



## **CABINET**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND APRIL 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor H.A. Andrews - Chairman

**Councillors:**

Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), 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), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), A. West (School Admissions and Exclusions Manager), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

#### **322. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors K. James and G. Jones and Mr D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services).

#### **323. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **324. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meeting be approved and signed as a correct record: -

1. Cabinet held on 19th March 2014 (minute nos. 314-321; page nos. 160-162).

**MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED****325. MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY SCHEMES FUNDING 2014/15**

The report sought approval for the allocation of funding from the Maintenance of Community Schemes Budget for 2014-2015.

The Community Schemes budget has been reduced to £252,000 for 2014/15 following Cabinet's approval of a virement from this budget to address an unavoidable additional cost pressure in respect of care home fees in the Directorate of Social Services. The proposed allocation of this budget results from proposals developed by the Officer Maintenance Group representing relevant functions from the Environment Directorate. These are laid out in more detail in the table in paragraph 4.5 of the report.

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 suggested allocation of the Community Schemes Budget as set out in paragraph 4.5 be approved.

**326. 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS: FORMER ALDI SITE, RHYMNEY**

The report sought approval for the demolition of the former Aldi store, Rhymney. The site was purchased in the summer of 2013 as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme in order to provide potential options for the redevelopment of the Upper Rhymney Primary School.

It was noted that the Upper Rhymney Primary School project cannot proceed until cost certainty has been established for the rest of the 3-18 Upper Rhymney Strategy. The site itself could still be included in a future options appraisal for the Upper Rhymney Primary development although early indications are that there may be size constraints in terms of using the site to develop a school.

The business rates liability for the former Aldi store in 2014-15 is £63,855. The cost of demolishing the building is estimated to be £50,000. This would render the site safe and remove the business rates liability.

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 former Aldi store building be demolished.

**327. PROPOSED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2015/16**

The Authority is required to carry out an annual consultation of its proposed Admission Arrangements. Members were informed that the only significant changes proposed for 2015/16 relate to Secondary School Rationalisation Phase 1 – Islwyn West (Page 11 of the appendix attached to the report).

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 changes to the Schools Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2015/16, as outlined in the appendix attached to the report, be approved.

**328. PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN (PIAP)**

The report outlined the progress made towards meeting the recommendations within the Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP).

The quality of Caerphilly Local Authority's education services for children and young people was inspected in July 2012 in accordance with section 38 of the Education Act 1997, the Children Act 2004 and the Learning and Skills Act 2000. Following publication of the report in November 2012, a PIAP was produced and sent to Estyn for approval. The plan was approved in March 2013 and progress has been reported to Members of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet since that time.

Following a monitoring visit in January 2014 to review progress, the inspectors have acknowledged that the Authority has moved swiftly to address the recommendations from the 2012 inspection and has demonstrated a strong commitment to improve its education services for children and young people. As a direct result of the judgements made, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is removing the local authority from further follow-up activity.

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 content of the report be noted.

**329. IMPROVING GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME UPDATE**

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

Members were advised that the majority of the actions resulting from the recommendations included in the original Public Interest Report have been completed. There are six outstanding but approaching completion. Significant progress has also been achieved in the additional areas of improvement identified by the Authority and included in the wider Improving Governance Programme.

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, Cabinet noted progress against the WAO Public Interest Report Action Plan and the wider Improving Governance Plan determined in April 2013 along with the action plans recently incorporated in the programme resulting from the recommendations included in the WAO Public Interest Report on Chief Officers Essential Car User and Annual Leave Allowances (December 2013) and the Special Inspection Report (January 2014).

**330. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - APRIL TO JUNE 2014**

Members' approval was sought on the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period April to June 2014.

It was noted that urgent and unanticipated reports could be added to the Work Programme if necessary.

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 Forward Work Programme as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

**331. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN SAVINGS - VANS AND TRAILERS AT CIVIC AMENITY SITES**

The report, which outlined proposals to achieve savings relating to vans and trailers using the Authority's Civic Amenity Sites, was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 1st April 2014. Whilst the Scrutiny Committee endorsed the majority of the recommendations in the report, an amendment to the recommendation to charge £35 for a small trailer was proposed. The Scrutiny Committee recommended that a reduced charge (suggestions ranged from £10.00 - £25.00) be introduced for smaller trailers eg 4ft x 3ft.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the proposed amendment from the Scrutiny Committee as referred to above, not be supported and the recommendations in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report and at the meeting, the recommendations set out at paragraph 4.2 in the report be approved.

**332. INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS, HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES**

The report summarised the background in respect of the need to provide interim arrangements and cover for Legal Services along with options in respect of a temporary solution.

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. The preferred option, as detailed in paragraph 4.5.1 (ii), to return to the substantive post holder's original portfolio i.e. Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer, be approved, with a further review of the service areas. The review will be undertaken once an interim appointment has been made and will take account options available across the Council.
2. The post as detailed in paragraph 4.5(ii) be advertised as soon as possible, internally in the first instance and then externally if an appointment cannot be made.
3. Any backfilling of vacancies that arise if an internal candidate is successful, be approved.
4. The use of the Corporate Services projected surpluses for 2013/14 to fund the suspended salary costs of the substantive post-holder for 2014/15 be approved.

The meeting closed at 2.36 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 16th April 2014.

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CHAIRMAN