



NNDR CONSULTATION MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON MONDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY 2010 AT 5.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Taylor - Chairman
Councillor Mrs M. Sargent - Vice-Chairman

Together with:

S. Harris (Financial Services Manager, Social Services), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

Mr H. Powell, Risca Chamber of Trade

APOLOGY

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor C.P. Mann.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the meeting.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 - SECTION 65 - CONSULTATION WITH NON DOMESTIC RATEPAYERS

The meeting had been convened in accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to consult representatives of non-domestic ratepayers on the Council's draft revenue budget strategy for 2010/11.

A notice outlining the provisions of the Act and inviting non-domestic ratepayers to participate in the consultation process had been placed in the local press. Letters had also been sent to the local Chambers of Trade. Only one individual, Mr H. Powell, representing Risca Chamber of Trade, had contacted the Council as a result of the advertisement.

The Chairman thanked Mr Powell for his interest and welcomed him to the meeting. He then invited Mr S. Harris, Financial Services Manager, Social Services to outline the key financial pressures facing the Council in 2010/11. Mr Harris circulated copies of a summary of the Draft 2010/11 Budget Strategy setting out the following details: -

- Inescapable cost pressures
- Inescapable service pressures
- Income (from RSG/specific grants & Council Tax).
- Revenue contributions to capital programme
- Service area savings

It was noted that the Welsh Assembly Government's (WAG) settlement for the Caerphilly County Borough Council in 2010/11 was 2.28%. WAG had indicated that future years financial settlements would be significantly more challenging with the real prospect of negative settlement figures (i.e. cuts) in future years.

The proposals for 2010/11 contained in the report to Cabinet and Council on 25th February 2010 identified total additional expenditure requirements to be funded by a WAG uplift of 2.28% and a recommended Council Tax increase of 2.9%. The medium term financial strategy identified the need to reduce the Council's annual revenue budget by £25m from its current base by March 2015. Each directorate, as part of the medium-term financial strategy, had been asked to identify areas for cash savings of approximately £3.6m in order to offset growth requirements.

Mr Powell was invited to comment on the information received and to contact Mr Harris with any further queries he might have in relation to this matter in the future.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and contribution to the meeting and closed the meeting at 5.42 pm.