



## SPECIAL CABINET – 15TH JANUARY 2013

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SENGHENYDD NATIONAL MINING MEMORIAL APPEAL**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To confirm that Caerphilly County Borough Council has taken a delegated decision to donate £50k to support the Senghenydd National Mining Memorial Appeal.

### 2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 Enhancing Tourism is an integral part of the Council's Regeneration Framework. This project will contribute to the overall aims contained within the Council's Living Environment and Regeneration objectives.

### 3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 On 14th October 1913 the worst mining disaster in British history occurred at the Universal Colliery at Senghenydd. On that day 439 men and boys were killed. The disaster has been commemorated each year since and for the Centenary in October 2013 the Aber Valley Heritage Group has ambitious plans to create a Welsh National Mining Memorial to honour all those who lost their lives in Welsh coal mines.
- 3.2 The Council has assisted the Heritage Group by developing a website and providing advice for various fundraising activities. In June 2012 the Group invited the First Minister to launch an appeal in order to secure the funding necessary for the memorial. All Welsh local authorities with a link to mining have been invited to make a donation. Several have indicated their intent and Rhondda Cynon Taf has donated £23k.
- 3.3 On 10th December the Heritage Group requested a meeting with the Leader and Chief Executive to discuss the project as insufficient funds had been raised to commission the bronze Sculpture intended as the centre piece of the memorial. The meeting took place on 14th December and the Heritage Group indicated that it was essential to commission the Sculpture in January 2013 to ensure that it was ready for the Centenary in October. To allow the Sculpture to be commissioned it was agreed that the Council would make an initial contribution of £50k and this was ratified by a delegated decision taken by the Chief Executive and Section 151 officer in accordance with virement rules as determined by Financial Regulations.  
The Heritage Group was informed in writing of this decision on 14th December 2012.

### 4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no equalities implications.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 A virement of £50k for 12/13 has been actioned. Funds have been taken from the unapplied growth budget for Landfill tax of £326,432. This budget is currently underspent. The funds totalling £50k have been transferred to the capital programme.

## **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **7. CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The views of consultees are included in this report.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 That Members note the report and the delegated decision.

## **9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 To update Members.

## **10. STATUTORY POWER**

- 10.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

Author: Anthony O'Sullivan, Chief Executive  
Consultees: N Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer  
D Perkins, Monitoring Officer  
R Tanner, Group Manager  
Cllr Harry Andrews, Leader  
Cllr Ken James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning  
Cllr Keith Reynolds, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services