



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON TUESDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY 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:

S. Couzens (Head of Housing Services), D. Perkins (Head of Legal and Governance), G.T. Hardacre (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), P. Elliott (Head of Regeneration and Planning), T. Shaw (Head of Engineering Services), G. North (Public Sector Housing Manager), R. Tanner (Strategic Planning and Urban Renewal Manager), S. Isaacs (Principal Rents Officer), L. Allen (Group Accountant - Housing), E. Pryce (Senior Adviser, Performance and ICT), K. Cole (Manager, Learning, Education and Inclusion), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members extended a warm welcome to Pauline Elliott, who had recently joined the Authority as the new Head of Regeneration and Planning.

Albert Heaney, Corporate Director Social Services, was attending his last meeting of Cabinet as he would soon be taking up his new post as Director of Social Services, Children and Families, Welsh Government. Members acknowledged the significant contribution that Mr Heaney had made during his employment with Caerphilly CBC and wished him every success in his new role.

111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D.T. Hardacre advised that he is a Council representative on the EAS Board. He was advised that he would not be required to leave the meeting during consideration of Agenda item 2(4) - Standards of Pupil Attainment in Caerphilly - Key Stage 4.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED**112. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CHARGES 2013-2014**

The report had been considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 30th January 2013.

The report sought approval to the proposed increases, which are to be effective for the Housing Revenue Account in 2013-2014. The Welsh Government (WG) determines the annual guideline rent increases. The WG initial draft proposal for 2013/14 of 4.6% as an All Wales average is equivalent to a 4% increase for Caerphilly i.e. £3.00 on a 48 week basis. In order to meet the deadlines for advising tenants of increases in rents and other charges the increases have to be determined and fully agreed by 18th February 2013.

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

- (a) An average rent increase based on WG guidelines, be agreed of 4%, (£3.00) per property from April 2013.
- (b) The service charge at sheltered complexes with communal facilities be increased to £22.14 over a 48-week basis from April 2013.
- (c) The service charge in the four sheltered schemes without communal facilities be increased to £15.37 over a 48 week basis from April 2013.
- (d) The service charge at sheltered complexes with communal facilities be increased to £22.14 over a 48-week basis from April 2013.
- (e) The service charge payable by residents of Tredegar Court be increased to £61.50 over a 48-week basis from April 2013.
- (f) The meal cost at Tredegar Court be increased to £33.84 based on a 48-week basis from April 2013.
- (g) The utility charges in sheltered housing schemes where tenants currently pay a standard charge be increased to £17.03 based on a 48-week basis from April 2013.
- (h) The guest room charge at sheltered housing complexes are not increased from April 2013.
- (i) The charges at Ty Croeso be determined at a later date.
- (j) The community alarm charge for council and non-council tenants increase to £3.10 based on a 48-week from April 2013.
- (k) The garage charges for Council and non-Council tenants increase to £7.50 based on a 48-week basis from April 2013.

113. CAERPHILLY PASSPORT PROGRAMME UPDATE

The report provided an update on the Caerphilly Passport Programme. The programme has been developed to contribute to supporting NEET young people within the County Borough; to provide valuable training placements for young people to gain experience in the workplace and an opportunity to apply for vacant posts and to address the Council's future demographic challenge.

A total of £977,000 and 150 Jobs Growth Wales funded placements have been secured to deliver the programme. Special dispensation has been gained from Welsh Government for the Jobs Growth Wales placements. The delivery targets are set out in the report together with the operational progress and outcomes achieved. Progress to date is on schedule.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the progress made to date be noted.

114. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CAERPHILLY CBC'S COMPLAINTS POLICY

The report sought approval to implement a new Caerphilly CBC Complaints Policy. Following consideration of the policy by the Audit Committee in December 2012 the Council's Equalities Officer undertook an assessment to ensure that the policy complies with the Council's statutory duties under the Equality Act 2012. The policy now includes some slight changes to comply with the requirements of the Act.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the implementation of the new policy and guidance be approved.

115. STANDARDS OF PUPIL ATTAINMENT IN CAERPHILLY - KEY STAGE 4

The report informed Members of pupils' attainment in external examinations at the end of key stage 4. The charts provide key indicator definitions, the key stage 4 results summary; Caerphilly/Wales trends over a five year period; individual school performance on 4 key indicators - schools ranked by deprivation; individual school performance on 2 key indicators and secondary school banding positions 2012. A summary of performance is provided under paragraph 3.5 of the report.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the content of the report be noted.

EXEMPT MATTERS

Members considered the Public Interest Test and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and it was:-

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(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 Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

116. BARGOED RETAIL PLATEAU - PHASE 2

The report sought approval on several issues that are key to the development and success of Phase 2 of the Retail Plateau in Bargoed.

RESOLVED that the recommendations set out at paragraph 9 in the report be approved.

The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 19th February 2013.

CHAIRMAN