



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE – 20TH MARCH 2013

**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 - 11TH DECEMBER 2012

#### **LEISURE CENTRE PROVISION IN THE CAERPHILLY BASIN**

The report sought in principle support for a new leisure centre facility in the Caerphilly basin. Caerphilly Leisure Centre is the second busiest in the County Borough's portfolio of 11 leisure centres with circa 250,000 visits per annum. The facility is approximately 40 years old and a recent update of the property condition survey has revealed that expenditure of £934,000 is required to deal with Priority 1, 2 and 3 maintenance liabilities.

As a result of recent decisions made by Council relating to its 21st Century Schools programme (and subsequent approval by Welsh Government) an opportunity exists to include new centre provision as part of the St Ilan development. The facility to be developed will not only replace what exists at present but will enhance the leisure offer made to the residents of the County Borough.

For the reasons contained in the officer's report: -

- 1 The development of a new leisure centre on the former St Ilan school site be agreed in principle.
- 2 Officers prepare proposals for Cabinet and Council to consider in respect of the prudential borrowing costs outlined in paragraph 6.2 of the report.
3. Officers include the relevant financial package in the annual budget report to Council in February 2013.

## **MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION**

The report had been considered by the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 4th December 2012. The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the proposals contained in the report, including the associated timescales, prior to the report being presented to Cabinet for further consideration and approval.

Since August 2010 a Partnership Board consisting of representatives from the five former Gwent local authorities and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB) has met on a monthly basis to consider the opportunities and implications of integrated services regarding mental health and learning disability services. This work has been delivered through a Partnership Board, of which the Corporate Director is a member, a Strategy Implementation group and a delivery group.

The preferred option being presented to the ABHB and the 5 Local Authorities in Gwent is Option 3 which proposes the following: A move towards a model for mental health (inc the development of 2 pathways one for mental health and one for dementia); a move towards an integrated delivery structure at a county borough level; a move towards an integrated management structure for delivery that retains partners' existing governance structures, however, sees day to day management of the service undertaken by the General Manager for mental health and to support the above via establishing a Health Act - Section 33 agreement.

## **SPECIAL CABINET – 15TH JANUARY 2013**

### **SUPPORT FOR SENGHENYDD NATIONAL MINING MEMORIAL APPEAL**

To confirm that Caerphilly County Borough Council has taken a delegated decision to donate £50k to support the Senghenydd National Mining Memorial Appeal.

On 14th October 1913 the worst mining disaster in British history occurred at the Universal Colliery at Senghenydd. On that day 439 men and boys were killed. The disaster has been commemorated each year since and for the Centenary in October 2013 the Aber Valley Heritage Group has ambitious plans to create a Welsh National Mining Memorial to honour all those who lost their lives in Welsh coal mines.

The Council has assisted the Heritage Group by developing a website and providing advice for various fundraising activities. In June 2012 the Group invited the First Minister to launch an appeal in order to secure the funding necessary for the memorial. All Welsh local authorities with a link to mining have been invited to make a donation. Several have indicated their intent and Rhondda Cynon Taf has donated £23k.

On 10th December the Heritage Group requested a meeting with the Leader and Chief Executive to discuss the project as insufficient funds had been raised to commission the bronze Sculpture intended as the centre piece of the memorial. The meeting took place on 14th December and the Heritage Group indicated that it was essential to commission the Sculpture in January 2013 to ensure that it was ready for the Centenary in October.

To allow the Sculpture to be commissioned it was agreed that the Council would make an initial contribution of £50k and this was ratified by a delegated decision taken by the Chief Executive and Section 151 officer in accordance with virement rules as determined by Financial Regulations.

A virement of £50k for 12/13 has been actioned. Funds have been taken from the unapplied growth budget for Landfill tax of £326,432. This budget is currently underspent. The funds totalling £50k have been transferred to the capital programme.

## **CABINET - 15TH JANUARY 2013**

### **LIVING WAGE**

At the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 13th November 2012 a report was requested on proposals for Cabinet to consider the funding and implementation of the recent rise of 25p per hour in respect of the Living Wage.

At Council on 7th August 2012 the Authority agreed to implement the Living Wage from 1st October 2012. The Living Wage was £7.20 per hour when the decision was made. Funding was identified to cover the in year and on going costs associated with the implementation of the £7.20 hourly rate. In November 2012 the hourly rate for the Living Wage was increased by 25p to £7.45 per hour for areas outside of London.

It was resolved that for the reasons contained in the officer's report:-

1. The estimated costs associated with the Living Wage be incorporated into the budget setting process for 2013/14 and the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2014/15 and 2015/16.
2. The date of implementation be fixed at 1st November.
3. The most recent increase be backdated to 1st November 2012 when the increase in the hourly rate for the Living Wage was announced for areas outside London.

## **SPECIAL CABINET - 29TH JANUARY 2013**

### **MAES Y DERWEN, TREDOMEN**

To recommend that the Authority enters into a partnership arrangement with United Welsh Housing Association in respect of the use of Maes y Derwen, Tredomen as temporary accommodation for single homeless persons.

Maes y Derwen is a former secure hospital located alongside the main Ystrad Mynach/Nelson road at Tredomen. The property has been empty for some 2 years or so and is currently being marketed.

The homelessness situation within Caerphilly is such that we currently have some 28 single persons in Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation. B&B accommodation is very much the last resort in respect of temporary accommodation, being expensive and mostly not conducive to the needs of the vulnerable persons placed therein. There is, therefore, a desperate need for more suitable accommodation.

Officers have, therefore, entered into informal discussions with United Welsh Housing Association (UWHA) with a view to UWHA purchasing Maes y Derwen and converting it into 18 units of single persons accommodation compliant with the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation)(Wales) Order 2006.

In a similar manner to other supported housing schemes, the Authority will need to enter into a Partnership agreement with UWHA prior to them purchasing the property. On completion of the redevelopment a tri-party Management Agreement will need to be entered into with the support provider and the Authority. Thereafter the Authority would utilise the accommodation as an alternative to B&B for placing single homeless persons.

It was resolved that Cabinet approve the proposal that the Authority enters into a partnership arrangement with United Welsh Housing Association in the manner outlined above and that Maes y Derwen be commissioned as a single person, supported housing scheme.

## **SPECIAL CABINET – 29TH JANUARY 2013**

### **PROCUREMENT COLLABORATION – MERTHYR TYDFIL CBC AND CAERPHILLY CBC**

The report outlines progress made on the collaborative procurement arrangements between Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Caerphilly CBC.

Public Sector Procurement in Wales has been subject to much change and reviews in the last two years. For many, including Caerphilly CBC the function has moved from an operational, devolved activity to a strategically lead central function with standard operating practices. Merthyr Tydfil CBC, although making progress in the last twelve months is still an organisation with limited procurement resource and capability.

Caerphilly CBC have invested in procurement and has a dedicated central team with standard operational practices and to end eProcurement.

In February 2012 Cabinet approved that Officers explored opportunities for a Collaborative Procurement activity between Caerphilly CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC. Since April 2012 Officers from Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Caerphilly CBC have worked together to explore the best value for money option for collaboration.

The current operational model is working on a pre-determined work programme of procurements. Whereby Caerphilly Officers, provide strategy advice, lead procurement projects and provide support and mentoring to Officers of Merthyr Tydfil CBC.

### **POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22ND JANUARY 2013 (RESCHEDULED TO 30TH JANUARY 2013)**

#### **YSTRAD FAWR SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

To update Scrutiny Committee on the progress of the above project.

This project links to the council's commitment to improving Health and Well Being across the county borough by improving leisure facilities. It will also potentially have a significant impact on Regeneration as it is expected to become a major sporting attraction for all levels of rugby football and association football across the county borough and beyond.

The construction of a playing field on the former Ystrad Fawr hospital site is a requirement of the s106 agreement for the development of Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr. Council agreed to go beyond the requirements of the s106 agreement by providing full size 3G rugby and football pitches laid to national and international standards. The playing pitches are to be supported by a 'state of the art' Integrated Sport and Community Complex comprising changing rooms/ training gym/ treatment rooms/offices and meeting rooms/conference and community facilities.

Spectator facilities will include 500 seat covered stands and adequate car parking. The development is also well served by the nearby Ystrad Mynach railway station and bus station.

The facility will be utilised by Cardiff City and WRU regional academy teams and negotiations are ongoing with Newport Gwent Dragons who are interested in using the facility as a training base. The facility will also be available for use by local football and rugby clubs across the county borough. The Head of Community and Leisure Services has developed draft partnership agreements for these organisations and meetings are currently taking place to achieve signing of the agreements by all parties.

**CAERPHILLY HOMES TASK GROUP (WELSH QUALITY HOUSING STANDARD)  
6TH DECEMBER 2012**

**KITCHEN DESIGN SOFTWARE PRESENTATION**

The presentation demonstrated the new design software and its operation and capabilities were detailed for Members information.

It was noted that prior to the software purchase the design team would visit a tenant, take measurements and then return to the office where they would prepare the plans. Surveyors would now be able to take the new system out to the tenant, allowing them to design their kitchens in their own homes. Photo-realistic diagrams would be instantly available to view and would allow the tenant to change colours, handles and finishes at the touch of a button and see the changes simultaneously. Once completed a 3-dimensional plan would be provided for them to keep.

The Task Group noted and approved the new kitchen design software.

**WELFARE REFORM ACT**

The report provided an update on the impact of the welfare reform changes and the actions taken to support tenants and residents within the Caerphilly County borough.

Members noted that the UK Government was reducing the amount of housing benefit some people can claim based on the size of the rented property and the number of people who live there. These new rules applied to tenants of working age and introduced strict criteria on the number of bedrooms allowed. It was noted that 2397 tenants would be affected under the occupation benefit changes and 564 were under occupying by 2 rooms or more and 1833 under occupying by 1 room. Based on average rent levels a tenant under occupying by one room would have to pay an additional £10.00 per week and those by two rooms £20.00 per week. It was noted that the Authority might not have a sufficient supply of 1 and 2 bedroom properties to cope with demand for downsizing. If tenants wished to consider down-sizing it might not be possible for them to stay within the same area.

Members were also updated on the Benefit's Cap and new Council Tax Support Scheme. The Benefit Cap comes into force from April 2013 and would mean that households where no one is in work should not get more in benefits than the average wage paid to people in work.

**CABINET – 19TH FEBRUARY 2013**

**MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICE**

To advise Cabinet of proposals for a management re-structure in the Sport & Leisure Service and to seek agreement to proceed with consultation on the proposals.

The management of Sport & Leisure Services was transferred from the Directorate of Education to the Chief Executive's Environment Directorate (Community & Leisure Services Division) in August 2012.

At the time of the transfer the Leisure Services Manager left the employment of the Authority and this represented an opportunity to take a closer look at the management structure with the aim of making a new structure more fit for purpose while also striving to achieve financial savings.

The inherited Sport & Leisure structure included 2 group manager positions (Leisure Manager & Sport & Community Development Manager). As stated above, the leisure Manager, left the Authority in July/August 2012 and the proposed structure consequently includes a single group manager position, which effectively merges both roles.

The proposed structure then includes 2 staff reporting directly to the Sport & Leisure Services Manager, which represents the same principles as the other service structures within the Community & Leisure Services Division.

Finally, the proposed structure seeks to rationalise the tier below the Principal Officers and also to reduce the number of duty officers within Leisure Centres to achieve a more equitable split across the centres.

## **REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 11TH DECEMBER 2012**

### **DOG CONTROL ORDERS**

To report on the outcome of a public consultation exercise and to seek Members' views on proposals to introduce a Dog Control Order to exclude dogs from enclosed children's play areas and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs).

## **REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 19TH FEBRUARY 2013**

### **UPDATE ON THE USE OF DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACE ORDERS TO CONTROL NUISANCE PUBLIC DRINKING**

The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 provides local authorities with an adoptive power to restrict anti-social drinking in designated public places by introducing a Designated Public Place Order. Once made, the Act provides the police and other authorised officers with powers to enforce these restrictions.

The restrictions do not prevent individuals from consuming alcohol in a designated area but make it an offence for a person to continue to do so after having been requested to stop by a police or other authorised officer. It can be seen therefore that a DPPO does not create alcohol free zones; they are perhaps better referred to as alcohol control areas.

### **PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT**

Children's right to play is enshrined in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNRC) "Article 31 Leisure, Play and Culture which states that Children have the right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities".

The Welsh Government is commencing the first part of the duty under section 11 of the children and families (Wales) measure 2010, play opportunities for children. The duty requires Local Authorities to assess the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in this area.

Wales is the first country in the world to establish such a duty within its legislative framework, so there are no precedents for this work.

### **GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL**

Members noted the available budget for 2012-2013 together with the total amounts requested, as detailed within the report.

Further information was sought in regard to how Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) works and the organisations in receipt of DRR awards.

### **Welsh Church Act Fund**

Members were reminded that due to underspend being carried forward from previous years, the total fund allocation for 2012-2013 is £190,405.00. Members noted the available budget together with the total amounts requested, as detailed within the report, and raised concerns

that allocations in the future could be considerably reduced. Members asked that officers contact Monmouthshire County Council to establish exactly why allocation levels may reduce. pt of DRR awards.

### **Applications for Financial Assistance: Panel Awards**

The following applications for financial assistance be approved:-

(a) Caerphilly Disadvantage Children's Project	£100.00
(b) The Bardic Writers' Circle	£100.00
(c) Britannia Community Association	£100.00
(d) Rhymney Valley Music Club	£200.00
(e) Croespenmaen Residents & Tenants Association	£100.00
(f) New Start 4 Life	£100.00
(g) Phillipstown Homing Society	£100.00
(h) Bargoed Tai Chi Group	£100.00
(i) Islwyn Canal Association	£500.00
(j) Aber Valley Brave Hearts	£200.00
(k) Cardiff, Vale and Valleys Beekeepers Association	£500.00
(l) Theatr Fynnon	£200.00
(m) Caerphilly Causeway Prospects	£150.00
(n) Bargoed and District Art Society	£200.00
(o) Bedwas Writers' Circle	£100.00

### **BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

#### **Morrisons Update**

The update was presented by Roger Tanner not Allan Dallimore as set out in the agenda. The steel frame is to be erected by March 2013 and works will continue. The store is looking to be opening in December.

Marketing agents are currently looking through possible businesses to occupy the 7 shop units.

#### **Cinema Update**

Design team and Legal team are working through things. Works to commence once Morrison's completed. Council is looking to negotiate with Simon's over possibility of them clearing the site sooner so that work can commence earlier. Site to the rear is currently under discussions with cabinet over the possibility of using it for restaurants.

Permanent car park to be built starting last week of February which will affect the temporary car park for a period of 5 weeks.

#### **Market Update**

The market will remain in St Gwladys car park for a 6 month, trial commencing on 4th April. Officers will evaluate after the 6 months and further consultation with traders to ascertain if the market is to be a permanent one. Andrew Highway has been, advised, by Dean Smith in Engineers, that the car park above the snooker hall will be closed due to health and safety issues.

### **TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2012**

A Cabinet report was submitted in November 2004 recommending that a Town Centre Improvement Group be established with appropriate representation from all relevant service areas. Consequently, the group began meeting in early 2005.

The remit of the group is to:-

- Improve the environment within the four principal town centres; Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed and Risca;
- Benchmark the performance of CCBC services in the four town centres;
- Demonstrate the commitment of CCBC as an authority to the environmental improvement of the four town centres;
- Aid the 'Wales In Bloom' entry for Caerphilly, by showing continuous environmental improvements to the town centre;
- Provide an internal forum for CCBC to address issues that blight town centres, such as graffiti, fly posting, anti-social behaviour, retail theft and auto crime.

## **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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