



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 1ST MARCH 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillor D.V. Poole - Chair

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (Human Resources and Governance/Business Manager), N. George (Community and Leisure Services), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), Mrs B. Jones (Corporate Services), 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 Section 151 Officer) and D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services).

Also in Attendance:

C. Jones (Youth Forum Co-Ordinator), K. Peters (Policy Manager), and C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services)

Also Present: Matthew Diggle (Chair, Youth Forum) Emily Jones (Vice Chair, Youth Forum) and Charlotte Thomas (Health Representative, Youth Forum)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor K.V. Reynolds.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. SPECIAL CABINET – 31ST JANUARY 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special meeting held on 31st January 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 3) be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. CABINET – 15TH FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 7) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

5. JUNIOR AND YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES

Cabinet welcomed representatives from the Youth Forum, Matthew Diggle (Chair) Emily Jones (Vice Chair) and Charlotte Thomas (Health Representative).

The Junior and Youth Forum Priorities were considered by Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 10 January 2017, who supported the proposal of the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue – ‘Awareness of Mental Health needs to be improved and stereotypes should be challenged’, and the Junior Forum, in addressing their Priority Issue – ‘More awareness of local wildlife and the harm grass fires cause to natural habitats’ and recommended their presentation to Cabinet.

The Youth Forum outlined the range of issues identified by the Junior Forum, 109 children identified a priority under each theme and these were then voted upon. Under the Prosperous Caerphilly theme, 15% of children prioritised the importance of more awareness of Caerphilly tourist attractions and provide free transport and improve public transport links to tourist attractions. 17% of children prioritised the Healthier Caerphilly Theme, for more awareness of what social services do for children, with 19% considering more lights on cycle paths of importance under the safer Caerphilly theme. 24% of children agree that the Learning Caerphilly theme was the most important which is to provide more treats and rewards for children who are trying hard to learn. However the highest priority was the Greener Caerphilly theme, which is for more awareness of local wildlife and the harm grass fire cause to natural habitats.

The Annual Youth Forum Conference provided the young people with an opportunity to explore issues of importance to them, where they identified a priority under each theme. Following the conference these issues were then voted on by 1116 young people. Under the Greener theme, 8.5% of children prioritised the importance of adventurous outdoor play, to provide safe adventurous play areas suitable for young people to encourage them to use outdoor spaces. 8.5% of young people also prioritised the Prosperous Caerphilly theme, which considers transport as important to make public transport cheaper and improve local routes to ensure the whole borough is accessible for young people for learning and employment opportunities.

The Youth Forum agreed with the Learning theme with 24% considering first aid education as important to allow all young people to learn basic first aid and mental health first aid. 28% of young people agree with the Safer Caerphilly theme which relates to car safety and their concerns that young people need to be more aware of car safety both as a driver and as a passenger. However the highest priority was the Healthier Caerphilly theme, which concerns mental health and awareness of mental health needs, young people feel these need to be improved and stereotypes being challenged.

The Youth Forum asked that Cabinet consider these priorities and have due regard to the issues raised by children and young people when making decisions that impact on their lives.

Members thanked the young people for their excellent presentation and highlighted that the opportunity to work with the Youth and Junior Forum on the priorities is very much welcomed. Members commented that the importance of supporting people with mental illness has been nationally recognised and would do everything they could to consider this in future policy

decisions. The Youth Forum representatives were asked if they would be willing to work with the Council to develop future initiatives in respect of transport and countryside particularly on a future road safety campaign.

Members stated that Caerphilly County Borough Council considers the involvement and views of the Youth and Junior Forums to be of great value and are keen for this to continue. The Cabinet are always encouraged and impressed by the quality and maturity of the debate when they attend the Youth Conference.

The Youth Forum was also asked their opinion of the proposal in the Welsh Government White Paper Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed, which suggests lowering the voting age to 16 for local government elections. The young people welcomed this proposal as a means to increase engagement.

Cabinet noted that, the priorities identified following the Youth Forum Conference in October 2016 and the Junior Youth Forum Meeting in November 2016, by Children and Young People.

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) Cabinet to have due regard to issues raised by Children and Young People when making decisions which impact upon their lives;
- (ii) Cabinet to support the Youth Forum in addressing their Priority Issue; Awareness of mental health needs to be improved and stereotypes should be challenged;
- (iii) Cabinet to support Young People's attendance at Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to present their issue.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

6. WELL BEING OBJECTIVES 2017/18

The report provided Cabinet with details of the Council's draft Well-being Objectives for 2017/18 and sought the views and approval of Cabinet, prior to the presentation of the report to Council on 7 March 2017.

The Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of priorities called Improvement Objectives as soon as is 'practicably possible' in the new financial year, however the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA) also places a legal requirement for public bodies to set and publish 'Well-being Objectives' and publish by a specific date of no later than 31 March 2017.

As there is a cross over between the two pieces of legislation, local authorities are treating the two requirements as one outcome, to publish one set of Well-being Objectives by the 31 March 2017 and the Wales Audit Office and Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) have endorsed this approach.

Cabinet were provided with an update on the requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA) in respect of setting and publishing Well-being Objectives 2017/18 and the Council's draft Well-being Objectives for 2017/18.

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 Officer's report it be recommended to Council that the current Well-being Objectives and Well-being Statement be approved and further reviewed by the new administration after the local government elections.

The meeting closed at 2.48 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 15th March 2017.

CHAIR