

**Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council**

**Minutes Regeneration and Wellbeing Committee Meeting**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Present:** Councillors Robert John (Chair), Mrs Shirley Matthews, Michael Theodoulou and Mrs Mary Wenman

**In attendance:** Ed Davies (Administrative Assistant-Minute Taker)

Town Clerks Office, Memorial Institute, Burry Port 6.45pm – 7.30pm

**1. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Peter Freeman.

**2. To receive members' declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted.**

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews declared an interest in any items that related to the Carnival Committee due to her membership of that.

**3. To consider a 3 year strategy plan.**

Members were handed a document produced by the Chair which was based on Carmarthenshire Public Services Board's "The Carmarthenshire We Want 2018-2023", which formed the County's well-being plan and from the report document produced by Cllr Michael Theodoulou. The document is titled "Well Being Report 2019".

It was stated that the Well Being Report outlined the 7 themes covered by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and outlined the process of monitoring, with each public body having to report against the objectives set by their local Public Services Board. Carmarthenshire had identified 4 key objectives.

<b>7 Themes</b>	<b>4 key objectives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Prosperous Wales</li><li>• A Resilient Wales</li><li>• A Healthier Wales</li><li>• A More Equal Wales</li><li>• A Wales of Cohesive Communities</li><li>• A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language</li><li>• A Globally Responsible Wales</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthy Habits</li><li>• Early Intervention</li><li>• Strong Connections</li><li>• Prosperous People and Places</li></ul>

The Council would have to review the key objectives alongside their own across each of the 7 themes to identify the common threads between both sets to inform and form the Council's objectives.

The document also highlighted the Five Ways of Working as set out in the “Future generations Framework for Projects” guidance. These are:

1. The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
2. Prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies to meet their objectives.
3. Considering how public bodies may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.
4. Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives.
5. The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

The report included a draft action plan, namely a blank report sheet for each of the 7 themes with headed columns to prompt those completing one for relevant information. The Chair suggested each member could, in their own time, identify the numerous actions and activities the Council currently undertook to help identify how it addressed each theme and objective and assess the impact. By amalgamating the returned documents members could identify the work it already did. This baseline information could then be taken to the public meeting to ask the public what other actions and activities were necessary during that consultation. Combining that information would provide the Council with the means to produce a better policy and also allow it to identify any further areas that were not yet covered by the Council’s current work and the desires of the community.

Members discussed the report in great detail, some suggesting methods of working the Council should return too while others insisted the Council needed to, in consultation with the public, establish its strategy first.

Members noted that the date of the public meeting had had to be put back to May due to the recent increase in workload caused by other factors, but that the work had started to ensure the meeting was a success. Members discussed the public meeting and its aims, noting that it was essential to ensure that the public understood that the Council did not have unlimited resources or the authority to deliver on every issue, but that this was an opportunity for them to input their priorities into the policy and strategy of the Council, that it did have responsibility for by creating short and long term goals. Some members felt it important that the Council understand why it undertook the work it did and intended to do, rather than continuing to do what it always had done. Others urged caution in spending too much time and effort on self-assessment as it could lead to inaction.

Members were asked to note however that the guidelines set by the Welsh Government compelled the Council to use the Five Ways of Working and to report against the seven themes via the four key objectives, it would therefore be necessary to formulate a plan before acting. Some members expressed support for this stating that acting without firm strategy or policy was dangerous and integral in changing the work of the Council from being reactive to active.

A process of how to proceed was suggested, whereby members each complete the forms, identifying how the work of the Council addressed the seven themes. Using that information, the Council could prepare what needed to be said to and asked of the public at the meeting and make clear what limitations of the Council are. The results of the public meeting could then be developed and assessed against the four key objectives and the seven themes.

Members **AGREED** for the report to be circulated to all Councillors with a 10 day deadline for filling in and returning to the Temporary Assistant Town Clerk for discussion at the next Public Engagement and Communication Sub-Committee meeting.

**ACTION: Admin Assist**

Members proceeded to discuss at length examples of strategy concerning the Council's delivery of event. This included different views on the number of civic events to organise as well as what constituted a civic event. Some members expressed support for a two pronged approach to events, with the Council organising some of its own events, while also working alongside or enabling outside groups to arrange their own, including fundraisers.

The discussion expanded to include the grants system and how it was used to support outside organisations and their events. Members were reminded that any financial contributions the Council made also counted towards meeting their obligations with regard the seven themes. Members proceeded to list some of the civic events currently organised by the Council in an effort to rationalise what work it currently undertook. Members also discussed the "Community Awards Dinner" event which had not been held previously but was to be included in the civic events, noting that it was intended to run it using sponsorship and as a black tie event.

There was a brief discussion of what had been agreed at the Town Council in relation to any unclaimed Members Allowances. Cllr Mrs Mary Wenman stated that she had been under the impression that the money was to be allocated to community champions as opposed to being reallocated to the Local Grants Fund.

Members also briefly discussed whether or not the Council should look to do more around Christmas such as a fair or market learning from its mistakes in previous years, or a community barbecue at Pembrey, with some members saying it may be better to support community organisations to deliver some of those kinds of event.