



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON TUESDAY, 18TH JUNE 2013 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor H.A. Andrews - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (HR & Governance/Business Manager), G. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), 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:

N. Barnett (Acting Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and S151), D. Street (Acting Director Social Services), K. Cole (Manager, Learning, Education and Inclusion).

Also present:

C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), S. Harris (Acting Head of Corporate Finance), H. Rees (Programme Manager), B. Hopkins (Assistant Director, Our Schools Our Future), S. Mutch (Early Years Manager), D. Thomas (Senior Policy Officer Equalities and Welsh Language), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor D.T. Hardacre, Cabinet Member for Performance and Asset Management and Mrs S. Aspinall, Acting Deputy Chief Executive.

162. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

163. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 4th June 2013 (minute nos. 156-161; page nos. 75-77) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

164. EQUALITIES AND WELSH LANGUAGE ANNUAL REPORTS

The report was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 4th June 2013.

The Council has a statutory duty to produce annual monitoring reports on Equalities and Welsh Language issues under current legislation. The Welsh Language Scheme Annual Monitoring and Improvement report must be published by 30th June each year and an annual report on the Strategic Equality Plan must be published anytime during the 12 months after the end of the financial year that is covered by that report.

It was noted that due to the success of the Equalities and Welsh Language Team in undertaking shared work, leading on some regional issues and bidding successfully for project money, the Team has brought in approximately £70k of additional funds to support the corporate work required by legislation.

Cabinet considered the report in detail and congratulated the officers involved on their achievements. It was proposed and seconded that the recommendation set out in the report be endorsed and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, Cabinet endorsed the submission of the Welsh Language Scheme Annual Monitoring and Improvement Report 2012-2013 and the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Monitoring and Improvement Report 2012-2013, to the relevant Commissions by the national deadline of 28th June 2013.

165. WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

The report informed Members of the content of the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2012-2015 and associated responsibilities of the Council.

The WESP links to the Local Authority's duty to monitor and improve standards of Welsh language in education and supports the appropriate use of the Welsh Education Grant (WEG) funding. It has been designed specifically for Caerphilly CBC and has links with those of the four other authorities in the Consortium.

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 Caerphilly County Borough Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) be approved.

166. CARE HOME FEES REVIEW

The report provided details of a recently completed review of fees paid by the Authority for elderly residential and nursing placements in care homes within the County Borough and sought approval of the proposed fees along with budget virements to meet the additional 2013/14 costs.

The report attached at Appendix 1 was presented to the Health Social Care and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee on 14th May 2013. The Scrutiny Committee supported the proposed fees for 2013/14 and the proposed fee uplift methodology for 2014/15 and 2015/16. The Committee expressed concerns regarding the additional pressures on the Social Services

budget but noted that Cabinet would be considering a range of potential virements for the 2013/14 financial year.

Cabinet considered the report in detail including the currently uncommitted budgets within Miscellaneous Finance that have been identified as potential 2013/14 virements. It was proposed and seconded that the following recommendations be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

1. Approved the proposed fees for 2013/14.
2. Agreed the fee uplift methodology for 2014/15 and 2015/16.
3. Identified and approved budget virements from Miscellaneous Finance to Social Services for 2013/14 to meet the unavoidable cost pressure of £460k arising from the fees review.
4. Agreed the spend profile for Community Schemes as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
5. Determined that Social Services reserves could be utilised to fund some Community Schemes for 2013/14 only.

167. UPDATE OF MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The report updated the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) indicative allocation of funding from Welsh Government for 2014/15, incorporating revised savings targets. Recent changes in respect of the Outcome Agreement Grant and the impact in respect of funding are also included in the report. Cabinet were asked to make decisions on these two significant changes in respect of funding.

A list of scenarios had been worked up by the Welsh Local Government Association giving a range of the likely impacts in respect of the cuts of £80m to the Welsh Government funding levels for 2014/15 and the estimated impact on each Local Authority's indicative allocation of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) funding for 2014/15.

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

1. The revised Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) attached at Appendix 1 to the report be agreed, to enable Officers to work up savings proposals for Members to consider in line with the new targets.
2. Officers incorporate a range of levels of increase in Council Tax in the MTFP savings proposals for Members to consider.
3. Funds totalling £819k in respect of the Outcome Agreement for 2014/15 be set aside, pending further reports.

EXEMPT MATTER

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 100(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 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

168. LAND AT BRYN BACH PARK

The report sought an 'in principle' agreement to grant an option in respect of non-exclusive access rights along access tracks through Bryn Bach Park.

Cabinet considered the report and the options set out in paragraph 5 in detail and selected Option B as the preferred option. It was proposed and seconded that the recommendations be endorsed and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the recommendations at paragraph 8 be endorsed with Option B being the preferred option.

The meeting closed at 2.41 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 2nd July 2013.

CHAIRMAN