



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor H.A. Andrews - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (HR & Governance/Business Manager), Councillor D.T. Hardacre (Cabinet Member for Performance & Asset Management), K. James (Regeneration, Planning & Sustainable Development), Mrs R. Passmore (Education & Lifelong Learning), D.V. Poole (Community & Leisure Services), K.V. Reynolds (Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Corporate Services), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation & Engineering), R. Woodyatt (Social Services).

Together with:

S. A. Rosser (Interim Chief Executive), Mrs S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), Mrs N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer), D. Street, (Corporate Director of Social Services)

Also present:

Mrs P. Elliott (Head of Regeneration and Planning), I. MacVicar (Group Manager, Operations), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer)

Councillor Mrs A. Blackman (for Agenda item 4(1))

239. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor G. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing).

240. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D.V. Poole declared an interest in agenda items 4(1) and 4(4). Further details are recorded under the relevant item and in the Declarations of Interest Register.

241. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 30th October 2013 (minute nos. 230-238; page nos. 117-120) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

242. FORMER NELSON BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor D.V. Poole declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during its consideration.

The Notice of Motion, which had been submitted by Councillor Mrs A. Blackman, had been presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 12th November 2013. The views of the Scrutiny Committee were reported verbally to Cabinet.

The Head of Performance and Property briefed Members on the background to the site, which had been unused since circa 2005. It was noted that at its meeting on 4th September 2012, following representations from the Nelson Development Trust (supported by Councillor Mrs Blackman), Cabinet agreed to the provision of a letter of intent to lease the site of the former Boys and Girls Club to the Nelson Development Trust for a minimum of 25 years subject to the Trust being responsible for all repairs and maintenance of the existing building and to the conditions set out under paragraph 4.3 of the report.

Councillor Mrs A. Blackman presented the Notice of Motion, which asked Council to agree "to take the land and buildings of the former Nelson Boys and Girls Club out of Property Services and transfer it to Education and Leisure, so that it can be retained as a leisure facility for the community of Nelson".

Officers pointed out that the Education Directorate no longer has responsibility for leisure, which now lies within Community and Leisure Services, Directorate of the Environment. In addition, a transfer of responsibility for non-operational land from Property Services would be contrary to established Council principles and was likely to have an adverse impact on the Community and Leisure Services budget.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Notice of Motion not be supported. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, Cabinet voted not to support the Notice of Motion.

Councillor D.V. Poole returned to the meeting following consideration of this item.

243. HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE JOINT PROTOCOL

The report had been presented to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 22nd October 2013. The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the revised Homeless Young People Joint Protocol.

Following independent training regarding homelessness in response to the Southwark Judgement, it was agreed that the 'Caerphilly County Borough Council Homeless Young People Joint Protocol' needed to be reviewed and revised. A number of meetings had been held and a lot of work undertaken by Housing and Social Services in connection with the review. The significant changes to the protocol relate to the improved joint working arrangements including joint assessment processes. The key principles of the protocol are set out in paragraph 4.7 of the report.

Following consideration and discussion, 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, the report and revised Homeless Young People Joint Protocol be endorsed.

244. IMPROVING GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Interim Chief Executive highlighted the key issues within the report, which informed Members of progress made against the WAO Public Interest Report Action Plan and the wider Improving Governance Programme.

Significant progress has been made on all five aspects of the Action Plan, the details of which are set out at Appendix 1 to the report. Members were advised that the percentage of completion of the actions included in the plan is close to 80%. As referred to in the previous report, some of the slippage on the outstanding actions is due to major challenges facing the Council at this time i.e. the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and service delivery commitments that have a direct impact on the workload of the officers involved in the delivery of the Action Plan. Any significant changes made as a result of the work are being presented to Scrutiny, Audit Committee and Cabinet for consideration and approval.

Members were updated on two issues within the Action Plan i.e. page 8 (a) and page 18 (d). It was anticipated that all actions, with the exception of the review of the constitution, would be completed by December 2013.

Following consideration and discussion, 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, progress made against the WAO Public Interest Report Action Plan and the wider improving Governance Plan, be noted.

245. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS - THEATRE AND ARTS SERVICE - BLACKWOOD MINERS' INSTITUTE

Councillor D.V. Poole declared a personal interest in this item and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

The report was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 29th October 2013. At the Scrutiny Committee, concern was expressed that the proposed structure would not provide sufficient capacity to manage caretaking and facility management duties. Members also queried whether a business case and the proposed staffing structure had been developed to take into account the expected increase in occupancy and revenue following the completion of the recent refurbishment of the building. The Scrutiny Committee subsequently recommended to Cabinet that the deletion of one caretaker post be deferred for a period of 12 months for a further detailed analysis of the building's occupancy and caretaking duties to be undertaken.

Following detailed consideration of the report, together with the views of the Scrutiny Committee, Members endorsed the conclusions reached in paragraph 4.6 and 4.9 of the report that the proposed deletion of the two posts was not just a cost saving exercise but more about having a structure in place that meets current and future needs and is fit for purpose.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations at paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2 in the report to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee dated 29th October 2013, be approved. With the exception of Councillor D.V. Poole, who had declared an interest in this matter and abstained from voting, this was agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the following recommendations be approved: -

1. To delete a full time Caretaker and one part time Caretaker post and agree that two permanent part time Duty Managers be created and the positions be ring fenced for the existing 4 relief Duty Managers.
2. The two staff members be offered redeployment within the Council.

The meeting closed at 2.34 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments made at the meeting held on 27th November 2013.

CHAIRMAN