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CEREDIGION
County Council

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7 March 2022

Lisa Evans

01545574177

Dear Sir / Madam

I write to inform you that a Meeting of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held remotely by video-conferencing on Friday, 11 March 2022 at 10.30 am for the transaction of the following business:

1. **Apologies**
2. **Disclosures of personal interest (including whipping declarations)**
Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. In addition, Members must declare any prohibited party whip which the Member has been given in relation to the meeting as per the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.
3. **Natural Resources Wales planning and phosphates discussion (Pages 3 - 4)**
4. **To confirm the Minutes of the previous Meeting and to consider any matters arising from those Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)**

Members are reminded to sign the Attendance Register

A Translation Services will be provided at this meeting and those present are welcome to speak in Welsh or English at the meeting.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Edwards'.

Miss Lowri Edwards
Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services

To: Chairman and Members of Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The remaining Members of the Council for information only.

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Thriving Communities Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 20th of January and 11th March 2022

LOCATION: Online

TITLE: NRW and DCWW planning and phosphates discussion

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To Introduce officers from NRW and DCWW

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION: Members requested that officers from NRW and DCWW were invited to Scrutiny

BACKGROUND: In January 2021 NRW released interim planning advice regarding development with the catchments of riverine SACs in Wales. This advice was to ensure that following compliance monitoring of the river Teifi which was suffering from episodic failure of its Phosphate level monitoring no further development would be allowed which could or potentially could increase phosphate levels in the riverine SAC.

CURRENT SITUATION: The guidance issued by NRW, has had significant knock-on impacts across the county namely:

1. 3 of the main USCs of Ceredigion Lampeter, Tregaron, Llandysul and surroundings settlements are affected
2. The Local Development Plan has been put on hold
3. Allocated sites within the affected areas are unable to be delivered (over 500 homes of which 114 were to be affordable)
4. Planning applications have had to be held in abeyance or refused
5. DCWW have confirmed only one WWTP has phosphate stripping in place in CCC (Llandewi Brefi) and there are unconfirmed plans that 1 other (Tregaron) may be included in the 2025-2030 AMP period.
6. Preliminary source apportionment work (From DCWW on the river Wye) demonstrates a significant proportion of phosphates comes from agriculture as well as WWTPs

In previous scrutiny meetings members requested to meet with representatives of NRW and DCWW to discuss the phosphate situation in Ceredigion, as well as issues around WWTP discharging effluent into the other riverine areas of CCC (namely Aberaeron harbour) and response times for consultations by the Development Management service. Therefore, DCWW and NRW were contacted and officers relevant to the topic areas in question agreed to attend.

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why No as this discussion is not producing or developing policy

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:

Summary:
Long term:
Integration:
Collaboration:
Involvement:
Prevention:

RECOMMENDATION (S):

No formal recommendations, discussion for information only.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

Contact Name: Dr Sarah Groves-Phillips
Designation: Planning Policy Service Manager
Date of Report: 13/12/2021
Acronyms: WWTP – Waste Water Treatment Plant
DCWW - Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
NRW – Natural resources Wales
USC – Urban Service Centre

Minutes of the Meeting of THRIVING COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

held at the held remotely via video-conference on Friday, 18 February 2022

PRESENT; Councillor Marc Davies (Chairman), Councillors Euros Davies (Vice-Chair), John Adams-Lewis, Clive Davies, Gareth Davies, Gethin Davies, Ifan Davies, Meirion Davies, Rhodri Davies, Elizabeth Evans, Keith Evans, Gwyn James, Maldwyn Lewis, Dai Mason and John Roberts

Also in attendance: Councillors Ellen ap Gwyn, Catrin Miles, Ray Quant, Alun Williams, Dafydd Edwards, Rhodri Evans, Catherine Hughes, Gareth Lloyd, Ceredig Davies, Rowland Rees Evans, and Daniel Potter.

(9.30 am - 12.38 pm)

1 **Apologies**

Councillor Lyndon Lloyd apologised for his inability to attend the meeting.

2 **Disclosures of personal interest (including whipping declarations) - Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. In addition, Members must declare any prohibited party whip which the Member has been given in relation to the meeting as per the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.**

None

3 **Report on the draft Budget for 2022/23**

The Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members met to consider the Service budget for those service areas that are within the Committee's remit and to consider the following recommendations:

1. To consider the overall Revenue and Capital Budgets proposed.
2. To consider the estimated Cost pressures being faced (£13.173m across all aspects).
3. To consider the proposed Fees & charges and the resulting estimated £155k additional income to assist with the Savings required.
4. To note the proposed £230k Travelling Savings Target for Officers & Members.
5. To note the £113k Savings Balance still required to be found.
6. To consider the 3 options proposed for Council Tax levels of 4.75%, 5.0% & 5.25%.
7. To provide any other appropriate Draft Budget related feedback to Cabinet.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, presented the report on the draft budget for 2022/2023 including the three year capital

programme, explaining that this is a provisional settlement, and that the final settlement is due on the 1st March, 2022.

The Leader also stated that a letter had been received on 17th February 2022 from Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government announcing an increase of £50m for the local government settlement for 2021-2022. The amount to be allocated to Ceredigion County Council is unknown to date but is likely to be circa £1m. The funding is un-hypothecated (i.e. not allocated to specific services) and can be carried forward in reserves to the 2022-2023 financial year. It was explained that the implications of this additional funding would need to be considered and how that would be allocated for the 2022-2023 budget.

Members welcomed the additional funding but expressed their disappointment that the announcement was late and that it didn't allow for scrutiny to take place based on the new information. The Chief Executive confirmed that information would be presented for Council on 3rd March 2022 and that there would be an opportunity for further debate.

The relevant Cabinet Member presented the information relevant to their Service Area. Members were then given the opportunity for questions which were answered in turn by Cabinet Members and/or Officers.

Committee Members considered the Cost Pressures for those service areas that are within the Committee's remit; namely:

- Highways & Environmental Services
- Economy & Regeneration

And:

Committee Members considered the proposed Fees and Charges changes under the

Committee's remit in Appendix D, pages 14 to 15 of 51, of the agenda papers.

The Committee agreed that the 3 options proposed for Council Tax levels would not be discussed at today's meeting due the Welsh Government announcement that an estimated additional £1million had been allocated to Ceredigion Council. Further discussions will take place at Council.

Recommendations:

Following consideration, Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet:

1. **APPROVE** the overall Revenue and Capital Budgets proposed;
2. **APPROVE** the estimated Cost Pressures;
3. **APPROVE** the proposed Fees and Charges as outlined in Enclosure D, appendix 2 of the agenda papers, (pages 16-44 of 51)
4. **AGREED** to note the proposed £230k Travelling Savings Target for Officers & Members;
5. **AGREED** to note the £113k Savings Balance still required to be found; and

6. The Committee also agreed to provide the following appropriate Draft Budget related **recommendations** to Cabinet:

a) that a catamaran is treated the same as a monohull boat for the 2022/23 fees and charges whilst a review of the policy is undertaken. Catamarans should not be discouraged as they are the same size as a mono hull boat, safer, more stable, easier manoeuvrability and better for the environment.

b) that car parking fees are removed at Tregaron and Llandysul.

4 To confirm the Minutes of the previous Meeting and to consider any matters arising from those Minutes

The Committee resolved to confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20th January 2022 as a correct record.

Matters arising

None.

Confirmed at the Meeting of the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 March 2022

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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