

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on Thursday 22nd September, 2016 at 10.00am at the Council Headquarters, Clydach Vale.

County Borough Councillors – Cabinet Members in attendance:-

M.Webber (Chair),

R.Bevan

M.Forey

A.Crimmings

E Hanagan

G. Hopkins

M.Norris

J.Rosser

Other County Borough Councillors in attendance:

E Webster

L Walker

P Wasley

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 C Jones – Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services

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

Mr P Mee – Service Director, Public Health & Protection

Mr P Griffiths – Director, Performance & Improvement

Mr N Wheeler – Director, Highways & Streetcare Services

49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillor A Morgan.

50 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

51 MINUTES

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 8th September, 2016 as an accurate reflection of the meeting, subject to the amendment of the Declaration of Interest to read 'Item 7' instead of 'Item 3'.

52 INFORMATION REPORT – LEADER'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION – UPDATE TO THE 3A

The Director, Cabinet & Public Relations provided Members with an update to the Leader's Scheme of Delegation in respect of the quorum of Cabinet Committee and Membership & Terms of Reference. Members were advised that the quorum for a meeting of the Cabinet shall be 4 and the quorum for a Committee of the Cabinet or Cabinet Steering Group shall be 3, unless otherwise stated within the Terms of Reference.

53 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME: 2016 – 17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Director, Cabinet & Public Relations provided Members with an update on the proposed list of matters requiring consideration by Cabinet over the 2016 – 17 Municipal Year, commenting that utilising the programme assists with openness and transparency of the decision making process within the Council and gives greater opportunity for Pre-Scrutiny.

Members were referred to Appendix 1 of the report and were content with the information set out in the work programme. Members were advised that the programme is a live document to allow for any additional / deletion of reports throughout the year.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the Updated Work Programme for the 2016-17 Municipal Year (with appropriate amendment where necessary) and receive a further update on a 3 monthly basis.

54 SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING ACT: IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME CWM TAF CARERS STRATEGY

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services provided Members with an update on the development of a new Cwm Taf Carers Strategy following the public consultation process. Members were referred to Appendix 1 where the strategy was outlined.

The Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Services spoke positively on the report, commenting that it's encouraging to see Councils working together with the Health Board to give a voice to carers in local communities. The Cabinet Member also praised the rise in the number of Carer Champions throughout the schools.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services, Equalities & the Welsh Language added that the identification of young carers remains a challenge and that giving them a voice is an ongoing process.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the contents of the report
2. Endorse the final Cwm Taf Carers Strategy

55 SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING ACT: IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME CWM TAF INTEGRATED FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services presented to the Cabinet, the proposed legal agreement and financial schedule to govern the regional arrangements for the Cwm Taf Integrated Family Support Service (IFST). Members were referred to paragraph 3 of the report where they were reminded that Rhondda Cynon Taf acts as a host for the IFST, employing the social care staff directly and managing the day to day deployment of the NHS staff seconded to the team by the University Health Board.

Cabinet Members were referred to Appendix 1 and were reassured that a formal review of the funding mechanism would be conducted on an annual basis.

Cabinet Members spoke positively on the report, highlighting that the legal framework makes recognition of the service provided.

Following further discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Endorse the detailed Governance arrangements for the Cwm Taf IFST as set out in the Legal Agreement.

56 SOCIAL SERVICES: REPRESENTATIONS AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES ANNUAL REPORT

The Group Director, Community & Children Services provided Cabinet Members with an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the Council's statutory Social Services complaints procedure between April 2015 and March 2016.

The Group Director explained to Members that Social Services continue to provide a robust complaints procedure on a daily basis in line with the statutory requirements. Members were reassured that the procedure is not just about statutory requirement, but about delivering good services to the customers.

Members were pleased with the report, noting the compliments and highlighting that the majority of complaints were resolved at Stage 1 which is testament to the staff involved.

Following further discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Agree the contents of the report
2. Note the work undertaken by the Social Services Complaints Team

57 MY OWN FRONT DOOR – A PLAN FOR HOUSING IN LATER LIFE

The Director, Public Health & Protection presented for Cabinet Member's consideration, the consultation draft of 'My own Front Door – A Plan for Housing in Later Life', a complementary delivery document of the Local Housing Delivery Plan 2013-2018. The Service Director explained that the implementation of the plan would assist the Council in meeting its prevention agenda in relation to older people.

The Director referred Members to Appendix 1 where the consultation version of the plan was displayed, identifying the three strategic aims to support the view of older people living at home independently for as long as possible. Cabinet Members were reassured that further consultation would be undertaken in order to communicate the vision to delivery partners and key stakeholders, ensuring all areas of concern are covered.

The Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Wellbeing & Communities took the opportunity to thank the officers on their commendable work put into the plan, agreeing that prolonged independence is essential for people in later life.

The Chair spoke of the Extra Care Scheme visits which took place at the beginning of the year, praising the work put into promoting independence and safety for older people.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the consultation version of the Plan which will be shared with key stakeholders and partners as part of a wider consultation exercise during September and October 2016.
2. Authorise the Director, Public Health and Protection, to make any amendments to the Plan, following the consultation exercise and to produce an action plan which will deliver the aims and objectives over the next two years.

58 A PHYSICALLY ACTIVE RHONDDA CYNON TAF – A MEDIUM TERM STRATEGIC PLAN FOR RCT LEISURE SERVICES 2016-2020

The Director, Public Health & Protection presented to the Cabinet Members, a revised strategic framework for Leisure Services following feedback from Pre-Scrutiny and key partners. The Director explained to Cabinet Members that the life expectancy of some of the local residents is lower than the Welsh average, stressing the need to prioritise the leisure services in a bid to improve health and wellbeing.

Cabinet Members were referred to the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee where they took the opportunity to thank them for their comments. Cabinet Members praised the plan and reiterated the importance of a modern and cost effective leisure service to promote a healthier lifestyle within RCT.

The Deputy Leader commented on the vast amount of provisions available at the local leisure centres, highlighting that RCT is one of few Councils to make such investments given the current financial circumstances.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the consultation version of the Plan which will be shared with key stakeholders and partners as part of a wider consultation exercise during September and October 2016.

59 DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services provided Cabinet Members with a final version of an Annual Report on the delivery, performance, risks and planned improvements of the Social Services function in the Council. Cabinet Members were reminded that this was a requirement published by Welsh Government in June 2009 and that a draft of the report had been through formal consultation and scrutiny by staff and stakeholders of Community & Children's Services.

Cabinet Members were referred to section 5 of the report, where it was evident to see that the performance of Social Services in RCT had improved. The Group Director explained that although the overall report is pleasing, the demand for Children's Services is large despite the effort put in; with the number of children on the child protection register remaining high. Members were also assured that these areas have been identified and will remain a key focus for improvement but a multi agency approach would need to be taken for 2016/17.

Members were pleased to see that the performance of Social Services in the authority had continued to improve despite times of austerity with the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services thanking staff for their ongoing work. The Cabinet Member referred to the large number of Children who are 'looked after' by the Council, commenting that work is ongoing to improve this.

The Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Services spoke in favour of working with partners to strengthen community based support services, commenting that this is a more resilient approach for success.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the outcome of the Consultation process and approve the Rhondda Cynon Taf Director of Social Services Annual Report.

60 IMPLEMENTATION OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF STAFF BENEFITS

The Chief Executive provided Cabinet Members with the report outlining recommendations to implement a range of additional staff benefits. The officer proceeded to explain that the feedback gained through staff consultation indicated that the implementation of staff benefits would be a positive scheme and have little cost to the authority.

The Deputy Leader praised the recommendations, commenting on the success of the current benefits the Council has in place such as the Cycle2Work scheme.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services spoke positively of the scheme commenting that staff are the biggest asset to the Council and implementation of the scheme would provide them with a reward and a boost of morale.

Cabinet Members thanked the Officers involved in taking forward the scheme which would have major benefits for RCT staff.

Following further discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Implement the staff benefits detailed within the report, ensuring that staff are fully aware of any personal tax, National Insurance and pension impact in terms of each scheme.

61 FOUNDATION PHASE, KEY STAGE 2 & 3 AND PROVISIONAL KEY STAGE 4 OUTCOMES FOR 2016

The Director, Education & Lifelong Learning provided initial feedback on the Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 & 3 and provisional Key Stage 4 outcomes for 2016 to ensure Cabinet Members were up to date with the educational performance of the pupils and schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Director explained that there had been an improvement across the four key stages for the third consecutive year with schools getting significant benefits from inter school collaboration.

The Deputy Leader noted that the contents of the report demonstrate the difficult strategic changes made within the authority have paid off.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning congratulated the staff, pupils and the Consortium for the valuable work carried out. The Member noted the enthusiasm of all involved at the recent GCSE and A Level result days and welcomed the positive results contained within the report.

Following further discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the information contained within the report
2. That detailed school by school information is presented to a future Cabinet and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on receipt of the final data from Welsh Government.

62 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2016/17 TO 2019/20

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided Members with an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2016/2017 to 2019/20 based on current modelling assumptions in advance of formulating the detailed budget strategy proposals for 2017/18 during the autumn. The Group Director explained that although austerity still remains a challenge, the proactive strategy adopted in recent years in respect of new ways of working has allowed the Council to continue investing in services.

Members were referred to section 6 of the report where the worst case scenario budget model assumption was displayed. The Group Director advised Members that this would be reviewed once the provisional settlement is received from Welsh Government in October.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services praised the finance team on their collaborative work in maintaining a balanced budget and following further discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the current position modelled in respect of the 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/17 – 2019/20' and receive further updates in the Autumn as part of the annual budget setting process.

63 COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT (QUARTER 1)

The Director, Performance and Improvement provided Members with an overview of the Council's performance, both from a financial and operational perspective, based on the first three months of the year. Members were advised that the report had been amended to reflect a more concise format compared to previous years and is one which can be developed as the year progresses.

Members praised the new format of the report, commenting that it's more digestible in displaying the key indicators.

Following further discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to:

Revenue

1. Note the General Fund revenue position of the Council as at the 30th June 2016 (Section 2 of the Executive Summary).
2. Request that Cabinet approve the virements listed in Sections 2a – d of the Executive Summary that exceed the £0.100M threshold as per the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

Capital

3. Note the up dated capital budget for the financial year 2016/17 and changes in the total cost of projects over the 3 year programme (Sections 3a – f of the Executive Summary).
4. Note the details of the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators as at the 30th June 2016 (Section 3g of the Executive Summary).

Corporate Plan Priorities

5. Note the current position regarding progress made against the agreed Corporate Plan priorities and confirm whether they are satisfied with the progress being made (Sections 5 a – c of the Executive Summary).

General

6. Consider whether they wish to receive further information or explanations from service managers, where Members have any serious concerns about performance or progress.

This meeting closed at 11.05am

**Cllr M Webber
Chair.**