



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2021 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Marsden (Leader) - Chair

Councillors:

S. Cook (Social Care), N. George (Waste, Public Protection and Street Scene), C. Gordon (Corporate Services), L. Phipps (Housing), J. Pritchard (Infrastructure and Property), E. Stenner (Performance, Economy and Enterprise), A. Whitcombe (Sustainability, Planning and Fleet) and R. Whiting (Learning and Leisure).

Together with:

D. Street (Acting Chief Executive) R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services) G. Jenkins (Acting Corporate Director Social Services) and M.S. Williams (Corporate Director – Economy and Environment).

Also in Attendance:

R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), A. West (21st Century Schools Admissions and Exclusions Manager), S. Harris (Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer), J. Carpenter (Finance Manager, Revenues), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services), A. Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager) M. Harris (Committee Services Support Officer/Chauffeur) and E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer).

And:

Councillor C. Mann and Councillor P. Leonard

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

Apologies for absence were received from C. Harray (Chief Executive)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors J. Pritchard and S. Cook declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 6 – 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme – Update on Phase 2, in that they

are Local Authority Appointed Governors at Plasyfelin Primary School, as this was a personal interest only there was no requirement for them to leave the meeting and could take full part in the debate and vote.

Councillors R. Whiting declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 9 - Outcome of Public Consultation on a Proposed Community Hall in Ty Sign, Risca in that he is on the Committee of the Channel View Community Centre and as such he would leave the meeting when the matter was considered and take no part in the debate and vote.

Councillors N. George declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 9 - Outcome of Public Consultation on a Proposed Community Hall in Ty Sign, Risca in that he is on the Committee of the Channel View Community Centre as well as other Community Groups in the area and as such he would leave the meeting when the matter was considered and take no part in the debate and vote.

3. CABINET – 29th SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2021 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 until the 8th December 2021. Members were reminded that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is a working document and therefore subject to change.

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.

5. CAR PARKING AT THE TWYN, CAERPHILLY AND REAR OF HIGH STREET, BLACKWOOD

Consideration was given to the report which provided Cabinet with an update in relation to the use of car parks at The Twyn, Caerphilly and Rear of High Street, Blackwood and outlined the process required to implement any changes to the ticketing/charging arrangements in place at these locations.

Cabinet were referred to Section 5.6 of the report which detailed Option 1, Section 5.7 of the report which detailed Option 2 and Section 5.8 of the report which detailed Option 3 and Members duly considered the advantages and disadvantages.

The Cabinet Member outlined his efforts to include Local Ward Members on the issues contained within the report and thanked Councillor Kevin Etheridge and Councillor Andrew Farina-Childs for meeting with him.

Following consideration and discussion an additional recommendation was moved and seconded at 3.2 of the report to read; promotion of underutilised car parks close to town centres, such as Crescent Road, be undertaken to increase footfall in town centres be agreed and by way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of the additional recommendation and for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- 3.1 The temporary free parking agreed on 1st September 2021 prevails and any changes to parking tariffs or ticketing at the Twyn, Caerphilly and High Street, Blackwood are considered as part of the cross-party Scrutiny task and finish work on the future of car parking charges.
- 3.2 The promotion of underutilised car parks close to town centres, such as Crescent Road, be undertaken to increase footfall in town centres be agreed.

6. 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES BAND B PROGRAMME – UPDATE ON PHASE 2

Councillor J. Pritchard and Councillor S. Cook declared a personal interest only in that they are Local Authority Appointed Governors at Plasyfelin Primary School. As such there was no requirement for them to leave the meeting and they could take full part in the debate and vote.

Consideration was given to the report which updated Cabinet on the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Phase 2 Programme and sought approval to proceed to consultation in respect of the Phase 2 Projects which included the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior and Llanfabon Infants School, a new replacement Plasyfelin Primary School and the establishment of a new Centre for Vulnerable Learners (Pupil Referral Unit). Cabinet were also asked to approve the setting aside £4.716m from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve in respect of the Authority's contribution to Phase 2 of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme.

The key aims of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B investment programme were outlined, and the schemes identified were detailed. Cabinet welcomed the report and proposals and placed on record their thanks to Lisa Thomas, Andrea West and Sue Richards for all their hard work.

Cabinet noted that the report had been considered by the Education Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 21st September 2021 and were referred to section 10.2 of the report which detailed the comments made, it was confirmed that the Education Scrutiny Committee had unanimously supported the proposals.

Members confirmed that the proposals in relation to Plasyfelin Primary School would be whole heartedly welcomed by the Community and Governors. Reference was made to multi-use sports facility included in the proposals that could be used both by the school and the wider community for years to come.

Officer's highlighted how the Placeshaping Reserves were being used to drive forward significant projects such as these and the new respite facilities being considered later in the agenda that cut across directorates providing long term benefits for residents and communities.

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: -

- a) The contents in this report be noted.
- b) The recommendation to proceed to consultation on the proposal for the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018 be approved.

- c) The consultation process outlined in 5.4.3 and 5.5.4 in respect of Plasyfelin Primary School and the Centre for Vulnerable Learners that are not subject to the Statutory requirements of the Welsh Government School Organisation Code 2018 be approved.
- d) £4.716m be set aside from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve in respect of the Authority's financial contribution to Phase 2 of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme be approved.

7. WRITE-OFF DEBTS OVER £20,000 – BUSINESS RATES ARREARS FOR LIMITED COMPANIES.

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval to write-off debts for two limited companies where, in each case, the aggregated values per business were greater than £20,000.

Cabinet were assured that every effort had been made to recover the debts detailed, but they were irrecoverable and no further legal remedy existed.

Following consideration and discussion it was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained within the Officer's report be approved and by way of electronic voting this was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the business rate debts detailed in paras 5.2.1 to 5.3.9 inclusive be written off on the grounds that they are irrecoverable.

8. PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP TWO NEW RESPITE FACILITIES

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval for the proposal to develop two new purpose-built facilities in Pontllanfraith, one for adults and one for children.

Cabinet noted that the three existing respite buildings were becoming unfit for purpose to meet the increasing needs of the children and adults that attend. There were also a significant number of children and adults who have autism and associated behaviours who need much more space than the present buildings and gardens offer. The former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School site had become available and would be ideal to co-locate this service in two separate houses.

Officers confirmed the capacity of the new facilities and explained the reasons for the numbers referenced within the report. It was further noted that the designated safe play and garden areas would be able to be enjoyed by all and there was also potential for the Ty Gwilym site to be brought back into use as emergency extended stay accommodation for children with disabilities.

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: -

1. The proposal to develop two new respite facilities, one for adult and one for children co-located in Pontllanfraith be agreed.

2. A further £1,001,436 be allocated to the project from Social Services reserves be endorsed.

9. **OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSED COMMUNITY HALL IN TY SIGN, RISCA**

Councillor N. George and Councillor R. Whiting having declared a personal and prejudicial interest left the meeting and were not present when the matter was considered and did not participate in the vote or debate.

Consideration was given to the report which sought to inform Cabinet of the outcome of a public consultation exercise relating to a proposal presented by the Agape Community Church, Ty Sign (ACCTS) to develop a new Community Hall on land at Holly Road, Ty Sign.

Cabinet noted that the responses to the public consultation reflected a lot of opposition to the proposal with 91% of those who gave a view disagreeing with the proposal.

Councillor P. Leonard, Local Ward Member addressed Cabinet on behalf of residents in opposition to the proposal, she highlighted the importance of the field to the community and the importance of its preservation for future generations. Councillor Leonard advised that this was the only flat green space in the heart of the community and was recognised as a safe outdoor space for the community to enjoy. She then outlined the plans the community had for the area, including a walkway, trees, flower beds and picnic benches and advised that an application to the Community Empowerment Fund had been made for this. Councillor Leonard asked Cabinet to listen to the views of the 91% of respondents in opposition to the proposals.

Cabinet recognised the community plans for the area as a good example of a project that could tie into the Community Empowerment Fund.

Following consideration and discussion it was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained in the Officer's report be approved and by way of electronic voting and verbal confirmation this was unanimously agreed by those present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report as a result of the outcome of the consultation, and in accordance with the wishes of the community, the request from ACCTS **not be supported** and that Officers be authorised to notify ACCTS that the request to lease the land in question is declined.

10. **REGENERATION BOARD – PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the allocation of £150k Regeneration Development Fund to fund the appointment of a Multi-Disciplinary Consultant Team to support Council staff and facilitate the delivery of the Caerphilly Town 2035 Plan.

Cabinet were advised that the proposed £150k would be match funded and it was envisaged that the appointed team of external consultants would support Officers with specific technical requirements that are not immediately available from in-house teams or where resources were not available to meet the requisite funding timescales and could be called on for other place-shaping plans and large projects. It was noted that the Caerphilly Town 2035 Plan comprised 60 projects to be taken forward and these appointments would be critical to progress.

Following consideration and it was moved and seconded that recommendation contained in the Officer's report be approved and by way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report £150k of the Regeneration Project Board Development Fund be allocated to progress the procurement of a Multi-Disciplinary Consultant Team for a period of up to three years. The appointed Team will support Council staff and facilitate the delivery of the Caerphilly Town 2035.

The meeting closed at 11.20am

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 27th October 2021.

CHAIR