



## **CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH JULY 2016 AT 2.00 PM**

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PRESENT:

Councillor K.V. Reynolds - Chair

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead, N. George, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, K. James, D.V. Poole, T.J. Williams and R. Woodyatt

Together with:

C. Harry (Corporate Director Communities), N. Scammell, (Interim Director of Corporate Services), L. Donovan (Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer)

Trade Union Representatives:

J. Garcia (Unison) and D.A. Williams (Unite)

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

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs B. Jones, C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), S. Brassine (UCATT), G. Enright (UNISON), N. Funnell (GMB) and R. Munn (Unite).

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

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

#### **3. CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 20TH APRIL 2016**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee held on 20th April 2016 (minute nos. 1-8) be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. CONSULTATION BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

Mr Garcia highlighted that there was no Head of Service present at the last meeting of the Health and Safety Joint Consultative Committee. Officers explained that there have been some changes to the portfolios of Heads of Service and that a review of the membership would be conducted and updated as appropriate.

Mr Garcia, in noting the recent announcement that Cwmcarn High School intends to close, highlighted that there was no communication to the Unions prior to letters being sent to students and parents, however, since this time, communication has improved. Councillor K. James, local ward Member explained that there was very little correspondence or communication from the Governing Body about this decision and it came as a shock to all.

#### **6. COLLABORATION**

Councillor D.V. Poole provided the Committee with an update on the developments towards the implementation of a Corporate Housing Register. It was noted that the software has been purchased and work is under way to populate and test the software, with the intention that the system go live in November. The Committee noted that the system aims to open up the Social Housing Market for prospective tenants by bringing together all available houses from the Council, Wales and West, United Welsh Housing Association and Charter to one place and reduce the number of applications to be completed. Members were reassured that rigorous testing is being conducted at each phase to ensure that the system is robust.

Councillor K. Reynolds asked for it to be noted that the Local Development Plan (LDP) had now been withdrawn and consideration is underway with a number of Authorities to provide an Strategic Development Plan (SDP) instead. Merthyr and RCT have already expressed an interest in collaboration.

N. Scammell provided the Committee with an update on the Outline Business Case for the proposal in respect of Caerphilly CBC's IT Service joining with SRS a Joint Committee of Local Authorities and Gwent Police. Members noted that the process has been delayed until the end of September pending further information.

The Leader, Councillor K. Reynolds provided the Committee with an update on City Deal, which involves a collaboration of 10 Local Authorities across South East Wales. Work is currently underway and it is hoped that a formal deal will be agreed by the end of the calendar year. Following the signing of the deal, works will commence in order to develop a number of projects as a result. The aim of the City Deal is to provide more transport links as well as more jobs and economic prospects across the South Wales Valleys and Cardiff, thus assisting with growth.

#### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor D.V. Poole provided the Committee with recent developments within the WHQS Programme. The Committee noted that, following the tenant vote for Caerphilly CBC to retain its Housing Stock, the programme was initially managed under the Housing Department. Following a review in 2011/12, it was apparent that a dedicated team would be required to manage the start up and ongoing programme for WHQS, as it was an extensive £200m capital programme to be completed by March 2020. After around 5 years and due to the significant progress in respect of the WHQS programme, it has been agreed that the WHQS

Programme will move back under Housing and be overseen by Mr S. Couzens, Chief Housing Officer.

The Committee discussed the change and commended the work, dedication, openness and transparency by Mr P. Davy, Head of Programmes, WHQS, but it was felt that the timing is right to make the move of the WHQS capital programme back to Housing under the Chief Housing Officer. The Committee wished Mr Davy all the best for his retirement and the future.

Mr J. Garcia provided the Committee with an update on a consultation exercise which is currently underway with School Crossing Patrol Staff. The Committee noted that, following a recent review of working hours and salaries, it was concluded that whilst School Crossing Patrol Staff are not required during Inset Days, they are paid for these. The Trade Unions have expressed concerns over the possible loss of earnings as a result of the review. Officers confirmed that whilst the review had highlighted this issue, the Service area have been asked to consider whether there are any possibilities for Crossing Patrol Staff to use this time for training, development, etc. The Committee will be provided with feedback on this matter in due course.

## **8. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

It was noted that future meetings of the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee are scheduled for 2pm on 26th October 2016, 25th January 2017 and 26th July 2017.

The meeting closed at 2:23 pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2016, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR