

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee held hybrid, Thursday, 27th October 2022, 1:30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Keith Evans (Chair), Councillors Wyn Evans, Marc Davies, Gwyn Wigley Evans, Rhodri Evans, Geraint Wyn Hughes, Ceris Jones and Caryl Roberts.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Alun Williams, Cabinet Member.
Councillors Euros Davies, Rhodri Evans and Gareth Lloyd.

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Eifion Evans, Chief Executive, Diana Davies, Corporate Manager, Partnerships and Performance, Alun Williams, Corporate Lead, Policy and Performance, Rob Starr, Performance and Research Manager, Lowri Edwards, Corporate Lead Democratic Services, Lisa Evans, Standards and Scrutiny Officer and Dwynwen Jones, Overview and Scrutiny Officer; Rhidian Jones and Carol Thomas, Translators.

(1:30pm –2:03pm)

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose of reconvening.

Councillor Endaf Edwards 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

There were no disclosures of personal or prejudicial interests.

3 Draft Corporate Strategy 2022-27

The Committee reconvened as agreed to consider the matters raised at the 14th October 2022 Committee meeting – amendments/queries shown in the table below:

Page reference	Query/amendment
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Page 7	Amended the diagram and details of the political administration of Ceredigion County Council including the results of the Lampeter by election.
Page 12 Column 2	Included the updated broadband figures for Ceredigion: "Significant lobbying by Ceredigion County Council and others has resulted in 31.8% coverage of full Fibre broadband giving over 100 Mbps capability. The county wide current average download of 79mbps is one of the highest levels for a rural local authority".
Page 13* Column 1 Row 1	Removed duplication of actions relating to coastal defence works. Agreed terminology is to "complete" the works rather than "deliver" the works.
Page 17 Bullet 1	Amended terminology. The ambition now reads: "Provide for the care needs of our population"
Page 17 Bullet 7	Clarified wording to "Welcome and support the resettlement of refugees".
Page 17* Footnote	Added footnote to explain the role of Community Connectors
Page 18 Column 3 Paragraph 3	Amended terminology. The sentence now reads "provide for the care needs of our population"
Page 19 Column 2 Row 9	Clarified wording to: "We will continue to play a leading role in helping refugees and resettling them into our communities".
Page 19 Column 2 Row 10	Upon reflection of the steps to deliver the Creating Caring and Healthy Communities Objective, an additional step was identified and added: "Support community cohesion in Ceredigion"
Page 20 Column 2 Row 6	Upon reflection of the steps to deliver the Creating Caring and Healthy Communities Objective, an additional step was identified and added: "Proactive and robust response to civil contingencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combat the spread of communicable disease • Prepare for, and respond to, civil contingency emergencies"
Page 20* Final row	Explanation of role of Community Connectors added for clarity
Page 29* Bullet 5	The reference to "Discourage the ownership of second homes in the county" is referenced in the Plaid Cymru manifesto: <p>"We will prioritise action to discourage the ownership of second homes in the county. Specifically we will campaign for a change in the Planning Act to ensure that planning permission will need to be obtained before converting a residential home into a holiday home or holiday let. In accordance with the Co-operation Agreement between Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Government we will support the use of the planning, property and taxation systems to tackle the problem."</p> <p>Members may wish to make a recommendation to Cabinet to amend this step if required</p>
Page 29 Bullet 7	Corrected wording – "Encourage the retention of Welsh place names".
Page 29 Bullet 8	Amended the ambition on page 29 relating to the phosphates issue: "We have recognised the seriousness of the issue associated with phosphate levels along the Teifi Valley within the Corporate Risk Register. Every effort will be made through the Nutrient Management Board to find early solutions to the problem"
Page 31*	Amended the step relating to flooding to include Llanybydder, Llandysul

Column 1 Row 9	and other settlements along the Teifi Valley: “Work with all relevant agencies to find solutions to flooding at Llanybydder, Llandysul and other settlements along the Teifi Valley, with Natural Resources Wales taking the lead on intervention in their role as the flood risk managers for main rivers”.
Page 31 Column 1 Row 10	Corrected wording – “Encourage the retention of Welsh-language house and place names”.
Page 33 Column 1 Row 6	Upon reflection of the steps to deliver the Creating Sustainable, Greener and Well-Connected Communities, an additional step was identified and added: “Monitor air quality in Ceredigion and continue to compare with national standards and objectives”
Page 34* Final row	Explanation of the role of Community Connectors included for clarity
Consultation Feedback Report	
Page reference	Query/amendment
Page 11*	A Members asked how many responses to the consultation were in Welsh? There were 51 responses in total, 3 were in Welsh and 48 in English.
Page 11*	A Member referred to the Consultation feedback report, page 11, Equalities Monitoring Questions in that the total responses is 35 (as of 23 September) but the figures do not total 35. All charts in the Equalities Monitoring Section now show the number of questions that were not answered and sum to 51 responses. This is on pages 12-15 Welsh version of the report and pages 11-14 in the English version. There is one exception, which is Q24 relating to Language - Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh? This is because respondents could select multiple answers.

**Denotes specific issues raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee 14/10/2022*

Following discussion, Committee Members were asked to consider the following recommendation:

- That Members consider and agree the draft Corporate Strategy 2022-2027 including the Corporate Well-being Objectives prior to consideration by Cabinet and Council.

Following discussion and consideration of the above queries and amendments, Committee Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet endorse the draft Corporate Strategy 2022-2027, including the Corporate Well-being Objectives, subject to consideration of the following recommendation:

To replace bullet point 5 on page 29 (shown in the table above) with the following:

“We will continue to address the issues of second homes, holiday homes ownership or the conversion of residential properties to holiday let by seeking the support of the Welsh Government to bring forward legislation under the Planning Act and Taxation Service”

The Chair thanked Rob Starr in-particular and his Team for their responses along with clarification of issues raised.

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

The minutes of the Coordinating meeting held on the 14 October 2022 were confirmed as a true record of proceedings and there were no matters arising from those minutes.

The Chairman thanked Committee Members for attending and closed proceedings at 14:03pm.

Confirmed at the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 23 November 2022

Chairman: _____

Date: _____