



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON THURSDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2013 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor H.A. Andrews - Chairman.

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager), D.T. Hardacre (Cabinet Member for Performance and Asset Management), G. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), K.James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), 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), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering), R. Woodyatt (Cabinet Member for Social Services).

Together with:

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

Also present:

D. Perkins (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), M.S. Williams (Head of Community and Leisure Services), J. Carpenter (Council Tax and NNDR Manager), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer).

266. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive).

267. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

268. NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF GRANT FUNDING – WG SCHEMES

The report provided details of the two new national non-domestic rate (NNDR) relief schemes offered by the Welsh Government and the resolution which needed to be adopted by the Authority in order to obtain the WG grant funding.

The benefits of the relief schemes to local businesses were highlighted, and details of the resolution were set out in Appendix 1 of the report. Members were advised that the resolution would need to be adopted before 31st December 2013 in order to comply with the grant conditions.

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 resolution detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be adopted by the Authority.

269. PROSIECT GWYRDD – FINANCIAL CLOSE

The report provided details of progress with the Prosiect Gwrydd procurement process and details of the recent considerations of the Project Board and Joint Committee.

Members were reminded of the complex procurement process undertaken by the Prosiect Gwrydd partnership of 5 local authorities over the last six years. In February 2013, each authority resolved to select Viridor as the preferred bidder and delegate responsibility to the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) and Project Board to progress various matters and financially close the project.

The Project Board met on 27th November 2013 and progressed the matters outlined in the report, with the Joint Committee meeting on 29th November 2013 in order to receive reassurance on the various matters and to note the decisions of the Project Board meeting. The project proceeded to financial close on 10th December 2013, and Cabinet Members were pleased to note the significant positive financial implications and savings associated with the conclusion of the project.

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 contents of the report be noted.

270. BUDGET STRATEGY 2014/15, 2015/16 AND 2016/17

The report outlined details for the next stage of the consultation period in respect of the Budget 2014/15 and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), and included details of the process to ensure that the Authority's draft budget is produced by the last week of January 2014.

The consultation process to date produced a long list of savings proposals which were useful in determining the options for initial consideration and consultation. The report identified a subsequent need to produce a shortlist of individual savings proposals in order to facilitate more effective engagement and consultation with all parties. These proposals were set out in the report Appendices.

The report outlined the next stage of the process in early January 2014, with the proposals being progressed and amended to reflect responses from the ongoing consultation processes. This will ensure that a set of draft budget proposals are submitted for consideration by late January 2014.

The report also identified the need for an alternative approach in 2015/16 and 2016/17 and proposed that the Budget Strategy takes forward two main strands of savings proposals via efficiency savings and the review of discretionary services, These proposals will be presented to special scrutiny committee meetings after April 2014.

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 report be noted, and the approach taken by Corporate Management Team to focus on a more manageable list of savings to facilitate more effective consultation be supported.

The meeting closed at 5.37 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 22nd January 2014.

CHAIRMAN