

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 1/2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2015 AT 2.30 PM

Present

Councillor MEJ Nott OBE Leader and Chairperson

Councillors:

HJ David	Cabinet Member - Children and Young People
M Gregory	Cabinet Member - Resources
LC Morgan	Cabinet Member - Wellbeing
CE Smith	Cabinet Member - Strategic Change
PJ White	Cabinet Member - Communities

Officers:

Ness Young	Corporate Director - Resources & Section 151 Officer
Deborah McMillan	Corporate Director - Education & Transformation
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities
Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Andrew Jolley	Assistant Chief Executive Legal & Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

657. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Member/Officer, for the reasons so stated:

Councillor D Sage	-	In hospital (Recuperating)
D Mepham	-	Funeral

658. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors H J David and M Gregory declared a personal interest in Agenda item 5 Learner Travel Policy as members on the governing body of the Corporation of Bridgend College.

659. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet dated 3 March 2015 be approved as a true and accurate record.

660. PROCUREMENT OF THE COMMUNITY CARE INFORMATION SOLUTION (CCIS) FOR WALES

A joint report of the Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing, Corporate Director Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services was presented to Cabinet, in order to request approval to sign the Master Services Agreement (MSA) and Deployment Orders to facilitate the all Wales CCIS infrastructure and Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) local implementation with CareWorks

Ltd. Appendices 1 and 2 provided copies of the All Wales and Local Deployment Orders.

The Corporate Director – Resources advised that BCBC had been leading on the procurement of a national Community Care Information System that supported both health and social care.

The procurement has been managed by a Joint Procurement Board consisting of representatives of NHS Wales and local authorities from the Wales System Consortium (WSC – formerly the DRAIG implementation team). The procurement process had been contributed to and supported by representatives from all health boards and local authorities.

The participating organisations (Authority Parties) were, potentially as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

This report detailed the requirement to procure from CareWorks, the national hardware, all Wales application licenses and resources to enable the phased implementation and support the ongoing delivery of an integrated Community Care Information Solution (CCIS) across the local authorities and NHS organisations in Wales. The upfront all Wales set-up cost for this procurement was funded by an approved capital grant from Welsh Government.

In addition to this national infrastructure there was a requirement for Bridgend to purchase the software to replace the existing DRAIG product which is out of contract period and will cease to be supported beyond April 2016. This would involve a revenue commitment from BCBC (paragraph 7 of the report referred).

Paragraphs 3.6 – 3.9 then outlined details regarding the Strategic Case, whilst 3.10 of the report advised that the business and technical design of the system would be citizen centred and will allow professionals to access and share information across organisational boundaries. This paragraph also detailed the benefits CCIS would offer.

The next part of the report dealt with the procurement process; what that would deliver and what the different procurement stages would include.

In terms of the current situation/proposal the Corporate Director Resources then covered the reasons justifying the implementation of the system and these were shown in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

The next section of the report covered the following issues:-

1. Risk Position
2. Master Services Agreement
3. National Deployment Order for Infrastructure (Appendix 1 to the report)
4. Local Deployment Order (Appendix 2 to the report)
5. Due Diligence, and
6. Project Implementation

The Corporate Director - Resources confirmed that a representative from BCBC will sit on the Implementation Board for the CCIS project as part of project governance. Details of who this Officer and what the remit would be, would be shared with Cabinet in due course.

She then culminated her submission by running through for Members the report's financial implications.

The Cabinet Member – Resources confirmed that the Project had been led by BCBC on behalf of all local authorities and Health Boards in Wales, and presented a unique opportunity to have a single Integrated Community Care Information System for Wales.

The importance of the Project had been endorsed by Welsh Government who were supporting by funding the central infrastructure costs which amounted to £6.5m

The Minister for Health was very supportive of the project, recognising the significant benefits to both joint service working and patient's treatment.

The procurement was a first for Wales and had taken nearly 2 years to come into fruition, having been let through a complex competitive dialogue process.

This was because of the varying requirements of the health and social care sectors, and the need to harmonise requirements into a single system which allows both services to use common records with single data entry and shared access, ensuring that there is real time information to hand. The system also allows mobile working and remote access by practitioners.

Although the intention was for all local authorities and Health to use the system, there would be a phased implementation with BCBC being the first to commit, and work with CareWorks to implement the system.

He thanked Officers James Ferris and Martin Morgans for the hard work they had committed to this initiative, which confirmed that once more BCBC were leading the way for local government in Wales.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approved the signing of the MSA and the two deployment orders, to execute the CCIS contract with CareWorks Ltd on behalf of BCBC and all Participating Authorities and authorise the Corporate Director – Resources to arrange for the execution of such agreements by the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Regulatory Services.
2. Approved the signing of an Inter Authority Agreement between BCBC and relevant Authority Parties on such terms as shall be agreed by the Corporate Director – Resources in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Regulatory Services and the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing, and for the Corporate Director – Resources to arrange for the execution of the Inter Authority Agreement by the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Regulatory Services.
3. Delegated to the Corporate Director – Resources in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Regulatory Services and the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing the power to amend or modify any of the agreements

specified in paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2 of the report, prior to execution of such agreements.

661. LEARNER TRAVEL POLICY

The Chairperson of the Children and Young People O&SC presented a report so as to forward Cabinet the comments and recommendations of the Committee in response to the outcome of the consultation on proposals to change the Learner Transport Policy.

The report gave some background information, reminding that the Committee at its meeting on 30 September 2013 made a number of recommendations on Learner Transport which were reported to Cabinet on 12 November 2013.

Since this time, the Chairperson of the above Committee confirmed that a series of actions had been undertaken including a 12 week consultation period on the 3 proposals shown in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

He then confirmed that at its meeting on 17 February 2015 the Children and Young People O&SC received a report from the Children's Directorate setting out the outcomes of the consultation process.

Following detailed discussion with Officers and consideration of the report, the Committee agreed that whilst they did not fundamentally disagree with the proposals they did not feel confident in making firm recommendations on them based simply on the evidence provided in the Consultation report.

For this reason explained the Chairperson of the Children and Young People O&SC, the Committee recommended that in order for Cabinet to feel confident and assured that any decisions made were based on robust information and evidence, and ensuring that they had taken into account the recommendations and observations shown in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 of the report, which he briefly expanded upon.

The Corporate Director – Education and Transformation advised that as a Director, she welcomed the support and challenge from overview and scrutiny, and Officers had taken up time to consult further on the proposals, including speaking to pupils who currently received free transport. She was therefore going to delay submitting a further report to Cabinet outlining proposals as to the future revision to the Learner Transport Policy, in order to undertake further work that was required including considering some of the comments of the Children and Young People O&SC.

The Cabinet Member – Children and Young People added that cluster meetings with representatives of School Councils had taken place regarding the future delivery of the Policy, that had already taken in all such clusters other than the Cynffig cluster meeting which was taking place next month. Meetings had taken place in secondary schools and School Councils from all primary schools had been invited to these meetings. He had attended a meeting at the school in Llangynwyd, and had found this to be a very constructive and useful exercise and a similar process had taken place in all other clusters.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet considered the comments and recommendations of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the options proposed for changes to the Learner Transport Policy.

662. PROPOSED MERGER OF CORONER AREAS

The Corporate Director – Resources submitted a report, to consider the Rhondda Cynon Taf proposal to merge the existing Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valley Coroner area with the Cardiff and Vale Coroner area to cover the six local authority areas of Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Bridgend, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The report gave some background information, following which, the Corporate Director – Resources confirmed that the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Chief Coroner were keen to explore the potential for amalgamating the two Coroner areas, particularly as both are covered by part time provision, and also advocated the post of a full-time Coroner as set down in the Coroners and Justice Act. This was supported by the Coroner's Society for England and Wales. This had been the case in a recent review with the appointment of a full-time Coroner for North East Wales and North Central Wales which have recently merged into one jurisdiction; which took effect from 1st January 2013.

RCT had previously attempted to recruit a full-time Coroner for the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys Coroner area but the Chief Coroner's Office had advised that a merger should be considered prior to initiating any recruitment processes. Whilst a merger is unlikely to be forced upon the authorities, participating local authorities must demonstrate valid reasons against such an amalgamation. In the short term mergers of Coroner areas are only likely to take place with the agreement of all local authorities, amongst certain other bodies. There is, however, no reason in principle, why the Lord Chancellor should not in due course combine areas after consultation but without agreement if there is a clear case for merger.

She added that with the pace of modernisation increasing within the service, it is therefore timely to review the Coroner's service and look at the provision of the service within the two areas. The MOJ and Chief Coroner are aware that the Acting Senior Coroner and Assistant Coroner for Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys are providing cover in the absence of a Coroner presence in Cardiff and Vale, and will question how effective this assistance is proving to be. They may well determine that the next natural step would be to merge the two Coroner areas.

The next part of the report, gave details on the total annual budget for Coroners in the different areas, and following this, paragraph 4.6 detailed the future Service Options, three main ones of which had been identified in terms of future service delivery.

Of these options, the Corporate Director – Resources confirmed that Option 3 was the preferred one (details contained within Appendix C to the report), namely to amalgamate the two Coroner areas with one full time Coroner and complete shared administration. This was the preferred option of both the MOJ and the Coroner's Society, and would result in a saving of approx. £23k for BCBC based on the 2014-15 budget.

The report then outlined details of how the proposed merger would progress, following which it gave details regarding the amalgamation procedure.

The Cabinet Member – Resources confirmed that this was another example of partnership working involving BCBC and neighbouring authorities.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

1. Approved that, subject to agreement by Cardiff City and County Council, Powys and Merthyr Council, and subsequent approval from the Chief Coroner and Lord Chancellor, that the current Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys and Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan coroner Areas be merged to form one Coroner's area to cover the six local authority areas of Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr, Bridgend, Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan.
2. That the part-time Coroner posts which currently cover Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys, and Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Coroner areas be made into a single full-time Coroner position for the new Coroner area following the merger.
3. That Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is designated as the Relevant Authority under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 to continue to accommodate the Coroner, and continue to provide the existing administrative support functions to the service.
4. That costs be apportioned on a population ratio basis (already established within the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys Coroner Area).
5. Noted that Rhondda Cynon Taf Council will produce a Business Plan and commence the consultation process required under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, and further noted that current staff and trade unions will be consulted as part of that process.

663. HOUSING (WALES) ACT 2014 AND SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

The Corporate Director – Communities presented a report, the purpose of which, was to highlight the changes and seek Cabinet approval in respect of 'intentional homelessness' following the implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014; and also to seek approval of the proposed changes to the Social Housing Allocation Policy (SHAP) as a result of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

He advised that The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and relevant homeless provisions were due to be implemented on 27th April 2015.

The new Act was wide ranging in its scope, covering improvement of the private rented sector, improvement of standards in social housing, and prevention of homelessness.

He added that there was a statutory requirement for every housing authority to have a Housing Allocation Scheme for determining priorities and a procedure to be followed in allocating housing accommodation. The Authority's current Social Housing Allocation Policy (SHAP) was approved by Cabinet on 11 November 2014.

The Corporate Director – Communities then confirmed that the 4 RSL's in Bridgend who were party to the SHAP and the Common Housing Register (CHR) were:

- (a) V2c
- (b) Linc Cymru
- (c) Hafod
- (d) Wales and West Housing Association

He then explained that the current legislation placed a duty on the Council to assist those who are threatened with homelessness within 28 days. The new 2014 Act extended this to 56 days; however Bridgend County Borough Council adopted this extension over 12 months ago to better prepare for the new legislation. In addition, the new Act places a duty on the Council to take 'reasonable steps', to prevent and/or relieve homelessness.

Under the current legislation, those that make a homeless application, but have no local connection, receive advice and assistance only from the Council unless, for example, they are fleeing violence/domestic abuse. The duty to prevent homelessness under the new Act is irrespective of whether the applicant has a local connection to Bridgend or whether the applicant is intentionally homeless. Therefore, this will increase the work of the Council and have an impact on resources required.

In the event that homelessness prevention is not successful, there is a duty to relieve the applicant's homelessness and again, there was a duty to take all 'reasonable steps' to do so.

There was now a much stronger duty on Local Authorities to prevent and/or relieve homelessness. The Council and the RSLs have recently re-evaluated the SHAP and have considered additional procedures to take account of, and formalise, requirements of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

The Corporate Director – Communities referred to Appendix 1 to the report, that showed the amendments to the SHAP, and that changes had been introduced under the new Act in respect of how to apply "intentionality". The definition of 'intentionally homeless' was the same as defined in current legislation.

Paragraph 4.8 of the report advised that presently Bridgend applied the test of intentionality to all categories of homeless households, though under the new Act, Councils would have to decide which households they will apply this definition to, as was listed in the same paragraph of the report.

He explained that if an 'intentional homeless' decision is taken, the local authorities housing duties to that household are significantly reduced. It is worth noting that intentionality decisions are relatively rare. In 2014 'intentionally homeless' decisions represented approximately 16% of all decisions taken in Bridgend County Borough Council.

Welsh Government now requires the Council to notify them, and the public, of the groups to which it is going to apply the intentionality test. Once the decision is made, the Council will need to inform Welsh Government and publicise their decision 14 days before the legislation in relation to intentionality is implemented

A representative of the WLGA Homelessness Network had carried out investigations into the application of intentionality in local councils. The outcome of this revealed that most Council's favour retaining the 'intentionality test' for all those groups for which they currently apply it.

The Corporate Director – Communities stated that it was proposed that Bridgend County Borough Council makes no change and continues to apply the test of intentionality in respect of all the individuals and household presenting as homeless, as set out in paragraph 4.8 of the report.

As the wider implications of Housing (Wales) Act 2014 are better understood, it is acknowledged that there could be the need to reassess the position in respect of the groups, at a later stage.

The majority of homelessness provisions will come into effect in April 2015 with the exception of ‘intentionality’. A date for implementing legislation relating to ‘intentionality’ was yet to be determined by Welsh Government.

In relation to the financial implications of the report, Welsh Government had provided transitional funding to the Council to support the impact of the implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act 2015 for the period 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016.

The Cabinet Member – Communities advised that there were some important changes under the new Act, as shown in Paragraph 4.7 of the report, the implications of which were shown in paragraph 4.8 of the report.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:

1. Noted the changes as a result of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
2. Approved that the Council continues to apply the ‘intentionality test’ to all groups of homeless households as set out in paragraph 4.8 of the report, and publishes its intent to do so in accordance with Welsh Government direction.
3. Approved the amended Social Housing Allocation Policy (SHAP) attached at Appendix 1 to the report, to take effect from the 27th April 2015.

**664. BLUE BADGE PROPOSED CHANGES**

The Corporate Director – Communities submitted a report, the purpose of which was to seek approval to consult on proposed changes for the future provision, improvement and operation of Blue Badge parking in BCB.

The report gave some background information, and confirmed that Welsh Government had issued new guidance on Blue Badge issue and operation which stated that:-

- Users must never give the badge to others to allow them to have the benefits of the parking concessions
- Users must never copy the badge or attempt to alter the details
- The badge remains the property of the issuing local authority
- The issuer can ask for the badge to be returned if it is being misused.
- It is a criminal offence for anyone to misuse the badge, and doing so could lead to a £1,000 fine

The Council currently issued in the region of 3,500 badges per year on a 3 year cycle, and figures obtained from the Resources Directorate indicated that there were 10,882 Disabled Parking Badge holders registered within the County Borough, of which 60% were awarded to those who were automatically eligible.

The next section of the report highlighted the criteria under which persons could automatically qualify for a Disabled Parking Badge, whilst paragraph 3.8 gave details of the number of measures which assist in providing equitable access, particularly for those who were participants in the Blue Badge Scheme.

In providing parking either at ground level or in multi-storey car parks. The Council incurs both capital and ongoing revenue costs which the Council must source from its own funds.

The Corporate Director – Communities advised that to date the Council had decided that a concession is applied in its off street parking for persons displaying their Blue Badge in regard to unlimited waiting for no fee.

A survey in 2012 on Blue Badge holder usage highlighted that of the 150 Blue Badges exhibited 22 were being used fraudulently.

If the above survey was representative he added, it would indicate that 15% of Blue Badges currently being used to gain free parking and occupy reserved disabled spaces may be being used by individuals who are not entitled to those benefits. This clearly reduced the spaces available for genuine Blue Badge holders, and in instances where this is identified the matter is raised with the issuing section within Bridgend County Borough Council.

He then advised that a total of 68 car parking spaces were allocated for Blue Badge users across car parks in Bridgend and Porthcawl, and a snapshot of car park utilisation which was undertaken in March 2012 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. This identified that over utilisation of existing marked disabled parking bays in some of both long and short stay car parks in Bridgend/Porthcawl.

Paragraph 4.6 of the report then confirmed that 45 extra disabled parking places would be provided in the Bridgend and Porthcawl car parks.

In the current financial climate and proposed enhanced provision, the Corporate Director – Communities advised that the Council should reconsider its position in regard of the concession for persons displaying entitlement through the use of their Blue Badge. In this respect it was proposed that persons displaying their Blue Badge in a Council provided car park pays the same amount as other users of the facility. However, a concession of an 'extra hour' parking on whatever time they purchase would be added. This proposal was part of the public budget consultation exercise carried out over a six week period during October and November 2014. Introduction of a parking charge for Blue Badge Holders in our off-street car parks received 58% support.

In order to facilitate changes to the concession it is recognised that the pay and display machines would need to be Equality Act compliant. It has been identified that new machines as well as signage and ancillary works will need to be undertaken to permit the revised concession to be implemented.

Implementing charging for blue badge holders for off street car parking is estimated to generate £165k, as set out and approved in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Cabinet Member – Communities advised that the report was proof that the Authority were still looking at avenues of support for disabled drivers and passengers and that as well as extra parking spaces being made available for these persons, the Council had also extended the time they were allowed to park from 2 to 3 hours also.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet gave approval to consult with relevant stakeholders on the proposals contained within the body of the report, and that a further report be presented to Cabinet to consider and agree a way forward.

665. **MEALS AT HOME**

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing submitted a report, that updated Cabinet on the Meals at Home Service, and provided an appraisal of the options for the Meals at Home Service moving forward.

She advised that in January 2014, it was proposed to Cabinet to reduce the subsidy on Meals at Home in line with the decision for other chargeable services, which would increase the cost of a hot meal from £3.68 to £5.11, an increase of £1.43. Cabinet noted the report but felt that this needed to be further explored. Cabinet agreed to defer the decision to remove the proposed subsidy, until a review of all people currently in receipt of a Meal at Home had taken place.

The next part of the report included statistics regarding the number of people who were receiving meals at home, including the different categories of eligibility, and their ages etc.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing confirmed that during the last year, all 246 service users receiving Meals at Home had been individually reviewed.

At the same time the Directorate has reviewed how it supports people to regain their confidence and independence at home in the Community Resource Team, Enabling and Reablement services. Historically when people entered Bridgestart, the enabling home care service, the Directorate supported food preparation with meals at home. This process was changed in January 2014 to support people to either prepare their own meals or utilise frozen meals from accredited providers. The enabling programme teaches people how to heat and prepare frozen meals safely, and enables them to have choice and control over their meal, keeping them independent and more resilient.

In addition she added, in the last 18 months, the Directorate has been changing the types of conversations it has been having with people who contact the Directorate for advice and information. People often make contact because they are concerned about family members, who they feel are not eating a balanced diet, or need support with meal preparation. Rather than refer people immediately for meals at home, the referral management centre has been engaging with people in strength-based conversations, discussing alternative ways of supporting people with food preparation by advising about accredited frozen meal providers and local community solutions.

The actual cost of providing a meal is anticipated to increase from the £5.11 in 2013/14 to £6.68 per meal in 2014/15. This is as a result of both increased staffing costs following job evaluation as well as a reduction in volume of meals produced. If the Council were to progress with a full-cost recovery model and pass on the full cost of the service, service user charges for a meal would rise by £2.74, an increase of 70% from the current charge.

In light of the revised costs identified above, the initial proposal to continue with the existing service, remove the Council subsidy and charge the full-cost for a meal at home is no longer a viable option.

The provision of a daily hot meal for those who need it, remains an important part of the support packages available, to enable people to remain living at home for as long as

possible. However, it is recognised that the service cannot continue to be delivered in its existing form, in light of the associated costs.

It was also acknowledged that the Children's Directorate has been subsidising the Meals at Home service at a loss each year, which was circa £20k in 2013/14. The Wellbeing Directorate has previously, on occasion, met this shortfall although not in 2013/14. The Wellbeing Directorate aims to ensure that the Children's Directorate will not be at a financial detriment from April 2015 onwards.

In moving forward the, the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing confirmed there are some immediate short-term solutions that will deliver savings against the MTFs in 2015/16 although there will be a shortfall which will be made up from elsewhere in the service. A summary of the key benefits, risks/cost implications and potential savings for the Meals at Home service in 2015/16 were detailed in paragraph 4.6 of the report, ie 3 Options.

She explained that the service recommended Option 3 – Service Efficiencies and small increase in charges', whilst the service explores other alternative models of service delivery across the County Borough. This would have a minimal impact on service users, yet would ensure a large proportion of the MTFs savings are made in 2015-16, and then full in 2016/17.

Paragraph 4.8 of the report then showed a breakdown of the savings that could be achieved as a result of implementing Option 3 in 2015/16.

The next section of the report gave some longer term options that would be looked at post 16, and these would be examined and in turn brought back to Cabinet for further consideration.

In terms of the report's financial implications, the Medium Term Financial Strategy set out a saving of £122,000 for the Meals at Home service. Part of this saving will be met through realigning income budgets to reflect a higher-than-budgeted level of income for this service (£50,000). To make savings in addition to this, an option would be to increase the charge by 30p, 40p or 50p per meal. Any shortfall in savings target would be met from within the service.

The Cabinet Member – Wellbeing added that a considerable number of developments had taken place in the service to date with lot having been achieved. Further developments were being looked at to provide meals at home to improve efficiency, and he extended his thanks to colleagues in School Catering and the supportive work being undertaken by catering staff in Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen. It was another area of the Council however where savings were required under the Council's MTFs.

The Cabinet Member – Strategic Change added that he wished to congratulate the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing and her team for a comprehensive report, and he pointed out that the meal for a service user would only increase by 30p.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet:

1. Noted the information contained in the report.
2. Approved the recommendation for 2015/16, which is Option 3 – service efficiencies and small increase in charges as set out at paragraphs 4.6 and 4.8 of the report.

3. Approved the increase of 30p per meal for the cost of a meal charged to the service user as set out at paragraph 4.9 of the report.
4. Approved undertaking further work to option to appraise alternative remodelling solutions to deliver the Meals at Home service in future as set out at paragraph 4.12.
5. Noted that a further report and options appraisal will be presented to Cabinet, proposing a strategic direction for Meals at Home service in the longer-term.

666. OLDER PEOPLE'S COMMISSIONER RESPONSE

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing submitted a report, to update Cabinet with the background to the Older People's Commissioners (OPC) report 'A place to Call Home'; to inform Members of the OPCs requirements for action contained within the report, and to seek approval of the Western Bay response to the OPC report and the requirements for action therein.

She confirmed that In November 2014, Sarah Rochira the Older People's Commissioner for Wales undertook a review of over 100 care homes across Wales. The review was the biggest of its kind in Wales and looked at: -

- The residents social participation
- The care home environment
- Access to health care services
- Food and diet
- Care home staff capacity and training
- Service commissioning and inspection

On the whole, the review found many excellent examples of person centred care that was delivering the very best outcomes for people living in care homes. Specific examples of good practice within the Western Bay region could be found on pages 62, 72, 85 and 88 of the report (Appendix A to the report referred).

Notwithstanding this, the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing explained that the report also found significant variation in the quality of care homes across Wales, and concluded that too many people living in care homes had little in the way of any meaningful choice and control over their lives and often struggled to have their voices heard. Few care homes actively promoted the use of independent advocacy.

As a result the OPC had requested (in line with the Commissioner for Older Peoples (Wales) Act 2006), that all bodies responsible for providing / commissioning care home services, provide an account of: -

- How they have complied, or propose to comply with the Commissioner's requirements for action **OR**
- Why they have not complied with the Commissioner's requirements for action **OR**
- Why they do not intend to comply with the Commissioner's requirements for action.

As part of the Western Bay Collaborative, Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea local authorities and ABMU Health Board (HB) have elected to submit a Western Bay

response to the OPCs 'A place to call home' report and 'required actions' (see Appendix B to the report).

A multi-agency group met to carry out a self-assessment against the OPCs recommendations in Bridgend. There was a high level of care home providers at the session to develop the local position for Bridgend from a care provider perspective. Bridgend's overall response to the OPC recommendations was positive and there were no areas of non-compliance. There are, however, actions to take forward and areas of good practice, which fed into the overall response from Western Bay (see Appendix C to the report).

Paragraph 4.5 of the report then gave some examples of best practice in the Western Bay area, whilst in respect of the next steps the OPC would require:-

- The public bodies to whom Requirements for Action are directed to demonstrate what action they will take to comply with them.
- The publication of a register detailing Requirements for Action and what action will be taken by public bodies.
- Mechanisms to be agreed and adopted to provide assurance that the actions identified by public bodies will deliver the intended outcomes.

Western Bay partners would also she explained:-

- Develop a business case to support further investment in advocacy services, continence services, psychiatric liaison and medicines management
- Develop a regional commissioning strategy which sets out clearly the purpose of, and capacity required within, the care home sector in the future and its role alongside other community based elements of the Western Bay frailty model, which seek to delay and prevent the need for care home admission.
- Using the baseline position as a starting point, partners will develop a detailed action plan and supporting programme of work to ensure full compliance with the OPC's requirements for action
- To work in collaboration with the care home sector, and older people and those that care for them, to deliver a coordinated approach to improving care home provision across the Western Bay region

The Cabinet Member – Wellbeing explained that it was time for society to accept committing further resources into older people's services, as citizens were living longer and such increased resources needed to be put into the likes of residential care, now more than ever before.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted and approved Bridgend's local position and response within the Western Bay response to the OPC report;
- (2) Approved the Western Bay response to the OPC report attached as Appendix B and the requirements for action identified within;
- (3) Approved and supported the Western Bay collaborative approach to develop and improve the quality of life for care home residents.

**667. DEMENTIA STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN 2015-2018**

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing submitted a report that provided Cabinet with an update on the draft Dementia Strategy and Delivery Plan 2015-18.

By way of background information, she confirmed that the Adult Social Care Remodelling Programme was well underway, with a detailed schedule of work being taken forward to achieve our new model of assistance and support. As part of this programme, a Dementia Strategy Project team had been established.

There were many national, regional and local strategic factors that impact on the delivery of dementia services, such as:

- National Objectives
  - Welsh Government's National Dementia Vision for Wales;
  - Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014;
  - Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010;
  - Carers Strategy (Wales) Measure 2010;
  - Welsh Government's Older People Strategy 2013-2023;
  - Well-being of Future Generations Bill;
  - The Williams Commission Report 2014.
  
- Regional and Local Objectives
  - Western Bay Health and Social Care Collaborative;
  - Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Carers Partnership Carers Information and Consultation Strategy 2013-16;
  - The Local Services Board (LSB) Single Integrated Partnership Plan: Bridgend County Together April 2013 – March 2018;
  - BCBC Corporate Plan: Working Together to Improve Lives (2013-2017);
  - BCBC Adult Social Care Commissioning Plan: Living Independently in Bridgend in the 21st Century (2010-20);
  - BCBC Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2013/14.

Paragraphs 3.7 of the report outlined some key drivers, and she then advised that over the past 6 months, Officers had been working with NHS colleagues on the development of a joint Dementia Strategy and Delivery Plan in order to help identify and formulate strategic priorities and objectives for dementia services.

The draft Dementia Strategy was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and below this, sat the Dementia Delivery Plan which was in effect the Implementation Plan.

Paragraph 4.5 then gave the vision for dementia services, while paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7 of the report outlined the Dementia Priority Areas for 2015-18.

Finally, paragraphs 4.8 and 4.9 of the report gave details of the consultation process followed regarding the Strategy and accompanying Plan.

The Cabinet Member – Wellbeing stated that he was aware following the undertaking of a study, that Bridgend had been identified as having double the people with dementia compared with Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, and that Officers had been looking into the reasons behind this.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing confirmed that she had a response on this, and she would share it with Members of the Cabinet outside of the meeting.

The Cabinet Member – Children and Young People added that Bridgend had been identified as having best practice when it came to supporting people with dementia throughout the County Borough, and had actually achieved awards for this, with 1000's of staff in BCBC, Care Homes and the Independent Sector having been trained to support people with this debilitating illness

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:

1. Noted the progress made to date in jointly developing the draft Dementia Strategy and Delivery Plan.
2. Noted the 'Dementia Priority Areas 2015-18' for the county borough of Bridgend, as set out in section 4 of the report.
3. Approved consultation on the draft Dementia Strategy and Delivery Plan with service users, carers and other pertinent stakeholders as set out under paragraphs 4.8 and 4.9 of the report.
4. Noted that a further report will be presented to Cabinet following the consultation exercise.

668. **SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: GARW VALLEY SOUTH SCHEME (BETWS PRIMARY AND YSGOL GYNRADD CWM GARW)**

The Corporate Director Education and Transformation submitted a report, in order to inform Cabinet of developments regarding the Garw Valley South scheme, and to seek approval for a proposed approach to taking the scheme forward.

By way of background information, she advised Cabinet in December 2014, following a Judicial Review, the High Court allowed a claim concerning the proposal to amalgamate Betws Primary School and Tynyrheol Primary School, and made a quashing order in respect of Cabinet's decision to implement the proposal.

The Council used the same statutory procedures to relocate the Welsh medium primary provision of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Cwm Garw from Pontycymer to the existing Betws Primary School site. In May 2014 Cabinet determined to relocate the school to a new building on the site currently occupied by Betws Primary School. The proposal was to co-locate YGG Cwm Garw with the new English medium primary school serving the south of the Garw Valley. In February 2015 Cabinet further determined that the relocated YGG Cwm Garw should be a 1.5 form entry.

Following the outcome of the Judicial Review, it has become necessary to reconsider the whole Garw Valley South scheme and the decisions made in respect of the same.

The Corporate Director Education and Transformation, then stated that in recent months the Local Authority's technical officers had revisited the costing of the scheme as originally requested.

She added that following an assessment, it was not now possible to build two 1.5 form entry schools on the site within budget. By building two 1 form entry schools, the scheme would be affordable and would fit within the budget.

In light of the aforementioned budget issues, it was therefore considered that circumstances had changed significantly in respect of the scheme, as a considerable increase in funding would be required to construct two 1.5 form entry schools which,

together with the associated groundworks, would render the original proposals cost prohibitive. Consequently, Cabinet approval is sought to abandon the original proposal to enlarge YGG Cwm Garw from a 1 form entry school to a 1.5 form entry school. In addition, the same interpretation of the Code has been applied to the 'relocation' proposal and it is considered necessary to seek Cabinet approval to repeat the original process to relocate YGG Cwm Garw to following the clarified procedures and to ensure compliance with the court ruling.

The Corporate Director Education and Transformation proceeded to explain, that following a fire at Betws Primary School in June 2012, the school was currently partly housed in temporary accommodation (mobile units). To provide a permanent solution it is proposed to construct a new build Betws Primary School on the playing field of the existing school site, which is within one mile of the main entrance of the school. Under "the Code" (Paragraph 2.2) this proposal does not constitute a regulated alteration upon which proposals must be published.

It was also proposed that the Council makes the new build Betws Primary School a one form entry English medium school plus nursery, nurture provision and a hearing impaired resource base (i.e. the same as the current school). This was not a regulated alteration under "the Code" and therefore did not require publication.

She added that the changes proposed would need to be facilitated by the approval of an amended planning application.

The Welsh Government had approved the Outline Business Case (OBC) in respect of the Garw Valley South Scheme, and had invited the Council to proceed to the Full Business Case stage.

The Cabinet Member – Children and Young People expressed his disappointment that children in Llangeinor and Pontyrhyl would not benefit from a state of the art school. He was further disappointed that the YGG Cwm Garw school would not be expanded from a 1 to a 1.5 form entry school to, as amongst other things this would have allowed for an expansion of welsh medium places.

He was pleased however to note that there would be a replacement school at Betws, and that the delay for the provision of this would be only a few months. He also welcomed the relocation of YGG Cwm Garw, which he believed would result in a greater number of pupils being taught in the medium of welsh, as the school will be closer to the larger communities in the Valleys Gateway and had surplus places at Pontycymmer.

**RESOLVED:**                    That Cabinet:

1.     Determined to abandon the determination concerning the original proposal to relocate YGG Cwm Garw to the Betws, as determined by Cabinet in May 2014.
2.     Determined to abandon the determination concerning the original proposal to enlarge YGG Cwm Garw from 1 form entry school to a 1.5 form entry school, as determined by Cabinet in February 2015.
3.     Approved that consultation with the governing body, staff, parents, pupils and the community be conducted in respect of relocating a 1 form entry YGG Cwm Garw (including nursery) to the existing Betws Primary School site with effect from the 1st April 2018 with the outcomes on the proposal reported back to Cabinet.

4. Agreed to proceed with the replacement of Betws Primary School (including nursery and the existing SEN provision i.e. nurture and hearing impaired) on the playing fields of the existing school site.

669. **SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE MYNYDD CYNFFIG INFANTS SCHOOL AS AT 31 AUGUST 2015 AND EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF MYNYDD CYNFFIG JUNIOR SCHOOL FROM A 7-11 TO A 3-11 SCHOOL TO CREATE AN ALL THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH EFFECT FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

The Director of Education and Transformation submitted a report, is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to close Mynydd Cynffig Infants School with effect from 31st August 2015 and extend the age range of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 to create an all through primary school with effect from 1st September 2015 - and to present to Cabinet the findings of the consultation in a detailed consultation report (see Appendix A to the report).

After sharing with Members some background information, she confirmed that in order now to progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 30th January 2015 and 12th March 2015, with staff, governors, parents, pupils, and also the wider community, in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. A copy of the consultation document was also made available during this time on the Councils website.

The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal.

She explained that if approved by Cabinet, the next stage of the process was to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposals which would need to be published for a period of 28 days and any formal written objections would be invited during this time.

If there were no objections during the Public Notice period then the proposal could be implemented with Cabinet's approval.

If there were objections at this Public Notice stage, an objections report would be published summarising the objections and the authority's response to those objections. Cabinet will need to consider the proposal in light of objections, and it could then accept, reject or modify the proposal.

The Director of Education and Transformation advised that an Equality Impact Assessment had been carried out twice, once at the beginning of the consultation process and once at the end, and Appendix A of the report included details of this.

A Welsh Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation. It is considered that the proposal would have no impact on the Welsh language provision currently experienced by pupils at both schools. (Appendix B to the report referred)

A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation. There will be no adverse effect on the proposal; the authority will work with the governing body and school to support them in determining a staffing structure and will also encourage and support the primary school in the continued provision of community use in the buildings. (Appendix C to the report referred)

The Cabinet Member – Children and Young People advised those present that a comprehensive consultation exercise had been undertaken as was detailed in the report, and there had been a unanimous response from children in Mynydd Cynffig Infants

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school that they would be happy with the proposal to create an all through primary school, on the proviso that the After Breakfast and After School Clubs were retained.

He added that as the report highlighted, there had been extensive engagement in terms of consultation, with pupils at both schools, staff, governors and parents, and it was agreed that this proposal was a next natural step towards the further development of the Council's School Modernisation Programme.

He further added that both schools had a good reputation, and it was considered that the school would develop further as a result of the proposed amalgamation.

- RESOLVED:**                    That Cabinet:
1.        Noted the outcome of the consultation as detailed in the consultation report and appendices.
  2.        Approved the consultation report for publication.
  3.        Authorised the publication of a Public Notice on the proposal.

670.    **INFORMATION REPORTS AND MINUTES FOR NOTING**

The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services presented a report, the purpose of which, was to inform Cabinet of the Information Reports and Minutes for noting which had been published since the last meeting.

The Cabinet Member – Children and Young People referred to the item entitled 'Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Abercerdin Primary School', and he congratulated all those involved at the school for their hard work which had resulted in the school having such positive judgements arising from the inspection.

- RESOLVED:**                    That Cabinet acknowledged the publication of both the documents listed in the report.

671.    **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 4.20 pm