



SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Gardiner - Mayor
Councillor Mrs D. Price - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:-

M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, L. Binding, Mrs A. Blackman, Mrs. P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, H.R. Davies, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, Mrs C. Forehead, Miss E. Forehead, Mrs J. Gale, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, K. James, G. Johnston, Ms J.G. Jones, Miss L. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs. G. Oliver, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, R. Saralis, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, Mrs J. Summers, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), C. Harry (Corporate Director - Communities), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), P. Elliott (Head of Regeneration and Planning), R. Kyte (Team Leader - Strategic and Development Plans), A. Price (Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Interim Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be made publically available in live and archive form via the Council's website. He advised that decisions would be made by show of hands.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss L. Ackerman, A.P. Angel, Mrs K.R. Baker, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, D. Bolter, D.G. Carter, W. David, D.T. Davies, K. Dawson, C. Durham, J.E. Fussell, Mrs P. Griffiths, G.J. Hughes, Mrs B.A. Jones, Mrs R. Passmore, A. Rees, J.E. Roberts, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds and D. Street (Director of Social Services).

3. BEREAVEMENT - COUNCILLOR GINA BEVAN

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Councillor Mrs Gina Bevan and all present stood in silence as a mark of respect and extended their condolences to the bereaved family. Several Members referred to the late members long and distinguished career in local government with Caerphilly County Borough and paid tribute to the manner in which she had carried out her duties during her years of office and to the high esteem in which she had been held by Members, Officers and the community she represented.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

5. REPORT REFERRED FROM CABINET

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the report which has been considered by the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 15th September 2015 and Cabinet on 30th September 2015 and, as there had been a number of representations made by Members which required further information, had been deferred at Council 6th October 2015.

R. Kyte (Team Leader - Strategic and Development Plans) gave an overview of the Local Development Plan monitoring data for the 2015 AMR which provides an insight into the implementation of the LDP over the monitoring period. She advised that the Council formally adopted the current LDP in November 2010 and there is a statutory obligation on the Council to produce an annual monitoring report every year which is required to be submitted to Welsh Government by the 31st October 2015. Members were advised that this is the fourth AMR for the Local Development Plan. The 2013 AMR triggered the review of the plan and progress has been made on the review to date. Notwithstanding the fact that the plan is being reviewed, there is still a requirement to produce an annual monitoring report. The 2015 AMR once again looks at progress and concludes that substantial progress has been made in implementing the adopted Local Development Plan up to 2021.

It was noted that there are a number of issues that remain of serious concern, the most notable one of which is the lack of 5 year housing land supply. Members were reminded that the Council is required to maintain a 5 year housing land supply, and at present, there is only a 1.9 years land supply identified.

R. Kyte then made reference to the recommendations outlined in the annual monitoring report:-

Recommendation 1 - The 2015 AMR has indicated that substantial progress has been made over the planned period in implementing the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021.

Recommendation 2 - The 2015 AMR has indicated that there is a continuing need to release limited greenfield sites in the short term to address the lack of a 5 year housing land supply.

It was moved and seconded that recommendation 1 be accepted and that recommendation 2 be amended to read 'The 2015 AMR has indicated that there is a continuing need to address the lack of a 5 year housing land supply'.

It was requested that an additional recommendation be included - *Recommendation 3 - 'That the Council endeavours to prepare the replacement Local Development Plan in a timely manner and in doing so undertakes full consultation with the residents of the County Borough'*. The mover of the motion agreed to incorporate this additional recommendation within his motion and this was subsequently seconded and agreed.

Discussion then ensued on the content of the report and Members were reminded that the preparation of the annual report is a statutory requirement. Queries were raised in relation to concerns in the local community of building on green field sites, the impact of house building on a community, the effects on the infrastructure, the proposals of Welsh Government for extra homes in Wales over the next 10 years, the potential of using brownfield sites rather than greenfield sites and to the withdrawal of land reclamation scheme grants. With regards to the latter it was suggested that the South East Wales region make representations to the Welsh Government that incentives are given towards the reclamation of brownfield sites. It was noted that this has been raised on many occasions and will continue to be so.

R. Kyte advised that the report relates to the AMR and that many of the issues raised require debate as part of the review of the LDP which will be presented to Members in the new year. She advised that there have been 200 sites submitted for consideration as part of the review process and that all have to be assessed against the assessment criteria whether they are greenfield or brownfield sites. Officers are minded to allocate brownfield sites where they are available and this will be enshrined in the plan going forward. However, there are insufficient brownfield sites and the release of greenfield sites will need to be considered. With regards to planning applications, it is not possible to prevent anyone submitting an application on any piece of land. The authority is duty bound to consider such applications in accordance with the development plan and taking into account all other planning material considerations.

Members were assured that the review of the LDP will be an inclusive and open process and that any sites proposed by speculators and developers for consideration will be subject to stringent consultation and only those considered viable and acceptable will be taken forward as part of the LDP consultation process. As such, all residents will be requested to express their views as part of the consultation process which will take place in the new year.

After due deliberation the motion was put in that recommendation 1 of the AMR be accepted, recommendation 2 be amended to read *'The 2015 AMR has indicated that there is a continuing need to address the lack of a 5 year housing land supply and an additional recommendation be included - That the Council endeavours to prepare the replacement Local Development Plan in a timely manner and in doing so and it takes full consultation with the residents of the county borough'*. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the findings of the 2015 Annual Monitoring report and the implications of recommendation 1, amended recommendation 2 and additional recommendation 3 as follows be noted:-

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 address the lack of a five year land supply.

R3 The Council endeavours to prepare the replacement LDP in a timely manner and in doing so undertake full consultation with residents of the county borough.

- (ii) subject to the foregoing, the 2015 Annual Monitoring Plan be approved;
- (iii) the 2015 Annual Monitoring Plan be submitted to Welsh Government before the deadline of 31st October 2015.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2015 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR