



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Marsden (Leader) - Chair

Councillors:

S. Cook (Social Care and Housing), N. George (Waste, Public Protection and Street Scene), C. Gordon (Corporate Services), J. Pritchard (Infrastructure and Property) 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. Harris (Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), A. Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager), J. Carpenter (Finance Manager - Revenues), M. Afzal (Committee Services Officer) and S. Hughes (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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Stenner (Performance, Economy and Enterprise), A. Whitcombe (Sustainability, Planning and Fleet) and C. Harray (Chief Executive).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. CABINET – 10TH NOVEMBER 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – TO NOTE

Cabinet was provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, which detailed the scheduled reports until the 23rd February 2022. Members were reminded that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is a working document and therefore subject to change.

It was noted that Agenda Item 6 – Grass Cutting Regimes had been deferred to the Cabinet meeting to be held on 8th December 2021 and would not be considered at this meeting.

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. TEAM CAERPHILLY-BETTER TOGETHER TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY – 6 MONTH UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which updated Cabinet on the progress under the Team Caerphilly-Better Together Transformation Strategy in line with the programme management arrangements. Cabinet noted that the report had been considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 9th November 2021 and their comments were detailed in Section 10 of the Officer's report.

The report provided an update on the action taken to deliver the strategy to date and included a summary of progress against the strategic action, including the well-being and place-shaping framework and the current series of corporate reviews. It was also included the commercial and investment strategy and the continuing Caerphilly Conversation.

Reference was made to 5.2 of the report which detailed the summary of progress against each of the ten corporate reviews and the Head of Education Planning and Strategy outlined the strategies and policies that have been launched within the last six months. Cabinet also received an update on the progress made against some of the significant projects reported within the Place-shaping Framework.

Clarification was sought in relation to the Chartist Gardens Development and Cabinet was advised that planning has been approved subject to the signing of any necessary legal agreements.

The Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services highlighted how the progress set out against the projects in the Place-shaping Framework include all the Council's wellbeing objectives. Cabinet was pleased to see the outcome of the six-monthly review and welcomed the suggestion to see the progress of the projects with before and after photographs.

Following consideration and discussion of the report and by way of electronic voting and verbal confirmation the report was noted.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the content of the report and the views of Scrutiny be noted.

6. GRASS CUTTING REGIMES

As noted, this report had been deferred to the Cabinet meeting to be held on 8th December 2021.

7. REGIONAL EMPLOYABILITY PROPOSAL

Consideration was given to the report which sought endorsement for the principle of locally delivered, regionally coordinated approach to employability post-EU and also sought approval for the Framework for Future Employment (The Framework) in the Cardiff Capital Region as attached in Appendix A of the Officer's report.

Cabinet noted that the report had been compiled in partnership with colleagues representing employability across the Cardiff Capital Region. Local Authorities across the region had successfully delivered employability for over two decades which had supported tens of thousands of residents into employment, better paid employment or into further learning; helped our young NEET residents; and been a key pillar for early intervention and prevention.

The Regional Skills Partnership Local Authority Cluster Group have been working collaboratively to produce a new regional framework to guide how employability activities are delivered in the region in future. The key principles of the framework were outlined which would form the basis for regional applications for post-EU funding for employability including the UK Shared Prosperity Fund when it is launched.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning outlined the shared principles detailed in the report, which reflected on the lessons learnt from 20 years of employability projects.

The Head of Education Planning and Strategy and the Head of Regeneration and Planning provided clarification in relation to how the Framework fits in with other existing employability programmes run by the Welsh Government and the Department for Work and Pensions. Cabinet was advised that it is the impetus to get a really effective partnership approach within the region, working closely with partners to avoid any duplication of employability provision.

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

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

- i. The principle of a locally delivered, regionally coordinated approach to employability post-EU be approved.
- ii. The Framework for Future Employability in the CCR as shown at Appendix A be approved.

8. BUSINESS RATE RELIEF – WG FUNDING

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval of a local discretionary rate relief scheme for the financial year 2021/22 using funding provided by the Welsh Government for this purpose.

Cabinet noted that the local discretionary rate relief scheme for the financial year 2021/22 using £452k funding provided by Welsh Government through the Local Government Financial Settlement. Business rate payers in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors are receiving 100% rate relief for the 2021/22 financial year under a separate WG scheme and so have no business rates to pay for this period. It is therefore proposed that this scheme targets those ratepayers which still have to pay business rates for this year. It was therefore proposed that certain criteria adopted by WG in their rate relief schemes will apply to this scheme to ensure the rate relief is targeted as effectively as possible. Cabinet was referred to the criteria at Point 5 of the Officer's report.

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

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the proposal for a local discretionary rate relief scheme for the financial year 2021/22 as detailed in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.9 be approved and adopted.

9. PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

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

10. EXEMPT ITEM – THE LAWNS RHYMNEY – CULVERT ISSUES AND SUBSEQUENT COST OVERRUN

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

RESOLVED that for reasons contained in the Officer's report the recommendations at 3.1 (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) be approved.

The meeting closed at 2:40pm

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 8th December 2021.

CHAIR