



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 21 November 2022 at 1.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Cabinet Members in attendance:-

Councillor A Morgan (Chair)

Councillor M Webber Councillor G Caple
Councillor A Crimmings Councillor R Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon Councillor M Norris
Councillor B Harris

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Ms G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Ms L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr P Griffiths, Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr D Powell, Director of Corporate Estates
Mr S Humphreys, Head of Legal Services

72 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

73 Minutes

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 7th November 2022 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

74 Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2021-2022

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented the draft Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board for the Municipal Year 2021/22 to Cabinet.

He advised Cabinet that as part of the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, the Corporate Parenting Board has a cross party membership and in line with its terms of reference there is a requirement for the Corporate Parenting Board to formulate an Annual Report, which seeks to provide a summary of the role and work of the Board undertaken during the 2021/22 Municipal Year and its ambitions going forward.

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications referred

Members to the section within the report which set out the areas identified for the future work programme which will be taken forward by the Board's current chair, Councillor G Caple.

The Cabinet Member Climate Change and Corporate Services commented that it had been a privilege to have chaired the Council's Corporate Parenting Board and she spoke of the value of receiving the carer's visits and the importance of young people being invited to attend where possible, to hear their views directly. As the previous Chair of the Board, Councillor Leyshon advised Members that they had considered many reports during the year and it was deemed more important than ever to receive updates due to the effects of Covid, on both our staff and young people within our care. She continued that the staff were incredible through Covid and continued to provide excellent services for our young people.

The Cabinet Member took the opportunity to thank Members of the Board and to wish the new Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, Cllr Gareth Caple best wishes in his role as Chair going forward.

The Cabinet Member Health and Social Care noted that the report is a very comprehensive one and added that there is no greater investment than supporting young people and children through to adulthood. He paid thanks to the dedication and commitment of staff and to Cllr Leyshon for her work as Chair of the Board during the previous Municipal Year.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED**: To note the report

75 Council Performance Report

The Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services presented the report that set out the financial and operational performance of the Council as at Quarter 2 from April to the 30th September 2022.

The Quarter 2 revenue budget position is projecting a £10.277M overspend, this excludes the cost implications of the 2022/23 pay award for NJC employees, agreed on 1st November 2022, and the 2022/23 teachers pay award offer made by Welsh Government, these equating to an increase in the pay bill of £10.5M for the current year, and results in an overall projected overspend of almost £21M.

The Service Director – Finance and Improvement Services continued that Capital investment as at 30th September 2022 is £45.485M, representing significant on-going capital investment in the Council's assets and infrastructure across the County Borough

The Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services advised that the key factors contributing to the projected overspend as continued high demand and costs of social care, inflationary cost pressures and ongoing lower levels of service take -up.

The Service Director referred members to each individual section of the report and added that an additional section has been incorporated within the report, Section 7 Tackling Climate Change, and provides a progress update on the work being progressed across services to support the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy 'Think Climate RCT'.

Cabinet Members comments

The Cabinet Member Climate Change and Corporate Services advised that the report clearly sets out where the budget pressures lie particularly with frontline services such as children and adult social services and delivering home to school transport due to higher staffing and vehicle running costs. The Cabinet Member added that it is positive to note that for Leisure Services, although a key pressure point in Quarter one, income levels are now showing an improved position as more users return to the Leisure Centres.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services advised that the Capital Programme Investment budget for this year totals £172M, and represents a long-term programme of investment, supported in part by Welsh Government funding, is delivering visible improvements to Council assets across the county borough. The Cabinet Member identified some key areas such as school modernisation projects, a range of highway improvements, ongoing investment to tackle empty properties, construction of a new Extra care facility in Porth.

The Leader thanked Officers for managing the finances and providing updates. He added that the report clearly sets out the pressures on services and how the pay pressures have increased since last year which explains the £21M overspend. The Leader clarified that the vast majority of reserves have been allocated to support the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED:

1. Members noted the context of the Council's Services continuing to manage the on-going effects of communities recovering from the pandemic and the United Kingdom wide cost-of-living crisis, both of which are contributing to increases in demand for many services and significant inflationary cost pressures.

2. Revenue

Noted and agreed the General Fund revenue outturn position of the Council as at the 30th September 2022 (Section 2 of the Executive Summary).

3. Capital

Noted the capital outturn position of the Council as at the 30th September 2022 (Sections 3a – e of the Executive Summary).

4. Noted the details of the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators as at the 30th September 2022 (Section 3f of the Executive Summary).

5. Corporate Plan Priorities

Noted the Quarter 2 progress updates for the Council's Corporate Plan priorities (Sections 5 a – c of the Executive Summary).

6. Noted the progress update to enhance the Council's short term and long-

term response to extreme weather events (Section 6 of the Executive Summary).

7. Noted the progress update in respect of the Council's response to tackling Climate Change (Section 7 of the Executive Summary).

76 To consider Passing the Following Resolution:

It was **RESOLVED**: "That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of the exempt information as defined in paragraph XX of Part 4 of the Schedule 12A of the Act".

77 Corporate Asset Management Plan 2018-2023 Interim Update

The Director Corporate Estates provided Cabinet with progress against the key themes of the Corporate Asset Management Plan 2018/23.

It was **RESOLVED**: to consider the content of the report and;
2. To consider the content of the Property Disposal Manual

78 Urgent Items

This meeting closed at 1.25 pm

**Cllr A Morgan
Chairman.**