

CABINET - TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2023

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB / REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS, ON TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 2:30PM

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

W R Goode

J Gebbie

HM Williams

JPD Blundell

Present Virtually

JC Spanswick

N Farr

Officers:

Nimi Chandrasena  
Alex Rawlin  
Rachel Keepins  
Carys Lord  
Claire Marchant  
Janine Nightingale  
Kelly Watson  
Mark Shephard  
Kate Pask

Democratic Services Officer - Support  
Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager  
Democratic Services Manager  
Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change  
Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing  
Corporate Director - Communities  
Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services  
Chief Executive  
Corporate Improvement Officer - Performance

Declarations of Interest

None

**252. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	That the minutes of the 17/10/23 were approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**253. Code of Corporate Governance**

Decision Made	<p>Cabinet considered and approved the amendments to the Code of Corporate Governance as set out in Appendix A.</p> <p>In approving the amendments to the Code, Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The importance of this work to the management of the Council.</li><li>• The avenues available if it was thought the core principles have been breached.</li><li>• The contribution of the Governance and Audit Committee to the development of the Code.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**254. Private Rent Sector Leasing Scheme**

Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Noted the update with regards to the ending of the current private rent sector leasing scheme arrangements with Cartrefi Hafod.</li><li>• Approved the implementation of the Leasing Scheme Wales based on the number of properties to be brought into the scheme as outlined at paragraph 3.9.</li><li>• Delegated authority to the Head of Partnership and Performance in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into any funding agreements and/or any further deeds and documents which are supplemental to the scheme and approve any minor changes to the scheme in the future, which are within agreed budgets.</li></ul>
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	<p>In approving the recommendations, Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thanked Cartrefi Hafod for their work, and The Wallich for stepping in as the current arrangements are being decommissioned.</li><li>• Noted the budget pressures on organisations in this area of work.</li><li>• Requested more information about the Local Housing Allowance, especially whether it increased in line with inflation. The Chief Officer - Finance, Performance &amp; Change confirmed that the allowance was reviewed annually, and Members would be sent more information about the rate of increase.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**255. Appointment of Local Authority Governors**

Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Noted that progress made in connection with the design of the project.</li><li>• Delegated authority to the Director of Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer - Legal &amp; Regulatory Services, HR &amp; Corporate Policy and Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change, to progress the invitation to tender for the construction works following the completion of the design process.</li><li>• Noted that a future report to both Cabinet and Council will come forward in due course to set out the financial implications of the project, prior to entering into a construction contract for the Grand Pavilion project.</li></ul> <p>In approving the recommendations, Members discussed the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The importance of managing risk and timescales.</li><li>• Putting in place the most appropriate procurement route in accordance with the authority's Contract Procedure Rules.</li><li>• Identifying all potential sources of funding to complete the project.</li><li>• That the project had been included on the Forward Work Programme for Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**256. Porthcawl Grand Pavilion Project Procurement Update**

Decision Made	
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**257. Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 4 and Local Authority (LA) Flex Joint Statement of Intent and Memorandum of Understanding**

Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agreed to Bridgend County Borough Council becoming a member of ECO4 Flex and that the Corporate Director Communities shall be the dedicated responsible person for the ECO4 Flex Scheme.</li><li>• Delegated authority to the Corporate Director Communities in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy and Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change, to make any required amendments and to agree final versions of the draft Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Statement of Intent.</li><li>• Delegated authority to the Corporate Director – Communities to sign the final approved Memorandum of Understanding and sign and to publish the final approved Joint Statement of Intent, and thereafter update these documents with any factual updates as appropriate.</li><li>• Delegated authority to the Corporate Director Communities to accept a funding offer of £16,000 from Welsh Government to support the delivery of ECO4 Flex in line with the financial information contained within section 8.</li></ul> <p>In approving the recommendations, Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expressed concern about the potential costs involved in administering the eligibility process, and whether the funding offer of £16,000 and £300 per applicant would be sufficient to cover all costs.</li><li>• It was noted that GPs, whilst they could play a role in establishing need as a result of the diagnosis of health conditions, could not be involved in evaluating eligibility on the basis of income.</li><li>• The Deputy Leader expressed concern about how this scheme had been promoted with NHS colleagues and whether they would refer potential beneficiaries to the Council.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Deputy Leader requested that, though the regional Cabinet had agreed the eligibility criteria, she felt it was important they were reviewed at some point.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**258. Service Level Agreement with Torfaen County Borough Council**

Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agreed that Torfaen County Borough Council assume the role of 'Lead Local Authority' for the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund Regional People and Skills Service Level Agreement (Appendix 1).</li><li>• Delegated authority to the Corporate Director Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy and Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change to enter into the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund Regional People and Skills Service Level Agreement, and any subsequent amendments or extensions to it as agreed by the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund Regional People and Skills Strategic Management Board and to enter into any further deeds and documents which are ancillary to the agreement.</li><li>• Agreed the appointment of the Employability and Enterprise Manager to represent BCBC on the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund Regional People and Skills Strategic Management Board.</li></ul> <p>In approving the recommendations, Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expressed concern that the valued local Employability service could be compromised by this regional collaboration initiative, and that any regional developments need to fit seamlessly with what is provided in the County Borough.</li><li>• Asked for clarification that this was the most cost-effective way to deliver some services. The Corporate Director - Communities confirmed this.</li><li>• That outreach was an important part of delivery. Initiatives needed to be promoted in communities and online.</li><li>• That all Members needed to be notified about this development.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**259. Outcome of Consultation on Community Recycling Centres Closure**

Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Noted the outcomes of the consultation on proposals to close each CRC one day per week.</li><li>• Gave approval to continue to progress the closure of each site one day per week.</li><li>• Authorised the Corporate Director of Communities to liaise with the exiting and incoming waste contractors to implement the closure of the CRC sites on one day per week.</li></ul> <p>In noting the recommendations, Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussed the role of consultations in determining budget cuts.</li><li>• Noted that abuse should not be included in public documents, and that references to it in the report should be redacted.</li><li>• Noted that the Pyle Community Recycling Centre was awaiting its operating licence.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**260. Social Services And Wellbeing Directorate Policies – Admissions And Commencement Of Service And Anti-Bullying Policies**

Decision Made	<p>Cabinet considered and approved the new policies of Admissions and Commencement of Service at Appendix 1 and Anti-Bullying in Children’s Residential Care Services at Appendix 2.</p> <p>In approving the policies, Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That the policies had been developed as a result of priority action notices.</li><li>• That a link should be provided in the Admissions and Commencement of Service Policy to highlight the financial safeguarding procedures that exist for each service.</li><li>• That bullying was a horrible behaviour to experience, and our young people are already in the position of being exceptionally vulnerable. It was vital to do everything possible to support them.</li><li>• That the phrase “most often girls” should be removed from Section 8.3 (Relational Bullies) of the Anti-Bullying Policy.</li><li>• That appropriate training, especially in role-play, would be provided.</li></ul>
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Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**261. Social Services Representations and Complaints Annual Report 2022/23**

Decision Made	<p>Cabinet approved the Annual Report on social services representations and complaints for 2022/23 attached as Appendix 1.</p> <p>In approving the report, Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That there were more compliments than complaints.</li><li>• That it would be valuable to see a breakdown of the compliments and complaints in adult social care.</li><li>• The critical importance of a stable workforce to the delivery of services.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**262. Corporate Safeguarding Policy Review**

Decision Made	<p>Cabinet approved the updated Corporate Safeguarding Policy at Appendix 1 to this report.</p> <p>In approving the report, Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That safeguarding covered not just risk posed to children, or indeed to vulnerable adults, but it is about child sexual exploitation, radicalisation, female genital mutilation, and all manner of things we would not expect to see at all.</li><li>• Council staff are instrumental in identifying, more often than not, any human trafficking or slavery that is going on.</li><li>• There are a lot of women, and indeed men out there, that are at risk of all sorts of abuse from partners and from family members, and we need to be cognizant of that fact.</li><li>• That safeguarding is everybody's business, for all services and all employees, as well as all organisations.</li><li>• That the annual report of the Regional Safeguarding Board would be appended to the internal</li></ul>
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	<p>annual report and sent to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In terms of the implementation of the self-evaluation process, it will be piloted in Q4 and then fully implemented from the new financial year.</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**263. Representation On The Joint Committee Of The National Adoption Service For Wales And Foster Wales**

Decision Made	Cabinet appointed the Cabinet Member, Social Services and Health as the representative to sit on the Joint Committee for the National Adoption Service for Wales and Foster Wales.
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**264. Corporate Self-Assessment 2022/23**

Decision Made	Cabinet endorsed the corporate self-assessment report 2022-23 in Appendix 1, to be submitted to Council for approval on 22 November 2022.
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**265. Cabinet, Council And Overview And Scrutiny Committees Forward Work Programmes**

Decision Made	<p>Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the period 1 November 2023 to 29 February 2024 at Appendix 1.</li><li>• Noted the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Programmes for the same period, as shown at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the report, respectively.</li></ul>
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**266. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**267. Exclusion of the Public**

Decision Made	<p>That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 and 16 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act.</p> <p>Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above, to consider the following item in private, with the public excluded from the meeting, as it was considered that in all circumstances relating to the item, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

**268. Redevelopment Of Maesteg Town Hall**

Decision Made	Exempt Decision
Date Decision Made	21 November 2023

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To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 5:30pm