



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH APRIL 2018 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Poole – Chair

Councillors:

C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing), N. George (Neighbourhood Services), C.J. Gordon (Corporate Services), Mrs B.A. Jones (Finance, Performance and Governance), P. Marsden (Education and Achievement), S. Morgan (Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability), L. Phipps (Homes and Places) and E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection).

Together with:

C. HARRY (Interim Chief Executive), D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services), M. S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director - Communities), J. Williams (Assistant Director – Adult Services), R. Hartshorn (Head of Policy and Public Protection), R. Roberts (Performance Manager) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs N. Scammell (Acting Director Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer) and D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. CABINET MINUTES - 28TH MARCH 2018

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 28th March 2018 were approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor C. Cuss (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing) referred to minute no. 7 – Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2018 -2021. He felt that the minute should reflect in greater detail the challenges facing the Education Achievement Service and the Business Plan.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

5. CORPORATE PLAN INCLUDING WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES 2018 - 2023.

The report sought the views of Cabinet in relation to the Local Authority's Corporate Plan (the Plan) with Well-being Objectives for 2018 - 2023 prior to its presentation to Council on 17th April 2018.

Cabinet were advised that the Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of priorities called Improvement Objectives as soon as is 'practicably possible' in the new financial year. However, the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA) also places a legal requirement for 'public bodies' to set and publish Well-being Objectives. As there is a cross over between the two pieces of legislation, Authorities are treating the two requirements as one outcome, to publish one set of Well-being Objectives, the Wales Audit Office and Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) have endorsed this approach. The Plan introduces the Local Authority's new set of Well-being Objectives to run for five years; 2018-2023. The WBFGA statutory guidance states that public bodies may decide that they want to change one or more of their Well-Being Objectives. Although there is no deadline set for this, it is the Council's intention to review them annually, in line with reporting progress on performance of the Objectives to the public.

Members discussed the Objectives set out in paragraph 4.4 in the report and in particular Objective Number 5 – Creating a County Borough that supports a Healthy Lifestyle and it was requested that an amendment is made within the recommendation to include 'in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015'.

Cabinet sought a commitment from Officers that the Plan would be embedded within the organisation and that this would be filtered down from senior management to front line staff. Members were reassured that an important piece of the Corporate Plan 'jigsaw' is the involvement of staff, and a series of staff forums which begin next week and will run throughout April and into May will be a key element of ensuring the Corporate Plan Priorities are delivered on the ground.

The Chair placed on record his thanks to the Officers for their contribution and commitment in developing an excellent comprehensive report. This was echoed by Cabinet and the Interim Chief Executive.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that subject to the foregoing, the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report and subject to an amendment to recommendation 10.1 and the fifth Objective referred to in paragraph 4.4. Creating a County Borough that supports a Healthy Lifestyle to include in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: -

- (i) the draft Corporate Plan with Well-being Objectives and an amendment to the fifth Objective namely, Creating a County Borough that supports a Healthy Lifestyle to include in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, be endorsed and recommended to Council for approval.

6. DRAFT GWENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY.

The report provided Cabinet with the draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy. The Strategy is required by the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 and has been prepared by the Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board of which the Council is a Member. It calls for the Public Sector in Wales to work together in a consistent and cohesive way to improve the outcomes for individuals and their families subjected to VAWDASV.

The Partnership Board has been established to meet the requirements of the Act and consists of the five Local Authorities in Gwent, Gwent Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Welsh Ambulance Service, Probation Services, Registered Social Landlords, Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Gwent Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards, VAWDASV Specialist Sector Partners and Voluntary Sector Organisations.

Cabinet were advised that the report and strategy were presented to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 20th March 2018. Members at that meeting discussed the need for the strategy to be promoted across Third Sector Voluntary Organisations as they feel this message needs to be extended on a wider scale.

It was suggested that Cabinet consider extending the end date of the Strategy from 2021 to 2023, to align with other Council Strategies and this was supported by Cabinet. Members discussed the terminology used throughout the Strategy and felt that this excludes some groups of people including Males, Disabled Groups and Same Sex Couples and it was requested that an amendment is made to the recommendations to incorporate this. It was explained that the terminology used was introduced by the United Nations and issues around the language used will be discussed through training sessions and work will be undertaken across Gwent that will target all groups. The purpose of the training is to ensure that Professionals are trained to provide an effective response to anyone affected by any form of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Through on-going monitoring, evaluating and review the VAWDASV Partnership Board will ensure issues around equality are consistently raised and delivery of the strategy adapted.

Clarification was sought in relation to the current position of staff training sessions. Cabinet were advised that there are 5 levels of training that will be rolled out across the Authority that include on-line and face to face sessions and at the end of the third quarter, approximately 800 staff had undertaken the training. Officers need to demonstrate that staff have undertaken the training in complying with the plan. Training will also be undertaken for school based staff; school children receive healthy relationship sessions.

Following consideration and discussion and subject to the foregoing, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report and subject to an amendment to recommendation 10.1, the draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy to ensure equal coverage to all groups including Males, Disabled Groups and Same Sex Couples, and that the Strategy be extended to 2023, to align with other Council Strategies: -

- (i) the draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy ensures equal coverage to all groups including Males, Disabled Groups and Same Sex Couples, be supported;

- (ii) the draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy be extended to 2023, to align with other Council Strategies;
- (iii) the Strategy be promoted widely across Third Sector Voluntary Organisations.

7. FUTURE REGENERATION PROJECTS – USE OF DIRECTORATE RESERVES FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING.

The report sought Cabinet's agreement to earmark a sum of money from the Communities Directorate Reserve to facilitate Regeneration Project Delivery, and to approve a further report to be presented to Cabinet of a proposed governance structure which will facilitate the project delivery.

Cabinet were advised that the advent of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) and pending agreement of a joint business plan by the 10 CCR authorities presents significant opportunities for Caerphilly County Borough Council to lever in funding for regeneration projects. In addition to the CCR opportunities there are a number of other Welsh Government regeneration initiatives such as the Valleys Task Force and Targeted Regeneration Investment Fund which may lead to significant capital funds being made available for local projects in the future. In order to take advantage of funding that may become available it is necessary to develop a number of "shelf ready" projects which have been effectively planned and developed to a stage where they are ready to progress to an implementation stage.

It was noted that at present the Authority does not have projects in a "Shelf Ready" position where delivery could be progressed. In this regard the key issues that need to be addressed include, the need for clear strategic direction on projects and identification of key projects to be progressed. In order for the Authority to develop "Shelf Ready" projects budgetary provision is required to provide Officers with the ability to effectively plan projects and develop, design and cost schemes so that they are ready for funding/Planning submission and procurement where relevant. This could include site investigations, surveys, design, economic impact assessments, estimating etc.

Cabinet discussed the figure of £300,000 requested and queried if this amount would be adequate to develop the projects. It was explained that this is an initial amount that is currently manageable within the Communities Directorate Reserve and that a further report will be brought to Cabinet in due course.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the earmarking of an Initial Project Development Fund of £300,000 from the Communities Directorate reserve, be agreed;
- (ii) a further report will be presented to Cabinet seeking approval of the governance arrangements to facilitate the project delivery, be noted.

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 25th April 2018.

CHAIR