

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Members Present:

14 May 2015

Chairman: Councillor A.Llewelyn

Vice Chairman: Councillor

Councillors: C.P.Golding, A.Jenkins, M.Jones, Mrs.M.A.Lewis, Ms.C.Morgans, Mrs.S.Paddison and S.Rahaman

Officers In Attendance N.Evans, P.Walker, S.Brennan, C.Millis, A.Spooner-Cleverly and Ms.C.Brettle

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors M.L.James and A.J.Taylor

1. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

The following Members declared an interest at the commencement of the meeting:-

Cllr A Jenkins	Report of the Head of Participation regarding the Community Development Delivery Plan Update 2014 – 2015 as Member of Neath Port Talbot Credit Union
Cllr Mrs M Lewis	Report of the Head of Participation regarding the Community Development Delivery Plan Update 2014 – 2015 as Member of Neath Port Talbot Credit Union
Cllr A.J Taylor	Regarding the Playing Field and Pavilion at Talbot Memorial Park Taibach as he is Chair of The Friends of Talbot Memorial Park

2. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 2ND APRIL 2015**

Members agreed that the content of the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting held on the 2nd of April 2015 but made the following observations;

2.1 **Playing Field and Pavillion at Port Talbot Memorial Park, Taibach**

Cllr A.J Taylor re-affirmed his interest at this point and left the room.

Members asked for an update regarding the issues surrounding the lease of the Playing Field and Pavilion at Port Talbot Memorial Park.

The Head of Property and Regeneration stated that there had been no further objections received from members of the public regarding the lease. Positive discussions have been made with all parties involved resulting in the property being signed off by the Margam Estate.

2.2 **European Funding Update**

Members requested an update regarding European Funding be brought to the next meeting scheduled for the 19th June 2015.

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

3. **TO SELECT APPROPRIATE ITEMS FROM THE CABINET BOARD AGENDA FOR PRE-SCRUTINY**

3.1 **Local Authority Partnership Agreement Progress Report**

Members considered the Report of The Director of Education, Leisure And Lifelong Learning.

The Physical Activity and Cultural Services Manager highlighted to Members that NPTCBC have positive working relationships with our partners in Sport Wales, Swansea City Football Club, Ospreys Rugby, and schools which have resulted in successful roll out of the programmes as stated in the report.

Members queried what the swimming standard was for Key Stage Two children and if all schools in the Local Authority had been offered the swimming programme.

Officers stated the Key Stage Two Level is currently under review and in the region of 80% of children achieving this standard which is delivered by Celtic Leisure. Celtic Leisure offer free top up lessons to children who have not achieved this level. Members were informed that every school had been given the opportunity to participate in the Swimming Programme for which there has been a 98% uptake. Ultimately, it is the Head Teachers decision whether the school participates or not.

Officers explained that the free swimming grant to all councils had been cut, and NPTCBC had fortunately one of the lowest cuts out of all the authorities, with a cut of £15,000.00 out of the original grant of £60,000.00.

Members asked how it was decided which sports should be included as priority.

Members were informed that as part of the process, children in the schools were directly consulted with in order to find out demand. Discussions are then held with the Governing Body to see if that sport is sustainable by the Governing Body after the initial programme roll out.

Members queried whether discussions had been held with all sporting associations as there were some concerns surrounding a drop in participation in some areas, and if this could be linked to a dwindling number of facilities available.

Members were informed that there is an Officer who works closely with the Wales Trust, Rugby Development Officers and other associations in the area. The Football Association for Wales (FAW) has restructured which has had a knock on effect at the grass roots level and the FAW are now more hands on. The new school in Baglan will be a Community School and its facilities can be accessed by the public when it is not being used by the school. It was confirmed that the pitch will have floodlights and be an all-weather pitch for multi-use.

Members sought clarification as to why demand falls and what steps do Officers take to re-engage people and encourage participation.

Officers confirmed it is essential that these areas are specifically targeted in order to increase participation and are subject to ongoing review.

Members requested that Officers look at good practice in other areas to see if NPTCBC can replicate success according to the current funding schemes

constraints. Members asked how the current grant was divided and what the future held.

This year's funding is divided as follows;

- £250,000.00 – 5x60
- £50,000.00 – Dragon Sport
- £51,000.00 – Free Swimming
- £105,000.00 – Community Chest for allocation to clubs
- £25,000.00 – additional funding still to be allocated

With regards to the future, the Government will not be in a position to fund 22 Local Authorities and 52 Governing Bodies of Sport. Results of a review regarding the above will be published in the next two months.

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

3.2 Community Development Delivery Plan – Update 2014 – 2015

Members considered the Report of the Head of Participation regarding the Community Development Delivery Plan 2014- 2015.

Members offered their disappointment over the Social Enterprise Strategy funds which are currently on hold. Members also requested further information regarding the number of Strategic Social Enterprises across the authority and what they contribute to the local community.

Officers stated the reason for the funds currently being on hold is because the CVS did not have enough resource due to financial implications to continue with the strategy at present.

Members requested further clarity on the following points;

- Clarification regarding the situation with the CVS and the Social Enterprise Strategy Fund and return with more detailed information to the next meeting
- Enterprise Support for Rural Businesses - could Officers provide a breakdown as to what the 'Micro Enterprises' were
- The LIFT project (Tackling Workless Households) - can it be identified where the people who found work lived, if they had to travel to get to their new job and the aspects of that work.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed the report be noted.

4. **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.**

5. **TO SELECT APPROPRIATE PRIVATE ITEMS FROM THE CABINET BOARD AGENDA FOR PRE-SCRUTINY**

5.1 Appointment of Design Consultancy Services for the Vibrant and Viable Places Programme (VVP) – Green Park Connections Project

Members noted the Private Report of the Head of Property and Regeneration.

Members raised concern over the cost of bringing in the Consultant and wondered if it was something that could have been done in-house.

Officers advised that the Consultancy firm in question had been used before by NPTCBC and that it was actually the cheapest way. Due to the high volume of work already being done in-house it would not be possible to do in-house. The VVP funding has to be delivered within a certain time. There have already been delays as the site has uncovered archaeological remains. The significance of those finds had yet to be established but further information can be brought to the next meeting.

Members queried the deadline for the grant and were advised that the money has to be given out annually over a period of three to four years. Using the same Contractor for the work ensures continuity of work. An update will be brought to the next meeting on the 19th June 2015.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposal(s) to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

5.2 Proposed Lease of the Community Education Centre, Margam Road, Taibach, Port Talbot

Members noted the Private Report of the Head of Property and Regeneration.

Members were advised that a Community Interest Company were applying for the lease of this building. It was decided that the best management of the

proposed lease was to have a rental level placed on the building and the tenant could apply for grant funding to help pay toward the lease. It was agreed that this was the cleanest way of leasing the property as if the Council were to act as a Landlord there would be more legal implications. A Service Level Agreement can be drawn up with provisos so that current users are protected.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposal(s) to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

CHAIRMAN