



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY 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 in Attendance:

H. Rees (Programme Manager & Armed Forces Lead Officer, CCBC), S. Couzens (Chief Housing Officer), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), E. Pryce (Senior Advisor Performance & ICT), K. Cole (Manager, Learning, Education & Inclusion), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

285. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

286. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G. Jones declared an interest in agenda item 4(3) in that he is a director of White Rose Resource Centre, New Tredegar. Councillor Jones left the meeting during consideration of this matter.

287. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd January 2014 (minute nos. 271-281; page nos. 138-142) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED**288. MEDAL PRESENTATION CEREMONY - ST DAVID'S DAY 2014**

The report sought Cabinet approval for a medal presentation ceremony to take place in Risca on St David's Day for the 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital Unit on their return from Afghanistan. Details of the proposed arrangements for the ceremony are set out in the report. Subject to Cabinet approval further meetings will take place between CCBC officers and the Adjutant from 203 (Welsh) Field Hospital to plan this important event in more detail.

Following consideration and discussion, the recommendation in the report was moved and seconded. By a show of hands it was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the proposed medal presentation ceremony and arrangements be approved.

289. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CHARGES - 2014-2015

The report, which was presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 21st January 2014, provided details of the proposed increased charges for the Housing Revenue Account in 2014-2015 and sought Members' views on the recommendations contained therein.

Members were advised that a comprehensive review of sheltered housing charges had been undertaken and the report proposed a number of changes to the current arrangements.

Following consideration and discussion, the recommendations in the report were moved and seconded. By a show of hands they were unanimously approved.

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

- (i) An average rent increase based on WG guidelines, be agreed at 4%, (£3.12) per property, from April 2014;
- (ii) The variable service charge at sheltered complexes with communal facilities be set at £27.18 (bronze service), £29.58 (silver service), and £33.08 (gold service) over a 48 week basis from April 2014, to include an alarm charge;
- (iii) The service charge in the four sheltered schemes without communal facilities be reduced to £10.00 over a 48-week basis from April 2014, to include an alarm charge;
- (iv) The service charge payable by residents of Tredegar Court be increased to £62.73 over a 48-week basis from April 2014;
- (v) The meal cost at Tredegar Court be increased to £34.52 based on a 48-week basis from April 2014;
- (vi) The utility charges in Sheltered Housing schemes where tenants share a communal meter will be recharged the actual cost retrospectively from September 2014;
- (vii) The guest room charge for sheltered housing complexes are not increased from April 2014;
- (viii) The charges at Ty Croeso be determined at a later date by Officers;

- (ix) The community alarm charge for group scheme tenants who have not yet been decommissioned remain at £3.10 based on a 48-week basis from April 2014. The community alarm charge for sheltered tenants will be included within the service charge as in (ii) above;
- (x) The garage charges for Council and non-Council tenants increase to £7.65 based on a 48-week basis from April 2014.

290. TRANSFORMING HOMES, LIVES AND COMMUNITIES - LOCAL EMPLOYMENT FUND

Councillor G. Jones had declared an interest in this matter and left the meeting during its consideration.

The report had been considered by the Caerphilly Homes Task Group and Cabinet Sub-Committee on 23rd January 2014 and had subsequently been referred to full Cabinet, as the Sub-Committee had not been quorate.

Approval was sought to commit expenditure from the 2013/14 budget against the Local Employment Fund to support local community based projects that help provide people with greater access to employment and training opportunities. Two projects had been identified for contributions from the fund i.e. the refurbishment of Hafod Deg, Rhymney and the White Rose Resource Centre Young Persons Project.

Following consideration and discussion, the recommendations in the report were moved and seconded. By a show of hands they were unanimously approved.

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

- (i) A £10,000 contribution be approved to support a 6 month extension to the White Rose Centre Young Persons Project;
- (ii) The allocation of £10,000 towards the refurbishment costs of Hafod Deg as agreed in principle by the WHQS Project Board, be approved;
- (iii) A further report be brought back to the Caerphilly Homes Task Group in 12 months in order to assess the success of the projects.

In addition, it was agreed that consideration would be given to reviewing the number of Members required in order for the Cabinet Sub-Committee to be quorate.

291. PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES (WALES) REGULATIONS 2010

The report sought approval to introduce a scale of fees and to clarify duties under the Private Water Supplies (Wales) Regulations 2010. There are approximately 98 private water supplies in the County Borough used for human consumption and not provided by a water company. The Regulations require local authorities to carry out a risk assessment of each private water supply in its area and to undertake monitoring of those supplies. The Regulations set the maximum fees which local authorities can charge and also lay down procedural arrangements for appeals.

Following consideration and discussion, the recommendations in the report were moved and seconded. By a show of hands they were unanimously approved.

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

- (i) The fees set out under paragraph 9.1 of the report be approved;

- (ii) The discretion to charge the actual fees for total cost of analysis of samples where it is less than the maximum fee, be approved;
- (iii) The discretionary power to routinely sample water at single private dwellings not be exercised.

292. APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC AND AGRICULTURAL ANALYSTS

The Council has a statutory duty to enforce the Food Safety Act 1990, which requires it to appoint a Public Analyst to analyse food for foreign bodies and compositional and labelling purposes. There are similar provisions in the Agriculture Act 1970 relating to the need to appoint an Agricultural Analyst. Approval was sought for amendments to the appointment of public and agricultural analysts following the retirement of Martin Brian Dalling of Minton Treharne and Davies Ltd.

Following consideration and discussion, the recommendation in the report was moved and seconded. By a show of hands it was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, Martin Brian Dalling be removed from the list of analysts and John Anthony Robinson be appointed to the position of Agricultural Analyst for Caerphilly County Borough Council.

293. STANDARDS OF PUPIL ATTAINMENT IN CAERPHILLY - FOUNDATION PHASE, KEY STAGE 2, KEY STAGE 3 (FINAL) AND KEY STAGE 4 (PROVISIONAL)

The report, which informed Members of pupils' attainment in teacher assessment at foundation phase, key stage 2, key stage 3 (Final) and key stage 4 (Provisional), was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 14th January 2014.

Performance in the foundation phase continues to be above the Wales average for all indicators. Caerphilly currently ranks 7th in Wales when compared with other local authorities. Performance at key stage 2 continues to be higher than expected given a FSM ranking of 21st for all core subjects at level 4 and above with Caerphilly ranking 15th in Wales.

Performance at key stage 3 continues to be stronger than expected in all core subjects at level 5 and above with Caerphilly ranking 18th in Wales. All core subjects improved in 2013 with the greatest improvement in mathematics. At key stage 4, the proportion of pupils achieving the Level 2 threshold inclusive of English/Welsh first language and mathematics has improved across Caerphilly from 45.1% in 2012 to 46.3% in 2013. This places Caerphilly joint 19th in Wales for this indicator, slightly higher than the LA's FSM ranking of 21st.

Following consideration and discussion, the recommendation in the report was moved and seconded. By a show of hands it was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED that the information contained in the report be noted.

294. ANNUAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE 2012-2013

The report was considered by the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 3rd December 2013. It sets out the key areas of progress for the year 2012/13 in Caerphilly Social Services together with areas for improvement. The review concluded that Caerphilly Social Services continues to perform well but it also identified potential risks i.e. the impact of long term interim management arrangements on the department, potential effects of corporate instability and sustaining current high levels of service in a financially challenging

environment. In terms of this, Members were informed that Jo Williams had recently been appointed as Assistant Director Adult Services.

Following consideration and discussion, the recommendation in the report was moved and seconded. By a show of hands it was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the Social Services Inspection Evaluation and Review Report 2012-2013 be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

295. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL STRATEGY, CAPITAL FINANCE PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY FOR 2014/2015

The report, which was presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 21st January 2014, provided details of the proposed Council's Annual Strategy for Treasury Management, the proposed dataset of Prudential Indicators relevant to Treasury Management and Capital Finance and the proposed Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy. Members' views were sought on the recommendations contained therein.

Following consideration and discussion, the recommendations in the report were moved and seconded. By a show of hands they were unanimously approved.

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

- (i) The Annual Strategy for Treasury Management 2014/2015 be approved;
- (ii) The Strategy be reviewed quarterly within the Treasury Management monitoring reports presented to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and any changes recommended be referred to Cabinet in the first instance and to Council for a decision. The Council will also receive a half-yearly report on TM activities;
- (iii) The Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management be approved as per Appendix 5;
- (iv) The Prudential Indicators for Capital Financing be approved as per Appendices 6 and 7;
- (v) Members approve the use of Option 2 (for supported borrowing) and Option 3 Equal Instalment Method (for unsupported borrowing) for MRP purposes for 2014/2015.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 19th February 2014.

CHAIRMAN