

Minutes

Liaison Meeting with Community Councils

Date 11 December 2014

Time 6pm

Present G Price (Head of Law & Standards) (in the Chair), M Rushworth (Head of Finance), A Jenkins (Democratic Services Support Officer)

Together with the following representatives from Community Councils:

R Caston, N Mountain, & P Gregory (Graig), A Whiting & J Davies (Bishton), Councillor T Bond & Y Forsey (Rogerstone), J Lawrence (Penhow), G Hancock & H Jones (Langstone), J Foster & J Yeo (Wentlooge)

1 Apologies for Absence

A Gunn, (Rogerstone), L Allen (Llanvaches), J Wagstaff (Penhow), A Whitfield & S Davies (Graig)

2 Minutes

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2014 were submitted. It was noted that E Lines was a community councillor for Goldcliff and not Graig.

Agreed:

That the minutes of the meeting were a true record, subject to the above.

3 Vale of Usk Local Action Group

Further to an email, which was sent out to clerks in August, the Chair provided an update on the Vale of Usk Local Action Group, for information. Details on the development strategy for Newport including a Q&A sheet would be sent via email to clerks.

Agreed:

- That the Local Development Strategy for Newport to be sent to clerks by Anne Jenkins.
- That a link to the website for further information be sent to clerks by Anne Jenkins.

4 Community Councils Concurrent Expenditure

The Head of Finance went through the mechanism of how the allocation of funding was provided by Newport.

Two options were put to the community councillors, based the allocation of monies in respect of housing tax and population.

The Head of Finance outlined how both options would affect the community councils.

Additionally it was highlighted that whilst the Council were suffering from major cuts, the £131K grant would still be frozen but funding would not be stopped.

Community councillors discussed at length their individual concerns over the fairness of the distribution of money between the 14 community councils.

A third option could take into account what community councils might consider a more proportionate allocation of funds to their community council precept.

It was suggested that some community councils that would receive a larger amount of monies might want to donate £1000 to smaller community councils.

Head of Finance stressed the need to give the Council's Cabinet Member an idea from the Community Councillors on how to move forward. A simplified version of the options would be sent to clerks to try and reach a resolution. If the Cabinet Member was minded to agree with the community councillors it could be changed or phased in from 2016/17. The Head of Finance would therefore send three options to the clerks for dissemination and see if there was a consensus emerging.

Agreed:

That three options of funding allocation be circulated to Community Council clerks for 2016/17 report. The preferred option would be discussed at a further meeting. Anne Jenkins would send an email to the clerks in due course.

5 Date of Next Meeting

The following dates for 2015 were agreed:

Thursday 26 March, 6pm in Committee Room 1

Thursday 25 June, 6pm in Committee Room 1

Thursday 24 September, 6pm in Committee Room 1

Thursday 10 December, 6pm in Committee Room 1