



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee**

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Wednesday, 24 April 2019 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor A Pugh (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C R Doyle
L R Jones

Councillor(s)

D W Helliwell

Councillor(s)

Y V Jardine

Officer(s)

Joanne Portwood
Anthony Richards
Lyndsay Thomas

Strategy and Policy Officer
Adult Prosperity & Wellbeing Unit
Principal Lawyer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): P Downing, B Hopkins and L V Walton

60 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City & County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

61 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee held on 27 March, 2019, be approved and signed as a correct record.

62 Self-Assessment - A Review of 2018/19 (Poverty Truth Commission).

Anthony Richards, Adult Prosperity & Wellbeing Unit, provided an update in relation to the Swansea Poverty Truth Commission (SPTC). He referred to previous updates to the Committee on 25 July, 2018 and 22 August, 2018.

He detailed the role of the SPTC; Other Areas of the Country where a Poverty Truth Commission had been successful; Principles; Progress and the Four stages in relation to the Swansea Poverty Truth Commission.

Members discussions focussed on developing outcomes/priorities for the SPTC; the role of the host organisation (in terms of staffing; maintaining independence and membership) and timescales regarding the opening event.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his informative presentation.

Resolved that:

- 1) The presentation be noted;
- 2) The Democratic Services Officer circulate a copy of the presentation to Committee Members.

63 Presentation - Council Letters to Residents.

The Principal Revenues Officer provided a presentation on Council Tax letters to residents.

Members' noted the background; statutory process; problems; current position; existing good practices; council tax protocol for Wales; improvements being made and on-going challenges.

Members' discussions focussed around the content and layout of the letter (taking into account statutory regulations); the process and monitoring process associated with debt collectors; examination of best practice amongst other local authorities and maintaining the balance between offering individuals advice and encouraging them to engage with the local authority.

The Chair thanked the Principal Revenues Officer for his informative presentation.

Resolved that:

- 1) The presentation be noted;
- 2) The Democratic Services Officer circulate a copy of the presentation to Committee Members.

64 Human Rights for the City and County of Swansea.

The Adult Prosperity and Well-being Service Manager referred to discussions (at the meeting on 27 March, 2019) regarding the Swansea City becoming a Human Rights City. She advised that a draft letter to the Cabinet/CMT had been circulated to the Committee for approval.

Resolved that the letter (including actions points) be forwarded to the Cabinet Member.

65 Self-Assessment - A Review of 2018/19.

The Adult Prosperity and Well-being Service Manager updated the Committee in regards to: the High Interest Action Plan and Letter to Cabinet Members; Welsh Government Child Care Officer status update.

The Strategy and Policy Officer provided an overview of the work undertaken by the Poverty PDC during the 2018-2019 Municipal Year.

Members' noted the: terms of reference; role and framework; relationship with scrutiny; self reflection process; work plan for 2018-2019; key achievements and self reflection.

Members discussed the need for continuity in regards to policy issues; lessons learned and format of future meetings.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their informative presentations and support during the year.

66 Work Plan 2018-2019.

The Chair stated that the work plan for the Poverty PDC for the 2019-2020 Municipal Year would be determined in the new Municipal Year.

The meeting ended at 5.57 pm

Chair