

These Minutes are subject to approval at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday 21st September, 2017 at 2pm
at Rhondda Heritage Park, Trehafod.

County Borough Councillors – Cabinet Members in attendance:-

A Morgan M Webber J Rosser.

R Bevan R Lewis A Crimmings G Hopkins

C Leyshon

Other County Borough Councillors in attendance:

J Davies, L Hooper, J James, E Webster.

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw – Chief Executive

Mr C Jones – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

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

Mr C Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services

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

Ms E Thomas – Temporary Director, Education & Lifelong Learning

Mr T Wilkins – Director, Human Resources

Ms J Cook – Director, Regeneration & Planning

Mr P Mee - Service Director, Public Health & Protection

Mr P Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement

Ms C O'Neill – Strategic Arts & Culture Manager

Ms M Warburton – HR Adviser, Equality & Diversity Team

Mr D James – Head, Communities & Prosperity

38. APOLOGY OF ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from Cllr M Norris.

39 WELCOME

The Leader of the Council welcomed everyone to the day's meeting and thanked officers at the Rhondda Heritage Park for hosting the meeting. The Leader advised members and officers that a tour of the facilities had been arranged following close of the meeting, so Members could see the remodelling outcomes following recent investment.

40 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest pertaining to the agenda received at this juncture in the meeting, although minute 46 notes a late declaration from Cllr A Crimmings.

41. THE WORKS OF THE ARTS SERVICE IN SUPPORTING THE DELIVERY OF THE WELLBEING OF THE FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT'S 7 WELLBEING GOALS

The Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations provided Members with an outline of the work of the Art Service and how its work supports the delivery of the seven wellbeing goals embedded within the Wellbeing & Future Generation Act.

Members were advised of projects in respect of the 'fortitude through the Arts' project, 'Art & Artefact', 'Young Promoters Network' and 'HYNT', with such projects enabling residents to be creatively active, and positively impacting on their quality of life and wellbeing.

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure commented on the valuable work undertaken and the positive engagement with the communities and the different generations through the Arts Service and need to promote the work undertaken further across the County Borough. The Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity &

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Wellbeing also commented on the positive impact and the skills and confidence that the service brings along with the economic benefits.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning commented upon the 'Art & Artefact' project and the innovative ways of engagement with the community and also spoke of the positive inclusion of the young promoters network and the opportunities being made available from an early age.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To Note the contents of the report regarding the works of the Arts Service

42. DYING TO WORK CAMPAIGN

Members were provided with an overview of the 'Dying to Work' campaign, which was a TUC initiative, looking to set terminal illness as a 'protected characteristic' so that an employee with a terminal illness would receive a 'protected period' where they could not be dismissed as a result of their condition when in employment.

The Equality & Diversity Officer advised members that endorsing the 'Dying to Work' campaign would publicly demonstrate that the Council was taking a positive step in supporting its employees at the most difficult of times, although it was added that existing HR policies and processes already support the endorsement of the campaign, however there were some areas where improved communication and the timeliness of actions need to be strengthened.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business thanked the officer for the report and spoke positively of the campaign and the current work of the HR department with the work it currently undertakes and the need to strengthen arrangements for those staff with a terminal illness.

The Leader also spoke in support of the campaign commenting on the positive discussions of support at a recent Council meeting.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To support the 'Dying to Work Campaign' as outlined within the report

43 PROPOSAL TO CREATE A 3 – 19 SCHOOL AT GARTH OLWG

The Temporary Director, Education & Lifelong Learning referred Members to the report which outlined a proposal to create a 3 – 19 school at Garth Olwg. Members were advised of the rationale for the proposal, including the work towards the Estyn inspection recommendations and the current arrangements in place within the school, with some primary school classes already utilising classrooms within the secondary school. Members were advised that this was due to rising demand from within the catchment area for places at the Primary school and utilising spare capacity that currently exists in the Secondary school secondary.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning commented that the proposal was a sound and logical proposal and a formalisation of the arrangements already taking place on site, bringing two Governing Bodies under one leadership team. She added that the appropriate safeguarding arrangements for the proposals were already in place at the school.

Following discussions on the proposal the Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- a) To note the information contained within the report
- b) To commence formal consultation on the following proposal: -
 - To create a new 'all through' school on the Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Campus, Church Village, near Pontypridd, catering for pupils aged between 3 and 19 years of age. This proposal will require the closure of YGG Garth Olwg and YG Garth Olwg, with the pupils transferring to the new 3 - 19 School on 1st September, 2018.

44 FOUNDATION PHASE, KEY STAGE 2 & 3 AND PROVISIONAL KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES FOR 2017

The Temporary Director, Education & Lifelong Learning provided Members with details of the provisional educational outcomes for 2017 for Rhondda Cynon Taf. Members were advised that across the Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 & 3, the performance of RCT pupils and schools had been relatively consistent, showing, in general, incremental improvement, in line with performance over the past five years.

The officer continued by advising that Key Stage 4 had seen significant changes in 2017 in terms of the KS4 curriculum and the way in which school performance was assessed. Members were advised that due to the new examinations testing, different skill sets and knowledge bases, comparisons to previous year's examination results would not be meaningful and that it would take a further two years to establish meaningful comparative trend data.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning spoke positively in respect of the Key Stage 2 & 3 results, adding that the rate of improvement was greater than the Welsh average. In respect of Key Stage 4, the Member commented on the impact the new changes had on the performance results and added that no comparisons could be made against previous years but added that work would be undertaken with Headteachers and the Central South Consortium to try to analyse the data and better understand what had gone well, and what needed to improve, on a school by school level, and within each school, on a subject by subject area.

Following discussions the Cabinet Committee **RESOLVED:-**

- a) To note the information contained within the report
- b) That detailed school by school information is presented to a future meeting of the Cabinet and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on receipt of the final data from the Welsh Government.

45. COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT – 30th JUNE 2017 (QUARTER 1)

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement provided Members with an overview of the Council's performance, both from a financial and operational perspective, based on the first three months of the financial year (to the 30th June 2017).

The Service Director discussed in detail the Executive Summary of the report which included financial data and progress against the Council's Corporate Plan priorities. The officer also drew out exceptions highlighted within each of the detailed sections for Members benefit.

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The Leader to the Council commented on the positive position of the Council and following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

Revenue

- a) To note and agree the General Fund revenue position of the Council as at the 30th June 2017 (Section 2 of the report - Executive Summary).

- b) To approve the virements (listed in Sections 2a - d of the Executive Summary within the report), that exceed the £0.100M threshold as per the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

Capital

- c) To note the up dated capital budget for the financial year 2017/18 and changes in the total cost of projects over the 3 year programme (Sections 3a – f of the Executive Summary, within the report).

- d) To note the details of the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators as at the 30th June 2017 (Section 3g of the Executive Summary, within the report).

Corporate Plan Priorities

- e) To note the quarter 1 position regarding progress made against the agreed Corporate Plan priorities (Sections 5 a – d of the Executive Summary, within the report)

(N.B. Following the decision taken, the Secretary to the Cabinet highlighted the item was not subject to the Councils Call In procedure Rules, as the item was going forward to the next meeting of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting)

46. STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY AREAS

The Director, Regeneration & Planning referred members to her report which outlined particular areas of opportunity for economic growth and job creation in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Director spoke of the priority of 'Building a strong economy' within the Council Corporate Plan and the work being taken forward by the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and Valleys Taskforce, advising of the importance for the Council to identify and work towards the delivery of economic growth.

The Members were advised that the following areas had been identified as a strategic opportunity area:

- Cynon Gateway – Energizing the Region
- The Wider Pontypridd, Treforest – Edge of the City, Heart of the Region
- Pontypridd Town – Pivotal in the Region
- A4119 Corridor: Regional Rhondda Gateway
- Llanilid on the M4: Driving the Regional Economy

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing thanked the Director and her team for the hard work undertaken resulting in the strategic opportunity areas identified and spoke of the need to progress the opportunities available to the County Borough through the City Deal and Valleys Taskforce. He commented on the need to build on the future of the County Borough through such opportunities for the benefit of the residents to the County Borough, young and old.

The Leader to the Council seconded the Cabinet Members comments and again thanked the Director for the positive report put forward for discussion and commented on the positive opportunities available for improving transport links, the positive impact to the education agenda and housing development across the County Borough adding that this was not just an aspirational report, but would be full of fruition over the next 12-18 month.

The Leader also took the opportunity to thank the Director, Regeneration & Planning and the Service Director, Highways & Sreetcare for their continued and valuable contributions to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

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The Deputy Leader spoke of the proposed work to Pontypridd town, commenting on the current success of the Pontypridd Lido and the work of the Taff Vale Present.

The Director was queried further in respect of different aspects of the opportunities outlined and Members spoke of the need to work with different sectors to maximize the opportunities available to invest further within the Communities for the benefit of the County Borough.

Following detailed discussions the Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- a) To the further development of schemes and projects within the Strategic Opportunity Areas as outlined within the report, including consultation as appropriate.
- b) To funding and other partnership opportunities being developed for delivery, with further reports to Cabinet as required.

(N.B during this item Councillor A Crimmings declared the following personal interest and remained within the meeting when the item was discussed, but did not take part in the debate or vote upon the item:- “I attend as the Council representative the Amgen Annual General Meeting”)

47 REVIEW OF SECONDARY CARE SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES IN CWM TAF

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection outlined to Members his report which provided an update on the Public Services Boards (PSB) proposed “Integrated Substance Misuse Service”, following a review of secondary care substance misuse services in Cwm Taf.

Members were provided with details of how the service was previously run, the need for the review and the positive new way of working deriving from the review. The Service Director added that the model going forward was built on current good practice, would avoid duplication of services and ensures more efficient use of resources. Members were advised that the reviewed model would ensure a whole-

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service approach that is responsive to the needs of the local population and to the individuals and families who will access it. The service model is based on the principle that wherever an individual lives in Cwm Taf, he/she is able to access and receive the same support, treatment and quality of services.

Members commented on the review and the positive work taken forward to enhance the provision of support available and highlighted the importance of a single point of access to improve accessibility for service users across the Cwm Taf area. Members also commented upon the prevention agenda and added that the new framework of working was in line with the requirements of the Social Services & Wellbeing Act Agenda.

Following the discussions the Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note the information contained within this report

The meeting closed at 2:55pm

Cllr A Morgan
Chair