

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on Thursday 19th May, 2016 at 10.30am
at the Council Headquarters, Clydach Vale.

County Borough Councillors – Cabinet Members in attendance:-

A.Morgan (Chairman),

R.Bevan

M.Forey

G. Hopkins

J. Rosser

M Webber

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw – Chief Executive

Mr G Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services

Mr T Wilkins – Director, Human Resources

Mr B Davies, Director, Financial Services

Mrs E Thomas – Director, Education & Lifelong Learning

Mr C Jones – Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Mr C Atyeo – Director, Corporate Estates

Mr T Jones – Head of ICT

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors A.Crimmings, E. Hanagan & K Montague.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct there were no declarations of Interest made pertaining to the agenda.

15 MINUTES

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 19th April, 2016 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

16 DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2015 / 16

In accordance with statutory guidance, the Group Director, Community & Children's Services referred Members to his draft annual report which reported on the delivery, performance, risks and planned improvements of the Social Services function in the Council. Members were advised that in accordance with statutory requirements a consultation on the draft report was required to be taken forward, involving scrutiny by staff, service users and carers, partner agencies, partnerships and the Scrutiny Committees covering Social Services. Following the consultation a final report would be presented for inspection to the Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW).

The Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Services spoke positively on the report and the familiar themes coming forward within the report in respect of the challenges facing the Council. Members queried some of the performance outcomes and how this could be further improved upon and the Director spoke of the need to work further with partners to further the community based approach being taken forward.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED:-**

- a. To note the draft Rhondda Cynon Taf Director of Social Services Annual Report and approved that the consultation process be undertaken.

17 CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING BOARDS ANNUAL PLANS 2016/17.

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services shared with Members the Annual Plans for the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children's Board and the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board, as required by the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

The Group Director advised that the Boards monitor how well agencies and other partnerships undertake their work with regard to safeguarding children and adults at risk and ensures safeguarding is embedded in all working practices.

The relevant Cabinet Members commented on each of the Annual reports, commenting that the plans were effective tools to utilise to assess accountability and evaluation. The importance of 'safeguarding' throughout both adults and children's services across the Council and partner organisations was also stressed by the Members. Members referred to the Regional Partnership Board Event that they recently attended in respect of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and spoke of the positive comments received at the event in respect of the good practices taken forward within the Cwm Taf area.

Cabinet Members **RESOLVED:**

- a. To note the contents of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards Annual Plans for 2016/17.
- b. To endorse the priorities identified for 2016/17.
- c. That the plans be presented to the next appropriate meeting of the Health and Wellbeing scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

18 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) – USE OF RIPA IN 2015-16 BY RHONDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL .

The Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services provided Cabinet Members with a report which enabled Members to review the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) during the period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016. The Service Director referred Members to section 4 of the report which detailed the surveillance and use of the Covert Human Intelligence Resources, the Human Rights Act authorisations and the Communications Data.

Concluding the report, the Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services advised that there had been no alterations to the official guidance or codes of practice from the relevant organisations and that there had been no need to revise the Council's current directed surveillance corporate policy or the acquisitions of communications data corporate policy.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business commented on the professional manner in which the Council undertook use of the powers and thanked the Council's Trading Standards Manager for the work undertaken in this area.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- a. To note the contents of the report.
- b. To acknowledge RIPA has been used in an appropriate manner that is consistent with the Council's RIPA policies during the period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016.
- c. To acknowledge that the current Corporate RIPA policy and the current Corporate Policy on the Acquisitions of Communications Data under RIPA remain fit and therefore continue to apply.

19 MAXIMISING ATTENDANCE PROJECT – PROGRESS UPDATE.

The Director, Human Resources referred Members to his report and proceeded to give Members an update on the changes made under the Maximising Attendance Project and the impact of the project to date.

Members were reminded of the revisions made to the Managing Absence policy in September 2015 and it was added that although progress was being made, more time was required to embed the new policy and practices by means of ongoing awareness and development sessions for managers. Members were provided with details of the positive interventions to assist the project through the work of the Occupational Health and Wellbeing Unit, as well as being provided with the sickness absence levels, the pilots being taken forward and the sickness absence monitoring arrangements in place.

Members of the Cabinet commented on the project and the statistics contained within the report and acknowledged the reductions achieved in some areas, although commented on the need for further work to be undertaken within some areas of Council Services. Members spoke of the need for Managers to comply with the appropriate reporting requirements in respect of 'Return to Work' protocols and also spoke positively on the role of the Occupational Health & Wellbeing unit and how such interventions can assist staff members with returning to work.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- a. To note the progress being made by the Maximising Attendance Project.

20 RCT TOGETHER PROCESS – UPDATE ON PROCESS

The Director, Corporate Estates outlined to Members a proposed new approach to taking forward the RCT Together 'Expressions of Interest' and 'Community Enabling Fund' applications. Members were advised of the current process in place, resulting in applications being considered for final approval by Cabinet. The officer advised that to streamline the process and to make the process more effective for both the applicants and officers involved it was proposed that future applications (apart from those taken forward through the Council's concessionary Lettings system) be dealt with under the Council's Delegated Decision Framework.

Members of the Cabinet who sit on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group spoke positively of the RCT Together approach and commented further on the positive step forward in the process with the proposal, commenting that adoption of the approach would not only streamline the process for interested parties but also would allow Council officers to target resources where it was most beneficial.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- a. To endorse the proposed way forward as outlined within section 5 of the report, namely that Expressions of Interest (not taken forward through the Council's Concessionary Letting process) and Community Enabling Fund applications be dealt with under the Council's Delegated Decisions framework

21 WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT, 2015 – PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD.

The Chief Executive provided Members with an update on the arrangements in place in respect of the creation of a Cwm Taf Public Services Board, in accordance with the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015.

Members were advised that following previous positive working through the Cwm Taf Regional Collaboration Board, both Rhondda Cynon Taf LSB and Merthyr Tydfil LSB agreed to a joint approach in taking forward the creation of a PSB resulting in the inaugural meeting of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board on the 12th May, 2016. The Cwm Taf Public Services Board had agreed to act as the principal strategic leadership forum for the planning, commissioning and delivery of public services across organisational boundaries to achieve better outcomes for the people of Cwm Taf.

The Leader of the Council and Council Member representative on the Cwm Taf Public Service Board spoke of the positive first meeting of the Board.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- a. To note the arrangements taken to date with the creation of a Cwm Taf Public Services Board and a Cwm Taf Strategic Partnership Board.
- b. To amend the Leaders Scheme of Delegation (3A) to reflect the creation of the Public Services Board and to absolve RCT's Local Service Board and the Cwm Taf Regional Collaboration Board.
- c. To note the need to create a Joint Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Public Services Board, with discussions being taken forward by officers and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny to further discuss the joint arrangements with colleagues in Merthyr Tydfil.

22 DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS – COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Head of ICT outlined for Members consideration the proposal to implement a paperless approach to committee meetings, advising that adoption of such an approach would result in the Council delivering efficiency savings.

Members were advised that officers within the Cabinet Office and ICT had jointly undertaken due diligence to assess options for implementing a paperless approach for Cabinet, whereby technology is exploited to digitally manage agendas and the resulting supporting papers more effectively and efficiently. Members were referred to Section 5 of the report which detailed the business case behind the proposal.

The Leader of the Council spoke positively on the proposal and commented that nineteen of the twenty two local authorities in Wales and the National Assembly for Wales utilise the 'Modern Gov' software, which was highlighted as an option within the report. The Leader spoke of the further efficiency savings that could be released in the long term if the pilot of Cabinet Committee and Cabinet Sub Committees was successful.

Following discussions on the report it was **RESOLVED**:

- a. To approve the pilot of paperless Cabinet Meetings and Cabinet Sub Committee meetings.
- b. To receive a further report providing feedback on the pilot, and if appropriate, outlining proposals to extend the paperless approach to all Committees.

This meeting closed at 11.15

Cllr A Morgan

Chairman.

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