

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 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 10.30am 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:**

S Bradwick, G Hughes, M Tegg & R Yeo

### **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 E Thomas – Temporary Director, Education & Lifelong Learning

Mr N Wheeler – Director, Highways & Streetcare Services

Mr R Waters – Service Director, Highways & Streetcare

Mr C Atyeo – Director, Corporate Estates & Procurement

Mr D James – Head of Communities & Prosperity

Ms Z Lancelot – Head of Engagement & Participation

Mr A Morgan – Strategic Transport Planner

## **62. APOLOGY OF ABSENCE**

An apology of absence was received from Cllr J Rosser.

## **63 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

The following officer declaration of interest was provided by Ms E Thomas, Temporary Director, Education & Lifelong Learning in respect of the Urgent Item to be considered – Review of the Council’s Senior and Associated Management Post Structure  
“My post is referenced within the report. I will leave the meeting whilst the item is discussed and voted upon”.

#### 64. MINUTES

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 as accurate reflections of the meeting.

#### 65 PRE-SCRUTINY

The Secretary to the Cabinet provided Members with an update on the ‘Corporate Plan – The Way Ahead’ and ‘Transforming Adult Social Care - Development of Extra Care Housing’ following Pre-scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017.

In respect of the Corporate Plan – The Way Ahead report the Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed its content and the proposals for delivery and supported the proposed five work streams that had been identified by the Chief Executive in his report.

Overview & Scrutiny members welcomed the report in respect of Extra Care as it underpinned the need for integrating services between Health and Social Services and provided an alternative option to residential care that enabled individuals to live independently within their local communities for as long as possible. The Secretary to the Cabinet continued by advising that following Pre-scrutiny the report coming forward to Cabinet on this item had been amended and strengthened to confirm that Treorchy was the preferred provisional site for extra care in the Upper Rhondda Fawr and that discussions were underway with Cwm Taf University Health Board to use land on the Ysbyty George Thomas Hospital Site as the ‘Valley Life Health and Wellbeing’ Hubs for Older People Initiative.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the pre-scrutiny work undertaken in respect of the two items before Cabinet Members and spoke of the importance of the work that had been undertaken, especially with the strengthening of the Extra Care report for Members consideration.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:-

- a) To note the comments and observations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee attached as Appendix A of the report, in respect of the ‘Corporate Plan – The Way Ahead’ (Appendix B) and ‘Transforming Adult Social Care – Development of Extra Care Housing’ (Appendix C).
- b) To endorse the recommendations outlined within each of the reports (within Appendix B & C), as listed below:

#### ➤ **CORPORATE PLAN – THE WAY AHEAD**

- i. Consider the contents of this report.

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

- ii. Agree in principle to the proposed five work streams that will seek to modernise and improve the Council's essential services.
- iii. Request that regular reports are presented to Cabinet bringing forward plans to deliver the ambition of the Corporate Plan.

➤ **TRANSFORMING ADULT SOCIAL CARE - DEVELOPMENT OF EXTRA CARE HOUSING**

- iv. Notes the extra care housing strategy set out in this report that will make a significant contribution to the care and support of older people across Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- v. Approves four provisionally proposed additional sites identified for development, as set out in Table 2 of this report, to deliver an additional 220 units of extra care housing by 2021, commencing with developments at the former Maesyffynnon Care Home site, Aberaman and in Pontypridd.
- vi. Approves the commitment to identify the capital investment required to contribute to the delivery of the extra care housing development programme.
- vii. Receives regular update reports (at least annually) on progress in delivering the strategy.
- viii. Approves a comprehensive review of residential and day care services for older people in order to determine future opportunities for service delivery in line with the Council's strategy for accommodation for older people and report the findings back to Cabinet for consideration later this financial year.

**66 EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT GRANT AND COMMUNITIES FIRST LEGACY FUND PROPOSALS**

The Head of Communities & Prosperity provided Members with an overview of his report which outlined a set of proposals in relation to the "Employability Support Grant" and the "Communities First Legacy Fund" following notification earlier in the year of the phasing out of the Communities first programme. Members were advised that the Council needed to move ahead with a new approach to building resilient communities, focusing on employability, the early years and empowerment as outlined within the reports proposals.

The Head of Communities and Prosperity continued to advise that the proposals, if agreed by Members would need to be submitted to Welsh Government for their consideration and that funding would initially be available for two years from April 2018 to March 2020.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Well-being spoke of the positive report and the proposals outlined within, commenting on the sustainability of projects going forward through the two year funding provision.

The Deputy Leader also spoke in respect of Communities First Funding, adding that the continuation of employability was a key factor in respect of reducing deprivation across the County Borough and added that the proposals identified within the report provided a better opportunity to achieve sustainability.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED:-**

- a) To Note the information contained within this report.

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

- b) To authorise the Service Director for Public Health and Protection to formally apply for funding from the Welsh Government's Employability Support Grant based on the specific proposals set out in paragraph 6.13 of the report.
- c) To approve the proposed use of the Communities First Legacy Fund to continue to deliver elements of the programme identified as good practice and to minimise the impact on service users, the Council and voluntary sector partners when the Communities First programme ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.

## **67 A REVIEW OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF'S FAMILIES FIRST PROGRAMME**

Members were referred to the report before them which presented the findings of a detailed review in respect of the existing Families First commissioned projects in line with Welsh Government's revised programme guidance and the recently approved RCT Resilient Families Programme.

The Head of Communities and Prosperity advised Members that the proposed changes highlighted within the report took account of the revised Families First guidance, the new Families First Performance Management Framework, and the focus on early intervention and prevention that builds family resilience and wellbeing, to ensure young people are resilient, confident and equipped with skills which help them to make a meaningful contribution to society. The recommendations within the report also safeguarded areas of greatest need, addressed the findings of the review, whilst minimising the impact on front line delivery of the Families First Programme

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Wellbeing commented on the outcomes of the review adding that taking forward the recommendations within the report would ensure that the Families First Programme provides a fit for purpose service, which is responsive to the needs of families within RCT. He also welcomed the new suite of strategically commissioned services which he added would provide an effective and meaningful response to meet the needs of children, young people and their families requiring support.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Children & Young People reiterated the positives of the report and spoke of the importance of early intervention with families and the preventative agenda, which linked to the outcomes highlighted within the report.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note the information contained within the report.
- b) To the proposed arrangements as outlined within the report for the implementation of the Resilient Families Service to deliver an improved Team Around the Family (TAF) model across RCT.
- c) To authorise the Service Director, Public Health and Protection, to implement the report's commissioning proposals, specifically in relation to the Disability Focus, Parenting Support and Youth Support elements of the Families First grant.

## **68 DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services under his statutory duties as Director of Social Services for the Council, provided Members with a brief overview of his

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

Annual report which outlined the delivery, performance, risks and planned improvements of the Social Services function of the Council for 2016/17.

Members were reminded that the draft report had previously been to Cabinet and had since been to Scrutiny to the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> July and to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> July for consultation. The Group Director added that overall feedback was positive and advised Members of the minor amendments taken forward including the inclusion of a section to identify performance with regards to 'More than just words' and to providing clarification on some of the data presented.

The Cabinet Member for Adult & Children's Community Services welcomed the positive report of the Director of Social Services which highlighted that the service continues to improve and spoke further on the importance of working with partners to strengthen community based support services to address issues coming forward.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note the outcome of the Consultation process and approve the Rhondda Cynon Taf Director of Social Services Annual Report (Appendix 1) for publication.

## **69 ACTIVE TRAVEL (WALES) ACT 2013: SUBMISSION OF INTEGRATED NETWORK MAP TO WELSH GOVERNMENT**

The Service Director, Highways & Streetcare provided Members with an overview of the work undertaken to comply with the provisions of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, prior to the submission of an Active Travel Integrated Network Map to the Welsh Government.

Members were advised of the 13 week public consultation that was undertaken, which resulted in the production of the Council's Active Travel Integrated Network Map, as required by the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure commented on the detailed work undertaken resulting in the production of the map, which needed to be submitted to Welsh Government by the 3<sup>rd</sup> November for approval. The Cabinet Member added that submission of the plan would not prevent any potential new routes coming forward in the future.

Members **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note the progress that has been made by the Council, to date, in complying with the provisions of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. In particular, the outcome of the consultation exercise as set out in Appendix B of the report.
- b) To endorse the final version of the 'Active Travel Integrated Network Map' for the Rhondda Cynon Taf area and the prioritisation of proposed schemes which support this document as set out in Appendix C.
- c) For the document to be submitted to the Welsh Government.

## **70 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT: SERVICE ENHANCEMENT AND EXPANSION**

The Service Director, Highways & Streetcare referred Members to his report which outlined a proposal to pursue and implement an enhanced and expanded civil parking enforcement service following a recent review of existing back-office arrangements and front-line enforcement operations.

Members were provided with detail of the proposal which set out the rationale for the Council to undertake the PCN back-office processing function of the service for both RCT and Merthyr Tydfil CBC's, the need for additional civil enforcement officers and the purchase and operation of a bespoke mobile parking enforcement vehicle, which would extend the Council's capability to effectively tackle key enforcement priorities.

Members of the Cabinet commented on the report and the resulting effects illegal and poor parking has on traffic flow across the County Borough and therefore welcomed the proposals identified within the report. The Leader spoke of the importance of awareness raising with drivers who continually poor parking outside future targeted enforcement zones, such as schools, to allow them the opportunity to modify their parking habits before any enforcement action is taken forward.

County Borough Councillor S Bradwick also spoke on this item.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** :-

- a) That following the recent delegated officer decision and notice of termination of the existing SLA with Merthyr Tydfil CBC regarding bringing the provision of the back-office Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) processing function of the Council's Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) service in-house, a new SLA is developed with Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC committing to providing said PCN processing function on behalf of both Councils and moreover, with a view to potentially becoming a regional hub for the processing of PCNs on behalf of other Council's in the area. (This will require the employment of an initial 2 additional highways support staff).
- b) To the employment of an additional 2 Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) to tackle the continual abuse of parking restrictions outside schools and in response to an increase in demand for out of hours, (e.g. evenings and weekends), parking enforcement at priority locations such as newly implemented residential parking zones.
- c) That a mobile camera enforcement vehicle, plus any associated software and hardware, be procured to help facilitate an enhancement to the Council's civil parking enforcement operations outside schools, adjacent to pedestrian crossing points and in bus stop clearways. Prior to purchase of a vehicle consideration will be given to more efficient use of existing fleet vehicles for dual purpose use. Prior to enhanced enforcement commencing outside schools, schools will be contacted to highlight the roll-out of these enhanced enforcement measures. This will enable schools to notify parents/guardians of pupils attending the schools of the changes giving the opportunity for drivers to modify their parking habits.

## **71 COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN - INVESTMENT PRIORITIES**

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services advised Members of the Council's position with regard to one-off resources which had become available following a review of the Council's earmarked reserves, post completion of the audit process of the Council's 2016/17 Statement of Accounts.

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

The Group Director spoke of the importance of investment in areas supporting key Corporate Plan priorities and the £36M of additional resources, over and above normal Capital Programme allocations, invested since October 2015. The Group Director referred Members to section 4 of appendix A which highlighted further investment opportunities following a review of the Councils earmarked reserves, culminating in a total amount of reserves identified for potential release amounting to **£7.000M**.

The Leader took the opportunity to thank the finance officers for undertaking the review and the continued monitoring and assurances provided in respect of the Council budget. The Leader also referenced the positive work undertaken by officers across the Council in respect of obtaining funding opportunities to drive projects forward.

Members of the Cabinet spoke in support of the report and the investment opportunities available and the benefits such investment would have for the residents of the County Borough.

County Borough Councillor R Yeo, also spoke on this item.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To propose the release of earmarked reserves and resultant Investment Priorities as detailed at Appendix A of the report to Council at its meeting on 29th November 2017.
- b) To receive a further update in early 2018 on Earmarked Reserve availability as part of the normal budget strategy work being undertaken in preparation for the 2018/19 financial year.

(**N.B** the Secretary to the Cabinet advised Members that the date of the Council meeting for November had changed from the 22<sup>nd</sup> November to the 29<sup>th</sup> November)

## **72 2018/19 BUDGET CONSULTATION REPORT**

The Secretary to the Cabinet provided Members with details of the proposed budget consultation process for the 2018/19 Municipal Year, in respect of public engagement. Members were advised that the process identified within the report provided residents with the opportunity, via a range of methods, to feedback to Cabinet on the 2018/19 budget setting process.

The Deputy Leader commented on the different engagement options presented within the report and spoke of the growth of social media and the need for the Council to continue to utilise this as a valuable tool for engagement. The Deputy Leader also referred to the Town Centre consultation events and the opportunity to speak to residents directly about the budget setting for the Council.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note the success of last year's approach to budget consultation.
- b) To endorse the proposed approach to budget consultation which would include:
  - The use of an online budget simulator
  - Town centre roadshow events
  - A young person's consultation event

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

- Consultation with OPAG
  - Use of social media to promote engagement and capture feedback
  - Community engagement.
- c) To note that the budget consultation will run from November 6th 2017 – December 18th 2017.
- d) To note that the Council's statutory requirements regarding consultation on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Council Tax levels will be met via the proposed approach outlined within the report.
- e) To instruct the Secretary to the Cabinet to inform the Chair Persons of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Finance and Performance Committee of the approach and the continuation of a single continuous phase.
- f) To the publication of the budget consultation details and engagement opportunities on the Council's website.

(**N.B** the Secretary to the Cabinet advised Members that due to the proposed timeline presented within the report, the item would need to be exempt from Call In to allow the consultation to commence from the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2017)

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

**RESOLVED** – 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 they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in:

- a) Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to the financial affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). Transparency in the conduct of local authority business is desirable; however, personal financial information will be discussed and considered. Consequently it is considered; the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information by virtue of which the meeting is likely not to be open to the public during its consideration.
- b) Paragraph 13 of part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely, information relating to a particular individual. Transparency in the conduct of Local Authority business is desirable; however personal data relating to the conduct and capabilities of individuals will be discussed and considered. Consequently, it is considered the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information.

### **74 CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013/18: INTERIM UPDATE**

The Director, Corporate Estates & Procurement provided Members with an interim update regarding the progress with implementation of the work plan of the Corporate Asset Management Plan for Property Assets 2013/2018 (AMP). Members were advised that the plan sets out a broad strategic framework for management of the Council's property portfolio, which has proved a solid platform from which to utilise premises effectively and develop the content of the portfolio in response to changing pressures.



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

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To note the content of the report.

## **75 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S SENIOR AND ASSOCIATED MANAGEMENT POST STRUCTURE**

The Leader informed Members that by reason of special circumstances, i.e. To provide Members with an update on the structure following the Consultation process, the report of the Chief Executive would be considered at this meeting in accordance with the provision of section 100B4(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Chief Executive reminded Members of the consultation process required with employees following the decision of Cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, and referred Members to the contents of his report which outlined the feedback and proposed amendment to the structure following the consultation.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To amend the previously suggested post of Service Director – Education & Inclusion Services (Service Director – Level 1) to Director – Education & Inclusion Services (Director - Level 2)
- b) To note the amended revised directorate structure shown at Appendix 2(i.b) of the report
- c) To note that the previously estimated overall reduction in annual management costs at the Senior and Associated Management grade levels will reduce from £776,116 (inclusive of on-costs) to £760,270 (inclusive of on-costs) as a consequence of this amendment.

(**N.B** Ms E Thomas, Temporary Director, Education & Lifelong Learning left the meeting when this item was discussed and voted upon, minute 63 reflects).

**The meeting closed at 11:55am**

**Cllr A Morgan**

**Chair**