



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 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), Mrs B.A. Jones (Finance, Performance and Governance), 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. Harry (Corporate Director – Communities) and N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer).

Also in Attendance:

R. Harris (Internal Audit Manager), M. Williams (Interim Head of Property Services), J. Reynolds (Sport and Leisure Facilities Manager) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors C. Gordon (Item 7 – Proposals to Commence a Consultation Exercise to Close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre), Mrs B. Jones, S. Morgan and Mrs L. Phipps (Item 5 – Community Centre Management Committees – CCBC Representation). Details are minuted with the respective item.

3. CABINET – 6TH SEPTEMBER 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 7) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

4. UPDATED ANTI-FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION POLICY AND UPDATED ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING POLICY

The report, which was presented to Special Audit Committee on 25th July 2017, sought the approval of Cabinet for the updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy and the Anti-Money Laundering Policy.

Members noted that the Authority has strived to maintain a high level of probity and integrity when carrying on its business and with corporate governance continuing to become a key business driver the need to maintain, review and update key priorities is as ever an important part of the governance toolkit.

Both the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy and the Anti-Money Laundering Policy are key elements within a suite of policies that focus on the prevention of fraud and wrong doing and set out the standards by which the organisation operates.

It was noted that the existing policies were last reviewed in 2011 and have now been updated to account for operational changes and to reflect best practice and ongoing compliance with current legislative requirements. Whilst it is unlikely that the Anti-Money Laundering Policy will be particularly relevant to the day to day activities, it sits alongside the Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy and will increase awareness and provide guidance to both Members and Officers should a potential situation arise with large sums of cash.

Both policies act as statements of the Council's attitude towards fraud and corruption and contain the following key elements: -

- They will apply to Members and Officers;
- They will apply to third parties who have dealings with the authority;
- They will underpin the culture of the authority;
- The role and responsibilities of Members and Officers in contributing to a culture if honesty and openness are laid out; and
- Training and awareness are key contributing factors.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and sought further information on the frequency at which the Policies are reviewed. Officers explained that over a number of years there has not been a fundamental change to the policy, therefore, an update was required in areas around staff structure etc, in order to ensure the document is up to date.

The Policies were considered in detail, and some minor amendments were suggested. In addition, a Member sought further information on surveillance and covert operations and the relevant Policies. Members noted that there is a specific guidance around surveillance under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, which has particular reference to operations under the Licensing Act and Trading Standards, in terms of other areas, there is a set process in order to approve any surveillance activities, which are covered in individual policies.

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 subject to minor amendments, the updated Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy and updated Anti-Money Laundering Policy be approved.

5. COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

Councillors Mrs B. Jones, S. Morgan and Mrs L. Phipps declared an interest in this item (in that they are nominated Member Representatives upon the Council's Community Centre Management Committees).

The report sought the approval of Cabinet for nominations for Member representation upon the Council's Community Centre Management Committees.

It was noted that under the provisions of the community centre management committees constitution, the County Borough Council (and Community or Town Council where appropriate) may nominate a representative from the ward in which the centre is located, to serve upon such committees. Such nominations are required to be completed following local elections.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and considered the list of County Borough Council Members nominated as ex-officio committee members of the centres and made suggestions for amendments.

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 and subject to minor changes to the names provided, the nominations as detailed therein be approved.

6. DEMOLITION OF OAKDALE AND PONTLLANFRAITH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

The report sought approval for the demolition of the vacant Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Comprehensive Schools and secure the approval of funds to cover these costs.

It was noted that, since the completion of the new Islwyn High School, Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School buildings, which were vacated at the end of June 2017 are surplus to operational requirements, do not readily lend themselves to an alternative use and continue to incur costs, including NNDR.

There are ongoing security concerns as the empty premises have been broken into on several occasions. The buildings are locked, alarmed and insured and there are weekly inspections undertaken. In addition, a key holder has been appointed, and would be called out should there be alarm activation. All of which incur costs.

The report recommended that the buildings be demolished and surveys completed to facilitate disposal of the sites. However, in order to accommodate the services that supply Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, services diversion works would be required through the site, at an estimated cost of £97,000.

Members thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued. Having consideration for the costs associated with diversions for access to Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, and in considering a consultation exercise for the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, Members were minded to recommend that the demolition works be procured as soon as possible for both sites, however, any demolition works to Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School to be delayed until the consultation period for the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre has ended.

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, and as outlined at the meeting and in utilising funding from the capital earmarked reserve and in line with the Authority's Standing Orders for contracts :-

- (i) with regard to Oakdale Comprehensive School, the demolition of the buildings, the necessary site and other investigations be procured and proceed as soon as possible;
- (ii) with regard to Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School, the demolition of the buildings, the necessary site and other investigations be procured but not proceed until such time that the consultation exercise on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre has concluded.

7. PROPOSALS TO COMMENCE A CONSULTATION EXERCISE TO CLOSE PONTLLANFRAITH LEISURE CENTRE

Councillor C. Gordon declared an interest in this item (in that he uses the facilities at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre), it was determined that the interest was personal and therefore he was not required to leave the meeting whilst the item was discussed.

The report sought the approval of Cabinet to commence a consultation exercise on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in conjunction with the opening of Islwyn High School and support the sale and development of the Pontllanfraith High School/ Leisure Centre campus.

The new Islwyn High School, which opened in June 2017, replaced the existing Pontllanfraith and Oakdale High Schools. The new facility is supported by Sport and Leisure facilities that include a four court sports hall, 4 tennis courts, dual use 3G football and rugby pitch and multi-purpose dance studio.

The current Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, which comprises of a five court sports hall, two squash courts, small fitness suite, multi-purpose dance studio, a 3G football pitch, supports the delivery of curriculum PE, a vibrant community programme and is also the primary base for the Caerphilly Adventures, Caerphilly County Borough's Outdoor education service.

Cabinet noted that, following the closure of Pontllanfraith High School, a demolition programme has been developed to prepare the site for future use.

In order to continue delivery of the community use and Caerphilly Adventures Programme, significant resources would be required in areas such as I.T., telephones and health and safety to maintain service provision in a safe and appropriate manner.

In addition, Cabinet noted that the emerging Sport and Leisure Service Strategy, whilst not yet fully adopted, does not recognise Pontllanfraith as a potential strategic Leisure Centre and as such the opening of Islwyn High School provides an opportunity to transition existing user groups without any loss of service.

The transfer of Caerphilly Adventures to Cwmcarn Forest Drive is subject to a separate business case. The cost of the transfer is estimated at circa £75,000- £85,000.

To continue to meet community demand and provide a facility that is endorsed by the Football Association of Wales (FAW) and as such supports the provision of competitive fixtures at the highest end of the competition pyramids, it is an aspiration that the 3G football pitch at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is relocated to Blackwood Comprehensive School, although no funding has been set aside for this purpose. In the event of funding not being available, officers will seek to offer some or all of this facility at the Council's Centre of Sporting Excellence in Ystrad Mynach.

Members thanked the Officers for the report and discussion ensued. A Member queried why the 3G pitch at Islwyn High School was not suitable, and whether considerations were given to this whilst the facility was being built. Officers explained that there are set standards required for 3G pitches at a higher competitive level, the facilities available within the school are suitable for multi-use curricular activities, but do not meet the requirements of the FAW.

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, and as outlined at the meeting:-

- (i) in accordance with the business case set out in the report, consultation be undertaken on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre;
- (ii) a further report on the outcome of the consultation be presented in late Autumn of 2017.

The meeting closed at 2.50 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 4th October 2017.

CHAIR