

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on Thursday, 15 February 2018 at 10.30 am at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Cabinet Members in attendance:-

Councillor A Morgan (Chair)

Councillor M Webber
Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor C Leyshon

Councillor R Bevan
Councillor M Norris

Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor J Rosser

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Cabinet & Public Relations
Mr C Lee, Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Ms E Thomas, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning
Mr N Wheeler, Director of Highways & Streetcare Services
Mr P Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr A Wilkins, Head of Legal - Corporate & Democratic Services
Mr B Davies, Director of Financial Services
Mrs D Hughes, Head Of Organisational Development

Mrs. A. Jones - Public Health, Cwm Taf Public Health Team, Public Health Wales

Others in attendance

Councillor S Belzak
Councillor P Jarman
Councillor M Tegg

107 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor R Lewis.

108 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The following declarations of Interest were made pertaining to agenda item 4 and 8 respectively:

County Borough Councillor R Bevan – Agenda item 4 - “As granted by the Standards Committee on the 8th December, 2017 I have a dispensation to speak and vote on all matters relating to the Community and Children’s Services Group, save for any specific matters that directly affect my daughter, who is employed by the Council in the Community and Children’s Services Group as the Service Manager for Access and Enablement.”

County Borough Councillor P Jarman – Agenda Item 8 - “As granted by the Standards Committee on the 8th December, 2017 I have a dispensation to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2018-19 budget process in my capacity as Leader of an Opposition Group; and to speak and

vote on all services affected by the Budget, following acknowledgement that my son works in the Streetcare department and resides with me”

109 MINUTES

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 25th January, 2018 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

110 CWM TAF WELL BEING PLAN

The Chair welcomed Ms A Jones (Consultant in Public Health, Cwm Taf Public Health Team, Public Health Wales) to the meeting, who provided Members with an overview of the draft Cwm Taf Well-being Plan, that was to be considered for approval.

Members were advised that the plan had been agreed at the recent meeting of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board and as a statutory partner to the Cwm Taf Public Service Board, the Well-Being Plan is also subject to approval through the governance arrangements with the individual statutory partners of the Public Services Board: Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Natural Resources Wales, Cwm Taf University Health Board and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Members were reminded of the legislative requirement to complete the Well Being Plan, through the Well Being and Future Generations Act and the development of the plan to date through consultation.

The officer added that the Well - being Plan was the result of two years work with the involvement of the community being central to it, taking into consideration the Wellbeing assessment. As set out within the plan the Cwm Taf Well-being overarching objectives are to:

- promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets;
- help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges; and
- grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.

The Cross Cutting Approaches were also highlighted with the officer advising that the PSB will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of local communities to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them. She continued by adding that a detailed delivery plan would be produced setting out actions, timescales, key milestones, performance and outcome indicators which would support and inform performance management, governance and scrutiny arrangements. The delivery of the objectives at pace is at the forefront.

The Leader thanked Ms Jones for presentation of the report and for all the hard work and contributions made by the public and officers involved in producing the draft plan following consultation. The Leader, as a Member of the Cwm Taf PSB added that the Public Services Board sees this Plan as a huge opportunity to strengthen its work as “One Public Service”, with a recognition that partners need to work better together and be radical, removing the divisions between services to develop a way of working that makes sense to partners and to the people and communities they serve.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- i. Note and approve the Cwm Taf Well Being Plan as outlined within Appendix A of this report.
- ii. Recommend the adoption of the Plan to Full Council at its meeting on the 28th February, 2018.

111 SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING ACT: DRAFT CWM TAF REGIONAL PLAN 2018-23

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services thanked Nicola Davies, Head of Health and Well-being, Cwm Taf UHB for producing the report and provided Members with details of the Cwm Taf Regional Plan 2018-23 contained within, following response to the Population Assessment produced in 2017.

Members were advised of the requirement of the social Services & Wellbeing Act 2014, which requires, in response to the Population Assessment, a Joint Area Plan to be produced by 1st April 2018 by the two Local Authorities (Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and Merthyr Tydfil CBC) and the UHB under the direction of the Cwm Taf Social Services and Wellbeing Partnership Board.

Members were advised of the overarching themes highlighted within the Cwm Taf assessment, the regional priorities and the timescales for achievement.

The Cabinet Member for Adult & Children's Community Services and as Chair of the SSWB partnership, commented positively on the plan and the work undertaken in its drafting, commenting on the change of focus of care and support services, putting people at the heart of the new system and by involving people and communities in their own care and support services, to make sure that the right services are provided at the right time in the right place.

The Cabinet Member also spoke of the need for all plans to be aligned and to allow for 'communication' with other plans coming forward, emphasising the need to ensure that a consistent approach is taken forward with cross cutting themes across all strategies and plans.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Children & Young People also commented on the plan in relation to Children services welcoming the plans statement that meeting the needs of children and young people will be a priority for the Region.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the update on the development of the Cwm Taf Regional Plan 2018-23 attached as Appendix 1 of the report, including the outcome of the consultation with the community panels in December 2017, also attached as Appendix 2 of the report.
2. Endorse the Cwm Taf Regional Plan 2018-23.
3. Note that an EQIA had been finalised

112 RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL WORKFORCE PLAN 2017-22

The Head of Organisational Development referred Members to her report which outlined how the Council would utilise and develop the workforce to achieve the goals of the Council Corporate Plan to generate the best outcomes for residents in a climate of change and further funding reductions.

The officer continued by advising that the RCT Council Workforce Plan would help to ensure that the Council recruits and retains the best possible employees in the labour market and develops staff in order for the workforce to fulfil its potential by having the required skills, resilience and capability to meet future challenges and opportunities. It was added that this would support the Council to realise its vision and achieve the priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan 2016-20, 'The Way Ahead.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business welcomed the plan and thanked the officers for the effort that had gone into its development. The Member spoke of the importance of staff within the Council and the need to nurture and develop for the good of the staff and the County Borough. The Cabinet Member referenced the links to the Councils Corporate plan, the Health and Wellbeing objectives and also highlighted that the plan had been developed following consultation with Trade Unions.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to Agree:

- I. The content of the RCT Council Workforce Plan.
- II. In principle to the proposed five RCT Council Workforce Plan delivery aims which will utilise and develop the workforce to realise its full potential and capacity to achieve the best for residents.
- III. To the monitoring of actions within individual delivery plans.

113 IMPROVING RECYCLING PERFORMANCE - PRE SCRUTINY OUTCOMES

The Secretary to the Cabinet provided Members with an overview of his report which outlined the pre-scrutiny arrangements that taken place in respect of the report 'improving recycling performance'. Members were advised that the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee had pre-scrutinised the report on the 25th January, 2018 following a formal request from the Leader.

The Secretary referred Members to the draft minute of the Scrutiny Committee highlighting the positive feedback from scrutiny Members to the potential changes to recycling and the proposed amendments to the original report, for Cabinet consideration. To assist Cabinet Members in their deliberations the Director, Highways & Streetcare Services provided an overview of the amended 'Improving Recycling performance' report following scrutiny consideration.

The Director advised that the proposed changes to the Council's residual side waste policy would assist the Council to achieve the recycling targets set by Welsh Government. The Director emphasised that the proposed policy change would not affect those residents already partaking in the Council's recycling scheme and any enforcement action that was needed to be taken forward for non recycling residents would be a last resort, with awareness raising and

education being at the forefront. The Director concluded his report by adding that the proposed changes outlined within Appendix B in respect of green waste recycling did not generate any cash savings for the Authority but simply introduced a more efficient service.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure commented on the disappointing media coverage that had been broadcast, providing the public with misinformation regarding the proposals. The Cabinet Member reemphasised that the proposals were to assist the Council in tackling those residents who refused to recycle. The Cabinet Member commented on the financial penalties that would occur if the council did not hit the targets set by the Welsh Government and commented on the need for preventative action to prevent this from occurring. She also reiterated that any enforcement action would be a last resort with warnings being taken forward in the first instance.

The Leader of the Council spoke on the proposals and commented on the need for the proposals to be relaxed over the Christmas and New Year period to allow for the potential increase in residual side waste at this time. The Leader also added that as Scrutiny had recommended a later commencement date of June three month awareness raising campaign should be taken forward.

The Deputy Leader also took the opportunity to thank the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on the pre-scrutiny undertaken resulting in the amended proposals brought forward for Members consideration. The Director proposed an awareness raising session before full Council as an opportunity to advise all Members of the proposed changes if taken forward, so that Members would be able to assist and advise residents within their wards if any issues arose.

County Borough Councillors S Belazk and P Jarman also spoke on this item at the meeting to which the Director and the Leader responded to.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- I. To note the comments and observations of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee attached as Appendix A of the report.
- I. To endorse the recommendations outlined within the 'Improving Recycling Performance' report subject to the following amendments as listed below :
 - a) To approve the changes to the Council's residual side waste policy from 4th June, 2018 as follows: -
 - The residents that have their waste collected in black bags, primarily the Rhondda – the current four black bags allowance per fortnight is reduced to two bags;
 - The residents that have a bin waste collection, primarily in the Cynon and Taf - no side waste per household per fortnight irrespective of the bin size will be permitted;
 - Over the extended Christmas and New Year period there would be a relaxation of the restriction, as explained in paragraph 4.10 of the report,

allowing a flexible approach to be taken forward.

- b) To approve that between 1st November and the 1st March the Council's green waste collection service is a fortnightly collection which reverts back to a weekly service over the remainder of the year, each year.
- c) To approve that the Council by way of a notice, inform residents that they cannot place recyclable material within their residual bin/bag. This change will have no adverse affect on residents currently recycling in line with our system. It is not aimed at residents who put the odd recycling item in their residual waste in error, this change is aimed at residents who continually fail to recycle and/or put large amounts of recycling in their black bag/bins.
- d) To run an awareness campaign at least three months prior to the implementation of the changes in order to try and encourage residents currently not recycling to change their habits and recycle prior to the changes come in and it is recommended to continue to support the awareness campaign once the changes have started.
- e) To approve that if the Notice is then breached, and after a series of evidential warnings by way of a warning letter / visit (three visits/ warnings) through our awareness/enforcement team, then a Fixed Penalty Notice could be issued.

(**N.B** at this juncture in the meeting County Borough Councillor S Belzak and M Tegg left the meeting)

114 PROPOSAL TO CREATE A 3 - 19 SCHOOL AT GARTH OLWG

The Director, Education & Lifelong Learning provided Members with the outcome of the recent consultation in respect of a proposal to create an 'all through' 3 - 19 School at the Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Campus, Church Village. Members were reminded of the proposal which involved closing the current Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Garth Olwg (the Primary school) and Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg (the Secondary school), and opening a new 'all through' school on the site, utilising existing premises.

The Director, Education & Lifelong commented on the disappointing response to the consultation that was received and also advised that one of the concerns raised by staff and governors of both schools was in relation to the proposed implementation date of 1st September 2018, which they felt was too early to properly implement all the processes that will be required to establish a new school. The Director advised that the concerns were accepted as valid ones and as a result, the proposed implementation date had been amended, to 1st September 2019. Information was forwarded to all statutory consultees regarding this change of date and the consultation period was extended by a month, to 26th January 2018, to allow for further consideration by consultees and for further comments to be received.

The Cabinet Member for Education & lifelong Learning commented on the low turnout with the consultation and also referred to the results of the Equality

Impact Assessment which found there was no negative impact if the proposals were taken forward. The Cabinet Member added that the proposals were simply formalising arrangements already in place and that creating an all through school would allow greater flexibility in the use of teaching accommodation and would enable the demand for additional places in the Welsh Medium Primary sector to be met, whilst at the same time reducing surplus capacity in the Welsh Medium Secondary sector.

With the permission of the Chairman, County Borough Councillor P Jarman spoke on this item to which the Director, Education & Lifelong Learning responded too.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- i. To note the information contained within the consultation report (attached to the report), which includes details of items of correspondence received during the consultation exercise and notes of the various meetings held.
- ii. To progress the proposal to close the current Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Garth Olwg and Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg, and open a new 'all through' school on the site, utilising existing premises, to the next stage of the review process, by issuing an appropriate statutory notice.

(N.B: As County Borough Councillor R Bevan left the meeting when the item was discussed he refrained from voting on the item.)

115 COUNCIL FEES & CHARGES POLICY 2018/19

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided the Cabinet with a report, setting out the proposed revisions to Council fees and charges levels for the financial year 2018/19, all to be effective from 1st April 2018 or as soon as is practicable thereafter

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services reported on the results of the review undertaken by Cabinet in respect of the Councils proposed fees and Charges for the 2018/19 financial year, highlighting the reviews objective of continuing to provide a comprehensive range of quality services at affordable prices.

Members were advised that the outcome of the review was a proposed 2.95% standard increase to fees and charges (allowing for rounding adjustments as appropriate) with the exception of a number of areas that were proposed to be subject to specific treatment. The Group Director referred members to table 1, set out in section 5 of his report which provided a Summary of the proposed fees and charges not subject to the proposed standard increase.

Members were advised of the details in respect of Meals on Wheels, Day Centre Meals, School Meals (Primary and Secondary Schools), Pontypridd Lido (entry for adult users), Burial Fees and the Heritage Park (Underground Experience entry fee). Before concluding his report the Group Director also referred previous Cabinet decisions approved in relation to fees and charges during the 2017/18 financial year which would be incorporated into the Council's 2018/19 proposed Budget Strategy.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Officers for the report and commented on the proposed 2.95% standard increase to fees and charges, which he commented was a reasonable amount. The Leader comment on the rationale for the nominal increase to the Lido entry for adults, advising that this increase was to try to ensure that attendees booked onto the sessions did turn up, as the Leader commented on the success of the Lido meaning that swimming sessions were generally oversubscribed. The Leader also commented on the significant investment made to Rhondda Heritage Park and the new attraction that would be available from Easter.

The deputy Leader spoke positively on the proposed increase, commenting that it was good to see the proposed charge being below 3%. The Deputy Leader took the opportunity to thank the Finance & Performance Scrutiny for the pre-scrutiny undertaken in respect of burial fees for War veterans, with scrutiny's recommendations being reflected within the report. The Deputy Leader also advised that the Welsh Government had approved the Councils approach to War veterans burial fees and following the pilot were looking to recommend the approach across Wales.

With the permission of the Chairman, County Borough Councillor P Jarman spoke on this item, to which the Leader responded.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- I. To approve the proposed revised levels for all areas of the Council's fees and charges as set out at section 5 of the report and detailed at Appendix 1 of the report.
- II. To implement a 12 month pilot scheme in respect of bereavement fees for armed forces veterans (as detailed within paragraph 5.3.5 of the report).
- III. To build the net budgetary impact (£253K for 2018/19) into budget strategy proposals for consideration by Cabinet and Council as appropriate.

(N.B: The Secretary to the Cabinet advised Members that to allow the Fees and Charges to be considered as part of the Council's Budget strategy at the Council meeting on the 28th February, 2018 the decision would need to be exempt from Call In.

As County Borough Councillor M Webber left the meeting when the item was discussed she refrained from voting on the item.)

116 THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 - 2020/21

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided the Cabinet with a report outlining the Council's three year Capital Programme for 2018/19 – 2020/21 which if agreed, would be presented to Council on 28th February, 2018.

The Cabinet Members were referred to Appendix A of the report, where the draft three year Capital Programme was outlined.

The Group Director explained that the core programme had been maintained at

£15.934M per year and that the three year capital programme presented was fully funded. A risk remained that the projected capital receipts would be less than anticipated but it was assured that capital receipts projections would continue to be closely monitored.

Cabinet Members were referred to section 5 of the report, where the additional investment and earmarked reserves were outlined. Section 5.3 highlighted the results of a detailed risk assessment of earmarked reserves and provided a view on the extent to which any amounts could be released. Members were advised that the total amount of reserves identified to be released amounts to £9.950M.

The Group Director referred Members to the table outlined in section 5.7 which identified the specific areas where investment is proposed, as in accordance with the overarching objectives and aims of the Corporate plan:

- Town Centre Regeneration
- Highways & Roads
- Structures
- Making Better Use/Traffic Developments
- Tonypandy Town Centre
- Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link
- Schools
- Extra Care
- Play Areas
- Parks & Green Spaces
- Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre

The Leader spoke positively on the proposed Capital investment which aligned with the priorities of the Councils Corporate plan. Reference was made to the investment in Rhondda Fach leisure centre, especially during times of austerity. The investment in extra care was also highlighted as a key commitment for the Council and the Leader commented that no other Local Authority was able to invest in key service areas like RCT and again reiterated his thanks to the work of the Chief Executive, Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services and the finance officers involved.

The Deputy Leader also spoke on the investment opportunities and the investment that was being made for future generations, referencing the investment in the Cross Valley Link road and the play areas.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- i. To propose the three year capital programme contained within Appendix A of the report to Council on 28th February 2018 which includes:
 - A review and proposed release of earmarked reserve balances as

- detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the attached report;
- Proposed investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 5.7 of the attached report;
- The Council's core capital programme
- The Council's total capital programme including additional non core funding.

(**N.B** At conclusion of this item, County Borough Councillor P Jarman left the meeting)

117 THE COUNCIL'S 2018/19 REVENUE BUDGET

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented his report to Members which provided Cabinet with information in respect of the 2018/2019 local government settlement, the outcomes of the general budget consultation exercise and feedback from the pre-scrutiny activity undertaken by the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee, to assist with Cabinet's deliberations, prior to constructing the revenue budget strategy for the financial year ending 31st March 2019, which it needed to recommend to Council, for approval.

Members were referred to Appendix A of the report, which set out a proposed budget from the Council's Senior Leadership Team, following consideration of the local government settlement, which had been on the 20th December 2017. The Group Director advised that the Senior Leadership Team discussion paper contained key elements of a balanced revenue budget strategy for 2018/2019.

Through his report, the Group Director was able to provide Members with details of the potential financial effects on Rhondda Cynon Taf and its Council Tax payers, including an exemplification of a high level budget requiring a Council Tax increase of 3.3%.

Reference was made to the Medium Term Financial planning and Service Transformation Reserve and the Group Director confirmed that the Council have been able to increase the level of transitional funding available and the latest position is that this reserve has now increased to £5.688M (additional in year savings to date of £0.204M).

Member's attention was drawn to the Consultation process that had been undertaken in relation to the budget, with Members being advised that the consultation ran from the 6th November, 2017 to the 18th December, 2017 and engaged over 1500 people.

The Leader spoke on the proposed budget strategy and commented on the Council Tax level for the authority advising Members that RCT's increase of 3.3% was one of the lowest across Wales. The Leader spoke positively of the position of the Council, although still in austere times and referenced the prudent management of the Councils budget throughout the year.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

- I. To note that the procedures relating to revenue budget construction, the budget consultation process, and reporting to Council, are laid

down in the “Budget and Policy Framework”, contained within the Council’s Constitution;

- II. To adopt the draft 2018/2019 revenue budget strategy, detailed in the Discussion Paper ‘Appendix A of the report’, as the basis of the revenue budget strategy for the financial year ending the 31st March 2019, that it would wish to recommend to Council, subject to consideration of the results of the general budget consultation exercise and feedback from pre scrutiny by the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee.

- III. The draft timetable for setting the 2018/2019 revenue budget, reproduced at Appendix A2.

- IV. That the Council continues to support the medium term financial strategy aimed at maximising ongoing efficiency in service delivery, targeted service transformation and other changes that maintain the financial integrity of the Council whilst still aiming as much as possible to protect jobs and key services.

This meeting closed at 12.20 pm

**Cllr A Morgan
Chairman.**