

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF THE DECISIONS FROM THE HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors: C. Bishop, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, D. Cushing, C. Gordon, T. Heron, D. Ingram-Jones, A. McConnell, B. Owen, L. Phipps, H. Pritchard, J. A. Pritchard, J. Rao, and S. Williams (Vice Chair).

Cabinet Members: C. Morgan (Waste, Leisure, and Green Spaces), S. Cook, J. Pritchard, (Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change), P. Leonard (Planning and Public Protection)

Officers: M.S. Williams (Corporate Director for Economy and Environment), Gareth Jenkins (Interim Director for Social Services), N. Taylor-Williams (Head of Housing), L. Allen (Finance Manager-Housing), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), J. Lougher (Sports and Development Manager) P. Cooke (Transformation Manager (Lead – Decarbonisation), A. Lewis (Transformation Project Officer), N. Kenny (Community Safety), E. Kemp (Community Safety Officer), F. Wilkins (Housing Services Manager), S. Isaacs (Rents Manager), L. Sykes (Deputy Head of Financial Services and s151 Officer) (M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer) and S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer).

Also in attendance: Cllr C. Gordon (Presiding Member) and M. Smith (Police and Crime Commissioners Office

The decisions and declarations of interest are set out below. For further details please refer to the relevant report.

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	VOTE
1.	To receive apologies for absence.	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Cuss, D. T. Davies, A. Hussey, M. James, and A. Whitcombe	N/A
2.	Declarations of interest.	<u>Agenda Item No. 7 - Universal Credit and 53 Week Years - Councillor A. McConnell</u> declared a personal and prejudicial interest in that she is a contract holder as such she would leave the meeting when the item was considered and take no part in the debate or vote.	N/A
3.	Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 18 th June 2024.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 18 th June 2024 be approved as a correct record.	7 For 0 Against 4 Abstention
4.	Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.	There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.	N/A

5.	Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.	<p>Subject to the inclusion of an additional report on Civil Parking Enforcement to the 10th December 2024 meeting it was moved and seconded that Forward Work Programme be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms this was agreed by the majority present</p> <p>RESOLVED that subject to the aforementioned addition the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme be published on the Council's website.</p>	10 For 0 Against 1 Abstention
6.	To receive and consider the Cabinet reports listed on the Agenda.	There had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.	N/A
7.	Universal Credit and 53 Week Years	<p>Following consideration of the report It was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained therein be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms this was agreed by the majority present.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The views of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee be presented to Cabinet on the 16 October 2024. 2. The report be considered and the implementation of a "Rent Hardship Grant" which would be made available to contract holders of Caerphilly homes affected by the Universal Credit Week 53 rules and evidencing financial hardship be agreed. 3. Be noted that in order to administer the eligibility process additional staff resources may be required, currently estimated to be scale 5 - £36k. This could be funded for a period of 12 months from the HRA Contract Holders support reserve although initially the service will try to absorb into the current structure, but this is dependent on take up of the grant. 	11 For 0 Against 1 Abstention
8.	Interim Strategy For Serious Violence Prevention For Gwent 2024-25	Following consideration of the report, the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee noted the information contained in the report and Members offered their views on the Strategy	N/A

		Report which would be presented to Cabinet for approval.	
9.	Sport Caerphilly Disability Sports Camp	Following consideration of the report the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the issues set out in the report and provided their views on a proposal that the existing model of delivery of Disability Sports Camps ceases noting that resources would be better invested supporting other initiatives and promoting and growing the Disability Sport directory.	N/A
10.	Public Interest Test – Cwm lfor Solar Farm, Final Business Case Report	RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as identified in paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.	13 For 0 Against 0 Abstention
11.	Cwm lfor Solar Farm, Final Business Case Report (EMEMPT)	RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that the recommendations at 3.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 of the report be endorsed.	11 For 0 Against 1 Abstention

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