



HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 21ST JUNE 2022 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Whitcombe - Chair

Councillors:

D. Cushing, G. Ead, C. Forehead, A. Hussey, C. Mann, A. McConnell, B. Owen, L. Phipps, J. A. Pritchard, S. Williams, W. Williams and J. Winslade.

Cabinet Members:

Councillor P. Leonard (Planning and Public Protection), Councillor J. Pritchard (Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change) and Councillor S. Cook (Housing).

Together with:

N. Taylor-Williams (Head of Housing), J. Roberts-Waite (Strategic Coordination Manager), M. Jennings (Principal Housing Strategy Officer), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer) and M. Afzal (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting would be live-streamed and a recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Members were advised that voting on decisions would be taken via Microsoft Forms.

Due to technical difficulties this meeting was not live-streamed or recorded.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Cook (Vice Chair), L. Jeremiah and Mrs D. Price.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 15TH MARCH 2022

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2022 be approved as a correct record. By way of Microsoft Forms this was agreed by the majority.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15th March 2022 (minute nos. 1 - 9) 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

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report which outlined details of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the period June 2022 to March 2023 and included all reports that were identified at the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15th March 2022. Members were asked to consider the Forward Work Programme, alongside the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, prior to publication on the Council's website.

Members were advised that a joint scrutiny meeting, with the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee, has been scheduled for 28th July 2022 to consider the Caerphilly County Borough Council Car Parks Task and Finish Group report.

Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 11 votes for, 0 votes against and 2 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

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

6. CABINET REPORTS

None of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda had been called forward for discussion at the meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

7. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENT 2022-27

The Cabinet Member for Housing presented the report to seek the views of Members of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2022-27 (GTAA) prior to its presentation to Cabinet on 13th July 2022. Members were informed that Part 3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to undertake an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and

Travellers residing in or travelling through their area, and to make provision for sites where the assessment identifies an unmet need for mobile home pitches. Local authorities must submit their completed GTAA to Welsh Ministers for scrutinization who will then decide whether to approve or reject the GTAA.

A point of correction was made in relation to the report in that current unmet need now is 11, raising to 12 within the next 5 years and to 14 over the life of the Local Development Plan.

Clarification and further information were sought regarding the three unauthorised developments at separate locations in the county borough. The Principal Housing Strategy Officer confirmed that members of the Gypsy and Traveller community were living on private sites without planning permission. A Member drew particular attention to the report which noted that the location of the 3 sites have not been disclosed to protect the identities of the people living at these sites. In response to a query, Members were advised that planning applications have been submitted for 2 of the 3 unauthorised developments which are in the public domain, and as such details of these locations were then shared with the Committee.

It was noted that 9 surveys were completed during the undertaking of the GTAA and the information provided from these surveys found that all respondents considered themselves to be suitably accommodated, despite not having planning permission to reside at their current location. In response to a query, the Principal Housing Strategy Officer advised Members that the process is ongoing and that the progress of each planning application for the unauthorised developments will be monitored.

During the course of debate, enquires were made regarding the provision of local authority owned Gypsy and Traveller sites in the county borough. In response, the Head of Housing advised the Committee that additional sites can be provided; however, the previous evidence base had indicated that there was no identified need for a Gypsy and Traveller site and, therefore, no permanent or transit sites have been allocated.

Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 11 votes for, 0 votes against and 2 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

The Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee noted and discussed the content, prior to its presentation to Cabinet on 13th July 2022.

RESOLVED that the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation to endorse the findings of the GTAA report.

The meeting closed at 6.01 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 29th November 2022, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR