

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on Thursday 23rd June, 2016 at 10.30am
at the Council Headquarters, Clydach Vale.

County Borough Councillors – Cabinet Members in attendance:-

A.Morgan (Chairman),

R.Bevan

M.Forey

A.Crimmings

E Hanagan

G. Hopkins

M.Norris

M Webber

Other County Borough Councillors in attendance:

S. Jones

T Williams

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw – Chief Executive

Mr C Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services

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

Mr T Wilkins – Director, Human Resources

Mrs E Thomas – Director, Education & Lifelong Learning

Mr P Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

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

Mr Neil Elliott – Service Director, Adult Services

Ms Nia Thomas – Service Manager, Early Years & Family Support

Ms A Richards – Head of 21st Century Schools

23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillor J Rosser.

24 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillor M Norris to his first meeting of the Cabinet.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct there were no declarations of Interest made pertaining to the agenda.

26 MINUTES

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 19th May, 2016 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

27 IMPROVING EDUCATION PROVISION – CWMAMAN.

The Director, Education & Lifelong Learning provided the Cabinet with the outcome of the recent consultation undertaken in respect of the proposal to close Cwmaman Infants and Glynhafod Junior Schools and transfer the pupils to a new Primary School that would be constructed in the community, subject to parental choice. Members were reminded of the proposal that the new school would be constructed on the site of the former Fforchaman Colliery, subject to the satisfactory outcome of statutory investigations and the relevant planning consents.

Members were referred to the Equality and Impact Assessments reports and the consultation document attached to the report and the officer commented on the main concerns highlighted by consultees during the consultation process. Members were also advised of the outcome of the initial ground investigations and flood modelling works undertaken on the proposed site and preliminary reports received to date, although further reports on these areas would be undertaken, dependant on the Cabinet decision taken forward.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning commented on the proposals and spoke positively of the investment and the educational advantages arising from the provision a newly built school would bring, including a more positive learning experience. The Member also welcomed the positive reports received in respect of the initial ground investigations and flood modelling for the proposed site and welcomed the findings that the flood modelling would reduce the level of existing flooding predicted within the area.

Following further Members comments on the proposal the Cabinet **RESOLVED** to

1. Note the information contained within the attached consultation report, which includes details of items of correspondence received during the consultation exercise and the notes of the various meetings
2. To note the outcomes of the initial ground investigations and flood modelling works that have been undertaken on the proposed site.
3. To progress the proposal to close Cwmaman Infants' and Glynhafod Junior Schools and open a new Community Primary School for Cwmaman, in a new school building that will be constructed for this purpose, and to progress to the next stage of the review process, by issuing an appropriate statutory notice

28 CHANGE TO THE AGENDA.

For the benefit of Members of the public in attendance, the Chairman changed the running order of the meeting and brought forward agenda item 9 – Maesyffynnon Residential Care Home

29 MAESYFFYNNON RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services shared with Members the outcomes of the consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the future and provision of services at Maesyffynnon Residential Care Home. Members were reminded of the decision taken by Cabinet in October to temporarily close the home and a further decision taken in February 2016, to undertake a consultation exercise on the potential options available in respect of the future service provision of the Home.

The Group Director referred Members to sections 5 and 6 of the report in respect of the proposed options and analysis available and the consultation outcomes. The officer advised that the full consultation report was not attached within the agenda, although advised that the Cabinet had been given access to copies of the full report prior to the day's meeting, to assist them in their deliberations.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services thanked all the staff involved in the consultation process and the residents and staff of Maesyffynnon Care Home as well as members of the public for taking the time to consult on the matter. The Cabinet Member referred to the duties placed on the Authority in respect of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act in respect of supporting people to live independently and spoke of the positive benefits of Extra Care Housing provision, as outlined as the preferred option within the report.

Cabinet Members referred to the positive experiences witnessed when visiting an Extra Care Housing provision in a neighbouring Authority and welcomed the introduction of such provisions within the County Borough.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning spoke of the 'intergeneration project' currently run between the Care Home and Blaengwawr School and queried whether there would still be the opportunity for this project to continue if the preferred option was taken forward. The Group Director, Community & Children's Services spoke of the positives of the project for both the residents of the Home and the pupils within the school and confirmed that it was the intention to keep such good practice going, with continuation of the project.

The Chair queried the implications for staff if the preferred option was taken forward and the Director, Human Resources advised that appropriate discussions would be taken forward with the staff, Trade Unions and HR officers and advised that there would be no forced redundancies.

Following consideration of the item the Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the outcome of the consultation, any potential impact on equalities issues and other matters as outlined within the report and subsequent appendices, in respect of the preferred option relating to the future of, and provision of services at Maesyffynnon Residential Care Home.

2. To proceed with implementation of the preferred option outlined within the report, namely to permanently close the Home and develop alternative extra care housing provision on the current site.
3. That officers open dialogue with potential Housing Provider partners to implement the preferred option and report any matters to Cabinet and Council in respect of funding requirements linked to the Capital Programme as appropriate.

30 WALES AUDIT OFFICE CORPORATE REPORTS.

The Chief Executive provided Cabinet Members with an update on the four Wales Audit Office reports issued in May 2016 and provided details on the actions taken to address the recommendations listed within the reports.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business and HR commented on the reports which reflected the robust financial, service change and performance management arrangements in place within the Council and paid tribute to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance officers for their work in achieving such positive management practice.

Members **RESOLVED**

1. That the Council's response to the Wales Audit Office (WAO) proposals for improvement, as contained within the report, are deemed sufficient.
2. That the reports and associated plans contained within the report are referred to the Audit Committee in order to inform its opinion of the overall governance arrangements in place.
3. That the reports and associated plans contained within the report are referred to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and that all non Executive Members be invited to attend.
4. To invite the Wales Audit Office to present the Annual Improvement report to a future meeting of the Council.

31 UPDATE ON THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL

The chief Executive provided Members with an update on the progress of the Cardiff Capital region City Deal, providing a brief overview of the Heads of Terms Agreement with the Welsh and UK Government. Members were advised of the need to approve the proposed Governance arrangements, engagement with the business sector and introduction of an Investment Fund Assurance Framework in respect of the project going forward.

The Leader of the Council and Chair of the Cabinet, added further details on the progression to date with the City Deal project and the positive outcomes the project would have for the County Borough.

Cabinet Members thanked the Leader and the Officers involved for their hard work and commitment in taking forward the project which would have major benefits for RCT and the other 9 local authorities involved.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the contents of the report and the requirement to enhance the interim Governance Arrangements in order to take forward the provisions of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Heads of Terms Agreement with the Welsh and UK Governments;
2. That the Cardiff Capital City Deal Region Board of Leaders is renamed the 'Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Shadow Joint Cabinet'.
3. To establish the new bodies, as set out in the Cardiff Capital region City Deals Heads of Terms Agreement:
 - I. Non Statutory Regional Transport Authority
 - II. Cardiff Capital Region Skills and Employment Board
 - III. Cardiff Capital Region Business Organisation
 - IV. Cardiff Capital Region Economic Growth Partnership; and an
 - V. Independent Growth and Competitiveness Commission
4. To appoint an interim Programme Director, seconded from one of the ten local authorities
5. To commit a further sum of £79,037 from available resources, representing Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's contribution to a regional fund of £500,000 to continue to fund the development of the City Deal.
6. To procure and appoint specialist legal advisors to draft all appropriate and necessary documents for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal including but not limited to the 'Joint Agreement' from the Crown Commercial Services Framework Agreement.

32 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME: 2016-17 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

The Secretary to the Cabinet referred Members to the Draft Cabinet Work Programme proposed for the Cabinet for the Municipal Year 2016-17. Members were advised that the programme was a live document to allow for any additional / deletion of reports throughout the Year.

The Secretary highlighted to Members the additional details contained within the programme as agreed at the Council AGM to allow for further transparency in the decision making process and to assist non executive members further with any pre-scrutiny undertaken.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the proposed Cabinet Work Programme for the 2016-17 Municipal Year (with appropriate amendments where necessary) and receive further updates on a 3 monthly basis.
2. To update the Work programme to include further reports in relation to 'Improving Primary Education Provision – Cwmaman', following the Cabinet's decision to proceed with publication of a Statutory Notice.
3. That the Work programme be published on the Cabinet page of the website.

33 CARERS MEASURE – CWM TAF ANNUAL REPORTS 2015/16

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services referred Members to the Cwm Taf Annual report 2015-16 contained within the report and also provided Members with an update on the Carers Measure.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services commented on the progress made in this area over the years and spoke positively in respect of the increase in carers champions, the provision of carer aware training and referred to the commitment given to carers under the Social Services & Wellbeing Act.

Members commented on the young carers aspect and the work being undertaken within schools to support such children. The Director, Education & Lifelong Learning commented on the provisions available within schools including the vulnerability profiling and the work of the Attendance and Wellbeing service although added that this was a sensitive area as often some did not want to be identified as a 'carer'.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**

1. To note the contents of the report and that the Annual Report is also being submitted for approval by the Cabinet in Merthyr Tydfil and the University Health Board.
2. To approve the Annual Report attached as Annex 1 to the report for submission to Welsh Government.
3. To note the repeal of the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 and that this will therefore be the last Annual Report in relation to implementation of the Carers Measure. Future work relating to Carers will be taken forward as part of the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
4. To note that a new Cwm Taf Carers Strategy 2016-19 will be submitted to Cabinet for approval following its consideration by the Social Services and Wellbeing partnership Board in July 2016.

34 PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services provided Members with the three yearly Play Sufficiency Assessment for the Authority as required by Welsh Government and the resulting Action Plan to be taken forward.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Equalities & the Welsh Language commented on the assessment and the key challenges identified within the plan, which needed to be taken forward. Members spoke of the importance of 'play' for the young children of RCT and spoke positively of the enhancements to local play areas through the Council's investment.

The Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the information contained within the Play Sufficiency Assessment
2. That the Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan, contained within the report, be formally submitted to Welsh Government.

35 LEADERS SCHEME OF DELEGATION – INFORMATION REPORT.

The Secretary to the Cabinet referred Members to the Leaders Scheme of Delegation which had been agreed by the Leader following the Council AGM and was included within the Cabinet Agenda for information purposes only. The Secretary continued by advising that in future any changes to the 3A would be reported to Cabinet for information.

36 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A94) of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information which relates to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority that holds that information)

37 RECOMMISSIONING DOMICILIARY HOME CARE SERVICES.

The Group Director, Community & Children's services provided Cabinet with an update on the recommissioning of domiciliary home care services across the Cwm Taf area.

Following discussion on the report, the Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the plans and progress to date in recommissioning of independent domiciliary home care services
2. To note the decision of the Group Director, Community & Children's Services, to award contracts for the domiciliary home care services to the five providers outlined within the report, for a period of 6 years from the 1st October 2016 to the 30th September 2022, with the option to extend further for up to 4 years.

This meeting closed at 11.35

Cllr A Morgan

Chairman.