



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON 23RD JULY 2013 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor D. M. Gray - Mayor
Councillor D.G. Carter - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Miss. L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, Mrs. K.R. Baker, Mrs. G. Bevan, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs. A. Blackman, Mrs. A. Collins, Mrs. P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, W. David, D.T. Davies, R.T. Davies, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, Mrs. C. Forehead, Ms E. E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, L. Gardiner, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, C. Hawker, G.J. Hughes, K. James, M.P. James, G. Johnston, Mrs. B.A. Jones, G. Jones, Ms. J.G. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, Ms. P. Leonard, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs. G. Oliver, Mrs. R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew, Mrs. D. Price, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, J.E. Roberts, Mrs. E. Stenner, Mrs. J. Summers, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

D. Street (Acting Director of Social Services), G. Williams (Monitoring Officer/Principal Solicitor), G. Hardacre (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), K. Cole (Manager, Learning, Education and Inclusion), S. Harris (Acting Head of Corporate Finance), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.P. Angel, D. Bolter, H.R. Davies, K. Dawson, C. Durham, Mrs. D. Ellis, Mrs. J. Gale, Mrs. P. Griffiths, A.G. Higgs, J. Pritchard, R. Saralis and Mrs. M.E. Sargent.

2. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits that he and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting and made specific reference to the presentation of flowers, to an active 100-year-old lady, Vi Stephens, from St. Cattwg Ward. He advised that his charity appeal for both Latch and the Alzheimers Society stands at £2,500, with still some cheques, from pledges made at the Launch, that have still not been received. He thanked Members for their contributions.

3. PETITION - AXE THE BEDROOM TAX

The Mayor received a petition presented by Councillor T.J. Williams on behalf of local residents and it was agreed that as there is a report on the matter to be considered at the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee tomorrow the petition be considered at that time and a representative be allowed to address the Members.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARD

Midland Hr Technology Impact Awards - Outstanding Strategic Vision And Project Planning Award

Members were advised that Officers from the IT and Personnel Teams were recently presented with the 'Outstanding Strategic Vision and Project Planning Award' for the implementation of the iTrent HR Payroll system. The award recognises the Council's professional approach to the successful planning and implementation of a major new IT project. The award is particularly notable, as this year the organisers received a record number of entries from across the public and private sectors.

Manoj Khetia, Janine Sweeney and Liz Vicente came forward to receive the award on behalf of the service and in recognition of the achievement. Members wished to place on record their appreciation to all those involved in achieving the award.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring Officer advised that those Members who were Governors of the schools or had family that attend those schools directly affected by the report would have both a personal and prejudicial interest and should declare an interest and leave the meeting.

Those who were Governors of feeder school, or had families attending those feeder schools, whilst they may have a personal interest it would not be prejudicial, and as such the Code of Conduct did not prevent them part in the discussions or voting thereon

Councillors M. Adams, H.A. Andrews, D. Carter, Mrs. P. Cook, W. David, D.T. Davies, R. Gough, Mrs. J. Jones, G. Kirby, K. Lloyd, Mrs. D. Price, K.V. Reynolds, Mrs. J. Summers, and R. Woodyatt declared an interest in agenda item 7(1) as it relates to Phase 1 - Secondary Rationalisation. Some were personal (which enabled the Member to stay and take part in the discussion and voting thereon) and others were both personal and prejudicial (which required the Member to leave the chamber when the item was discussed). Details are minuted with the respective item.

6. COUNCIL - 11TH JUNE AND 11TH JULY 2013

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

Council held on 11th June (minute nos. 1 - 13 on page nos. 1 - 5) and Special Council held on 11th July 2013 (minute nos. 1 - 4 on page nos. 1 - 3).

7. INTERIM MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to the report which detailed proposals for the appointment or engagement of a Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service, on an interim basis and advised of the recommendations of the Appointments Committee held on 18th July 2013. With regards to the latter it was noted that Councillor R. Woodyatt had been omitted from the minutes and should be included in the list of those who had attended the meeting.

Members were advised that it is a legal requirement for a Local Authority to have a Head of Paid Service. In Caerphilly County Borough Council the Head of Paid Service is the Chief Executive and there is no distinction between the two roles. The report detailed the recruitment process that had been undertaken and advised that the Appointments Committee, held on 18th July 2013, had been convened to consider expressions of interest, undertake interviews for the role and make a recommendation to Council. The Chief Executive of the WLGA, Mr. Steve Thomas, attended as an advisor to the Committee.

The Appointments Committee considered the only expression of interest received, proceeded to interview that candidate and unanimously agreed to recommend to Council that Mr. Stuart Rosser be appointed to the post of Interim Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service. Members were advised that he had requested that should he be successful, he be engaged on the salary that was in place at the time of his departure. He had also advised that should he be appointed he was prepared to be flexible with regard to the exact duration of his engagement, and that whilst he would request that his contract be for 3½ days per week, should the need arise, he would be prepared to work additional days in excess of the 3½ days with additional salary on a pro-rata basis.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By show of hands this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) the recommendation of the Appointments Committee that Mr. Stuart Rosser be appointed to the role of Interim Head of Paid Service (and undertake the responsibilities associated with the role of the Chief Executive) based on a salary of £131,645 be endorsed;
- (ii) Mr. Rosser's salary be calculated on a pro-rata basis, in that his contract be for a minimum of 3½ days per week (with additional days in accordance with paragraph 4.5 of the report);
- (iii) the appointment be for a minimum period of six months, to commence with immediate effect;
- (iv) the appointment be reviewed by Full Council prior to the expiry of the six-month period.

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following reports referred from Cabinet.

8. PHASE 1 - SECONDARY RATIONALISATION

Councillors M. Adams, Mrs. P. Cook, G. Kirby and Mrs. J. Summers declared an interest in this item (as being Governors of those schools directly affected by the report). Councillors K. Lloyd, K.V. Reynolds and R. Woodyatt declared an interest (as having family that attend those schools directly affected in the report). In that they had both a personal and prejudicial interest they left the Chamber during consideration of this item.

Councillors H.A. Andrews, D. Carter, W. David, D.T. Davies, Mrs. J. Jones and Mrs. D. Price declared an interest in this item (as being Governors of other schools/feeder schools mentioned in the report), Councillor R.W. Gough declared an interest (as having family that attended a school mentioned in the report). In that they had a personal but not prejudicial interest they remained in the Chamber and took part in the discussion and voting thereon.

It was noted that Bleddyn Hopkins is currently in hospital and Members wished him a speedy recovery. They were advised that his father had passed away at the weekend and condolences were extended to the bereaved family.

The report, which had been considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 9th July and Cabinet on 16th July 2013, informed Members of the recommendations of the Cross Party Working Group, which had been established in relation to Phase 1 of Secondary Rationalisation. It detailed the rationale of the Group in proposing the closure of two schools in a region and the opening of a new school, rather than the closure of one school in each region.

Members noted that the Working Group had analysed and reviewed individual school data in the context of four geographical areas (Caerphilly Basin, Mid and Upper Rhymney Valley, Islwyn West and Islwyn East) which resulted in agreeing a priority region list based principally on projected surplus places. The Working Group also considered a new lower cost approach to school build in the context of a recent private/public sector initiative in the Midlands. Details of the options appraisal, scoring matrix, school site options, pupil projections, catchment areas and secondary school capacities (as detailed in the report) were noted.

The Working Groups recommendation for Phase 1 were summarised as follows:-

- Selection of Oakdale Plateau 3 as the preferred site for the new school in the Islwyn West region
- Closure of present Oakdale and Pontllanfraith secondary schools
- Revised catchment areas (proposed with the objective of achieving 2 broadly similar sized schools in the region in the future, i.e. Blackwood Comprehensive and Oakdale Plateau 3).
- The proposed Oakdale Plateau 3 school to be designed for a capacity of 900 pupils, plus provision for pupils with additional learning needs.

Members considered the report in detail and it was proposed and seconded that the recommendations from the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet as outlined in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report -

- (i) the Phase 1 proposal as set out in paragraph 4.37 of the report and the way forward as outlined in paragraph 4.38 be endorsed;
- (ii) the 50% match funding contribution for CCBC as outlined in paragraph 6.2 of the report be endorsed;
- (iii) the two principles of the Working Group as outlined in paragraph 4.9 of the report and the proposal to progress the Mid and Upper Rhymney Valley region for Phase 2 be noted.

Members wished to place on record their appreciation for the considerable commitment and dedication shown by Officers and Members who had participated in the Cross Party Working Group.

9. COUNCIL IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES

The report set out the process the Council had undertaken in setting its new Improvement Objectives and identified the recommended Improvement Objectives for 2013/14.

In November 2012 the Council set its Corporate Priorities for 2013-17. The set of Corporate Priorities was used as a basis for selecting Improvement Objectives for 2013/14. As part of the selection process the Performance Management Unit worked extensively with services in assessing each of the proposed objectives against the questions set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report.

Following the initial assessment and selection, a public consultation exercise was carried out to test the relevance of the selection and to gather public feedback on the proposed set. The Council received over 230 responses to the consultation exercise. Responses were received from local councillors, local businesses, members of the public and staff. A number of respondents noted that the Improvement Objectives were focussed towards younger people and commented that there should be more focus on adult care and improving job and business opportunities for all age groups. A full copy of the consultation results is available in the Members' library and will be posted on both the Intranet and Internet.

Discussion ensued on the content of the document and in particular to IO5, as it relates to investment in homes to transform lives and communities. It was clarified that the 2012/13 results of the number of houses that have achieved WHQS in the year would be available at the end of July. With regards to this objective it was also suggested that, in view of the introduction of bedroom tax, it should focus more on need. It was also requested that IO3 (develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people) should include actions to strengthen the service. With regards to the Welsh Office definition of improvement and in relation to category F (improving the efficiency of service and function) it was noted that this is inherent in each of the improvement objectives selected and should be reflected as such (page 6 of the document refers).

Members considered the report in detail and it was proposed and seconded that the recommendations from Cabinet as outlined in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the Improvement Objectives for 2013/14 be approved.

REPORT REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11. ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORTING FRAMEWORK - DIRECTORS REPORT

Consideration was given to the report that informed Members of the key messages identified in the preparation of the fourth Annual Director's Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services. This report was considered by the Health Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee (Performance Management) on 18th July 2013 where its content was supported.

Members were advised that the annual report is a summary outlining the effectiveness of how the county borough delivers Social Services to its citizens and the various consultation activities that have been undertaken in order to assist in the process of evaluating the effectiveness of social care services were outlined. It provided details on areas in which the Directorate does well, issues for further development and the key priorities for the Directorates' continued improvement into the future. They were pleased to note that 2012 - 13 had produced many positive developments in the Directorate, which has again operated within a balanced budget through making significant savings and efficiencies to manage cost pressures, which have been delivered with no adverse impact on front line service delivery. They also noted that Service Improvement Plans have been developed in order to deliver the key identified within the Annual Directors report.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the contents of the Annual Director's Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services 2012-13 be noted and the key priorities for action by the Corporate Director Social Services be approved.

12. QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

Consideration was given to the following Questions under Rule of Procedure 10(2), which had been submitted after the preparation of the agenda. In accordance with the revisions to the constitution, the answers are also provided.

QUESTION 1

Given Cllr Martin James commitment to this council, on numerous occasions, to supply data to this Council, that shows that incinerating Refuse Derived Fuel was dangerous to public health, has this data been supplied to the Council? As Cabinet Member covering Waste Management have you been in touch with Cllr James over this matter?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES - COUNCILLOR D.V. POOLE

I have written to Councillor James requesting this information but to date it has not been supplied. I intend therefore to refer this matter to the Council's Monitoring Officer for advice.

QUESTION 2

Cllr James made three commitments to this Council to supply data on incinerating Refuse Derived Fuel. As Cabinet member for Communities and Leisure have you been in contact with Cllr James leader, Cllr Mann, to express your concern that the data has still not been supplied.

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY AND LEISURE SERVICES - COUNCILLOR D.V. POOLE

Since the meeting of Council of 26th February 2013 I have been concerned that Cllr Martyn James has not supplied the scientific data, in his possession, which purports to show that incinerating Refuse Derived Fuel is dangerous to the residents of Caerphilly County Borough Council. I now intend to refer this matter to the Council's Monitoring Officer for advice.

13. MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group held on 21st June 2013 were received and noted.

The meeting closed at 5.50pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2013 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR