

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet meeting held on Thursday, 19 April 2018 at 10.30 am at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Cabinet Members in attendance:-

Councillor A Morgan (Chair)

Councillor M Webber
Councillor M Norris
Councillor C Leyshon

Councillor R Bevan
Councillor J Rosser

Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor R Lewis

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr C Jones, Director, Legal & Democratic Services
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
Ms E Thomas, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning
Mr N Wheeler, Director of Highways & Streetcare Services
Mr P Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Ms L Davies, Head Of Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Community Safety
Ms W Edwards, Head of Community Learning

Others in attendance

Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor J Brencher
Councillor A Chapman
Councillor H Fychan
Councillor P Jarman

133 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor G Hopkins for the meeting.

134 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were made in relation to item 4 by County Borough Councillors R Bevan, M Webber, A Crimmings & M Norris, who left the meeting when the item was discussed and voted upon.

"I am a trustee of the Ynysangharad War Memorial Cabinet Committee. The terms of reference of this Committee do not allow me to partake in any other Cabinet or Council or Committee discussion or decision on any policy or development or any issue which may affect the park. I will leave the meeting when the matter is discussed."

County Borough Councillor H Fychan also declared the following personal

interest in respect of agenda item 6:- “I am on the Governing Body of Garth Olwg School”.

135 MINUTES

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 22nd March as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

136 DEVELOPING COMMUNITY HUBS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

The Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services provided Members with an overview of his report which proposed a programme of investment in community services across the County Borough through the development of Community Hubs as part of the Council’s approach to building resilient communities and early intervention and prevention, with further details in respect of the development of Community Hubs at Mountain Ash Day Centre and the former Ferndale Infants School.

Members were advised that development of such community hubs would allow the bringing together of services provided by the public and voluntary sector, creating economies of scale in terms of staffing and building cost. He added that making more cost effective use of the Councils community assets and reinvesting resources in new or retrofitted, fit for purpose buildings would enable services to be sustainable in the longer term. Reference was also made to the partnership working with the third sector organisation Fern Partnership in respect of the Ferndale proposal.

Details of the public consultations that were held in respect of the development of Community Hubs within Mountain Ash Day Centre and Ferndale Infants School were provided to the Cabinet and an overview of the responses received was also provided.

Funding arrangements were also highlighted with the Director advising of the potential availability of external funding in relation to the Ferndale proposal and the allocation by the Council of £500k to the development of Communities Hubs, following previous consideration of the Council’s Corporate Investment priorities.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Well-being thanked the Director for the report and spoke positively regarding the proposals and the co-location of services to allow them to become more accessible for the Community. The Cabinet Member commented on the opportunities to further build upon the opportunities available within the Communities with the voluntary sector and to build, sustain and enhance the provisions for the benefit of all the community that it serves.

Following a number of queries and for the benefit of Members and those in the public gallery, the Leader clarified the following information in respect of the proposals put forward within the report:

- Sliding walls and flexible partitions could be utilised within the Mountain Ash Day Centre and potential to amend floor plans to accommodate.
- All activities currently provided within the Mountain Ash day centre, (apart from some provided by Drink Wise / Age well which were naturally coming to a close – Indoor Kurling) would be accommodated within the proposed Community Hub

- No proposal to cut the hours of the Community Hub availability
- Job Centre Plus would continue to utilise the Community Hub in Mountain Ash with further encouragement for other partners to utilise the Hub to provide services from the building.
- No reduction in PC's at the Hub's and amendments of the proposed location of the PC's could be amended to suit users needs.
- As is usual practice following library change, a 5% reduction in book stock at the library would be taken forward, which would allow removal of books that have not been used for over a 2year period or removal of those books that have become in a poor condition. New stock would also be brought into the book provision. Work would be undertaken with the Community to suit the user's needs.
- Floor spacing available at the Mountain Ash hub was comparable with the Day Centre and with the inclusion of the meeting room would be slightly larger.
- All community buildings within the areas were mapped out in respect of the proposals but Mountain Ash Day Centre was the best fit.

Before calling forward other Members to comment on the proposals the Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations provided Members with an update on the discussions at the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 16th April in respect of Community Hubs. Members were advised that at the meeting Members resolved:

- To request that Cabinet at its meeting on 19th April 2018 defer consideration of the consultation responses and other recommendations in respect of the report relating to the proposed Community Hub in Mountain Ash in view of the concerns raised by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee; and
- That the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee undertakes further scrutiny of the proposed Mountain Ash Community Hub model to ensure it reflects the needs of the community and report its findings back to Cabinet.

The Leader referred to the pre-scrutiny undertaken in October, 2017 in respect of the 'Delivery of the Corporate Plan – The way ahead' where Members pre-scrutinised the work stream 'Early Intervention & Prevention' and the creation of Community Hubs within the work stream, and the Leader commented that Scrutiny Members had supported the way forward with this work stream and therefore the Cabinet **RESOLVED** that the item would not be deferred.

The Deputy Leader spoke positively regarding the proposals and also commented on the level of investment being made to the Mountain Ash and Ferndale Communities, whilst still in austere times. The Deputy Leader commented on the need to accommodate all of the Communities needs, which would be achievable through the Community Hub proposals.

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing also supported the proposals and commented that the Ferndale proposal was not just for the Ferndale Community but would be utilised for the whole of Rhondda Fach. He also referenced how the Community Hub would play a role in encouraging people into the Town Centres and welcomed the initiatives coming forward.

At this juncture in the meeting the Leader called forward the following public speakers, who were afforded 5 minutes to address the Cabinet on the proposals and following which the Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services responded to the comments raised:

C Ballard
J Rymer
K Maiden
D A Jones
L Woods

The Leader of the Council advised that if the proposals were taken forward, further engagement with service users would be taken forward to ensure all of the Communities needs are catered for.

The Deputy Cabinet Member spoke of the opportunity for Community engagement between the young and older generations within a Community Hub environment and the value such interaction could have for all involved. He reiterated the need for sustainability of services for the local communities through the Community Hubs which would redesign and enhance the community based services on offer across the County Borough, extending the range of services and information, advice and assistance on offer from a single accessible location. The Deputy Cabinet Member referenced how the Hubs could act as platform to reach out to vulnerable people in the Community and support opportunities for volunteering and skills development.

Following further discussions in respect of the proposals the Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. The phased development of Community Hubs across Rhondda Cynon Taf over a three year period as detailed within the report.
2. That following consideration of the outcomes of the consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the Mountain Ash Day Centre and other matters outlined in the report and its appendix, to the development of a Community Hub at Mountain Ash Day Centre.
3. That following consideration of the outcomes of the consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the Ferndale Community Hub and other matters outlined in the report and its appendix, to the development of a Community Hub at the former Ferndale Infants School, subject to Fern Partnership successfully securing external funding to support the development
4. That further consultation is taken forward with service users in respect of the layout of the Community Hubs and to ensure that current service user needs are incorporated.
5. To approve the capital investment as a match funding contribution towards the Fern Partnership's application for external funding in support of the development of the Community Hub in Ferndale, and
6. That the Council enters into a leasehold agreement with Fern Partnership in respect of the former Ferndale Infants School.

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES INCLUDING ALCOHOL)

The Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Community Safety provided Members with the outcomes of the public consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the Public Space Protection Order to control alcohol related anti social behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf and extend the Order to include two defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centre.

Members were advised that a public consultation took place between the 15th January and the 12th March, including the use of an online consultation, engagement events and other stakeholder communication. The Officer referred Members to the consultation results which indicated that 80% of respondents agreed that the Council should retain the PSPO designating the whole County Borough of RCT as a controlled drinking zone and that 80% of respondents said that they thought the Council should include an Intoxicating substance exclusion zone in Pontypridd, compared to 67% in Aberdare. It was advised that the Youth Forum views differed slightly from the general public.

The Deputy Cabinet Member, Prosperity & Well-being thanked the officer for the report and for the public's engagement in the consultation process, with overall, all stakeholders being in agreement with the proposals. The Deputy Cabinet Member spoke of the perceived problems across RCT in respect of alcohol related anti social behaviour and crime and disorder and the positive impact the PSPO could have to assist in this area. The Deputy Cabinet Member spoke of the approach needed to be taken in respect of appropriate substance misuse training for authorised officers, to ensure that an appropriate range of actions and interventions, not merely the issue of fixed penalty fines are available to officers who identify people with substance misuse issues. The issue of 'displacement' was also referred to and the Deputy Cabinet Member commented that close monitoring would be undertaken and also proposed that the exclusion zone proposed be adjusted to include the frontage of Pontypridd Train Station and the Gadlys Car Park in Aberdare.

County Borough Councillors S Bradwick, J Brencher & H Fychan spoke on this item.

Following discussions the Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the significant public support for the retention and extension of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to include prohibitions and requirements to control alcohol (and intoxicating substance) related anti social behaviour.
2. That following consideration of the outcomes of the public consultation exercise undertaken and other matters outlined in the report and its appendix, to make an order to retain a PSPO for the whole County Borough to control alcohol related anti social behaviour and extend the Order to include two defined exclusion zones to control intoxicating substance use (including alcohol) in public places in Aberdare and Pontypridd Town Centres as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report and to the inclusion of the frontage of Pontypridd Train Station and

Gadlys Car Park Aberdare within the order, with a commencement date of 1st September 2018;

3. To give delegated authority to the Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services to produce the final Public Spaces Protection Order relating to Intoxicating Substances including Alcohol and ensure its publication on the Council's website.
4. To set the fine for fixed penalties issued for contraventions of the PSPO at £100.
5. To fund implementation of the PSPO in 2018/19 through existing available resources.
6. To undertake a high profile awareness and marketing campaign prior to the commencement of the PSPO on 1st September 2018.

(**N.B** As Minute 134 reflects, County Borough Councillors R Bevan, M Webber, A Crimmings & M Norris left the meeting when this item was discussed and voted upon).

138 CHANGE TO THE AGENDA ORDER

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** that the remainder of the agenda would be taken out of sequence, as detailed in the minutes set out hereunder.

(**N.B** at this juncture in the meeting, County Borough Councillors M Norris & J Brencher left the meeting and the Leader adjourned the meeting at this point for a 5 minute comfort break.)

139 PROPOSAL TO CREATE A 3 - 19 SCHOOL AT GARTH OLWG

The Director, Education & Lifelong Learning referred Members to the report which advised of the outcome of the recent publication of a statutory notice, to progress the proposal to create an all through 3-19 school at the Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Campus, Church Village. Members were reminded that the proposal would be achieved by closing the current Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Garth Olwg and Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg and opening a new all through school on the site,, utilising existing premises.

Members were advised that four objections to the proposal had been received and responses had been provided.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning commented on the proposal and advised that no issues had been identified within the Impact assessments and added that the proposal was simply formalising the arrangements currently in place and would result in a better use of the premises.

County Borough Councillor H Fychan spoke on the item to which the Director, Education & Lifelong Learning responded to.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note that four objections to the proposal were received and responded

to.

2. That the draft objections report (attached to the report as Appendix A) is published on the Council's website.
3. To implement the proposal to create an 'all through' 3 - 19 School at the Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Campus, where the existing school buildings and facilities will continue to be used.
4. That the new school will open on 1st September 2019.

(**N.B** As referred in Minute 134, County Borough Councillor H Fychan declared a personal interest in respect of the item. At this juncture in the meeting, County Borough Councillor J Rosser left the meeting.)

140 CONSULTATION - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The Secretary to the Cabinet provided Members with an overview of his report which sought Members views in respect of proposed amendments to the Council Constitution. Members were advised that both the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet were being consulted on the changes before its consideration by the Councils Corporate Governance Committee.

Members were advised of the proposed changes in respect of the Overview & Scrutiny Call In procedure, reporting to Members and the forward work programmes. The Secretary to the Cabinet spoke of the positive feedback from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in respect of the proposals.

The Deputy Leader spoke positively on the proposals, adding that if taken forward following consideration by the Corporate Governance Committee the processes highlighted would help illustrate the Councils robust approach to decision making and would strengthen the Councils Governance arrangements. She added that the proposals allowed Members to utilise the technological enhancements that were now available to Members and was a common sense approach, going forward.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To agreed the proposed amendments to the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules, as outlined within section 5 of the report;
2. To the adoption of consistent practices across the Committee structures to ensure consistency of information for Members as outlined in section 6 and 7 of the report;
3. To commend the adoption of the proposed amendments in respect of the Council's Constitution to Full Council at its AGM in May 2018;
4. To instruct the Council's Monitoring Officer and Secretary to the Cabinet to compile a joint report to be presented at the Council's 2018 AGM in respect of the proposed amendments.

**EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE SANITARY PRODUCTS PROVISION
REPORT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY WORKING
GROUP**

The Secretary to the Cabinet referred Members to the report before them which provided Cabinet Members with the conclusions and recommendations of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Working Group which conducted a review in relation to the provision of sanitary products, following a Notice of Motion.

Members were reminded of the funding received from Welsh Government in respect of rolling out the provision of sanitary products across the County Borough.

The Director, Education & Lifelong Learning referred Members to Appendix 2 of the report which provide a detailed implementation plan going forward, capturing all of the scrutiny working groups recommendations. The Director commented on the importance of the young people taking ownership and responsibility for the implementation of the scheme and for successful monitoring.

The Leader commented on the positive work of the scrutiny working group and the potential for this initiative to be rolled out across Wales through Welsh Government.

The Deputy Leader also thanked the scrutiny working group for the work undertaken and commented on the positive engagement with the young people, which should be continued with all of the working group members. On behalf of the Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning, the Deputy Leader advised of the Cabinet Members support for the recommendations and the proposed implementation plan and the need to continually raise awareness about the issues highlighted by the young people to try to eradicate period poverty from the County Borough and across Wales, if taken forward by Welsh Government.

County Borough Councillor P Jarman also spoke on the item.

Cabinet RESOLVED:

1. To note the review provided by the Council's Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee provided in Appendix 1 of this report.
2. That the Implementation Plan: 'Feminine Hygiene Products in Schools 2018/19' (as provided in Appendix 2 of the report) would address the recommendations contained within the final report of the scrutiny working group and to implement the plan going forward.

This meeting closed at 1.15 pm

**Cllr A Morgan
Chairman.**