



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON TUESDAY, 30TH APRIL 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), G. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), 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:

N. Barnett (Acting Chief Executive), S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), D. Street (Acting Director Social Services), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and S151).

Also present:

B. Hopkins (Assistant Director, Our Schools Our Future), K. Cole (Manager, Learning, Education and Inclusion), S. Harris (Acting Head of Corporate Finance), G.T. Hardacre (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGY

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs R. Passmore.

147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest raised at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

148. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 9th April 2013 (minute nos. 137-143; page nos. 65-67) and 16th April 2013 (minute nos. 144-146; page nos. 68-70) be approved and signed as correct records.

MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 146

It was reported that the GMB trade union had now withdrawn its objection to the proposals.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

149. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report sought approval of the proposed Cabinet forward work programme for the six month period from April to September 2013 inclusive.

Members' attention was drawn to Appendix 1, which provided an update of the forward work programme for the period October 2012 to March 2013. Appendix 2 outlined the proposed Cabinet forward work programme for the period April to September 2013. It was noted that urgent and unanticipated reports could be added in appropriate circumstances.

Cabinet considered the report in detail and it was proposed and seconded that the forward work programme be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

Members requested that a progress report be submitted to Cabinet in July 2013.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the work programme for the six month period, as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

150. SURVEILLANCE OF EMPLOYEES

The report provided details of employee surveillance undertaken by the Authority, the legal framework for such activity, the process for agreeing employee surveillance, the background to the appointment of Conquest Surveillance and the associated costs and benefits.

The Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee discussed the report in detail at its meeting on 16th April 2013. A trade union representative had also been granted permission to address the scrutiny committee in respect of this item.

Cabinet considered the report in detail and it was proposed and seconded that the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

1. The content of the report be noted.
2. A formal procurement process be undertaken for a contractor to undertake employee surveillance and during this period surveillance remain suspended.
3. The Authority engage in detailed discussions with the trade unions with a view to the development of current robust procedures into an HR policy document which will be made available to all members of staff.

151. INSURANCE RENEWAL 2013-2014 & MMI LIABILITIES

The report informed Members of the outcome of a tender process for the provision of external insurance cover from April 2013 and provided details of liabilities arising in respect of

Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI). The existing Long Term Agreement for external insurance cover expired on 31st March 2013 and as a result a tender process commenced at the end of 2012. To take advantage of the favourable premiums in the tender, the new Long Term Agreement is for a period of 7 years.

The Authority is awaiting details of the Levy charge from MMI. However, based on information available in the last six-monthly statement (September 2012) the estimated cost of the Levy is £724k for settled claims and £40k for claims yet to be settled. After adjusting for earmarked reserves that can be applied the net projected cost for Caerphilly CBC is currently a minimum of £450k.

Cabinet considered the report in detail and it was proposed and seconded that the recommendations in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

1. The saving of £113k on the recent tender exercise and the potential for a reduction of £300k in departmental recharges on an annual basis, be noted.
2. These savings will be built into the Medium Term Financial Plan once the final value of the MMI Levy has been confirmed.
3. The first call on funding released as part of the forthcoming external review of the Authority's self-insurance arrangements should be the cost of the Levy

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

The report sought approval to issue a Statutory Notice to withdraw the proposal to establish a primary school on the Waterloo site. Discussions have taken place with Welsh Government officials given that the timing of the proposal has elapsed. It has also become evident that it would take another minimum 6-12 months to complete work on the site and sign the S106 agreement. There is also uncertainty in relation to when the site would be acquired by a developer.

Cabinet considered the report in detail and it was proposed and seconded that the recommendation in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the recommendation to proceed with a Statutory Notice to withdraw the proposal, as per advice from Welsh Government officials, be endorsed.

153. FORMER ST ILAN SITE - WELSH-MEDIUM DEVELOPMENT

The report informed Members of the outcome of the Statutory Notice process and sought approval to formally establish secondary Welsh-medium provision on the site. The Statutory Notice period commenced on 18 February 2013 and expired on 18 March 2013. There were no objections received during the Statutory Notice period.

Cabinet considered the report in detail and it was proposed and seconded that the recommendation in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the proposal to formally establish secondary Welsh-medium provision on the former St Ilan site as part of Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini, be approved.

154. 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS - ACQUISITION OF FORMER ALDI SITE, RHYMNEY

The report updated Members on developments in relation to Priority 2 of the 21st Century Schools Band A bids, namely the Rhymney 3-18 proposal.

The governing body met on 15th April 2013 and are in support of acquiring the site and seeking WG approval to include it within a revised Rhymney 3-18 proposal. It is anticipated that the cost of acquisition and provision of a new school could be funded from the £12m bid. The sale price amounts to £300,000, which includes the site plus building.

Cabinet considered the report in detail and it was proposed and seconded that the recommendation in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the proposal to agree the land (and building) purchase in the sum of £300,000 and to seek WG approval to incorporate this proposal into a revised Upper Rhymney Valley School Regeneration Strategy from the £12m approved bid, be endorsed.

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

The report informed Members of progress made towards meeting the recommendations within the Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP).

The PIAP was produced by the Directorate Senior Management Team and senior officers in the Education Achievement Service (EAS). It outlines the recommendations made by Estyn in the inspection in July 2012 and describes clear actions, timescales and success criteria. The PIAP includes contextual information within each recommendation, as well as arrangements for monitoring and reporting the progress made.

Cabinet considered the report in detail and it was proposed and seconded that the recommendation in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

The meeting closed at 2.31 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 4th June 2013.

CHAIRMAN