



PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON THURSDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor S. Morgan – Chair

Councillors:

C. J. Cuss, C. Hawker, A. Lewis, Mrs G. D. Oliver, R. Saralis, D. Rees, J. Simmonds and J. Taylor

Cabinet Member:

N. George (Community and Leisure Services)

Together with:

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), S. Ead (Solicitor), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager) and E. Sullivan (Democratic Services Officer)

Outside Bodies: S. Curley (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent) and N. McLain (Gwent Police)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Binding, Mrs P. Cook, Mrs E. Forehead, Ms J. G. Jones, G. Kirby, and C. P. Mann.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 17TH MARCH 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17th March 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 7) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

4. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – VERBAL UPDATE

The Interim Head of Democratic Services briefed Members on forthcoming areas of activity that could be considered for inclusion on the committee's forward work programme.

Mrs Forbes-Thompson referred to the timeline for the Caerphilly County Borough assessment of local well-being and advised that for this reason the next committee meeting had been brought forward to the 15th February 2017. Due to the timescales involved Members were asked to consider including the draft well-being assessment as an agenda item for that meeting. In relation to the roles and responsibilities of the committee the Officer suggested that a report on its governance arrangements could also be included as this would give Members the opportunity to voice any queries or concerns.

The Chair thanked the Officer for her update and Members fully considered the options put forward.

It was moved and seconded that the 'Draft Wellbeing Assessment' and 'Governance Arrangements' be placed on the forward work programme for the next meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee and that any additional suggestions for inclusion in the forward work programme be sent to Cath Forbes-Thompson and by show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the 'Draft Wellbeing Assessment' and 'Governance Arrangements' be added to the forward work programme for consideration on the 15th February 2017.

5. CO-OPTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Interim Head of Democratic Services introduced the report which outlined the roles and terms of reference of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee in respect of its responsibilities to scrutinise the Public Services Board (PSB).

Mrs Forbes-Thompson referred to sections 4.4 and 4.5 of the report and summarised the statutory partner agencies (Aneurin University Health Board (ABUHB), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS)) and their responsibilities under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. In order to carry out their scrutiny role effectively Members were asked to consider the benefits of co-option as a means to develop partner relations, improve connections and add value to the work of scrutiny.

Possible membership options were detailed and the benefits of each summarised, it was noted that Option 3 would make the committee quite large if all the organisations were to take up the invitation. The distinction between the requirements of a co-opted member, invited representative and expert witness and their relationship and attendance at committee was fully explained. Members were asked to consider each of the 5 options detailed in section 4.7 of the report and make their recommendation to Council.

The Chair thanked the Officer for her report and full discussion ensued.

A Member suggested that the co-opted places should be utilised to provide a more diverse citizen centre representation, which could for example include the Youth Forum, Disabled, Ethnic or LGBTQ representatives.

The Officer confirmed that the options presented were a starting point and the Committee could seek to invite what ever representative bodies they felt would benefit the scrutiny process but would need to distinguish in what capacity they would sit.

Members agreed that they would like to see a greater diversity of representation when scrutinising the work of the Public Services Board and felt it important that they sit on the committee in their own right, rather than by invitation.

It was suggested that Members consider issuing an invitation to community groups, equalities organisations or the voluntary sector to secure representatives that would fall under their umbrella to attend as expert witnesses in relation to specific agenda items, whilst maintaining a core group to represent and feedback on the overall work the PSB.

The Head of Public Protection emphasised that statutory partners were very much part of and committed to the scrutiny process.

It was moved and seconded that the 3 co-opted places suggested for the statutory partner agencies be offered to under-represented groups to give a greater diversity and more citizen centred scrutiny process and by show of hands this was agreed by the majority present.

At this point in the proceedings a Member sought additional clarification on statutory partner co-option in order to make clear the recommendation being made to Council. Members took advice from Officers and discussed further the various options and combinations of possible co-option. Following these discussion the original motion as voted upon was withdrawn.

It was then moved and seconded that Option 2, subject to the following amendment, be recommended to Council. An additional co-opted place be offered to a representative from an equalities/Welsh language organisation, a disability organisation and the Youth Forum Cabinet giving a committee membership of 16 Councillors, 6 co-opted members (3 statutory partner agencies and 3 others to be named) and up to 6 invited representatives and by show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Council that: -

- (i) Option 2, subject to the following amendment, that an additional co-opted place be offered to a representative from an equalities organisation, a disability organisation and the Youth Forum Cabinet giving a committee membership of 16 Councillors, 6 co-opted members (3 statutory partner agencies and 3 others to be named) and up to 6 invited representatives be approved;
- (ii) any nominated co-opted members be subject to the code of conduct and be re-nominated every council term (5 years).

6. UNDERTAKING THE CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL WELL-BEING

Mr R. Hartshorn, the Head of Public Protection introduced the report which updated the Committee on the activity being undertaken on behalf of the Public Services Board (PSB) in relation to the Caerphilly County Borough assessment of local well-being and to seek Members' views on the approach.

The assessment process was outlined for Members information and the different engagement events held throughout the five agreed community areas outlined and were noted to include workshops and play day sessions. It was also noted that the play day sessions incorporated a specifically designed 'play pack'. A short Future Generations survey had also been developed and had been rolled out for completion at large events, such as the 'Big Cheese' as well as being made available on line and through social media.

The data generated from the key community engagement events would be looked at in-depth by a multi-agency combined data set group. Members were advised that the Gwent Strategic Assessment Group would also look at data on a Gwent wide basis in relation to economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being and generate a common data set on these themes. It was noted that a Future Scenarios Planning Event has been planned for the 20th September 2016 and engagement around the local well-being assessment culminates at the Caerphilly Public Services Board Standing Conference on the 14th October 2014.

The Officer confirmed that some of emerging themes centred on employment, educational attainment, facilities, environment and the value of community spirit and neighbourliness.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his report and a full discussion ensued.

A Member expressed concern that there had been no engagement events within some of the most deprived areas of the borough such as Rhymney and Lansbury Park, and fed back the disappointment on behalf of interested residents in the Rhymney area. Ms Kath Peters, Corporate Policy Manager, confirmed that the geographical areas had been agreed in March 2016 and given the resources and timeframe involved, events had been targeted to try and reach as many people as possible. She explained the various other engagement mechanisms that had also been utilised in order to further boost the community events. Different organisations such as Communities First, GAVO, LGBTQ and Disability Can Do had also been involved in the engagement process to try and capture data from as broad a range as possible.

Clarification was sought in relation to the engagement of children and young people and Members were advised that packs had been sent out schools throughout the assessment areas.

Having fully considered its content the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee noted the report and although Members were happy with the progress made felt the engagement approach could have been more strategic and wide ranging.

7. SAFER CAERPHILLY PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

The Head of Public Protection introduced the report which presented the Safer Caerphilly Partnership Performance Scorecard from April 2015 to March 2016.

The Officer confirmed that given the change of focus for the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee the scorecard would no longer be a routine agenda item, but would be looked as part of the committee's forward work programme.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his report and Members questions on the key performance indicators were welcomed.

Clarification was sought with regard to the timeliness of the data provided and Members requested that going forward the most up-to-date data possible be presented along with the more historic full year data set, in order to more effectively gauge the progress being made.

Members noted the progress made in relation to the various performance indicators and the improvements made with regard to anti-social behaviour, grass fires and young people entering the youth justice system and the systems employed to secure the desired outcomes.

Having fully considered its content the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee noted the report and scorecard.

The meeting closed at 18.52 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2017, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR