



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK, ON TUESDAY, 16TH JULY 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), 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:

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

Also present:

B. Hopkins (Assistant Director, Our Schools Our Future), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), K. Cole (Manager, Learning, Education and Inclusion), R. Roberts (Performance Manager), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

172. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

173. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors K.V. Reynolds and R. Woodyatt declared an interest in agenda item 5(1) as they have family members who attend three of the secondary schools involved. Councillors Reynolds and Woodyatt left the meeting during consideration of that item.

174. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 2nd July 2013 (minute nos. 169-171; page nos. 82-84) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

175. PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2012/13

This item was deferred to a special meeting of Cabinet on 23rd July 2013.

176. BLACKWOOD YOUTH CENTRE

The report updated Members on the Blackwood Youth Centre development. At its meeting on 10th May 2011 Cabinet approved the relocation of the former Blackwood Youth Centre (which was demolished by fire in October 2009) to the Blackwood Comprehensive School site.

As at financial year-end there remains a sum of circa 130k left against the project. There is circa 30k required to complete the basketball court area and associated drainage works leaving a residual sum of circa 100k.

Members 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 use of the residual sum of 100k to support Youth Service provision across the County Borough to help meet the Council's Improvement Objective (as outlined in paragraphs 3.9 and 3.10) be approved.

A further report identifying the initiatives financed by this sum would be presented to Cabinet in due course.

177. PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS RECOMMENDATION 3 OF THE POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN (PIAP)

The report informed Members of progress made towards meeting Recommendation 3 within the Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP).

During the Estyn inspection in July 2012, KQ3.2 was judged to be 'adequate'. The recommendation was to align corporate and partnership strategic planning. Since that time much work has been undertaken to address this and the report outlines actions taken and progress made. It was noted that significant progress had been made towards meeting Recommendation 3.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

178. PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS RECOMMENDATION 4 OF THE POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN (PIAP)

The report outlined progress made against Recommendation 4 "Align corporate and partnership strategic planning processes in order to make best use of available resources to improve outcomes for children and young people" highlighted in the Post Inspection Action Plan. It was felt that good progress had been made towards meeting Recommendation 4.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

179. SECONDARY RATIONALISATION PHASE 1

Having declared an interest at the start of the meeting, Councillors K.V. Reynolds and R. Woodyatt left the meeting during consideration of this item.

The report, which had been considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 9th July 2013, informed Members of the recommendations of the cross party working group, which had been established in relation to Phase 1 of Secondary Rationalisation.

The working group analysed and reviewed Individual school data in the context of four geographical areas i.e. Caerphilly Basin; Mid and Upper Rhymney Valley; Islwyn West and Islwyn East. This resulted in the working group agreeing a priority region list based principally on projected surplus places. At this stage the working group wanted to endorse two principles for the future i.e. a need to review post-16 provision in the context of 11-18 schools and to review single sex schools vis a vis co-educational provision.

The next stage was for the working group to consider an options appraisal process, which commenced with the identification of potential trigger points to use in a scoring matrix model. The matrix was applied to individual school data, the results of which are set out in paragraph 4.16 of the report. The working group examined 9 possible locations for a new school site and concluded that Oakdale Plateau 3 within Oakdale Business Park was the preferred site.

Members 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.

RECOMMENDED to Council that for the reasons contained in the officer's report: -

1. The Phase 1 proposal as set out in paragraph 4.37 and the way forward as outlined in paragraph 4.38 be endorsed.
2. The 50% match funding contribution for CCBC as outlined in paragraph 6.2 be endorsed.
3. The two principles of the working group as outlined in paragraph 4.9 and the proposal to progress Mid & Upper Rhymney Valley region for Phase 2 be noted.

Members placed on record their appreciation of the considerable commitment and dedication shown by officers and members who had participated in the cross party working group.

180. IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES

The report set out the process the Council had undertaken in setting its new Improvement Objectives and identified the recommended Improvement Objectives for 2013/14.

In November 2012 the Council set its Corporate Priorities for 2013-17. The set of Corporate Priorities was used as a basis for selecting Improvement Objectives for 2013/14. As part of the selection process the Performance Management Unit (PMU) worked extensively with services in assessing each of the proposed objectives against the questions set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report.

Following the initial assessment and selection, a public consultation exercise was carried out to test the relevance of the selection and to gather public feedback on the proposed set.

The Council received over 230 responses to the consultation exercise. Responses were received from local councillors, local businesses, members of the public and staff. A number of respondents noted that the Improvement Objectives were focussed towards younger people and commented that there should be more focus on Adult Care and improving job and business opportunities for all age groups. A full copy of the consultation results is available in the Members' library and will be posted on both the intranet and Internet.

Members 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.

RECOMMENDED to Council that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the Improvement Objectives for 2013/14 be approved.

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 30th July 2013.

CHAIRMAN