



SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY 2018 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Pritchard – Chair

Councillors:

L. Binding, D.T. Davies, W. David and Mrs M. Sargent

Together with:

C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received Councillor C. Mann.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 27TH JULY 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Scrutiny Leadership Group meeting held on 27th July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

4. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMMES WORKSHOP

The Interim Head of Democratic Services outlined the parameters of the workshop which were to consider the arrangements for the forward work programme workshops to be held in May 2018, that will be held following the Annual General Meeting of Full Council and also reflect on what had worked well in Scrutiny in the past year and what could be improved.

External Witnesses

The benefits of inviting and hearing from expert witnesses were highlighted and the need to consider this at an early stage in the work programme planning stages was emphasised.

Crosscutting and Strategic Approach

It was agreed that more crosscutting issues should be considered by committees, including joint working groups, and ensure that items on the Corporate risk register are considered when discussing the forward work programmes.

Training and Support

The knowledge and understanding of service areas is an important area for Members development, it was agreed that further training should be offered to committee members. It was also agreed that some training on rules of procedure would be helpful for Members and the questioning and listening skills training which is included in the training programme will be of benefit.

General

It is generally agreed that it is important for Members to take ownership of the Scrutiny process and ensure that all committee members take part in the work programme workshops.

Members discussed the benefits of pre-meetings, but expressed concern that there are still some Members who do not attend, an informal record of attendance has been taken for the past year, and it was suggested that an additional column to show late arrivals would be of assistance to chairs.

It was agreed that site visits for Committee prior to reports being considered is a useful means to give Members a fuller understanding of issues, in some instances meeting in other venues can help improve public involvement.

The meeting closed at 18.36 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 11h October 2018 they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR