

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2016

- PRESENT:** Councillor Derlwyn Rees Hughes (Chair)
Councillor Alun Wyn Mummery (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors John Griffith, W T Hughes, Carwyn Jones, R LI Jones, Richard Owain Jones, Dylan Rees and Dafydd Rhys Thomas.
- Mr. Keith Roberts (Representing The Roman Catholic Church).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Assistant Chief Executive (AM),
Head of Housing Services (In respect of Item 5),
Health and Social Care Impact Officer (AD) (In respect of Item 4),
Grants Manager (JW) (In respect of Item 5),
Scrutiny Officer (GWR),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor A.M. Jones – Portfolio Holder (Housing & Social Services).
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Ieuan Williams – Leader of the Council.
Councillor Alwyn Rowlands – Portfolio Holder (Executive Business Manager, Performance Transformation, Corporate Plan and Human Resources) (In respect of Item 4).
- Mr. J. Lee MBE – Chair of the Board of Directors – Môn Communities First;
Ms. Rita Lyon – Môn Communities First Cluster Manager (In respect of Item 5).

Mr. Keith Roberts (Representing the Roman Catholic Church) wished to express his sympathy to the family of Mr. Geraint Elis, former Head of Education who had passed away recently. Members and Officers of the Committee also wished to express their sympathy to the family of Mr. Elis.

1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February, 2016 were confirmed as correct.

4 PARTNERSHIP POLICY DOCUMENT AND THE ROLE OF SCRUTINY IN MONITORING THE PARTNERSHIPS

Submitted – a joint report by the Health and Social Care Impact Officer and the Scrutiny Officer.

The Portfolio Holder (Executive Business Manager, Performance Transformation, Corporate Plan and Human Resources) said that the report sets out the importance of working in partnership as it is an integral part of Local Authorities' working practices; it further affords better services for local communities. He noted that the Executive at its meeting held on 14 March, 2016 approved the Policy Document as a robust foundation for partnership working.

The Assistant Chief Executive said that work has been undertaken recently to identify a list of partnerships between the Council and other organisations in the private, public or voluntary sector. To date over 200 possible partnerships have been identified. Work will now be undertaken to clarify the role and added value of possible partnerships identified.

The Health and Social Care Impact Officer and the Scrutiny Officer gave a brief presentation to the Committee on the Partnership Policy Document and the Role of the Scrutiny Committee in Monitoring the Partnerships. The Health and Social Care Impact Officer reported that the Partnership Policy Document summarises the Council's vision for partnership working and supplements the individual partnership statements that already exist, for example Isle of Anglesey Compact (partnership agreement with the Voluntary Sector), the Shared Community Charter with the Town and Community Councils on the Island. The Policy Document (which was appended as Appendix 1 to the report) focuses on partnerships where the Council choose to work with other organisations in the private, public or voluntary sector. She reported that the Audit and Governance Committee also has a role reviewing the Authority's risk management arrangements. They will focus on seeking assurance that key partnerships adequately manage risk but does not include reviewing the contribution and outcomes of partnerships, which is the remit of Scrutiny Members.

The Officer further referred to the reasons why working in partnership benefits the Council and communities of Anglesey and also the criteria the Council uses for selecting partnerships, which were highlighted within the report.

The Scrutiny Officer reported that the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee has an important role to ensure that there is an appropriate level of democratic engagement with partnerships and to ensure that the work and performance is responsive to and consistent with the Council's key priorities and the needs of the local communities. In performing its role the Scrutiny Committee has a number of possible areas it could consider to include :-

- Scrutinising governance arrangements;
- Scrutinising the Council's contribution;
- Evaluating the overall effectiveness of the partnership;
- Ensuring public engagement and citizen focused partnerships and strategies.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main issues :-

- Questions raised regarding possible duplication of services offered by the partner organisations identified. The Officers responded that each partner organisation will be reviewed and evaluated for value for money, added value and any possible duplication of provision. This exercise will enable Officers to have a complete and full list of partnership organisations representing future partnership working with the Council;

Questions were raised as to whether a 'risk assessment' exercise will be undertaken in evaluating the partnership working with organisations. The Officers responded that the role of the Audit and Governance Committee will include the review of risk management arrangements associated with partnership working.

- Questions were raised regarding partnership working with Town/Community Councils and a local Social Alliance which have been set up to take over the possible running of non-statutory services provided by the Council. The Assistant Chief Executive responded that a Town and Community Councils Liaison Forum and stakeholders will be consulted regarding the Partnership Policy Document and the 'toolkit' associated with the document in due course. The Chair said that it is important that Local Members should inform the Officers regarding any local social alliance or group that works within their community. This will allow the Officers to approach such organisations to evaluate the possible partnership working with the Council. The Leader of the Council expressed that partnership working regarding the local communities taking over cultural services should be further investigated; first contact with Town/Community Council and thereafter with local organisations should be considered.

RESOLVED to confirm :-

- **That the Partnerships Policy Document is a sound foundation for partnership working by the Council;**
- **That the task of scrutinising partnerships be undertaken initially by incorporating the work into the Forward Work Programme of this Committee;**
- **Arrangements should be made to review the effectiveness of this approach to Elected Member scrutiny of partnerships towards the end of the current financial year (this review to include consideration of the merits of a scrutiny outcome panel model).**

ACTION : As noted above.

5 COMMUNITY FIRST

The Chair welcomed representatives from the Môn Communities First Ltd., to the meeting.

Submitted - the report of the Head of Housing Services on the Communities First Progress Report 2016/16.

The Head of Housing Services reported that the Communities First Programme is a key work stream delivering the Council's strategic priorities within the Corporate Plan 2014/17 which focuses on regenerating communities and developing the economy together with increasing the housing options and reducing poverty. She noted that the Authority is the Lead Delivery Body which consists the Core, LIFT and Communities for Work funding. Môn Communities First Ltd., is a Delivery Organisation.

Môn Communities First Ltd., as a company limited by guarantee and a charity, has the ability to secure additional external funding to support the delivery of Communities First services in the area which the Authority as a public body may not be eligible to apply. The Community Vocational Academy, which provides accredited training to people aged 14-62, targeting those who are least likely to attend mainstream college provision has recently won the Chartered Institute of Housing Awards for Best Social Enterprise.

The Môn Communities First Cluster Manager gave an in-depth report on the activities undertaken by organisation. There have an increase in both the number of staff that the organisation currently employs and the amount of funding that has been secured for the programme. She referred to the Community Vocational Academy which has recently been strengthened through the award of Viable and Vibrant Places (VVP) funding. £90,000 has been awarded over 2 years to purchase a large commercial ride on mower which will enable Môn CF to tender for larger contracts and generate a sustainable income stream. 2 vans were also purchased which updates the fleet of vehicles. A mini digger has also been purchased which will be used by trainees and will assist with the lead on training to Coleg Menai Large Digger Training which was funded through Horizon. Môn Communities First is working closely with employers to ensure that the vacancies they have can be matched to the participants at the Academy. She noted that 102 people have attained employment through the Academy to date.

The Grant Manager outlined the level of funding secured by Môn Communities First and referred to Appendix 1 and 5 attached to the report which highlighted external funding secured.

The Chair of the Môn Communities First, Mr. J. Lee MBE wished to expressed his appreciation for the work undertaken by the staff of Môn CF and noted how proud he was of the success of the organisation.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following main issues :-

- Members of the Committee congratulated the work of the Môn Communities First Ltd., and commended that facilities offered to help the people within the Communities First areas. Questions were raised whether other areas not in the Communities area can be supported by facilities offered by Môn Communities First. The Môn Communities First Cluster Manager responded that European Funding has been secured to appoint an Officer to work in non-CF wards.
- Questions raised as to whether Môn CF will continue to carry on with the planting of flowers to improve the image of Holyhead Town Centre and surrounding areas. The Môn Communities First Cluster Manager responded that there have been recent incidents of anti-social behaviour of some youths towards their staff whilst preparing and planting floral displays in Holyhead. She noted that the matter has been reported to North Wales Police on numerous occasions; it was understood that only one 15 year old youth has been spoken to. She said that she was unwilling to allow her staff to be intimidated and the service will have to be suspended.

Following further deliberations it was **RESOLVED** :-

- **To congratulate the work and success of the Môn Communities First which is an example of good partnership working with the Council;**
- **To note the success of Môn Communities First in helping 102 people finding employment through the Community Vocational Academy;**
- **That a letter be sent to North Wales Police expressing the Committee's concerns with regard to the recent incidents of anti-social behaviour by youths and the intimidation of Môn CF staff whilst preparing and planting floral displays in the Holyhead area.**

ACTION : The Scrutiny Officer to write to North Wales Police with regard to the issue of anti-social behaviour as noted above.

6 UPDATE BY THE CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

No update received by the Chair/Vice-Chair.

7 WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted - the report of the Scrutiny Officer on the Committee's Work Programme to May, 2016.

Some Members of the Committee were dissatisfied that arrangements had been made to convene a meeting on Friday, 13th May, 2016 to discuss the Gypsy and Travellers Site Consultation. It was stated that the Democratic Services Committee had agreed that meetings should not be convened at the end of the week.

Following discussions it was **AGREED that every effort will be made to reconvene the meeting at the beginning of the following week or if this fails,**

due to availability of relevant Officers, the meeting to start at 3.30 p.m., on 13th May, 2016.

RESOLVED to note the Work Programme to May, 2016.

ACTION : The Scrutiny Officer to liaise with relevant Officers with regard to the above.

The meeting concluded at 4.10 pm

**COUNCILLOR D.R. HUGHES
CHAIR**