



## **CABINET**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor K.V. Reynolds - Chair

**Councillors:**

Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager), N. George (Community and Leisure Services), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), Mrs B. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services), R. Passmore (Education and Lifelong Learning), D.V. Poole (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering).

**Together with:**

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), C. Harrhy (Corporate Director Education and Community Services)

**Also in Attendance:**

D.A. Thomas (Senior Policy Officer (Equalities & Welsh Language)) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor R. Woodyatt (Social Services)

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

**3. CABINET – 1ST JULY 2015**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 5) be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED**

### **4. APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT SNOWDON CLOSE, RISCA**

The report sought approval to appropriate land at Snowdon Close, Risca (as shown on the plan accompanying the report) from informal leisure purposes to planning purposes.

Having considered the report and advice from the Head of Legal Services, and in noting the receipt of an application for a village green, the report was withdrawn, for consideration at a later date.

RESOLVED that the report be withdrawn, for consideration at a later date.

### **5. WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS – FINAL CONSULTATION**

The report afforded Members an opportunity to consider and comment on the Standards within the draft Compliance Notice received from the Welsh Language Commissioner on 22nd June 2015. It also sought to delegate powers to the Acting Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, to agree the full response to be submitted by the consultation deadline of 20th July 2015.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 aims to modernise the legal framework regarding the use of the Welsh Language in the delivery of public services and makes provision for the specification of standards of conduct. This replaces the system of Welsh Language Schemes under the previous Welsh Language Act 1993.

The Council previously responded to consultation on the proposed standards in 2014 and has now received the Compliance Notice in accordance with Section 47 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The Compliance Notice shows the standards that will apply to the Council and gives timescales for implementation.

Cabinet noted a briefing paper which outlined details of changes made to standard categorisation since the circulation of the original report, based on information and evidence received from services. Members were invited to make any comments or feedback before Monday 20th July 2015, to include in the response to the Welsh Language Commissioner. The response will focus upon the Standards which are not reasonable or proportionate and those which require longer timescales.

Members thanked the Officer for the report and considerable work and effort that has been input by the staff and a Member requested further information to be provided on the changes.

Members expressed concerns for the substantial financial implications for meeting some of the standards, such as Standard 41, which required that all agendas, minutes and other papers made available to the public are produced in Welsh. It was noted that, in conjunction with the implementation of a number of other standards, the cost to the authority could reach over a £1million. Members were assured that any concerns, including substantial financial implications and staff cost and time would be included in the response document.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the officer's report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report: -

- i. the submission of the response to the Welsh Language Commissioner including agreement to Standards highlighted in green with "Y" and objection to Standards highlighted in red with a "N" on the grounds that they are disproportionate be approved.

- ii. the Acting Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services be delegated to agree the final response, using the template provided by the Welsh Language Commissioner, along with supporting evidence, by 20th July 2015.

The meeting closed at 2.32pm

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 29th July 2015.

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CHAIR