



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER 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), 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:

Ms P. Elliott (Head of Regeneration and Planning), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), Mrs. G. Williams (Interim Monitoring Officer), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

246. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

247. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T. Williams declared an interest in agenda item 4(2). Councillors D. Hardacre, G. Jones and R. Woodyatt declared an interest in agenda item 5(1). Further details are recorded under the relevant item and in the Declarations of Interest Register.

248. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 13th November 2013 (minute nos. 239-245; page nos. 121-124) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

249. REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SOUTH EAST WALES - DELIVERING A FUTURE WITH PROSPERITY AND CARDIFF CITY REGION PROGRESS

Mrs. P. Elliot, Head of Regeneration and Planning, highlighted the key issues within the report, which informed Members of progress made towards the delivery of regeneration, transport and planning at City Region Level.

Members were informed that the unitary local authorities of South East Wales have been working together over the last 18 months to set out a vision and strategy for the economy of South East Wales. This has been done under the leadership of the Regional Partnership Board, which is made up of 10 Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives/Managing Directors with the Welsh Local Government Association. Members were informed that the document has now been accepted and recommended for endorsement by each individual local authority.

Members were asked to note that progress has been made within Transport and Planning and a new Planning Reform Bill for Wales is being prepared and a White Paper will be released for consultation before Christmas. Consultation will be open in March 2014 with the intention being to adopt the initial legislation by the end of 2014.

During the discussion the Leader confirmed that he had now been advised of the make up of the South East Wales City Region Board and read each name out.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that 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, the following recommendations be approved:-

1. To endorse the Regional Framework as set out in the body of the report
2. To continue to engage with the Regional/City Regional agenda at Senior Member and Officer level and agree to receive further updates on the implications for delivery of transport and planning

250. LAND ADJOINING CEFN FFOREST SPORTS CENTRE

Councillor T. Williams declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during its consideration.

The report outlined the proposal to sell a plot of land adjoining Cefn Fforest Sports Centre for Residential Development. The recommendation of Officers is to sell the parcel of land on the open market for residential development. Local Members have made objections to the sale, on the grounds that it may be needed for future leisure development.

The Committee were made aware that the Leisure Division has advised that it has no plans for the site and has declared it surplus to its operational requirements. Members were also asked to note that the sale of the land would produce a capital receipt.

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 land be sold on the open market for residential development.

251. PROPOSALS TO INTRODUCE A POLICY AND PROCEDURE TO DEAL WITH UNACCEPTABLE PERSISTENT OR UNREASONABLE ACTIONS BY COMPLAINANTS

The report was presented to the Audit Committee on 6th November 2013. Cabinet were informed that at the Committee, the report and proposed policy were noted and Members queried whether consideration could be given to their being notified of/involved in the process for any such cases within their wards. Whilst highlighting the need for caution in terms of data protection issues, the Interim Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that their comments would be referred back to the Learning from Complaints Group and Cabinet for consideration.

The Interim Monitoring Officer informed Cabinet that the Learning from Complaints Group had met and the overall view of the Group was that the direct involvement of Members in the process highlighted some difficulties, particularly with reference to data protection issues. The recommendation from the Officer Group was that an additional paragraph should be incorporated in the Policy whereby relevant Members are formally notified if any Ward constituent's contact with the Authority has been restricted in any way under the Policy. Officers also confirmed that this approach is consistent with the approach taken by other local authorities in England and Wales.

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 and the comments made at Audit Committee on 6th November 2013, the proposals to introduce a Policy and Procedure to deal with unacceptable persistent or unreasonable actions by complainants, be endorsed.

252. 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, part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

253. ISSUES REGARDING POTENTIAL FISH LOSS AT PARC CWM DARREN

Councillors D. Hardacre, G. Jones and R. Woodyatt declared an interest in this item and left the meeting during its consideration.

The report outlines the background to potential fish loss at Parc Cwm Darran.

Following detailed consideration of the report and recommendations, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations at paragraph 9.1 and 9.2 of 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 recommendations at paragraph 9.1 and 9.2 of the report be approved.

The meeting closed at 2.27 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record, subject to any amendments made at the meeting held on 11th December 2013.

CHAIRMAN