

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019 AT 09:30**

Present

Councillor CA Green – Chairperson

JPD Blundell	NA Burnett	J Gebbie	T Giffard
RMI Shaw	JC Spanswick	CA Webster	

Apologies for Absence

N Clarke, RL Penhale-Thomas and T Thomas

Officers:

Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Councillor Philip White	Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help
Robin Davies	Group Manager - Business Strategy and Performance
Gareth Denning	Policy Team Leader
Nerys Edmonds	Representative from Public Health Wales
Gail Jewell	Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Richard Matthams	Development Planning - Team Leader
Jonathan Parsons	Group Manager Development
Craige Wilson	Assistant Director Primary Care - Cwm Taf Health Board
Adam Provoost	Senior Development Planning Officer

118. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr John Spanswick declared a personal interest in Item 5 as he is a Member of Development Control Committee and LDP Steering Group Committee;
Cllr Jon-Paul Blundell declared a personal interest in Item 5 as he is a Member of LDP Steering Group Committee;
Cllr Nicole Burnett declared a personal interest in Item 5 as she is a Member of Development Control Committee;
Cllr Carolyn Webster declared a personal interest in Item 4 as she is a Board Member of the Royal College of GP's and in Item 5 as she is a Member of Development Control Committee.

119. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 3 April 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record.

120. SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing briefly presented the Director of Social Services' draft Annual Report to Committee, the purpose of which was to outline how Social Services in Bridgend County Council had delivered services during 2018/19.

The Committee were advised of the objectives for 2018/19 and were provided information on whether the Directorate were successful in their aims and similarly what the Directorate hoped to achieve in the following year. The proposed changes for 2019-20 included:

- To provide people with more choice and control over what support they receive;

- Roll out of plans in relation to the running of day services and day opportunities in the future;
- Implement plans surrounding looked after children;
- Finalise a transition service model to assist disabled children transition into adulthood effectively.

The Committee received the annual report well and were very complimentary on the content, specifying how well written the report was due to the plain language used throughout, which would assist the public to follow and understand the information within the document with ease.

Members also commended the Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing and her team on the obvious shift in culture undertaken by the Directorate and the embedded new ways of working.

The Committee questioned working relationships with other departments, specifically with the Education and Family Support Directorate and further queried if there were any gaps that required work. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained that current working relationships across all Directorates was the best it has ever been. She explained that the Corporate Management Board were a small team that all sit in one room, which provided a greater opportunity to discuss topics as and when they arise.

The Head of Children's Social Care provided an example of successful partnership working between both Directorates, where the Social Services Directorate were involved in discussions in the early stages regarding allocations of the Integrated Care Fund that is directly provided to the Education and Family Support Directorate for preventative work.

A Member made reference to performance indicators provided at a Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) meeting where it was acknowledged that sickness levels within the Directorate were not improving, as well as an increase in delays with transfers of care for social care reasons and asked that both these statistics are provided within the report along with an explanation of how they will be dealt with. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing proceeded to update the Committee on the transfer from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board to Cwm Taf University Health Board, as well as the possible options for the adoption services.

RESOLVED: The Committee commended the Corporate Director on the production of the Social Services Annual Report 2018/19 for the reason that the report is written in plain English, which will enable the public to easily recognise how social services in Bridgend have been delivered over the past year and will be in the future.

The Committee congratulated the Directorate on the change management undertaken within Social Services and recommend that the Directorate share best practice with other Directorates with changing mind-sets on working cultures.

Members noted that Directorate sickness levels are increasing and that the Directorate are encountering delayed transfers of care for social care reasons and therefore recommended that both these areas are referenced within the Social Services Annual Report, along with what mitigating factors will be put in place to increase future performance.

121. BRIDGEND REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2033 DRAFT VISION & OBJECTIVES, GROWTH & SPATIAL OPTIONS

The Development Planning Manager presented the Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 Draft Vision & Objectives, Growth & Spatial Options report, the purpose of which was to provide background information in respect of the draft vision and objectives, growth options and spatial strategy options proposed for the Replacement Local Development Plan.

The Committee were advised that the Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) is a high level strategy document which must be prepared by the Council. In order to tackle key issues and guide and manage future development, the LDPs vision and objectives need to be revisited to ensure they remain relevant to local needs and aspirations.

The Senior Development Planning Officer presented 3 Strategic Growth options, Low, Mid and High – each option outlining dwelling requirements, what employment provision it could potentially generate, along with the achievability of each option. He specified that the evidence suggests that the most appropriate growth option would be mid, which would mean a continuation of the types of build rates seen over the last five years.

On the subject of housing the Committee queried how the size and type of dwelling is considered prior to development and observed that there was no reference to Bridgend County Borough Council's Empty Housing Strategy within the LDP and suggested that both Strategy and Plan should be worked on in conjunction with each other. Members were reassured that the Empty Housing Strategy is taken into account and the size of dwelling would be calculated based on evidence.

The Committee were advised that in addition to setting out the level of growth needed over the plan period, the Replacement LDP must put forward a clear spatial strategy for where this development should take place within the County Borough. Members were informed that due to significant constraint at M4, Junction 36, Parc Derwen and Valley's Gateway would be ruled out as areas for potential new growth.

On the subject of potential sites for development the Committee maintained that sustainable development needs to be sustainable for the community. Members therefore highlighted the need to increase engagement with the public to gauge communities' requirements prior to planning to develop. In response Members were advised that target education and consultation with Town and Community Councils will be arranged where it is likely that development will take place.

A Member emphasised a worrying trend with development over the years and the lack of regeneration in isolated areas throughout the Borough. To assist with rectifying this issue, it was suggested that a policy for small scale initiatives, such as place plans should be promoted and detailed within the LDP.

The Committee are aware and understand that development is required to take place within the Borough but Members advised that the Council need to be mindful of the potential impact development has on our other directorates such as Education and Highways and also our partners in Health and the Police.

RESOLVED: The Committee highlighted the importance of effective engagement with members of the public and stated that all communities should be educated regarding the Local Development Plan processes and are then encouraged to contribute to the document. Therefore Members

recommended the following opportunities are explored to assist with promoting the processes and Plan:

- To utilise elected Members;
- To involve Communications, Marketing and Engagement;
- To specifically seek to engage with Town and Community Councils where development is likely to take place;
- To allocate additional resource for a consultant to facilitate engagement with Elected Members and members of the public.

Members recommend that a policy for small scale, community based initiatives, such as place plans should be detailed within the Local Development Plan, to assist communities create schemes that they feel would benefit the whole community.

Members request to receive and consider Bridgend Replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 Draft Vision & Objectives, Growth & Spatial Options at an appropriate time during the consultation process to be kept up to date on progress made.

122. NOMINATION TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY PANEL

RESOLVED: That the following Members were nominated to sit on the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Councillor RMI Shaw
Councillor JC Spanswick
Councillor T Giffard

123. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

RESOLVED: That Councillor CA Webster was nominated as the Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

124. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer reported on items to be considered at the meeting of the Committee on 17 July 2019 and sought confirmation of the information required for the subsequent meeting to be held on 25 September 2019. She also reported on a list of potential Forward Work Programme items for prioritisation and allocation to each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

RESOLVED: Members agreed the items scheduled for Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 July 2019 and their subsequent meeting on 25 September 2019.

The Committee confirmed and prioritised the following items to the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

9 Sept 2019	SOSC 1	Post 16 Education – Consultation
16 Sept 2019	SOSC 2	Youth Offending Service
9 Oct 2019	SOSC 1	Plasnewydd – Escalation from MSEP
10 Oct 2019	SOSC 2	Prevention & Wellbeing Approaches and Day Time Opportunities
4 Nov 2019	SOSC 3	Highways

125. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Feedback from Meetings report and requested that the Committee approve the feedback and responses to the comments and recommendations from the previous meeting and allocate Red, Amber, and Green (RAG) statuses to each recommendation.

RESOLVED: As requested in the report, the Committee allocated RAG statuses to each recommendation as appropriate and agreed to monitor the statuses on an ongoing basis.

126. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 11:30