



## **SPECIAL CABINET**

### **MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 1PM**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor S. Morgan – Chair

#### **Councillors:**

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

#### **Together with:**

D. Street (Deputy Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services), M.S. Williams (Corporate Director of Economy and Environment) and G. Jenkins (Interim Director of Social Services).

#### **Also in Attendance:**

R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services), J. Reynolds (Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager), M. Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure), H. Jones (Waste Strategy and Operations Manager), M. Goodger (Principle Engineer (Drainage)), S. O'Donnell (Principal Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate Officer), C. Davies (Private Sector Housing Manager), F. Wilkins (Housing Services Manager) 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**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E. Stenner (Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance) and C. Harrhy (Chief Executive).

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **3. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – TO NOTE**

Cabinet was provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, which detailed the scheduled reports until 29th May 2024.

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.

### **4. PONTLLANFRAITH LEISURE CENTRE**

Cabinet noted the report had been considered by the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Consideration was given to the report which advised Cabinet on the outcome of a public consultation on a proposal for the indoor facilities at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to remain permanently closed, with sporting facilities at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) including a 4-court sports hall, changing facilities, and a 3G pitch being made available for community use outside of school hours upon opening in Spring 2025. The proposal would also see use of the 3G pitch on the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre site continue but cease once the 3G pitch at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners is open for community use.

The report also sought Cabinet approval for the indoor facilities at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to remain permanently closed and for use of the 3G pitch on the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre site to continue but cease once the 3G pitch at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners is open for community use.

A query was raised regarding the accessibility of the new sports facility at the CVL and whether they were DDA compliant. Sport and Leisure Facilities Manager assured Cabinet that the new facility met all the criteria set out in the Sports England Guidance, which is the guidance that is currently used when developing facilities of this type. The Officer also assured Members that the CVL met all DDA requirements.

Following a further query raised, Cabinet was advised that the CVL facilities would be made available for public hire Monday to Friday between the hours of 5pm to 9pm and Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 9am to 5pm.

Following consideration, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms and a verbal vote this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for reasons contained in the Officers report:

1. Consideration was given to the outcome of the consultation exercise and the comments of Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee at 10.6 of the report.
2. The permanent closure of the indoor leisure facilities at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre be approved.
3. The permanent closure of the 3G pitch on the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre site once the 3G pitch at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners is open for community use be approved.

### **5. CONSULTATION OUTCOME - PROPOSALS TO IMPLEMENT COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS ON LONG-TERM EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SECOND HOMES**

Consideration was given to the report that provided Cabinet with the results of the public consultation which it agreed to undertake on the proposed introduction of Council Tax

Premiums on long-term empty properties and second homes in the County Borough prior to consideration by Council on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Following queries raised the Principal Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate Officer advised Cabinet that there are currently a number of statutory exemptions in place that would not be affected by the premiums. The Officer also assured Members that there had been significant engagement with second homeowners, owners of empty properties and with stakeholders.

Clarification was sought as to when the premiums would come into effect. The Officer explained that following Cabinet approval and meeting with WG requirements the premiums would be effective from April 2025.

Following consideration, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms and a verbal vote this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for reasons contained in the Officers report:

1. Cabinet reviewed and considered the consultation feedback attached at Appendix A of the report.
2. Cabinet recommended to Council the implementation of the following premiums from 01 April 2025: -

**Class of dwelling Premium**

Second Homes 100%

Long-Term Empty Properties: -

Empty longer than 2 years 100%

Empty longer than 3 years 200%

Empty longer than 5 years 300%

## 6. LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Consideration was given to the report which advised Cabinet of the proposed update to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan (LFRMaAP) following on from public consultation. The report sought Cabinet approval of the draft LFRMSaAP for publication and implementation and also advised Cabinet of the financial implications associated with delivery of the strategy.

It was noted that CCBC are not responsible for the main rivers. The responsibility of these fall on Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

It was further noted that flood risk management is becoming increasingly important as there is an increase in wet periods.

Clarification was sought on what the cost is on the water course that CCBC are currently working on at the Nant Cylla. The Head of Infrastructure advised Cabinet that it is still at design stage and the confirmed costs to date are £270,000. It is estimated that costs will be circa £3million to undertake the improvements works required. The Officer also clarified that currently the whole cost would fall on CCBC as there was no funding offered by Welsh Government.

Following consideration, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved and by way of Microsoft Forms and a verbal vote this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for reasons contained in the Officers report:

1. The updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan (LFRMSaAP) for publication be approved.
2. The financial and personnel implications associated with implementation of the LFRMSaAP and that further reports will be presented as required to approve match funding for specific capital projects be noted.

## **7. TRADE WASTE SERVICE CHANGES AND CHARGING POLICIES**

Consideration was given to the report which provided Cabinet with proposals for providing a revised Workplace Recycling Regulations collection service to comply with new legislation and agree appropriate principles for collection service recharge rates.

Responding to a query raised, the Head of Infrastructure advised Cabinet, that it is anticipated that there will be arise in charges for commercial collectors for recycling, this due to the separation and collection method that needs to be undertaken. The Officer explained that trade waste is currently collected alongside domestic customers and in the same format. However, going forward the collections will have to be carried out in a different format and separated into food waste, cardboard etc.

Further information was sought as to whether all the Council buildings have been notified of the changes and are there plans in place. The Waste Strategy and Operations Manager assured Cabinet that the Authority have been notified about the regulations and about how this will affect CCBC as a waste producer in relation to waste services and all building managers have been notified and given advice. The Officer further assured Cabinet there has been direct communication to local businesses from Welsh Government (WG) and from the Council. Cabinet was pleased to note that the intention is to work with the businesses to ensure that they have the best service in place to meet the expectations and ensure they are compliant with the new regulations.

Following a query raised the Officer advised Cabinet that the direction from WG is that the costs should be passed to the relevant business.

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 requirements of the Workplace Recycling Regulations and their impact on Council owned buildings, trade customers, and the Council's trade waste collection service be noted.
2. The outcome of the review into the trade waste service, the preferred outcome and the approach to Market be noted.
3. An interim 'compliant' service to be undertaken by the Council from April 6<sup>th</sup> to service commencement be supported.
4. A full cost recovery approach to realign the recycling and food waste charges from April 2024. This will further be amended once the outcomes of the procurement and customer demands are better understood. A new charging structure will be

brought forwards in consultation with Cabinet Member and delegated to the Corporate Director for approval be approved.

5. An uplift in the annual Waste Transfer Note charges from £21 to £40 be approved.
6. An additional £180,000 to purchase additional containers for businesses to meet their requirements under the regulations. This is to be funded from uncommitted Capital earmarked reserves be approved.

The meeting closed at 14.12 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.