

Minutes of the Meeting of Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee held remotely via video-conference on Monday, 07 February 2022

PRESENT; Councillor Ivor Williams (Chair), Councillors John Adams-Lewis, Bryan Davies, Gareth Davies, Elizabeth Evans, Ifan Davies, Peter Davies MBE, Keith Evans, Lyndon Lloyd MBE, Dai Mason, Wyn Thomas

Also in attendance: Councillor Dafydd Edwards, Rhodri Evans, Catherine Hughes, Gareth Lloyd, Catrin Miles and Ray Quant (Cabinet Members)

Officers in attendance: Mr Eifion Evans, Chief Executive, Mr Barry Rees, Corporate Manager, Miss Lowri Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer- Democratic Services, Miss Nia Jones, Corporate Manager – Democratic Services, Mr Russell Hughes-Pickering –Corporate Lead Officer, Economy & Regeneration, Ms Elin Prysor, Corporate Lead Officer Legal and Governance and Monitoring Office, Dr Sarah Groves-Phillips – Planning Policy Manager, Mr Duncan Hall, Corporate Manager, Service Finance & Accounts, Mrs Dwynwen Jones, Scrutiny Officer and Mrs Dana Jones, Democratic Services and Standards Officer.

(10:00am-12:00pm)

1 Apologies

Councillor Ceredig Davies and Dan Potter apologised for their inability to attend the meeting. (Councillor Davies, however, attended the meeting late due to a Licensing Hearing)

Councillor Lynford Thomas and Rowland Rees-Evans apologised for their inability to attend the meeting as they were on other Council duties

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 Community Housing Proposals

Mr Russell Hughes-Pickering –Corporate Lead Officer, Economy & Regeneration reported that on the 29th November 2021 the Independent Group presented a paper to the committee setting out a vision towards creating a pathway to Home Ownership for the Younger Generation of

Ceredigion. The vision had been drafted in response to the economic situation facing the young people in Ceredigion and the lack of opportunities to get on the housing ladder and be able to stay within their own communities.

The Committee had been shown evidence that demonstrates that there were limited opportunities for young people to be able to purchase a first home due to the economic constraints within the County at the meeting held in November 2021. Members were all supportive of the proposal and agreed that the 'Vision towards creating a pathway to Home Ownership for Younger Generation of Ceredigion' was referred to relevant Officers to work up the viability of the scheme and that Officers would then return to Committee with their recommendations prior to presenting recommendations to Cabinet and Council and for the preferred funding option would be modelled into the annual budget setting.

It was reported that the Council Tax Premium Task and Finish Group comprising of Councillors and Officers at its 26th January 2022 meeting unanimously agreed to recommend and support the local housing proposal that was presented to the committee.

Consideration was given to the report contents, which sets out in detail the Key Points in the Vision, the Appraisal of Proposal and Conclusion

Members questioned the content of the report, and officers responded accordingly. The Committee discussed various issues and opportunities that could be considered and developed further by the new administration following the Local Elections in May 2022. There was consensus that the proposals were appropriate for the first phase of a longer term plan to support young people in Ceredigion.

It was AGREED to recommend to Council:-

1.that the Council decision 24/3/16 Minute 12) Report of the Deputy Chief Executive upon the Council Tax Premiums for long-term empty homes and second homes, point 4 be amended as follows:

"4.a) The level of Council Tax Second Homes Premium charged to be set at 25% (with effect from 1 April 2017); and,

b) that all monies raised from the 25% Council Tax Second Homes Premium (net of the Council Tax refunds), be ring-fenced and used to support the Community Housing Scheme."

2.that all monies raised from the 25% Council Tax Second Homes Premium between the period 1/4/17 to 31/3/22 (net of Council Tax refunds), to be ring-fenced and used to support the Community Housing Scheme.

3. that all monies raised from the 25% Council Tax Second Homes Premium from 1/4/22 (net of the Council Tax refunds), to be ring-fenced and used to support the Community Housing Scheme.

4. that from 1/4/22, all monies raised from the 25% Council Tax Empty Homes Premium (net of the Council Tax refunds), be ring-fenced and used to support the Community Housing Scheme.

5.that Council decision 16/3/17 minute 8.b) Council Tax Premiums on Second Homes, be revoked.

6.that details of a shared equity element of the scheme are prepared and agreed within 12 months of the Council decision and that work continues on the other options.

7.the possibility of establishing a Community Benefit Scheme be deferred for one year.

Following consideration, Committee Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet, prior to its presentation to Council agree points 1,2,3,4,5, 6 and 7 listed above.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for the comprehensive report and for their support during this process

4 To confirm minutes of the previous meeting and to consider any matters arising from those Minutes.

It was AGREED to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 13 January 2022.

Matters Arising

None.

Confirmed at the Meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 February 2022

Chairman: _____

Date: _____