



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor K.V. Reynolds - Chair

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (Corporate Services), N. George (Community and Leisure Services), D. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), Mrs B. Jones (Corporate Services), D.V. Poole (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering), R. Woodyatt (Social Services).

Together with:

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

Also in Attendance:

S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), T. Shaw (Head of Engineering Services) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D. Havard and K. James.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. CABINET – 2ND NOVEMBER 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 8) be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. FUTURE GENERATIONS ADVISORY PANEL HELD ON 9TH JUNE 2016.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Future Generations Advisory Panel held on 27th July 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 7) be noted.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

5. WHOLE AUTHORITY MID-YEAR REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2016/17

The report provided details of projected whole-authority revenue budget expenditure for the 2016/17 financial year and provided an update on progress in delivering approved savings for 2016/17.

The report provided information on the position of the whole-authority in respect of revenue budget monitoring for 2016/17. Detailed budget monitoring reports are prepared for Scrutiny Committees throughout the financial year. Consideration was given to the expenditure and income trends in the first half of the year and projections were made of the likely year-end outturn position. Where variations from budget have been identified these were commented upon throughout the report.

Cabinet noted that the report also provided details on progress in delivering approved revenue budget savings for the 2016/17 financial year and highlighted those areas where savings are not currently progressing as originally planned.

Members thanked the Officer for the detailed report and it was noted that not all of the savings proposals have been achieved. There are more challenging times ahead and budgets will get tighter. The report demonstrated the effective financial management within the Authority and Members thanked all staff for their efforts in meeting the savings requirements.

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 Officer's report: -

- (i) the report be noted;
- (ii) the proposed use of Social Services reserves totalling £248k, as detailed in 4.4.9 of the report, be agreed to fund a number of temporary posts involved in transformational projects;
- (iii) the release of £800k from the £1.6m waste management contingency to partially offset cost pressures in 2016/17 be endorsed;
- (iv) the recommendation that the current projected underspend of £230k for Cemeteries is not ring-fenced and is instead within the base budget to partially offset other budget pressures within the Community and Leisure Services Division be endorsed.

6. LAND AT MILL STREET CAR PARK, RISCA

The report provided Cabinet with details of a proposal to dispose of land at Mill Street, Risca to the Pobl Group. Members were advised that the land at Mill Street Car Park, Risca forms part of a potential redevelopment site identified in the Risca and Pontymister Town Centre Action Plan (Approved 2014). The site is in a prominent location at the junction with Mill Street and Commercial Street, at the southerly entrance to the town. POBL (A registered Social Landlord, or RSL) has approached the two landowners (the Council and a third party), with a view to redeveloping the whole site with both affordable and supported housing.

The disposal of the site will produce a capital receipt, as well as revenue savings for the Council and its statutory partners. Over a 20 year period, projected costs savings from the delivery of the supported housing scheme are anticipated to be significant. In addition, there

is a significant need for affordable housing across the County Borough. Pobl has prepared a scheme for the site, identifying a mix of properties that seeks to address the housing needs within the area which includes a regional supported living accommodation project.

Cabinet noted that considerable consultation was conducted within the area and some objections were raised due to the need for car parking and the use of the car park as a drop off point for the infant school. In addition, concerns were raised about increased pressure on school and health provision in the area. Officers assured Members that there is sufficient parking in the area, with the use of other car parks and on-street parking. In reference to the school and health provision, it was noted that there are sufficient school places and Wellspring has confirmed that the practice has increased capacity.

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 Officer's report: -

- (i) the land shown edged black on the plan accompanying the report, be transferred for £50,000 (and otherwise on terms to be agreed) to the Pobl Group;
- (ii) the detailed terms of the disposal be delegated to the Head of Property Services, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Asset Management.

7. HIGHWAY INSPECTION MANUAL ENDORSEMENT

The report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 1st November 2016, outlined the background and content of the Highway Maintenance Plan and Highway Inspection Manual (HIM), explained the processes by which these are internally reviewed on an annual basis and sought Cabinet endorsement.

The report outlined that the Council has a statutory duty to maintain a safe highway network as set out under the Highways Act 1980. The Highway Maintenance Plan (HMP) is one of three plans that make up the Highway Operations Group Framework, the others being the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) and Highway Operations Plan (HOP). The Highway Inspection Manual forms part of the Highway Maintenance Plan and sets out the processes and procedures to inspect, report, undertake necessary actions and record the works carried out on the carriageway and footway asset. It forms the basis of the Council's legal defence against insurance claims, both with personal injury and property/vehicular damage, made on the highway.

It was noted that the HIM is divided into 4 parts, which include background, policy information and inspection procedures. The HIM is subject to an annual review, a number of sections were requiring review, namely response times for highway defects, inspection frequency and intervention criteria, which the Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider.

The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the report and recommended its acceptance by Cabinet.

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 Officer's report: -

- (i) the 2 hour, 24 hour and 28-day response targets for highway defects be maintained with the management for this current service level being closely

monitored, especially for the Priority 3 (non-urgent defect identified) 28 day target;

- (ii) the current inspection intervals be maintained;
- (iii) the current intervention criteria on road and footway defects be maintained;
- (iv) subject to the foregoing, the Highway Inspections Manual as appended to the report, be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

8. HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN ENDORSEMENT

The report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 1st November 2016, outlined the background and content of the Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) Highway Operations Group Framework and Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) and the process by which it is internally reviewed on an annual basis. The report sought the approval of Cabinet, prior to its presentation to Council.

The Council has a statutory duty to maintain a safe highway network as set out under the Highways Act 1980. The CCBC Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) is one of three plans that make up the Highway Operations Group Framework, the others being the Highway Maintenance Plan (HMP) and Highway Operations Plan (HOP). The HAMP is a strategic approach that identifies all the highway assets that are the responsibility of the highway authority (the Council). It assesses highway status and condition, and determines and implements the most appropriate maintenance regime within the most efficient cost parameters.

It was noted that the HAMP is a working documents and has been split into 4 parts, which highway assets with the relevant information and data for their identification and maintenance requirements, and is updated via a number of communication and feedback channels.

The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the report and recommended its acceptance by both Cabinet and Council.

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.

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the content and annual review process for the Highway Asset Management Plan and the key aspects contained therein (namely the placement of the HAMP within the Highway Operations Group Framework, coverage of all aspects of highway asset management by the HAMP, and the identification of appropriate communication channels in respect of highway assets) be endorsed;
- (ii) subject to the foregoing, the Highway Asset Management Plan, as appended to the report, be approved.

The meeting closed at 2.40pm

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 30th November 2016.

CHAIR