



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH JUNE 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor K.V. Reynolds - Chair

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager), N. George (Community and Leisure Services), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), D.V. Poole (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering), R. Woodyatt (Social Services).

Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services).

Also in Attendance:

B. Hopkins (Assistant Director 21st Century Schools), D. Thomas (Senior Policy Officer, Equalities and Welsh Language), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Property Services), S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Services), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs B. Jones (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services), D.T. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management) and R. Passmore (Education and Lifelong Learning).

It was noted that Councillors Mrs B. Jones and R. Passmore were currently experiencing ill health. Best wishes were expressed for their speedy recovery.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs C. Forehead declared an interest in agenda item 9 – Review of Existing Outdoor Recreation and Leisure Facilities – in that her brother has an allotment in Caerphilly.

3. CABINET

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2015 (minute nos.1-9) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

4. ABERTYSSWG/PONTLOTTYN PRIMARY: OUTCOME OF THE STATUTORY NOTICE

Following Cabinet's decision on 25th March 2015 to proceed to the publication of a Statutory Notice, the Notice was published on 20 April 2015 and provided a 28 day notice period for objections. One objection was received from the Chair on behalf of the Abertysswg Governing Body. If objections are received, the proposer (CCBC), in accordance with Section 49 of the School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, must publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and their responses to them before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of its determination. In view of this, Cabinet were requested to consider the draft objection report attached as Appendix 2.

CCBC has committed to supporting a collaborative and strategic approach to 21st Century Schools projects via the South East Wales Capital (SEWSCAP) group. This collaborative arrangement provides standardisation of specifications and a strategic partnering approach. It is anticipated that the Abertysswg/Pontlottyn Primary Scheme will be procured in accordance with the new SEWSCAP2 framework agreement.

There are a number of potential forms of contract available for future consideration, examples of which are set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report. The preferred option for Abertysswg/Pontlottyn is the JCT Design & Build to RIBA Stage C/D option. This form of contract is fixed price with the internal Building Consultancy producing the conceptual drawings and acting as the Council's project manager with the internal Engineering Projects Group assisting with the pre-contract external works design.

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 officer's report, Cabinet considered the draft objection report and agreed to proceed with the proposal to establish an Abertysswg/Pontlottyn Primary School, to be developed as outlined in the report.

5. ISLWYN WEST SECONDARY SCHOOL (IWSS) – UPDATE

The report updated Cabinet on the new Islwyn West Secondary School. Members' views were sought on whether to agree the target cost advised by the external project managers of AECOM on behalf of the contractor, Wilmott Dixon.

The Cabinet report of 14th May 2014 outlined separate lists of roles and responsibilities proposed for the Building Consultancy and Contractor's design teams. The split was consistent with option 3 set out in the report. Cabinet subsequently approved option 2 i.e. to utilise internal design services until award of the construction contract and external project management and contract management services throughout. As a consequence, an updated list of roles and responsibilities needed to be agreed consistent with option 2 and these are outlined in the Appendix to the report.

The Cabinet report dated 1st October 2014 made provision for a temporary classroom block capable of accommodating up to a further 100 pupils taking the total to the stated 1100 pupils. The additional cost of this was estimated by AECOM at £300,000, which was the reported amount to Cabinet. In view of the additional longer term pupil bulge, officers have assessed that the revised cost of temporary classrooms would be circa £500,000.

In view of the Council's LDP aspirations and the preferred strategy to 2031, discussions have ensued with the Welsh Government for a permanent extension, comprising 5 additional classrooms, additional toilets, increased dining area and possibly increased changing room space. This would have the effect of increasing the capacity from 900 to 1013 based on WG's formula (excluding SRB).

The Cabinet report of 1st October 2014 recommended a target cost approach to the contract sum. A 'pain/gain' mechanism is prescribed in the options included within Lot 4 of the SEWSCAP framework and subsequently included in the ITT sent to all contractors. AECOM's Cost Plan 1, as reported to Cabinet on 1st October 2014, amounted to £22.65m. The most recent cost plan (number 3) was produced in February 2015 and totals £24.245m. A summary of the target cost proposal from Willmot Dixon Construction Ltd for the construction contract together with the overall project cost is set out in paragraph 5.5 of the report. Welsh Government has given an indication that it will be seeking circa £700k clawback from CCBC in relation to land reclamation.

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 officer's report, Cabinet noted progress in relation to the new IWSS development and approved the target cost figure and pain/gain mechanism outlined in the report. An update report would be presented to Members once the details of the proposed extension are finalised.

6. EQUALITIES AND WELSH LANGUAGE ANNUAL REPORTS

The report, which informed Members of the progress made during the financial year 2014/15 against targets in the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and Welsh Language Scheme, was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 2nd June 2015. Cabinet approval was sought for submission of the annual monitoring and improvement reports to the relevant Commissions (together with publication online) before the deadline date of 30th June 2015.

The Council has a statutory duty to produce annual monitoring reports on Equalities and Welsh Language issues under current legislation. The reports are very detailed in order to ensure that the regulatory bodies involved are provided with full evidence of the Council's compliance and commitment to these statutory duties.

Members were asked to note the achievements in respect of the number of impact assessments and consultation comments provided within officer reports, together with details of disability audits undertaken across the Authority. Progress was also outlined in respect of Equalities and Welsh Language training courses, the treatment of Equalities complaints, the addition of Equalities data to staff payroll data and translation requests dealt with by the Welsh Language Team. Detailed information in respect of these areas is included within the Annual monitoring and improvement reports appended to the Scrutiny Committee report.

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 officer's report, the annual monitoring and improvement reports be endorsed and submitted to the relevant Commissions (together with publication online) by 30th June 2015.

7. MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY SCHEMES FUNDING 2015/16

Cabinet approval was sought for the allocation of funding from the Maintenance of Community Schemes Budget for 2015/2016 and for the permanent transfer of this budget from Miscellaneous Finance to relevant service budgets.

The Council has allocated funding over previous years for the maintenance of community schemes. The Community Schemes budget for 2015/16 is £258,000. The type of work carried out by the NCS Community Response Team includes the repair of seats, the

replacement of vandalised street furniture and hard landscaping and other small items of maintenance work. In addition, high profile schemes such as repainting of street furniture in town centres along with planting projects have helped the County Borough become a more attractive place for residents and visitors alike. Some of the budget has been allocated for funding the maintenance of schemes that have been initiated by the community eg. Playgrounds, multi use games areas etc.

Details of projects that were funded in 2014/15 are set out in the report together with the proposals for 2015/16. A Member requested further information on the schemes undertaken by the Community Response Team (NCS) as listed in paragraph 4.7.

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 officer's report, Cabinet approved the suggested allocation of the Community Schemes budget set out in paragraph 4.7 and the permanent transfer of the budget from Miscellaneous Finance to relevant service budgets.

8. FORMER NEWBRIDGE LIBRARY

Cabinet approval was sought to formally market the former Newbridge Library site for sale on the open market, as a result of no interest being received from an earlier disposal process previously agreed by Cabinet on 12th November 2014. The former library site was declared surplus to the requirements of the holding service and no on-going operational use has been identified.

Following building closure, there were a limited number of enquiries regarding the future use of the site. A formal assessment process was established to implement Option 2, to dispose of the Council's interest, either through a freehold sale or leasehold disposal to those external parties who presented the most favourable business case. The deadline date for submissions was Monday, 13th April and of the initial 4 expressions of interest, no applications were received.

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 contained in the officer's report: -

1. The recommendation that the building be formally marketed for sale, be approved.
2. The decision regarding the detailed terms of the sale be delegated to the Head of Performance and Property in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Performance and Property and Asset Management.

9. REVIEW OF EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION AND LEISURE FACILITIES

Having declared an interest in this matter at the beginning of the meeting, Councillor Mrs C. Forehead left the meeting while it was discussed.

The report, which was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 31st March 2015, sought the views of Cabinet on a recent review of existing outdoor recreation and leisure facilities across the County Borough. The document entitled "Review of Existing Outdoor Recreation and Leisure Facilities in Caerphilly County Borough" focused on

the following elements: Equipped Play Provision, Sports Pitches, Leisure Centres, Allotments and Amenity Green Space.

The review is based on a range of factors, which include quality, accessibility, lifespan and assessment against national standards, where applicable. The review identified the strategy areas where there was good provision of facilities and where improvements and expansion were needed to specific strategy areas, made a number of recommendations against each facility type. It was noted that once the long term leisure and recreation strategy was agreed, any future developer contributions from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Section 106 agreements would be channelled into identified gaps in existing provision to help meet the needs/requirements identified in the report.

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 officer's report, the conclusions arising from the review of existing formal recreation and leisure facilities in Caerphilly County Borough be approved.

10. EDUCATION SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT SERVICE PENSION DEFICIT

The report informed Cabinet of the pension deficit arising from the cessation of the Education Schools Improvement Service (ESIS).

ESIS was a collaborative partnership created on 1st April 1996 by Caerphilly, Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Councils. ESIS was wound up on 31st August 2012 and Caerphilly CBC opted to move to the newly established Education Achievement Service (EAS). Following the cessation of ESIS, the RCT Pension Fund commissioned their independent actuary to undertake a final valuation of the Pension Fund. Based on the actuary's report, RCT issued an invoice to Caerphilly CBC in September 2014 for £2.084m, which represented Caerphilly's share of the ESIS pension deficit plus interest.

A funding proposal has been put together to meet the maximum potential liability of £2.142m as at 31st March 2015 through a one-off payment to RCT (albeit that the final amount payable may reduce subject to reaching agreement on the interest payable).

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 contained in the officer's report:-

1. A one-off payment into the RCT Pension Fund to settle the pension deficit for Caerphilly CBC arising from the cessation of ESIS, be agreed.
2. The funding proposal set out in paragraph 4.10 of the report be approved.

11. CAPITAL REGION/CITY DEAL

The report sought agreement to participate in development work around a 'City Deal' proposal for South East Wales.

The 'City Deal' initiative, a collaborative approach between the UK Government, Welsh Government and local authorities, could unlock significant funding with some estimates being as high as £1billion for a package of measures to stimulate the economy and create jobs in the region. Following a series of meetings between council leaders in the region there is a

proposal for a joint study to develop ideas and funding plans for this initiative. This will require a contribution from each authority. It represents an opportunity for CCBC to attract investment in a series of projects which could lead to significant job creation.

Following a number of discussions between leaders of the ten local authorities, a plan, outlining a proposal in terms of funding and what it would mean for the local economy, would now need to be developed for the ten authorities, working with Welsh Government, to present to the UK Government later this year.

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 officer's report, Cabinet agreed to contribute £59,989 towards the development of a City Deal proposal for the reasons outlined in the report, utilising Divisional Reserves, subject to confirmation of the support from UK Treasury and Welsh Government.

The meeting closed at 3.16 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 1st July 2015.

CHAIR