RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 21st November, 2017 at 2pm 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  J Rosser G Hopkins
C Leyshon

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
Ms J Cook – Director, Regeneration & Planning
Mr P Mee – Service Director, Public Health & Protection
Mr B Davies – Director, Finance
Mr K Nicholls – Leisure Operations Manager

76 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The following declarations of Interest were made from County Borough Councillors M Webber, R Bevan and A Crimmings in relation to agenda item 6. The 3 Members left the meeting when the item was discussed and voted upon:

“I am a member of the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet Committee. The terms of reference of this Committee state that I cannot attend or take part in any other Cabinet or Council or Committee discussion or decision on any policy or development or any issue which may affect the park and must declare an interest and leave when any such matter is raised.”
MINUTES

The Cabinet RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the 26th October 2017 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY ('CIL')

The Director Regeneration and Planning provided Members with the CIL Annual Monitoring Report and also the amendments to the Regulation 123 List for Member's comments.

Members were provided with details in respect of the CIL income and expenditure and the Regulation 123 list, which needed to be amended following previous consideration by Cabinet on the 8th September, 2016. The Director, Regeneration & Planning provided Members with details of the six proposed changes to the highway projects as part of the 123 list. Cabinet Members were also advised that in respect of the 123 Regulation list, subject to Cabinet approval, the list would be published on the Council web-site for 28-days and if there were no adverse comments received then the 123 List could be adopted.

The Director also advised that the report had been considered by the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee and further notification of the list would be circulated to all elected Members, Town and Community Councils and to the Members of the Council’s Developers Forum.

Councillor R Bevan, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing commented on the report stating that as expected, the CIL receipts would be relatively low over the first two years of its implementation as the majority of development that is currently being undertaken in the County Borough was granted planning permission prior to CIL being implemented.

Following discussions it was RESOLVED:-

a) To agree the contents of the CIL Annual Monitoring Report (Appendix A of the report).

b) To agree the amended Regulation 123 List (as referenced within Appendix B of the report) for publication on the Council web-site for a period of 28 days and consultation as set out in paragraph 5.10 of the report, namely notification of the consultation to all elected Members, Town and Community Councils and to the Members of the Council’s Developers Forum.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING ACT: IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

REGIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING PROGRAMME

The Group Director, Community & Children’s Services provided Members with an overview of the work undertaken to date in respect of the implementation programme for the Social Services and Wellbeing programme.

Members were provided with details in respect of the developments undertaken by the Cwm Taf Social Services and Wellbeing Partnership Board to create the Regional Pooled Fund (Older People) for care home accommodation; the outcome of the engagement programme in respect of the Regional Statement of Strategic Intent for Children, Young People and Adults with Learning Disabilities and the further intention to consult further with service users, subject to Cabinet approval.
Details surrounding the consultation events that have taken place were also provided, with the Group Director adding that such events have been held to not only assist in raising awareness but to also seek public and stakeholder views in respect of the work being carried out.

The Group Director confirmed that each of the partner organisations within the Cwm Taf area provides a wide range of activities and services across the region that respond to vulnerable children, young people, adults and families. He continued by adding that each partner is committed to promoting high quality, responsive services to the public but also recognises that they also have to work together if services are to be transformed to meet the challenges faced.

The Cabinet Member for Adult & Children’s Community Services spoke positively of the report and the recommendations proposed adding that now was the time for fruition, referencing the positive results already witnessed through MASH and the Stay Well@Home initiative.

The Cabinet Member referenced the pooled budget for care home accommodation and requested additional updates on this aspect.

Following discussions, the Cabinet RESOLVED:

a) To note the update on the Regional Pooled Fund for care home Accommodation.

b) To endorse the Regional Market Position Statement (Care home accommodation).

c) To note the outcome of the engagement activity with service users and stakeholders and endorsed the final Regional Statement of Strategic Intent for Children, Young People and Adults with Learning Disabilities and Equality Impact Assessment as attached within Appendix 4 of the report.

d) To authorise officers to undertake the proposed programme of engagement as set out in the engagement plan, following consideration of the draft Regional Strategy for Supporting Children, Young People and Families.

80 CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD - ANNUAL REPORT

The Secretary to the Cabinet presented Members with the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board for 2016/17, as required under the Leaders Scheme of Delegation.

As Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, the Cabinet Member for Adult & Children’s Community Services thanked Members for the opportunity to present his Committees report which provided an overview of the good work undertaken over the 2016/17 Municipal Year. The Cabinet Member spoke positively of the work of the Board which had remained committed to improving the services that the Council deliver for the children and young people within the Looked After System.

Members were referred to the report which highlighted the frontline visits that had taken place by all committee members and the important attendance of young people representatives from
the Blue Print Forum to a number of Board meetings, to help Members ensure that the services in place are having a positive effect on the lives of those who need it.

The Cabinet Member thanked the Members and Officers of the 2016/17 Corporate Parenting Board and welcomed the work going forward with the new membership.

Following discussions it was RESOLVED:

a) To note the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report for the 2016/17 Municipal Year

81 YNYSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK - FIELDS IN TRUST CENTENARY FIELDS PROGRAMME

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection referred Members to his report which sought the approval of Cabinet to enter into a deed of dedication, providing Fields in Trust ‘Centenary Field’ status to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

The Service Director advised that development work undertaken to date to support the submission of a Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People application for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park had highlighted the need to raise the profile of the park as a dedicated war memorial park. He added that the Fields in Trust ensure this due to the programmes promotion, both regionally and UK wide. Members were advised that the item had previously been considered and supported by the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet Committee on the 1st August, 2017.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Well-being spoke of the timeliness of the application in respect of the 100th anniversary of WWI in 2018 and spoke in support of the application to enter into a deed of dedication which he commented would enhance the Park’s presence not only for tourism but also recreationally. He added that the Park’s status would also continue to strengthen the links with the armed forces which were already well embedded within the Authority.

Following discussions the Cabinet RESOLVED:

a) To agree to the dedication of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as Centenary Field.
b) To submit an application to Fields in Trust for the dedication of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as Centenary Field.
c) To give further consideration to identifying other suitable sites within the County Borough for dedication as Centenary Fields.

(N.B As referenced in Minute 76, the following Members left the meeting when the item was discussed and voted upon: County Borough Councillors M Webber, R Bevan and A Crimmings.)
The Service Director, Public Health & Protection presented Members with his report, which provided Members with details of the consultation outcomes initiated by Cabinet in relation to the proposed implementation of a programme of changes at Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre. The report also provided detailed in respect of the feedback on the outcome of preliminary discussions with the Head Teacher of Ferndale Community School.

Members were advised that the consultation period ran for 4 weeks from the 6th October to the 3rd November 2017 and the officer provided details about the methodology utilised for the consultation including, an on-line questionnaire, 2 drop in engagement events and 3 separate visits to the centre by consultation with tablet surveys to target respondents using the classes, gym and swimming pool at peak times.

A summary of the feedback was presented, with Cabinet being advised that 77.6% of respondents supported the proposed investment. Preliminary discussions had also been held with the Headteacher of Ferndale Community School whereby the Headteacher had agreed to work with Leisure Services and 21st Century Schools to explore how the school's sports facilities including the swimming pool, could be made more accessible to the public.

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure thanked the officers involved in the Consultation process and for the preliminary discussions held with the Head Teacher of Ferndale Community School. The Cabinet Member commented on the privileged position the Council were in to propose such an investment and referenced the support shown for the investment through the consultation, although she acknowledged that some feedback received was in support of the pool remaining opening.

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing, and local Member for the area commented on his disappointment that no-one from the public had attended the day’s meeting and he spoke of the mixed opinion in respect of the proposal that he had encountered within the local community. The Cabinet Member spoke of the poor design of the swimming from its origin adding that there is very little capacity for school swimming and junior learn to swim and that the pool does not lend itself to the traditional lane swimming by adults and therefore welcomed the positive feedback from the Head Teacher of Ferndale School in respect of utilising the swimming pool. The Cabinet Member concluded by querying whether the centre could be further utilised as a Community Hub.

The Leader of the Council commented on the potential investment that could be undertaken at Ferndale School to ensure changing rooms were fit for purpose if the proposal was taken forward and the reallocation of the WG ‘free swim grant’ to further assist. The Leader also spoke of the potential of installing additional PC’s at the Centre to allow public access to the Council’s library network to allow the Centre to become a Community Hub area for all the Community to utilise.

Following discussions the Cabinet RESOLVED:

a) To note the widespread support of those who responded to the consultation for investment into Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre to make it more sustainable;
b) That following consideration of the outcomes of the consultation and other matters outlined in the report and its appendix, to implement the proposal in respect of the remodelling of Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre as outlined below:

i. To invest over £500,000 and modernise the facilities provided by changing the Leisure Centre into a substantial dry side leisure facility, concentrating on fitness and indoor sports including:

- A new fitness facility
- A new indoor 3G sports pitch
- Closure of the swimming pool and increasing the swimming capacity nearby in other leisure facilities within the Rhondda
- Develop partnerships with local sporting clubs to create sporting pathways
- Utilise part of the building for Council office accommodation;

c) To note that the Headteacher of Ferndale Community School has agreed to work with the Council towards providing increased opportunities for public swimming at the school pool; and

d) That the funding implications relating to the remodelling of the Leisure Centre be subject to a future report of the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services.

83 COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017 (Q2)

The Director, Finance provided Members with an overview of the Council’s performance, both from a financial and operational perspective, based on the first six months of the financial year (to the 30th September 2017).

The Director discussed in detail the Executive Summary of the report which included financial data and progress against the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities. The officer also drew out exceptions highlighted within each of the detailed sections for Members benefit.

The Cabinet Member, Corporate Services commented on the positive position of the Council and the continued efficiencies and new investments evidenced.

Following discussions it was RESOLVED:

Revenue

a) To note and agree the General Fund revenue position of the Council as at the 30th September 2017 (Section 2 of the report - Executive Summary).

b) To approve the virements (listed in Sections 2a - d of the Executive Summary within the report), that exceed the £0.100M threshold as per the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

Capital

c) To note the up dated capital budget for the financial year 2017/18 and changes in the total cost of projects over the 3 year programme (Sections 3a – f of the Executive Summary, within the report).
d) To note the details of the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators as at the 30th September 2017 (Section 3g of the Executive Summary, within the report).

Corporate Plan Priorities

e) To note the quarter 2 position regarding progress made against the agreed Corporate Plan priorities (Sections 5 a – d of the Executive Summary, within the report), Other National Measures (Section 5e of the Executive Summary, within the report) and comparison of 2017/18 targets set against prior year and ‘All Wales Average’ performance information (Section 5f of the Executive Summary, within the report).

(N.B. Following the decision taken, the Secretary to the Cabinet highlighted the item was not subject to the Councils Call In procedure Rules, as the item was going forward to the next meeting of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting)

84 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: 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.

85 TAFF VALE REDEVELOPMENT BUSINESS CASE

The Director, Regeneration & Planning referred Members to her report, which contained exempt information. Members were provided with an outline of the estimated total cost of the Taff Vale Redevelopment scheme and the proposed funding package

Following discussions it was RESOLVED:

a) To agree the total cost of the scheme and;

b) That a further report is presented to Council seeking approval of the proposed funding package and Prudential Borrowing requirement and for the total cost of the scheme to be incorporated into the Council’s capital programme.

(N.B. The Secretary to the Cabinet advised Members that with the permission of the Mayor, the item would be exempt from Call In to maintain the programme of delivery as outlined in the report and funding of the Business Case, which will be subject to a future Council decision).
The Director, Legal & Democratic Services provided Members with an overview of his report which contained exempt information. Members were referred to the appendices of the report which provided the financial statements of the Companies which are to be presented to the Annual General Meetings (‘AGM’s’) of the Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Limited and Amgen Rhondda Limited (the ‘Companies’), to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 12th December 2017 at the Amgen Education Centre, Bryn Pica, Llwydcoed, Aberdare.

The Leader put on his record his thanks to the nominated Officers involved with the Companies, namely the Director Finance and the Director of Highways and Streetcare Services.

Following discussions it was RESOLVED:

a) That the current intention to continue the operation of both undertakings as Local Authority controlled companies into the future is confirmed.

b) (That subject to the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services (or his nominated representative) being satisfied that there are no irregularities in the accounts of Cynon Valley Waste Disposal Company Limited and Amgen Rhondda Limited (the ‘Companies’) that the accounts be received on behalf of the Council.

c) That Baldwins Audit Services Limited (formerly KTS Owens Thomas) be re-appointed as auditors to the Companies for the year ending 31st March 2018.

d) That the Directorship of Mr Alun Maddox MBE, which expires at the AGM 2017, is not renewed following the retirement of Mr Maddox.

e) That the Directorships of the Director of Highways and Streetcare Services and the Director of Financial Services continue.

f) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and/or his nominee be authorised to exercise the Council’s vote at the Annual General Meetings of the Companies in accordance with recommendations 2(b) to 2(e) above.

g) That the Council be represented at the Annual General Meetings by a Cabinet Member.

(N.B As referenced in Minute 76, Mr B Davies, Director, Finance left the meeting when the item was discussed and voted upon.)

The meeting closed at 14:55pm

Cllr A Morgan
Chair
These Minutes are subject to approval at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee