

**CABINET - TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2019**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 1/2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2019 AT 14:30**

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

CE Smith  
RE Young

PJ White

HM Williams

D Patel

Officers:

Gill Lewis	Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Kelly Watson	Head of Legal & Regulatory Services
Julie Ellams	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Zak Shell	Head of Neighbourhood Services

344. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Leader declared a prejudicial interest in item 6, Town and Community Council Community Projects Fund Allocation 2019/2020 and withdrew from the meeting because the report included a proposal to make a grant to Cefn Cribbwr Community Council of which he was a member.

Cllr Richard Young declared a prejudicial interest in item 6, Town and Community Council Community Projects Fund Allocation 2019/2020 and withdrew from the meeting because the report included a proposal to make a grant to Coity Higher Community Council of which he was a member.

Cllr Philip White declared a personal interest in item 10, Section 33 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 Partnership Agreement between the Council and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust – Assisted Recovery in the Community (ARC) because he was an Associate Member of Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board.

Cllr Philip White declared a personal interest in item 15, Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and Cabinet Committee Equalities because recommendation (2) in the report directly affected him.

Cllr Dhanisha Patel declared a personal interest in item 15, Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and Cabinet Committee Equalities because recommendation (4) in the report directly affected her.

Cllr Dhanisha Patel declared a prejudicial interest in item 16, Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Relief High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme 2019-20 because it was likely that a close relative would benefit from the scheme.

345. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of 19 March 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record.

**346. ENFORCEMENT POLICY FOR THE ISSUING OF FIXED PENALTY NOTICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES**

The Head of Operations – Community Services presented a report seeking Cabinet approval to enter into a public consultation on the proposed changes to the Council’s Enforcement Policy for the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices for Environmental Offences and informing Cabinet of the appointment of a partner Enforcement Contractor. He explained the reasons why the Council did not have sufficient resources to effectively police crimes such as littering and dog fouling, the need to update the existing enforcement policy in line with current legislation, the tender process and the successful tenderer, 3GS (UK) Ltd due to be fully operational from early May 2019.

The Head of Operations – Community Services explained that a comprehensive consultation exercise would be undertaken in respect of the amended policy and the outcome would form part of a future report to be presented to Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member Communities explained that dog fouling would be included under this policy in the future. A further report would follow outlining the strategy for dog fouling and the outcome of the consultation.

**RESOLVED:**                      That Cabinet:

- i) Approved a consultation exercise as described in paragraph 4.3 of the report and noted that the outcome of the same would be reported back to Cabinet in due course.
- ii) Noted the appointment of 3GS (UK) Limited as the partner Enforcement Contractor.

**347. SOUTH WALES TOURISM MARKETING HUB**

The Head of Operations – Community Services presented a report seeking Cabinet approval to accept a funding offer from the Regional Tourism Engagement Fund and enter into appropriate financial and legal agreements for the delivery of the South Wales Tourism Marketing Hub. This would work with public, private and third sector organisations involved in the visitor economy across the 10 Local Authority areas of the Cardiff Capital Region to develop and distribute digital content promoting a range of bookable products to UK and overseas markets including travel trade, business events and consumer campaigns.

The Head of Operations – Community Services explained that the project would be led by BCBC as the applicant and directly delivered by BCBC and partners from across the Cardiff Capital Region.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration endorsed the report and referred to the significance of Bridgend as a hub. He said that Bridgend was held in esteem and had a track record in this role.

The Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations asked for examples of projects undertaken by BCBC. The Head of Operations – Community Services gave a number of examples including Porthcawl SeaScope and their work to make Porthcawl a tourist attractive destination, Southern Wales tourism and the Valleys Marketing Campaign and other projects such as Swansea Bay Watersports.

The Leader added that more than 2,000 jobs in the County Borough depended on tourism so they had to ensure it was promoted on a regional basis and it was an initiative they were proud to be a part of.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet accept the offer of funding from the Regional Tourism Engagement Fund and enters into appropriate legal and financial agreements, subject to any necessary approval from the Interim Section 151 Officer and Head of Legal and Regulatory Services for the delivery of the South Wales Tourism Marketing Hub.

**348. TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY PROJECTS FUND ALLOCATION 2019/2020**

The Leader declared a prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting because the report included a proposal to make a grant to Cefn Cribbwr Community Council of which he was a member. The Deputy Leader took the chair.

The Head of Operations – Community Services presented a report seeking Cabinet approval to allocate funds from the Town and Community Council Community Projects Fund for 2019/2020 in line with the recommendations contained within the report. He outlined the approvals for 2018/2019 and the proposals for the 2019/2020 allocation and pointed out that they were good high level projects which would bring benefits to the community.

He clarified the position regarding the pavilion renovation in Pencoed and explained that it would cost more than £40,000 to open the pavilion and there would be a further report next month.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration referred to the table at 4.2 in the report which he believed highlighted what could be achieved when BCBC and TCC's talked to each other. If they were having difficulties in other areas they should talk to those in the table to see how they could work together. He was surprised there were any funds left in the pot and hoped that there could be a development within his ward within the next year.

The Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help added that he was also hoping there would be a project in his ward by this time next year. He asked how much time was giving to the Town and Community Councils to submit their applications. The Head of Operations – Community Services explained that they sent letters out as early as possible to allow plenty of time for applications to be made. The Clerks were aware the letter would be coming and should already be preparing bids.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet approved the proposals for the allocation of funds from the Community Council Community Projects Fund for 2019/2020 in accordance with the projects named in section 4.4 of the report for the values detailed.

**349. SMART ENERGY PLAN - DOMESTIC ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT**

The Head of Operations – Community Services presented a report seeking approval from Cabinet for Bridgend County Borough Council's support for a Welsh Government project to improve the energy efficiency of domestic properties within Bridgend County Borough.

He outlined the phase 1 and phase 2 programmes and explained in detail what the phase 3 programme would entail. He explained the primary focus of the programme to reduce fuel poverty and provided a definition of fuel poverty. He then outlined the proposal and how it would work in BCBC.

The Cabinet Member for Communities explained that this was a long standing scheme that had covered a period of more than 10 years. Unlike other schemes, it did not require BCBC to match fund and the financial implications were minimal. It was important to get the message out that the scheme was available and not to be confused with the report on the local area energy strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations added that this promoted a globally responsible Wales and would make both an environmental and economic difference. She was pleased to see this come forward and she hoped this would not be the last scheme.

The Leader explained that fuel poverty was going to become more of a problem and they had to find a practical way to support residents. This was also an ambitious commitment to reduce the carbon foot print and to help the environment in future. He noted and welcomed that there was no financial commitment from BCBC.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet approved the participation of BCBC in, and the development of, a WG funded domestic energy efficiency project under Phase 3 of the domestic energy efficiency programme within Bridgend County Borough.

350. **COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE OPENING TIMES**

The Head of Operations – Community Services presented a report seeking Cabinet approval to changes to the public opening times at the Community Recycling Centres at Tythegston, Brynmenyn and Maesteg.

He outlined the background to the proposals, the current summer and winter opening hours and explained that discussions with the Council's Waste Contractor on how an hour reduction could be implemented, were ongoing.

The Cabinet Member for Communities stated that this was a sad report proposing a reduction to a facility following a public consultation. The public had indicated that this was the most acceptable way for savings to be achieved.

The Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help asked what impact this would have on the wages of the employees and he said that he hoped they would not be disadvantaged as a result of this decision.

The Head of Operations – Community Services explained that they were hoping to achieve the savings through adjustments to the rota. There could be staff reductions as a result of savings to staffing costs and discussions were ongoing.

The Leader added that this would reduce the impact on the public and the facilities would still be open 7 days a week.

The Head of Operations – Community Services explained that this was a way of making modest savings without a significant detriment to the service.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:

- i) Approved the proposed revision to the opening times at the Council's three Community Recycling Centres by reducing them by one hour per day subject to agreement with the Waste Contractor and

- ii) Delegated authority to the Interim Chief Executive, to agree the final configuration for the hours of opening at the Council's three Community Recycling Centres.

351. A REPORT ON THE DUTY TO SECURE SUFFICIENT PLAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report informing Cabinet of the statutory duty under s.11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 on all councils to secure a sufficient quantity and quality of opportunities for leisure, play and culture for children and young people, up until the age of 18 years, based on Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing also asked Cabinet to note the statutory responsibilities created by s.11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and the statutory guidance by Welsh Government in "Wales, A Play Friendly Country" (July 2014) meaning local authorities were now required to secure sufficient opportunities based on assessments that they undertook.

Approval was also being sought of the assessment conducted during 2018-19 (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) and the proposed action plan for 2019-20 (attached at Appendix 2), which was required by Welsh Government, noting that any further amendments requested by Welsh Government were reported back to Cabinet.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained the background, the issues/matters that had been considered in the development of the assessment, the reporting requirements, the key responsibilities and the implications including the financial implications.

The Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations thanked the Corporate Director and her team. Overall there appeared to be a surplus with a deficit in a few areas however this was now being addressed. She welcomed the setting up of a working group and the development of a Youth Charter. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing agreed to pass the comments back to her team.

The Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help thanked the Corporate Director for a comprehensive report. It had always been a challenge securing disabled facilities and this looked at different ways of providing schemes improving availability for those with disabilities.

The Leader added that play had to be inclusive and he was pleased with investment in outdoor children's play areas across the borough, for children with disabilities. He acknowledged that more work had to be done to improve the overall provision. He proposed committing additional targeted resources to match fund any additional resources from Town and Community Councils or Welsh Government so that the progress already made could continue.

The Cabinet Member for Communities asked if they relied on volunteers for the supervised provision and asked if support was provided to the volunteers to allow them to access training to fulfil their role. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing was unable to comment on volunteers but they did have seasonal and casual staff and they had access to training.

The Interim Chief Executive stated that if consideration was being given to committing additional resources as part of the MTFs, they should also consider being more imaginative with different types of play space.

The Leader added that progress had been made through the 21<sup>st</sup> century school modernisation programme with sports pitches and all weather pitches and they could build on this further with different types of play space.

- RESOLVED:**
- i) Cabinet noted the statutory duty under s.11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 on all councils to secure a sufficient quantity and quality of opportunities for leisure, play and culture for children and young people, up until the age of 18 years, based on Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
  - ii) Cabinet noted the statutory responsibilities created by s.11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and the statutory guidance by Welsh Government in 'Wales, A Play Friendly Country' (July 2014).
  - iii) Cabinet approved the assessment conducted during 2018-19 (attached at **Appendix 1**) and the proposed action plan for 2019-20 (attached at **Appendix 2**), which was required by Welsh Government noting that any further amendments requested by Welsh Government would be reported back to Cabinet.
  - iv) Consideration be given to committing additional targeted resources as part of the MTFs, to match fund any additional resources from Town and Community Councils or Welsh Government so that the progress already made could continue.

352. **SECTION 33 OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (WALES) ACT 2006 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND ABERTAWE BRO MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY NHS TRUST - ASSISTED RECOVERY IN THE COMMUNITY (ARC)**

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing presented a proposal for entering into a renewed Section 33 Agreement of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust, regarding the provision of integrated Mental Health Daytime Opportunities with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing explained the background to the proposal, the current situation and financial implications. She added that Swansea Bay Health Board would be changing over to Cwm Taf University Health Board from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

The Leader referred to the Assisted Recovery in the Community (ARC) and how it was innovative at the time. It was unusual to have a Section 33 Agreement in place but a better service had been provided as a result.

- RESOLVED:**
- i) Cabinet approved the proposal to enter into a renewal of the Section 33 Agreement under the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust regarding the provision of integrated mental health daytime opportunities;
  - ii) Cabinet delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing, in consultation with the

Section 151 Officer and Head of Legal and Regulatory Services, to enter into any necessary agreements to novate the Section 33 Agreement with ABMU to Cwm Taf Health Board following the health boundary change.

**353. WELSH GOVERNMENT CHILDCARE OFFER**

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support presented a report seeking Cabinet approval for BCBC to participate in and deliver the Welsh Government Childcare Offer from 29 April 2019 and to work with RCT to deliver the Childcare Offer in BCB. Cabinet approval was also required for delegated authority to be made to the Corporate Director Education and Family Support in consultation with the Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer and Head of Legal and Regulatory Services to negotiate and settle the final terms of the Joint Working Agreement with RCT and thereafter to authorise the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services to enter into the said Joint Working Agreement and any associated documentation.

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support provided a background to the Childcare Offer, the current proposal and the financial implications.

The Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations thanked the Corporate Director for the report and Welsh Government for fully funding the Offer. In the majority of cases, women provided childcare so this would help more women return to work.

The Leader stated that this was excellent news and another good example of collaboration. He asked if there had been any response from childcare providers and parents. The Corporate Director Education and Family Support replied that the Offer had been very positively received by both and there had been a report to the Governors who also were very positive. They would ensure the scheme was well managed which would improve the chances of a good take up.

The Leader reported that he had written to the Deputy Minister for Social Services regarding the current full time nursery provision and was awaiting a response. This had also been raised with officers and officials at Welsh Government.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet:

- approved BCBC participating in and delivering the Childcare Offer in Bridgend County Borough;
- approved BCBC working with RCT to deliver the Childcare Offer in Bridgend County Borough with BCBC acting as an 'engagement authority' and RCT acting as 'delivery authority'; and
- delegated authority to the Corporate Director Education and Family Support in consultation with the Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer and Head of Legal and Regulatory Services to negotiate and settle the final terms of the Joint Working Agreement with RCT and, thereafter, authorise the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services to enter into the said Joint Working Agreement and any associated documentation.

**354. THE 2018-2019 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY REVIEW FOR WELSH GOVERNMENT**

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support presented a report seeking Cabinet approval to submit the local authority's 2018-2019 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment review to Welsh Government by 30 April 2019.

He provided a background on the requirements of the 2006 Childcare Act, the current situation and the financial implications.

The Cabinet Member for Social Service and Early Help welcomed the report and thanked officers.

The Leader was pleased to see progress in terms of supporting more disabled children, the registration of more childminders and the development of more after school clubs.

**RESOLVED:** Cabinet approved Bridgend County Borough Council's Childcare Sufficiency Review/Action Plan, for submission to Welsh Government by 30 April 2019.

**355. FINDINGS OF THE INSPECTION OF YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICES IN WESTERN BAY BY HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION**

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support presented a report informing Cabinet of the findings of the recent inspection of Youth Offending Services in Western Bay by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and informing Cabinet of the steps now being taken to improve these services.

He explained the background to youth justice services, the full joint inspection of Youth Offending Services (YOS) in Western Bay, the outcome of the inspection and the individual post-inspection plan for improvement.

The Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations said that this was a disappointing report and a lot of work was required in this area. She asked how they could be sure that the YOS Management Board would get it right in future. The Corporate Director, Education and Family Support, stated that a significant amount of work was required, roles had to be identified and lines of governance in place to make improvements going forward.

The Deputy Leader concurred with these comments and agreed that the report had been difficult to read. The inspection had identified some areas as being outstanding, inconsistencies in other areas and a warning that collaboration was not always right. It was important to learn lessons from this even though they were no longer part of the Western Bay YOS. He asked if more effective scrutiny and reporting would be undertaken in future. The Corporate Director, Education and Family Support explained that measures had been put in place in line with the action plan. There were clear reporting lines and updates would be provided in a timely fashion.

The Cabinet Member for Communities said that it was essential that the right structure was in place. He asked what preparations had been made to work with other organisations. The Corporate Director, Education and Family Support explained that they were working closely with partnership managers and there would also be an oversight by PSB.

The Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help asked if there was a safeguarding issue and how we could be sure children were safe. He offered to attend the YOS Improvement Governance Board as a volunteer from a safeguarding position.



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The Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help thanked him for his offer and explained that a priority was keeping children safe. Estyn had identified a number of strengths, work had been undertaken with an independent consultancy and the Corporate Director had worked closely with senior officers.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration explained that a cross curricular approach was required with regular progress reports. There was rationale for standing alone and collaborating in due course.

The Interim Chief Executive added that the Corporate Director for Education and Family Support was presenting the report however there was a corporate responsibility to get it right for the next inspection.

The Leader stated that he wanted regular reports to be submitted to Cabinet and arrangements to be made for the Cabinet Member for Communities to chair the Partnership and for the Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help to attend the YOS Improvement Governance Board.

The Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing had raised with the Chair of Cwm Taf that there had been very poor attendance by representatives from the Heath Board. This was a joint responsibility for all the agencies involved and a suitable senior officer should be in attendance at these meetings. She added that she had already had a response from Cwm Taf and they would support these meetings in future.

### RESOLVED:

- i) Cabinet noted the findings of the HMIP inspection and
- ii) Cabinet noted the steps being taken to improve the service.
- iii) Cabinet to receive regular reports on progress and
- iv) Arrangements to be made for the Cabinet Member for Communities to chair the Partnership and for the Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help to attend the YOS Improvement Governance Board

### 356. FEEDBACK ON THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON POTENTIAL CONCEPTS FOR POST-16 PROVISION ACROSS BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PHASE 4 OF THE REVIEW

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support presented a report providing detailed feedback to Cabinet on the public consultation undertaken between 7 December 2018 and 13 March 2019 on the six concepts being considered in the review of post-16 education provision across the County Borough of Bridgend. He explained that the report also put forward recommendations for Phase 4 of the review of post 16 education provision.

He outlined the public consultation on the six concepts for post-16 provision, the consultation activities, consideration of the concepts and the current position. He explained the financial implications and the reasons for the recommendation.

He thanked the Specialist Officer: Post-16 Education and Training for the significant work he had put into the report, and also the sterling efforts of scrutiny and the Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration.

The Leader also gave his personal thanks to the Specialist Officer: Post-16 Education and Training, the Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration and Cllr Webster as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their contribution.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration thanked the Specialist Officer: Post-16 Education and Training, the Corporate Director Education and Family Support and Cllr Webster. The scrutiny undertaken had been professional and positive on such an emotive issue. He was pleased with the way the recommendations had been worded even though they were quite complicated. His personal view was that it should be possible for all schools to have a sixth form of some shape but would require collaboration on a big scale. It was important for teachers to have opportunities for 6<sup>th</sup> form teaching and for pupils to have role models and he was happy to endorse the recommendations.

The Leader stated that this had been discussed on several occasions in the past. It was important to engage with learners and potential learners because if you did not include the learners and communities, then it would be difficult to make changes.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) Cabinet noted the contents of the report on the public consultation;
- ii) Cabinet gave approval for a detailed option analysis, as Phase 4 of the post-16 review, of Concepts 1, 4 and 5 under two work streams:
  - the development of a mixed sixth form and sixth-form centre provision; and
  - the retention and further development of sixth-form provision in all mainstream secondary schoolsand
- iii) as part of the detailed option analysis, further explored how blended learning could support both work streams.
- iv) Cabinet to receive a further report in due course.

**357. CABINET, CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING AND CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES**

The Head of Legal & Regulatory Services presented a report seeking approval for the schedule of meetings of Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and the Cabinet Committee Equalities for the period May 2019 to April 2020. The report also proposed Children's and Equalities Champions who would chair the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and the Cabinet Committee Equalities, confirmed the process for nomination of Champions from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and sought approval of the invitees to attend meetings of the Cabinet Committee Equalities as nominated by each of the political groups represented on Council.

The Leader added that he was pleased to note that the two Cabinet Committees continued to have cross party membership.

The Deputy Leader referred to the schedule of Cabinet meetings which included two dates for meetings in September. The Head of Legal & Regulatory agreed to check the dates and to confirm at the AGM.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That Cabinet approved the schedule of meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and the Cabinet Committee Equalities meetings for the period May 2019 – April 2020 as outlined in Paragraphs 4.1.2, 4.2.1 and 4.3.1 of the report.

- ii) That the Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help be appointed as Lead Member for Children and Young People, Children and Young People Champion and Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.
- iii) That the process for determining the invitees for the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting as outlined in paragraph 4.2.3 be approved.
- iv) That the Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations be appointed as the Equalities Champion and as Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee Equalities.
- v) That Cabinet approve nominations of the invitees to the Cabinet Committee Equalities on the basis of 4 Labour Group Members, 2 Conservative Group Members, 2 Independent Alliance Group Members and 1 each from the Llynfi Independents and Plaid Cymru Groups.

358. NON-DOMESTIC RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF HIGH STREET AND RETAIL RATES RELIEF SCHEME 2019-20

The Interim Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer presented a report asking Cabinet to adopt the Welsh Government's High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme for 2019-20.

The Interim Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer outlined the High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme available for 2019-20 to support businesses within the retail sector in Wales and how it would be administered in BCBC. It was estimated that in the region of 1500 ratepayers across the Borough could potentially benefit from reduced rates bills under this Scheme.

The Deputy leader stated that 300 small businesses would welcome this windfall because for the first time, it was a borough wide scheme which went beyond the High Street. This was a significant sum of money for businesses in Bridgend.

The Leader stated that this was good news for an estimated 1500 ratepayers. The key difference was small businesses across the borough would benefit rather than just those on the High Street.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- i) Adopted the Non Domestic Rates High Street and Retail Rates Relief Scheme for 2019-20 as detailed within Appendix A;
- ii) Approved the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation of Functions as set out at paragraph 4.3 of the report.

359. URGENT ITEMS

None

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The meeting closed at 16:30