

Mae'r cofnodion hyn yn amodol ar gymeradwyaeth yng nghyfarfod priodol nesaf y Pwyllgor.

These Minutes are subject to approval at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee,

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of the Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017 at 5 p.m.

#### **PRESENT**

County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams – in the Chair

#### **County Borough Councillors**

H.Boggis  
J.Bonetto  
J.Brencher  
P.Jarman  
J.James  
G.Thomas

#### **Non Committee Members in Attendance**

County Borough Councillor M.Webber, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for  
Council Business  
County Borough Councillor G.E.Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Adult and Children's  
Community Services  
County Borough Councillor C.J.Willis – Scrutiny Performance & Management Co-  
ordinator  
County Borough Councillor S.Bradwick – Chair of Public Service Delivery,  
Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee  
County Borough Councillor R.Yea – Chair of Health & WellBeing Scrutiny Committee  
County Borough Councillor W.Jones

#### **Co-opted/Ex Officio Members in Attendance**

Mr.J.Fish – Elected Parent/Governor Representative (Education)  
Mr.R.Hull – Chair and Lay Member of the Audit Committee

#### **Officers in Attendance**

Mr.C.Bradshaw – Chief Executive  
Mr.C.B.Jones – Director, Legal & Democratic Services  
Mr.C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations  
Mr.N.Elliot – Service Director, Adult Services  
Ms.J.Bow – Head of Accommodation Services  
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

#### **19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors E.George, J.Harries, D.Macey and E.Stephens.

## **20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** – to note that there were no declarations made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda

## **21. PRE SCRUTINY**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that this special meeting of the Committee had been convened to give Members the opportunity to undertake pre scrutiny on the following matters, both of which had been reported to the Cabinet meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2017:

- Delivering the Corporate Plan – “The Way Ahead”
- Transforming Adult Social Care – Development of Extra Care Housing

### **Delivery the Corporate Plan – “The Way Ahead”**

Members received the Chief Executive, Mr.C.Bradshaw, who gave his detailed observations on how the Council is to deliver the Corporate Plan – “the Way Ahead” over the next three years in a climate of further funding reductions.

He stated that the focus of the Corporate Plan is on three priorities:-

- Economy – building a strong economy
- People – promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
- Place – creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work

It was recognised by the Chief Executive that to deliver the priorities, the Council would need to respond to a range of challenges and opportunities by, for example, redesigning local services that are integrated and efficient.

It was proposed that over the next few years, the Council would focus on the following five workstreams to invest in order to improve the essential services that are provided:-

- Digitalisation
- Commercialisation
- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Independence
- Efficient and Effective Organisation

Following the comments of the Chief Executive the above five workstreams, the Chair invited the Deputy Leader, County Borough Councillor M.Webber to give her views on this matter.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Chair for inviting her to this meeting today and also thanked the Chief Executive for his very comprehensive overview of the Corporate Plan. She stated that whilst the Corporate Plan is ambitious especially with the funding reduction and cuts that have had to be made, it aims to show that by doing things differently then improvements can still be made. Digitalisation has a huge role to play as more and more transactions between the resident/customer and the Council are now on-line and there are opportunities to further increase this. However, the digital plan approved by Cabinet in June, 2017 recognises that the Council still needs to maintain a quality face to face and telephone contact service.

The Deputy Leader further stated that the Cabinet welcomes the role of Scrutiny Members in undertaking pre scrutiny in areas such as the Corporate Plan, so much so that the Leader asked that this particular topic be looked at by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Following the comments made by the Deputy Leader, the Chair invited Members to give their comments and to ask questions of the Deputy Leader and the Officers.

One Member referred to the Capital Region City Deal as highlighted in the Leader's introduction to the Corporate Plan and queried further the investment opportunities across the County Borough in respect of the City Deal.

Following consideration of the Corporate Plan, one further observation that was made by one of the Members was that she was of the view that on page 12 of the Corporate Plan under the heading "Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with new homes being build and job opportunities created...." the second bullet point should be deleted. However, it was further felt that this bullet point be not deleted but the word **or** be included as shown below:

*"Rhondda Cynon Taf will go through a significant period of regeneration over the next decade and beyond, with major housing schemes being planned and/or implemented in areas such as Llanilid, Robertstown, Hirwaun, Tonyrefail and Mwyndy, Pontyclun;"*

The Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations thanked the Members for their comments but advised that the rewording that had been suggested related to the Corporate plan, which had already been pre-scrutinised and consequently agreed by Cabinet, and that Members were asked to consider the proposed ways forward of delivering on the Plan instead.

Members commented and supported the proposed five work streams that had been identified by the Chief Executive in his report, with particular reference to the Extra Care report which members would be considering next on the agenda.

The Chair thanked Members for their comments and stated that the Corporate Plan is subject to change over the coming months but that it was a flexible and moving document.

**Note:** At this juncture in the proceedings, the Deputy Leader left the meeting.

### **Transforming Adult Social Care – Development of Extra Care Housing**

The Committee received Mr.N.Elliot, Service Director, Adult Services who updated Members on the implementation of the Council's strategy to modernise accommodation options for older people and deliver extra care housing across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Cabinet Member for Adult and Children's Services reported that similar to the previous item, the recommendations contained in the report that was presented to Cabinet on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, were deferred in order to give Scrutiny Members the opportunity to undertake some pre scrutiny and at the next meeting of the Cabinet the report would be considered together with the feedback from this Committee.

The report was welcomed by Members as it was felt that it underpinned the need for integrating services between Health and Social Services. However, there was concern on how this would be financed as currently many people who are elderly and need to go into residential care have to use their saving and in some cases they have to sell their homes so that they can receive this care.

Members also raised questions with regard to those that are elderly and mentally inform (EMI), when it was reported by the Service Director for Adult Services that there is an increasing demand for nursing for people with dementia needs and whilst there are 30 vacancies within the nursing homes across Rhondda Cynon Taf there were no vacancies for those suffering with dementia and this was a growing concern and an area that needs investment and will be part of the overall transformation over the coming years.

Members were of the overall view that the proposals contained within the report were excellent and that the rationale was clearly set out. However, it was acknowledged that to achieve the target of delivering the additional units of extra care housing by 2021 would be very challenging and the need for the Council to work with Linc Cymru to identify viable provisional site locations for the delivery of this extra care strategy. The question was asked as to whether Bronwydd House, Porth, which is a Council owned building that is used as one of the Council's offices would be considered as one of the proposed units. It was reported by the Service Director for Adult Services that the house itself is a listed building and discussions are currently taking place with Linc Cymru Housing Association to see whether the house could be developed and will be considered along with the other options available. In response to a further question with regards to the relocation of staff, should Bronwydd House be a favourable option for development. The Chief Executive stated that should it be agreed to proceed with the development of Bronwydd House then the staff would be relocated and agile working would also facilitate the staffing concern.

A further question was raised with regards to Linc Cymru Housing Association and in response the Service Director for Adult Services stated that Linc Cymru are working with Officers to develop the projects further and to prepare individual

business cases for each extra care development. Following any investment made by Linc Cymruon any proposed site then they would own the buildings and would charge rent and service charges for the flats, such costs are yet to be determined.

In response to the final question raised by a Member in relation to mix, the Service Director for Adult Services reported that the main criteria for a social care need is that individuals are over 50 and that those people will be individually assessed as to whether their needs are low, medium or high and will therefore be accommodated according to their needs.

**RESOLVED** – That subject to the comments of Members being fed back to the Cabinet, the contents and recommendations contained in the following reports be agreed by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- Delivering the Corporate Plan – “The Way Ahead”
- Transforming Adult Social Care – Development of Extra Care Housing

**L.M.ADAMS  
CHAIR**

**The meeting closed at 6.13 p.m.**