



PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY 2023 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor G. Johnston - Chair

Councillors:

M.A. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, C.J. Cuss, G. Enright, D. Ingram-Jones, A. McConnell, B. Miles (Vice Chair), D. Preece, J. Taylor, A. Whitcombe, L.G. Whittle, and C. Wright.

Cabinet Members: Councillors P. Leonard and E. Stenner.

Together with:

K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), T. McMahon (Caerphilly Cares Manager), I. Evans (Procurement and Information Manager), B. Thomson-Payne (Property Review Officer), A. Griffiths (Community Wellbeing Manager), L. Hughes (Area Regeneration Co-ordinator), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), and J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer).

Also in attendance: S. Ellington (Citizens Advice Bureau) and Cllr A. Hussey (South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting would be live-streamed and a recording made available following the meeting via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items – [Click Here to View](#). It was noted that voting on decisions would take place via Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors C.P. Mann, J. Reed, and C. Thomas.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 21ST JULY 2022

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2022 be approved as a correct record and by way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 10 for, 0 against and 3 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 21st July 2022 (minute nos. 1 – 8) be approved as a correct record.

4. MINUTES – 1ST NOVEMBER 2022

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special meeting held on 1st November 2022 be approved as a correct record and by way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 9 for, 0 against and 5 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 1st November 2022 (minute nos. 1 – 4) be approved as a correct record.

5. PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report, which outlined details of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period January 2023 to April 2023. Members were asked to consider the FWP and suggest any changes prior to publication on the Council's website.

It was moved and seconded that the report recommendation be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

6. CAERPHILLY CARES (ACTION AREA AA4B) – PRESENTATION.

Members were given a presentation by the Caerphilly Cares Team, which informed them of the origin of Caerphilly Cares and details of how it operates throughout the County Borough. Members were informed of the structure of the Caerphilly Cares Team, which includes Duty Officers, Community Connectors and Caseworkers, Community Development Officers and Food Development Officers, and Volunteer Co-ordinators and a Volunteer Development Officer.

Members were made aware of the Community Well-Being Priorities which included, Caerphilly Cares Gateway with single point of contact for support services (SPOC), Community Group Engagement, Welcoming Spaces, Pop Up Delivery Sessions, 1-2-1 Individual Support, Cost of Living Roadshows, and IAA Joint Working.

Members were also informed of the Community Well-Being Projects in Progress, which include Supporting Family Change and 16+, Family Team and Well-Being Team, Flying

Start, Supporting People, DWP and CAB, Education (EWO's), and Safer Communities Group.

Members were advised of Community Well-Being future plans, which included School Heads, Housing Tenancy Support, United Welsh Housing, PHP Social Prescribing (GPs), and Leisure Centre NERS Programme, and the priorities during the current Cost of Living Crisis, including Welcoming Spaces, Energy Project (SPF Housing), Warm Packs, Hygiene Packs, Cost of Living Roadshows, Pop Up Delivery Sessions, Hardship Fund, Cost of Living in Schools, Mobile Phone Provision, and Raising Awareness for Available Funds.

Members were also informed of all the volunteering projects and opportunities within Caerphilly Cares and were provided with data on the progress of Caerphilly Cares to date.

A Member queried the confidentiality of the SPOC sessions, and the impact of GDPR when information is shared between departments of the Council. Members were advised that consent is always gained from the individual prior to any information sharing.

A Member sought clarification on the links with FE (Further Education), and whether students doing Health and Social Care, would be targeted as volunteers, with a view to possible future employment. Members were advised that this was the current view when targeting volunteers for this area within the authority.

A Member queried whether the Safer Communities Groups could intervene with local issues, or whether their work was based on referrals from the Police. Members were advised that people are offered support in crisis, in order to prevent crime, theft, etc.

A Member also queried the level of support they might receive from Caerphilly Cares, in particular in relation to a recent application for their local library to become a 'warm space'. Members were advised that they would receive support from Caerphilly Cares, with the set-up of the 'warm space' if approved, including the provision of 'warm packs' and that users in crisis can be referred to Caerphilly Cares as and when needed, who would then make the appropriate referrals for that individuals particular needs.

A Member wished to note the positive aspect of the Cooking Champion within the communities, who advises on the provision of nutritious meals at low costs.

A Member queried school visits by the Police, and whether these still occurred. Members were advised that these were still ongoing and also included PCSO's in the area, who would make the relevant referrals to CCBC and Caerphilly Cares. Members were also referred to the Community Safety Wardens for their knowledge of specific areas and anti-social behaviour.

The Chair thanked the team for all their work in the community.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the presentation.

7. FINAL UPDATE ON THE ENABLER AREAS UNDER THE CAERPHILLY WE WANT WELL-BEING PLAN 2018-2023.

The Corporate Policy Manager introduced the report which provided an update to Members on the enabler areas under the Caerphilly Public Services Board's (PSB's) well-being plan, 'The Caerphilly We Want 2018-2023'.

The report informed Members of the headline activity under each of the enabler areas, Communication and Engagement, Procurement, and Asset Management, including what

has been achieved, any changes in approach over the 5-year duration, and to effectively close off the current well-being plan for the county borough through Member scrutiny of all areas of the plan.

Members were advised that the replacement well-being plan for the area will be at a regional level and is currently being developed by the Gwent Public Services Board, to be published by May 2023. This will run for the statutory 5-year period from 2023-2028.

Members were also provided with update information contained in the report, in relation to the three enabler areas.

A Member sought clarification on whether the increase in fuel costs had affected procurement, and if local suppliers were given priority. Members were advised that the local suppliers had also been affected by the rise in fuel costs, but that Caerphilly County Borough Council, for several years, and this will continue going forward, focussed on using local suppliers, where possible in accordance with the procurement rules and Council's governance procedures.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the update.

8. PROGRESS UPDATE – THE CAERPHILLY WE WANT WELL-BEING PLAN 2018-2023 (1ST MAY TO 31ST OCTOBER 2022).

The Corporate Policy Manager introduced the report which informed Members on the performance updates for delivery against the Caerphilly Public Services Board (PSB) - Caerphilly We Want Well-Being Plan 2018-2023 for the period from 1st May 2022 to 31st October 2022.

Members were advised that the appendices to the report provided details of the continued delivery under the action areas and enablers in the current well-being plan for the county borough up until October 2022. Members were also advised that all reports have been agreed by the residual Caerphilly PSB and are available on the Caerphilly PSB website, and delivery of the existing well-being plan will continue until May 2023.

Members were informed that, to date, they have received in depth reports on Resilient Communities, Good Health and Well-being, Natural Environment, Apprenticeships and Volunteering, Safer Communities, Best Start in Life, Caerphilly Cares, and Jobs Growth and Employability Support.

A Member sought clarification on the active travel in resilient communities, with the continued improvement of active travel routes for pedestrians and cyclists and noted that there had not been much emphasis on the improvement of routes for pedestrians. The Member also noted that some of the cycle routes accessed busy roads and would not be suitable for children. It was also suggested that an old viaduct in the Crosskeys area could be a potential cycle route avoiding roads. Members were advised that the relevant officers would be contacted, and information sought would be provided to Members following the meeting.

A Member queried why 'apprenticeships and volunteering' had been linked together in the same theme as areas of activity in the well-being plan. Members were advised that initially these were two separate areas, but that volunteering could be seen as a 'route' into work, gaining experience and knowledge, which was then linked with apprenticeships going forward.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the update.
The Chair thanked the team for all their work over the last 5 years.

The meeting closed at 6.59 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2023.

CHAIR