



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE 2023 AT 1PM

PRESENT:

Councillor S. Morgan – Chair

Councillors:

C. Andrews (Cabinet Member for Education and Communities), N. George (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Property, Highways), J. Pritchard (Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change), S. Cook (Cabinet Member for Housing), E. Forehead (Cabinet Member for Social Care), C. Morgan (Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces) and E. Stenner (Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance).

Together with:

C. Harryh (Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services and Housing) 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), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), A. West (21st Century Schools, Admissions and Exclusions Manager), H. Munroe (Caerphilly Place Making Programme Manager), J. Williams (Deputy Director Social Services, Adult Services), P. Hudson (Business Enterprise Renewal Team Leader), E. Sullivan (Senior 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 Councillor P. Leonard (Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C. Andrews declared a personal interest only in relation to Agenda Item No. 5 Supplementary Payment for Residential/Nursing Care Homes to Support Increased Costs of Amenities and Food Costs in that her Mother-in-Law resides in a care home.

Councillor S. Cook declared a personal interest only in relation to Agenda Item No. 5 Supplementary Payment for Residential/Nursing Care Homes to Support Increased Costs of Amenities and Food Costs in that his Grandmother resides in a care home.

As these were both personal interests there was no requirement for them to leave the meeting and they could take full part in the debate and vote.

3. MINUTES – 14th JUNE 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th June 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 18th October, 2023.

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. SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL/NURSING CARE HOMES TO SUPPORT INCREASED COSTS OF AMENITIES AND FOOD COSTS

Consideration was given to a report that sought Cabinet approval to repurpose earmarked reserves to address cost pressures faced by providers of residential and nursing care.

Cabinet noted that the report had been considered by the Social Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 30th May 2023.

Cabinet noted that in the latter part of the 2021/22 financial year Welsh Government provided Caerphilly with additional one-off funding of £3.540m via the Revenue Support Grant, of which £595k was earmarked to provide driving lessons and electric vehicles to reduce some of the barriers faced by workers entering the domiciliary care profession, particularly the unprecedented cost of petrol at the time. Members were advised that there had been very limited interest in the provision of electric vehicles or driving lessons for staff and decreases in petrol prices had also helped to reduce barriers to entering the domiciliary care profession.

Therefore, it was proposed to repurpose £507k of this reserve to address the exceptional cost pressures faced by providers of larger residential and nursing homes and in response to concerns raised by Social Services Scrutiny Committee, £13,750 would also be repurposed to address similar costs by smaller providers.

Clarification was sought as to why this funding was only being applied to the private sector and Officers confirmed that Providers have indicated to them that this year's uplift was not sufficient to cover the significant increases in energy and food costs, in terms of internal provision budgets these had already been uplifted to reflect the increases. It was noted that there are currently 125 in house fully residential beds, however in the independent sector there are a mixture of residential, residential nursing, EMI and EMI nursing.

Members asked how this funding would impact the wider market and the Officer confirmed that they hoped this would provide a level of stability given that some providers were in a very

precarious position, particularly nursing homes and this funding would enable them to keep operating.

Clarification was then sought as to whether any energy efficiencies were being made in Council care homes and why there was a lesser per bed payment to smaller providers. The Officer confirmed that solar panels had been installed in all care homes and a window replacement programme was underway to improve energy efficiency and advised that very small homes of around 4 beds could more easily control energy usage and they also had greater flexibility in terms of food costs and could shop around, whereas bigger providers were often tied into supplier contracts and had less control over their variable costs.

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 re-purposing of £520,750 of service reserves be approved and
 - A one-off payment be made to providers of larger residential and nursing care homes within the Caerphilly County Borough, equivalent to £1,000 per bed that is either currently commissioned by Caerphilly CBC or is vacant be agreed.
 - A one-off payment is made to providers of small residential care homes within the Caerphilly County Borough, equivalent to £250 per bed this is either currently commissioned by Caerphilly CBC or is vacant be agreed.

6. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING BAND B PROGRAMME – PHASE 3 PROPOSAL

Consideration was given to the report which sought to update Cabinet on the next phase of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme and also sought approval to proceed to Outline Business Case stage with Welsh Government in respect of the project outlined within the Officer's report.

Cabinet noted that the identified project was the relocation of Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School into a brand-new sustainable school building with shared facilities and community use. Cabinet were reassured that the two schools would continue to provide both Welsh and English Medium Primary education and would remain as separate entities, situated within a dual-purpose building.

Clarification was sought as to whether the views of Local Ward Members had been gathered and Officers confirmed that Local Ward Members, both Head Teachers and Governors were fully supportive of the project.

Members queried if any surveys had been undertaken to determine to suitability of the development site and Officers confirmed that only after Welsh Government approval of the Business Case had been given would any invasive survey work be undertaken. However, a non-invasive ecological survey had been carried out and there were plans to undertake a topographical survey.

Clarification was then sought in relation to energy savings and budget savings by combining 2 older school buildings on to one brand new site. Officers confirmed that the 2 schools currently had a D rating in relation to carbon usage, with gas boilers used at both with an estimated combined total of 107 tonnes of CO₂ per annum. The new schools would have higher insulation standards, low carbon heating strategies such as air or ground source

heating pumps and consideration was being given to utilising the river running alongside the site, which had the potential to be used as an energy source for heating the school. The Officer also understood that the Coal Board had indicated that coal streams below the school itself could be tapped into. There were also various options in terms of the generation of renewable green energy on site through the installation of PV panels both on the ground and in the roof and other technologies as appropriate.

Cabinet welcomed the proposal and the many community benefits that it would bring, including indoor and outdoor sports facilities and the employment opportunities via social value contract commitments were noted.

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. The content of the report be noted.
2. The Outline Business Case be approved for submission with Welsh Government in respect of the proposed project outlined in 2.2, and subject to Welsh Government approval, subsequent formal consultation in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 be approved.

7. CAERPHILLY TOWN 2035 – PENTREBANE STREET REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update to Cabinet on the Pentrebane Street redevelopment and sought approval for a preferred development option.

Cabinet noted the real need for town centre regeneration and acknowledged the economic problems and continuing challenges facing town centres. Key points from the Officer's report were highlighted to provide further context on the new commercial opportunities at a street level that would attract creative businesses and act as a catalyst for further investment. Working in partnership with Welsh Government and Linc this scheme would be an exemplar for future town centre development creating an exciting mixed-use development comprising new commercial opportunities at street level, high density, social rent, private rent, and market sale apartments.

It was further noted that the development would be designed using a fabric first approach to reduce energy usage, furthermore the overall carbon footprint of homes that will be Net Zero Carbon and EPC A rated.

Cabinet very much welcomed the development and clarification was sought as to the percentage of affordable housing the development would achieve. Officers confirmed that at present the proposed mix was 50/50.

Clarification was then sought as to the site costs and Officer's confirmed that figures were based on the valuations received from the District Valuer with 100% of the site assembly being funded by Welsh Government.

Reference was made to possible disruption to the Town Centre during the construction process and Officers confirmed that there would obviously be some given the nature of the development, however every care would be taken to mitigate the level of disruption and support businesses that would be directly affected. It was noted that demolition works would be unlikely to commence until quarter 2 or quarter 3 of 2024 and would be after the

completion of the Caerphilly Market project.

Cabinet placed on record their thanks to Hamish Munroe and his Team for all their hard work in bringing this project to fruition.

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. The inclusion of the additional properties on Clive Street to deliver the preferred development option, Option 03, in the Linc Options Appraisal Report be approved.
2. The CPO, when sought, is extended for the preferred option to include the additional properties required on Clive Street be approved.
3. Funding an additional £250,000 from uncommitted capital earmarked reserves to support the fees associated with the acquisition of the additional properties and their management before transfer to Linc be agreed.
4. The requirement for amendments to the WG Funding Letter and the proposed Back-to-Back Agreement with Linc be acknowledged.
5. There is likely to be a requirement from WG for the Council to make a further funding contribution to match their financial contribution to facilitate delivery of the scheme, and that this will be subject to a further Cabinet report be acknowledged.

8. REGENERATION PROJECT BOARD – NON-COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY ALLOCATION: PONTLLANFRAITH WARD

Consideration was given to the report which sought Cabinet approval for the allocation of the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Pontllanfraith Ward to the Engineering Projects Group to create off-street parking on council land at Gelli Lane, Pontllanfraith.

Cabinet noted that the 3 Local Ward Members were in full agreement and the project would see 6 parking spaces provided for Gelli Lane residences which were on a main road, with no back lane, off street or alternative parking available and would alleviate long standing issues.

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 allocation of the allocation of £25,776 of the Non-Community Council Community Infrastructure Levy funding for the Pontllanfraith Ward to the Engineering Projects Group to create off-street parking on council land at Gelli Lane, Pontllanfraith be approved.
2. Delegated powers be given to the Regeneration Project Board for proposals under £50k to ensure timely delivery of CIL schemes for members.

The meeting closed at 14.00 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held

on 12th July 2023.

CHAIR