



HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY,
20TH APRIL 2021 AT 5.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Whitcombe - Chair
Councillor Mrs C. Forehead - Vice-Chair

Councillors:

C. Elsbury, G. Kirby, B. Owen, W. Williams and B. Zaplatynski.

Cabinet Members:

Cllr. S. Morgan (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise).

Together with:

M. S. Williams (Corporate Director for Economy and Environment), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), A. Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer) and J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairperson reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded and would be made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. [Click here to view.](#)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, D. Cushing, R. W. Gough, L. Harding, A. G. Higgs, Ms P. Leonard, Mrs G. D. Oliver, Mrs D. Price, Mrs M. E. Sargent and L. Phipps (Cabinet Member for Housing and Property).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 9TH MARCH 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9th March 2021 (minute nos. 1 - 8) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. CALL-IN PROCEDURE

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

5. HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report which outlined details of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the period April 2021 to March 2022 and included all reports that were identified at the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9th March 2021. Members were asked to consider the Forward Work Programme, alongside the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, prior to publication on the Council's website.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme be published on the Councils' website.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

6. REGENERATION PROJECT BOARD – MONITORING REPORT 2020

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise presented the report which provided the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the projects being taken forward with the support of the Regeneration Project Board and Cabinet. It was highlighted that in May 2018 Cabinet agreed a Regeneration Project Board would be set up with a cross-party political representation of Councillors plus key officers. This group is supported by a Regeneration Assessment Panel consisting of officers from a range of service areas. It was further highlighted that at the subsequent June 2018 Board meeting a Project Prioritisation Toolkit was approved for the Board to prioritise projects and this was subsequently agreed by Council on 17th July 2018.

The Scrutiny Committee was advised that in January 2019 Cabinet resolved to release £1.2m of reserves for the Regeneration Board prioritised projects, bringing the Total Development Fund budget allocation to £1.5m. To date, £1,392,200 has been allocated towards prioritised capital regeneration schemes, across the County Borough, leaving a residual balance of £107,800 from the total budget allocation. Members were informed that approval for the allocation of the residual £107,000 Regeneration Development Funds

towards a scheme at Bedwas Bridge is subject to Cabinet consideration on the 21st April 2021; and the report also asks Cabinet to note the allocation of £20,689.00 Licence to Innovate Funding for a Gelato Counter for Coffi Vista, Caerphilly.

Councillor B. Owen sought clarification and further information regarding the various projects, in terms of a percentage of where the money is being spent across the county borough.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning provided clarity on the masterplan for Risca to Newbridge and the Scrutiny Committee was informed that an Officer has been appointed to the Strategic Planning Team, whose dedicated resource is to prepare the masterplan. Members were advised that the Officer will arrange a meeting with both Ward Members and Community and Town Councils for their involvement and direct input into the masterplan. The Officer highlighted that whilst significant investment has gone into Caerphilly Town, the Council has been successful in securing in the region of £2.8m to undertake significant improvements and work at Cwmcarn Forest Drive. The Scrutiny Committee was informed that at present the focus has been on Caerphilly Town because of the emphasis of Welsh Government and the Valleys Task Force on Caerphilly Town, however historically up to 2015 the focus was on Newbridge and circa £15m was spent on regeneration initiatives. Members were advised that the authority has to focus resources strategically, but also take advantage of funding pots and where they are targeted.

In response to a Member's query, the Head of Regeneration and Planning outlined a timeline for the masterplan and agreed to confirm details via e-mail.

The Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee noted the progress made on progressing significant regeneration schemes of strategic importance by the Regeneration Project Board to date.

The meeting closed at 5.53 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 20th July 2021, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR