



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor K.V. Reynolds - Chair

Councillors:

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), 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) and R. Woodyatt (Social Services).

Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), C. Harry (Corporate Director - Communities), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer).

Also in Attendance:

Councillor N. Dix and C. Hawker.

K. Cole (Chief Education Officer), P. Elliot (Head of Regeneration and Planning), C. Jones (Head of Property and Performance) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from D. Street, Corporate Director - Social Services.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T. Williams declared an interest in Agenda item 5 – Notice of Motion – Land Adjacent to Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre. Details are minuted with the respective item.

3. CABINET – 11TH NOVEMBER 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 8) be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. CABINET AS TRUSTEES CWMCARN COTTAGE HOSPITAL FUND – 11 NOVEMBER 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 3) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

5. NOTICE OF MOTION – LAND ADJACENT TO CEFN FFOREST LEISURE CENTRE

Councillor T. Williams declared an interest in this item, due to previous opposition of the application for the sale of land, and left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillor C. Hawker, local ward Member, attended to speak on this item.

The report provided details of a Notice of Motion, received from Councillors J. Jones, C. Hawker, N. Dix, P. Cook, A. Rees, C. Durham, R. Saralis and J. Summers, in relation to the sale of land adjacent to Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre, which was presented to, and supported by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 10th November 2015.

Members considered the following Notice of Motion:

“That a previous decision of Cabinet to dispose of land that once formed a part of Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre be withdrawn from sale with immediate effect on the basis that such a sale will pit this piece of land at a disadvantage under a forthcoming Strategic Review of Leisure Centres”.

Cabinet noted the concerns raised by the Scrutiny Committee and the local ward Member for the area in respect of the proposed sale, the impact of any sale on parking availability and the benefits in retaining the land for use by the leisure centre.

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

For the reasons outlined at the meeting, Cabinet RESOLVED to proceed with the disposal of the land.

6. RISCA – TESCO SECTION 106 OPTIONS REPORT

The report provided Cabinet with the options available to the Council in utilising Section 106 (S106) Monies, set aside to develop a footbridge from the large Tesco store to Risca town centre.

In 2010 planning permission was granted for the erection of a new Tesco superstore in Risca. The planning permission was granted subject to a S106 legal agreement that required six obligations summarised below:-

- Town Centre Contribution (to build a footbridge linking the Tesco store with the town centre and east sides of the river) - £425,000 received and currently held in an account.
- Public Art Contribution - £45,000 – received and spent.
- Council Administration Costs - £15,000 – received and currently held in an account.
- Stopping up Contribution (to close a former right of way) - £2,500 – received and spent.

- Legal Costs to Council - £5,750 – received and spent.
- To occupy the “Express Store” within the town (Palace Cinema) – Leased and occupied.

It was noted that, as per obligation 1, the Council were required by Tesco’s to build a pedestrian footbridge. Due to numerous obstacles this bridge is still to be developed and the Council now need to decide on the feasibility/viability of the scheme in the timeframe that remains for providing it.

The report outlined 2 options for the use of the monies, which would satisfy the terms of the Section 106 Agreement. The report recommended the implementation of Option 2, due to the time constraints and the onerous legal issues surrounding the bridge. A number of projects have already been identified which could benefit from the S106 monies.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and, in supporting the recommendation, requested that consultation be conducted with Local Members and proposals be presented to Cabinet for consideration prior to implementation.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Officers 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 and proposed at the meeting:

- (i) option 2 be pursued in order to best utilise the S106 monies (Utilise Section 106 monies for improvements to Risca Town Centre);
- (ii) consultation be undertaken with Ward Members and a further report be presented Cabinet on these proposals.

7. THE PROCESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY (LA) GOVERNORS

The report provided a proposal for the implementation of a process for the recruitment and removal of Local Authority (LA) governors.

Currently, Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) has the highest percentage of vacancies for LA governors within the South East Wales Consortium (SEWC). It is important that competent, committed LA governors are recruited so that schools can function effectively.

The report recommended that, in order to support the recruitment of LA governors, an Advisory Panel for appointments be established and, whilst considering appointments, the Advisory Panel and Chief Education Officer consider the appointment of local members wherever possible. In addition, applications can also be accepted from members of the Business Forum, Voluntary Sector and LA staff, subject to compliance with the set criteria.

It was noted that the role of the Advisory Panel would include the provision of advice to the Chief Education Officer on the removal of LA Governors. Disqualification of LA governors or any governors is dealt with under Schedule 5 of the 2005 Regulations.

Members thanked the Officer for the report and raised queries on the mandatory training requirement and the possible impact on Governor Resignations. The Officer explained that the training provided is a one-off mandatory training session, which is provided in the first year of the role.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Officers 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) a Local Authority (LA) Appointments Panel be established, as outlined the report;
- (ii) the process for LA Governor Recruitment and removal be approved.

The meeting closed at 2.29pm

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 9th December 2015.

CHAIR