



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the Special **Scrutiny Programme** **Committee**

Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Friday, 24 April 2020 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor M H Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
L S Gibbard
P K Jones
W G Thomas

Councillor(s)

M Durke
J A Hale
E T Kirchner

Councillor(s)

E W Fitzgerald
D W Helliwell
W G Lewis

Councillor Co-opted Member(s)

P M Black
C A Holley

P R Hood-Williams
L R Jones

J W Jones

Also Present:

Councillor R C Stewart, Leader & Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy

Officer(s)

Huw Evans
Allison Lowe
Brij Madahar
Tracey Meredith
Martin Nicholls
Phil Roberts
Ben Smith

Head of Democratic Services
Democratic Services Officer
Scrutiny Team Leader
Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer
Director of Place
Chief Executive
Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): G J Tanner

124 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interest.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, the following interests were declared:

Councillors J W Jones and M H Jones declared a personal interest in Minute 128 "Pre-decision Scrutiny: Financial Procedure Rule 19.1c and FPR7. Authorisation for Alteration and Conversion of Bay Studios, Fabian Way, Swansea into an 1000 Bed Surge Hospital on Behalf of the Swansea Bay University Health Board" as their daughter works for Swansea Bay University Health Board.

Councillors J Hale declared a personal interest in Minute 128 “Pre-decision Scrutiny: Financial Procedure Rule 19.1c and FPR7. Authorisation for Alteration and Conversion of Bay Studios, Fabian Way, Swansea into an 1000 Bed Surge Hospital on Behalf of the Swansea Bay University Health Board” as an employee of Swansea Bay University Health Board.

125 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips.

In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, no declarations of Whipped Votes or Party Whips were declared.

126 Public Question Time.

There were no public questions.

127 Urgent Item.

The Chair outlined the reason for urgency pursuant to paragraph 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, in that she considered that the report “Financial Procedure Rule 19.1c and FPR7 - Authorisation for Alteration and Conversion of Bay Studios, Fabian Way, Swansea into an 1000 Bed Surge Hospital on Behalf of the Swansea Bay University Health Board” should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency.

The reason for Urgency being Covid-19 emergency build of hospital for handover to Swansea Bay University Health Board week commencing 27 April 2020.

128 Pre-decision Scrutiny: Financial Procedure Rule 19.1c and FPR7. Authorisation for Alteration and Conversion of Bay Studios, Fabian Way, Swansea into an 1000 Bed Surge Hospital on Behalf of the Swansea Bay University Health Board.

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy & Strategy, Chief Executive, Director of Place and Chief Finance Officer were present for the Committee’s consideration of the Cabinet report on “Financial Procedure Rule 19.1c and FPR7 – Authorisation for Alteration and Conversion of Bay Studios, Fabian Way, Swansea into an 1000 Bed Surge Hospital on Behalf of the Swansea Bay University Health Board.”

The Chief Executive commenced by stating that these were interesting and challenging times for us all and paid tribute to the Director of Place and his team for all the work undertaken in a very short space of time in preparing and developing this surge hospital in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Director of Place outlined the headlines of the report including the site identification process, paying particular attention to points 2.1, 2.7 and 2.8 of the report.

In addition, the Leader thanked all of the teams involved, who had been working extremely long hours over the last 3 weeks in order to progress the surge hospital to its current stage with approximately 400 beds having already been completed.

Photographs of the project were shared with the Committee and Group Leaders had attended a site visit that morning. He went on to say that a "war time effort" had been replicated and stated that we should all be proud of all of the staff and contractors involved.

Questions and discussions focussed on the following:

- All Group Leaders who attended the site visit paid tribute to the tremendous effort undertaken by all involved and the speed and quality of the scheme progressed to date;
- It was acknowledged that there had been some minor issues with site traffic causing disturbance to local residents, however additional signage had been put in place in order to that lorries and other heavy vehicles follow the designated route to / from the site in order to resolve the situation;
- There were concerns regarding the reimbursement of Council costs from Swansea Bay University Health Board and Welsh Government and the committee sought reassurance regarding the use of public funds;
- What the position would be if the pandemic extended beyond the 12 month lease period;
- Discussions should take place with Welsh Government and Swansea Bay University Health Board regarding the future use of the site at the conclusion of the pandemic in order to support any cancelled operations and to assist with any backlog within the Swansea Bay University Health Board area;
- Whether sufficient staff including Doctors, Consultants and Specialists were available to support the surge hospital.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for attending and presenting the report. She also thanked everyone concerned for all their hard work on behalf of the Scrutiny Programme Committee.

Resolved that the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee writes to the Cabinet Member outlining the views of the Committee, with feedback to be presented to Cabinet on 27 April 2020 ahead of the Cabinet decision.

The meeting ended at 2.56 pm

Chair