

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the special meeting of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, on Wednesday, 4th June 2014 at 11.00 am.

Present:

County Borough Councillor G Stacey – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors:

H Boggis
P Griffiths
(Mrs) M Tegg
E Webster
R Yeo

S Carter
M A Norris
(Mrs) J S Ward
D W Weeks

J David
S Rees-Owen
P Wasley
C Willis

Members making the Call in:-

County Borough Councillors

P Jarman
I Pearce
L Walker

Officers:

Mr S Merritt – Chief Executive
Mr C Lee – Group Director, Corporate Services
Mr P J Lucas – Director of Legal & Democratic Services
Mr C Hanagan – Head of Strategy, Public Relations and Tourism
Ms K May – Democratic Services Manager
Ms Ann Edwards – Scrutiny Support Officer

Cabinet Member:

Mr R Bevan – Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Planning

County Borough Councillors in Attendance:

M Weaver

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from (Mrs) J Cass, S Lloyd and (Mrs) M E Davies.

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular welcomed County Borough Councillors S Rees-Owen and C Willis who were newly appointed to the Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, there were no declarations of interest in relation to the agenda.

4. SUBMISSION

County Borough Councillor L Walker, a signatory to the Call –in, asked that the Committee adjourn for 10 minutes at the conclusion of the debate to consider all the facts before making a decision.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the Committee would shortly be asked to vote on the procedure to be followed and that this submission could be put at that juncture.

5. PROCEDURE

For the benefit of those members of the public in attendance the Director of Legal and Democratic Services explained the process and purpose of the Call-in. He outlined the composition of the Committee and explained that those Members who had instigated the call-in were also in attendance to outline their reasons for calling the Cabinet decision in. He also pointed out that the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, who had until recently had responsibility for the Heritage Service and the Head of Strategy, Public Relations and Tourism were also in attendance to answer any questions of the Committee.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services explained that before commencing the debate it was important to agree the procedure to be adopted and he drew Members' attention to pages 1 and 2 of the report which outlined the recommended procedure to be followed and the issues to be taken into account in considering the decision taken by Cabinet on the 14th May 2014 in relation to the Heritage Service.

Members were advised of the information before them, namely,

- Appendix A – Copy of the report presented to Cabinet on the 14th May 2014
- Appendix B – The Decision Notice of Cabinet;
- Appendix C – Extract from the Council's Constitution of Scrutiny Procedure Rules re: Call-In.
- Appendix D - Copy of prescribed Call-In form duly completed by three Scrutiny Members.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services highlighted the reasons given by the three Members in requesting the Call in, at Appendix D and which were reproduced for ease of reference at paragraph 2.7 of his report. He referred to paragraph 2.8 of the report which proposed that one of the three Members be given the right to make a final address to the Committee membership immediately before a vote is taken on the proposal and also explained that if

the proposal to have the matter referred back to Cabinet was unsuccessful, then the Cabinet decision would take effect from the date of the meeting ie 4th June 2014.

RESOLVED –To adopt the procedure as set out at paragraphs 2.6 to 2.10 of the report.

(Note: the following lost amendment to the motion was proposed by County Borough Councillor L Walker:

‘That the Committee adjourn for 10 minutes to deliberate before making its decision’)

6. **CALL IN – MEDIUM TERM SERVICE PLANNING – SERVICE CHANGE PROPOSALS PHASE 2 – THE HERITAGE SERVICE**

The three Members who had called-in the decision namely, County Borough Councillors P Jarman, L Walker and I Pearce were afforded the opportunity to address the Committee and they proceeded to outline their reasons for the Call-in.

Following the address by the three scrutiny Members the Chairman called on the Head of Strategy, Public Relations and Tourism and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning to comment on the issues raised.

Having heard the arguments from those Members who had made the Call in and the responses from the Head of Service and Cabinet Member, the Chairman invited the Committee to ask any questions they may have.

The Committee having debated the issue, the Chairman invited County Borough Councillor P Jarman to sum up the argument in favour of referring the Cabinet decision in relation to the Heritage Service back to the Cabinet for re-consideration.

Following consideration of the issues and in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** that the matter not be referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration and that the decision taken on the 14th May 2014 take effect as from the date of this meeting i.e. 4th June 2014.

G Stacey
Chairman

The meeting closed at 12.10 pm.

