



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 18TH JUNE 2014

**SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE - CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report from Caerphilly CBC contains a digest of committee reports containing items of interest for the voluntary sector. If there are reports of particular interest Members can request the committee report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to prepare a further report/take questions.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A quarterly summary of Caerphilly CBC committee reports selected as they contain areas of interest for the voluntary sector.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 All Caerphilly CBC reports relate to aspects of the Caerphilly County Borough Community Strategy.

### 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The following reports have been selected as having particular interest on voluntary sector issues (note Members can request a full hard copy of any of the reports included):-

#### 4.2 CABINET – 16TH APRIL 2014

##### **YSTRAD MYNACH SPORTS COMPLEX - NAMING**

On 5th March 2014, Cabinet considered a report entitled "Ystrad Mynach Sports Complex - Allocation Criteria & Naming".

The facility will play a key role in encouraging participation in rugby and football while also ensuring that talented youngsters have the ability to progress in a competitive and representative environment, contributing to the National Strategy "Vision for Sport in Wales".

The previous report to Cabinet included 3 options that could be used for official signage, these were:-

- Ystrad Mynach Centre for Sporting Excellence – *reflects pursuit of Sporting Excellence.*
- Ystrad Mynach Sports Park – *commonly used term for this type of facility*

- Ystrad Mynach Performance Centre – *focus on performance but could be confused with arts performance.*

Since this report was considered, a further suggestion has been made to include the wider area in the name thus reflecting the fact that the facility will have an impact across the whole of the County Borough while also reflecting its main purpose. In this regard a further suggestion for a name has been made as “**Caerphilly County Borough Centre for Sporting Excellence**” (Welsh translation “**Canolfan Rhagoriaeth Chwaraeon Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili**”)

#### 4.3 CABINET – 2ND APRIL 2014

##### **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.

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. Resolved that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the former Aldi store building be demolished.

#### 4.4 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL - 10TH APRIL 2014

##### **SOLAR FLARES AND SEVERE SPACE WEATHER**

To provide Members of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel (SDAP) with information on the nature, occurrence and effect of solar flares and severe space weather, as requested at a meeting of the Panel.

Solar flares strongly influence the local space weather in the vicinity of the earth. They can produce streams of highly energetic particles in the solar wind. CME's can trigger geomagnetic storms that have been known to disable satellites and knock out terrestrial electric power grids for extended periods of time.

A well-documented 1989 storm had considerable impacts upon terrestrial infrastructure, most notably tripping the equipment protection relays of the Hydro-Quebec electricity network, resulting in loss of power for 9hrs across the Canadian province.

Space Weather Monitoring is critical to have forewarning of solar events as it enables engineering teams to go on standby and provide the context against which scientific advice and political decisions can be made.

##### **The risk posed by Severe Space Weather**

Each year the UK Government carries out a classified assessment of the risks of civil emergencies facing people in the UK and publishes its findings in the 'National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies' (NRR).

Members of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel to note the information provided on Solar Flares and Severe Solar Weather.

#### 4.5 EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 6TH MARCH 2014

##### **CAERPHILLY YOUTH SERVICE STRATEGY 2014-2019**

A report, which highlights the vision and 12 key priorities for the Youth Service for the forthcoming 5 years. The statutory Youth Service in Caerphilly currently engages over 70,000 young people predominantly between the ages of 10 to 19, which is equivalent to 20% of the population. Youth provision is managed and delivered by 31 full-time and 200 part-time staff, operating in up to 100 different locations, 28 of which are premises that house youth club provision. The current core budget is £1,637,309 and is innovatively matched by a range of external grants that total to £1,225,681. A review of the Youth Service was conducted in December 2012 by an independent contractor in order to identify good practice, areas for

improvement, opportunities for innovation and the potential risks associated with failing to ensure quality delivery.

**4.6 EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 8TH APRIL 2014  
REDUCED FUNDING FOR ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING 2014-2015**

Adult Community Learning is facing significant reductions to the budget in 2014/15 academic year. This report is to inform members of the current situation and a further report will be written as soon as more information is available from the Welsh Government and franchise partners. Current reduction in funding amounts to £134,552.

The service received confirmation from the Welsh Government in January 2014 of a 37.5% reduction totalling £161,430 for the Adult Community Learning (ACL) grant in the financial year 2014/15. Following discussions with the WG this amount was revised to a reduction of £108,158. This will allow us to deliver the planned term 3 provision from April to July 2014.

The Senior Community Education Manager is currently working with finance to look at the budget to identify savings and is working with managers of the service regarding programme planning for 2014/15 against this reduced budget. This includes use of premises, staffing requirements, full cost recovery courses for learners who do not fit into the WG's priority sectors and how to ensure provision for older and ILS learners.

**4.7 REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 18TH FEBRUARY 2014**

Members queried the future of the South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA) and it was confirmed by the Cabinet Member that this organisation would be disbanded in the coming months. Concerns were raised that this would affect future transport network planning within the area. The Cabinet Member confirmed that a replacement organisation was due to be established shortly, with the intention that the collaborative work of local authorities be continued. It was also confirmed that a report would be presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee in the near future regarding this issue.

**4.8 GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL MINUTES - 18TH MARCH 2014**

**Applications for Financial Assistance: Panel Awards**

Members were asked to consider the applications and to make appropriate recommendations to the Acting Head of Corporate Finance for approval.

Recommended that the following applications for financial assistance be referred to the Acting Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers:-

- (a) Friends of Blackwood Communication Group £200.00
- (b) Bedwas Writers Circle £100.00
- (c) Rhymney Ladies Flower Guild £100.00
- (d) Pontlottyn Art Group £100.00
- (e) Tabernacle Baptist Church, Newbridge £250.00
- (f) Bargoed & District Art Society £100.00
- (g) Home Start Caerphilly £500.00
- (h) Penuel Chapel, Rhymney £250.00
- (i) The Zone £200.00
- (j) Blackwood Little Theatre £500.00
- (k) Oakdale Racing Pigeon Club £200.00
- (m) Nelson Cavaliers Football Team £100.00
- (n) McClaren FC £100.00

Recommended that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the following application for financial assistance be deferred, pending the receipt of further information:-

- (a) Help Us 2 Help Africa

Recommended that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the following applications for financial assistance be refused:-

- (a) Caerphilly & District Twinning Association
- (b) Phoenix Club

#### **4.9 CABINET MINUTES - 30TH APRIL 2014**

##### **Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy**

The report had been presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 15th April 2014. The views of the Scrutiny Committee were reported to Cabinet.

At the Cabinet meeting on 16th October 2013 Members took the decision to introduce a moratorium on selective Home Improvement Grants whilst officers carried out a review of the Authority's Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy. The report outlines the findings of the review and offers a number of options for Members' consideration.

It was noted that Welsh Government is developing a private sector housing loans scheme that should be made available for use by Welsh Local Authorities during the summer. The current proposals indicate that local authorities will be afforded flexibility in the manner that these loans can be delivered and that any Private Sector Housing Renewal Policies may be tailored to utilise the national scheme in a manner as best befits local needs. Further details will be included in a future report to Members and if endorsed will form an intrinsic part of the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy.

#### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Equalities implications have been taken into account for a number of reports submitted to Cabinet and other committees.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None, this is an information paper only on the contents of Caerphilly CBC reports which contains items of interest for the Voluntary Sector Committee.

#### **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None arising.

#### **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 Not applicable.

#### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Members are invited (if they feel appropriate) to select any report for further consideration by the Committee by requesting the report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to take questions/prepare another report.

#### **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To ensure Members are fully briefed on items of interest for the Voluntary Sector.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

### **11.1 Local Government Act 2000.**

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