

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT)

MINUTES of a meeting held on 5th September, 2006.

Present: Councillor S.T. Wiliam (Vice-Chairman in the Chair); Councillors P. Church, J. Clifford, Miss. J. Cole, R.F. Curtis, Mrs. V.M. Hartrey, G. John, Mrs. M. Kelly Owen, Mrs. A.J. Moore, Mrs. A.J. Preston, W.C. Vaughan, E.T. Williams and M. R. Wilson.

255 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -

These were received from Councillors N.P. Hodges (Chairman), Ms. L. Burnett, N.J. Gibbs and Mrs. S.I. Sharpe.

256 MINUTES -

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the minutes of the meetings held on 11th July, 27th July, and 15th August, 2006 be approved as a correct record.

257 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

No declarations were received.

258 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG) - PUBLIC ART: RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE (REF - MINUTE NO. C2567) -

Cabinet had, on 19th July, 2006, received the report relating to the above. Having had regard to the result of the consultation exercise held in respect of the above, the Council's responses to the representations received, and to the final version of the SPG as appended to that report, Cabinet had resolved, inter alia, that the Council's responses to the representations made to the draft SPG and the proposed changes be approved and that the SPG be approved, subject to consultation with this and the Planning Committee.

Discussion briefly ensued on the implementation of the adopted Percent for Art Policy in respect of the Waterfront, it being explained that development had slowed with just one scheme currently being progressed and that the Policy would be applied to the next phase of development.

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the report on the public consultation exercise in respect of the SPG be endorsed.

259 CORPORATE PLAN REVIEW (CMT) –

Cabinet had, on 19th July, 2006, approved the draft Plan 2006-10 as appended to the report as a basis for consultation. Cabinet had also authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to take account of any subsequent changes and to finalise the content of the Plan for submission to Cabinet on 20th September and Council on 4th October. A full re-appraisal of the Plan would be conducted after the local government elections in 2008.

The Corporate Plan set out the Council's vision for the future and how the Council would deliver the aims of the Community Strategy. Emphasis was laid in the Plan on the increasingly importance in the Council's activities at all levels of sustainability – defined not only as the concept of living within environmental limits but beyond that as seeking to ensure a strong, healthy and just society, achieving a sustainable economy and promoting good governance. Those principles were reflected throughout the Plan in the practical actions the Council would be taking to deliver its Vision for the next five years. In order to realise that Vision, the Plan also set out the Council's Corporate Priorities supported by key aims and targets. It was recognised that many of the services within the Directorate of Environmental and Economic Regeneration contributed to the delivery (whether in total or in part) of several of the Corporate Priorities.

Discussion focussed specifically on the sections relating to The Environment and Regeneration although reference was made to the need to reach grass roots level in relation to Action CW23 (under the heading of Well-Being) by including community associations within the definition of “community partners”. In general, the Committee referred to the need for funding to be made available to give effect to what could otherwise be seen as purely aspirational actions, raising public expectations with no realistic plan in place for delivery. In addition to the recommendations to be forwarded to Cabinet as regards amendments to the Plan, other matters raised during the course of debate included

- the need for more leisure orientated development at the Waterfront and to maintain dialogue with ABP and other interested parties
- the current position regarding Dyffryn House and its future use(s)
- issues pertaining to access to Llantwit Major beach and the management thereof
- the development by this Council of an Economic Strategy tailored to meet the needs of the disparate communities within the Vale, with identified targets.

Following further consideration of the above and related matters, it was

RECOMMENDED -

(1) T H A T Cabinet be requested to approve the following amendments to the draft Corporate Plan

- CW23 - add at the end of the sentence “including Community Associations”
- E1 - quantifiable targets to be incorporated into the Plan
- E5 - add “the Coastal Strategy to address in particular the management of Llantwit Major beach and its environs
- The Corporate Priority relating to Regeneration to be amended to read “...to promote community, environmental, economic regeneration and fair trade”.
- R4 - insert after “.... and other mechanisms”, “including the development of an Economic Strategy”.
- R9 - add “and that consideration be given to the establishment of a semi autonomous marketing and publicity body for the Vale”.
- Add R18 - “Facilitate the development of a café/restaurant quarter at Barry Waterfront by vigorously pursuing all possible options”.

(2) T H A T the Cabinet Member for Building Maintenance, as the Council’s Carbon Reduction Champion, be invited to address a future meeting of this Committee on the steps taken to improve the environmental performance of Council vehicles by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the fleet and the measures planned for the future.

(3) T H A T a report relating to the re-appointment of the Town Centre Sub-Committee and the Traffic Sub-Committee be submitted at the next meeting.

260 DRAFT IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CX) –

The draft Improvement Plan 2006/07 as appended to the report contained all available performance information required by the WAG and several local indicators which measured corporate priorities. A revised, more up to date version of the sections of the Plan relating to “The Environment” and “Regeneration” was circulated at the meeting. It was noted that the Plan was continually evolving as information was provided by managers and was not, therefore, as yet fully completed. The final draft would be presented to Council in early October prior to its publication no later than 31st October, 2006. Discussion focussed on those sections of the Plan relating to “The Environment” and “Regeneration”, during the course of the consideration of which reference was made to the need to encourage greater take-up in respect of recycling and ways in which that could be achieved, and the need to improve performance in relation to the percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks. In both the aforementioned incidents, the good progress made to date was fully recognised.

Following further consideration of the above and related matters, including the fact that residents should be encouraged to use the mail preference service to discourage the amount of unsolicited unaddressed junk mail, it was

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the Improvement Plan 2006/07 as currently drafted, together with the actions and targets contained therein, be endorsed as a programme for promoting continuous improvement.

261 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2006/07 - 1ST QUARTER (DEER) -

Each Head of Service presented the 1st quarter statistics (April - June, 2006) relating to his respective service area. The report contained details of the summary of PI performance and, where performance had not reached target, the corrective action required to meet that target was accepted in each instance. Each of Head of Service outlined matters of particular interest, whereon, it was

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the position in respect of 1st quarter monitoring for the Directorate of Environmental and Economic Regeneration be accepted.

262 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING: 1ST APRIL - 31ST JULY, 2006 (DEER) -

The projected outturn for the 2006/07 revenue budget was for a deficit of £450k. for the Directorate which would be funded from anticipated savings identified in Policy Committee. A report providing more detail on the anticipated overspends and identifying actions taken or to be taken to minimise/reverse the predicted overspend would be presented to Cabinet in October 2006. As regards the Capital Programme, Cabinet had already been requested to approve various amendments as detailed in the report, and it was noted that certain other schemes would not be completed on target. In response to questions, the Head of Visible Services undertook to investigate the current position relating to the resurfacing of Dinas Road in the area of Cogan Hall Farm, and the Head of Economic Development and Leisure confirmed the reasons for the delayed start of the Thompson Street Footbridge and the subsequent anticipated timetable.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the position relating to the 2006/07 revenue and capital monitoring relevant to this Committee be noted.