

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 28th October, 2017 at 1.30pm
at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale.

County Borough Councillors – Cabinet Members in attendance:-

A Morgan M Webber M Norris.

R Bevan R Lewis A Crimmings G Hopkins

C Leyshon

Other County Borough Councillors in attendance:

J, Brencher, J Davies, M Griffiths, J Harries, P Howe, S Morgans & 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

Mr T Wilkins – Director, Human Resources

Ms J Cook – Director, Regeneration & Planning

Mr P Mee - Service Director, Public Health & Protection

Mr N Wheeler – Director, Highways & Streetcare Services

Mr R Waters – Service Director, Highways & Streetcare

Mr D Batten – Head of Leisure, Parks & Countryside

Mr N Elliot – Service Director, Adult Services

Ms A Batley – Service Director, Children's Services

48. APOLOGY OF ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from Cllr J Rosser.

49 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made pertaining to the agenda.

50. CHANGE OF RUNNING ORDER TO THE AGENDA

The Leader advised that due to the public in attendance at the meeting, item twelve on the agenda, the 'Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre – Investment & Reconfiguration Opportunities', would be brought forward as item one for consideration. The rest of the agenda would follow the same running order.

51 RHONDDA FACH LEISURE CENTRE – INVESTMENT & RECONFIGURATION OPPORTUNITIES

The of Head of Leisure, Parks & Countryside provided Cabinet Members with a proposed programme of change in respect of Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre which would allow the reconfiguration of the centre into a substantial dry side leisure facility, and agreement was being sought to initiate a focussed consultation with service users on the proposal.

The officer provided details on the proposal explaining of the option of remodelling of the Leisure Centre to include the closure of the swimming pool, remodelling of the pool hall, balcony and cafe to provide a new fitness facility and conversion of half the rear sports hall into a 3G surface to accommodate 5-a-side football and rugby training facilities. It was added that this would support the aspiration to work with partners and deliver a new Netball facility at the centre. Members were also advised that part of the proposed remodelling identified areas of the existing facilities which could be converted into office accommodation as part of the Council's Accommodation Strategy.

As part of his report Members were advised of the rationale for the proposal with the underuse of the swimming pool in comparison to other Council pools and the opportunity to invest in the Centre in its leisure facility as Rhondda Fach is the Councils largest leisure facility.

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The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure spoke positively of the investment opportunities within Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre if the proposal was taken forward and spoke of the Centres unique fitness market that could be further enhanced with the proposal. The Cabinet Member spoke of the decline in pool user numbers and commented that this was in part due to the poor design of the pool but again highlighted the opportunities available for residents with the proposed changes and also highlighted the opportunity to take forward initial discussions with the Head Teacher of Ferndale Community School, with the potential of the Council providing enhanced support for the school pool, potentially utilising the free swim grant to support additional public opening hours.

The Deputy Leader also added her comments of support to the proposal in respect of the investment opportunities and the benefits this would bring to the children of the area through football, rugby and netball. She also queried the time period for the consultation process and was advised that the proposed consultation process would be for four weeks.

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing and Ward Member for Tylorstown also spoke on the proposal. He commenced by advising that he had no knowledge of the proposal until publication of the report and was glad to see that the matter would be consulted upon, as he had already received mixed opinions on the proposal from local residents. He encouraged members of the public to engage in the consultation process if the decision was taken forward today. Although disappointed with the proposal to close the pool, the Member however spoke positively of the investment opportunities available and the positive partnership developments with local organisations in respect of increasing opportunities for women and girls to participate in Netball and making better use of the available space within the centre.

With permission of the Chair, a Letter from Cllr Adams, (local Ward Member for Tylorstown) who could not attend the meeting due to work commitment was circulated for Members consideration.

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The Leader commented on latent demand in respect of the Centre and again spoke of the positive investment that would be put forward as witnessed in other Leisure Centres across the County Borough. He also commented that the Council were still facing austerity measures and investment opportunities such as the one being proposed was a unique opportunity which he welcomed if remodelling brought the centre into better use for service users.

Councillors P Howe and S Morgans both spoke on the item.

Following discussions on the item the Cabinet **RESOLVED:-**

- a) To initiate a consultation on potential investment and reconfiguration opportunities for Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre.
- b) To undertake a focussed consultation with service users to consider the option of remodelling of Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre to include the closure of the swimming pool, remodelling of the pool hall, balcony and cafe to provide a new fitness facility and conversion of half the rear sports hall into a 3G surface to accommodate 5-a-side football and rugby training facilities. In addition, this would support the aspiration to work with partners and deliver a new Netball facility at the centre.
- c) To note that as part of the proposed remodelling, identified areas of the existing facilities would be converted into office accommodation as part of the Council's Accommodation Strategy.
- d) To officers holding preliminary discussions with the Head Teacher of Ferndale Community School to explore opportunities to make the school pool more accessible, including potentially utilising the free swim grant to support additional public opening hours.
- e) To receive a further report summarising the results of the consultation process and feedback received prior to any decision being made in relation to the remodelling proposal outlined in the report.

(**N.B** At the conclusion of this item Councillors P Howe, J Harries & S Morgans left the meeting)

52 TAFF VALE REDEVELOPMENT

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, report and a fly through the Director, Regeneration & Planning provided Members with an update on the considerable progress that continues to be made with the redevelopment of the former Taff Vale precinct site. Members were advised of the funding investment within the scheme and the importance of securing the right development, advising Members that planning application was approved on the site on the 20th October, 2017.

The officer advised of a positive two day public exhibition that was hosted in March providing an opportunity for local residents and businesses to view the latest plans and meet the project team.

Members were advised that the new headquarters for Transport for Wales, the next rail franchise and the Metro Operator would be at the redeveloped Taff Vale site and further discussions with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales were being held to secure as a minimum the occupation of the largest office building. The opportunity to include a new footbridge from the Taff Vale redevelopment over the River Taff to Ynyshangharad War Memorial Park to encourage pedestrian movement around the whole town centre was also being explored. Members were advised that concept designs are currently being prepared and a series of surveys and ground investigation works have been undertaken.

The Director continued by advising that a detailed cost plan for the Taff Vale redevelopment has been produced by Rhomco Consulting and Willmott Dixon with a projected construction value of circa £36.8 million. It was added that the total project cost is currently being developed to include the previous costs incurred, fit out costs, fees and to allow for risks and contingencies common with all large capital projects. The individual work packages would then be subject to market testing to finalise the total cost and to produce a total budget requirement for the scheme, which would all be reported back to Cabinet at an appropriate point.

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The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing spoke highly of the investment with the Taff Vale development and the regeneration of the Town Centre, commenting on the benefits the development would have for the residents of the County Borough including employment opportunities.

Both the Leader and Deputy Leader also spoke on the update and thanked the officers across the departments for the huge amount of work that had gone into such an ambitious project.

Following discussions on the item the Cabinet **RESOLVED:-**

- a) To note the progress to date and endorse the next stages of the redevelopment as outlined within the report

53 DELIVERING THE CORPORATE PLAN – “THE WAY AHEAD”

The Chief Executive provided members with an outline of his report advising how the Council would deliver its Corporate Plan – “the Way Ahead” over the next three years in a climate of further funding reductions, through investing in Rhondda Cynon Taf’s future and by improving and delivering essential services in a different way.

He advised that the impact of austerity and increasing financial pressures meant the Council must consider how services were delivered in the County Borough in the future, and added that such times require different thinking and solutions. Members were provided with detail of the five work streams chosen to invest in, in order to improve essential services.

Following his outline of the report the cabinet to the Secretary advised members that the report was being considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for pre-scrutiny on the 2nd October and proposed that the item be deferred until the outcome of that meeting.

Following discussions on the item the Cabinet **RESOLVED:-**

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- a) That prior to Cabinets consideration of the item, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee undertake Pre-scrutiny of the item at its meeting on the 2nd October, 2017.
- b) To consider the report at a future meeting following pre-scrutiny by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

54 TRANSFORMING ADULT SOCIAL CARE - DEVELOPMENT OF EXTRA CARE HOUSING

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services referred members to the report before them which provided an update on the implementation of the Council's strategy to modernise accommodation options for older people and deliver extra care housing across Rhondda Cynon Taf

Members were reminded that the national, regional and local vision for adult social care is for services to be delivered in a way that is individualised, with a strong focus on choice and control for individual service users and spoke of the positives in respect of Extra Care housing provision.

The Group Director, referred Members to section 6.8 of the report which identified four proposed site locations for extra care housing developments, advising that officers would continue to work with Linc Cymru Housing Association to develop the projects identified further and prepare individual business case for each extra care development.

Following his outline of the report the cabinet to the Secretary advised members that the report was being considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for pre-scrutiny on the 2nd October and proposed that the item be deferred until the outcome of that meeting.

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The Cabinet Member for Adult & Children's Community Services spoke on the item and spoke positively on his two visits to Extra Care housing developments. He spoke of the community atmosphere within the developments and the support that was adapted to suit the needs of the resident's. The Cabinet Member welcomed the report and welcomed the opinions of the scrutiny committee on the subject.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- a) That prior to Cabinets consideration of the item, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee undertake Pre-scrutiny of the item at its meeting on the 2nd October, 2017.

- b) To consider the report at a future meeting following pre-scrutiny by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

55 ONGOING REVIEW OF PLACEMENT AND ACCOMMODATION PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE LOOKED AFTER

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services provided Members with the outcome of an independent review undertaken on the accommodation provision for Children who are Looked after within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Members were advised that the review had noted the ongoing developments and new arrangements that had been introduced and also the investment in strengthening capacity and quality within the mainstream foster care service. It was added that the review noted that the services are improving its ability to achieve the Councils desired outcomes in this area.

The report before members also highlighted that given the challenges to all providers in providing good quality residential care to the relatively small number of children for whom it best meets their needs, the Council needs to continue to focus its residential provision in a reduced number of high quality units. The Group Director advised that on the basis that the demand for residential care is reducing and has the potential to reduce further in the future no further in-house residential provision is required at this stage (in addition to what is currently available in Bryndar and Beddau). The Group Director also took the opportunity to remind members of the previous decision to

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cease operation in Treherbert Children's home and that there was no evidence to suggest that Treherbert Home should be re-opened.

The Cabinet Member for Adult & Children's Community Services spoke of the positive review received which highlighted that the Council were continuing to drive forward in this area, adapting to cultural changes and the positives of early intervention with families. The Member commented on the rise in numbers in respect of Special Guardianship Orders and advised Members that the Corporate Parenting Board were already monitoring this issue. He also reinforced the decision taken at Treherbert Children's Home commenting that this had not impacted upon the provision provided at the other homes available.

The Deputy Leader spoke on the item and the emphasis of supporting families to effectively care for and nurture their children so that children can remain within the family environment.

The Leader queried the staffing implication for closing Treherbert Children's Home and officers advised that staff had been used to fill vacancies across other areas and a meeting was being taking forward in the coming week to consider options further.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note and endorse the content of the report in respect of the review of placement and accommodation provision for children who are looked after (as outlined within Appendix 1 of the report).
- b) To support the recommendations set out in paragraph 5 of Appendix 1 to the report.
- c) That Treherbert Children's Home is no longer utilised.

(N.B At the conclusion of this item, Cllr Hopkins & Cllr Leyshon gave apologies and left the meeting)

56 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (DOG CONTROLS – ABERDARE PUBLIC PARK)

The Service Director Public Health & Protection provided Members with the outcome of the consultation undertaken in respect of seeking authority to make a Public Spaces Protection Order ('PSPO') to introduce a requirement that dogs be kept on a lead at all times in Aberdare Public Park.

Members were reminded of the need for the consultation, in respect of the effect of the PSPO approved by Cabinet in June and its impact on an existing Byelaw within the Park in relation to keeping dogs on leads at all times.

The Service Director advised of the consultation process undertaken and referred Members to the evidenced overwhelming public support for the proposed PSPO and the supportive responses from stakeholders.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Well-Being thanked the officers for undertaking the consultation and for the public for their engagement in the process and the overwhelming response to introduce the PSPO.

Following discussions on the item the Cabinet **RESOLVED:-**

- a) To note the public support for the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order to introduce a requirement that dogs be kept on a lead at all times in Aberdare Public Park.
- b) That following consideration of the public consultation responses a Public Spaces Protection Order be made, which would commence on the 1st October 2017 for the control of dogs in Aberdare Public Park as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.
- c) To give delegated authority to the Service Director, Public Health & Protection, to produce the final Public Spaces Protection Order relating to Dog Controls in Aberdare Public Park and ensure its publication on the Council's website.

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- d) To set the fixed penalty notice for failure to comply with the requirement of the Public Spaces Protection Order at £100.

(**N.B** The Secretary to the Cabinet Advised that in order to implement the order simultaneously with the Public Spaces Protection Order that was agreed by Cabinet on the 22nd June 2017, the decision would need to be exempt from call in to allow it to come into effect from the 1st October 2017).

57 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) -USE OF RIPA IN 2016-17 BY RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services provided Members with an annual update on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (as amended) ('RIPA') for the period 1st April, 2016 – 31st March 2017 and confirmed that this had been used in a consistent and appropriate manner with Council policy.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Director for the update and the confident knowledge that staff work to the policies in places, to protect themselves and the Council.

Following discussions on the item the Cabinet **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 RIPA policies during the period 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017.
- c) To acknowledge that the current Corporate RIPA Policy and Corporate Policy on the Acquisition of Communications Data under RIPA are still appropriate, fit for purpose and should continue to be used.

(**N.B.** At the conclusion of this item Cllr J Davies left the meeting)

58 PARK AND RIDE CAPACITY REVIEW

The Service Director, Highways & Streetcare Services presented his report to Members which provided the findings from the Park and Ride Capacity Review which

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had been undertaken. The officer advised that developing and investing in the delivery of park and ride enhancements would provide transportation and environmental benefits across the County Borough and added that in particular, the preferred schemes would significantly shorten vehicular journeys, improve accessibility to areas of employment by sustainable travel, reduce congestion on the local and strategic highway network and improve air quality.

Members were referred to Appendix 1 of his report which highlighted the proposals to be taken forward. The officer also advised of the elements where funding had already been committed although weren't referenced in the report in respect of Porth Park & ride and also Pontyclun Train Station parking.

The Leader spoke of the positive report and the review undertaken and the successful drawing down of funding, aligned with the metro proposals and the opportunities available.

Councillor M Griffiths also spoke on the item.

Following discussions the Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note the matrix of potential Park and Ride schemes shown within appendix 1 of the report.
- b) To support the schemes highlighted for progress within the report, which can be accommodated within existing resources.
- c) To establish a Capital Programme of Park and Ride Schemes for development and delivery.

59 REVIEW OF MAINSTREAM SCHOOL TRANSPORT PROVISION

Members were provided with a review undertaken in respect of mainstream school transport provision by the Service Director, Highways & Streetcare, in order to ensure that a consistent level of service is delivered across the County Borough in line with the Council's existing Learner Travel Policy.

The Service Director reminded Members that the Council operates one of the most generous school transport policies in the country, meaning the Council delivers the largest school transport service in the country, costing in excess of £10M each year. In light of this a review had been undertaken to ensure that school transport continues to be provided in accordance with existing policies and the Service Director advised that the report before Members did not change these policies in any way. He referred Members attention to appendix A of the report which highlighted the withdrawal of school transport from those routes that were reviewed and identified as being able to walk safely to school

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure spoke of the Council's generous transport provision and the review needed to ensure that the service was brought in line with the policy.

Following discussions the Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- a) That the mainstream school transport provision accords with the Council's Learner Travel Policy, Information and Arrangements, following consideration of the recent review undertaken.

- b) To the withdrawal of mainstream school transport from those routes that were reviewed and identified in Section 5 and appendix A to the report as being available to be walked safely from the start of the 2018/19 academic year.

60 OUTLINE PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ECO PARK AT THE BRYN PICA WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

With the use of a PowerPoint presentation, report and fly through the Director, Highways & Streetcare Services provided Members with an outline of plans associated with the concept of an Eco Park, proposed for development at the Bryn Pica Site, Aberdare. He advised that he had been working in partnership with Welsh Government to attract key recycling businesses to the region in order improve the local economy, increase the value of materials collected by the Council and reduce the carbon footprint of recycling.

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The Director referred to the positive recycling rates across the County Borough and the opportunity the green economy presents for improving local skills and provide much needed jobs. He added that the proposals were centred on the provision of light industrial units reserved specifically for organisations that specialise in closed loop recycling. It was added that the scheme would set an example on how the Council can decentralise energy demands and reduce the carbon footprint of waste management and recycling, whilst increasing economic output in the region.

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure spoke of the exciting opportunity with the proposal and the innovative project put before Members. She added that job creation and improving the skills of the local workforce would be fundamental to the success of the project.

The Leader commended the Director for the work undertaken in taken the proposal forward and reiterated the further positives in relation to job creation and reduction of the Council's carbon footprint.

Following discussions on the item the Cabinet **RESOLVED:-**

- a) To note and support ongoing work to progress this scheme into a deliverable project, including necessary planning and permitting requirements
- b) To give approval for the Director of Highways and Streetcare to undertake discussions with appropriate government agencies and private companies to seek various avenues for funding.

(N.B following consideration of this item, Cllr M Griffiths left the meeting)

61 LEISURE CENTRES AND SWIMMING POOLS INVESTMENT AND LEISURE FOR LIFE 2018-2020

The Head of Leisure, Parks & Countryside provided Members with an update on the progress of the Councils 'Leisure for Life' Leisure membership scheme, following the priority investment programme of 2016.

Members were advised of the targeted investment programme into top of the range fitness facilities and the competitively priced membership scheme, adding that these

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have led to a 33% increase in members from 7544 in April 2015 to 10,079 in August 2017. The officer added that this had also led to an increase in income; in August 2017, membership income was £216k for the month in comparison with £165k for the month of April in 2015. Members were also reminded that since the launch of Leisure for Life in April 2015, Cabinet has decided to hold the price of all committed memberships but the officer added that now was an opportune time to review the pricing structure and provided details of a proposed increase and the rationale.

The cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure spoke highly of the investment in the leisure centre facilities that had been taken forward to-date and the satisfaction of the service users with the provisions available, but also commented on the need to invest further to ensure other centres are brought to the same standard.

Following discussions on the item the Cabinet **RESOLVED:-**

- a) To note the progress that has been made following the priority investment programme.
- b) To the revised pricing structure for 'Leisure for Life' memberships as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, with effect from 1st January 2018.
- c) To an increase of 2.5% on all other Leisure Fees and Charges with effect from 1st of January 2018.
- d) To support establishing a priority investment programme for improving the changing facilities at key centres as laid out in Appendix 2 of the report, with funding to be identified as part of a forthcoming report on wider investment opportunities.

The meeting closed at 3:15pm

Cllr A Morgan
Chair