



## **CABINET**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH 2016 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor K. V. Reynolds – Chair

#### **Councillors:**

N. George (Community and Leisure Services), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), B. Jones (Corporate Services), R. Passmore (Education and Lifelong Learning) and T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering).

#### **Together with:**

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

#### **Also in Attendance:**

M. Headington (Principal Officer: Outdoor Facilities and Bereavement Services), K. Cole (Chief Education Officer), L. Travis (Senior Community Education Manager), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), D.A. Thomas (Senior Policy Officer) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Forehead, D.V. Poole and R. Woodyatt.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R. Passmore declared an interest in the item relating to Outdoor Bowls Clubs, details are minuted with the respective item.

#### **3. CABINET – 17TH FEBRUARY 2016**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 8) be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

### **4. OUTDOOR BOWLS CLUBS**

Councillor R. Passmore declared an interest in this item (a family member is an employee at a Bowls Club within the Borough) and left the meeting during its consideration.

In July 2014, a report was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) proposals, in which one of the recommendations was the closure of six out of the twenty-one bowling greens managed by the Authority to achieve £100K financial savings (£50K in 2015/16 and £50K in 2016/17).

Members resolved that all clubs should be consulted and given the option to take up self-management. Officers and the Cabinet Member met with all clubs on the 17 October 2014 to set out the various proposals. It was agreed that officers would meet clubs on an individual basis, thereafter to discuss self-management. It was later resolved by Cabinet that the range of MTFP Budget Proposals be approved, including the rationalisation of bowling greens.

The report outlined that having held meetings with 35 clubs across the borough, the clubs were accepting of the proposals, which included proposals for clubs to undertake non-specialist maintenance and operations, for which an annual grant would be provided by the Authority, which will reduce per annum, and eventually result in the clubs being more self-sufficient.

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.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report: -

- (i) in noting that Bowling rationalisation was recommended and approved by Cabinet on the 14th October 2015, the implementation of self-management across the remaining 20 bowling greens within the county borough be approved;
- (ii) the proposals outlined in paragraphs 6.1 to 6.5 of the Report be approved, which will allow the Authority to achieve financial savings phased over the next 2 financial years;
- (iii) it be noted that, as set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report, users of the facility at Abertridwr Park have already indicated that they do not wish to be considered for self-management.

### **5. THE REGISTRATION OF PUPILS WHO ARE EDUCATED OTHER THAN AT SCHOOL (EOTAS)**

The report sought the approval of Cabinet of the process for the registration of pupils who are educated other than at school (EOTAS).

It was noted that the majority of pupils settle successfully in schools and make progress. However, a relatively small number of pupils across the authority have needs that cannot be met within a school setting. Some of these pupils are too vulnerable to cope with a school environment, whilst others present behaviours that are too challenging for a mainstream school.

The Local Authority (LA) has identified alternative provision for these pupils and organises and funds this. The pupils have remained on the roll of the main school but they have no interaction with it, so their registration becomes academic. It would be more reasonable for the pupils attending full time provisions to be registered at the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) which is the hub of the LA's EOTAS provision. A number of these pupils could return to education at school.

It was proposed that, where pupils are educated off site in full-time provision independent of the school, they will be registered at the PRU. This is because they have no meaningful contact with the school and often will never have done so. Where pupils in need of an alternative curriculum are educated through collaborative arrangements between schools, they should remain on their respective school roll.

Members thanked the Officer for the report and the extensive work input in order to achieve these recommendations. Officers highlighted that, whilst this may seem like a minor change, it forms part of a wider review of EOTAS provision, which aims to provide all pupils, regardless of ability with the opportunity to achieve their best.

A Member sought further information on the number of children now schooled at home. Officers highlighted there are currently 43 pupils being schooled at home, which has seen an increase since Christmas. Members were reassured that checks are conducted to ensure that pupils are being properly educated, and any safeguarding issues would be raised immediately with Social Services. In addition, it was noted that further checks are being conducted with these families to determine the reasons for leaving the Local Authority School System.

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.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report:

- (i) it be agreed that all pupils who receive full-time education provision away from the school site, be registered at the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU);
- (ii) where schools make local arrangements for alternative provision, pupils remain on their respective school rolls.

## **6. EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF) PROJECT: INSPIRE 2 WORK 2014-2020**

The report provided Cabinet with information on the current status of the Inspire 2 Work Project and sought approval for the use of earmarked reserves to be used for match funding for this operation.

Members noted that despite the recent upturn in the economy, unemployment and economic inactivity is still an issue for concern in the County Borough. Since 2013, Officers have participated in the development of regional proposals seeking to build on the success of employment support operations delivered under the 2007-13 ESF Programme, including Bridges into Work, Pre-Vent and Working Skills for Adults.

A number of operations have been approved by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) and others are at an advanced stage of development, nearing approval. Those approved include the WG led Communities4Work operation, that matches some of their investment in the Communities First Programme, with Communities First teams now supported to deliver employment support in the most deprived areas of Wales.

Inspire 2 Work is at advanced business plan stage, this operation focuses in the clearly identified need to address the issue of young people 16-24 who are NEET (not in employment, education or training). Members noted that at present, this operation has not yet been formally approved by WEFO. The Lead Sponsor on this project is Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

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 Officers report it be agreed that funding be utilised of up to £375k from the Authority's Training and Apprenticeship reserves to ensure that the Authority can be a Partner in the Inspire 2 Work project (subject to WEFO approval of the business case).

## **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

### **7. PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE: PONTLLANFRAITH HOUSE SITE**

The report sought to recommend to Council, the formal adoption of the Site Development Brief for the Pontllanfraith House Site as Supplementary Planning Guidance to both the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan and the Deposit Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2031.

Council has agreed the closure of Pontllanfraith House as a corporate office as part of its Medium Term Financial Plan. The offices have been vacated and the services previously provided from that office relocated to other corporate offices.

The site has therefore become surplus to requirements and it is proposed to offer the site for sale for residential development.

The report also outlined the progress made to date in structuring a Development Brief, including public consultation, and proposes to submit the Brief for adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance. The Guidance will be issued to potential developers who have interest in purchasing the site so that they may be advised of the council's ambitions for the site in planning terms.

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

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report, Council be requested to formally adopt the Development Brief for Pontllanfraith House Site as Supplementary Planning Guidance to both the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 and the Deposit Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2031.

### **8. STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN AND OBJECTIVES 2016-2020**

The report, which was presented to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 1st March 2016, sought the views of Members on the updated Strategic Equality Plan and Objectives 2016-2020 prior to its presentation at Council to seek approval for adoption as Council policy.

Members were advised that since April 2012, the Council has had in place a four-year Strategic Equality Plan alongside a Welsh Language Scheme in order to comply with statutory duties. These have been supported by a single operational document, the Equalities and Welsh Language Strategic Objectives and Action Plan. This operational document was created as the requirements of both statutory duties have many similar requirements in terms of implementation, so this unified action plan reduces duplication of actions and streamlines the implementation of both sets of duties.

All local authority Welsh Language Schemes come to a formal end in March 2016 due to the introduction of the new legislation and so as part of this policy update, the Council's Welsh Language Scheme document will be removed from the policy framework, so that actions within the Strategic Equality Plan, related to the new Welsh Language Standards, can replace it.

The Strategic Equality Plan has undergone relatively minor updates in order to reflect changes or to provide additional information only. The Objectives and Action Plan have been developed to take achievements and progress into account and to bring the document in line with the Welsh Language Standards. The main additions are sections on the Armed Forces Covenant and links to the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Equalities and Welsh Language issues (alongside Community Cohesion matters) form 3 of the 7 Well-being Goals within the Act.

Arising from discussion at the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and in noting that there were typographical errors that needed to be addressed, Cabinet were asked to note that Members had expressed a need for the Police to be included in the list of stakeholders listed against Objectives 3 and 7, and for this section to be extended to reflect the need for discussion between the Police and other stakeholders regarding such issues. A Member had also requested that the rights of children be reflected in the section of the Plan outlining the Human Rights Equality issue. Officers had confirmed at that time that these sections would be updated and expanded accordingly. In addition, it was noted that Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee had requested that the indicators within table at 3.2 of the Strategic Equalities Plan 2016 be revised to ensure clarity.

Cabinet, in noting the feedback from Policy and Resources Scrutiny, thanked the Officers for the extensive work to produce the document and following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that, subject to the proposed amendments, the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED that, subject to the suggested amendments proposed by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and for the reasons contained in the Officers report and outlined at the meeting, Council be requested to formally approve the Strategic Equality Plan and Objectives and Action Plan.

The meeting closed at 2.58pm

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 16th March 2016.

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CHAIR