



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Marsden (Leader) - Chair

Councillors:

S. Cook (Social Care and Housing), N. George (Waste, Public Protection and Street Scene), C. Gordon (Corporate Services), J. Pritchard (Infrastructure and Property), E. Stenner (Performance, Economy and Enterprise), A. Whitcombe (Sustainability, Planning and Fleet) and R. Whiting (Learning and Leisure).

Together with:

D. Street (Acting Chief Executive) R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services) G. Jenkins (Acting Corporate Director Social Services) and M.S. Williams (Corporate Director – Economy and Environment).

Also in Attendance:

R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), R. Roberts (Business Improvement Manager), K. Denman (Housing Solutions Manager), K. Peters (Policy Manager), G. Mumford (Team Leader Environmental Services), R. Kyte (Head of Planning and Regeneration), F. Wilkins (Housing Services Manager), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services), M. Afzal (Committee Services Officer) and E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer).

And:

Councillor C. Mann

MINUTE SILENCE

Cabinet observed a minute silence in memory of Jack Lis of Penyrheol who tragically lost his life this week. The Leader expressed her deep and sincere sympathies to Jack's Family and Friends at this incredibly sad time.

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed but would not be live streamed, however a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here To View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from C. Harrhy (Chief Executive) and S. Harris (Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. CABINET – 27TH OCTOBER 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – TO NOTE

Cabinet were provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, which detailed the scheduled reports until the 26th January 2022. Members were reminded that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is a working document and therefore subject to change.

It was noted that Agenda Item No. 11 had been withdrawn and would not be considered at this meeting.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Forward Work Programme be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme be noted.

5. COMMERCIAL AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 12-MONTH PROGRESS UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report which presented Cabinet with a 12-month progress update on the Commercial & Investment Strategy that was adopted in December 2020, the report also sought Cabinet's views on the proposed extension to the Commercial and Investment Strategy refresh for an additional 12 months.

Cabinet noted that good progress had been made with the high-level action plan whilst managing the demands of the COVID response and the incorporation of the Corporate Review programme. Inevitably there had been some delays and in order to enable further progress with actions Officer sought to extend the refresh date of the strategy by 12 months. A new strategy would then be developed following feedback and engagement over the course of the next calendar year.

Cabinet were referred to the highlights including Destination Caerphilly, Pilot Training Sessions and the License to Innovate Scheme and were advised that Members Workshops on the strategy would be offered should an interest be expressed.

Cabinet recognised the work done and the work to be done to build on the strategy's goals setting more ambitious goals and driving progress forward and looked forward to receiving further reports both at Cabinet and Scrutiny.

Following consideration and discussion it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Officer's report be approved and by way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report:

1. The updates for the high-level action plan be agreed and noted;
2. The 12-month extension for the refresh of the Commercial & Investment Strategy be approved and a new strategy be listed on the forward work programme for Cabinet December 2022.

6. HOMELESS PROJECT PLAN

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet's views on the Homeless Project Plan and its key priorities.

Cabinet were advised that as a result of Covid-19 the service had moved to a crisis led model in order to meet the increased demand for assistance. The Homeless Project Plan now sets out the service area priorities that will allow the Housing Solutions Service to review and refocus on the prevention of Homelessness, including rough sleeping and emergency accommodation provision.

Cabinet noted that the strategy had been considered by the Joint Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 21st October 21 and the comments were summarised. Members were advised that the Joint Scrutiny Committee had been very positive about the strategy and had unanimously support it.

Cabinet thanked Officers for the report and for the exceptional work being done in this area.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the content of the report and the Homeless Project Plan be noted.

7. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – DOG CONTROL ON SPORTS PITCHES

Consideration was given to the report which sought to update Cabinet on the outcome of a 10-week public consultation regarding a proposed amendment to the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). Cabinet approval for the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), to include the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches on a seasonal basis was also sought.

Cabinet noted that the report had been considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 27th October 2021. The comments of the Scrutiny were summarised in Section 10 of the Officer's report.

Cabinet were advised that Public Spaces Protection Orders were introduced by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and can be used to regulate activities in particular public places to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces safe from anti-social behaviour. As such these orders are an opportunity to enhance the Council's enforcement ability to respond to public opinion regarding dog fouling.

Clarification was sought with regard to signage and enforcement and Officers confirmed that signage would be placed in prominent positions within parks including park entrances that would clearly show the pitch areas included in the PSPO. Officers felt that education rather than enforcement would be the way to secure improvements and advised that the signage would be further supported by a communications and social media campaign, to ensure that the public will be fully aware of the requirements and their responsibilities.

Cabinet accepted that the vast majority of dog owners were responsible people but welcomed the PSPO as a way to greater safeguard public health.

To this end and in response to the outcome of the public consultation exercise it was moved and seconded that the recommendation be reworded to include the permanent exclusion of dogs from all marked sports pitches all year round and by way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

1. That the views and comments of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet be noted.
2. The draft Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) attached at Appendix 2 to include the permanent exclusion of dogs from all marked sports pitches all year round be approved.

8. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS – ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND DRINKING ALCHOL IN A PUBLIC PLACE

Consideration was given to the report which sought to update Cabinet on the outcome of a public consultation regarding the extension and proposed amendments to the existing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for anti-social behaviour (ASB) and drinking alcohol in a public place. Cabinet approval for the variation of some existing PSPO areas to include anti-social behaviour restrictions and on introducing a number of new areas within the PSPOs (Appendices 3-5) was also sought.

Cabinet noted that the report had been considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 27th October 2021. The comments of the Scrutiny Committee were summarised in Section 10 of the Officer's report.

Following consideration and discussion it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Officer's report be approved and by way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report:-

1. The views and comments of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet be noted.
2. The draft PSPOs relating to anti-social behaviour and drinking alcohol in a public place as listed in Appendices 3-5 be approved.

9. TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUPS

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval on a trial of a revised format for the Town Centre Management Group meetings.

Cabinet acknowledged that there not been an appropriate level of business representation and engagement via the Town Centre Management Groups for some time. In order to address this and having regard for available resources and the need to support post Covid recovery, a change to the format and operation of the meetings to encourage increased business and stakeholder attendance and engagements at meetings was proposed.

Due to the success of the Business Enterprise and Renewal Team events in 2018 and 2019, it is suggested that a similar model be trailed for the Town and Centre Management Groups. This would include holding the meetings outside of the normal working day when business owners are more likely to be able to attend, with local town centre venues utilised to make attendance more convenient.

Cabinet welcomed the proposed changes as an excellent way forward and hoped that the new model would secure vital engagement with town centre businesses and stakeholders and were also pleased to note the cross-party support expressed by Scrutiny and Partners on the proposals.

The Head of Planning and Regeneration confirmed that the new model would allow Officers to go to businesses with information, regeneration initiatives, increasing awareness of available funding opportunities and opening access to local supply chains. This would form an important element of the COVID recovery programme. The Officer confirmed that the 5 principal town centres were Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Risca and Ystrad Mynach and if successful and resources allowed the model could be rolled out further.

Cabinet welcomed the new model as an excellent platform for signposting and working with local business and would be key to retail recovery going forward.

The Leader requested that an interim report also be brought back to Cabinet after the first six months of the trial to provide an update on the progress of the trial period.

Following consideration and discussion it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Officer's report be approved and by way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report

- i) The proposal to trial an alternative model of the TCMGs for a period of 12-months be approved.
- ii) A further report outlining the results of the trial period be considered after the trial period ends allowing a decision to be taken at that stage on the preferred model of deliver be acknowledged.

10. GEORGE STREET REAR WALLS, CWMCARN

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval to deploy Private Sector Housing Capital monies to assist private sector homeowners at George Street, Cwmcarn to fully participate in a priority retaining wall and steps replacement programme planned for Council owned properties during 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Cabinet noted that the scheme would not be able to proceed without the inclusion of the privately owned properties.

Cabinet welcomed the proposal in order to proceed with the much need replacement programme.

Following consideration and discussion it was moved and seconded that recommendation contained in the Officer's report be approved and by way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for reasons contained in the Officer's report in addition to the Housing Revenue Account Funding the works required to the Council properties:

Financial support be offered to homeowners at 1 to 46, George Street for the renewal of the rear retaining walls and steps and associated works in the form of a 100% grant.

Funding for the inclusion of private sector properties in the scheme be made available from existing Private Sector Housing Capital balances.

11. CAERPHILLY REDUCED BUS FARE SCHEME

It was noted that this report had been withdrawn and would not be considered at this meeting.

The meeting closed at 11:08am

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 24th November 2021.

CHAIR