



## **CABINET**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 30TH 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), D. Poole (Housing), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering) and R. Woodyatt (Social Services).

#### **Together with:**

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), N. Scammel (Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151) and D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services).

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

B. Hopkins (Assistant Director - Education), P. Davy (Head of Programmes), T. Shaw (Head of Engineering Services), C. Forbes – Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Forehead and C. Harry.

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

Councillor D.T. Hardacre declared an interest in item 4 (Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan), as Chairman of the Board but as it was a personal and not prejudicial interest, he was advised that there was no requirement to declare an interest.

#### **3. CABINET – 16TH MARCH 2016**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 8) be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

### **4. EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EAS) BUSINESS PLAN 2016 - 2017**

The report, which was deferred from the last Cabinet meeting for further information, provided Members with the South East Wales Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2016-2019, which sets out the priorities, programmes and outcomes to be achieved by the EAS on behalf of the South East Wales Consortium (SEWC), along side an updated Caerphilly CBC specific annexe.

SEWC is required to submit to the Welsh Government a three-year Business Plan that will be updated annually, which is set out in the WG's National Model for Regional Working. This is the third iteration of the plan first submitted in 2013. The plan covers the period 2016-2019.

The report highlighted the revised Regional Key Stage targets for 2016-2019, which are the outcome of detailed work in each school and are based on robust analysis of pupil level data for each cohort. The report detailed the long term regional priorities and how they will be delivered within the framework of the national context and the detailed programmes required in order to deliver the priorities.

Members were asked to approve the recommendation to endorse the EAS Business Plan, along with the revised information, and in addition requested 6 monthly monitoring reports be presented to Cabinet, in order to monitor progress.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that subject to the receipt of 6-monthly monitoring reports, 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: -

- (i) the EAS Business Plan be agreed;
- (ii) the Business Plan and Caerphilly CBC Schools progress be monitored on a six monthly basis.

### **5. PROPOSED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2017/2018**

The report, which was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on the 23rd February 2016, provided details of the consultation process on the Schools Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2017/2018, and sought approval of the proposed arrangements.

Members noted that annual consultation is conducted on the proposed Admission Arrangements, which included consultation with Members. Following consideration by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee, it was noted that there were no proposed changes to the Admission Arrangements for 2017/18 as attached in Appendix 1 of the scrutiny report.

Members noted the extent of the consultation which included all Headteachers, all Chairs of Governors and all neighbouring local authorities as well as Caerphilly County Borough Council's Admission Forum.

Having considered the report Cabinet sought additional information on the number of out of county appeals received to date. Officers highlighted that it is currently too early to provide these details as the letters of acceptance/rejections have recently been sent out. However, it was noted that 28 applications have been rejected for a Secondary School, the majority of which were out of county applications. In addition, Members noted that there have been

some Primary School rejections, the majority of which were due to out of county applications or if the school has been over subscribed, which is an issue for some schools within the borough.

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, the Proposed Admission Arrangements for 2017/2018 be agreed.

## **6. EDUCATION CAPITAL 2016/17**

The report, which was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on the 23rd February 2016, updated Members on the proposals for the 2016/17 Education Capital Programme.

The report outlined proposals for the allocation of the Education Capital Budgets for the 2016/17 financial year in the context of the 3 year Capital Programme 2016/17 – 2018/19. Members were advised that a sum of £2m toward electrical rewiring works in schools had been allocated from the agreed programme amount and the detailed proposals from the available residual capital budget were noted.

Members noted the comments of the Scrutiny Committee as detailed in the report and referenced the revenue/capital 50/50 budget and whether all bids received under this allocation could be accommodated. Officers confirmed that the budget could sustain all the bids received (assuming the £50,000 is allocated from LMS contingency) and if approved by Cabinet, works would commence within the first few months of the new financial year, subject to consultation with the schools and their individual works plan.

Cabinet noted that in addition to the recommendations, Members are also requested to agree the utilisation of £50,000 of LMS contingency funds to support 50/50 schemes, if required, as referenced in paragraph 4.12 of the report.

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, the Education Capital Budget for 2016/17 be utilised, as detailed therein.

## **7. STREET LIGHTING ENERGY SAVING PROPOSALS 2016-17**

The report provided Members with an explanation on the stages required to attain the projected Street Lighting Energy Savings (EN5) agreed at Cabinet (February 2015) as part of Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2015-16 and 2016-17, detailed the progress made so far and gave options for funding the savings from street lighting proposals 2016-17.

Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) has a current lighting stock of approximately 27,500 units, which have been subject to a number of energy saving measures (inter-urban part-night lighting, replacement of conventional bulbs with low-energy alternatives, dimming etc).

The MTFP 2015-16 EN5 saving looked for an energy saving of £450k over 2015-16, 2016-17 with the combination of an investment of £980k in LED replacement technology and the equipment required to part-night light enough urban lighting units to achieve all of this saving.

The LED technology element of this investment is currently being installed with between 8-9,000 lighting units converted to lower energy ratings by the planned end date of March 2016, realising £100k (in 2015-16) of the total £450k saving.

The target saving for the part-night lighting element of the MTFP 2015-16 EN5 (£450k) is £160k, this proposal has undergone an assessment process summarised in Section 5.3 of the report and detailed in Appendix B. The outcome being that it is achievable, but may have implementation issues as most are situated in urban areas. An alternative option to the £160k part-night lighting saving is to reduce the Lighting Maintenance Budget by this amount in 2016-17.

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) the preferred Street Lighting Saving, Option D – sourcing the whole saving from the Lighting Maintenance Budget (as outlined in Section 5.5 of the report) be agreed;
- (ii) part-night lighting be reviewed and considered as an option to form part of a future report to Cabinet on Investment Options for street lighting.

## **8. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDS - ADDENDUM**

The original report, which was considered by the Caerphilly Homes Task Group (CHTG) on 18th February 2016, outlined the proposal to absorb the WHQS Community Fund and Community Safety Fund into the Environmental Programme budget. The majority of the CHTG supported the recommendation to merge the funds. The report was presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 1st March 2016 together with the view of the CHTG. Although the recommendation for the merger of the funds was moved and seconded when the Committee voted there was a majority who did not support the recommendation.

Members noted that during the debate at Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, questions had been asked about the extent to which the funds had been promoted. The Community Improvement Fund has operated as a grant scheme and was available to constituted community organisations to submit applications for support up to a maximum of £5,000 for projects that would demonstrate community benefit to the tenants of the Council's homes. The availability of the grant scheme has been promoted on a regular basis in the tenant newsletters, articles were featured in two issues of Newsline and press releases were issued during 2013, 2014 and 2015. There has been a dedicated web page and publicity material has been distributed to promote the fund to community groups and partner agencies. The availability of the fund has been promoted at various events attended by Caerphilly Homes and through the corporate social media pages.

The Community Safety Fund has not operated as a grant scheme. This has been reliant on working across the Council organisation and with partner agencies to identify existing initiatives where there could be added value from a WHQS financial contribution.

The funds have operated over the last 3 financial years and given the low take up it is felt that a different approach is now warranted. It remains the Officers' view that the amalgamation of the separate budgets within the WHQS Environmental Programme will enable a greater impact to be achieved. This will enable a more strategic and cohesive approach to be undertaken by having one programme focussed on the environmental improvement of the Council's housing estates. This will also enable staff time to be better focussed on the main environmental programme rather than promoting and administering small separate budgets.

The original report stated that this change of approach would not preclude projects that might have been considered under the two separate funds. There will be the opportunity for project proposals to come forward through the consultation process with residents on specific housing estates as the environmental programme is developed and taken forward.

The two funds were established with a five year commitment. If the recommendation is agreed the main environmental budget would be increased by £200,000.

Notwithstanding that the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee did not support the recommendation Officers remain of the opinion that a more effective impact could be achieved by amalgamating the remaining financial commitment of the two separate funds (Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund) within the main WHQS Environmental Programme budget.

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 and notwithstanding that the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee did not support the recommendations, it be agreed that the remaining financial commitment of the two separate funds (Community Improvement Fund and Community Safety Fund) within the main WHQS Environmental Programme budget be amalgamated.

## **9. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The report sought the approval and endorsement of Cabinet of the Forward Work Programme for the period April 2016 to June 2016.

The report outlined the proposed Forward Work Programme for future Cabinet reports, which is updated on a monthly basis to reflect any amendments that are made to it since it was first agreed. In addition, Members were asked to note the revised format of the Forward Work Programme, which provided a detailed summary of the reports, which has been provided as a result of a recommendation following the Scrutiny Review.

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, the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, in its revised format, be agreed.

## **10. GWENT FRAILTY PROGRAMME – REVISED SECTION 33 AGREEMENT**

The report sought Cabinet endorsement of the proposed revisions to the Section 33 (Health Act 1999) partnership agreement between Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the five local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen in respect of the Gwent Frailty Programme.

It was noted that the revised section 33 has to be agreed by all partners by the 31st March 2016. Unfortunately, the discussion to formulate the new Section 33 have taken a long time to conclude. The proposed changes do not significantly change the existing Agreement and given the fact that the new Agreement needs to be in place as soon as possible this report will not be presented formally to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

The Gwent Frailty Programme (GFP) is a transformational programme between the five neighbouring local authorities in the former Gwent area and Aneurin Bevan University Health

Board (ABUHB). Its aim is to provide services to frail people across the area in a way that is person centred and focused on the needs of individuals, rather than organisations. It is regarded by the Welsh Government as one of Wales' iconic projects, and has been backed by repayable Invest to Save funding of £6.3 million from Welsh Government.

The GFP has been developed in recognition that many aspects of historic models of health and social care provision are unsustainable and that more effective whole system working is necessary to address increasing demand for services which meet frail individuals' needs.

The formula for the repayment of Invest to Save funding was in simple terms based on the anticipated savings each of the partners could receive from the investment in alternative models of care. For local authorities savings were expected to be in terms of reduced packages of care and care home beds. For ABUHB savings were expected from reductions in bed day usage.

By the end of the 2015/16 financial year it is anticipated that the Invest to Save funding will be exhausted and while an independent review of the GFP concluded that cost avoidance could be evidenced, cash releasing savings were unlikely due to demographic changes and increased demand for health and social care.

The conclusions from this independent review undertaken by Cordis Bright coupled with the unfavourable economic climate for public sector organisations has prompted partners to review their commitment to the GFP and reconsider how the programme should be funded moving forward. This in turn has necessitated a review of the Section 33 partnership agreement.

A proposed revised agreement has been agreed by the Gwent Frailty Joint Committee (GFJC) comprising of Cabinet/Executive Members for social services for each of the local authorities and an independent member of ABUHB and was attached as an Appendix to the report.

Members discussed the report and sought further information on Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC). It was noted that these figures are increasing, and a difficult period has been evident since January, with no solution to the issue at present. A significant amount of staff time is being spent on the issue in order to consider a solution and the impact on services.

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, the revised Section 33 Agreement, as recommended by the Gwent Frailty Joint Committee be agreed.

The meeting closed at 2.47pm

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 13th April 2016.

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CHAIR