

Minutes of the Meeting of CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

held Hybrid - Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron / remotely via video conference on Thursday, 07 December 2023

PRESENT; Councillor Rhodri Evans (Chair) Councillors Euros Davies, Ifan Davies, Endaf Edwards, Elaine Evans, Raymond Evans, Ann Bowen Morgan, and Carl Worrall

Also in attendance: Councillor Matthew Vaux (Cabinet Member)

Officers in attendance:

Mr Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer – Finance & Procurement, Mr George Ryley, Corporate Manager, Procurement & Payments, Mrs Diana Davies, Corporate Manager-Partnership & Performance, Ms Cathryn Morgan, Equalities and Inclusion Manager, Mrs Dwynwen Jones, Scrutiny Support Officer and Mrs Dana Jones, Democratic and Standards Officer

(10:00am-11:15pm)

1 Welcome and Apologies

Councillors Ceris Jones, Hugh R M Hughes and Caryl Roberts apologised their 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 Engagement and Participation Policy - Half yearly monitoring update

Councillor Matthew Vaux, Cabinet Member for Partnerships, Housing, Legal and Governance and Public Protection presented the Engagement and Participation Policy - Half yearly monitoring update. He reported that the report on progress of the action plan during 2022-23 was presented to the committee in June 2023. It was agreed that a 6-month monitoring update report was presented in December 2023.

It was reported that Ceredigion Engagement and Participation Policy 'Talking, Listening and Working Together' included an action plan on which the report was based. The Policy was also published on Ceredigion County Council website.

Cabinet had agreed the recommendations from the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- that all engagement exercises participants should receive the outcome results;
- that a 6-month monitoring update report was presented to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its December meeting.

A revised Engagement and Consultation Toolkit, which was presented as Appendix 1, has been prepared that includes a section on feeding back to participants. The importance of feedback would be further highlighted in training on use of the toolkit. The actions that were highlighted Red or Amber in the previous report have now progressed, mainly as a result of the revised toolkit. The action plan contained four aims. Progress was monitored by a Red/Amber/Green system. Red (no progress made), Amber (some progress made), Green (action is on track or complete).

1. To mainstream effective engagement and participation across Ceredigion County Council.

RAG status of the actions had progressed from 2 x Green and 1 x Amber to 3 Green.

2. To ensure that we engage with the people of Ceredigion in the best way

RAG status of the actions had progressed from 1 x Green, 1 x Amber and 1 x Red to 1 x Green and 2 x Amber.

3. To meet our statutory duties and responsibilities under legislation

RAG status of the actions had progressed from 1 x Green and 2 x Amber to 3 x Green.

4. To keep up to date with the latest innovations and best practice in the field of engagement

RAG status of the actions had progressed from 2 x Green and 1 x Amber to 3 x Green.

Further detail in the progress report was present in Appendix 2.

Following questions from the floor, it was AGREED:

- (i) to note the content of the Engagement and Participation Policy – Half yearly monitoring update; and
- (ii) to note the new Engagement and Consultation Toolkit

The Corporate Manager-Partnership & Performance would also circulate to Members some statistics generated nationally in relation to response rates to consultations.

4 To discuss with Officers the possibility of establishing a Task and Finish Group on Procurement

Following a presentation on Procurement from officers, it was AGREED that a Task and Finish Group would be established. Further discussion on the scoping document for the group would be considered following the meeting

to with include potential items to be considered such including as the Procurement & Commissioning Strategy, Capacity within the Service and Quality Checks and Value for Money.

All Members and the Corporate Lead Officer – Finance & Procurement wished to note their thanks for all the work and commitment to George Ryley (the Corporate Manager, Procurement & Payments) who would be retiring in the near future. All wished him well for the future.

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

It was RESOLVED to confirm as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the previous meeting.

6 Forward Work Programme

It was AGREED to note the Forward Work Programme as presented subject to agreeing that the next meeting would be cancelled as only one report was being presented; as Open Reach were unable to attend but would be providing a written statement to the Committee. It was agreed that the Half yearly Compliments, complaints and FOI report broken down into service area could be considered at a subsequent meeting.

Confirmed at the Meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9 February 2024

Chairman: _____

Date: _____