



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.

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), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering) and R. Woodyatt (Cabinet Member for Social Services).

Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), C. Harray (Corporate Director Education and Community Services), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151).

Also in Attendance:

O. Ashton (RDP Delivery Manager), S. Couzens (Chief Housing Officer), P. Elliott (Head of Regeneration and Planning), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property Services), D. Lucas (Principal Planner), R. Roberts (Performance Manager) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor D.V. Poole (Cabinet Member for Housing).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. CABINET – 2ND SEPTEMBER 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 5) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

4. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RDP) FUNDING 2014 – 2020

The report provided Cabinet with an update on the Rural Development Programme (RDP) and sought the endorsement for the commencement of the RDP within Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent County Boroughs.

Members noted that since the Cabinet meeting on 12th November 2014, amendments have been made following requests for further information and confirmation has been received from Welsh Government that it has met the required quality threshold. The Welsh Government has approved the Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Local Action Group (LAG) status including Caerphilly County Borough Council as the 'Administrative Body'. The European Commission has formally approved the Welsh Governments Wales RDP Programme and formal Funding approval letters have been received from the Welsh Government confirming that the LEADER budget allocation for the RDP in Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent County Boroughs is £2,642,994.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the commencement of the RDP Programme in Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent CBs be endorsed.

5. PROPOSED INSPECTION PROGRAMME FOR COUNCIL PROPERTIES

The report, which proposed the introduction of regular property and tenancy inspections for Caerphilly Homes, was considered by the Caerphilly Homes Task Group on 17th September 2015 and Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 14th July 2015.

The report outlined the existing inspection arrangements and considered the option of introducing more formal arrangements for regular property and tenancy inspections for Caerphilly Homes. It highlighted the potential benefits of a regular inspection programme to both tenants and Caerphilly Homes, the need for a structured approach and the proposed procedure to be implemented. Full details of the proposals were appended to the report.

Members noted that some tenant representatives raised concerns for the privacy of tenants and the inspection programme and standards and were assured that the inspections would be conducted by a variety of existing officers including Tenancy Enforcement Officers and Estate Management Officers, as part of their normal role and are intended to ensure that properties are being maintained to an acceptable standard, and identify any tenancy related issues, such as Health and Safety, Mental Health and Child Protection and signpost for support where required.

Following consideration of the report, and in taking into account the views of the Caerphilly Homes Task Group and Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed:-

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report:

- (i) regular property inspections be introduced for all Caerphilly Homes tenants, as per the proposed procedure outlined in section 4.4 of the Officers report;
- (ii) implementation of the proposal be reviewed, and further annual reports be submitted to the Caerphilly Homes Task Group, in order to monitor progress and evaluate the success of the procedure.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

6. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

The report, which was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 15th September 2015, sought the approval of Cabinet of the Annual Monitoring Report prior to its presentation to Council and outlined the findings and recommendations of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) 2015 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

Members were asked to note the overview of the LDP Monitoring Data for the 2015 AMR, which provided an insight into the implementation of the LDP over the monitoring period. For the first time, the AMR also provided information on the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which was introduced on 1st July 2014.

The 2015 AMR concluded that substantial progress has been made in implementing the LDP up to 2021. However, the 2013 AMR triggered the first review of the LDP in October 2013 as a result of these findings, and these issues remain the same for the 2015 AMR. The lack of a five-year supply is a matter of concern that needs to be addressed, as evidence indicates that it is unlikely that this position will improve in the next few years. There could be a need to release limited greenfield sites in the short term to address the supply issue. The review of the LDP will further address the land supply issue through the allocation of sites that are capable of being delivered in viable parts of the county borough.

The 2015 Annual Monitoring Report recommendations are as follows:-

- R1 The 2015 Annual Monitoring Plan has indicated that substantial progress has been made over the plan period in implementing the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021.
- R2 The 2015 Annual Monitoring Report has indicated that there is a continuing need to release limited greenfield sites in the short term to address the lack of a five year housing land supply.

Following consideration of the report, and in taking into account the views of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet noted the findings of the 2015 Annual Monitoring Report and the implications of the recommendations detailed therein. It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Council that for the reasons contained in the Officers report: -

- (i) the findings of the 2015 Annual Monitoring Report and the implications of the recommendations contained therein be noted;
- (ii) the 2015 Annual Monitoring Report be approved;
- (iii) the 2015 Annual Monitoring Report be submitted to the Welsh Government before the deadline of 31st October 2015.

7. BUTE TOWN CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL AND CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN (CAA AND CAMP) FINAL DRAFT 2015

The report, which was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 15th September 2015, sought the views and support of Cabinet on proposals to adopt the Bute Town Conservation Area Appraisal and Conservation Area Management Plan 2015

(CAA and CAMP) as supplementary planning guidance to the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP), prior to consideration by Council.

Members were advised that Bute Town was first designated a Conservation Area on 20th October 1972. An Article 4 Direction for Bute Town has also been in place since 23rd April 1979. As a consequence of work associated with the bid for Heritage Lottery Funding for Bute Town, the Conservation Area has been reassessed, and on 11th February 2015 the Planning Committee resolved to extend and re-align the Conservation Area. They further resolved to replace the Article 4 Direction with a new, extended Article 4(2) Direction boundary, for the proper and sustainable management of the historic environment.

A Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAA and CAMP) for Bute Town has now been produced which reflects the updated Conservation Area Boundary, and approval is sought to adopt this as supplementary planning guidance to the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP). As this will supersede existing guidance, approval is also sought for the current 'Bute Town Conservation Area Design Guide' and 'Bute Town Conservation Area Enhancement Plan (August 2005)' to be consequently cancelled.

Following consideration and discussion, It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Council that for the reasons contained in the Officers report: -

- (i) the Bute Town Conservation Area Appraisal and Conservation Area Management Plan 2015 (CAA and CAMP) be formally adopted as supplementary planning guidance to the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP);
- (ii) the 'Bute Town Conservation Area Design Guide' and 'Bute Town Conservation Area Enhancement Plan (August 2005)' be consequently cancelled.

8. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014/15

The report sought the views of Cabinet on the Authority's Annual Self-Assessment called the Performance Report for 2014/15, prior to its presentation to Council on the 6th October 2015.

The Performance Report is a statutory requirement under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and an important part of the Council's Performance Framework. The Council is required to assess its own performance and provide the public with a balanced picture of that performance.

In addition, the report highlighted how the council performed against the Improvement Objectives it set itself for 2014/2015. Members noted that the report referred to 5 Improvement Objectives, however there are 6 Improvement Objectives set by the Authority, of which, 4 have been successful and 2 have been partially successful, with only 1 being carried forward to 2015/16. Overall, it was noted that there is a mixed picture of performance across the Local Authority and against All Wales data, with some areas performing exceptionally well and others in need of further improvement.

Members discussed the report and noted a number of indicators in which Caerphilly CBC are 1st in Wales. Clarification was sought on an indicator in which there was a low percentage but was ranked to be 1st in Wales. Officers confirmed that this was a reverse indicator in which the lower the percentage, the better the performance.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the detailed report and extended their gratitude and commendation to the Performance Management Unit, and all staff across the Authority, involved in this piece of work.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Council that for the reasons contained in the Officers report, the Annual Performance Report 2014/15 be accepted.

The meeting closed at 2.38pm

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 14th October 2015.

CHAIR