



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON TUESDAY, 11TH DECEMBER 2012 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor H.A. Andrews - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (HR & Governance/Business Manager), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), G. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure 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:

B. Hopkins (Assistant Director Our Schools Our Future), M. Lloyd (Highway Operations Group Manager), D. Phenis (Sport and Leisure Services Manager), N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor K.V. Reynolds (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services) and Councillor R. Passmore (Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning).

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

85. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 27th November 2012 (minute nos. 78-83; page nos. 36-39) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED**86. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2013-2014**

The report sought Cabinet approval to agree the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2013-14.

As part of its Welfare Reform Act the UK Government has introduced the Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme, which will be implemented from 1st April 2013. It will replace the current Council Tax Benefit Scheme, which is administered on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions by each Authority. The LCTS will be a national scheme for Wales devised by Welsh Government (WG) and adopted by each Local Authority. The funding for LCTS will be transferred from UK Government to WG who will then passport this funding onto Local Authorities. UK Government are cutting the funding by at least 10% prior to the transfer to WG. The shortfall in respect of the benefit to households will have to be billed and then collected from each household by the Authority. It is anticipated that this shortfall could be around £2m across approximately 20,000 households. An estimated 16,000 of the 20,000 households affected do not currently pay any council tax.

The Authority will be looking to actively recover as much of the estimated shortfall of £2m and has recruited on a temporary basis an additional two officers at clerical grade 5 in the Council Tax Section. The budget proposals for 2013/14 will incorporate a growth bid to provide funding to maintain the two additional staff on a permanent basis. In addition Corporate Service reserves will be used to recruit a further two clerical grade 5's in the short term i.e. 12-18 months to deal with the immediate impact of the introduction of LCTS.

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

1. The Council Tax recovery rate of 97% remain unchanged for 2013/14, on the basis that the Council Tax surplus for 12/13 be set aside to cover any potential under recovery issues as outlined in the report.
2. The Council Tax base for the year 2013-2014 be 58,702.37, with the Council Tax base for each community council area as outlined in paragraph 3.6.

87. WYLLIE ACCESS - COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The report sought Members' views on a long-standing community request to return 12 part-night lighting units to full night time operation.

Strong representations have continued to be made via a local member in relation to the need to return the 12 street lighting columns to full night time operation along with requests to upgrade the fencing in the location of the quarry along this road.

Since the review of this location over 12 months ago, there have been further representations from the local members. These have again requested that the pig mesh fence be upgraded to a vehicle restraint system (VRS) and that the part night lighting be restored to full night time operation for safety reasons. Wyllie access road has been assessed under the recently approved VRS policy and does not meet the required criteria. As a consequence, this location will not now be retained for future consideration for the provision of a VRS.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the 12 street lighting columns on Wyllie access road be returned to full night time operation.

88. LEISURE CENTRE PROVISION IN THE CAERPHILLY BASIN

The report sought in principle support for a new leisure centre facility in the Caerphilly basin.

Caerphilly Leisure Centre is the second busiest in the County Borough's portfolio of 11 leisure centres with circa 250,000 visits per annum. The facility is approximately 40 years old and a recent update of the property condition survey has revealed that expenditure of £934,000 is required to deal with Priority 1, 2 and 3 maintenance liabilities.

As a result of recent decisions made by Council relating to its 21st Century Schools programme (and subsequent approval by Welsh Government) an opportunity exists to include new centre provision as part of the St Ilan development. The facility to be developed will not only replace what exists at present but will enhance the leisure offer made to the residents of the County Borough. In this regard, it is anticipated that the full facility package at the school site will include a modern leisure centre, catering for a full range of indoor sports (including swimming); all weather playing surface; a running track and tennis courts or multi use games area. Given the progress being made with the works on site, the timing of a decision relating to the leisure centre is key. An early decision will allow effective site planning to ensure that the new facility is completed by 2015.

The cost of a new centre plus associated outdoor facilities is estimated at £10.5 million and it is anticipated that approximately £3m could be drawn down from the 21st Century Schools programme which would leave £7.5m to be funded by prudential borrowing.

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

1. The development of a new leisure centre on the former St Ilan school site be agreed in principle.
2. Officers prepare proposals for Cabinet and Council to consider in respect of the prudential borrowing costs outlined in paragraph 6.2 of the report.
3. Officers include the relevant financial package in the annual budget report to Council in February 2013.

89. MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION

The report had been considered by the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 4th December 2012. The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the proposals contained in the report, including the associated timescales, prior to the report being presented to Cabinet for further consideration and approval.

Since August 2010 a Partnership Board consisting of representatives from the five former Gwent local authorities and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB) has met on a monthly basis to consider the opportunities and implications of integrated services regarding mental health and learning disability services. This work has been delivered through a Partnership Board, of which the Corporate Director is a member, a Strategy Implementation group and a delivery group.

The preferred option being presented to the ABHB and the 5 Local Authorities in Gwent is Option 3 which proposes the following: A move towards a model for mental health (inc the development of 2 pathways one for mental health and one for dementia); a move towards an integrated delivery structure at a county borough level; a move towards an integrated management structure for delivery that retains partners' existing governance structures, however, sees day to day management of the service undertaken by the General Manager for mental health and to support the above via establishing a Health Act - Section 33 Agreement.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the proposals and associated timescales, as set out in the report to the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, be endorsed.

90. ANNUAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE 2011-2012

The report was considered by the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 4th December 2012. The Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the Social Services Inspection Evaluation and Review Report 2011-2012 prior to it being presented to Cabinet for final endorsement.

The Statutory Guidance on the Role and Accountabilities of the Director of Social Services sets out a requirement for the Director of Social Services to report annually to the Council on the performance of Social Services and to set out plans for further improvement. The Annual Directors Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services for 2011-12 was presented to Council on 7th August 2012.

The Annual Council Reporting Framework, which governs the production of the Annual Director's Report, also requires CSSIW to review each local authority and provide an analysis of the Annual Director's Report and its supporting evidence.

The Social Services Inspection Evaluation and Review Report 2011-12 for Caerphilly County Borough Council is attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The report sets out the key strengths and areas for development/improvement in CCBC's Social Services Directorate for the year 2011-2012. Members congratulated officers on the outcome of the inspection and the improvements that had been made within Social Services over the years.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the Social Services Inspection Evaluation and Review Report 2011-2012 be endorsed.

91. CWMCARN FOREST AND VISITOR CENTRE CAR PARKING CHARGES

This item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

92. ESTYN ACTION PLAN

This item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

The meeting closed at 2.29 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 15th January 2013.

CHAIRMAN