



## **CABINET**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 2014 AT 2.00 PM**

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#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor K.V. Reynolds - Leader

#### **Councillors:**

Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), G. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), Mrs B. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), Mrs R. Passmore (Education and Lifelong Learning), D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure Services), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering), R. Woodyatt (Social Services).

#### **Together with:**

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), Mrs S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), Mrs N. Scammell (Acting Director Corporate Services and S.151 Officer), Mr D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services).

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

C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property), K. Williams (Private Sector Housing Manager), G. Hardacre (Head of Workforce and Organisational Development), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), K. Peters (Community Safety Manager), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

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

Councillor D. Hardacre declared an interest in agenda item 4 as his son lives in close proximity to the site. Mr G. Hardacre also declared an interest in agenda item 4 as he lives in close proximity to the site. Councillor D.V. Poole declared an interest in agenda item 5 in that he is a landlord.

#### **3. CABINET**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2014 (minute nos. 1 - 11) be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED**

### **4. LAND AT RIVERSIDE WALK, DERI**

Having declared an interest in this matter at the beginning of the meeting, Councillor D. Hardacre and Mr G. Hardacre left the room during its consideration.

Members' approval was sought on the principle of disposing of land at Riverside Walk, Deri to United Welsh Housing Association (UWHA) on terms to be negotiated. The site is the former concrete works, Deri that was purchased and remediated by the Local Authority in April 1996. The site has been declared surplus to requirements and is currently held by Property Services, pending disposal. The development is intended to be tenure neutral, which will have no defined tenure for the units and will allow applicants to choose to rent or purchase an equity share in the properties as Low Cost Home Ownership to create a more sustainable community. There is a Welsh Government claw back on the land.

In the event that United Welsh is unable to proceed at market value (because its total cost of development, including land acquisition and build cost is limited by Welsh Government regulations), a further report will be brought forward setting out options for Members' consideration.

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 for the reasons set out in the Officer's report: -

1. The land at Riverside Walk, Deri be sold to United Welsh Housing Association for the development of affordable housing on terms to be negotiated.
2. Approval of the detailed terms of the disposal be delegated to the Head of Performance and Property Services, for the purposes identified in the report but subject to Welsh Government approval in light of the claw back.

### **5. NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN SCHEME**

Having declared an interest in this matter at the beginning of the meeting, Councillor D.V. Poole left the room during its consideration.

The report was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 11th November 2014. The views of the Scrutiny Committee were reported to Cabinet.

Members were informed of a new initiative being launched by Welsh Government that will afford Welsh Local Authorities the opportunity to take advantage of a long-term loan scheme to fund interest free Home Improvement Loans to private sector house owners. Details were also received of changes to the funding mechanism for the current "Houses into Homes" scheme.

The new initiative, which will come into effect in January 2015, will offer interest-free loans to Local Authorities to provide a source of capital funding for those Authorities who wish to offer Home Improvement Loans to qualifying house owners. The loan to Local Authorities will be for a maximum 15 year period with Authorities making staged repayments in years 13-15. Research undertaken on similar loan products suggests that the potential repayment default is around 5%. Welsh Government have agreed that this risk can be shared between themselves and participating Authorities, with WG committed to funding 50% of any shortfall up to a maximum of 2.5% of the overall loan made to the Authority.

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 for the reasons set out in the officer's report: -

1. The Home Improvement Loan scheme to form part of the Authority's Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy, as outlined in Option 2 of the report, be adopted.
2. The Houses into Homes scheme continue to be operated, utilising both the capital grant funding element and also the loan funded element offered by Welsh Government, as outlined in Option B of the report.

## **6. DRAFT DOMESTIC ABUSE, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY AND GUIDANCE FOR MANAGERS**

The report, which outlined a revised Domestic Abuse Gender-based Violence and Sexual Violence Policy and Guidance Notes for Managers, was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 11th November 2014. The views of the Scrutiny Committee were reported to Cabinet.

According to the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence, 75% of those experiencing domestic abuse are targeted at work. Under current legislation, the Council has legal responsibilities in promoting the welfare and safety of all employees. The Council's current Policy and Guidance Notes were introduced in July 2005 and require review and updating. The changes to the Policy and Guidance Notes include updated statistics, definitions and contact details of support available for employees and managers.

It was noted that the Council has recently been awarded the White Ribbon Status Award for organisations wishing to demonstrate their commitment to ending violent behaviour against women. The review of the policy will assist the Council in working towards the actions contained in the White Ribbon Campaign Award Action Plan. Members referred to their recent visit to the re-launch of the Multi Agency Centre in Ystrad Mynach, a one-stop shop for domestic violence victims with a number of support agencies working under one roof and complimented staff who work there on the professional manner in which they provide support to service users.

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 set out in the Officer's report, the revised Domestic Abuse, Gender-based Violence and Sexual Violence Policy and Guidance Notes be adopted.

## **7. DRAFT FLEXIBLE WORKING POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The report, which outlined an amendment to the Flexible Working Policy and Procedure, was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 11th November 2014. The views of the Scrutiny Committee were reported to Cabinet.

The report brings forward an amendment to the Flexible Working Policy and Procedure to clarify the length of time an employee can make a temporary change to their working pattern. The current arrangements have allowed employees to make a series of temporary changes over consecutive years resulting in employees working these revised patterns of work for many years.

The amended policy will still allow employees to work flexibly either on a permanent or temporary basis, the only change being that the temporary arrangements can last for a maximum of 12 months, after which the employee will revert to their previous working pattern. An employee can then, however, make a request for a permanent change to their working pattern.

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 set out in the Officer's report, the revised Flexible Working Policy and Procedure be adopted.

## **8. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The report sought Members' approval of the updated Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period December 2014 to February 2015.

Following consideration and discussion, during which it was pointed out that Councillor G. Hardacre on page 2 of the appendix to the report should read Councillor D. Hardacre, 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 set out in the Officer's report, the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period December 2014 to February 2015, be approved subject to Cllr G. Hardacre being amended to read Cllr D. Hardacre on page 2 of the appendix to the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

### **9. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 - AMENDMENT TO AUTHORISATION OF OFFICERS**

The report informed Members of required changes to legal powers arising from the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. Officers within the Public Protection Division, Housing Services and Community and Leisure Services require additional authorisation under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in order to be able to enforce new legislative provisions to deal with anti-social behaviour that came into force on 20th October 2014.

The Act provides a new range of powers to tackle anti-social behaviour affecting communities and the ability of members of the public to enjoy public spaces through two new tools with enforcement responsibilities, Community Protection Notices and Public Space Protection Orders. There are a range of new provisions under the Act, however, the report deals with three areas only viz. Community Protection Notices - issue and fixed penalty notices; Public Space Protection Orders - enforcement and fixed penalty notices and Closure Notices/Orders - level of designation.

Community Protection Notices (CPNs) can be issued by authorised local authority staff, police officers and registered social landlords (if designated by the local authority). It was noted, however, that as yet no registered social landlords have requested designation and Members wondered whether this was a cause for concern.

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.

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report: -

1. The implementation of this legislation be noted and the recommended changes to the Council's Constitution be referred to Council for determination. The Council's Monitoring Officer make the necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution.
2. The Council's Constitution and Terms of Reference be amended by adding the following: -  
  
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The meeting closed at 2.38 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 10th December 2014.

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CHAIR