

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

Members Present:

3 December, 2015

Chairperson: Councillor D.W.Davies

Vice Chairperson: Councillor A.Jenkins

Councillors: Ms.C.Clement-Williams, M.Harvey,
Mrs.L.H.James, A.Llewelyn, A.R.Lockyer,
Mrs.K.Pearson, L.M.Purcell and I.D.Williams

Officers In Attendance H.Jenkins, Mrs.K.Jones, Ms.C.Furlow and
Mrs.A.Manchipp

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors A.H.Thomas, Mrs.S.Miller and
A.N.Woolcock

1. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor A.H.Thomas Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services re Third Sector Grant Funding – Award of Grants in relation to DANSA and Dove Workshops as he is a Board Member on both projects.

Councillor A.R.Lockyer Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services re Third Sector Grant Funding – Award of Grants in relation NPT Shopmobility as he is a Board Member.

Councillor A.Llewelyn Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services re Third Sector

Grant Funding – Award of Grants in relation to the Ystalyfera Development Trust as he is an ordinary community member, and confirmed his dispensation to both speak and vote thereon.

Councillor I.D.Williams

Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services re Third Sector Grant Funding – Award of Grants in relation to the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) as his daughter is employed by the CVS.

2. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

Cabinet Board Proposals

(i) Third Sector Grant Funding

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services gave Members an overview of the report which gave details of the first tranche of applications received since the approval of the new Third Sector Grant Funding Scheme, on 23 July, 2015.

Members then raised the following points in relation to the applications received:-

Confirmation was sought on the Scheme, whereby the anticipated 5% reduction in funding from the Welsh Government to the Local Authority, would be passported on to the grant recipients, who will also have a 5% cut in funding. Clarification was also sought on the procedure should the cut in Welsh Government funding be less than 5%, as there was a commitment given to advise applicants prior to the end of December. Members were advised that any adjustments would be made in the next financial year.

(At this point in the meeting Councillor A.H.Thomas reaffirmed his interest and withdrew from the room for the discussions on the applications for grant received from DANSA and Dove Workshops.)

Members questioned the apparent disparity between applications from Port Talbot and Neath/Pontardawe based

organisations. In particular DANSA covered urban areas of Swansea and the Dulais Valley etc., but not in Port Talbot urban areas. Officers advised that DANSA was a community based organisation and provided assistance in those areas worse hit by the withdrawal of bus services. The urban areas of Port Talbot was not seen as much of a problem as buses would still run on the commercially viable routes. The agreement with DANSA was to maintain the current level of service, however the Director of Environment would be advised of Members concerns.

Concern was expressed by some Members that some organisations, may receive financial support for 2 different projects or from multi streams for the same project. Officers advised that there would now be more indepth scrutiny of the work outside organisations undertook as a result of the financial support provided. Officers emphasised the importance of the work undertaken by CVS in ensuring that the third sector engaged with the Council.

(At this point in the meeting Councillor A.R. Lockyer reaffirmed his interest and withdrew from the room for the discusssions on the applications for grant received from NPT Shopmobility.)

Members requested that, due to the nature of the work undertaken by NPT Shopmobility, the Equality Impact Assessment in relation thereto, be revisited in order to keep the information up to date.

The lack of monitoring of those outside bodies supported by the Authority was discussed and Members considered and supported a proposal to invite strategic partners to Scrutiny Committee meetings in the new Civic Year to present details of the work their organisations carried out on behalf of the Council as a result of the funding.

Members were pleased to note that the Ystalyfera Development Trust was recognised as a strategic partner. In addition it was noted that the Trust had won the contract from the Department of Works and Pensions to provide support to members of the public in the County Borough.

Concern was expressed that as a result of the introduction of the Independent Living Scheme and the Direct Payment

Scheme the Authority was relying more on outside organisations such as Care and Repair, but at the same time the Authority was cutting their funding. Officers advised that the funding was core funding, to enable the organisations to remain solvent.

In relation to the work of the Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council, Members noted that it mainly focused on people in Swansea, with few cases in Neath Port Talbot. Some concern was expressed in relation to the financial position of various organisations including the Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council. Alternative provision was being developed with Community Groups in relation to equality requirements.

Members asked that Officers ensure that the Authority supported the CVS in attracting volunteers.

Members received details of the current position in relation to the Community Centre in Croeserw, which was subject to European Grant Funding.

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

(ii) Miscellaneous Grant Application

The Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

3. **URGENT ITEM**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute No 5 below the Chairman agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an Urgent Item pursuant to Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

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. **SYRIAN VULNERABLE PERSONS RELOCATION SCHEME**

Committee supported the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

CHAIRPERSON