



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH JANUARY 2021 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Marsden (Leader) - Chair

Councillors:

S. Cook (Social Care), N. George (Waste and Public Protection), C. Gordon (Corporate Services), S. Morgan (Economy and Enterprise), L. Phipps (Homes and Places), J. Ridgewell (Environment and Infrastructure), E. Stenner (Performance and Customer Services) and R. Whiting (Learning and Achievement).

Together with:

C. Harry (Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing) and M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities).

Also in Attendance:

M. Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure), Geraint Roberts (Team Leader, Integrated Transport Unit), A. Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed but would not be live streamed, however a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here To View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. CABINET – 13TH JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED that subject to an amendment on minute number 6. Draft Budget Proposals for 2021/22, page 2, paragraph 6 referring to the four-year period 2022/23 to 2025/23,

which should read 2022/23 to 2025/26 and page 3, paragraph 3 referring to 79.754 properties in Band A to C, this figure should be 60,627. The minutes were approved as a correct record.

4. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – TO NOTE

Cabinet were provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, which detailed the scheduled reports from 13th January 2021 to 27th January 2021. Members were reminded that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is a working document and therefore subject to change.

Cabinet were asked to note that a longer forecast of reports would be provided at the next meeting, however, it is not possible to provide a significant period in the future as the programme is often subject to change and therefore not in the public domain.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Forward Work Programme be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme be noted.

EXECUTIVE DECISION THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN

5. BUS EMERGENCY SCHEME (BES) – REQUEST TO ALL COUNCILS TO SIGN UP TO BES 2 SCHEME

The report provided Cabinet with the wider context, the background to and the reasons for the Bus Emergency Scheme 2 (BES2) and sought the agreement of the authority to sign up to the BES 2 scheme.

It was noted that Bus travel has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, with passenger numbers plummeting, and the requirement for social distancing and additional cleansing requirements adding further burdens and costs on operators. Whilst Welsh Government and local authorities have stepped in to support the sector with substantial financial assistance, the current form of financial support is unsustainable. BES 2 provides a mechanism for managing the recovery and reshaping of bus services to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Cabinet thanked the Officer and Cabinet Member for the report and discussion ensued.

Cabinet discussed the report at length and raised queries around how the bus industry would emerge from the pandemic and how the recovery would be handled. Officers explained that there has been a massive effect on services as a result of the pandemic, but the BES 2 funding will encourage collaboration to provide a resilient service and resources to the communities in which it is most needed.

Cabinet were reminded that this item has been determined as an urgent item, and therefore not subject to Call-in.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

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

- i) The principles of the BES 2 agreement (Appendix 2) be agreed to secure

(conditional) financial support for the bus sector and to formalise a relationship with Monmouthshire County Council, as signatory and lead Authority for South East Wales;

- ii) Authority be delegated to the Interim Corporate Director for Communities to negotiate and agree any further amendments to the agreement that may be required;
- iii) A call through the lead authority for a further report on bus reform proposals from Welsh Government (WG) relating to the future management of bus services in Wales be supported.

6. EXEMPT MATTER

Members considered the public interest test certificate from the Proper Officer 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 100A(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 identified in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

7. PENTREBANE STREET CAERPHILLY – USE OF CPO POWERS

The report provided an update for Cabinet on the proposed use of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process and associated funding requirement to facilitate the redevelopment of the southern side of Pentreban Street, Caerphilly.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report, the recommendations at paragraphs 3.1, be approved.

The meeting closed at 10.50am

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 10th February 2021.

CHAIR