



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON 7TH JUNE 2016 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs D. Price - Mayor
Councillor J. Bevan - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Miss L. Ackerman, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, Mrs K.R. Baker, P.J. Bevan, D. Bolter, D.G. Carter, C.J. Cuss, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, K. Dawson, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, Mrs C. Forehead, Miss E. Forehead, L. Gardiner, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, Mrs P. Griffiths, D.T. Hardacre, D. Harse, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, K. James, M.P. James, Ms J.G. Jones, Miss L. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, Mrs P. Marsden, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, Mrs J. Summers, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), D. Street (Director of Social Services), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), C. Harry (Corporate Director - Communities), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property Services), R. Roberts (Performance Manager), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. **WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Interim Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be made publically available in live and archive form via the Council's website. He advised that decisions would be made by show of hands.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Adams, A.P. Angel, L. Binding, Mrs A. Blackman, Mrs. P. Cook, H.W. David, W. David, N. Dix, J.E. Fussell, Mrs J. Gale, G.J. Hughes, G. Johnston, Mrs B.A. Jones, Ms P. Leonard, S. Morgan, Mrs. G. Oliver, D. Rees and J.E. Roberts.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the events and visits that she has undertaken since the last meeting and made specific reference to the Royal Garden Party and supper with the Bishop of Monmouth, Richard Pain.

4. CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION MANAGEMENT AND INNOVATION AWARD

Members were advised that Caerphilly County Borough Council has received a 'Recognising Excellence - Closed Circuit Television Management and Innovation Award.'

This award is as a result of works to transfer the closed circuit television cameras, which are currently transmitted via BT fibre, onto the Public Sector Broadband Aggregation network. Once final works are completed, 98 of the 153 public cameras monitored by the council will be on the new network. The new system allows for a more flexible approach, as cameras can be more readily added or relocated where the new network is available.

Kath Peters and Carl Nesling came forward to receive the award from the Mayor on behalf of the service. Members placed on record their congratulations to the staff involved in achieving the award.

5. DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

It was announced that members of staff were recently invited to attend the Duke of Edinburgh Diamond Anniversary Gold Award Presentation at Buckingham Palace, where they received an award for the authority's contribution to the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme has been delivered within the county borough for 25 years, with around 150 young people achieving a Duke of Edinburgh award each year. The various activities undertaken by the young people are run by volunteer leaders including Caerphilly Youth Workers, Teachers, Outdoor Pursuit Instructors and Caerphilly Adventure Group Volunteers. Taking part in the scheme significantly impacts young people's futures, enabling them to develop vital skills, such as teamwork, commitment and confidence.

Jared Lougher, Carole Challenger and Richie Batton came forward to receive the award from the Mayor on behalf of the service. Members placed on record their congratulations to the staff involved in achieving the award.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7. PETITIONS - CHILD SAFETY FOR UPPER RHYMNEY

The Mayor received a petition from Councillor C. Cuss in relation to child safety for Upper Rhymney requesting more safety measures (such as a pelican crossing or pedestrian crossing Officer) and indicated that it would be referred to the appropriate directorate for attention.

8. COUNCIL - 19TH APRIL 2016

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

Council held on 19th April 2016 (minute nos. 1 -15).

9. ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL - 12TH MAY 2016

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

Annual meeting of Council held on 12th May 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 21).

REPORT REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following report referred from Cabinet.

10. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, DRAFT 2016/17 CORPORATE PLAN (WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES)

Cabinet considered this report on 18th May 2016, and in endorsing its content, recommended its acceptance by Council.

Members were advised that the Council is required to set new or review their existing Improvement Objectives to ensure they remain relevant and current for the public. The report detailed the outcome of this process and identified the recommended set of Objectives for 2016/17.

The Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of priorities called Improvement Objectives. The introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (FGA) also places a legal requirement for public bodies to set and publish 'Well-being Objectives' with effect from March 2017. This means there will be a cross over period in the completion of the 16/17 set of objectives and the setting of new Well-being Objectives for 17/18.

Therefore, the Improvement Objectives have been reviewed and mapped to show how they contribute to the seven Well-being goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act and as a result, the Improvement Objectives have been renamed Well-being Objectives in advance of the new legislation deadline.

In being mindful of the implications of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and in that the Corporate Plan details the well-being goals and the key ways of working going forward, it was noted that the first meeting of the Public Services Board, comprising of four statutory members, the Local Authority, Local Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and Natural Resources Wales had been held earlier in the day where there had been meaningful discussion on how the requirements of the Act will be taken forward. Reference was made to the Membership of the Board and it was noted that there are also a number of organisations (including GAVO) invited to participate but it is the statutory members who make the decisions. The Board will also engage with key partners in the area.

With regards to the information contained on page 55 in relation to the % of 16 year olds not in employment, education or training (NEET) in October, the actual figure has now

been received and the 2014/15 academic year results now read 2.1 and not 1.7 as detail in the draft document.

During the course of the debate, reference was made to carbon management (page 66) and as to how effective this objective has been. It was noted that the document details where we are now and how we will work to deliver the objective.

Members were reminded that there is a requirement to produce two reports, the Corporate Plan 2016/17 which is a forward looking document and the Annual Performance Report which will highlight how the Council performed against the improvement objectives set for 2015/16. There will be an opportunity to scrutinise performance at that stage. A query was raised as to the requirement to produce two documents and the Interim Chief Executive advised that there is ongoing dialogue with the Wales Audit Office on this issue.

In relation to the investment in council homes to transform lives and communities (page 41) it was noted that most of the issues have now been resolved and there has been significant improvement and a report is to be presented to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee which will detail performance against set targets for the service.

Reference was then made to the performance measure as it relates to the % of pupils aged 15 who achieved level 2 threshold including a GCSE pass at L2 in English or Welsh first language and mathematics (page 55) and as to the measure in place to improve the results. The Interim Chief Executive advised that this is one of the highest priorities and Officers are working closely with the Education Achievement Service, who provide the support services to schools. This has also been discussed at meetings with Secondary School Heads and by the School Boards. It is anticipated that an improvement will be seen in August.

A query was also raised in relation to the number of Welsh education places that are available and, looking forward, whether there will be an expansion programme for Welsh language education. The Interim Chief Executive advised that the growth of Welsh education is recognised and this is being kept under review at the monthly School Board Meeting and action will be taken if required. He advised that that no parent who had applied by the specific date had not had their preferences met as there were sufficient places available.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report and subject to reference to the Anti-Poverty Strategy being included within the document, the draft Corporate Plan which details the Well-being Objectives for 2016/17 be endorsed.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following report

11. AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The report recommended minor changes to the Council's Constitution in order to reflect current arrangements and sought approval for the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Constitution as set out therein.

The Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. The Constitution is a “living document” in that it is continuously being updated and revised to reflect new legislation, improvement in procedures and changes to working practices.

The report sought Members’ approval to amend the Council’s Constitution at Part 3, Section 4, headed ‘Responsibility for Executive Functions, paragraph (f) to change the delegation for the Proper Officer for Administration - Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages from the Head of Public Protection to the Trading Standards, Licensing and Registrars Manager.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) the proposed changes to the Council’s Constitution as set in paragraph 4.3 of the report be approved;
- (iii) the Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to make the necessary changes to the Council’s Constitution.

12. QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

There were no questions submitted under Rule of Procedure 10(2).

The meeting closed at 5.40pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2016 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR