

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF CABINET DECISIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th JANUARY 2024 AT 1PM

PRESENT:

Councillors: S. Morgan, J. Pritchard, N. George, E. Stenner, C. Andrews, P. Leonard, C. Morgan, S. Cook and E. Forehead.

The Cabinet decisions are set out below. For further details please refer to the relevant Cabinet report.

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	VOTE
1.	Apologies for absence.	Apologies for absence were received from C. Harrhy (Chief Executive).	Not Applicable
2.	Declarations of Interest.	No Declarations of Interest were received.	Not Applicable
3.	Minutes.	The minutes of Cabinet held on the 13 th December 2023 were approved as a correct record.	Unanimously
4.	Cabinet Forward Work Programme.	The Cabinet Forward Work Programme was noted.	Unanimously
EXECUTIVE DECISIONS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO CALL-IN			
5.	Audit Wales Output Report on Setting of well-being objectives for Caerphilly County Borough Council 22-23	RESOLVED that the content of the report provided by Audit Wales be noted and the Cabinet comments on the Management Responses appended be noted.	Unanimously
6.	Caerphilly Cares Support Package for Families Eligible for Free School Meals	RESOLVED for reasons contained within the Officers report the content of the report be noted.	Unanimously
7.	Grass Cutting Regimes	RESOLVED for reasons contained within the Officers report: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The approach adopted since the 2021/22 cutting season continue to be the adopted grass cutting standard in relation to our highway verges and by-pass routes where mowing is kept to a minimum, in accordance with Traffic Wales guidance be approved. 2. The Council continues its commitment to the Nature isn't Neat project, which is part of the Gwent Green Grid Partnership, establishing joined-up green 	Unanimously

		<p>space management to create wildflower-rich pollinator habitats across the Gwent local authority areas, which includes Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, and Torfaen be approved.</p> <p>3. Visibility splays and sight lines on highways; margins and access on footways/cycle routes; sports grounds; urban areas such as housing estates, municipal parks, older person accommodation, cemeteries; play/recreational public open spaces, will be maintained at the current cutting frequencies be approved.</p> <p>4. The list of areas as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, which are to be allowed to flourish during the summer period be endorsed.</p> <p>5. The Authority continues to develop and enhance areas using bought in wildflower seed as set out in Paragraph 5.11 of the report be approved.</p>	
8.	Appointment of Public and Agricultural Analysts	RESOLVED for reasons contained within the Officers report the appointment of a Public and Agricultural Analysts as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report be approved.	Unanimously
9.	Amendments to Authorisation of Officers Within the Public Protection Division	<p>It was moved and seconded that subject to an amendment to recommendation 3.1 to read that the 'Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services be authorised under The Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act 2023 so that relevant officers within the division can utilise delegated powers to carry out their duties'.</p> <p>RESOLVED for reasons contained within the Officers report:-</p> <p>1. The Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services be authorised under The Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act 2023 so that relevant officers within the division can utilise</p>	Unanimously

		<p>delegated powers to carry out their duties be approved.</p> <p>2. The Council's Monitoring Officer makes the necessary amendments to the Constitution be approved.</p>	
10.	Draft Waste Strategy	<p>Considered by Joint Scrutiny Committee on the 15th January 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED for reasons contained within the Officers report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration was given to the views of the Joint Scrutiny Committee and the draft Waste Strategy to allow public consultation to commence be approved. 2. The draft Engagement Strategy and accompanying draft consultation questionnaire be approved subject to the removal of any reference to Household Recycling Centre booking systems. 3. The financial implications associated with the implementation of the strategy be noted and the officers progress further discussions with Welsh Government in relation to the level of capital support available from WG and required for delivery of the strategy be agreed. 	Unanimously
11.	Development of a New Childrens Home	<p>RESOLVED for reasons contained within the Officers report the content of the report be noted, and both the purchase price and the intended future use of the property be supported.</p>	Unanimously
12.	Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/25	<p>RESOLVED for reasons contained within the Officers report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 2024/25 draft budget proposals, including the proposed permanent and temporary savings totalling £30.984m and the proposed one-off use of reserves of £11.394m be endorsed. 2. The proposed increases in charges for school meals in secondary schools, Meals Direct, 	Unanimously

		<p>and the Hive Restaurant along with the proposed increase in the fee for MOT testing as detailed in paragraph 5.4.5 of the report be endorsed.</p> <p>3. 100% of the net projected underspend on the Council's 2023/24 revenue budget will be transferred into General Fund balances as outlined in paragraph 5.5.2 of the report be agreed.</p> <p>4. The proposal to increase Council Tax by 6.9% for the 2024/25 financial year to ensure that a balanced budget is achieved (Council Tax Band D being set at £1,446.37) be supported.</p> <p>5. The draft budget proposals should now be subject to consultation prior to final 2024/25 budget proposals being presented to Cabinet and Council on 27 February 2024 be agreed.</p> <p>6. The indicative potential savings requirement of £46.700m for the two-year period 2025/26 to 2026/27 be noted.</p>	
13.	Public Interest Test	<p>Members considered the Public Interest Tests and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and it was: -</p> <p>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 paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.</p>	Unanimously
EXEMPT ITEMS - EXECUTIVE DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL-IN			
14.	Surrender And Relet Proposal - Units 3 And 4 Bryn Brithdir, Oakdale Business Park, Blackwood	RESOLVED that for reasons contained within the Officers report the recommendations at 3.1 i) to vi) be approved.	Unanimously

Circulation:

All Members and Appropriate Officers.

Published by 5PM on Thursday, 18th January 2024.

Date executive decisions to come into force and may be implemented (unless called in) –

5.00PM on Monday, 22nd January 2024.