EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2.00 pm WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER - PORT TALBOT CIVIC CENTRE

PART 1

1. Declarations of Interest
2. To receive and note the Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee Minutes (*Pages 5 - 20*)
3. Pre-Decision Scrutiny
 - i. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet Boards reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
4. Forward Work Programme 2019/20 (*Pages 21 - 24*)
5. Urgent Items
Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972
6. Access to Meetings
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

7. Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s
 - i. 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

Wednesday, 11 December 2019

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: **Councillor S.H.Reynolds**

Vice Chairperson: **Councillor R.Mizen**

Councillors: M.Crowley, S.apDafydd, S.Harris, J.Jones,
D.Keogh, S.Miller, J.D.Morgan, R.Phillips,
M.Protheroe, S.Renkes, A.J.Richards,
D.Whitelock and J.Hale

***Co-opted** M.Caddick, A. Amor and L.Newman
Voting Members

***Co-opted Non** R.De Benedictis
Voting Members

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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LEISURE AND CULTURE SUB COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

22 November 2018

Chairperson: Councillor A.L.Thomas

Councillors: H.N.James, S.Miller, A.J.Richards, D.Whitelock and R.Phillips

Officers In Attendance P.Walker, M.Napieralla, M.Halland C.Davies

Officers from Celtic Leisure R.Lewis, C.Nowell and H.Rees-Byrne

1. **MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The committee noted the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. **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 items 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.

3. **CELTIC LEISURE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2017-18 (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Members were provided with a private and confidential presentation updating them on the financial performance of Celtic Leisure during the 2017 -2018 financial year, in comparison with their submitted revised budget.

Members asked several questions in relation to the presentation and received appropriate responses.

Members noted the report and presentation.

4. **CELTIC LEISURE FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2018 - 19 (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Members were updated on the performance of Celtic Leisure during the first quarter 2018-19, in comparison to the submitted business plan, as detailed within the private circulated report.

Members scrutinised the private report in detail and asked whether the social value calculator could be used for the Quarter performance reports. Officers informed members that they would discuss with Celtic Leisure what data from the Social Calculator they can include in the quarter Performance reports.

Members noted the report.

-The Committee moved in to Public Session-

5. **PONTARDAWE ARTS CENTRE BUSINESS PLAN AND CINEMA DEVELOPMENT**

Members received information on a new business Plan for Pontardawe Arts Centre and for the Head of Transformation to be granted authority to engage with the Arts Council for Wales to secure a capital grant towards the cost of a new cinema development at Pontardawe Arts Centre.

Members commended the officers for this report and were pleased that the friends had taken an interest and there was full engagement. Officers highlighted that the friends have been an integral part to the process and contributed to the Business plan.

Members queried about what the design of the cinema would be. Officers explained that the design team would make sure that the design is fit for purpose.

Members asked were there much activity at Pontardawe Arts Centre weekly. Officers confirmed that the theatre was a very busy building as it was utilised most weekends by dance and drama groups. It was also noted that the studio and bar area are used to its maximum capacity.

Members referred to point 3 in appendix 1 to the report 'employ sustainable strategies that reduce the operating subsidy achieving a zero subsidy over time' and asked will this be a policy that will be equal to all leisure facilities. Officers explained that there had been a reduction in the Princess Royal theatres investment as the venue has a higher capacity and high profile artists. It was noted that the cinema would assist in the reduction of the subsidy.

Cllr. Richards asked about point 3 in appendix 1 to the report 'employ sustainable strategies that reduce the operating subsidy achieving a zero subsidy over time' and asked

Members asked for clarity on the timescales of the development. Officers explained that discussions would take place the first two weeks of December with the Arts Council, then depending on the assessment of procurement there could be a completion date for the end of 2020.

Members highlighted their concern in relation to the reduction of subsidy affecting the staffs pay.

Members questioned the marketing of the venue. Officers explained that there had previously been a survey on marketing which highlighted the importance of brochures still being available as social media isn't accessible to everyone. However, it was noted that social media plays a part in marketing as parents would be tagged in Facebook posts which promotes classes that are available at the venue.

Members commended the officers for the work they had achieved and highlighted that local officer and Members know the theatre the best, however appreciate receiving new ideas.

Members discussed and agreed to ask Cabinet Board to consider including an additional recommendation for the Business Consultant to guide the rate of progress towards a zero subsidy.

Therefore following scrutiny, it was agreed that Cabinet Board be asked to consider the following recommendations:

1. That the Pontardawe Arts Centre Business Plan as attached to the circulated report be approved;

2. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Transformation to commence a procurement exercise in partnership with the Arts Council for Wales, to engage a business consultant at a cost of circa £12,500 and for authority to be granted to enter into any contractual arrangements associated with this arrangement;
3. That the rate of progress towards a zero subsidy be guided by the analysis of the business consultant.

6. **LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2017-18 (PRESENTATION)**

Members received an update on the outcomes from the Local Authority Partnership Agreement 2017 - 18 (LAPA). It was noted that the document is the authority's annual Strategic funding agreement with Sport Wales.

Members also received a presentation on Physical Activity and Sport Service (PASS).

Members commended the officers for the presentation as they felt that they had a better understanding of the work that the service do for the Community.

The Committee mentioned that the more social media coverage they can give on the service would provide more engagement.

Officers informed the Committee that there was an intervention project in relation to the negative and positive side to mobile phone use with children. It was highlighted that when this work is piloted then a report would be brought back to committee.

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

7. **DISCUSSION ON THE OUTCOMES FROM THE CEFN COED COLLIERY MUSEUM TOUR**

This item was deferred to the Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee for discussion.

8. **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA 2018-2019**

Members were provided with the quarter 2 performance management data, complaints and compliments for the period 1st April 2018 to 30th September 2018 for Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Directorate. Members focused on scrutinising the Leisure and Culture aspect of the data only, as detailed within the circulated report.

Members highlighted their concern in relation to the data collected on libraries on the amount of books issued rather than footfall and therefore questioned officers what the reason for this change was. Officers explained that there were regulations on capturing data on libraries and therefore specifies that it had to be collected via book issues. Officers explained that a more detailed report on this issue would be coming to a future meeting of the Committee.

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

9. **THE SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 18/19**

Members noted the Forward Work Programme.

Members requested that a 6 month monitoring report be brought back to the Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Committee following the approval and appointment of a Business Consultant for the Pontardawe Arts Centre Cinema Development.

10. **THE EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE CABINET BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 18/19**

The Forward Work Programme was noted.

CHAIRPERSON

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LEISURE AND CULTURE SUB COMMITTEE

(Committee Room 1/2 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

29 January, 2019

Chairperson: Councillor A.L.Thomas

Councillors: S.Miller, S.Renkes and D.Whitelock

Officers In Attendance P.Walker, W.John, J.Woodman-Ralph and C.Davies

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Wayne John (Officer of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council)	Re:	Report of the Head of Transformation on the Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report 2017-18 as he is a Member of the Reference Group of Welsh Public Library Standards Group.
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2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee noted the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 22 November 2018.

3. **LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2019-2020**

Members were updated on the Local Authority Partnership Agreement 2019 - 20 (LAPA). The document was the Authority's Annual Strategic Funding Agreement with Sport Wales. It was noted that Sport Wales was being restructured and a 12 month grant funding had been confirmed.

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

4. **WELSH PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

Members received information on the Annual Report to the Welsh Government in respect of the Authority's library services performance against the Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS) framework 6. Members also noted the feedback, comments and recommendations in the Annual Assessment Report 2017-18 from Welsh Government.

Members queried the difference between footfall and book issues as a performance measurement, as the emphasis seemed to change from different frameworks as issued by Welsh Government. Officers explained that the emphasis had gone away from just measuring book issues as Libraries were now fulfilling a much wider role with the value of the Health and Wellbeing element being recognised which provided a more accurate picture of what libraries were offering.

Members asked whether there were any penalties for not achieving all the required targets of the Welsh Public Library Standards. Officers explained that for example, there were 13 other Authorities that were not achieving the same staffing targets as Neath Port Talbot. This was due to the financial challenges faced by all Local Authorities in trying to achieve savings in Library staffing and the purchase of books. If Authorities continually did not achieve all of the targets then the Welsh Government could ring fence the Libraries budget or instruct another Authority to take over the running of the Library service and the relevant budget, however this had never happened.

Members queried whether the Authority was keeping up with the modern publications and stocking the most popular books. Officers confirmed that they do stock the most popular books and multiple copies of them to cater for customers' requests and reservations.

Members questioned whether customers utilise the internet within the Libraries to download e-books on to their handheld devices. Officers advised that the Authority was the lead Authority on e-books. It was noted that e-books would not replace books, however, customers were encouraged to use the e-books service.

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

5. **BEACH MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (VERBAL UPDATE)**

Members received a verbal update on the management arrangements of the beach with in Neath Port Talbot. It was noted that the establishment of a Steering Group was proposed which would include Terms of Reference detailing Directorates responsibility in the management and maintenance of the beach. It was noted that the Steering Group would meet twice a year and have additional meetings if required.

Officers informed the Sub Committee that a report would be subject to Members following approval of the above proposal from Corporate Directors.

Members shared concerns in relation to access to the beach for people with disabilities and asked that the Steering Group take this in to consideration. Officers confirmed that they would feed this back to the Steering Group.

Members noted the verbal update and looked forward to a further report.

6. **THE SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

The Leisure and Culture Sub Committee Forward Work Programme was noted subject to the following:-

- The Sub Committee were informed that Afan Argoed and the Gnoll Park Monitoring reports would be brought to the next Leisure and Culture Sub Committee in April, to ensure all relevant information was included;
- It was agreed that a Site visit be arranged to visit Baglan and Taibach Community Centres to reassure Members that the centres were continuing to be fit for purpose. Therefore it was agreed to remove the Performance of Community Centres post transfer report from the Forward Work Programme.

7. **THE EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE CABINET BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

The Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board Forward Work Programmes was noted.

8. **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.

9. **CELTIC LEISURE SIX MONTHS PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2018 - 19 (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Members received an updated on the performance of Celtic Leisure during the first six months of the financial year 2018-19, as detailed within the private circulated document.

Members scrutinised the private report in detail and asked that Officers consider opening the Multi Storey Car Park in Neath later in the evenings to cater for popular films being shown at the Gwyn Hall. It was also asked that details in relation to the parking issues be included in future reports. Officers agreed to include information in the report on parking and informed Members that they would speak to relevant Officers to rectify this issue.

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

CHAIRPERSON

LEISURE AND CULTURE SUB COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

3 May 2019

Chairperson: Councillor A.L.Thomas

Vice Chairperson: Councillor M.Crowley

Councillors: H.N.James, S.Renkes and A.J.Richards

Officers In Attendance P.Walker, L.Dennis, C.Davies and A.Manchipp

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors P.A.Rees

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 29 January 2019, were agreed as an accurate record.

2. **PRINCESS ROYAL 2018-19 UPDATE REPORT**

The Sub Committee considered the report of the Head of Transformation in relation to the Princess Royal Theatre for the period 2018/19.

Members were pleased to note that the venue subsidy/deficit had decreased substantially from £127,539 in 2014/15 to £43,740 in 2018/19. This was due in part to a change in the way the Authority paid for the acts in the theatre whereby there was a 20%/80% split in ticket sales, between the Authority and the agent.

(At this point in the meeting, Councillor H.N.James disclosed his interest as he is president of the Briton Ferry Musical Theatre).

Members asked whether there were any plans to refurbish the Princess Royal Theatre and were advised that it was hoped to undertake some refurbishment particularly the carpet and stage area.

It was seen as necessary to carry out some refurbishment in order to continue to attract acts to the venue.

Members advised that they had received some complaints from members of the public that the bar closed too early after performances – this would be considered by Officers.

Officers were asked whether, in their opinion the Theatre could be in profit in the next four years and advised that, with some refurbishment, this was a possibility. There were plans to change one of the ground floor bar areas into a shop which would hopefully increase profit.

Members asked that they be informed when the decision regarding the possible allocation of finances for the refurbishment would be made.

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

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

The Sub Committee was advised that two monitoring reports in relation to the increased parking charges at the Gnoll Park and Afan Argoed had not been ready for consideration at today's meeting and agreed that they be reported to the Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee on 6 June for consideration.

In relation to the report on the Pontardawe Arts Centre, this would be considered by the Sub Committee in June.

4. **THE EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE CABINET BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19.**

Noted.

CHAIRPERSON

**LEISURE AND CULTURE SUB COMMITTEE
(Committee Room 1/2 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)**

Members Present:

5 September 2019

Chairperson: Councillor S.H.Reynolds

Vice Chairperson: Councillor R.Mizen

Councillors: D.Keogh, S.Miller, J.Hale, A.J.Richards,
D.Whitelock and J.Jones

Officers In Attendance P.Walker, C.Davies and J.Woodman-Ralph

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Member made a declaration of interest at the Item Pontardawe Arts Centre Business Plan Progress Report:-

Cllr. S. Reynolds Re: Report of the Head of Transformation –
Pontardawe Arts Centre Business Plan
Progress Report as she is a Member of the
Friends of Pontardawe Arts Centre.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 3 May 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

**3. CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES 2019 -
LIBRARIES, THEATRES, COMMUNITY CENTRES, MARGAM
COUNTRY PARK, LEISURE CENTRES AND SWIMMING POLLS**

Members received information in regard to the Christmas and New Year Opening Times for 2019, in relation to Libraries, Theatres, Community Centres, Margam Country Park, Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools as detailed in the circulated report.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposal being considered by Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board.

4. **PONTARDAWE ARTS CENTRE BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

Cllr.S.Reynolds declared an interest as this point in the meeting.

The Committee received an update on the progress made to date on the delivery of the Pontardawe Arts Centre business plan as detailed in the circulated report.

Members were pleased with the progress made and looked forward to receiving further updates.

Clarification was sought as to why some of the actions in the action plan were identified as red:

- **Music Events for Young People:**
These did not take place. This was due to the lack of knowledge of the appropriate music. This would be something that was going to be explored further with the newly established Youth Forum. Currently there was a lot of activities taking place for young people in the centre for example music, art and drama groups but this was a new initiative to increase the music events targeted at young people.
- **On-line shopping - Sponsorship:**
This was not possible due to the centre not being able to have charitable status. Work was continuing by the Friends Group looking at other avenues for sponsorship.
- **Film Club Pricing:**
This had been highlighted in red work was on-going but at an early stage and would be reviewed as part of the New Cinema Development.
- **Arts in Health:**
Work was progressing but due to difficulties in getting a contact in the Swansea Bay University Health Board it had not progressed. A Joint Working Group had been established and discussions would take place with the Health Board to get their involvement.

Discussion took place on the involvement of the community around the Centre. It was explained that The Friends of Pontardawe Arts Centre had been involved in the improvement work to make the

centre viable and participate in bringing Income Generation ideas forward.

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

5. **NEW WELSH GOVERNMENT FREE SWIMMING INITIATIVE**

Members received an overview of the New Welsh Government Free Swimming Initiative as detailed in the circulated report.

Discussions took place on the changes to funding to the Welsh Government Free Swimming Initiative (FSI). Also, how the changes would impact on the over sixties as the emphasis for free swimming would now be for under 16's.

Concern was expressed by members at the impact this change would have on the health and wellbeing of the over 60's who were currently accessing free swimming to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Members were pleased to note that although Celtic Leisure had received a significant reduction in funding for the over 60's to access free swimming – they were still going to provide free swimming for individuals with the greatest need. Free swimming would continue to be offered at any public swimming session to all over 60's living in the most deprived "Lower Super Output Areas" (LSOA) in NPTCBC. However, concern was expressed at the proposal to only allow over 60's free swimming in deprived areas. Members noted that there were people who were in receipt of Pension Credit but did not live in a (LSOA) would be able to access free swimming for the over 60's at any public swimming session.

There would also be specific sessions for 60+ across all pools for those who don't meet the above criteria, or 60+ could swim at any public swimming session for a reduced fee of £2.00

Members asked for reassurance that the public information on the changes would be written clearly and in plain English. Also, identifying that this was an all Wales initiative from the Welsh Government as a result of a review undertaken by the Sports Council for Wales.

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

6. **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA 2019-2020 - QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE (1ST APRIL 2019- 30TH JUNE 2019)**

Members received information on the Quarterly Performance Management Data 2019-2020 – Quarter 1 Performance (1st April – 30th June 2019) as detailed in the circulated report.

Discussion took place on the performance indicator “number of visits to leisure centres per 1,000 population”. It was explained that all Councils across Wales included different criteria for visiting leisure centres. As a result it is very difficult to accurately compare performance across Councils which has been challenged with Welsh Government.

Members were pleased that Celtic Leisure had been asked to include the number of visits to leisure centres, total usage and the number of children participating in swimming lessons in their quarterly performance data returns.

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

7. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

It was agreed that the Arts Strategy would be replaced with the Business Plan for the Arts.

CHAIRPERSON

**Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2019/20**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
6 June 2019	Afan Forest Park monitoring report on the impact that the changes may have had on the existing businesses	
	Gnoll Park monitoring report on the effect and income from the decision to increase charges (including information on the Gnoll park business plan and any updates)	
4 July 2019	Report from Task and Finish Group on Promoting Healthy Living amongst NPT Pupils	Chair of T&F
12 Sept 2019	Update on Additional Learning needs Reform	Andrew Thomas/ Hayley Lurvey

	Report on how the Educational Welfare Officers combat persistent absenteeism be included in Pupil Attendance Update (included in cabinet board papers for 12 September)	John Burge / Andrew Thomas
24 October 2019	Report on what vacancies there are in each school and the amount of children who haven't had their first choice of school	John Burge
	ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group Minutes for information	Charlotte Davies
12 December 2019 Moved to 18 th December 2019		
23 January 2020	Update on Pupil Voice/ Youth Council	Jason Heaney and Chris Millis
	Report on how the Unicef Rights Respecting Awards was embedded in the day to day running of schools within Neath Port Talbot.	Andrew Thomas

5 March 2020	Report on the results of the combating poverty pilot (presentation)	Aled Evans
	ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group Minutes for information	Charlotte Davies
	Update report on MEAS, MEAG and TES	Chris Millis
	Update on the Music Service – Sustainability as the grant is only available for 2 years.	Chris Millis
23 April 2020	Feminine Hygiene Grant – Update Report	Andrew Thomas
	30 hour childcare – update report relating to the corporate plan	Chris Millis
	Performance report on Modern Foreign Language and comparative data on boys achievements in Schools (included in the Annual Pupil Performance Data Cabinet Board Report)	Chris Millis

Items to be programmed in for future meetings

- Site visits to Bae Baglan and Bro Dur - 27th January 2020 TBC (Mike Daley)
- All Members Seminar Additional Learning Needs Reform – 6th February 2020 TBC

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