



## **CABINET**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor K.V. Reynolds - Leader

#### **Councillors:**

Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), G. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), Mrs B. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services), Mrs R. Passmore (Education and Lifelong Learning), D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure Services), R. Woodyatt (Social Services),

#### **Together with:**

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), Mrs S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), Mrs N. Scammell (Acting Director Corporate Services and S.151 Officer).

#### **Also in Attendance:**

M. Headington (Principal Officer, Outdoor Facilities and Bereavement Services), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), R. Roberts (Performance Manager), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), A. Price (Acting Deputy Monitoring Officer), E. Lucas (Head of Procurement), R. Allen (Assistant Solicitor/Senior Legal Assistant), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor T.J. Williams (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation) and Mr D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services).

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. CABINET**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2014 (minute nos. 1-9; page nos. 1-4) be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **MATTER ON WHICH AN EXECUTIVE DECISION WAS REQUIRED**

### **4. REVISION OF CEMETERY REGULATIONS**

The report sought Members' views on a revision to the current cemetery regulations. The current regulations were formally adopted by the Authority in 2006 but now required revision to incorporate new facilities and initiatives.

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: -

1. The revised cemetery regulations set out in Appendix 1 which includes changes highlighted in bold and italicised text and takes into account those additions set out in section 4 of the report, be approved.
2. The previous regulations be rescinded and cease to have any effect.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

### **5. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013/2014**

The report sought Members' views on the Authority's Annual Self-Assessment, the Performance Report 2013/2014, prior to its presentation to Council on 7th October 2014.

Members received a summary of the Council's performance in terms of the Improvement Objectives it set itself for 2013/14. It was noted that 5 of the 6 Council Improvement Objectives had been delivered successfully and only one (I.O.5 - Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities) had not delivered the whole of the planned outcome but it was noted this is a much longer term objective than the others. The main setback had been the deferment of the environmental projects until the latter end of the WHQS Programme, which impacted on a number of the original planned actions. Members were informed that whilst pages 20 and 21 of the draft report state that approximately 65 of the homes had been assessed as fully compliant with WHQS, this figure had now increased to 108, which means that the target had been exceeded.

The Council's performance against other local authorities, using the Welsh Government's National Strategic Indicators and Public Accountability Measures, had been mixed. Of the 44 indicators used to create the national picture, 30 improved upon the 2012/13 results, 3 maintained the maximum performance level of 100% and 11 declined. Sixteen of the indicators are in the "Upper Quarter" in Wales including 7 which are the best (1st) in Wales.

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

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the Annual Performance Report 2013/14 be accepted.

## **URGENT EXEMPT ITEM**

Members considered the public interest test and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and it was: -

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 14 and 16 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**6. UPDATE ON ONGOING LITIGATION IN RESPECT OF A PROCUREMENT RELATED MATTER**

The report provided Members with an update on legal proceedings issued against the Council in respect of a procurement related matter.

This report was urgent on the basis that the Council is to take part in mediation on 22nd September 2014 and the Council's interest would be prejudiced if a decision is not made before the mediation commences. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the decision is exempt from call-in as it relates to legal proceedings and was urgent.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation at paragraph 9.1.2 in the report be approved and that the upper limit of the figure to offer to settle by way of mediation be agreed in line with the advice received from the Council's legal advisors. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the recommendation at paragraph 9.1.2 in the report be approved.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 1st October 2014.

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CHAIR