



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor H.A. Andrews - Chairman.

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager), 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).

Also in Attendance:

M. Donovan (Project Lead 21st Century Schools), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

296. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Mr D. Street, Corporate Director Social Services.

297. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

298. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings be approved and signed as correct records:-

1. Special Cabinet held on 29th January 2014 (minute nos. 282-284; page nos. 143-144).
2. Cabinet held on 5th February 2014 (minute nos. 285-295; page nos. 146-150).

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

299. WRITE-OFF OF DEBTS OVER £20,000 - NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATE ARREARS FOR LTD COMPANIES

On 15th September 2009, Cabinet approved a revised write-off procedure for debts that are material, where the individual debt is greater than £20,000. The report sought approval to write-off one National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) debt where the debt was greater than £20,000.

It was noted that the company concerned was dissolved on 26th March 2013 and consequently it was no longer possible to undertake any further action. There were no direct financial implications to the Authority as it collects NNDR on behalf of Welsh Government.

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 debt detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report be written off on the grounds that it is irrecoverable.

300. IMPROVING GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME UPDATE

The report informed Members of progress made against the action plan resulting from the WAO Public Interest Report on the Chief Officers Pay published in March 2013, together with the wider Improving Governance Programme.

Approval was sought for the extended Improving Governance Programme to include the action plans resulting from the WAO Public Interest Report on Chief Officers Essential Car Users and Annual Leave Allowance published in December 2013 and the Special Inspection Report published in January 2014, as approved by Council on 28th January 2014. It was noted that only 7 out of the original 37 actions remain outstanding and these issues will be the subject of further reports to be presented to Members by the end of March 2014.

The Cabinet Member placed on record her appreciation of the efforts and commitment shown by everyone who had been involved in this exercise, which it was anticipated would be concluded in April/May this year.

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: -

1. Progress against the WAO Public Interest Report Action Plan and the wider Improving Governance Plan determined in April 2013, be noted.
2. The extended programme structure (Appendix 1), which incorporates the recommendations and resulting action plans following on from Council's decision on 28th January 2014 in respect of the WAO Public Interest Report on Chief Officers' Essential Car User and Annual Leave Allowances, (December 2013) and the Special Inspection Report (January 2014), be agreed.

**301. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON SECONDARY RATIONALISATION: PHASE 1
ISLWYN WEST**

Members were advised of the outcome of the recent consultation on secondary rationalisation and approval was sought to publish the relevant Statutory Notice to progress the proposals.

Following an extensive consultation process, whilst some concerns had been received, in the main there had been overwhelming positivity about the proposal to build a new school at Oakdale Plateau 3.

The Cabinet Member placed on record her appreciation of the hard work and commitment shown by everyone who had been involved in the process.

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 approval be given to publish the Statutory Notice.

The meeting closed at 2.15 pm.

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

CHAIRMAN