



## CABINET

### MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023 AT 1PM

#### PRESENT:

Councillor S. Morgan – Chair

#### Councillors:

J. Pritchard (Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change), S. Cook (Cabinet Member for Housing), N. George (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Property), E. Forehead (Cabinet Member for Social Care), P. Leonard (Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection), C. Morgan (Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces) and E. Stenner (Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance), J. Simmonds (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation)

#### Together with:

C. Harrhy (Chief Executive), M.S. Williams (Corporate Director Economy and Environment), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services).

#### Also in Attendance:

S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), S. Richards, (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), A. West (21st Century Schools, Admissions and Exclusions Manager), C. Davies (Private Sector Housing Manager), F. Wilkins (Housing Services Manager), A. Lewis (Transformation Project Officer) C. Edwards (Environmental Health Manager), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services), S. Ellis (Lead for Inclusion and ALN), P. Cook (Transformation Manager (Lead) – Decarbonisation), K. Cole (Chief Education Officer) and J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer).

## RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader reminded those present that the meeting was being live streamed, and a recording would be made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. [Click Here To View](#).

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr D. Street (Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing)

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr M.S. Williams (Corporate Director for Economy and Environment) declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 - Sustainable Communities For Learning Band B Proposal - Update Trinity Fields School in that he is a Committee Member of Penallta Rugby Club and left the meeting when this item was discussed.

## 3. MINUTES – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be approved as a correct record.

## 4. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – TO NOTE

Cabinet was provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, which detailed the scheduled reports until 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Subject to the addition of a report on the 17<sup>th</sup> May in relation to an update on the Decarbonisation Strategy and an additional report on the 14<sup>th</sup> June in relation to the Wylie Bends Highway Scheme.

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.

## 5. LOCAL TOILETS STRATEGY

Cabinet noted that the report had been approved by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval in relation to adopting and publishing the updated Local Toilet Strategy findings.

Cabinet was pleased to note that in 2012 there were 12 toilets operated by CCBC that were open to the public within Caerphilly County Borough. The National Toilet Map App provided by WG shows that the number has now increased to 39, many of which are at Council held buildings such as libraries and leisure centres.

It was moved and seconded that subject to an additional recommendation (3) in that signage be added to publicly available toilets that were formally managed by CCBC but are now managed by others signposting users to other toilets within CCBC facilities (such as libraries). This signage to include opening times and directions and if suitable this signage should include a QR code linked to the Welsh Government National Toilet Map, the recommendations in the Officers report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for reasons contained in the Officers report;

1. The recommendations made by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 be supported.
2. The findings of the review and the updated Local Toilets Strategy with a view to adopting and publishing the updated Local Toilets Strategy be approved.
3. Signage be added to publicly available toilets that were formally

managed by CCBC but are now managed by other signposting users to other toilets within CCBC facilities (such as libraries). This signage to include opening times and directions and if suitable this signage should include a QR code linked to the Welsh Government National Toilet Map.

## **6. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DELEGATION**

Consideration was given to the report which provided Members with an update regarding the progress of the Local Authority in relation to the delegation of additional support to schools and also to seek Cabinet approval to endorse the approach to be taken in regard to exploring the delegation of additional support funding to schools and the possible operational models.

Clarification was sought on whether the allocation of funding would recognise issues within schools in areas where there is poverty and deprivation, where research has shown that children with additional learning needs are at a higher level. Further clarification was also sought on what the new model would look like.

The Lead for Inclusion and ALN advised Cabinet that it was important to acknowledge that this funding is additional to the funding schools already have within their budget and schools can access further funding through grants for particular issues such as PDG.

Cabinet noted that following discussions with the 'Working Group', models had been set out which were the most beneficial to school funding. There were four working model options. Models one and four are currently being worked on with the schools, as these are the model's teachers expressed most interest in. These models look at school figures and the number of pupils on roll also considering the size of the school.

Cabinet further noted that the consultation is an ongoing process if there are further factors that need to be considered, these will be looked at before engaging in further consultation.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for reasons contained with the Officer report;

1. The information contained in the report be considered and views and comments offered.
2. The approach to be taken in regard to exploring the delegation of additional support funding to schools and the possible operational models be endorsed.

## **7. CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF NON-PRIORITY HOME REPAIR GRANTS.**

Consideration was given to the report which informed Members that a formal review was being undertaken of the Authority's Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy. The Report also sought Cabinet approval for a moratorium in respect of routine Home Repair Grants, that was initiated due to the impacts of the pandemic to be continued until such time as a revised Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy is formally adopted.

Cabinet noted that the backlog was initially due to the pandemic. However, since the restrictions have been lifted there have been significant issues, such as availability of contractors and increased prices on materials which has exasperated the situation as the grant funding is limited to £10,000.

Cabinet further noted that the Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy was last reviewed in 2014. However, there was an addendum report to Cabinet in July 2018, when the Council introduced loans.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for reasons contained in the Officers report the continued moratorium in respect of non-priority Home Repair Grants in cases where there is no imminent threat to health and safety, pending the approval and implementation of a revised Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy be approved.

## **8. MUTLI-FUNCTIONAL CADET AND SPORTS PAVILLION AT MORGAN JONES PARK AND PARC PENALLTA VISITORS CENTRE**

Consideration was given to the report which presented Cabinet with an update regarding the inability to progress previously approved proposals to build a multi-functional cadet / sports pavilion at Morgan Jones Park and a Visitor Centre at Parc Penallta.

The report sought Cabinet approval to implement alternative schemes at both locations and to release previously approved capital contributions back to the Authority's capital reserves.

Cabinet noted that on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 approval had been given in relation to financial contributions of £258,000 (including VAT) towards a joint project with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to construct a multi-functional cadet and sports pavilion at Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly. Cabinet noted at its meeting of 9th March 2022 Cabinet approved the acceptance of a Substitution Grant of £903,000 from Welsh Government towards the funding of a multipurpose visitor centre at Parc Penallta and also agreed to allocate £1,268,000 of capital funding.

Cabinet was informed that the costs of both projects have significantly increased such that the previously allocated funding is no longer sufficient, and it is not possible for either project to progress as envisaged. The MOD are now pursuing the alternative option of developing a new facility (on the existing site) to replace the current cadet building within the curtilage of Morgan Jones Park. This would accommodate the RAF Air and Army Cadets, but not the Bowls Club, who would continue to use the existing bowls pavilion.

The Chief Executive made Cabinet aware that the Ystrad Mynach Ward Members had been consulted, however, this had only taken place on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. As there had yet to be any comments received it was suggested that in the absence of any consultation responses that Cabinet assume that the Ward Members are happy with the proposals set out within the Officers report. However, if any responses are received to the contrary then Cabinet will be advised, and the appropriate action taken.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for reasons contained in the Officers report:-

1. The updated situation regarding projects to build a multi-functional cadet / sports pavilion at Morgan Jones Park and a Visitor Centre at Parc Penallta be noted and that previously approved funding will not now be drawn down from Corporate Capital budgets.

2. The proposed use of land at Morgan Jones Park for a replacement RAF Air Cadets and Army Cadets facility which would be subject to the necessary approvals including, if required, consideration of any planning application by Planning Committee be endorsed.
3. The virement of £5,600 plus VAT from the Corporate Capital Reserve to purchase and install a storage container for Morgan Jones Park Bowls Club be approved.
4. The virement of £321,000 from the Corporate Projects capital budget for the refurbishment of the steps down to National Cycle Route (47) from the new tourism and educational facility at Colliers Farm Park be approved.

## **9. CWM IFOR SOLAR FARM**

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approve an additional funding of £180,000 to progress the Cwm lfor Solar Farm project to full business case.

Cabinet noted on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 Cabinet gave approval for the Cwm lfor Solar farm to be taken to full business case using previously approved budgets. Since then, there has been an increase in unforeseen costs which will require additional funding.

Members noted to date a total budget of £483,000 has been approved to take the project to full business case.

Cabinet was informed the further costs relate to the requirement for an alternative route to market after the company operating the preferred Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) withdrew in February 2023. Members noted there is potentially additional costs as part of the planning process.

Cabinet noted that there were more positive than negative comments received in relation to the public consultations that had taken place to date. The comments received show public support for decarbonisation measures and reduction in carbon throughout the Borough. However, Cabinet was advised that there had been some concerns in relation to ecology.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

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

1. An increase in the budget of up to £180,000 to take the Cwm lfor Solar Farm project to full business case be approved.
2. The additional £180,000 should be made available from the preciously approved earmarked reserve for the delivery of the Decarbonisation Strategy be approved.

## **10. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING BAND B PROPOSAL - UPDATE TRINITY FIELDS SCHOOL**

Consideration was given to a report which presented Cabinet with an update in relation to the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme in respect of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre.

Members were informed that the project is seeking to build a new two storey extension within the curtilage of the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre to accommodate an additional 80 places plus additional facilities.

Members noted the current building will also receive a proportion of remodelling, refurbishment, and condition improvements to offer a whole school solution.

The report sought Cabinet approval on an additional £1,380,783 which is set aside from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve in respect of the increased financial contribution required to complete the proposal for Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme. Cabinet was also asked to consider the approval of an upfront allocation of £1,434,186 from the Council's total contribution as outlined in 5.2.9 of the report for pre-construction, design and other professional services including surveys, explorations, early orders and enabling works prior to Welsh Government Full Business Case.

Following consideration of the item, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for reasons contained the Officer report:-

1. A further £1,380,783 be set aside from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve to fund the cost of the expansion of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre be approved.
2. An upfront allocation of £1,434,186 from the Council's total contribution as outlined in 5.2.9 of the Officer's report for pre-construction, design, and other professional services including surveys, explorations, early orders and enabling works prior to Welsh Government Full Business Case approval be approved.

The meeting closed at 2pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

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CHAIR