



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

URGENT BUSINESS – AGENDA ITEM 5

SUBJECT : VOLUNTARY MERGER OPPORTUNITIES

The Chairman of the meeting being of the opinion that the report of the Chief Executive be considered in accordance with the provision of Section 100(b)4(B) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances i.e. that subject to a neighbouring authority agreeing in principle to be part of an expression of interest to merge, the need for the submission to be made to the Welsh Government by the 28th November, 2014.

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 2nd October, 2014

Cabinet Members Present County Borough Councillors:

A.Morgan (Chairman), P.Cannon, A.Crimmings, M.Forey,
E.Hanagan, K.Montague and M.Webber

Apologies for Absence County Borough Councillors:

R.Bevan and G.Hopkins

Other Members in Attendance County Borough Councillors:

P.Griffiths, P.Jarman, (Mrs.)S.Jones, (Mrs.)S.Pickering and
M.Weaver

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

- To note the Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper – Reforming Local Government and the response of the Welsh Local Government Association as shown at Appendix 1 to the report.
- To note the Voluntary Merger Prospectus as shown at Appendix 2 to the report.
- To note the content of the report and that the Leader and the Chief Executive make contact with neighbouring local authorities to explore the potential of a voluntary merger.
- That in the event of these discussions taking place, a further report be presented to Cabinet, and if appropriate, a business case outlining the potential for a voluntary merger be presented to the Council for consideration.
- That a Cabinet Working Group be established under the Leader's Scheme of Delegation (Section 3A of the Council's Constitution), to facilitate the development of a potential business case.

Note: With the permission of the Chairman, County Borough Councillor P.Jarman spoke on this item and expressed concern that whilst a response was made by the WLGA on behalf of local authorities in Wales to the Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper, she felt that this was a matter for consideration by the Council as a whole and therefore a response also by this Council.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

- The need to provide Cabinet with details of the content of the Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper – Reforming Local Government and the Voluntary Merger Prospectus recently published by the Minister and further information to allow Cabinet to consider the merits of investigating a merger with a neighbouring authority and to make recommendations to Council accordingly.

3. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

N/A

4. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

- In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor K.Montague declared a personal interest on this matter "I work for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council".

5. DISPENSATION TO SPEAK (AS GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE):

N/A

6. (a) IS THE DECISION URGENT AND NOT TO BE THE SUBJECT OF ANY CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YES NO ✓

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication i.e. **Tuesday, 14th October, 2014** to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

6. (b) IF YES, REASONS WHY IN THE OPINION OF THE DECISION-MAKER THE DECISION IS URGENT:

N/A

6. (c) SIGNATURE OF MAYOR OR DEPUTY MAYOR OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE CONFIRMING AGREEMENT THAT THE PROPOSED DECISION IS REASONABLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR IT BEING TREATED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 17.2:

N/A

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(Mayor)

.....
(Dated)

C. Joe

.....
(Proper Officer)

6th October, 2014
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(Dated)