

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on Thursday 24th November, 2016 at 10:30am at the Council Headquarters, Clydach Vale.

County Borough Councillors – Cabinet Members in attendance:-

A.Morgan (Chair),

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

J.Rosser M.Webber M.Norris E.Hanagan

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw – Chief Executive

Mr P Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Mr C Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services

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

Mr T Wilkins – Director, HR

Mr R Waters – Service Director, Highways & Streetcare Services

Mr B Davies – Director, Financial Services

Ms E Thomas – Temporary Director, Education & Lifelong Learning

Mr P Mee – Service Director, Public Health & Protection

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

Ms N Kingham – Business Manager, Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board

80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, B Davies, Director Financial Services declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 10 – Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Limited & Amgen Rhondda Limited and left the meeting due to being a Director at Amgen.

81 MINUTES

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 2nd November, 2016 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

82 COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016 (QUARTER 2)

The Director, Financial Services provided Cabinet Members with an overview of the Council's performance, both from a financial and operational perspective.

The officer referred Members to Section 5 of the report where a breakdown of the Authority's expenditure was outlined for consideration, commenting that the authority was in a positive position compared to last year.

Members were advised that the revenue position reflected in the report did not cover the MRP funds but the ongoing base budget saving had been taken into account in arriving at the remaining budget gap for the 2017/18 financial year.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services took the opportunity to thank the officers, commenting that the report reflected the Council's efforts in delivering its Corporate Plan priorities.

The Leader praised the new format of the report, noting that it was a more concise way of presenting the Council's financial and operational performance position. The Leader praised the Council's corporate management team for their work in facing the challenges presented to them and delivering efficiencies.

Following consideration of the item, the Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

Revenue

- a) To note the General Fund revenue position of the Council as at the 30th September 2016 (Section 2 of the Executive Summary).
- b) To approve the virements listed in Sections 2a – d of the Executive Summary that exceeds the £0.100M threshold as per the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

Capital

- c) To note the updated capital budget for the financial year 2016/17 and changes in the total cost of projects over the 3-year programme (Sections 3a – f of the Executive Summary).
- d) To note the details of the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators as at the 30th September 2016 (Section 3g of the Executive Summary).

Corporate Plan Priorities

- e) To note the current position regarding progress made against the agreed Corporate Plan priorities

General

- f) To receive further information or explanations from service managers, where Members have any serious concerns about performance or progress.

83 COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN – INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the report to the Cabinet, outlining the position with regard to one-off resources which had become available following the completion of the audit process of the Council's 2015/16 Statement of Accounts, with regard specifically to the amended Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) which was agreed by Council on the 23rd March 2016.

The officer explained that although the Council continues to face financial challenges, an opportunity had been identified to invest in £7.524M of one-off additional resources, which would support the key priorities contained within the Corporate Plan.

The Leader thanked the officer and the team for working on the Minimum Revenue Provision, commenting that not all authorities had done this. It was added that the investment proposals were strategically focussed in order to make best use of the resources to benefit the community. It was explained

that investment in infrastructure would create job growth, economic regeneration and ultimately, reduce maintenance and running costs.

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Tourism and Planning spoke positively on the contents contained within the report, commenting that the investment needed to not only be strategic, but sustainable with great impact on the wider well-being of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Deputy Leader spoke of a recent consultation event held with the Older People's Advisory Group (OPAG), advising that the general consensus was that the Council dealt with finances well, with the community's benefits in mind.

Following further discussions, it was **RESOLVED:**

- a) To review and propose the attached treatment of current year underspends and Treasury Management Earmarked Reserve resources and resultant Investment Priorities to Council at its meeting on the 30th November 2016.
- b) To receive a further update on wider Earmarked Reserves as part of the normal budget strategy work being undertaken in preparation for 2017/18.

84 HIGHWAYS STRUCTURES

The Service Director, Highways & Streetcare Services presented the report, updating Members on current and proposed inspection arrangements for Highways Structures.

The officer advised that although significant funding had been allocated to Highways Structures in recent years, it was an ongoing issue which would require further investment. Members were referred to Section 7 of the report where the proposed way forward was identified.

The officer proposed that an enhanced inspection regime be implemented which would save the Council more significant expenditure in the long term. It was recommended that a full time qualified Supervising Engineer and Assistant Engineer be appointed in order to undertake inspections to implement a monitoring strategy.

The Leader advised that refocusing resources and implementing the new regime would potentially identify the need for additional investment in structures moving forward.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Services voiced concerns in respect of the revenue reviews, commenting that although they would be beneficial, there is still the risk of problems occurring instantly which cannot be predicted.

The Officer assured the Members that the reviews would provide a warning of problems within manmade structures, which would be in the interest of the safety of the public.

Questions formed around the definition of an 'unusual structure', with the officer providing Edwards Bridge, Pontypridd as an example.

Following further discussions, it was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note the current investment commitment to support improvements to the existing highway structures stock.
- b) To agree to the implementation of a more risk based approach to inspection and monitoring to ensure that resources are prioritised effectively.
- c) To agree that an additional revenue budget allocation is considered for 2017/18 and is built into the budget strategy process supporting the enhanced inspection processes as described.
- d) To note that any requirements for additional capital resources arising from the inspection work will be part of future capital programme strategy considerations for Members.
- e) To note (subject to Council approval) the proposals to allocate a further £3.5M to Highways structures in 2016/17.

85 DOG KENNELING FACILITIES

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection provided the Cabinet with the report, outlining the progress made with Hope Rescue Animal Charity in respect of the provision of dog kennelling within the County Borough.

Cabinet Members were referred to Section 4 of the report where the Hope Rescue Animal Charity service proposal for kennelling stray dogs was outlined. It was explained that the charity would provide a 24 hours/365 day staffed service with a more accessible service than that currently offered by the Council.

Members spoke positively on the business plan outlined in Section 4.7 of the report with the Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Well-being and Communities adding that the location of the kennels within Llanharan addresses key concerns previously raised by the public within the consultation period.

The Deputy Leader praised the report, commenting that the proposal would provide enhanced kennelling and warden facilities in RCT.

Cabinet Members **RESOLVED:**

- a) To consider the progress made by Hope Rescue Animal Charity in securing a kennelling facility in Rhondda Cynon Taf and consider the proposal they have submitted to provide enhanced kennelling facilities for stray dogs in the County Borough
- b) To recognise the improved arrangements, including 24 hours/365 day service provided to receive stray dogs, which can all be achieved within current resources.
- c) That the deployment of the Animal Wardens to front line service delivery to provide more enhanced dog warden services across the County
- d) To authorise the Service Director, Public Health and Protection to commission Hope Rescue Animal Charity to provide the kennelling facility for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

86 CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services presented to the Cabinet the Annual Reports for 2015/16 for the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) and the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board (CTSAB).

The officer explained that the Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards had been brought together to deliver ongoing joint working arrangements across services.

The Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Services spoke of the success of the Operation Jasmine Workshop, stating that it was positive to see the involvement of adult and care representatives along with the practitioners and managers.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Equalities & the Welsh Language took the opportunity to thank officers on their work undertaken since the creation of the Cwm Taf Mash, with questions forming around its success. The officer advised that, overall, the MASH had brought vast improvements in respect of decision making and information sharing but that there were still areas for development.

The Leader stressed the importance of continuing reviews on the MASH programme, to further improve services.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- a) To note the content of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards Annual Reports for 2015/16.
- b) To endorse the priorities identified for 2016/17.

87 BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services presented the report to the Cabinet, drawing attention to the importance of promoting and supporting community based activity as a means of improving general health and wellbeing as well as fulfilling the spirit and direction of National Policy.

The officer advised that in order to deliver the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, there was a need for partnership work to explore the models of support delivered by other Local Authorities in Wales and England to consider their effect within the RCT context.

Members were referred to Section 4 of the report and were pleased to see that it reflected the Council's priorities in respect of supporting the community sector.

The Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Well-being & Communities spoke highly of the recommendations contained within the report, commenting that volunteers already make an impact on their communities and it would be an excellent opportunity for them to build on this.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Equalities & the Welsh Language added that the report only outlined the rationale and that it would be interesting to see the outcome of the consultation in the future.

Following further discussions, the Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

- a) To note the contents of this report.
- b) That officers research and appraise the models of support provided by other Local Authorities to support and promote community groups and consult with key stakeholders across the borough to test the benefit these models of support could potentially offer to communities in RCT.

88 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED:**

- a) That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) 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).

**89 CYNON VALLEY WASTE DISPOSAL COMPANY LIMITED & AMGEN
RHONDDA LIMITED - AGM**

B Davies, Director, Financial Services left the meeting and following discussions, it was **RESOLVED:**

- a) That the current intention to continue the operation of both undertakings as Local Authority controlled companies into the future is confirmed.
- b) That subject to the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services (or his nominated representative) being satisfied that there are no irregularities in the accounts of Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Limited and Amgen Rhondda Limited (the 'Companies') that the accounts be received on behalf of the Council.
- c) That KTS Owens Thomas be re-appointed as auditors to the Companies for the year ending 31st March 2017.
- d) That the Directorships of the Director of Highways and Streetcare Services and the Director of Financial Services continue.
- e) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and/or his nominee be authorised to exercise the Council's vote at the Annual General Meetings of the Companies
- f) That the Council be represented at the Annual General Meetings by Councillor A Crimmings, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Culture.

The meeting closed at 11:15am

Cllr A Morgan

Chair