



## **CABINET**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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#### **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), 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), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer) and D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services).

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

T. McMahon (Community Regeneration Manager), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), C. Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs P.A. Marsden (Education and Achievement).

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors L. Phipps and E. Stenner (Item 4 – Phasing Out of Communities First, Proposals for Revised Welsh Government Priorities and Associated Staff Re-Structure). Details are minuted with the respective item.

#### **3. CABINET – 20TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 7) be approved and signed as a correct record.

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

### **4. PHASING OUT OF COMMUNITIES FIRST, PROPOSALS FOR REVISED WELSH GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND ASSOCIATED STAFF RESTRUCTURE**

Councillors L. Phipps and E. Stenner declared an interest in this item as Voluntary Directors of Resource Centres identified within the report, and therefore left the meeting during its consideration.

The report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 19th September 2017, outlined the phasing out of the Communities First programme and the proposed implementation of the Legacy and Employment Fund, together with the proposed departmental re-structure and recruitment period which will enable a seamless transition to the Welsh Government's (WG) revised priorities and associated funding. Members were asked to consider if the proposals detailed within the report are appropriate and effective against the funding and policy criteria offered by WG, and their views were sought on the approach to the phasing out of Communities First and the proposed approach to the new programme, associated milestones and staff structure, prior to presentation of the report to Cabinet for consideration.

Officers outlined the background of the programme and the current staff structure, details of which were contained in the report and its appendices. Since 1st April 2012, Communities First has been a Community Focused Tackling Poverty Programme, concentrating on the most deprived communities in Wales. The programme is funded by WG and has an annual budget of £2.902m. On 14th February 2017, following a period of engagement with communities and stakeholders, it was confirmed that Communities First would be phased out between 31st March 2017 and 1st April 2018, and that funding will continue at 70% of 2016/17 levels until 31st March 2018.

It was explained that 2017/18 is intended to be a transition period which secures the legacy of Communities First whilst moving to a fresh approach to building resilient communities. Central to this approach will be the "Three E's" (employability, empowerment and early years). A full restructure of the Community Regeneration Team will be required in order to continue delivering the Communities for Work and LIFT programmes, as well as implementing the new Welsh Government initiatives, which will be funded from 1st April 2018. Both the Employment Support Fund and Legacy Fund (which are successors to the existing Communities First programme) were explained in more detail throughout the report.

Members were also advised of the potential impact of these changes to third sector organisations. The Communities First programme has contributed to the funding of a number of posts across Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO), Groundwork Caerphilly and Senghenydd Youth Drop In Centre (SYDIC), and a reduction in the current funding is likely to have a major impact upon the Council's voluntary sector partners. Additionally, from 1st April 2018, it is only Local Authorities that will be awarded the new Legacy and Employment Support Funds.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and raised concerns for some of the projects that could be lost as a result of Communities First being disbanded. The Officer explained that, in priority areas, which have been identified in the Wales Index Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), some of the projects may continue. Work is underway with the Public Service Board (PSB) and Health Board to identify projects and potential funding to ensure their continuation. Members were assured that they would be kept updated on developments.

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 the approach to the phasing out of Communities First, and the new programmes, associated milestones and staff structure be approved.

## **5. ACTIVE TRAVEL INTEGRATED NETWORK MAP**

The report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 19th September 2017, sought Members' approval on the draft Active Travel Integrated Network Map and reported the responses from the public consultation.

Officers explained that the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 places new duties on local authorities (LAs) in Wales to produce and publish active travel maps, with the first stage requiring the production of an Existing Routes Map. Caerphilly County Borough Council's Existing Routes Map was approved by the Welsh Government in April 2016. The next stage requires all LAs in Wales to produce an Active Travel Integrated Network Map (INM) by November 2017. A 12-week public consultation on Caerphilly's draft INM has been undertaken and of the 121 questionnaire responses received, 98% stated they support the proposed routes included in the draft INM. Details of the response comments received were appended to the report. As a result of the consultation, there are a number of proposed changes to the INM that will be incorporated into the final version, prior to its submission to Welsh Government (listed at Appendix 3) by the deadline of 3rd November 2017.

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 draft Active Travel Integrated Network Map and proposed changes, as appended to the report, be approved.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

## **6. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17**

The report provided Cabinet with details of the Authority's Annual Self-Assessment called the Annual Performance Report for 2016/17 and sought the views and approval of Cabinet prior to its presentation to Council on the 10th October 2017 and publication by 30th October 2017.

The Performance Report is a statutory requirement under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and an important part of the Council's Performance Framework. The Council is required to assess its own performance and provide the public with a balanced picture of that performance.

In addition, the report must show how the council performed against the Well-being Objectives it set itself for 2016/17. The report also shows how the Council performed against its eight priorities that ran from 2013 to 2017 and have now come to the end of their published time frame.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and in noting the financial challenges ahead, sought further information on changes, if any to how performance would be measured. Officers explained that Performance measures and targets are regularly reviewed, however, there are no immediate plans to change the current processes. It was however noted that all Local Authorities are feeling the pressure in terms of the financial challenges.

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 it be recommended to Council that the Annual Performance Report 2016/17 be approved.

The meeting closed at 2.37 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 18th October 2017.

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CHAIR