

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2017

- PRESENT:** Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Chair)
Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones (Vice-Chair)
- Councillors Glyn Haynes, Vaughan Hughes, Eric Wyn Jones, Dafydd Roberts, Margaret Murley Roberts and Robin Williams
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Service Improvements),
Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Business Process Transformation),
Head of Housing Services,
Head of Democratic Services,
Senior Manager – Housing, Strategy, Commissioning & Policy (EL),
Grants Manager (JW) (In respect of Item 4),
Regeneration Manager (DL) (In respect of Item 5),
Interim Scrutiny Manager (AD),
Scrutiny Officer (GWR),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Alun Wyn Mummery, Alun Roberts
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Llinos M. Huws (Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Housing & Social Services)
- Mr. J. Lee MBE – Chair of the Board of Directors – Môn Communities First
Mr. Keith Thomas – Personnel Director – Môn Communities First
Ms. Rita Lyon – Môn Communities First Cluster Manager
(In respect of Item 4)

1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings were confirmed :-

- Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April, 2017.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 31 May, 2017.

4 COMMUNITIES FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

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

Submitted – the report of the Head of Housing on the Môn Communities First Delivery 2016/17 and Future Plans post Communities First Funding.

The Portfolio Holder (Housing & Social Services said that the Communities First Programme has three key themes : Prosperous Communities; Learning Communities and Healthy Communities. The main focus of the delivery in Anglesey was under the Prosperous and Learning themes with a range of activities concentrating on improving skills and moving those furthest away from the labour market back into work. However, in February 2017 the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children announced that the Communities First Programme would be phased out by March 2018. Welsh Government will be introducing a Legacy Fund from April 2018 to enable some of the Communities First's most effective projects to continue. She noted that the Council as the Lead Delivery Board (LDB) has a close association with the Communities First Programme and regular monitoring will need to be undertaken to assure support to Communities First and that the programme continues to deliver its vision for the future.

The Head of Housing reported that funding of £662,200 was secured for Communities First activities in 2016/17. This has been fully utilised providing the following range of activities :-

- Core Employment Support
- Social Enterprise Support
- Enterprise Support
- Financial Inclusion
- Digital Inclusion
- Youth Provision
- Basic Skills Provision
- Community Vocational Academy

She said that whilst the Communities First Programme will be phased out by March 2018 the Welsh Government will be introducing a Legacy Fund of £6m a year from April 2018; this will operate for a period of 4 years. The funding will no longer be targeted to geographical clusters but will allow other communities on Anglesey to benefit from the Employment Support Services offered by Môn Communities First. Môn Communities First has been successful over a number of years in securing additional external funding as shown within Appendix 3 of the report.

The Head of Housing referred to a range of services afforded to the deprived areas of Anglesey and specifically to the first key development of a Youth Pod located at

Market Street, Holyhead. The Pod was set up to support young people with a range of facilities during the evenings and school holidays and is used as a drop-in for community consultation and other events during the day time.

She suggested that it would be advantageous for members of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to visit Môn Communities First at Holyhead to have an insight of the activities afforded by the company.

The Head of Service further said that as the Council is a Lead Delivery Board there is a requirement to submit a detailed plan by 31 May, 2017 to Welsh Government on the Môn Communities First Programme. There will also be a requirement on the Council to identify alternative models for sustaining the structure for grant funded schemes should Môn CF Ltd., be unable to continue in their current form. If Môn Communities Forward is able to attract external funding from other sources and demonstrate future sustainability, the organisation will be well placed to continue working in partnership with the County Council. The partnership will be subject to the new Partnership Toolkit which was approved for adoption by this Committee. She suggested that an update report be submitted to this Committee in October to monitor the 6 month performance against targets and a copy of the partnership review toolkit to demonstrate the robustness and sustainability of Môn Communities Forward to deliver the two remaining employability related grants, post March 2018.

The Chair of the Board of Directors, Mr. Jimmy Lee MBE gave a brief summary of the restructuring that has taken place due to the funding cut of 30% by Welsh Government. In order to retain the established brand, Môn Communities First Ltd., have changed their trading name to Môn Communities Forward Ltd.

The Personnel Director (CF), Mr. Keith Thomas, said Môn Communities Forward Ltd., has a vision to continue its services for the benefit of the people of the Island. He noted that a programme has been set out for the next 4 – 5 years and will strive to seek employment and to enhance skills for people across the Island.

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

- Questions raised as to whether Môn Communities Forward Ltd., are able to sustain the 30% cut to their budget as noted within the report. The Cluster Manager responded that significant changes have been undertaken within Môn CF to accommodate the 30% cut. Môn CF have strived to retain as much service delivery as possible. The company have been able to secure grant funding from other sources as was highlighted within the report. She noted that all the target services identified within the work programme of Môn Communities First has been delivered in 2016/17.
- Questions raised as to whether activities are afforded by Môn CF for the elderly. The Cluster Manager responded that some funding is available for Môn CF staff to attend events such as the Luncheon Club and consult on what their needs are and to share information about the services available from the company to the local community.

It was RESOLVED to congratulate the work and success of the Môn Communities First and that the Council's support be given to Môn Communities First Ltd., to expand and continue its good work.

ACTION : As noted above.

5 VIBRANT AND VIABLE PLACES PROGRAMME

Submitted – a report by the Head of Regulatory and Economic Development in relation to the above.

The Portfolio Holder (Planning, Public Protection & Economic Development) said that the Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) programme was the Welsh Government's urban regeneration framework, which formed the basis for allocating £100m of capital funds in the period April 2014 – March 2017. All local authorities in Wales were invited to submit outline proposals for the VVP grant and Holyhead was successful with a grant allocation of £7.49m in capital funding over three years. The programme was based on taking needs and opportunity under three themes that reflected Welsh Government policy priorities i.e., Homes, Place and People. Welsh Government has indicated informally that a new urban regeneration programme is likely to take place, commencing in April 2018, but no formal announcement has yet been made.

The Regeneration Manager said that a VVP Programme Board of Senior Council and Welsh Government Officers was established to oversee and steer the programme as a whole. Delivery of the programme and its constituent projects took place through three main mechanisms :-

- Direct delivery by the VVP programme office of project plans and studies, events, PR, evaluation etc.
- Delivery of capital projects by other Council Officers, using VVP funds allocated through an internal grant process, usually alongside other funds;
- Delivery of capital projects by other organisations, using VVP funds awarded to them through an external grant process, usually alongside other funds.

He noted that based on the Welsh Government VVP criteria it was clear that Holyhead was the only realistic bid from Anglesey. The VVP funding was allocated over three years under seven budget headings that were agreed with Welsh Government. The amount of funding allocated was highlighted within the report.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Service Improvements) said that the VVP Programme has achieved substantial improvements to the town of Holyhead. She referred to the major project at the Holyhead Market Hall which will enhance facilities within the town.

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

- Questions were raised as to the allocation of VVP funding towards the Modernisation of Schools programme in Holyhead. The Regeneration Manager responded that circa. £500k of the VVP funding was awarded towards the new

Ysgol Cybi at Holyhead which is part of the Modernisation of Schools in the area. Three primary schools will be accommodated within the new Ysgol Cybi;

- Questions were raised as to whether other towns on the Island could benefit from possible new urban regeneration programme in the future. The Regeneration Manager responded that any future bid must be realistic and must comply with awaited Welsh Government criteria. He noted that other large towns in Wales will also be in competition for such funding. He further noted that other grant funding is available from other sources such as the NDA and Lottery for projects on the Island;
- Questions were raised as to comments made within the report that the criteria and evidence requirements by the Welsh Government has involved considerable workload. The Regeneration Manager responded that the monitoring of output and evidence based for the VVP programme has created considerable workload for the Team involved with the scheme and comments have been forwarded to the Welsh Government with regard to this matter. He noted that the Welsh Government are evaluating a more flexible monitoring process as regard to similar VVP programmes for the future.

It was RESOLVED to note the report and to thank the Officers for the work achieved in connection with the VVP programme.

ACTION : None

6 NOMINATION OF SCRUTINY MEMBERS TO SERVE ON PANELS AND BOARDS

Submitted – a report by the Interim Scrutiny Manager in respect of the above.

The Interim Scrutiny Manager referred to the Panels and Boards which require elected Scrutiny Members representation. The terms of reference of each Panels and Boards was attached to the report.

It was RESOLVED to appoint the following members on each Panel and Boards :-

- **Children’s Services Improvement Panel – Councillor G.O. Jones**
- **Finance Scrutiny Panel – Councillors Dafydd Roberts and Robin Williams**
- **School Progress Review Panel – Councillors Vaughan Hughes, Eric Jones, G.O. Jones and Margaret M. Roberts**
- **Partnerships, Communities & Service Improvement Transformation Programme Board – Councillor G.O. Jones Deputy Member – Councillor R.Ll. Jones**
- **Schools Modernisation Programme Board – Councillor Robin Williams**
- **Customer Service Excellence Programme Board – Councillor Glyn Haynes**
- **Corporate Parenting Panel – Councillor Margaret M. Roberts**

ACTION : As noted above.

7 WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted- the report of the Scrutiny Officer on the Committee's Work Programme to May, 2018.

It was RESOLVED to note the Work Programme to May 2018.

ACTION : None

The meeting concluded at 3.20 pm

**COUNCILLOR G.O. JONES
CHAIR**