

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET

13 NOVEMBER 2024

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: S.K.Hunt, S.A.Knoyle, N.Jenkins, J.Hurley, S.Harris,
J.Hale, A.Llewelyn, W.F.Griffiths, S.Jones and C.Phillips

Officers in Attendance:

K.Jones, N.Pearce, A.Jarrett, N.Daniel, A.Thomas, H.Jones, C.Griffiths,
M.Shaw, C.Morris, R.Crowhurst, D.Griffiths, C.Millis, M.Roberts, K.Warren,
H.Short, B.Griffiths, L.Beynon, J.Burge, A.Collins, J.Davies, H.Lewis,
A.Herbert, I.Rees, J.Smith, V.Smith, N.Jones and T.Davies

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor S.K.Hunt be appointed as Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **CHAIRPERSONS ANNOUNCEMENT/S**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made Declarations of Interest at the start of the meeting:

Councillor S.K.Hunt - Re Item 30 - Rheola Estate, Next Steps. He considered his interest to be prejudicial, so left the meeting at this item, for the discussion and voting thereon.

- Councillor J.Hurley - Re Item 30 - Rheola Estate, Next Steps. He considered his interest to be prejudicial, so left the meeting at this item, for the discussion and voting thereon.
- Councillor S.Knoyle - Re Item 30 - Rheola Estate, Next Steps. He considered his interest to be prejudicial, so left the meeting at this item, for the discussion and voting thereon.
- Councillor S.Harris - Re Item 7 - Replacement Local Development Strategy 2023- 2038 – Personal Interest.
- Councillor J.Hale - Re Item 7 - Replacement Local Development Strategy 2023- 2038 – Personal Interest.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet, held on the 23 October, 2024, be agreed as an accurate record.

5. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**

The Forward Work Programme 2024/25 was noted.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions from the public had been received.

7. **REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023 - 2038**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment, the following be commended to Council for approval:

1. The Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy (2023-2038) (December 2024) as presented in Appendix 2 be agreed for the basis of public consultation.

2. The Interim Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report (December 2024) as presented in Appendix 3 be agreed for the basis of public consultation.
3. The Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report (December 2024) as presented in Appendix 5 be agreed for the basis of public consultation.
4. The Candidate Sites Register / Assessment (December 2024) as presented in Appendix 6 be agreed for the basis of public consultation.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure compliance with Section 63 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015; the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015); the Equality Act (2010); the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015; Planning Policy Wales 12 (2024) and the Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020).

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item will be subject to external consultation.

8. **20MPH GUIDANCE REVIEW**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact screening assessment:

1. Following the publication of the new Welsh Government guidance on setting speed limits, and taking into account the views of Elected Members, Officers be granted authority to undertake risk assessments to determine whether to increase or decrease speed limits.

2. That the findings of these risk assessment reports, along with Officer recommendations, be brought back to Cabinet for determination, prior to any further public consultation and implementation of any changes.

Reason for Decisions:

In the interests of road safety.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

9. **DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICES (DBS) POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR HOME TO SCHOOL AND SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORT PROVIDERS**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact screening assessment:

1. The Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) Policy and Procedures for Home to School and Social Service Transport Providers, as detailed at Appendix A to the circulated report, be approved.
2. Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Engineering and Transport and Passenger Transport Manager, to assess the suitability of home to school and social services transport providers, and their staff, prior to working on Council Passenger transport contracts via the DBS Policy and Procedures Document, as detailed at Appendix A to the circulated report.

Reason for Decisions:

To assist the Council in making safer recruitment decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with children and vulnerable groups, through the Disclosure and Barring Service's criminal record checking and barring functions.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

10. **DISPOSAL OF OFF-STREET PAY AND DISPLAY CAR PARKS CAPACITY REVIEW**

Officers updated Members with feedback from the relevant Scrutiny Committee Cabinet agreed to include the extra wording from the Scrutiny Committee, which is included below, *in bold and italics*.

Decisions:

1. That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, the Head of Property and Regeneration be authorised to:
 - a) Begin disposal procedures for Rosser Street Car Park in Neath.
 - b) Enter negotiations with Arch Company Limited to clarify the cost of a new lease or withdrawing from the arrangement (re Milland Road Car Park, Neath), with a further report presented to Cabinet for decision.
 - c) Continue negotiations and agree terms with Signal Capital to lease the Port Talbot MSCP and to bring a further report back to Cabinet for a final decision.
2. That Bethany Square Car Park, Port Talbot be retained, and its disposal be re-considered should future development opportunities arise as part of the Town Centres regeneration, with further reports brought back to Cabinet for decision. ***The reports to include: capital investment plans, proposed opening hours and impact on Port Talbot Town Centre Car Parks retained by the Council.***
3. That the By-Pass Car Park in Pontardawe be retained, and its disposal be re-considered should future development opportunities arise, with further reports to be brought back to Cabinet for decision.
4. ***That Officers explore options to gather occupancy data, to be reported back to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.***

Reason for Decisions:

To allow officers to enter into negotiation to dispose of surplus car parks for development and regeneration.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

11. **LOCAL BUS FRANCHISING DEVELOPMENT**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact screening assessment, it be agreed to use the Base Position Network, as detailed within the circulated report, to provide the basis for detailed planning for the transition to franchising and initial stakeholder and public engagement.

Reason for Decision:

To allow detailed planning and initial public engagement to proceed.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item will be subject to external consultation.

12. **TRAFFIC ORDERS - PRINCESS MARGARET WAY, PORT TALBOT**

Members discussed the objections to the scheme, and emphasised the importance of working with local business to help people use the new system.

Decisions:

1. That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, the objections be overruled to the (Revocation) (Prohibition of Waiting, Loading, Unloading at any time) (Pay by Phone parking place) and (Disabled only parking) Order 2024 (as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B to the circulated report).
2. That the traffic regulation orders be implemented as advertised including the Pay by Phone parking place (Limited Waiting, April

1st – September 30th, 8am -8pm, Maximum stay 2 hours), and the objectors be advised accordingly.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure adequate turnover of vehicles which will improve and allow the local environment and amenities to be enjoyed by future generations.

Implementations of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

13. **TRAFFIC ORDERS - GODREGRAIG AND YSTALYFERA**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, the objection be overruled to the (A4067 From Ynysymedwy to Godrergraig and A4067 Glan Yr Avon, Godrergraig / Ystalyfera) (30 And 40 Mph Speed Limits) Order 2024 (as detailed in Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C and Appendix D to the circulated report), the scheme be implemented as advertised, and the objector informed accordingly.

Reason for Decision:

To reduce vehicular speeds in the interest of road safety.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

14. **ADMISSION TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2026/27**

Decision:

That the 2026/2027 Community Schools Admission Policy (as detailed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report) be approved for consultation.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the Council to meet statutory duties and good practice guidelines in respect of the admission of pupils to community schools.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

15. **SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS UPDATE**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

16. **PUPIL ATTENDANCE UPDATE**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

17. **LEADERSHIP STRATEGY AND ITS IMPACT ON NPT WORKFORCE IN SCHOOLS**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

18. **TEACHING AND LEARNING SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

19. **COMMUNITY COUNCILS MINOR PROJECTS SCHEME – COEDFFRANC TOWN COUNCIL**

Decision:

That a grant of 40% of actual costs up to a maximum of £8,000 to Coedffranc Town Council be approved, towards enhancing the current provision of play equipment at Skewen Park.

Reason for Decision:

To enable community improvements.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

20. **COMMUNITY COUNCILS MINOR PROJECTS SCHEME – TONNA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Decision:

That a grant of 60% of actual costs, up to a maximum of £12,000 to Tonna Community Council be approved, towards establishing a newly equipped childrens play area at Dolcoed (the Memorial Park) in Tonna.

Reason for Decision:

To enable community improvements.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

21. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Decision:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Screening Assessment, the Neath Port Talbot Youth Engagement Strategy 2024-2025 (as detailed at Appendix 2 to the circulated report) be adopted.

Reason for Decision:

To help drive forward the work to support young people who are at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), who are already NEET and those young people who are at risk of Homelessness. By adopting the Youth Engagement Strategy this work will be supported at a strategic level, become more accountable and will improve the offer to young people.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

22. IMPROVING RECYCLING PERFORMANCE AND BUDGET DELIVERY

Officers updated Members on feedback from the Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet agreed to include the extra wording from the Scrutiny Committee, which is included below at decision 3, ***in bold and italics***.

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessments:

1. The combining of paper and card kerbside collections and the introduction of small electrical item kerbside collections, be approved;
2. The updated Missed Collections Policy (with a further review after the implementation of the in-cab 'live feed' system as detailed at Appendix C of the circulated report) be approved.
3. The revised 'No Side Waste' Policy, as detailed at Appendix D of the circulated report, be approved, ***with a review report to be included with the missed collections policy***.

4. That a move to three weekly refuse collections NOT be implemented.
5. That a green waste collection charge NOT be implemented.
6. That measures to discontinue the provision of black sacks and the use of wheeled bins for refuse collection, NOT be included in the forthcoming budget consultation.

Reason for Decisions:

To decide on measures to improve recycling performance and to feed into the budget consultation 2025/26.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item will form part of the budget consultation 2025/26.

23. **PILOT OF NEW ACCESS APPROACH TO PARKS AND GARDENS**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment, an official pilot to not restrict pedestrian access to the parks and gardens detailed at Appendix A to the circulated report, for a period of 4 months commencing 1st December 2024, be approved, with the outcome of the pilot to be reported back to Cabinet.

Reasons for Decision:

1. To help ensure the Council fulfils its Duty of Care with respect to staff safety in relation to lone working.
2. To establish any unforeseen impacts that the proposed changes to the service will have.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

24. **CORPORATE PLAN “RESET, REVIEW, RECOVER” 2022-2027 ANNUAL REPORT**

Decisions:

1. That the draft Corporate Plan 2022/2027: “Recover, Reset, Renew” Annual Report for the period: 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 be endorsed, and commended to Council for adoption.
2. That the Leader of Council be given delegated authority to make such changes as may be needed to the Annual Report prior to publication, provided that such changes do not materially alter the content of the document considered by Council.

Reason for Decisions:

To meet the statutory requirements set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

25. **2024/2025 RISK REGISTER MONITORING**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

26. **PUBLIC SERVICE OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

27. **CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES - LIBRARIES, LEISURE CENTRES ETC.**

Decision:

That the Christmas and New Year opening and closing times for the facilities, as detailed within Appendix 1 (proposed opening hours Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools) and Appendix 2 (proposed opening hours – Margam Country Park, Gnoll Country Park, Libraries, Theatres and Community Centres), be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that the public facilities are available to the public when there is a demand for them to be open, and to enable managers to make appropriate arrangements with front line staff over their leave.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

28. **URGENT ITEMS**

No urgent items were received.

29. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No 2290, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant Paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule.

30. **RHEOLA ESTATE - NEXT STEPS (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

(At this point in the meeting, Councillors S.K.Hunt, J.Hurley, and S.Knoyle reaffirmed their interest in the item, and left the meeting for the discussion and voting thereon.)

The Deputy Leader, Councillor A.Llewelyn, took over the role of Chair for this item.

Decision:

That Option 3 within the private, circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To allow the redevelopment of the historic Rheola Estate.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

31. **VIVA PORT TALBOT BID RENEWAL BALLOT 2024 (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

(Councillors S.K.Hunt, J.Hurley and S.Knoyle returned to the meeting.)

The Leader, Councillor S.K.Hunt, resumed the role of Chair.

Members noted, and took into consideration, a letter from the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee, giving an overview of the Committees views. The letter had been circulated to Members as a supplement.

Decision:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, the Council abstain from voting in the forthcoming Vivia Port Talbot ballot.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the Council to decide on how to vote at the VIVA Port Talbot BID Ballot.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

32. **SHORT BREAKS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decisions:

1. That a 90 day consultation exercise, regarding short breaks for children with disabilities be undertaken, as detailed in the private, circulated report.
2. That a report be presented to Cabinet following the consultation period to report on the outcome, and to request a decision.

Reasons for Decisions:

To take into account the social care resources available when undertaking an assessment or reassessment of individuals' needs; to ensure a sustainable range of good quality services are available to Children with Disabilities and Parent Carers in Neath Port Talbot, and to contribute to Welsh Government's aim to rebalance the social care market.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item will be subject to external consultation.

33. **FAMILY LINKS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decisions:

3. That a 90 day consultation exercise, regarding family links for children with disabilities be undertaken, as detailed in the private, circulated report.
4. That a report be presented to Cabinet following the consultation period to report on the outcome, to request a decision.

Reasons for Decisions:

To take into account the social care resources available when undertaking an assessment or reassessment of individuals' needs; to ensure a sustainable range of good quality services are available to Children with Disabilities and Parent Carers in Neath Port Talbot, and to contribute to Welsh Government's aim to rebalance the social care market.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

This item will be subject to external consultation.

34. **TRANSFER STATION ENERGY SUPPLY CONTRACT 2025 (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decisions:

1. That the direct award of a one year contract for the supply of energy to the Transfer Station, as detailed within the private, circulated report, be agreed.
2. That authority be delegated to the Head of Streetcare, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Services to make the necessary contract arrangement.
3. Following the relocation of the Waste Collection Service to the Transfer Station, and when the electricity demand is stabilised, the electricity requirements at the site be reviewed and longer term arrangements be put in hand.

Reason for Decisions:

To secure a value energy supply for the Transfer Station.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

35. **COED DARCY SOUTHERN ACCESS ROAD (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 12, 13 AND 16)**

Decision:

That the recommendation within the private, circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure the future construction of the Coed Darcy Southern Access Road.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision will be implemented after the three day call in period.

CHAIRPERSON