



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON FRIDAY, 23RD AUGUST 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), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), 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.A. Rosser (Interim Chief Executive), S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services & Section 151 Officer).

Also present:

D. Perkins (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

192. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors G. Jones, Mrs. R. Passmore and D.V. Poole.

193. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

MATTER ON WHICH AN EXECUTIVE DECISION WAS REQUIRED

194. CWMCARN HIGH SCHOOL

At the start of the meeting the Chairman referred to the tragic fatality of one of the workers on site at Cwmcarn High School on 19th July 2013. All those present stood in silence as a mark of respect for the deceased and condolences were extended to the bereaved family.

Mrs S. Aspinall, Acting Deputy Chief Executive/Corporate Director Education and Lifelong Learning, presented the report, which updated Members on the current situation relating to the re-opening of Cwmcarn High School.

Details were received of the background to the closure of the school and the work that had subsequently been undertaken on site. It was noted that the school buildings could not be re-occupied until late October 2013 at the earliest when it was anticipated that all the work would be completed. Following completion of the work there would need to be a further two weeks to re-equip the school before it could be re-occupied by the pupils and staff. The Council therefore had to consider alternative accommodation to educate the pupils until the school could be re-occupied. Due to the time needed to complete the works, re-equip the site and to avoid disruption to the pupils, it was recommended that the school buildings not be re-occupied until after the October half term on 4th November 2013.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 5 of the report, which set out three options for consideration.

Option 1 proposed the continuation of the use of the Ebbw Vale site until the school could be re-occupied. Option 2 would provide temporary accommodation to return learners to the Cwmcarn High School site whilst the works were completed. Option 3 would require the dispersal of Cwmcarn High School pupils to other schools whilst the works were completed. The only option that would provide education for all the learners from the start of the academic year with the full range of technical facilities was Option 1.

Members were advised that the Governing Body of Cwmcarn High School had accepted that Option 1 was the only viable option to educate the pupils from the start of term in September.

Following detailed consideration of the options available, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report to support Option 1 be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

1. Supported Option 1 (continuation at the Ebbw Vale site) with additional funding being met as part of the £1.048m agreed by Council on 17th April 2013.
2. Noted the co-operation and support of the Principal and staff of Coleg Gwent in ensuring that the Ebbw Vale site is available.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Mayor had been consulted and had agreed that this matter should be treated as exempt from call in.

The meeting closed at 2.23 p.m.

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

CHAIRMAN