



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH JANUARY 2022 AT 10:30AM

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), A. Whitcombe (Sustainability, Planning and Fleet) and R. Whiting (Learning and Leisure).

Together with:

C. Harry (Chief Executive), D. Street (Corporate Director, Social Services and Housing), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services), M.S. Williams (Corporate Director – Economy and Environment) and S. Harris (Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer).

Also in Attendance:

R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), A. West (21st Century School Manager), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), J. Morgan (Trading Standards, Licensing & Registrars Manager), L. Thomas (21st Century Schools - Principal Officer), N. Rutter (Digital Communications Officer), M. Harris (Committee Services Support Officer/Chauffer), M. Afzal (Committee Services Officer) and E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer).

And:

Councillor C. Mann

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 E. Stenner (Performance, Economy and Enterprise).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillor J. Pritchard declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 6 - 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme – Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon in that he is a Local Authority Appointed Governor at Plasyfelin Primary School, as this was a personal interest only, there was no requirement for him to leave the meeting and could take full part in the debate and vote.

Councillor S. Cook declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 6 - 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme – Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon in that he is a Local Authority Appointed Governor at Plasyfelin Primary School and a personal and prejudicial interest in that his daughter is starting nurse at Plasyfelin in April and as such he would leave the meeting when the matter was considered and take no part in the debate and vote.

3. CABINET - 12th JANUARY 2022.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 were approved as a correct record.

4. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME.

Cabinet was provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme which detailed the scheduled reports until the 23rd of March 2022. Members were reminded that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is a working document and therefore subject to change.

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

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme be noted.

5. 21st CENTURY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES BAND B PROGRAMME – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT: CENTRE FOR VULNERABLE LEARNERS (PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT).

Consideration was given to the report which updated Members on the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B proposal in respect of the establishment of a new Centre for Vulnerable Learners (Pupil Referral Unit) on the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School site. Members were asked to consider the information contained in the Community Engagement Report and approve the recommendations to proceed to Planning Application stage and Full Business Case submission to Welsh Government. Cabinet noted that Pupil Referral Units were exempt from the consultation processes outlined in line School Organisation Code 2018 and the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, but engagement with the school as well as the wider community was undertaken throughout the process in line with the Authority's Consultation and Engagement framework to enable transparent and open decision making.

Cabinet were provided with an overview of the engagement that took place between the 20th of October 2021 and the 1st of December 2021. It was noted that the consultation had received 20 responses including comments from the Education Scrutiny Committee who had unanimously endorsed the proposal; The responses were predominantly positive with 16 in support of the proposal, 3 responders did not feel strongly either way and 1 responder who did not support the proposal.

Cabinet received a detailed presentation, and the Officer summarised the Authority's plans for the site. It was hoped that the centre would accommodate between 80-120 pupils, offer first-class support to vulnerable pupils as well as easing pressures on mainstream schools. However, the Officer emphasised that the centre was not the end of the route for pupils, should

children benefit from the centres provisions it would be possible for them to return to mainstream school through a continual dialogue that would ensure that the pupils needs are met. The Officer confirmed that the Authority was working with colleagues in property services to bring the proposals to life.

Cabinet particularly welcomed the opportunity for the wider community to share both the indoor and outdoor sporting facilities after school hours, that would see the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School site being brought back into use. Cabinet also welcomed the centre as it would provide a level of stability for vulnerable learners and that it would facilitate the appropriate educational environment for those pupils.

The Leader was extremely pleased to welcome the report and Cabinet expressed their thanks to all the Officers who had been involved in the report and engagement process. As a long-term advocate of the proposals and former Cabinet Member for Education, it was encouraging to see the plans which the Authority had discussed in some length over the years coming to life.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations 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: -

- a) The contents of the report be noted.
- b) The Community Engagement Report be considered.
- c) The recommendation to proceed to Planning Application Stage be approved.
- d) The recommendation to proceed to Full Business Case submission to Welsh Government be approved.

6. 21st CENTURY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES BAND B PROGRAMME – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT: PLASYFELIN PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Councillor S. Cook having declared a personal and prejudicial interest left the meeting and took no part in the debate or vote.

Councillor J. Pritchard having declared a personal interest only remained in the meeting and took full part in the debate and vote.

Consideration was given to the report which updated Members on the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B proposal in respect of a new replacement Plasyfelin Primary School on the existing site. Members were asked to consider the information contained in the Community Engagement Report and approve the recommendations to proceed to Planning Application stage and Full Business Case submission to Welsh Government. Cabinet were advised that the proposal for Plasyfelin Primary School was exempt from the consultation processes outlined in line School Organisation Code 2018 and the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, but engagement with the school as well as the wider community was undertaken throughout the process in line with the Authority's Consultation and Engagement framework to enable transparent and open decision making.

Cabinet were provided with an overview of the engagement that took place between the 20th of October 2021 and the 1st of December 2021. It was noted that the consultation had received 15 responses including comments from the Education Scrutiny Committee. The responses were predominantly positive as only one resident had not been supportive of the proposal.

Cabinet received a presentation that detailed the breakdown of the responses. The Officer was pleased to update Members on the pupils from the school who had engaged in the consultation process through 'pupil voice' sessions, and assured Members that they would continue to incorporate pupil voices throughout the entire process. The Officer explained the net zero carbon aspect of the school. It was stated that the proposed net zero carbon school for Plasyfelin aligned with the Authority's decarbonisation agenda, and that the Authority would work with the school's eco-council at Plasyfelin throughout the project. Cabinet was pleased to note that the Authority were building to that standard and saw this as an extremely positive step forward. The Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Property welcomed the proposals. It was stated that the proposed developments were positive as they demonstrated that the Authority was committed to tackling climate change. The Cabinet Member offered his full support for the pioneering school and in his concluding remarks stated that exciting times lay ahead for Plasyfelin.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations 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: -

- a) The contents of the report be noted.
- b) The Community Engagement Report be considered.
- c) The recommendation to proceed to Planning Application Stage be approved.
- d) The recommendation to proceed to Full Business Case submission to Welsh Government be approved.

7. 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES BAND B PROGRAMME – CONSULTATION REPORT: LLANCAEACH JUNIOR SCHOOL/LLANFABON INFANTS SCHOOL.

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B proposal in respect of the amalgamation of Llancaeach Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School on the existing Llanfabon Infants School site. Members were asked to consider the information contained in the Consultation Report and approve the recommendations to proceed to Statutory Notice. Cabinet noted that like previous proposals the wider community would be able to access the new facilities. Cabinet also took the opportunity to place on record their thanks to Officers for all the hard work and dedication in producing the reports and consultations presented today particularly in the back drop of a pandemic.

Cabinet were provided with an overview of the consultation that took place between the 20th of October 2021 and the 1st of December 2021. Cabinet was advised that the consultation had received 11 responses in total including comments from the Education Scrutiny Committee. The Cabinet Member explained how pupils from both schools had engaged in the consultation process through 'pupil voice' sessions, and assured Members that they would continue to incorporate pupil voices throughout the entire process.

Cabinet received a detailed presentation on the proposal and the Officer highlighted how the primary school site would improve outside learning space and facilities that would provide a stimulating teaching and learning environment. Artist's impressions were shared to give an idea of the proposal and the consultation process was confirmed. The Officer outlined a breakdown of the responses received and confirmed that 91% of responders supported the proposal. Cabinet noted the response themes and how provision would be enhanced. Construction process and potential impacts were outlined, and assurances were provided that working in conjunction with Building Consultancy Services any issues would be addressed as they arise.

Cabinet were asked to note that the Welsh Government had renamed their 21st Century School and Colleges programme to Sustainable Communities for Learning which, Officers felt, embraced the Councils aspirations and ethos for integrating schools and communities.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations 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: -

- a) The contents of the report be noted.
- b) The information in the consultation report be considered.
- c) The recommendation to proceed to Statutory Notice in relation to the proposal to create a new Primary School provision through the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School on the existing Llanfabon Infants School site be approved.

8. 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES BAND B PROGRAMME - UPDATE YSGOL GYMRAEG CWM GWYDDON.

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update in relation to the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B proposal in respect of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon. Cabinet Members were asked to approve an additional £416,063 from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve in respect of the Authority's increased financial contribution to the Phase 1 proposal for Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon as part of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme. It was stated that a Full Business Case was submitted to Welsh Government and approval for this Business Case came through on 21st December 2021.

Cabinet were asked to note that this proposal had progressed to the Planning Application and Tendering process. Cabinet was advised that the overall increase in project costs were due to the impact of Covid 19, Brexit and significant inflationary increases within the construction sector. In relation to the planning approval which did have a condition against it, the Officer confirmed that the team were working closely with Welsh Water on this matter and that the condition could be discharged in due course.

Officers confirmed that the full business case had now been approved by Welsh Government.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations 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: -

- a) The information in the report be considered.
- b) That an additional £416,063 be set aside from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve in respect of the Authority's financial contribution to the Phase 1 Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposal as part of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme and the additional funds be approved.

The Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services placed on record their thanks to Officers for all their efforts throughout the process and welcomed these projects as an exciting way forward that would make a real difference to the residents of Caerphilly.

9. APPROVED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (AMHP) RECRUITMENT IN THE SOUTH EAST WALES EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM (SEWEDT).

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the recruitment and retention challenges pertaining to the number of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) employed by the Southeast Wales Emergency Duty Team (SEWEDT) and the direct correlation with salaries and the impact on service sustainability out-of-hours. The report also sought the approval of Cabinet to apply a market supplement for Approved Mental Health Professionals who undertake duties within the service to ensure that the legal, statutory duties of the service is suitably met. Cabinet noted that the challenges facing Caerphilly in this specific recruitment area were shared by a number of authorities. Cabinet Members welcomed the report as the additional market supplement would alleviate some of the difficulties that Approved Mental Health Professionals were currently experiencing.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations 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: -

A market supplement be applied to SEWEDT AMHPs employed to undertake the function of an Approved Mental Health Professional as outlined in 8.2 of the Officer's report and as supported by the SEWEDT Board of Directors. This is for the hours when the mainstream daytime services are closed, from 5pm to 8.30am Monday – Thursday, then 4.30pm on Fridays, for 24 hours during weekends and bank holidays, for which the 20% enhancement would continue to apply. The impact of this to be monitored and evaluated after a period of twelve months to determine the effect upon recruitment and retention of SEWEDT Approved Mental Health Professionals be approved.

10. ANIMAL WELFARE (LICENSING OF ACTIVITIES INVOLVING ANIMALS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2021.

Consideration was given to the report which informed Cabinet of new legislation pertaining to the selling of pets. The report also sought the Monitoring Officer's approval to make the necessary changes to the Constitution to reflect the implementation of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Wales) Regulations 2021, and revocation of the Pet Animals Act 1951. Cabinet noted that the new legislation offered an additional level of protection and referred to a previous notice of motion supported by the Council with regard to Lucy's Law, as those involved in the licensable activities of selling pets would be required to breed and sell them in line with legislation and license conditions. The Officer confirmed that the legislation would bring in stricter regulations as breeders would be required to make the sale from the premises in which the animal was bred and in the presence of the actual owner. Cabinet welcomed the new legislation as it set out to improve the welfare of animals and effectively place a ban on the third-party sale of animals in the County Borough.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations 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 be considered and: -

- a) The implementation of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Wales) Regulations 2021 be agreed.

- b) Licensing officers be given delegated authority to determine Licences under the Regulations in accordance with paragraph 5.5 of the report.
- c) That any appeals against the Star Rating of premises be determined by either of the Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services, Trading Standards, Licensing & Registrars Manager or the Licensing Manager in accordance with paragraphs 5.10 and 5.11.
- d) That the necessary amendments to the Constitution be made by the Council's Monitoring Officer to reflect the implementation of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Wales) Regulations 2021 and revocation of the Pet Animals Act 1951.

The meeting closed at 11:49am.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 9th February 2022.

CHAIR