

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 at 10.30am at the Council Headquarters, Clydach Vale.

### **County Borough Councillors – Cabinet Members in attendance:-**

A.Morgan (Chairman),

R.Bevan M.Forey A.Crimmings G. Hopkins

### **Other County Borough Councillors in attendance**

C Davies

T Leyshon

J Ward

### **Officers in attendance**

Mr C Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services

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

Mr T Wilkins – Director, Human Resources

Mrs E Thomas – Director, Education & Lifelong Learning

Mr C Jones – Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Mr N Wheeler – Director, Highways & Streetcare Services

Mrs J Cook – Director, Regeneration & Planning

Mr B Davies – Director, Financial Services

Mr C Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations (Secretary to the Cabinet)

Mr P Mee – Service Director, Public Health & Protection

### **GMB Representatives**

Ms R Bennett (Regional Equalities Officer for the Wales and South West Region)

Mr C Jones – Branch Secretary

### 38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors J Rosser, M Norris, E Hanagan and M Webber.

### 39 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed the GMB Regional Equalities Officer for Wales and the South West Region and members of the Council's Equality Team to the meeting.

On behalf of the GMB, the Regional Equalities Officers presented the Council's team with a certificate for their highly commended work in respect of the 'Time to Talk' campaign. The Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services, Equalities & the Welsh Language expressed his gratitude to the team for their hard work in promoting diversity through the 'Time to Talk' campaign across the County Borough. Before concluding the presentation the GMB representatives commented on the benefits of further collaborative working between the Council and the Trade Unions for the benefit of the staff and its residents.

### 40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct the following declarations of Interest were made:-

- County Borough Councillor G Hopkins declared the following personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 3, Community Infrastructure Levy:- *"I am a member of Llanharan Community Council I will leave the meeting when the item is discussed and voted upon."*
- County Borough Councillor R Bevan declared the following personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 4:- *"I am a member of the Ynysanghard War Memorial Cabinet Committee, and as a trustee I cannot take part in any meeting of the Cabinet or take part in any decision which may affect the park, as outlined in the Leaders Scheme of Delegation. I will leave the meeting when the item is discussed and voted upon."*
- County Borough Councillor R Bevan declared the following personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 7, SACRE:- *"I have grandchildren who attend faith schools in the County Borough. I will leave the meeting when the item is discussed and voted upon."*
- County Borough Councillor A Crimmings declared the following personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 4:- *"I am a member of the Ynysanghard War Memorial Cabinet Committee, and as a trustee I cannot take part in any meeting of the Cabinet or take part in any decision which may affect the park, as outlined in the Leaders Scheme of Delegation. I will leave the meeting when the item is discussed and voted upon"*

#### **41 MINUTES**

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

#### **42 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY**

The Chairman announced that as the Cabinet were inquorate due to Members declaring personal and prejudicial interests and leaving the meeting when the item was to be discussed and voted upon, the item would be deferred until the next scheduled Cabinet meeting. The Chairman added that if a decision on this item needed to be taken forward urgently then this would be considered through an urgent Cabinet Member decision.

#### **43 HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND OPPORTUNITIES**

The Chairman announced that as the Cabinet were inquorate due to Members declaring personal and prejudicial interests and leaving the meeting when the item was to be discussed and voted upon, the item would be deferred until the next scheduled Cabinet meeting. The Chairman added that if the applications contained within the report were time critical then the decision would be taken forward through an urgent Cabinet Member decision.

#### **44 REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER TAFF VALE PRECINCT SITE**

The Director, Regeneration & Planning provided Cabinet Members with an update on the progress to date in respect of the redevelopment of the former Taff Vale Precinct site, commenting that implementation of the actions contained within the report will act as a future catalyst for future economic activities. The Director referred Members to section 7 of the report which detailed the next steps in terms of time scales of the application, funding and full utilisation of the space.

The Members spoke positively on the contents of the report, reiterating that the development would maximise opportunities for the town centre and benefit local residents. The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Tourism and Planning commented on the need to focus on the correct type of development to suit the needs of the area.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- a. To note the progress made since the Council acquired the long leasehold interest on the site in March 2015.
- b. To authorise the demolition of the remaining site structure to allow the site to be redeveloped without current restrictions, including the submission of consents as necessary.

- b. To authorise £1.5million spend from the Council's Investment Priorities budget for site demolition and associated costs, and the use of external funding opportunities.
- c. To authorise the submission of an outline planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the site, and subsequent applications, subject to outline approval.
- d. To agree to further development work being undertaken to progress the design options for the provision of a link bridge connecting the town with Ynysangharad Park and Lido to maximise the number of parking spaces available in the adjacent Gas Road car park.

#### **45 WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS APPEAL**

The Director, Education & Lifelong Learning referred Members to her report and proceeded to give Members an update on the current position relating to the appeal submitted by the Council to the Welsh Language Commissioner in respect of the Welsh Language Standards.

Members were reminded of the correspondence made between the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Council since the Final Compliance Notice received on 30th September 2015. The Officer proceeded to explain the Council's current situation, stating that further evidence was submitted to the Commissioner and that they are now awaiting the final determination. The Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services, Equalities & the Welsh Language commented that the Commissioner's response will first be considered at the meeting of the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group before being presented to Cabinet Committee.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Cennard Davies who wished to comment on the item. Councillor Davies conveyed his disappointment in the Commissioner's response and also spoke of the lessons to be learnt in respect of the Appeal.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- a) To note the contents of the report

#### **46 STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)**

The Chairman announced that as the Cabinet were inquorate due to Members declaring personal and prejudicial interests and leaving the meeting when the item was to be discussed and voted upon, the item would be deferred until the next scheduled Cabinet meeting. The Chairman added that if a decision on this item needed to be taken forward urgently then this would be considered through an urgent Cabinet Member decision.

N.B - The Chairman did permit County Borough Councillor J Ward to speak on the item, although the item was not formally considered by the Cabinet. The Member raised her concerns in respect of the role of SACRE over the previous 2 years and the positive changes that are to be taken forward.

#### **47 QUARTER 4 – PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES**

The Director, Financial Services provided Members with an overview of the Council's performance, both from a financial and operational perspective, for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016.

The officer referred Members to Section 5 of the report, where a breakdown of the Authority's expenditure was outlined for consideration. Members were advised that as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, the General Fund amounted to £10.720M (pre-audit).

Members were referred to Section 7 of the report to detailed performance evaluations for each priority area as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016. In terms of overall performance, 76% of Council services were delivered on target with further details into the factors which affected the results. It was explained that the issues requiring on-going action would be carried forward into priority plans for the forthcoming year.

The Members spoke positively on the officer's highly commendable work in relation to the positive results achieved in Quarter 4, commenting that the report demonstrates a strong financial groundwork for delivering the Council's Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020.

The Chair also expressed his gratitude to the Director, Financial Services, commenting that, as identified in the report, the year has come to a positive end financially. He stated that the Council have looked at all opportunities and changed the way they work to achieve the best outcomes for the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note the General Fund revenue position of the Council as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016.
- b) To note the capital outturn position of the Council as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016.
- c) To note the year end position regarding progress made against the agreed six WPI improvement priorities.
- d) To note the year end position regarding performance measures across Council services.
- e) To note the Outcome Agreement position with the Welsh Government.

#### **48 SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Secretary to the Cabinet updated Members with the findings and recommendations of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee two Scrutiny Working Groups that conducted reviews in respect of issues in relation to 'Participation Rates in Recycling' and 'Number of Bids & Tenders submitted by Local Businesses for Council Contracts'.

Members thanked the working group members involved in the reviews for the work undertaken and spoke positively of the recommendations contained within the reports.

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

- a) To note the work of the Scrutiny Committees, as outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report
- b) To agree in principle to each of the recommendations contained within section 4.3 of the report, subject to further consideration by the Cabinet Portfolio holders, following which a detailed response would be provided to the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee.

#### **49 PROVISION OF DOG KENNELING ARRANGEMENTS FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

The Chairman referred Members to the late item presented in accordance with the provision of section 100(b) 4(B) in respect of the provision of Dog Kennelling arrangements for Rhondda Cynon Taf and the need for Cabinet Members to consider the feedback from the public and relevant stakeholders to the recent consultation undertaken on this matter and to consider the options to be taken forward.

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection referred Members to the report before them which highlighted the reasons for the need to undertake a consultation on the provision of Dog Kennelling arrangements within the County Borough and the options appraisal conducted.

Members were referred to Appendix 1 of the report which highlighted the outcomes of the public consultation that was undertaken between 6<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

The Leader of the Council thanked the officer for the report and clarified the position in respect of the out of hours provision, following misreporting by residents during the consultation. Reference was also made to the informal discussions being taken forward with interested charities in respect of the provision of the service, job sustainability and the priority of animal welfare throughout.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- a. To note the outcome of the consultation, any potential impact of equalities issues and other matters as outlined within the report and subsequent appendices.
- b. To proceed with implementation of the following option:-
  - o To outsource the Kennelling facility
  - o To retain a statutory animal control service
  - o To maintain arrangements for the receipt of stray dogs out of hours

- c. That the Service Director, Public Health & Protection open dialogue with interested Charities and Trusts in respect of outsourcing the Kennelling facility within the County Borough.
- d. That a further report be presented to Cabinet in respect of the provision of Dog Kennelling arrangements for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

## **50 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Resolved** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A94) of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information which relates to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority that holds that information)

## **51 CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013/2018**

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services briefed the Members on the progress made with implementation of the work plan of the Corporate Asset Management Plan for Property Assets 2013/2018 (AMP).

It was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note the progress of the implementation of the work plan.

**This meeting closed at 11.40am**

**Cllr A Morgan**

**Chairman.**