



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON TUESDAY, 29TH JANUARY 2013 AT 1.00 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:

B. Hopkins (Assistant Director Our Schools Our Future), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), E. Lucas (Head of Procurement), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

104. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15th January 2013 (minute nos. 93-102; page nos. 44-47) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

105. DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2013-2014

The Deputy Chief Executive highlighted the key issues within the report which, sought approval to consult on the draft budget proposals for 2013-2014. Copies of the report had been sent to Members and Trade Unions as part of the consultation process. Formal responses were required by the Deputy Chief Executive by no later than 18th February 2013.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, Cabinet approved the draft proposals contained within the report for consultation.

106. PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THE CRAY VALLEY WATERLOO SITE

The report sought approval to commence processes to withdraw the above proposal.

In view of the circumstances outlined in the report, it is proposed to commence processes to withdraw the original proposal, which has now time elapsed. This process will involve discussions with school council, staff, governing body and parents of Rhydri Primary School, together with neighbouring schools, which potentially would be affected. A public/community meeting will also be convened.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, Cabinet approved the statutory processes to withdraw the proposal.

107. 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - SECONDARY RATIONALISATION

The report sought approval to establish a process to proceed with Phase 1 of the secondary rationalisation bid.

The 3rd priority bid approved in principle by Welsh Government in December 2011 related to secondary rationalisation and amounted to £60m. This was specifically to reduce English Medium secondary surplus places by circa 2,900, which is broadly equivalent to 3 secondary schools. The bid emphasised that the monies would be used on a combination of reconstruction and remodelling Work across the remaining English Medium secondary schools thereby improving their condition.

In recent months, the WG Minister for Education and Skills has been in correspondence with the Authority and has set a target for reducing secondary surplus places below 15% by January 2015. Given that Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme extends from 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2021 it is envisaged that only a Phase 1 can progress at the present time due to affordability. This could facilitate reductions broadly in line with the Minister's expectations by 2015, if formal processes commenced this year.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the process outlined in paragraph 3.14 of the report to determine Phase 1 secondary proposals, be agreed.

108. SCHOOL MEAL PRICES

The report sought Cabinet's views on school meal prices for the school year 2013/2014.

All of Caerphilly Catering school meals now meet Welsh Government's Appetite for Life nutritional standards and therefore offer an important measure for protecting and promoting the health and well being of children and young people. For this reason Members were asked to approve no increase to school meal prices for the 2013/14 school year.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, there be no increase in school meal prices at this time and budgetary growth of £80k be included in the budget strategy for 2013/14.

109. MAES-Y-DERWEN, TREDOMEN

This item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

110. PROCUREMENT COLLABORATION - MERTHYR TYDFIL CBC AND CAERPHILLY CBC

The report outlined progress made on the collaborative procurement arrangements between Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Caerphilly CBC.

Since April 2012 Officers from Merthyr Tydfil CBC and Caerphilly CBC have worked together to explore the best value for money option for collaboration. The current operational model is working on a pre-determined work programme of procurements. The collaboration is working well for both authorities and supports the collaborative policies of the Welsh Government. The benefits to date are set out in the report.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, progress to date on the collaboration arrangement for procurement with Merthyr Tydfil CBC, be noted.

The meeting closed at 1.27 p.m.

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

CHAIRMAN