



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2012 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs. G. Oliver - Mayor
Councillor D.M. Gray - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Miss. L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, Mrs. K.R. Baker, J. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs. A. Blackman, D. Bolter, Mrs. A. Collins, P. Cook, H.W. David, W. David, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, R.T. Davies, C. Durham, Mrs. D. Ellis, C. Elsbury, Mrs. C. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Mrs. J. Gale, L. Gardiner, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, Mrs. P. Griffiths, D.T. Hardacre, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, M.P. James, S. Jenkins, G. Johnston, Mrs. B.A. Jones, G. Jones, Ms. J.G. Jones, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs. R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, M.J. Prew, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, R. Saralis, Mrs. M.E. Sargent, Mrs. J. Summers, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

A. O'Sullivan (Chief Executive), N. Barnett (Deputy Chief Executive), S. Aspinall (Corporate Director - Education and Lifelong Learning), D. Perkins (Head of Legal Services and Governance), N. Scammell (Head of Corporate Finance), G. Williams (Principal Solicitor), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), P. Davy (Head of Programmes), S. Cousins (Chief Housing Officer), R. Kyte (Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning), R. Mathews (Communications and Engagement Manager - Housing), G. Hardacre (Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.P. Angel, Mrs. G. Bevan P.J. Bevan, D.G. Carter, C.J. Cuss, K. Dawson, N. Dix, Ms E. E. Forehead, D. Havard, C. Hawker, S. Kent, D.W.R. Preece, Mrs. D. Price, J.E. Roberts and A. Heaney (Corporate Director - Social Services).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors D. Bolter, Mrs. B. Jones and A. G. Higgs declared an interest in the item on Welsh Housing Quality Standard. The Head of Legal and Governance advised that Members who were council tenants would have a personal interest and as such would be required to declare an interest. However, subject to their rent payments being not more than two months in arrears they are able to take part in the debate and vote thereon.

3. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits that she and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting and made specific reference to her visit to Newbridge, a production of Calendar Girls at Blackwood Little Theatre, the presentation of the British Empire Medal to Mr. Owen Parfitt, the Proms in the Park in Caerphilly and the Tour of Britain.

She also made reference to the 65th anniversary concert of Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir, the TT event in Bargoed, the vigil to pray for April Jones held in St. David's Church, Rhymney and wished to highlight the event for the seven fire engines that were being taken to Serbia through the auspices of the South East Wales Fire Authority.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

4. Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative Award

Members were advised that Tyn y Wern Primary School have won the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative award for a project entitled 11.11.11. In 2011 the school received a war memorial plaque from the British Legion Club which was being closed down. This inspired a group of pupils to form a study group called '11.11.11 History Research Club' to find out more about the plaque. The pupils used the internet, examined photographs, school admission registers, artefacts, letters and newspapers. The plaque was restored and pupils organised a special unveiling ceremony which took place on 11th November 2011. The event was attended by over 50 guests including School Governors, British Legion Members, relatives of those listed on the plaque and members of the Western Front Association.

The Head Teacher, Mr. S. Noel, Mrs. Evans and pupils from the 11.11.11 History Club came forward and in recognition of their accomplishment, members wished to place on record their appreciation to all those involved in achieving the award.

5. Best Place to Work in the Public Sector/Gold Corporate Health Standard Award

Members were then advised that the Council has recently been presented with two important workplace awards. The first relates to the Sunday Times Best Companies and Accreditation Survey 2012 which was conducted by Best Companies Ltd and had resulted in the Council being awarded the accolade of 'One to Watch in 2012'. For the second award the Council was presented with the Gold Corporate Health Standard Award from Public Health Wales for the promotion of employee health and wellbeing to the workforce.

This national Quality Mark recognises the Council's commitment to sustainable health improvement by examining work being done to support staff under various health related measures including nutrition, physical activity, occupational health and the general health and wellbeing of employees.

Mr. G. Hardacre received the awards on behalf of the service and in recognition of the achievements Members wished to place on record their appreciation to all those involved in achieving the awards.

6. COUNCIL - 7TH AUGUST AND 26TH SEPTEMBER 2012

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

Council held on 7th August (minute nos. 1 - 13 on page nos. 1 - 5) and Special Council held on 26th September 2012 (minute nos. 1 - 9 on page nos. 1 - 4).

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following reports referred from Cabinet.

7. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2012

Cabinet considered the report at its meeting on 2nd October 2012 and endorsed the recommendations set out therein. The report sought agreement to adopt the report as the Council's formal LDP Annual Monitoring Report for 2012, to submit it to the Welsh Government in order to satisfy the Council's statutory requirements and to make the Council eligible to receive funding from Welsh Government's Planning Improvement Fund.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report the following recommendations from Cabinet be adopted:-

- (i) the Annual Monitoring Report be adopted as the Council's formal Annual Monitoring Report for 2012;
- (ii) the Annual Monitoring Report be submitted to the Welsh Government before 31st October 2012.

8. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) PROGRESS REPORT AND PRELIMINARY DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE

Cabinet considered the report at its meeting on 2nd October 2012 and endorsed the recommendations set out therein. The report provided Members with an update on the preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and sought approval for the rates which are to be included in the CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule to be used as a basis for public consultation and that the Draft Infrastructure List be used for public consultation.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report the following recommendations from Cabinet be adopted:-

- (i) the CIL rates contained within Schedule 1 be approved and included within the Caerphilly Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule as a basis for public consultation;
- (ii) the CIL rates contained in the Alternative Schedule (Part 1) be approved and included within the Caerphilly Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule as a basis for consultation;
- (iii) the Draft Infrastructure List be published as a basis for public consultation.

9. FINAL YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012

Cabinet considered the report at its meeting on 2nd October 2012 and formally endorsed the report prior to it being submitted to Council for acceptance. The report detailed progress made against the Council's 13 priorities over the 3-year duration of the Performance Report (formerly the Improvement Plan) and set out progress for the Improvement Objectives for 2011-2012.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report the recommendation from Cabinet that the Final Year Performance Report be adopted be endorsed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION - RECORDED VOTING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Consideration was given to the report which advised of the Notice of Motion that has been received requesting that *"This council approves that all votes undertaken in meetings at full council are recorded and published to show how each member has voted."*

Members were advised that in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and under R.15.4(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure a Member can request a recorded vote at a Council meeting and if the request is supported by nine other Members, the voting on any motion shall be recorded so as to show how each member present and voting gave his/her vote. Under R.15.5 of the Rules of Procedure Members also have the right to require that their individual vote on a particular motion is recorded in the minutes of Council.

It was moved and seconded that the Notice of Motion be supported.

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 15.4(1) a request was made for a recorded vote.

FOR THE MOTION

Councillors Miss L. Ackerman, Mrs. K.R. Baker, L. Binding, Mrs. A. Blackman, Mrs. A. Collins, C. Elsbury, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, Mrs. P. Griffiths, M.P. James, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, M.J. Prew, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, Mrs. M.E. Sargent, L.G. Whittle (18)

AGAINST THE MOTION

Councillors M. Adams, Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, J. Bevan, P. Cook, H.W. David, W. David, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, R.T. Davies, C. Durham, Mrs. D. Ellis, Mrs. C. Forehead, Mrs. J. Gale, L. Gardiner, N. George, C.J. Gordon, D.M. Gray, D.T. Hardacre, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, S. Jenkins, G. Johnston, Mrs. B.A. Jones, G. Jones, Ms. J.G. Jones, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, S. Morgan, Mrs. R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, K.V. Reynolds, R. Saralis, Mrs. J. Summers, J. Taylor, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt (38)

ABSTENTIONS

Councillors D. Bolter and Mrs. G. Oliver.

The motion was lost and as such the Notice of Motion was not supported.

11. PRESENTATION - WELSH HOUSING QUALITY STANDARD

Councillors D. Bolter, Mrs. B. Jones and A.G. Higgs declared an interest in this item (having a personal interest as council tenants). They remained in the Chamber in accordance with the advise of the Monitoring Officer.

The report and presentation outlined the development of the investment strategy and the proposals for achieving the Welsh Quality Housing Standard by 2019/2020.

Members were advised that since 2008 in excess of £30m had been spent on improvement works and this had been taken into account when establishing the starting point for 2012. The stock analysis showed that just under 4,000 homes required renewal of all four internal components (kitchen, bathroom, wiring and heating), 9310 required a new kitchen and around 8,250 homes required a new bathroom. The Council would need to budget around £200m from 2012 to 2019/20 and in excess of £800m over the life of the 30-year business plan.

Officers advised that tenants had been involved in the process through the Repairs and Improvement Group. They had explored the different elements of work that needed to be undertaken and the different combinations of renewals required at different properties. The key conclusions drawn were that all internal work should be done together as this would result in only one period of disruption inside the tenant's home and that there should be concurrent work within the three housing areas, so that all areas would see early benefit.

Members were advised that around 50% of the internal work would be allocated to the DLO, (with local sub-contractors supporting them) and 50% to contractors. A sequential approach would be taken to the internal and external works to ensure that they did not overlap. In this way when internal works were carried out in one area, external works would be carried out in another, sharing the benefits throughout the county borough.

It was proposed to procure a single source supply partner. This approach was felt to be essential for the effective co-ordination of supply arrangements. A single source supplier would enable a long-term relationship to be developed, helping to sustain local jobs and deliver wider community benefits. It would also ensure the standardisation of products and administratively would require only one monthly invoice. There would also be particular benefits for the DLO by having one supplier, as delivery arrangements direct to site would be part of the negotiations.

The internal and external components required, annual spend analysis and projections of how the programme would develop year-on-year were outlined. Members noted the procurement and tender process timeline and how the work would be spread amongst the different communities. The small lots exemption criteria was explained and Members were advised that this allowed the awarding of smaller contracts on a more limited tender basis. The use of the exemption would allow smaller businesses the opportunity to tender for WHQS work. In that a wide range of contracts will be available over the duration of the works it was noted that special pre procurement events are planned in October to allow interested firms to find out more.

Reference was also made to the funding provision and Mrs. Scammell explained that the business plan will be funded through a combination of general fund capital resources, prudential borrowing by HRA, HRA reserves, MRA and HRA revenue contribution to capital. She confirmed that the investment strategy has enabled a funding/borrowing profile to be developed to match work expenditure.

During the course of the ensuing debate clarification was sought on the procurement and contract structure and the tender exercise for businesses under the small lots exemption criteria was explained. Members were pleased to note the opportunities this would give to smaller companies.

With regards to tenant involvement Mr. Davy confirmed that the work-streams reflected the key issues raised by tenants during the consultation process and tenants continue to be actively involved. The first meeting of the Caerphilly Homes Task Group has taken place where both Councillors and Tenants representatives agreed to work together to ensure the programme commitments are delivered. Those representatives will continue to be involved in the decision making process and be part of the quality and contract monitoring process. A request was made that Members are kept up to date on progress and Mr. Davy advised that mechanisms would be put in place to ensure this happens

Reference was made to the wider community benefits including sustaining existing and creating jobs, offering skills development and training opportunities. Clarification was sought in terms of the wider regeneration benefits and initiatives the programme would bring. Members were advised that a formal work stream would be developed for Transforming Lives and Communities and as it evolves further details would be made available.

Members thanked Mr. Davy for his informative presentation and for responding to the queries raised and wished to place on record their appreciation to those who had brought both the report and presentation forward for information.

12. QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

Consideration was given to the following Questions submitted under Rule of Procedure 10(2). In accordance with the revisions to the constitution, the answers are also provided.

Recycling of Waste - to the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services from Councillor Mrs. A. Blackman.

In the press article below it states that Caerphilly CBC is sending its recycling to China. Is this true?

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2012/08/26/waste-collected-in-wales-is-being-sent-to-china-for-recycling-91466-31696739/>

If so, details are requested on the following:-

1. The year CCB Council started exporting its recycling waste?
2. Where and how are the Contracts publicised?
3. How long are the contracts for? 1 shipment or more?
4. What are the tonnages, costs, etc?

Response for the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services - Councillor D.V. Poole

No - Caerphilly County Borough Council sends its recyclables to Material Recovery Facilities in Cardiff and Bridgend who sort, bale and market/sell the end materials as appropriate.

Use of Webcam in the Council Chamber - to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Councillor Mrs. A. Blackman

Can the appropriate Cabinet Member and Officers advise if Council and its Committee Meetings can be made available to the public via Webcasts?
What would be the cost to initiate this service to the public?
How soon can it be implemented?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services - Councillor K.V. Reynolds

Initial discussions with potential suppliers indicate that a viable webcasting solution can be implemented at the cost of £12,500 - £13,000 per annum plus associated network costs of £1,200.

To expand the webcasting facility to other meeting rooms in Penallta House is estimated to cost an additional £8,000 - £9,000 per annum. These estimates are based on 60 hours of broadcast time per annum.

The timescale for the potential implementation of the webcasting solution would be dependent upon the current review of the audio visual system in the Council Chamber as the webcasting would have to integrate with the new infrastructure.

13. SENIOR REMUNERATION PANEL MINUTES - 5TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The minutes of the Senior Remuneration Panel Group held on 5th September 2012 were received and noted.

14. CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE (WHQS) - 12TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The minutes of the Cabinet Sub-Committee (WHQS) held on 12th September 2012 were received and noted.

15. GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY MINUTES - 28TH JUNE 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Gwent Police Authority held on 28th June 2012 were received and noted. No questions had been submitted relating to any matter referred to in the minutes.

The meeting closed at 7pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2012 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR