



## **CABINET**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH APRIL 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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#### **PRESENT**

Councillor D.V. Poole – Vice Chair (Presiding)

#### **Councillors:**

Mrs C. Forehead (Human Resources and Governance/Business Manager), N. George (Community and Leisure Services), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), D. Havard (Education and Lifelong Learning), Mrs B. Jones (Corporate Services), and T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering)

#### **Together with:**

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

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

J. Elias (Service Manager – Additional Learning Needs), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), A. Rees (Senior Policy Officer- Equalities & Welsh Language) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

#### **1. DEPUTY LEADER ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Deputy Leader, Councillor D.V. Poole, in memory of Council Leader Councillor Keith Reynolds, who sadly passed away earlier in the week, led Cabinet in a minute silence as a mark of respect.

The Deputy Leader paid tribute to Councillor Reynolds, an outstanding public servant, with an unrelenting drive and determination to do his very best for his local community and for the county borough.

All present extended their sincere condolences to the bereaved family at this extremely sad and difficult time.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors K. James and R. Woodyatt and D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services).

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **4. CABINET – 29TH MARCH 2017**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 6) be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

#### **5. CLOSURE OF THE KEY STAGE 3 SPECIALIST RESOURCE BASE FOR CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL, BEHAVIOURAL AND SOCIAL DIFFICULTIES AT NEWBRIDGE SCHOOL, CONSULTATION REPORT**

The report provided Cabinet with an update on the formal consultation process and sought approval to proceed to Statutory Notice in respect of the closure of the Specialist Resource Base at Newbridge School.

Cabinet noted that a consultation exercise took place between 23rd January and 15th March 2017. As a result, three responses to the consultation were received from the Headteacher of Newbridge School, the Governing Body of Newbridge School (both of which supported the proposal) and Estyn, who advised that 'Most aspects of the proposal receive appropriate consideration and the proposer makes sound arguments to demonstrate how the closure would result in improved provision both for pupils attending the specialist resource base and those attending the mainstream school'. The consultation responses and the Local Authority responses were detailed in the appendix to the report.

Cabinet were asked to note that, in response to Estyn, the Headteacher of Newbridge Comprehensive stated "I would like to point out that Newbridge was placed in monitoring after inspection in June 2015 and came out of monitoring in October 2015, in other words a brief four month period. This has not been identified by Estyn in their comments".

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 in considering the outcome of the consultation process, it be agreed to proceed to Statutory Notice.

#### **6. ANNUAL EQUALITIES REPORT 2015-2016**

The report provided Cabinet with an update on the progress made during the financial year 2015/2016 against targets in the Council's current Strategic Equality Plan, and sought approval for its submission to the Equalities and Human Rights Commission and publication online.

Cabinet noted that the Council has a statutory duty to produce an annual monitoring report on Equalities issues under current legislation.

The requirements are very detailed as to what relevant information must be included in the annual monitoring and improvement report. As a result, the amount of information presented is therefore in order to ensure that the regulatory body involved (the Equalities and Human Rights Commission) are provided with full evidence of the Council's compliance and commitment to those statutory duties.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained 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 Annual Equalities Report 2015-2016 be submitted to the Equality and Human Rights Commission and be published on the internet.

Before the closing of the Meeting, the Deputy Leader, Councillor D.V. Poole thanked those Officers present and all Council staff and Cabinet colleagues for their hard work and dedication during this administration, and wished everyone the best for the upcoming elections. The Chief Executive, in turn, thanked the Cabinet for its positive and effective working relationship.

The meeting closed at 2.13 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 7th June 2017.

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CHAIR