

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: **THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

SUBJECT: **REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
23RD SEPTEMBER, 2019**

REPORT OF: **DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT OFFICER**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR L. PARSONS (CHAIR)

Councillors J. Hill
G.A. Davies
G.L. Davies
P. Edwards
M. Holland
H. McCarthy
J. Millard
M. Moore
J.C. Morgan
K. Rowson
B. Willis

AND: Corporate Director Regeneration & Community
Services
Head of Regeneration
Service Manager Development & Estates
Team Manager Planning Policy
Team Manager Thriving Communities
Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities
Enterprise Facilitation Officer
Scrutiny Officer

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	

No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>An apology for absence was reported for Councillor M. Cross.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>No declarations of interest and dispensations reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee held on 18th March, 2019 were submitted.</p> <p>A Member expressed concern regarding the delay in the minutes being submitted to Committee. The Chair explained that this was the first meeting of the newly established Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, and these minutes had ‘rolled over’ from the old Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Another Member said the minutes had already been approved by Council, but he understood that minutes should be approved by the relevant Scrutiny Committee prior to being ratified by Council.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer explained that the minutes had been submitted for Members to note the comments from the previous Scrutiny Committees. The Head of Governance & Partnerships was in the process of considering the submission of minutes to Special Meetings in order to avoid a delay in minutes being approved/ratified.</p> <p>Following a brief discussion Members agreed that as the minutes were from the previous Scrutiny Committee and the membership had changed, that the minutes be ‘noted’.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the minutes be noted.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 18TH MARCH, 2019</u></p>	

	<p>The action sheet arising from the meeting of the Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee held on 18th March, 2019 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the action sheet be noted.</p>	
No. 6	<p><u>ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Environment Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee held on 4th April, 2019 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the minutes be noted.</p>	
No. 7	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 4TH APRIL, 2019</u></p> <p>The action sheet arising from the meeting of the Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee held on 4th April, 2019 was submitted, whereupon:-</p> <p><u>Blaenau Gwent Consumer Brochure</u></p> <p>In response to a question raised, the Enterprise Facilitation Officer reported that the Brochure was currently with the Communications Section to check the design and branding, and would be brought back to Scrutiny in due course.</p> <p>A Member expressed concern that this had been ongoing for some time. The Officer said he understood Members' frustration, however, there had been movement within the destination management portfolio and it was important that the document provided a true reflection of what was currently on offer.</p> <p>A Member said the reasons for the delay should be investigated, and that Members should have had sight of the document, albeit in draft form.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the action sheet be noted.</p>	

<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>ENVIRONMENT, REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></p> <p>The minutes of the special Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee held on 15th May, 2019 was submitted.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED that the minutes be noted.</p>	
<p>No. 9</p>	<p><u>ACTION SHEET – 15TH MAY, 2019</u></p> <p>There were no actions arising from the special meeting of the Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee held on 15th May, 2019.</p>	
<p>No. 10</p>	<p><u>PROPOSED SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2019-20</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report which presented the Regeneration Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019-20.</p> <p>A Member said the work of the Leisure Review Working Group was reported to a Joint Scrutiny Committee, and felt that this should continue.</p> <p>In response the Corporate Director confirmed that the Leisure Review came under the remit of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee. However, the outcomes would also be reported to Council for consideration by all Members.</p> <p>The Chair undertook to seek advice of the Head of Democratic Services.</p> <p>The Member proposed that it continue to be reported through the Joint Scrutiny Committee arrangements, and this proposal was seconded.</p> <p>Upon a vote being taken</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the work of the Leisure Review Working Group be reported through a Joint Scrutiny Committee arrangement.</p>	<p>Head of Democratic Services</p>

	<p><u>Housing Prospectus – 12th December, 2019</u></p> <p>The Team Leader Thriving Communities said this had previously been reported, and should be removed.</p> <p><u>Town Centres</u></p> <p>A Member said the outcome of the Town Centre Working Group had not been reported to Committee.</p> <p>The Chair explained that the Working Party was formed under the previous Environment, Regeneration & Economic Development Scrutiny Committee. However, there was scope to re-establish the group under the remit of this Committee.</p> <p>A discussion ensued when a Member said the report scheduled for the 23rd January, 2020 should include the outcomes of the Working Group. He also suggested that the Working Group be re-established, and that the date of the report be brought forward in order to start those discussions.</p> <p>In response to a question raised by a Member regarding Trinity Chapel, the Team Manager Regeneration Opportunities confirmed that a report on proposals would be submitted to Committee in due course.</p> <p>The Committee FURTHER AGREED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Members suggested amendments prior to agreeing the Forward Work Programme (Option 2).</p>	<p>Ellie Fry/ Beth McPherson</p>
No. 11	<p><u>ENTERPRISE FRAMEWORK</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Head of Regeneration.</p> <p>The Head of Regeneration presented the report which provided the Enterprise and Innovation Framework that had been co-developed with business professionals from the Blaenau Gwent Enterprise Board to guide the approach being taken by the Council and the BGEB to support businesses and assist in innovative interventions. The</p>	

	<p>Officer confirmed that the BGEB would be meeting later that day to consider the plan for approval which would enable progress moving forward.</p> <p>A Member expressed concern regarding the competitive index ranking for Blaenau Gwent, and stressed the importance of attracting businesses to the area, and said good practice of other LA's should be looked at. He also felt that more detail was needed in terms of business plans.</p> <p>The Officer pointed out that that the Framework provided support and a guided approach to assist the development of business plans. The Framework had been co-developed with the business community and they supported this approach.</p> <p>Following a brief discussion, a Member proposed that Option 2 be supported.</p> <p>Another Member seconded the proposal, but requested that a Special Meeting be arranged when appropriate to consider an overarching Business Plan.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend, subject to the foregoing, that the Executive Committee approve the Enterprise Framework. This would give clear support to the BG Enterprise Board and enable a proactive approach in our efforts to increase the coordination of our business support with a targeted approach based on the UKCI measurement.</p>	Head of Regeneration
No. 12	<p><u>SELF BUILD WALES</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services.</p> <p>The Team Leader Thriving Communities presented the report which informed Members of the Self Build Wales programme to be launched by the Development Bank Wales, and sought approval to engage with the Self Build Wales programme to include submission of a self-build plot, to gauge resident interest.</p> <p>The Officer informed Members that since writing the report</p>	

	<p>the Executive had requested that the Six Bells Plateau be included in the list of those sites for consideration.</p> <p>A Member said whilst he welcomed the proposal, he asked whether The Works Site was suitable due to the close proximity of other proposed developments on the site.</p> <p>The Officer explained that the site was identified for housing in the master plan for The Works site, and one of the benefits of that site was that it was 'ready to go' in terms of infrastructure. In relation to the Nantyglo School site, this may be delayed slightly due to the site investigations currently ongoing.</p> <p>A discussion ensued when the Officer clarified points raised by Members in relation to administration of the programme. In terms of the design guide, she confirmed that this would be considered in more detail in order to determine what would be appropriate for sites identified within the Borough.</p> <p>In response to a further question, the Officer confirmed that other sites throughout the Borough would be considered as the scheme progressed.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and support BGCBC involvement in the initiative and recommended preferred site (Works) to pilot the self-build initiative and gauge public interest within Blaenau Gwent for endorsement by the Executive Executive (Option 2).</p>	
No. 13	<p><u>STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN – CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION AREA</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services and the Service Manager Development & Estates.</p> <p>The Team Manager Planning Policy presented the report which considered whether Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council join the nine other neighbouring Authorities in South East Wales to prepare a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) covering the Cardiff Capital Region area.</p>	

The Officer went through the report and highlighted the key points contained therein.

A Member expressed concern regarding Blaenau Gwent's representation on the Strategic Planning Panel and the weight of the votes for each LA. He also stated that Cllr M. Moore, the Council's nominated Member for the Interim Strategic Planning Panel, should remain the Council's nominated Member for the duration of the current political administration.

The Chair concurred with the Member's comments that Cllr M. Moore should remain the Council's nominated Member.

Another Member felt this was a positive way forward for the Council in terms of the potential benefits for a relatively small investment. He also agreed that Cllr Moore should remain the nominated Member for the duration of the administration.

A discussion ensued when Members commended the report and supported Blaenau Gwent joining the nine other neighbouring Authorities.

In terms of the weighting of votes the Service Manager Development Services confirmed that many options had been extensively considered, and it was decided that it should be based on a combination of population and land area.

The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and endorsed Option 1:

- i. The Vale of Glamorgan Council as the Responsible Authority for the purposes of preparing the Strategic Development Plan for Cardiff Capital Region.
- ii. That the Responsible Authority be authorised to submit the Proposal for SDP for the Cardiff Capital Region to the Minister on behalf of the 10 Local Planning Authorities in the region.
- iii. The strategic planning area as being comprised of the 10 Local Planning Authority areas within the Cardiff

	<p>Capital Region as shown on the map at Appendix A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. That relevant Officers engage with Welsh Government in drafting the Strategic Development Plan Regulations to deliver the governance arrangements (outlined at recommendation 4 in the report) for the SDP and Strategic Planning Panel (SPP). v. The setting up of an Interim SPP prior to the formal establishment of the SPP. The nominated Member for this Council is Councillor Mandy Moore (Vice-Chair of Planning Committee) on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel. She has delegated authority to take initiative decisions on the preparation of the SDP (with a vote weighted in accordance with the table at Recommendation 4) and thereafter on the Strategic Planning Panel. vi. In the event that Member is no longer able to sit on the Interim Strategic Panel, give delegated authority to the Leader of the Council to nominate a new Member to represent the Council on the Internal Strategic Planning Panel and Strategic Planning Panel. vii. That a Regional SDP Officer Team be established to progress the preparation of the SDP to be appointed by representatives of the Interim Strategic Planning Panel, with appropriate human resource support from the Responsible Authority. 	
No. 14	<p><u>RASSAU AND TAFARNAUBACH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to report of the Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services.</p> <p>The Enterprise Facilitation Officer presented the report which provided an update on the Rassau and Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate Business Improvement District proposal.</p> <p>The Officer spoke to the report and highlighted points contained.</p> <p>In response to a question raised by a Member, the Officer</p>	

	<p>confirmed the timeline detailed at section 2.7 of the report was correct.</p> <p>A discussion ensued when the Officer clarified points raised by Members regarding the ballot and the BID process.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to recommend that the report be accepted and the Scrutiny Committee support the implementation of the BID process to the ballot stage and implement the outcome of the ballot if there was a positive outcome to support the creation of a BID, prior to approval by the Executive Committee (Option 1).</p>	
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