

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on Tuesday, 19 December 2017 at 10.30 am at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Cabinet Members in attendance:-

A Morgan (Chair)

M Webber
M Norris

R Bevan
(Mrs) J. Rosser

A Crimmings
R. Lewis

G. Hopkins
(Mrs) C. Leyshon

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
Mr C Jones, Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Ms E Thomas, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning
Ms J Cook, Director of Regeneration & Planning
Mr P Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Mr B Davies, Director of Financial Services
Mr. R. Evans, Director of Human Resources
Ms. L. Davies, Head Of Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Community Safety
Mr. M. Phillips, Revenues Services Manager

County Borough Councillors in attendance

None

87 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest made pertaining to the agenda.

88 MINUTES

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 21st November 2017 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

89 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Secretary to the Cabinet provided Cabinet Members with an update on the proposed list of matters requiring consideration by Cabinet over the 2017 – 18 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 advised that the programme is a live document to allow for any additional / deletion of reports throughout the year.

The Deputy Leader spoke positively of the benefits of producing the work programme to assist Cabinet and scrutiny going forward and also re-emphasised that the work programme is a 'live' document and is subject to change if necessary.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- a) To approve the Work Programme for the 2017-18 Municipal Year and to receive a further update on a 3 monthly basis.

90 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES INCLUDING ALCOHOL)

The Director Public Health, Protection & Community Services provided Members with an overview of the report before them which sought Members authority to consult on a proposal to retain the Public Space Protection Order to control alcohol related anti social behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf and to extend the Order to include two defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres.

Members were provided with the reasons for the proposal which identified a need for the PSPO and the reasonable grounds identified to extend to include two specific grounds to prohibit people in public places from taking intoxicating substances in order to reduce the incidence and public perception of related anti social behaviour and crime in Pontypridd (including the lower Graig) and Aberdare Town Centres only, following evaluation of the previous DPPO.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Well-being commented on the proposal and welcomed the consultation and added that the PSPO had demonstrated that it was a versatile tool for public safety issues.

The Deputy Leader queried those identified as consultees within the report and spoke of the importance of the Local Members. The Deputy Leader also welcomed the proposed consultation with the trustees of the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

Following discussions, the Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To undertake an 8 week public consultation exercise on the proposal to retain the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to control alcohol related anti social behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf and to extend the Order to include two defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres, specifically to:
 - i. Retain the PSPO designating the whole County Borough as a Controlled Drinking Zone with the power for police constables and authorised officers to require any person to stop drinking and surrender alcohol or any alcohol containers if they are causing or likely to cause anti-social behaviour (ASB).
 - ii. Vary the PSPO to include Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones in the Pontypridd (including the lower Graig) and Aberdare Town Centres only which will prohibit people in public places from the

taking of intoxicating substances, including alcohol and other substances capable of stimulating or depressing the central nervous system.

- iii. Authorise consumption of intoxicating substances in the Exclusion Zones only where that activity is undertaken at a premises or within the curtilage of a premises which is authorised to be used for the supply of alcohol by licence or club premises certificate or permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.
2. To receive a further report detailing the responses to the public consultation and any recommendations for amendments to the proposed PSPO for alcohol and intoxicating substance controls.

91 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE - HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

The Service Director, Planning referred Members to his report which sought Cabinet approval to undertake a public consultation on draft supplementary planning guidance for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

The Service Director advised the Cabinet that evidence collected by officers had indicated that there was an over concentration of HMOs in some parts of Treforest which in turn leads to a range of issues that can undermine the social cohesion of the community in that area. He continued by adding that evidence also illustrates that landlords are continuing to propose the creation of new HMOs in the area and at present the Council has been unsuccessful in resisting these proposals through the planning process and has lost a number of recent appeals to the Planning Inspectorate. Members were advised that supplementary planning guidance is one tool that can be used to assist in the consideration of planning applications both in terms of resisting applications for inappropriate HMOs or HMOs in areas that have already got high concentrations and also assist in raising the standard of new HMOs and guiding any future HMOs to the most appropriate locations.

The Service Director referred Members to the Draft supplementary Guidance that had been produced and advised that in order for this Guidance to be adopted by the Council it was necessary for further comprehensive, formal consultation to be undertaken.

The Deputy Leader thanked the officers for the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance, which she added was welcomed by her and the local member for the area.

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing spoke of the problems experienced previously in respect of HMOs due to no HMO policy being in place within the Councils Local Development Plan. The Cabinet Member welcomed the consultation on the draft guidance and added that the guidance would also assist with preventing the problem transferring to other local areas across the County Borough.

The Leader of the Council queried the consultation period and the Service Director confirmed that the consultation would run for an 8 week period.

Following discussions the Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To agree the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance '*Houses in Multiple Occupation HMOs*' (as attached as Appendix 1 of the report), for the purposes of an 8 week consultation.

92 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2018/19

The Director, Finance presented Members with his report which looked to set the Council Tax base for the financial year 2018/19. Members were reminded of the statutory requirement to agree and set the Council Tax Base for the forthcoming financial year prior to 31st December each year.

The Director provided details to Members in respect of the calculations advising the gross Council Tax Base calculated for 2018/19 was £77,608.22 and further added that it was proposed that the collection rate continues to be estimated at 97.5%, which would produce a net Council Tax Base of £75,668.01. It was explained that for every £1 levied in Council Tax next year, a sum of £75,668 would be generated to meet the budget requirement of the Council.

Following consideration of the Council Tax Base analyses as outlined within Appendix 1 of the report, the Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 as amended, the amount calculated by the Council as its net tax base for the financial year 2018/19, shall be £75,668.01.
2. That for each area of the County Borough, the 2018/19 tax base for Council Tax setting purposes, shall be as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.

(N.B. Following the decision, the Secretary to the Cabinet advised that as the deadline for setting the Council Tax Base was the 31st December, 2017, the decision would need to be taken as an urgent decision and therefore not subject to Call In.)

93 COUNCIL TAX DISCRETIONARY RELIEF - CARE LEAVERS

The Director, Finance provided Members with an overview of the report before them which provided Members with information on an opportunity for consideration in respect of Council Tax Discretionary Relief for Care Leavers, as part of proactively discharging its duty as a Corporate Parent in effecting and supporting Care Leavers (aged 18 – 25).

The Director referenced recent campaigns, including recent lobbying to the Welsh Government in respect of the vulnerability of care leavers in relation to Council Tax debt and further advised that under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council has a general discretionary power to reduce liability for Council Tax in relation to individual cases or class(es) of cases that it may determine where national discounts and exemptions cannot be applied. The Director added that the Council has adopted a policy with regards to its powers under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 known as the 'Council Tax Discretionary Relief Policy'.

Members were advised of the principles of the proposed Care Leavers Relief scheme as follows:

- The young person is a 'care leaver' and is between the ages of 18 and 25 and is not exempt on any other basis;
- Where a RCT 'care leaver' moves out of the Council's area the discount can be reclaimed should they return before their 25th birthday

The Director concluded his overview by advising that if taken forward the "Care Leavers Council Tax Relief" would be available from the start of the 2018/19 financial year and he also highlighted that the Council would not be reimbursed by Welsh Government for the income foregone.

Members of the Cabinet welcomed the opportunity to take forward the discretionary Care leavers Council Tax relief scheme and it was highlighted that Rhondda Cynon Taf was the first Council in Wales to introduce such a relief scheme for young care leavers up to the age of 25years.

Following the positive discussions on the discretionary relief the Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. That as part of the ongoing support to care leavers in its role as Corporate Parent, to exercise its discretionary powers to award a 100% Discretionary Council Tax Relief to Care Leavers aged 18-25, residing in the County Borough, based on the principles set out in within the report, from the 1st April 2018.
2. To give delegated authority to the Council's S151 Officer to amend the Council's Council Tax Discretionary Relief Policy, to include the above, as appropriate.

94 CHRISTMAS WISHES

The Leader of the Council took the opportunity to wish all those in attendance at the meeting a Merry Christmas.

This meeting closed at 10.55 am

**Cllr A Morgan
Chairman.**

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