



## **CABINET**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON TUESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER 2012 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor H.A. Andrews - Chairman

**Councillors:**

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

**Together with:**

A. O'Sullivan (Chief Executive), N. Barnett (Deputy Chief Executive), S. Aspinall (Corporate Director Education and Lifelong Learning), A. Heaney (Corporate Director Social Services).

**Also present:**

C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), E. Lucas (Head of Procurement), M. Lloyd (Highway Operations Group Manager), T. Shaw (Head of Engineering Services), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

#### **78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

#### **79. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13th November 2012 (minute nos. 72-77; page nos. 34-35) be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED**

#### **80. CORPORATE ASSESSMENT BY WALES AUDIT OFFICE**

The Wales Audit Office (WAO) carry out an 'Improvement Assessment' every year stating whether they believe the Council will comply with its duties in regard to improvement planning. The WAO are required to report on the above combined with their audit and assessment work. The report provides a summary of their findings as issued on 11th October 2012 based on the setting of the Council's improvement objectives in May/June 2012.

The Auditor General has determined that the "Council has discharged its improvement planning duties under the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance". As the Council has met its statutory requirements there are no statutory recommendations for improvement although there are four proposals for improvements and these are set out in paragraph 4.7 of the officer's report.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the contents of the Improvement Assessment October 2012 be noted.

## 81. NATIONAL PROCUREMENT SERVICES (NPS) FOR WALES

The report was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 13th November 2012.

The report advises Members of the current status of the Welsh Government's proposal for a National Procurement Service and makes recommendations on the Authority's future involvement in response to the Welsh Government's invitation to join.

Procurement in Wales has been subject to close scrutiny and review over the past two years. For many, including Caerphilly, the function has moved from an operational devolved activity to a strategically lead central function with standard operating practices. The principle of a National Procurement Service model is reported to have delivered significant benefits to other devolved governments within the UK.

The proposal for a Welsh Government National Procurement Service (NPS) in Wales is attached at Appendix A to the report. In considering the proposal, Members expressed concerns that there were currently no plans for Member involvement within the governance structure and drew attention to the impact that the scheme could have on the Welsh economy in terms of jobs.

It is proposed that the NPS will be centrally funded directly through WG budget process until it reaches a point of maturity, estimated in Year 3 (2016/17) of operation, at which point it is intended that the funding model switches to a self funding rebate from 2017/2018 onwards.

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

- (a) The Authority commit to the development of the NPS.
- (b) The Authority agree to use NPS contracts for the following commodity areas which equates to approximately 10 – 15% of our spend:
  - Information Communication and Technology
  - Utilities
  - Facilities and Management Services
  - Human Resources
  - Consultancy
  - Healthcare
  - Construction Materials (Outside the Welsh Housing Quality Standard)
  - Furniture and Soft Furnishings
  - Mail Services
  - Clothing
- (c) The Authority continue with its own Procurement Strategy outside of the NPS for the following commodities, which equates to less that 10% of our spend:

- Vehicle Management
  - Catering
  - Legal Services
  - Construction Material associated with Welsh Housing Quality Standard
  - Stationery – as long as the Joint Supplies is in existence
  - Cleaning and Janitorial – as long as the Joint Supplies is in existence
  - Educational Supplies– as long as the Joint Supplies is in existence
- (d) Officers review the future of the Welsh Purchasing Consortium and County Borough Supplies and report back to Members with a clear recommendation for future working.
- (e) Officers confirm commitment to the NPS by 14th December 2012 for the commodities detailed above in paragraph (b) whilst expressing concerns to Welsh Government that there are currently no proposals for member involvement within the governance structure of the NPS and highlighting the impact that the scheme could have on the Welsh economy in terms of jobs.

## **82. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BORROWING INITIATIVE - BIDS 2013/14 AND 2014/15**

The report had been considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny (Performance Management) Committee on 15th November 2012. The previous report to Cabinet and Council dated 23rd February 2012 detailed the background to the Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) and the Council approved projects.

The proposals highlight the priorities identified for CCBC's bid for the Welsh Government's LGBI for 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15, the three years over which this funding is available. The funding available to CCBC is circa £2.8 million per annum over the three year period. A proposed projects table is appended to the report and will be submitted as the bids for years 2013/14 and 2014/15. The £2.8 million of approved identified schemes for 2012/13 will be substantially complete by December 2012 and within the budget estimates previously provided.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the proposed submission of the Local Government Borrowing Initiative Business Justification Case to Welsh Government for the work identified in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report, be endorsed.

## **83. HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The report was considered by the Regeneration and Environment (Performance Management) Scrutiny Committee on 15th November 2012.

The Highway Asset Management Plan details the Authority's strategic approach to good asset management. It identifies the optimal allocation of resources for the management, operation, preservation and enhancement of the highway infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future customers. The HAMP allows the council to identify affordable standards, provide long term planning and seek appropriate budget allocation to deliver these services in order to manage the risk that is apparent within the delivery of highway maintenance services.

The HAMP Annual Status and Option Report will be submitted with the LGBI bid to Welsh Government to support the Authority's identified priorities.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, Cabinet endorsed the Highway Asset Management Plan Annual Status and Option Report 2012 and its

application by the Authority in determining priorities in budget setting for the future delivery of highway maintenance.

The meeting closed at 2.35 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 11th December 2012.

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CHAIRMAN