



## **PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH  
ON THURSDAY, 17TH JANUARY 2019 AT 5.30 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor J. Pritchard – Chair  
Councillor G. Kirby – Vice-Chair

**Councillors:**

M. Adams, K. Etheridge, Mrs E. Forehead, L. Harding, C. Mann, J. Ridgewell,  
Mrs M.E. Sargent, R. Saralis and L.G. Whittle.

**Outside Bodies:**

A. Hussey (South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority)

**Together with:**

R. Kyte (Head of Planning and Regeneration), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager),  
T. McMahon (Community Regeneration Manager), P. Cooke (Senior Policy Officer), C. Evans  
(Interim Scrutiny Officer) and K. Houghton (Committee Services Officer)

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs E. Aldworth, Mrs C. Forehead,  
G. Johnston, Mrs D. Price, J. Taylor and together with S. Curley (Office of Gwent Police and  
Crime Commissioner), J. White (Office of Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner), M. Diggle  
(Caerphilly Youth Forum), H. Fletcher (NRW), S. Tiley (GAVO) and Ms L.C. Jones (Menter  
Iaith Sir Caerffili).

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **3. MINUTES – 13TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on  
13th September 2018 (minute nos. 1 - 8) be approved as a correct record and signed  
by the Chair.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

### **4. PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Interim Scrutiny Officer presented the report, which outlined details of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period of January 2019 to July 2019 and sought suggestions, from Members, for any changes to its contents.

It was unanimously agreed that subject to changes that may arise as a result of the meeting, the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme be published on the Council's website.

### **5. HALF YEAR PROGRESS UPDATE 'THE CAERPHILLY WE WANT' WELLBEING PLAN 2018-2023**

The Corporate Policy Manager introduced the report to the Committee which updated Members on the Performance Framework and Half-year Progress which was presented to the Caerphilly Public Services Board on the 4th December 2019.

She informed the Members that at the December meeting of the PSB it was agreed that performance would be reviewed at each of its quarterly meetings on a rotational basis. This would therefore effect the information that the Committee would see at each of its twice yearly meetings which differs from the PSB's quarterly meeting schedule. Members were referred to section 4.4. of the report which outlines how the PSB will assess its own performance by looking at Action Areas and Enablers in two sets, however it will consider the Communications and Engagement Enabler at every meeting.

Members raised concerns regarding the level of participation of partners in the certain workshops and working groups that take place around the Enablers and Action Areas and whether there has been a decline in the interest some of the partner organisations. The Corporate Policy Manager informed Members that the Local Authority has a responsibility to administer the PSB but that the delivery is collaborative. The Local Authority has no more responsibility than any other member for delivery, however, because of the breadth of services provided it was leading on more areas than other member organisations. It has been noted by the PSB that attendance at some working groups is not consistent and this is a matter for them to resolve. The onus is on the PSB to lead and drive forward the Strategic Plan and ensure partner participation. She emphasised that the Plan was in the early stages of delivery and the PSB and its partners were on a learning curve and therefore still in a settling in period. It is expected that attendance will improve as the Delivery Plans for each area's progress.

Members discussed PSB accountability and scrutiny and how this could better tie in with the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee. The discussion also included how the frequency of the Committee meetings could be adjusted to maximise the effectiveness of its scrutiny. Concerns were raised that there will be too much of a delay between partners reporting their performance to the PSB and the Committee scrutinising the data. The Corporate Policy Manager reminded Members that as a scrutiny committee they could call forward any witnesses they wished and choose what they wished to scrutinise. The Chair proposed that the Committee hold a workshop to consider the Committee's Forward Work Programme in greater detail with partner organisations in attendance and this was agreed by the Committee.

A Member enquired as to how the Apprenticeships Action Area Leads were encouraging the private sector to offer apprenticeship opportunities. The Community Regeneration Manager acknowledged that there was no formal link between the Action Area and the private sector

however this is addressed within the Welsh Economy Strategy which the Action Area works with and through this avenue relationships are being formed with the wider business network and a new framework is in place to increase support for apprenticeships and increase the opportunities for businesses to take on apprentices.

In the course of the discussion Members raised concerns that there was potential for the Plan to be undermined by budget cuts across the local authority and highlighted the Volunteering Action Area as particularly vulnerable to being impacted by these cuts. The Corporate Policy Manager advised Members that there were cuts across all the sectors and the voluntary sector, like others, may have to adapt and look at its priorities. If major changes occur which impact on an Action Area's ability to meet objectives then the PSB will identify and address this through the performance reporting framework.

A Member sought clarification regarding the population of the performance reports for each Enabler and Action Area particularly where there are gaps in the information. The Corporate Policy Manager advised Members that Areas were still in the process of populating the Action Plans with information as working groups began to meet more frequently. In view of the streamlining of reports as referred to in the Officer's introduction of the report, the PSB will be relooking at the reporting information and filling in those gaps that exist. This will be done in March 2019.

Members discussed their disappointment at the lack of attendance at the Committee of Action Area Lead Officers as it was considered difficult to fully scrutinise the reports without having those Officers present to question. The Corporate Policy Manager reminded Members that they had determined to look at an area in depth at each meeting and to receive and update report on other areas. Should Committee wish to have attendance from all Leads this will have to be communicated.

A Member proposed that a letter be written to the PSB requesting that they actively encourage Lead Officers to attend the 6 monthly Partnerships Scrutiny Committee and that via the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive, as representatives for the administration of the PSB, that they acknowledge the letter and provide assurance to the Committee that they will uphold their request. This was agreed by the Committee.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Policy Manager and Members for their contributions to the discussion of this report.

## **6. PRESENTATION ON RESILIENT COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN**

The Head of Planning and Regeneration, the Community Regeneration Manager and Senior Policy Officer provided Members with a presentation which sought to update Members on the work being done by the Lansbury Coalition for Change Board in relation to the Resilient Communities Action Plan.

The Head of Planning and Regeneration informed Members that the Board had revised its terms of reference to make the Board more fit for purpose and it had seen a reinvigoration in its purpose. The Board has also been developing the Resilient Communities Action Plan identifying what and where it wants to be in the delivery of its objectives.

The Officers provided Members with detailed updates on each of the key tasks identified as part of the Resilient Communities Action Plan which fell under four delivery objectives, those being to establish project management, co-ordination, delivery structures and responsibilities, identify and evaluate the service currently being delivered, establish and deliver a programme of projects based on the Deep Place Study recommendations and consider the findings and learning from the Lansbury Park work.

The local Ward and Scrutiny committee Member thanked Officers for the work being undertaken in Lansbury and informed the Committee that there was already a visible improvement in the area. The Member however did express frustration that as Ward Member for the area they had received little information on the Board's activities and requested that there be an increased level of engagement with all Ward Members for Lansbury Park. She had a number of questions relating to the area and it was agreed that the Member and her Ward colleagues would meet with the relevant Officers outside of the Committee for a detailed update.

Members discussed the benefits of encouraging and providing opportunities for training and development among residents and took particular note of the local initiative in place young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The Community Regeneration Manager advised Members that the initiative had entered a bid to Welsh Government to develop entrepreneurial skills among residents in deprived areas including Lansbury Park.

Members enquired as to how the work being undertaken would be evaluated and whether key examples of successes would be reported. The Senior Policy Officer informed Members that the Board had agreed an evaluation framework which can be circulated to the Committee and progress is reported to the PSB 6 monthly including an annual report. The Head of Planning and Regeneration highlighted to Members that the action plan was a living document and would change as the work progresses.

A Member asked for clarification on how much funding was coming from the HRA and what impact this would have on the budget. The Head of Planning and Regeneration explained that funding would come out of the Environmental Programme budget. Resources in general will need to be carefully managed with the focus being on capacity provision as well as funding.

Members discussed how much volunteers were being engaged with to support the various projects taking place in the area and that the voluntary work taking place should be celebrated. The Community Regeneration Manager advised Members that there was volunteer involvement in almost all the projects but particularly noted volunteer roles in school and employment projects and the Parent Network activities. She informed Members that volunteer engagement was challenging but work continues to maximise all opportunities to encourage volunteering. She agreed to provide Members with the numbers of volunteers currently working in Lansbury Park.

Members considered the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation and the impact the work taking place in Lansbury Park will have on the area's ranking. The Community Regeneration Manager informed Members that there would be changes to the measures in the next index which means that it will not be comparable to the last index conducted and so changes to Lansbury Park's ranking would be limited. In addition the deprivation being targeted is largely generational deprivation and therefore the interventions taking place will not yet indicate significant impact, this may take 5-10 years. Members discussed the need to manage the public's expectations in regard to the index and the long term impact of the projects being carried out.

The Committee asked that their formal thanks to the lead officers for Resilient Communities, the Lansbury Coalition for Change Board and Officers that support the work in Lansbury Park be recorded.

The Chair thanked the Officers and Members for their contributions and discussion.

## **7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Partnerships Scrutiny Committee received and noted the following information items:-

- (1) Caerphilly Public Service Board Minutes – 5th June 2018
- (2) Caerphilly Public Service Board Minutes – 11th September 2018

The meeting closed at 18:50p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2019, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR