

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2024 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson

S J Bletsoe

C Davies

J E Pratt

I Williams

Present – Virtually

N Clarke

W J Kendall

MJ Williams

G Walter

Apologies for Absence

RJ Collins, P W Jenkins and MJ Kearn

Invitees:

Councillor Neelo Farr

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing

Janine Nightingale

Corporate Director – Communities

Delyth Webb

Group Manger, Strategic Regeneration

Ieuan Sherwood

Group Manger, Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability

Officers:

Lucy Beard

Scrutiny Officer

Stephen Griffiths

Interim Scrutiny Officer / Democratic Services Officer – Committees

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell – Personal – Member of Cabinet when Item 4 sent out for consultation.

Prejudicial – Member of Cabinet when Item 7 considered.

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75. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>Resolved:</u> That the minutes of a meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 dated 22 April 2024 be approved, subject to the inclusion of Cllr Graham Walter being present for the meeting.
Date Decision Made	16 July 2024

76. Valleys Regeneration Strategy

Decision Made	<p><u>Resolved:</u> Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers the Committee made the following comments and recommendations:</p> <p>The Committee discussed in detail the current position of the drafting of a Regeneration Strategy for the Valleys, how progress was being made against the economic regeneration initiatives, the outcome of the public consultation process to inform the strategy and projects in the Valleys under the Corporate Plan Objective – a County Borough with thriving valleys communities.</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The public consultation to inform the strategy asked respondents to rate a list of elements within the Valleys area(s) from excellent to very poor, respondents were also given the opportunity to provide comments on other elements in the area, and the comments received were collated by theme in a table in the report. Members discussed various elements and the funding that would be needed to progress them in the future and going forward the Committee recommended that when looking at the Corporate Plan the elements identified to inform the Strategy be filtered into that process, and that their funding is considered when looking at the budget process.2. Members expressed concern regarding managing expectations and the need to be mindful of not creating false hope within the Valleys, and balancing that with what the Council was able to deliver. Officers agreed it was a challenge, to manage what the Council could deliver on work on the strategy and elements that could be delivered in the Valleys. The Committee recommended that the draft strategy be reported to SOSOC 3 for pre-decision scrutiny before it is reported to Cabinet later in the municipal year and that local members who do not sit on the Committee be invited to the meeting for
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that report.

3. The Committee reflected that the report received was the basic framework of what was to come and felt they had the opportunity to shape the Valley Regeneration Strategy going forward. The Committee recommended that the draft strategy should be meaningful and deliverable, taking into consideration that although it was one strategy there were three distinct valleys and the identities of each should be maintained and reflecting on experiences from other Regeneration strategies it was important going forward with the Valleys Regeneration Strategy to establish a simple road map that could be articulated, under which smaller improvements could be recognised and achieved, maintaining a little and often approach, balancing managing residents' expectations with delivering what is proposed in the Strategy.
4. Members discussed the role of the Consultants and the depth of questioning included in the consultation to inform the Strategy and the Committee recommended that consideration be given in future to whether information and data could be gathered in house, or by someone brought in to gather and maintain data/information, to enable if and when consultants are used the data to be looked at and insights drawn to help get a corporate understanding of the areas and better establish a baseline , as well as potentially getting better value for money from any use of consultants.
5. The Committee recommended that the draft strategy should include graphics for the areas which Local Members could share in their Valleys communities which could assist with raising awareness of the draft strategy and could potentially increase the number of consultation responses.

The Committee requested the following additional information:

6. Information regarding the Bus Network Grant (BNG), how the Grant was received, how the additional money was had been spent and how it was allocated. Officers advised in the meeting they would speak to the Public Transport Officer to gain the information for circulation to Members of the Committee.
7. The Consultants used and the cost of the work. Officers advised in the meeting that they could provide this information for circulation to members of the Committee from the tender assessment.

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Date Decision Made	16 July 2024
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77. Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination Report

Decision Made	<u>Resolved:</u> That Councillor Jonathan Pratt be nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.
Date Decision Made	16 July 2024

78. Cabinet Response to Committee's Recommendations made on the Call In of the Cabinet Decision in relation to the proposed use of land transaction transfer protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin.

Decision Made	<p>The Scrutiny Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was to present the Committee with the Cabinet response to the Recommendations made by the Committee on the Call-In of the Decision of Cabinet on 12 March 2024, in relation to the above report submitted to Cabinet on 16 April 2024.</p> <p>Following consideration of the response, it was</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u> The Committee noted the Cabinet response to the Committee's recommendations made on the Call In of the Cabinet Decision in relation to the proposed use of land transaction transfer protocol with Cardiff Capital Region for land at Brynmenyn and Bryncethin.</p>
Date Decision Made	16 July 2024

79. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>Resolved:</u> The Committee considered and approved the Forward Work Programme(FWP) in Appendix A, subject to inclusion of the items
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	<p>below , noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B and noted that the FWP, Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet and any updates from the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following consideration in this cycle of Committee Meetings.</p> <p>The Committee requested the following be included in the FWP:</p> <p>8. As the Committee had recently discussed the regeneration of Porthcawl and the Valleys, the committee requested that the regeneration of Bridgend Town Centre be added to the Forward Work Programme at the opportune time in the schedule for 2024-25.</p> <p>9. The Committee requested that the Housing Update scheduled for the 30 September meeting includes that the progress on empty homes includes empty churches and chapels.</p> <p>10. The Committee requested that Community Asset Transfers could be potentially scheduled as a Member Briefing rather than an Information Report.</p> <p>11. The Committee requested that an update on the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion be included in the Porthcawl Regeneration Update - Member Briefing session, or alternatively be included in the Maesteg Town Hall report scheduled for the February meeting, if there was potential for them to be covered together.</p>
Date Decision Made	16 July 2024

80. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	16 July 2024

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To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 18:35.