
CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 19.07.12

Present: Councillor Simon Glyn (Chairman);
Councillor Brian Jones (Vice-chairman).

Councillors:- Lesley Day, Elwyn Edwards, Gwynfor Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Selwyn Griffiths, Jason Humphreys, Charles Wyn Jones, June Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Michael Sol Owen, Mair Rowlands, Gareth Thomas and Eirwyn Williams; Councillor Huw Edwards (ex-officio member).

Also present: Vera Jones (Democratic Services Manager), Gareth James (Members' Manager – Support and Scrutiny) and Eirian Roberts (Members and Scrutiny Support Officer).

Present for the scrutiny items:

Item 6 – Community Strategy

Cabinet Member - Councillor Dyfed Edwards (Council Leader)
Support Officer – Arwel E. Jones (Senior Manager – Corporate Commissioning Service)

Item 7 – Savings Strategy

Cabinet Member – Councillor Peredur Jenkins (Resources)
Support Officer – Dilwyn O. Williams (Corporate Director).

Apologies: Councillors Aled Evans, Gweno Glyn and Eryl Jones-Williams.

1. WELCOME

Councillor Huw Edwards was welcomed to the meeting following his recent illness.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any member present.

3. MINUTES

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee, held on 31 May, 2012 as a true record.

The Chairman explained that under the new procedure, the aim was to prepare brief minutes of the meetings, but it would be possible to re-visit the situation during the year.

4. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted – the latest version of the work programme of the committee.

RESOLVED

- (a) To retain item 7 (The balance between rural and urban services – hidden costs) on the work programme of this committee and to discuss the detail at the next Preparatory Meeting.
- (b) To transfer item 12 (Fleet Strategy 2011-14) to the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

5. COMMUNITY STRATEGY**Cabinet Member: Councillor Dyfed Edwards**

Submitted - the report of the Council Leader – Councillor Dyfed Edwards, was considered in response to questions raised at the Preparatory Meeting. The Council Leader was thanked for his report and his attention was drawn to the following:

Recommendations

- 1 Will you ensure that specific consideration is given to maintaining services in rural areas along with urban areas when planning services jointly across the County.
2. Will you consider withdrawing from collaborative projects when it is obvious that there is no appropriate commitment from other partners, especially when there are substantial costs to the Council of trying to maintain the partnership?
3. Will you give attention for the need to have indicators that emphasise the impact on our residents?
4. In general, we would welcome appendices that provide evidence of your observations in your reports in future.

Information

1. Will you circulate a list of every Cabinet Member with responsibilities for each one of the partnerships and collaborative plans to all members of the Council?
2. Will you supply full details of the financial savings for rationalising partnerships and the Carbon Footprint Project to members of the Committee?
3. Will you supply the following detailed information for the period from 2006 to the present?
 - Number of Affordable Houses (AH) granted planning permission
 - Number of AH constructed by Housing Associations
 - Number of AH constructed by private companies
 - Number of rented AH
 - Number of homeless individuals
 - Number of individuals on the housing Waiting List
4. Will you provide information on the number of jobs created following the activities of the projects noted by you?

6. SAVINGS STRATEGY**Cabinet Member: Councillor Peredur Jenkins**

Submitted - the report of Councillor Peredur Jenkins, Cabinet Member (Resources), for consideration in response to questions raised at the Preparatory Meeting. The Cabinet Member was thanked for his report and his attention was drawn to the following:

Recommendations

1. If it is your intention to request schools to identify efficiency savings, will you consider giving a more challenging target for those schools holding large balances rather than introducing a uniform target for everyone?

Information

1. Will you provide further reports for this committee on the progress of the 62 plans which are to be realised in 2013/14?
2. Will you provide information regarding the number of staff who are retiring and are re-employed by the Council in a different post?
3. Will you report back to this committee later on in the financial year regarding any progress or further developments?

All departments were congratulated on the savings achieved thus far.

7. SYSTEMS THINKING

Submitted – the report of the Members' Manager – Support and Scrutiny, requesting members to consider whether they wished to establish a Scrutiny Investigation into this field or not.

Referring to the suggestion in the Scoping Summary, that members of the Investigation should visit Neath Port Talbot and Blaenau Gwent Councils, the Investigation was asked to consider, in the financial context, whether it would be more appropriate to ask an officer of those two councils to come up to Gwynedd rather than all members of the Investigation travelling down to the south.

RESOLVED

- (a) To establish a Scrutiny Investigation and to appoint Councillors Lesley Day, Trevor Edwards, Jason Humphreys, June Marshall, Dafydd Meurig and Gareth Thomas as members of the Investigation.**
- (b) That the Chair of the Investigation reports back to the Chairman and Vice-chairman of this committee on any developments.**

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 12.20pm