

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH 2018 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Poole – Chair

Councillors:

C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing), C.J. Gordon (Corporate Services), Mrs B. A. Jones (Cabinet Member for 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. HARRY (Interim Chief Executive), M. S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director - Communities), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director – Children’s Services), R. Hartshorn (Head of Policy and Public Protection), S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), T. Stephens (Interim Head of Planning), R. Kyte (Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning), S. Richards (Interim Head of Planning, Strategy and Resources), M. Headington (Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager), O. Ashton (RDP Delivery Manager) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. George (Neighbourhood Services) and P. Marsden (Education and Achievement) and D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors: C. Gordon, C. Cuss, Mrs B.A. Jones, Mrs E. Stenner and L. Phipps declared personal interests at the commencement of the meeting in relation to agenda item 9 – Education Capital 2018/19, details of which are recorded with the respective item.

3. CABINET MINUTES – 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2018 (minute nos. 1 - 10) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

4. PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER AT CEFN BRITHDIR

The report sought Cabinet's endorsement for the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to restrict vehicle access on to Cefn Brithdir on the Gelligaer and Merthy Common, for a period of 3 years. The restrictions would be included in a draft Order and the statutory process including formal consultation be commenced and the outcome be reported back to Cabinet for consideration. Should there be no objections, the decision to make the Order would be delegated to the relevant Head of Service.

It was explained that the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 brought in a new power for Local Authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour problems in a geographical area by imposing conditions on the use of an area. The aim is to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour. PSPO's replace a number of existing legal provisions including Designated Public Place Orders, Gating Orders and Dog Control Orders. It is no longer possible to make Orders under these various forms of legislation and any new orders made to control such activities should be made as PSPOs.

Cabinet discussed the purpose of PSPO's and the volume of formal complaints received by Caerphilly County Borough Council relating to the issue of fly tipping. Members expressed their concern in relation to the number of complaints they have received from residents within their wards close to the Cefn Brithdir area. Officers confirmed they have been working hard with colleagues in Cleansing and Environmental Health, Keep Wales Tidy and Natural Resources Wales in addressing this issue in moving forward. Details of the proposals and consultation were set out in the report.

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) the proposal to introduce a Public Space Protection Order to restrict vehicle access on to Cefn Brithdir for a period of 3 years is endorsed;
- (ii) the restrictions be included in a draft Order and the Statutory Process including Formal Consultation be commenced;
- (iii) the outcome reported back to Cabinet for consideration/or if there are no objections, the decision to make the Order be delegated to the relevant Head of Service.

5. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH DRAFT REGENERATION STRATEGY - A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS 2018-2023 SUPPLEMENTED BY THE DRAFT CAERPHILLY BASIN MASTERPLAN

The report sought Cabinet's endorsement on the Draft Regeneration Strategy entitled 'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023' and the 'Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan' and for approval to carry out a Public Consultation exercise. Copies of the documents were appended to the report and a brief summary was provided in relation to both.

Cabinet were advised that The Draft Regeneration Strategy has been developed as an overarching document that concentrates on 4 Strategic Themes (Supporting People, Supporting Business, Supporting Quality of Life, and Connecting People and Places) which set out the broad principles for regeneration and the strategic priorities to be tackled. The Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan sets out the series of Strategic Objectives which will drive the

delivery for the vision of Caerphilly town and translate directly into a series of projects and actions. It seeks to harness the opportunities arising from the City Deal Investment Fund and will also incorporate the areas surrounding Caerphilly. It was explained that the Masterplan will be complemented by a number of other strategies, such as the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and future Regional Strategic Development Plan and how potential City Deal funding could be utilised in order to help deliver some of the proposals contained within the document.

The report and documents were presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 13th February 2018. The desire from the Scrutiny Committee was that the Consultation period for both documents would be extended from 4 to 6 weeks. The results of the Consultations will then be reported back to full Council in July 2018.

Cabinet thanked Officers for their hard work and commitment to the extensive work undertaken in developing the documentation and it was requested that this appreciation be reported back to colleagues within the team for their support and contribution.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that subject to the foregoing, 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 and subject to an amendment to recommendation 10.1. and 10.2. that the Consultation period be extended from 4 to 6 weeks: -

- (i) the Draft Regeneration Strategy 'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023' be endorsed as the basis for a public consultation exercise commencing 26th March 2018 for a period of 6 weeks;
- (ii) the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan be endorsed as the basis for a public consultation exercise commencing 26th March 2018 for a period of 6 weeks.

6. PROPOSED COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TY SIGN, RISCA TO REPLACE THE CHANNEL VIEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

The report sought Cabinet's approval in principle to support the delivery of a purpose built Community Centre on land at Holly Road, Ty Sign, Risca, subject to full Consultation. The proposal was presented by a newly created Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), the Ty Sign Community Hall and Resource Centre, to develop a new Community Centre in Ty Sign, Risca.

Cabinet were informed that the Channel View Community Centre Management Committee currently occupy the building on a licence at a peppercorn rent at Channel View, Risca (details of which were appended to the report). This land is in Council ownership through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Access to the site is through the Council's Hafod-y-Bryn Sheltered Housing Scheme. The existing Channel View Community Centre is not fit for purpose and houses another building that is leased to the Scout Association Trust Corporation, which is also in poor physical condition.

The Council has been approached by a newly created CIO, the Ty Sign Community Hall and Resource Centre, to work in partnership with them to explore the feasibility of developing a new purpose built Community Centre in Holly Road, Ty Sign, Risca on land also held by the HRA. The Ty Sign Community Hall and Resource Centre are seeking a lease period of at least 21 years (necessary to meet the requirements of the Big Lottery), and at a low, non-commercial, rent. The existing Channel View Community Centre would close under the above proposal.

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 the delivery of a purpose built Community Centre on land at Holly Road, Ty Sign be supported and Officers authorised to enter into further discussions and undertake the necessary Consultations with a further report being brought to Cabinet for final determination.

7. COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION FOR CARE LEAVERS

The report sought Cabinet's approval to amend the Council Tax Discretionary Reduction Policy - Section 13A (1) (c) (Appended to the report), effective from 1st April 2018.

The report sets out details of a proposal to 'exempt' care leavers between the ages of 18 and 25 as a specified class from the payment of Council Tax. This will require amendments to the Council's 'Council Tax Discretionary Reduction Policy - Section 13A (1) (c)' which allows a Council to reduce the Council Tax liability of a person, or a class of persons, to nil, if it sees fit to do so. A recent campaign by the Children's Commissioner has highlighted the difficulties that many young people face in managing their money and paying bills when leaving care.

Cabinet were advised that the current Council Tax Discretionary Reduction Policy only allows for applications to be considered on an individual basis. To implement this proposal, care leavers need to be specified as a class of cases in respect of which Council Tax liability can be reduced. Where a care leaver resides in a household and is not liable for Council Tax purposes, the Council Tax liable person(s) will be able to apply for a discretionary reduction if the presence of the care leaver results in an increase in the Council Tax payable for the household. In both instances, the care leaver needs to be aged between 18 and 25.

Cabinet were delighted to support the proposal with this 'good news' story.

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 the amended Council Tax Discretionary Reduction Policy - Section 13A (1) (c) as at Appendix A, effective from 1st April 2018, be approved.

8. EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF) OPERATIONS: INSPIRE 2 WORK (I2W) BRIDGES INTO WORK 2 (BIW2) AND WORKING SKILLS FOR ADULTS 2 (WSA2)

The report sought Cabinet's endorsement to an extension of Inspire 2 Work (I2W), and an in principle agreement for a future extension to Bridges into Work 2 (BIW2) and Working Skills for Adults (WSA2). Endorsement was also sought for the use of up to £283k of the Education Directorates balances as additional match funding to support the extension of I2W, BIW2 and WSA2 in order to draw down additional European Funding.

Cabinet were informed that despite the recent upturn in the economy, unemployment and economic inactivity is still an issue for concern in the County Borough. Since 2013, Caerphilly Officers have participated in the development of regional proposals seeking to build on the success of employment support operations delivered under the 2007-13 ESF Programme, including Bridges into Work, Pre-Vent and Working Skills for Adults.

A number of operations have now been approved by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO). Those approved include the Welsh Government (WG) led Communities4Work Operation, that matches some of their investment in the Communities First (CF) programme,

with CF teams now supported to deliver employment support in the most deprived areas of Wales.

Details of the target groups within each of the Projects were set out in the report. Caerphilly's involvement in the 3 operations is part of a regional approach and other partners in the region are currently keen to extend all 3 operations to December 2022. This will allow projects more time to work with more people in order to change the life chances of more Caerphilly residents. Examples were provided of case studies, where apprenticeships have been obtained with Company's such as Wilmot Dixon, as a result of people accessing these projects.

It was explained that by extending the three operations to December 2022 would draw down up to £5,017k of grant funding (£2,100k more than currently approved) for a "real" cash cost to Caerphilly of £1,148k. However, this requires an additional cash commitment from the Authority of £283k (£1,148k - £865k).

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) the offer to extend 12W and an in principle offer to extend BIW2 and WSA2 to December 2022, be endorsed;
- (ii) the use of up to £283k of the Education Directorates balances as additional match funding to support the extension of I2W, BIW2 and WSA2 in order to draw down additional European Funding, be endorsed.

9. EDUCATION CAPITAL 2018/19

Councillors C. Gordon (Governor of Bryn Primary School), C. Cuss (Governor of Idris Davies 3 – 18 School), Mrs B.A. Jones (Governor of St James Primary and St Cenydd Secondary Schools), Mrs E. Stenner (Governor at Phillipstown and Whiterose Primary Schools), and L. Phipps (Governor of Graig y Rhacca Primary School), declared personal interests at the commencement of the meeting as they are School Governor's within their respective wards. As the declarations were personal, the Members were not required to leave the meeting.

The report sought Cabinet approval for the proposals for the allocation of Education Capital Budgets for the 2018/19 financial year in the context of the 3 year Capital Programme 2018/19 – 2020/21. The 3 year programme includes works relating to Additional Accommodation, Asset Management, Health and Safety, School Security and Boiler Replacement.

It was noted that a sum of £2m towards electrical rewiring works in schools was allocated from the agreed programme amount over the 3 year period 2014/15-2016/17. These works are now at the completion stage and an underspend of circa £500k is currently predicted on this project.

Cabinet were advised that the Council's Health and Safety Team are currently in the process of updating Fire Risk Assessments in Schools. As a result of Grenfell there has been a greater focus on the type of build and the requirement to ensure adequate compartmentalisation in buildings. The Council's Health and Safety Team are working with the fire service in this regard. It was explained that at this stage neither the full cost implications or the impacted schools are known and it was proposed that the underspend of £500k referred to in paragraph 4.4 of the report be reserved for this use.

Members fully supported the proposal to reserve this underspend for possible structural fire safety works and welcomed the prioritisation of Health and Safety projects and the refocusing and updating of fire risk assessments in schools.

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) the proposals to utilise the Education Capital Budget for 2018/19, be approved;
- (ii) reserving the underspend on the School Electrical Scheme Project (Circa £500k) for the projected costs of structural fire safety works that may be required as a result of the updated Fire Risk Assessments currently being undertaken in schools, as outlined in section 4.5 of the report, be approved.

10. EXEMPT ITEM

Members considered the public interest test certificate from the Proper Officer and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as identified in paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

11. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT PARK LANE, CAERPHILLY

The report sought the approval of Cabinet under the Council's Protocol for Disposal of Property of Council owned land at Park Lane, Caerphilly.

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, and subject to an additional recommendation that Officers consider traffic flows, the recommendations at paragraph 10.1. be approved.

The meeting closed at 3.02 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 28th March 2018.

CHAIR