



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON TUESDAY, 30TH JULY 2013 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor H.A. Andrews - Chairman

Councillors:

D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), G. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), Mrs R. Passmore (Education and Lifelong Learning), D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure Services), K.V. Reynolds (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services), R. Woodyatt (Social Services).

Together with:

D. Street (Acting Director Social Services)

Also present:

P. Elliott (Head of Regeneration and Planning), K. Cole (Manager, Learning, Education and Inclusion.), E. Pryce (Senior Advisory Performance and ICT), D. Morris (Principal Procurement Officer), T. Maher (Assistant Director Planning and Strategy), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

L. Majer and A. Prosser (Blaenau Gwent Council Borough Council)

184. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. C. Forehead and T. Williams, S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive) and N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services).

185. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

186. MINUTES - 16TH JULY 2013 AND 23RD JULY 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16th July 2013 (minute nos. 172 - 180; page nos. 85 - 88) and the minutes of the Special Cabinet meeting

held on 23rd July 2013 (minute nos. 181 - 183; page nos. 89 - 90) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

187. NATIONAL MINING MEMORIAL, SENGHENYDD

Consideration was given to the report which advised of the development of the Welsh National Mining Memorial at Senghenydd and provided an update on the current financial position with the project, including the Council's contribution, as it moves towards the Centenary on 14th October 2013.

Members were advised that following the decision of Cabinet in January 2013, when it was agreed to endorse a financial contribution of £50,000 towards the project, given the high profile nature of the scheme and the fact that the deadline for the Centenary is not flexible, the Council has committed substantial funding, time and resources to ensure its success. Details of the use of urban renewal capital budget underspend from 2012/2013 financial year for this purpose was outlined.

Reference was made to the phases of the scheme - Phase 1 - Site Preparation, Design and the Statue, Phase 2 – the memorial garden, Phase 3: Centenary Event and phase 4: National Memorial Pathway and details of the costs for each phase, and how they have been met were noted. It was confirmed that although substantial funding has been secured (which includes a large proportion from Caerphilly County Borough Council) there remains a shortfall, which need to be addressed, although the Aber Valley Heritage Group are currently pursuing a number of fundraising activities and options that will help reduce the shortfall. As such, the report sought approval for the utilisation of £15,000 existing divisional reserves to fund the centenary events.

In order to enable the first National Mining Memorial in Wales to be delivered successfully and ensure that a fitting tribute is provided on the anniversary it was moved and seconded that subject to a report be presented outlining the financial outturn in due course, the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

- (i) in order to support the phases of the scheme as detailed in the report (and outlined in paragraph 5.1) the utilisation of £97,000 of existing urban renewal capital underspend from 2012/2013 be noted;
- (ii) in order to fund the centenary events as detailed in the report (and outlined in paragraph 5.2), £15,000 be utilised from existing Divisional reserves;
- (iii) a report be presented outlining the financial outturn in due course.

188. NEWBRIDGE REGENERATION - FUNDING TO COMPLETE PHYSICAL REGENERATION

The report detailed the allocation of funding from the Council's identified departmental reserves towards the completion of the Newbridge Regeneration Programme, which had to be approved as the works had reached a critical point.

Details of the capital cost of the scheme, and the extent of the works, were outlined. It was noted that the current projected final out-turn figures for the town centre enhancements scheme indicated an over-spend on this phase of the programme (due to the challenging nature and logistical difficulties of the scheme, through Compensation Events (for elements of

work that differ from the original tender specification) and for design and management fees).

Members were advised that the additional funding will allow officers to complete the public realm scheme to a quality befitting the heritage/cultural hub for the town, and extend the benefits provided by the regeneration works throughout the remainder of the town centre.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report, £160K of Departmental Revenue Reserves be used to fund the scheme

189. SUMMARY OF ESTYN INSPECTION OUTCOMES UNDER THE NEW COMMON INSPECTION FRAMEWORK (CIF) - SEPTEMBER 2012 TO JULY 2013

Consideration was given to the report, which advised of the judgements made by Estyn Inspection Teams of Caerphilly schools for the academic year 2012-2013. Members were advised that since September 2010 all schools in Wales have been inspected under a new Common Inspection Framework, which judges schools under three key questions, comprising ten indicators, as opposed the seven key questions of the previous framework.

The schools included in the report were inspected during the Autumn and Spring Terms, 2012-13. Each of them was inspected under the arrangements for inspections and the report identified the schools and the dates on which the inspections took place and contained a brief analysis of the inspection findings for each school.

Members considered the information as it relates to specific schools and were pleased to note that from an evaluation of judgements from September 2010 – July 2013, in total 78% of schools have been judged to be “Good” overall, with a further 22% judged to be “Adequate”. No school was found to be unsatisfactory in any aspect, and a much smaller proportion of schools were found to be “Adequate” than Estyn’s initial national estimate. The LA will continue to support these schools as part of the established Monitoring, Challenge, Support and Intervention Strategy. With regards to the Judgements on the ten quality indicators no Caerphilly school inspected to date was judged to be “Unsatisfactory” on any of the indicators.

Specific reference was made to Heolddu Secondary School, which was placed in Special Measures, and to the more recent pre-inspection which identifies that the school is making good progress towards the recommendations, albeit that it was too soon to see the impact of some of the initiatives. Members commended the school, and the support given by the LEA, in securing significant progress against the recommendations to support its removal from this category.

Members noted the content of the report.

190. CAERPHILLY AND BLAENAU GWENT JOINT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

The report gave Members the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge the draft Business Case and proposed staffing structure for establishing permanent arrangements for a Joint Social Care Workforce Development Service with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

It was noted that its content had been considered at the special meeting of the Health, Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee on 25th July, where, it was agreed that subject to a reviewed in twelve months time, the proposed staffing structure for a Joint Workforce Development Service be endorsed and recommended to Cabinet for approval. Both the Social Services and Active Living Scrutiny Committee and Executive of Blaenau Gwent County

Borough Council have also endorsed its content.

It was pointed out that since the preparation of the report it has been noted that the financial implications in paragraph 6.1 of the scrutiny report differed from those contained on page 9 of the business case. However, it was the content of the scrutiny report that was correct.

Members were advised that the Interim Joint Workforce Development Service was launched at the beginning of April 2012. The main driver and rationale for creating a Joint Workforce Development Service for Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly is sustainability of service. Social Services Departments are experiencing demand and complexity of cases and attempting to modernise and improve services with pressure on budgets. The Workforce Development Service is critical to enabling an appropriately qualified and skilled workforce to deliver changing and improving services.

Extensive work has been undertaken and representatives from each Council have developed a financial modelling paper, the details of which were set out in the report, which proposes that Blaenau Gwent will host the service with a secondment model for Caerphilly employees. This will involve Caerphilly staff being seconded to the Joint Workforce Development Service whilst their contracts of employment will remain with CCBC.

Trade Unions and staff have been consulted on the Business Case and discussions are on going to finalise the secondment model. The Interim Joint Team has recently located to offices in Foxes Lane, Oakdale. Local venues will continue to be used in both boroughs to accommodate the rest of the training and to ensure equality and ease of travel access for front line care sector workers.

It was moved and seconded that, subject to a review in twelve months' time, the recommendation in the report and from the Special meeting of the Health, Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report and subject to a review in twelve months' time, the proposed staffing structure for a Joint Workforce Development Service be endorsed.

191. FUTURE OF THE WELSH PURCHASING CONSORTIUM

The report advised of the current status of the Welsh Purchasing Consortium (WPC) and in making recommendations as to the future work programme for that organisation, sought approval to remain a member of the Consortium for the next three years (until 31 March 2016).

It was noted that the report had been considered at the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 24th July 2013 where the recommendations had been endorsed and recommended to Cabinet for approval.

It was explained that whilst the Consortium currently provides a collaborative hub for procuring common and repetitive spend commodity areas, the Authority is also a member of the County Borough Supplies Joint Committee (which complements the procurement services available to Schools) and has committed to the development of the National Procurement Service (NPS) following an invitation to join from Welsh Government. It is recognised that the development of a NPS for Wales will impact on the requirement for a Welsh Purchasing Consortium and it is anticipated that the NPS will facilitate 20% of Local Government spend, which will leave 80% to be managed locally or via collaborative hubs (such as the WPC and regional working). As such, it has been concluded that there is a need for a continuation of the WPC.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report and from the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

- (i) it be agreed to remain a member of the Welsh Purchasing Consortium for the next 3 years (up to 31st March 2016), with an annual contribution fee of £13,500.00;
- (ii) the Authority participate in a formal review of the Welsh Purchasing Consortium organisation as outlined in the report to ensure the Consortium remains a fit for purpose organisation.

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

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

CHAIRMAN