



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE – 21ST MARCH 2012

**SUBJECT: DIGEST OF CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF GAVO**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report from Caerphilly CBC contains a digest of committee reports containing items of interest for the voluntary sector. If there are reports of particular interest Members can request the committee report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to prepare a further report/take questions.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A quarterly summary of Caerphilly CBC committee reports selected as they contain areas of interest for the voluntary sector.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 All Caerphilly CBC reports relate to aspects of the Caerphilly County Borough Community Strategy.

### 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The following reports have been selected as having particular interest on voluntary sector issues (note Members can request a full hard copy of any of the reports included) :-

#### 4.2 CABINET - 24TH JANUARY 2012

##### **CENTRE FOR SPORTING EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

To recommend to Cabinet acceptance, in principle, of a prestige Centre for Sporting Excellence and Community Development on the site of the former Ystrad Mynach Hospital.

The proposal will have a positive impact upon Leisure and Education provision within the county borough together with the wider aspects of Regeneration. Additionally the high standard of provision will do much to enhance the reputation of and visitor experience to the county borough.

The opening of Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr and the occupation of the former Ystrad Mynach hospital site by the council offers a unique opportunity for the council to provide leisure facilities that could be amongst the best in the country. The site is the subject of a s106 Planning

Agreement that dictates that it can only be used for Leisure development, a condition that requires the demolition of the former hospital buildings. The council will take possession of the site from mid February 2012 and is responsible for the demolition. Subject to ecological considerations it is imperative that demolition is carried out as soon as possible to avoid, wherever possible, ecological restrictions and potentially costly site security.

It is proposed to create two 3rd Generation (3G) artificial playing surfaces to support both football & rugby, supported by an exceptional level of infrastructure. The pitches/lighting/stands/terracing and car parking will be constructed to the highest standards and meet the exacting requirements of the sport's governing bodies.

The facility will, unusually, be both exclusive and inclusive. It will be **exclusive** in that it offers the possibilities of matches at the highest level being played together with high class performance training and sport science facilities. It will provide many of the training requirements of elite sportsmen and women in one single venue. The Welsh Rugby Union and Football Association of Wales support the development. Newport Gwent Dragons and Cardiff City who are the regional/academy representatives of the Caerphilly area are equally supportive and excited by the prospects offered by this development.

The development will be **inclusive** in that all other sportsmen and women, of all ages, and of all abilities who may play sport for the sheer enjoyment can equally share the facilities.

Ystrad Mynach College are equally enthusiastic about the project and view the proposed facilities as complementing their own proposals for developing indoor facilities (sports hall and swimming pool). The college view the proposed facilities at the hospital site combined with a partnership with the Authority, Newport Gwent Dragons and Cardiff City as an integral component in developing a more extensive range of courses and other opportunities such as work with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board on primary care/Health and Well-being issues.

The s106 agreement 'levered' in £2.3m, which has been set aside for the leisure development. The proposals described above go far beyond the provision of a single multi use grass pitch. Current cost estimates total £6m. The Capital Strategy includes £1.4m for each of the two years 2012/13 & 2013/14, giving a total available budget of £5.1m (£2.3m + £2.8m). This additional funding (£2.8m) has been identified within the council's MTFP and will be updated for the 2012/13 budget that will be submitted for approval to Council on the 23rd February 2012 as a part of the proposed capital programme.

Currently there is a deficit in capital funding of £0.9m. It is proposed to seek funding from WG and discussions are ongoing.

Identifying future revenue funding will be key to the sustainability of this project and in this regard the involvement of the Newport Gwent Dragons, Cardiff City and Ystrad Mynach College will provide core revenue income. A Business Case is currently being prepared to demonstrate the viability of the project. Officers will report further on the revenue projections and implications on completion of the Business Case following further discussions with the various organisations mentioned earlier.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL**

### **EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP YOUTH AWARD**

T. E. the ESD Officer, presented the report, which made Members aware of the Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) youth award, which was developed as a partnership project between Caerphilly and Bridgend CBC.

The ESDGC youth award scheme has been developed to support youth groups working on environmental and sustainable projects as part of the youth work curriculum. The award scheme is the first of its kind in Wales. It has been developed using features from other

sustainable award schemes and will support youth groups delivering ESDGC action as part of the Estyn Inspection process. The programme will encourage centres to raise awareness and understanding of sustainable development to staff, visitors and the wider community as well as reducing resource consumption, costs and their impact on the environment.

The award scheme will be piloted with five youth clubs in the Caerphilly County Borough and three in Bridgend and rolled out to other youth centres if successful.

The Panel acknowledged the ESDGC youth award scheme and endorsed the proposal to trial the scheme with a selection of youth centres in the Caerphilly County Borough with a view to rolling it out to other youth centres if successful.

## **RENEWABLE ENERGY EVIDENCE BASE: IMPLICATIONS FOR CAERPHILLY**

The Panel received a report and Powerpoint presentation from Rhian Kyte, Team Leader Strategic and Development Plans. Members were advised of progress made on the Renewable Energy Baseline Assessment; renewable energy targets - 2020 and the recommendations contained in the Draft Renewable Energy Assessment.

Welsh Government planning policy in respect of renewable energy provision is provided by Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: Renewable Energy. Local planning policy is provided by the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) up to 2021.

The LDP does not currently contain a specific renewable energy target, nor does it make site-specific provision in respect of the location of renewable energy provision, such as wind farms, solar arrays, etc. The criteria based policies contained within the LDP however, play a critical role in determining planning applications for renewable energy proposals that are likely to come forward in the county borough during the plan period. The report highlights that there are various renewable energy schemes operating throughout the county borough that are already contributing to the generation of renewable energy. It is estimated that to date, the county borough has the potential capacity to produce 57.44% of the renewable electricity generation and 1.2% of the heat generation necessary to meet the 2020 target.

## **WALES RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2007-13 'BUDDING BUSINESSES' – GRANT SUPPORT FOR RURAL ENTERPRISES**

To inform Cabinet of allocations made by the Caerffili Cwm a Mynydd Partnership Key Funds Panel in relation to applications received for grant funding under the Budding Businesses grant scheme to date and approved by the Head of Regeneration and Planning.

The project involves the provision of funds for bids by locally based organisations and microenterprises to help meet the aims of the Community Strategy, Living Environment Strategy and Regeneration Strategy.

The Budding Businesses Grant Scheme assists eligible micro-enterprises in the sustainable development of Caerphilly's rural produce and industries through a mixture of capital and revenue grants. Applicants to this grant fund bid for funding via a formal application process. An independent panel assesses the bids against set, published criteria, and the panel is drawn from the wider membership of the RDP Partnership, with support from local authority officers.

Following extensive and successful marketing of the scheme by the Countryside and Landscape Service RDP Team and joint publicity initiatives, including road shows, alongside the Advisory Services team, the programme has proved very popular, with the majority of the £200,000 funding allocation already being committed to a wide variety of micro enterprises.

The successful applicants are as follows:

**Ultimate Arcade Cabinets**, Bedwas House Industrial Estate  
**Blaengawney Cider**, Crumlin  
**The Pamper Haven**, Machen  
**Castle Chocolates**, Bedwas House Industrial Estate  
**Plant 2 Plate**, Machen  
**Alexandra Hunter DipWCF (Farrier)**, Ystrad Mynach  
**Craft Wales Ltd**, Duffryn Industrial Estate  
**CreativeTea at Ffos-y-gerddinen**, Nelson  
**The White Cross**, Groeswen  
**Baked**, Machen  
**Cabot Aluminium Ltd**, Duffryn Industrial Estate

## **CABINET - 13TH DECEMBER 2011**

### **TRANSFER OF MACHEN CHANGING ROOMS**

To seek approval to transfer Machen Changing Rooms to Machen Welfare Association, on a leasehold basis on terms to be agreed. Machen Welfare Association has submitted an application to acquire the freehold interest in Machen Changing Rooms. The application has been selected as one of the short-listed pilot projects that are being progressed during the development of a Community Asset Transfer Strategy.

The changing rooms are located off Tyn-Y-Waun Road in Machen and are positioned on the edge of Machen Welfare football playing field site. These facilities form part of a wider site, which includes a recreation area, bowls pavilion and green, which are already in the ownership of the Machen Welfare Association. The changing room is accessed by a singletrack drive and car parking area, which also serves the wider site.

The site of the changing room was acquired by the former Machen UDC separately from the adjoining Council playing fields, which are leased by the Council to Machen Welfare Committee on a 99-year lease from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1982. The area was acquired from the Trustees of the Machen Welfare Association in 1973. The Conveyance contained a covenant that the Council erect and maintain a changing room.

Tenants will be required to take on all associated costs and obligations of the asset/facilities including responsibility for internal and external repairs.

As part of the wider strategy it will be necessary to ensure each sports facility has separate metered supplies for the relevant utilities on site. Establishing separate supplies will ensure the issues of sub-metering are overcome. Investigations are ongoing to determine the current supply installations at the changing rooms and the level of associated costs should works be necessary.

Recommended that Cabinet approve a lease of Machen Changing Rooms to Machen Welfare Association on terms to be agreed by the Head of Performance and Property Services including the power to dispose of the property for less than the best price reasonably obtainable in the interests of the social and economic well-being of Machen and the whole of the County Borough.

### **CAERPHILLY LIBRARY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE – POST OFFICE REDEVELOPMENT**

To seek approval to enter into an agreement for lease with the owner of the former Post Office building Caerphilly Town Centre for its redevelopment into a Portal Library and Customer Service Centre.

The County Borough Library Service Development Strategy 2009-2014, endorsed by Cabinet and Education for Life Scrutiny Committee in June 2009, identifies that Caerphilly Town and its surrounding catchment communities requires a statement 'Portal' Library facility.

A relocated and redeveloped Library will support a number of the core aims of the Single Plan for Children and Young People, 'Building Lives Changing Futures'. In particular Core Aims 1, 2, 4, and 7.

The relocation and redevelopment of Caerphilly Town Library complements the Councils core priorities as follows:

**Education for Life** – A better located and fit for purpose Library within Caerphilly Town will provide local residents of all ages with improved access to informal and formal learning opportunities, and a wider range of educational materials than the current modest facility can provide. Dedicated areas for children and young people will be integral to any new or redevelopment as will the provision of an informal learning centre and local studies area.

**Regeneration** – A relocated and redeveloped Library within Caerphilly Town will support wider regeneration initiatives. Libraries are recognised as important anchor tenants when they are included in shopping centre initiatives. Access to learning and computer based facilities also support residents to find new employment and improve their skill-set, contributing positively to regeneration on a practical level.

**Health Social Care and Wellbeing** – Well sited libraries, closer to town centre activity and public transport infrastructure, can better support the emotional and physical well being of the community they serve through educational, recreational, and information provision.

**The Living Environment** – The adaptation and re-use of existing community assets, such as the former Post Office site, can ensure that the regeneration of the physical landscape of Caerphilly Town is enhanced.

The relocation and redevelopment of Caerphilly Town Library incorporating a Customer Service Centre is in line with the Council's revised Customer Services Strategy. The Customer Services Strategy is part of the authority's improving services theme and has been identified as a priority in the Corporate Improvement Plan. The Customer Services Strategy also links to a number of equalities strategies, including the Linguistic Skills Strategy, and the Consultation Strategy.

The former Post Office building and adjoining site is located in the Twyn square and is presently in the ownership of a developer who is willing to redevelop the site, which would then be leased to the Council on a commercial basis over a 35 year term.

The annual rental fee has been agreed, subject to Cabinet approval, at £227,500 per annum. Estimated fit out costs of £350,000 will also be incurred.

	2011-12 Original Estimate	2011-12 Revised Estimate	2011-12 Anticipated Outturn	Overspend/ Underspend
Education, Lifelong Learning & Leisure	127,961	127,880	126,747	1,133
Social Services	69,753	69,753	70,127	(374)
Environment	49,542	52,607	52,399	208
Corporate Services	22,954	22,921	22,567	354
Miscellaneous Finance	42,803	42,603	40,883	1,720
DLO/DSO Efficiency	(346)	(346)	(388)	42
Use of Earmarked Service Reserves for one off spend	0	(2,751)	(2,751)	0
<b>Total Controllable Budget</b>	<b>312,667</b>	<b>312,667</b>	<b>309,584</b>	<b>£3,083k</b>

## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 01.12.2011**

### **LIBRARY SERVICES TO SMALLER COMMUNITIES - FUTURE OF ABERBARGOED LIBRARY, PANT STREET**

The report sought to inform Members of the outcome of the consultation on the future of Aberbargoed Library and the proposal to relocate present Library provision from Pant Street, Aberbargoed to the Hanbury Chapel, Bargoed.

The County Borough Library Services 5 Year Development Plan 2009/14 recognised the need to change the way smaller communities across the authority were served and to review and rationalise where appropriate how services were delivered. The present provision at Aberbargoed Library was detailed and Members were advised that the current building is of considerable age, in a poor state of repair and is not fit for purpose. The site does not meet the Welsh Library standard for public floor space with little dedicated space for children or young people to benefit fully from the services provided. The minimum refurbishment and improvement costs to make the present facility fit for purpose would be £71,000 and there are no current plans to redevelop the site within the Council's tiering model for Public Library provision.

The proposed relocation to the Hanbury Chapel site offers a number of benefits to residents including dedicated spaces for the under 5s, children and young people, homework support, a Family and Local History Centre and 700m<sup>2</sup> of public floor space. It was noted that 57% of present Aberbargoed customers live within half a mile of the Hanbury Chapel facility and 90.2% of present customers live within 2 miles.

Members were advised that a planned consultation programme on the proposal had been carried out between the 11th of July and the 31st of October 2011. Reference was made to the different consultation elements and timescales involved. Members noted that questionnaires, public meetings and consultation with Local Members, Bargoed Town Council, Partnership Organisations, Staff and Trade Unions had taken place.

## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 01.12.2011**

The Authority is responsible for a number of tennis courts, which are located throughout the county borough. Members should however note that the facility at Virginia Park, Caerphilly is leased to the Caerphilly Tennis Club.

A condition survey of these sites was undertaken during July 2011.

The different standard of provision at the sites quickly becomes apparent. The standard is influenced by several factors viz:-

- The interest in tennis at a particular location;
- Whether the site is staffed during the summer by a Park Ranger;
- The amount of investment historically made in the facility;
- The amount of investment needed.

The use of tennis courts contribute to the objectives set out in the following strategies:

- Caerphilly Community Strategy
- Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategy
- The Leisure Strategy

CCBC Sports Development, in partnership with Tennis Wales, has made significant progress developing tennis in schools through the provision of teacher training, equipment and resources. This has generated increased interest and participation in tennis. The focus now is to transfer this interest into increased participation in community settings.

The aim is to increase opportunities for residents to participate in tennis on a regular basis at a venue close to their home, which provides high quality, affordable opportunities on safe, well-maintained facilities. This aim is supported through British Tennis and the "Places to Play" strategy. It is essential to have facilities that are supported by a comprehensive development programme that is inclusive, provides pathways to develop regardless of age or ability and caters for the varying needs of the service users.

There are insufficient resources or demand to develop community clubs in every town or village in the borough. It is consequently recommended that any future investment into improving facility provision for tennis should focus on addressing gaps in service provision where the greatest difference can be realised.

£40K has been identified (and agreed by the relevant Cabinet Members) from the Public Services Reserve Account to improve and/or bring some tennis courts into beneficial use. The £5k shortfall required to complete all works to the Beacon sites could be funded via other Public Services revenue budgets.

## **CABINET – 10TH JANUARY 2012**

### **THE SOUTH EAST WALES SHARED LIVES / ADULT PLACEMENT SCHEME**

To gain Cabinet's agreement to Caerphilly County Borough Council's participation in the Adult Placement / Shared Lives Collaborative comprising of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen Councils.

Adult Placement (also known as Shared Lives) is the provision of support for adults, including accommodation, in an ordinary family style setting for someone who has been assessed as needing it. The nearest equivalent to Shared Lives is fostering. The service offers long term, short term, respite and sessional support placements to vulnerable adults who need support to live life in the community.

In 2010 Heads of Adult Services across Gwent commissioned an options appraisal of the potential for collaboration on Adult Placement, through a detailed and inclusive options appraisal process, which involved desk top reviews, best practice visits and interviews.

As a result of the options appraisal it was agreed that Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen Councils would enter into a collaborative approach in the provision of a Adult Placement Scheme and to achieve this would seek to enter into a partnership arrangement with Caerphilly County Borough Council building upon its successful in-house Adult Placement Scheme.

As this piece of work was being undertaken, The South East Wales Improvement Collaborative (SEWIC) agreed six potential areas for improvement through collaboration; one of these being Shared Lives. The link to SEWIC, whilst not superseding or encroaching upon the collaborative work already undertaken, has provided an impetus to the project. As part of this consideration, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council took the opportunity to join the Collaborative.

The partner authorities concluded that Adult Placement offered the following benefits:

**Greater choice for people who use services and their families:** For some people the option of living and receiving support from within a family setting is a strong preference. It represents another option with which to meet a growing diversity of accommodation needs.

**An alternative to more institutional options:** All too often residential care is seen as the only option when service users are unable to either live independently or within the family home. Adult Placement often offers a more viable and less 'institutional' option; often a better outcome for service users.

**Continuity of care provided to children into adulthood:** Where a child has been fostered there is a logic to continue care in a family setting as the child enters the transition into adulthood and an opportunity for a smoother transition for the service user.

**Regulatory oversight:** The Scheme must be registered with the CSSIW. It inspects and monitors Adult Placement Schemes against the national minimal standards and regulations for adult placement.

**Value for money:** Councils are currently being faced with some strong motives to better control accommodation costs and offer greater choice especially in relation to learning disabilities. Payments made to carers for placements vary. In some areas a single flat rate payment of around £350 per week is made. In others a sliding scale is in operation from £200 to £600 per week. In many cases the payment is then supplemented by housing benefit. The banding system to be used in identifying appropriate levels of payments has already been agreed.

Recommended:- That Cabinet agrees to the authority's participation in South East Wales Adult Placement scheme with effect from April 2012.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Equalities implications have been taken into account for a number of reports submitted to Cabinet and other committees.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None, this is an information paper only on the contents of Caerphilly CBC reports which contains items of interest for the Voluntary Sector Committee.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None arising.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 Not applicable.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Members are invited (if they feel appropriate) to select any report for further consideration by the Committee by requesting the report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to take questions/prepare another report.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To ensure Members are fully briefed on items of interest for the Voluntary Sector.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000.



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