



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor H.A. Andrews - Chairman.

Councillors:

D.T. Hardacre (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 (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 Social Services).

Also present:

C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), D. Perkins (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), T. Shaw (Head of Engineering Services), M.S. Williams (Head of Community and Leisure Services), J. Williams (Interim Assistant Director), R. Roberts (Performance Manager), R. Kyte (Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning), A. Santos (Senior Planning Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

271. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs C. Forehead, Cabinet Member for HR and Governance/Business Manager.

272. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

273. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 11th December 2013 (minute nos. 254-265; page nos. 129-134) and 19th December 2013 (minute nos. 266-270; page nos. 135-137) be approved and signed as correct records.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED**274. OUTLINE OF A MODEL FOR INCREASING AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVISION**

The report, which outlined a model for delivering affordable housing on Council owned land, was presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 21st January 2014.

Agreement in principle was sought for the Authority to enter into a Building Agreement, subject to greater detail, in partnership with United Welsh Housing Association and the Seren Group, to increase the provision of affordable housing in the County Borough.

In accordance with WG guidance, the Council in partnership with Housing Associations, commissioned a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA). The LHMA assessed the backlog of housing need, current need and newly arising need in the context of the supply of affordable housing. The 2012 LHMA update found that there is a shortfall of 535 affordable housing units per annum in the County Borough. In addition to the requirement to undertake the LHMA, the Local Planning Authority must ensure that sufficient land is genuinely available to provide a 5 year supply of land for housing. Technical Advice Note (Wales) 1: Joint Housing Land Availability Studies 2006 (TAN1) indicates that where the land supply falls below the 5 year requirement, the Local Planning Authority must take steps to increase the supply of housing land.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved subject to 'and appropriate Cabinet Members' being added to recommendation 3. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

1. The principle of entering into a Building Agreement (and subsequent sale or lease) for increasing the provision of affordable housing within the County Borough, in partnership with United Welsh Housing Association and the Seren Group, be approved.
2. A further report be presented, as soon as practicable, with details of the proposed site(s), numbers of houses to be provided, expected returns and a description of success measures pursuant to paragraph 4.15.
3. Final approval of those detailed terms, for the purposes identified in the report, be delegated to the Head of Performance and Property Services, in consultation with the Head of Corporate Finance and appropriate Cabinet Members.

275. LAND FRONTING KING EDWARD AVENUE, CAERPHILLY

The report sought Members' views on the disposal of land fronting King Edward Avenue, Caerphilly. The strip of land incorporates a grass verge, a hedgerow and a communal footpath, which serves all the properties and over which each resident has individual access rights. The Head of Performance and Property outlined the options available.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that Option 2b, as outlined 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: -

1. Option 2b: To sell the freehold interest in the remaining land to adjoining residents, free from covenants, be approved.

2. The decision regarding the detailed terms of the sales be delegated to the Head of Performance and Property.

276. OUTCOME AGREEMENTS 2013-2016

The Head of Performance and Property presented the proposals for a new set of Outcome Agreements for 2013-2016 that are entered into between Welsh Government and Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Every three years Welsh Government offers local authorities the opportunity to enter into a set of agreements, the contents of which is chosen by the Council as their local improvements contribution towards national priorities. The agreements are worth £1.89 million per year or £5.7 million over the 3-year period of the agreement. Welsh Government offered a "menu" of eight national priorities from which the Council was invited to choose five to develop into a more detailed set. A summary of those proposed by Corporate Management Team is provided in the report.

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. Members requested that they receive regular progress reports.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the five outcome agreements for 2013-2016 as detailed in the report be developed into the formal set to be entered into the agreement with Welsh Government.

277. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Members were asked to endorse the proposed Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period January to April 2014 inclusive. The programme is an important way of tracking progress against targets set in the Council's Improvement Plan. It is also a legal requirement that such programmes are published.

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 work programme for the four month period January to April 2014 inclusive, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

278. REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND PARKING CHARGES FOR BLUE BADGE HOLDERS IN COUNCIL PUBLIC CAR PARKS

The report, which informed Members of the outcome of a review carried out on the operation and current parking charges for blue badge holders in the Council's off-street public car parks, was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 10th December 2013.

A consultation exercise had been undertaken and from the responses received a number of common areas of concern had been identified. These included a lack of disabled spaces and a request for some form of consideration of concession for blue badge holders. A list of those concerns along with recommended actions and details of the financial implications were provided in the report.

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:-

1. Additional disabled parking bays be provided in 12 pay and display car parks.
2. A number of existing disabled parking bays be increased in size in 9 pay and display car parks.
3. Concession of 1 hour extra free parking for blue badge holders be introduced in all pay and display car parks.
4. On-street parking exemptions for blue badge holders be better publicised/promoted.

279. KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLES - UPDATE ON RECYCLING MARKET ISSUES

The report, which updated Members on current market conditions facing the UK's recycling industry and their impact upon the Authority's kerbside recycling collection service, was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 10th December 2013.

Fluctuating market prices over recent months and an increase in demand for high quality input at material recycling facilities has had a significant impact on the Authority's kerbside recycling service. The Authority has implemented a range of short term arrangements with a variety of different contractors and is working towards re-procuring a new contract. In order to ensure greater stability in the long term at an affordable price the report recommends a range of measures for improving quality in the kerbside recycling service including the publication and distribution of new literature, intervention from the Waste Advisory Wardens and a programme of bin removal and enforcement where necessary.

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:-

1. The preparation and issue of new literature to all properties within the County Borough be approved.
2. Work be undertaken with Communications to publicise what should be placed in a recycling bin and the consequences of not adhering to the guidance provided.
3. The procedures outlined in section 4.15 of the report be implemented and developed as the new Council policy.

280. RECRUITMENT OF APPROVED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (AMPH'S) - PAYMENT OF MARKET SUPPLEMENT

The report outlined the current position regarding the number of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP's) employed in the County Borough and the issues in relation to the recruitment of staff and the impact upon service sustainability. Members' approval was sought to introduce a market supplement to address the recruitment and retention difficulties.

The Authority continues to experience significant difficulty in recruiting AMPH's in order to fulfil and sustain its responsibilities under the Mental Health Act 2007. The service has experienced a very poor response to advertised vacancies over the past few years and has been unsuccessful in appointing people to key positions on a permanent basis where an AMHP qualification is required. This has impacted on service delivery, development of integrated CMHT functions and the overall capacity to effectively respond.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that Option (a), as outlined in paragraph 4.8 of the report, be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

A flat rate market supplement of £2,500 per annum be applied to Social Workers, Senior Social Workers and Senior Practitioners employed to undertake the functions of an Approved Mental Health Professional in daytime operational hours of service. The effect of this will be monitored and evaluated after a period of twelve months to determine the impact upon the recruitment and retention of Approved Mental Health Professionals. The conditions of the Market Supplements Policy as detailed in paragraph 1.4 of Appendix 1 to the report will apply and will be regularly reviewed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

281. DELIVERY AGREEMENT FOR THE CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (FIRST REVIEW)

The report, which summarises the public responses to the Draft Delivery Agreement received during the six week consultation period from 17th October to 28th November 2013 together with the officer's recommendations to those responses, was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 10th December 2013. The report also sought approval of the final Delivery Agreement for the Local Development Plan First Review for submission to the Welsh Government.

In total, three representations were made on the Draft Delivery Agreement, one of which was a comment and two sought amendments to the Delivery Agreement. None of the representations resulted in amendments being proposed to the Delivery Agreement.

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.

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report: -

1. The amended Delivery Agreement as attached at Appendix 2 of the report, be endorsed and referred to Council for approval.
2. Upon approval, the amended Delivery Agreement be submitted to Welsh Government, as required by the Development Plan Regulations.

The meeting closed at 2.47 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 5th February 2014.

CHAIRMAN