

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Strategy Committee Meeting

Tuesday 26th October 2021

This meeting was held via video conference under the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) 2020

Present: Councillors Karen Morris (substitute for Linda Edwards), Michael Theodoulou and Bob Walpole.

In attendance: Huw Thomas (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer), Shân Loudon (Deputy Clerk),

Also present: Cllrs Sharon Thomas and Moira Thomas

Absent: Councillor Stephen James, Andrew Phillips

Via videoconference 3pm – 4.15pm

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Linda Edwards.

2. To receive members' declarations of interest

None were declared.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Strategy Committee meeting held on 30th June 2021

Cllr Bob Walpole proposed seconded by Cllr Michael Theodoulou that the minutes were an accurate record.

4. Consideration of input from other standing Committees into the strategic plan

The Chair summarised the feedback from the three main standing committees.

Regeneration and Community Engagement

- Partnerships, collaborations and achieving through others.
- Increase consultation with community especially when setting precept
- Make the community an attractive place for businesses and visitors
- Respond to need of young people
- Delivery of the right events in right way at right time. Direct effect on wellbeing
- Making the community more inclusive place to cover disengaged groups
- Council to be more positive and more informative
- Advantages of working to produce a place plan, more support for business, more support for Welsh language

Another area to be included is the link between this committee and community forums/partnerships.

Facilities and Assets Committee

- Deliver major projects
- Robust and planned maintenance programme
- To “green up” and aim to be a carbon zero organisation

Finance, Governance and Personnel

Finance

- Precept setting, consult with community in advance when raising precept for additional services
- Fees and charges to be more in line with other Councils and more commercial, grant system available
- Pursue a strategy of applying for grants to help deliver more for the community

Personnel

- Invest in training and development of staff
- Review pay system, reward achievement
- Staff wellbeing – culture of organisation. Importance of developing a culture fit for purpose

Governance

- Need for leadership when trying to do more.
- This is the only larger council in Wales without a leader or executive committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will put together the basis of a cohesive strategy for this committee to approve before going to full Council

Action: Clerk

5. Consideration of work stream and timetable

It was commented that external and internal factors need to be taken into account. The full strategy should be approved by Council prior to May 2022.

6. Consideration of internal strategies

The committee structure was discussed and it was commented that the Council currently has 7 standing committees as well as a number of sub committees, project and task and finish groups. This involves a substantial amount of staff time in the servicing of the committees. Delegation to staff should be clear. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would prepare a report outlining a new committee structure, taking into account the committees’ views

Action: Clerk

7. Consideration of external strategies

Powers of competence – the advantages of having powers of competence were discussed: ability to become a commercial organisation, removes limit of spend, allows the Council power to trade.

Partnerships

The Chair informed members that the establishment of partnerships was the view of the Minister as well as One Voice Wales and it was noted that working with others can offer great benefit. Any partnership would require a detailed agreement.

Meeting ended 4.15