



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON TUESDAY, 15TH JANUARY 2013 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), 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), M.S. Williams (Head of Community and Leisure Services), B. Hopkins (Assistant Director Our Schools Our Future), K. Cole (Manager, Learning, Education and Inclusion), N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

BEREAVEMENT

The Chairman referred to the recent death of Councillor Stan Jenkins and the mother of Councillor Robert Gough. All present stood in silence as a mark of respect and extended their condolences to the bereaved families.

93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

94. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11th December 2012 (minute nos. 84-92; page nos. 40-43) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

95. DYFFRYN HOUSE ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The report sought an in principle decision from Cabinet for the future development and use of Dyffryn House in accordance with the Authority's Asset Management Strategy.

The Dyffryn House site offers an opportunity in terms of rationalising depot assets and developing waste transfer infrastructure. The aim is to maximise the available space at Dyffryn House by transferring services from Tir-y-berth and Penallta depots. This will not only attract a capital receipt from the potential sale of these two sites but will also, in the case of Tir-y-berth, present a residential development opportunity that will aid regeneration in the area.

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

1. A planning application be submitted for the proposed change of use of Dyffryn House.
2. A financial proposal be prepared for consideration by Council subject to planning permission being approved.

96. FORMER ST ILAN SITE: WELSH MEDIUM DEVELOPMENT

The report sought approval to proceed to Statutory Notice and for permission to proceed with design development in respect of phase 2, which relates to the relocation of YGG Caerffili.

A formal consultation process, accompanied by a consultation document, took place between 1st October and 30th November 2012 during which a series of meetings was convened. A summary of the outcome of the consultation process is set out in the report. Overall the responses were very positive and in favour of the proposals.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, approval be granted to proceed to Statutory Notice and to proceed with the design development of phase 2 on the site which relates to the relocation of YGG Caerffili.

97. THE POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE ESTYN INSPECTION IN JULY 2012

Approval was sought for the proposed arrangements for monitoring the Post Inspection Plan (PIAP).

The quality of Caerphilly Local Authority's education services for children and young people was inspected in July 2012 and was carried out in accordance with section 38 of the Education Act 1997, the Children Act 2004 and the Learning and Skills Act 2000. Following publication of the report in November 2012, a Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) has been produced in order to demonstrate how progress towards the recommendations will be planned and monitored.

The PIAP outlines the recommendations made by Estyn in the inspection in July 2012 and describes clear actions, timescales and success criteria. The PIAP will be monitored through Senior Management Team, Corporate Management Team, Cabinet and Scrutiny. Estyn will arrange to carry out a monitoring visit in due course.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the arrangements for the monitoring of the Post Inspection Action Plan, be approved.

98. SUPPORT FOR SENGHENYDD NATIONAL MINING MEMORIAL APPEAL

The report set out the background to the delegated decision taken by the Authority to donate £50k to support the Senghenydd National Mining Memorial Appeal.

On 14th October 1913 the worst mining disaster in British history occurred at the Universal Colliery at Senghenydd when 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 had lost their lives in Welsh coal mines.

All Welsh local authorities with a link to mining had been invited to make a donation towards the memorial. Several had indicated their intent and Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC had donated £23k.

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. 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.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, Cabinet noted the report and endorsed the delegated decision to support the Senghenydd National Mining Memorial Appeal.

99. LIVING WAGE

At the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 13th November 2012 a report was requested on proposals for Cabinet to consider the funding and implementation of the recent rise of 25p per hour in respect of the Living Wage.

At Council on 7th August 2012 the Authority agreed to implement the Living Wage from 1st October 2012. The Living Wage was £7.20 per hour when the decision was made. Funding was identified to cover the in year and on going costs associated with the implementation of the £7.20 hourly rate. In November 2012 the hourly rate for the Living Wage was increased by 25p to £7.45 per hour for areas outside of London.

Having regard to the points raised in paragraph 4.4 of the report, officers recommended to Cabinet that the costs associated with the recent increase in the Living Wage, along with estimates for future increases, are incorporated into the budget setting process for 2013/14 and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

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

1. The estimated costs associated with the Living Wage be incorporated into the budget setting process for 2013/14 and the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2014/15 and 2015/16.
2. The date of implementation be fixed at 1st November.
3. The most recent increase be backdated to 1st November 2012 when the increase in the hourly rate for the Living Wage was announced for areas outside London.

100. BAD DEBT IN RESPECT OF COMMERCIAL RENT - PEDAGOG LTD

The report informed Members of a bad debt in respect of commercial rent arrears following the tenant entering into liquidation. The report set out a timeline of events leading to the Company's liquidation in June 2011.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, officers be authorised to write off the rent arrears of £33,923.61 following the liquidation of the Company.

101. BAD DEBT IN RESPECT OF COMMERCIAL RENT - SOUTHERN CROSS HEALTHCARE

The report informed Members of a bad debt in respect of accommodation fees for social care following the Southern Cross Healthcare group of companies entering into a Company Voluntary Arrangement. The report set out the sequence of events that led to the group of companies entering into a Company Voluntary Agreement (CVA) on 20th June 2012.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, officers be authorised to write off the net debt of £38,067 following the Company Voluntary Arrangement in respect of the Southern Cross Healthcare Group of Companies.

MATTERS THAT REQUIRED A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

102. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The report informed Members about feedback in respect of the consultation process required to update the Authority's Financial Regulations. There were three comments received as part of the consultation process and these are outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

Following consideration of the report Cabinet endorsed the officer's recommendation that Council adopt the revised Financial Regulations attached at Appendix 1 to the report subject to an amendment to paragraph 21.02(1) as set out below.

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, Council adopt the revised Financial Regulations attached at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to paragraph 21.02(1) being amended as follows:-

"The precise scope *and timetable* of the commission (the relevant Director *and relevant Cabinet Member(s)* will also determine and document the employment status of individuals involved, having regard to Guidance issued from time to time by the Head of Corporate Finance)."

The meeting closed at 2.32 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 29th January 2013.

CHAIRMAN