



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, ON WEDNESDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor K.V. Reynolds - Leader

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), G. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), Mrs B. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services), Mrs R. Passmore (Education and Lifelong Learning), D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure Services), R. Woodyatt (Social Services), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering).

Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), Mrs S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), Mrs N. Scammell (Acting Director Corporate Services and S.151 Officer), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services).

Also in Attendance:

P. Elliott (Head of Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development), P. Hudson (Events and Marketing Manager), I. MacVicar (Group Manager Operations), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), R. Roberts (Performance Manager), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

WELCOME

A warm welcome was extended to all those in attendance and in particular to Mr Chris Burns, the newly appointed Interim Chief Executive, CCBC.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CABINET

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2014 (minute nos. 1-8; page nos. 1-4) be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2014 were noted.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development referred to the excellent work undertaken by the Sustainable Development and Living Environment Team as highlighted in the Sustainable Development and Living Environment Team Annual Report 2013/14.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

5. URDD EISTEDDFOD 2015

The report updated Members on progress made by the organisers of the Urdd Eisteddfod, which is scheduled to be held at Llancaiach Fawr in May 2015. The Urdd Eisteddfod is a major event, which could potentially generate significant economic benefits for the area.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 6 of the report, which sets out the financial implications including the costs that the Council is likely to incur leading up to and during the event together with the potential loss of income. It was noted that there will be an opportunity to generate income and the indicative amounts are detailed in paragraph 6.2. Members requested that an update report be brought to Cabinet in the New Year.

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: -

1. The update on progress of the event, together with the management and financial implications, were noted.
2. Provision be made in the 2015/16 budget proposals to Council in February 2015 to fund the 'one off' estimated costs set out in paragraph 6 of the report from reserves.

A further report would be presented to Cabinet in the New Year.

6. OUTCOME AGREEMENTS YEAR END SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE 2013-2016 AGREEMENTS

The report provided Cabinet with the year-end self-assessment of the Council's performance of its 5 Outcome Agreements for the first year in the agreement 2013-2016 and explained how much funding could be received if Welsh Government agreed with the self-assessment.

Welsh Government use a pro-rata scoring system to determine how much an Authority is entitled to when the joint assessment is agreed. The maximum score an Authority can achieve is 10 i.e. all 5 outcomes successfully delivered. A score of 8 - 10 would receive the full payment. Based on the year end result CCBC's outcome agreement score is 8, which if WG concur, will mean that the Authority will receive the full 70% allocation for Part 1 of the

grant. Officers informed Cabinet verbally that they had received notification from WG that, subject to Minister confirmation, 100% allocation of funding will be made for Parts 1 and 2 of the grant.

During the course of the discussion, a Member sought clarification on the service self-assessment for 'Safer Communities for All', which states that 9 out of the 14 targets had been met. Officers advised that this figure had been correct at the time of writing the report but following further dialogue with Welsh Government it had been determined that this figure could be corrected to 7 out of 11.

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, progress made against the outcome agreements for 2013/2014 was noted.

7. CHRISTMAS CLOSEDOWN ARRANGEMENTS 2015-2020

The report sought Cabinet approval on the proposed arrangements for Christmas closedown for 2015-2020. The Council had for a number of years implemented a closedown over the Christmas period. The days designated Bank Holidays and closedown days are agreed a number of years in advance to allow managers to plan their service provision and for employees to plan their leave more effectively. The proposals had been subject to consultation with appropriate officers, Trade Unions and the HR Strategy Group.

Following consideration 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 proposals for the Christmas closedown arrangements for 2015-2020 were approved.

8. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report sought endorsement of the updated Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period September to November 2014. The Forward Work Programme is updated on a monthly basis to reflect any amendments that are made to it since it was first agreed on 22nd January 2014.

Following consideration 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 Forward Work Programme for the period September to November 2014, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, was approved.

9. REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT - WELSH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO "WILLIAMS COMMISSION REPORT"

The Interim Chief Executive highlighted the key issues within the report, which advised Members on the recently published Welsh Government response to the Williams Commission report and provided an opportunity for Members to consider how the Council wishes to respond.

The Welsh Government has recently published two separate but parallel documents setting out its response to the Williams Commission report. One of these reports is in the form of a

white paper specifically relating to local government issues and there is an opportunity for the Council to offer comment on this by 1st October 2014. Alongside this the WLGA has recently published a related discussion paper regarding the possible creation of four combined authorities for Wales to provide regional services. The WLGA is seeking Council's view on this by 7th September 2014.

During the course of the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their concerns regarding the merger proposals for Caerphilly and reiterated their desire that Caerphilly CBC should remain as a stand-alone authority. It was agreed that it was not possible for the Council to offer a meaningful view on the proposals within the WLGA discussion paper at the present time without more information and clarity. However, if more information becomes available over the coming weeks it will be incorporated into the Council 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: -

1. The WG response to the Williams Commission report was noted.
2. The receipt of the WLGA discussion paper was noted.
3. The proposed approach to the preparation of consultation responses, which will allow officers to prepare a suitable report (including a draft response) for consideration by Council on 29th September 2014, was endorsed.

The meeting closed at 2.35 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 17th September 2014.

CHAIR