



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH JUNE 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillor D.V. Poole – Chair

Councillors:

C.J. Cuss (Social Care and Well Being), N. George (Neighbourhood Services), C.J. Gordon (Corporate Services), P.A. Marsden (Education and Achievement), S. Morgan (Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability), L. Phipps (Homes and Places) and Mrs E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection).

Together with:

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

Also in Attendance:

K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), R. Roberts (Performance Manager), D. Whetter (Principal Engineer) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs B. Jones.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S. Morgan declared an interest in relation to the report on Bryn Compost Liaison Group Terms of Reference, as it was personal and not prejudicial, there was no requirement to leave the meeting.

3. CABINET – 12TH APRIL 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 6) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

4. CORPORATE REVISED RISK STRATEGY AND GUIDANCE

The report provided Cabinet with an updated and revised Risk Management Strategy 2017 (and guidance) following changes in legislation and sought its approval of the revised Strategy, prior to consideration at Audit Committee on 13th September 2017.

Members have a critical role to play in evaluating the council's risk management arrangements and in particular understanding how the council identifies, manages and, where possible mitigates or removes risk. Risk Management is crucial to the effective delivery of council services.

It was noted that the Council's Risk Management Strategy was approved in 2013, since that time there have been several changes; one in particular was the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which requires the Council to change the way it views risk in keeping with the principles of sustainability. As a result the Strategy has been updated for 2017 to reflect these changes.

Cabinet noted that the way in which risk is viewed and rated would alter, in that consideration is to be given risk, the short term impacts or operational risks, as well as long term implications and the potential impact on future generations.

A Member noted that there was no reference to cross cutting risks and the impacts on other services within the Authority and it was also noted that reference to the specific changes could be highlighted for ease of reference. Officers thanked Members for the feedback and noted the suggestions for the future.

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 having consideration for the revisions made to the Corporate Risk Strategy, the Strategy be endorsed prior to presentation to the Audit Committee.

5. A468/A469 PWLLYPANT ROUNDABOUT HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The report sought the approval of Cabinet to utilise funding for and progressing the construction of the A468/A469 Pwllypant roundabout highway improvement scheme.

It was noted that the A468/A469 Caerphilly Northern Bypass is the main artery linking Caerphilly and settlements in the north of the borough to the trunk road network (A470, M4) and Cardiff. It is already heavily overloaded at peak periods and all junctions are at, or in excess of, capacity at peak times. The Pwllypant roundabout is the busiest node on this section of the strategic highway network and in the whole of the county borough.

The proposed Pwllypant roundabout highway improvement will increase capacity on the roundabout such that it will not be overcapacity at the completion and will perform satisfactorily taking into account known proposed developments (identified through the LDP review process) up to 2031. It would also improve journey time reliability for bus services and encourage public transport use and reduce traffic travelling through Caerphilly town thereby improving air quality.

The scheme will be funded from developer contributions (S106) and Welsh Government Grant funding. It is intended that construction will commence in September/ October 2017 and take about twelve months to complete.

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:-

- (i) the delivery of the Pwllpant roundabout highway improvement scheme be approved as a priority highway scheme;
- (ii) the use of the £1.5m Local Transport Fund (LTF) funding in 2017/18 be supported and the preparatory and environmental works necessary and the construction procurement tendering exercise be approved to commence in summer 2017;
- (iii) the virement of up to £700k from the Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr funds to the Pwllpant roundabout scheme, as necessary balance funding to deliver the scheme, be approved.

6. UNIT 21 LAWN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, RHYMNEY – LEASE RENEWAL TO THE FURNITURE REVIVAL, GC ENTERPRISES (WALES) LTD.

The report sought the approval for the Council to enter into a new 10 year lease to GC Enterprises (Wales) Ltd (trading as The Furniture Revival) for Unit 21 Lawn Industrial Estate, which comprises 13, 103 sq ft, at an annual rental of £1 per annum.

GC Enterprises (Wales) Ltd trading as The Furniture Revival and predecessor organisations has been in occupation of Unit 21 Lawn Industrial Estate since May 2001 when a 10 year lease was granted and subsequently the company has held over on the existing agreement by virtue of the Land & Tenant Act 1954. The lease is on fully repairing and insuring terms at an annual rental of £1 per annum.

The Furniture Revival is a social enterprise which, through minimising waste to landfill by reuse and recycling, supports the community and alleviates poverty by providing access to household furniture, electrical items and household paint whilst providing a hub for volunteers and facilitating training to enhance employability and skills.

GC Enterprises (Wales) Ltd have identified the need for capital purchases and refurbishment works in order to continue operating at the site. They have successfully applied for financial assistance through the Council's Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) and £22,855.06 has been awarded in principle. The CRF funding criteria requires that any beneficiary in rented accommodation to have an unexpired lease of a minimum duration of 10 years. Therefore, GC Enterprises (Wales) Ltd has requested that the Council enter into a new 10 year lease agreement on the same terms and conditions as the expired lease.

Cabinet were asked to consider and approve a new 10 year lease with GC Enterprises (Wales) Ltd trading as The Furniture Revival at less than the best price that could be potentially otherwise be achieved in the interests of the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the whole or part of the County Borough. Entering into a 10 year lease will also satisfy the conditions associated with the in principle CRF funding award to GC Enterprises (Wales) Ltd.

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 Council enter into a new 10-year lease, at a rental of £1 per annum and otherwise on the same terms, with GC Enterprises (Wales) Ltd trading as The Furniture Revival for Unit 21 Lawn Industrial Estate.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

7. BRYN COMPOST LIAISON GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

In March 2010, Council agreed to establish the Bryn Compost Liaison Group. Following a request from the Liaison Group to extend the terms of reference to incorporate odours created by farming activities, the report sought the view of Cabinet on the future operation of the Group prior to its presentation to Council.

It was noted that Part 2 of the Council's Constitution provides that full Council is responsible for "agreeing and/or amending the terms of reference for committees, sub committees, panels and boards, deciding on their composition and making appointments to them".

The report outlined that Bryn Compost Ltd operates as a commercial composting business at Gelliargwellt Uchaf Farm in Gelligaer. The Bryn Compost Liaison Group was established in March 2010 in order to address complaints of odour experienced around the Gelliargwellt Uchaf Farm location. The Liaison Group is composed of representatives from the Bryn Compost Company, Environmental Health, Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales, adjoining local ward members and ten residents and chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services. Its existing terms of reference are detailed in the appendix to the report. A Local ward member suggested that the terms of reference should be extended to incorporate odours creating by farming activities and this was supported by the Liaison Group.

Cabinet were asked to note that email representations have been made by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in reference to the Bryn Compost Liaison Group and that it was the view of NRW that the group in its current form does not add sufficient value to the effective regulation of permitted activities at Gelliargwellt Uchaf Farm, Gelligaer to warrant the additional resources required in preparing for and attending these regular meetings. Assurance was given that NRW would continue to regulate the environmental permits in place at the facility, to ensure continued protection of the Environment and, are committed to achieving continual improvement to reduce the risk of odour related issues in future.

Members thanked the Officer for the report and additional information and queried whether consultations had taken place with the Local Ward Members. Officers confirmed that local members had not been consulted and as a result, Cabinet agreed that consultation should take place.

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 Officer's report and as discussed at the meeting, it be recommended to Council that, subject to consultation with local ward members, the Bryn Compost Liaison Group be disbanded.

The meeting closed at 2.31 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 21st June 2017.

CHAIR