

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD
POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD
15 OCTOBER 2015

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: A.N.Woolcock (Chairperson) and P.D. Richards

Officers in Attendance:

Mrs.K.Jones, D.Rees and Miss.G.Cirillo

1. **TO AGREE THE CHAIRPERSON FOR THIS MEETING**

Agreed that Councillor A.N. Woolcock be appointed Chairperson for the meeting

2. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD HELD ON THE 3 SEPTEMBER, 2015**

Noted by the Committee.

3. **NPT WELSH CHURCH ACT TRUST FUND**

Decisions:

1. That the draft annual report and financial statements be approved, and the potential requirement for an urgency action in order to forward finalised documents to the Charity Commission by the end of January 2016, be noted;
2. That the Welsh Church Act Trust Fund be reopened for applications;
3. That the new maximum grant values, as set out below, be approved:

- a) Grants will not normally exceed £1,000 and in exceptional circumstances £4,000 per applicant and successful applicants will not normally be reconsidered for a further grant within 3 years of the date of approval of the last grant;
- b) Grant aid will not normally cover the full cost of a project/proposal and normally will be approved at 25% of actual costs incurred up to the maximum as outlined in condition (a) above. The grant of £4,000 will only be approved where expenditure exceeds £50,000;
- c) In the case of students undertaking further Education courses, contributions towards the costs of individual instruments or pieces of equipment etc. will be made as follows - 50% of all costs over a threshold of £2,000 up to a maximum grant of £1,000.

Reason for Decisions:

To comply with charitable auditing requirements and the reopening of the fund for new applications within the financial resources available.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

4. **COUNCIL TAX - RECOVERY OF COSTS 2015-16**

Decision:

That the updated fee levels for Magistrate Courts for 2015-16 of a summons fee at £42.00 and a liability order fee of £24.00, as detailed within the circulated report, be noted.

Reason for Decision:

To inform Members of the updated fee levels being applied by the Magistrates' Courts in relation to summonses and liability orders.

Implementation of Decision:

The Decision will be implemented by the Magistrates' Courts and is not subject to call in.

5. **HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN SCHEME**

Decision:

That the delivery of the Home Improvement Loan Scheme, as detailed within the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the Authority to maximise the funding opportunity presented by the Loan scheme to improve the quality of private sector housing throughout the County Borough.

Implementation of Decision:

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

6. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING 2015/16**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

7. **CCTV SERVICE - OPTIONS**

The concerns of some Members of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee were noted regarding the potential impact on Crime and Disorder if the recommendation to reduce active monitoring of the CCTV cameras, as detailed within the circulated report, was supported.

The Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services confirmed that regular reports on crime figures would be brought back to the Cabinet Board and Scrutiny Committee for information so that Members could monitor whether the perceived risk was materialising.

Decisions:

1. That the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services be authorised to consult with key stakeholders and the wider public on the preferred option (as detailed within the circulated report) to reduce the number of cameras across the county borough and to move the monitoring service to a demand-led model which would ordinarily mean monitoring taking place on weekends and bank holidays only, the consultation to run for a period of six weeks with a further report to be presented to Members of the Policy and

Resources Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Board, describing the outcome of the consultation, in December 2015;

2. That the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services be authorised to develop a full business case with the City and County of Swansea that tests the cost-benefits of establishing a joint CCTV service on a:
 - i) CCTV only scope;
 - ii) CCTV plus other monitoring scope.
3. That the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services be authorised to identify alternative options for delivery of the out-of-hours call handling services, in the event of the preferred option being supported.

Reason for Decisions:

To develop further the proposals set out in the Authority's Budget 2015-16 – 2017-18 to make further savings in the cost of CCTV to the Council and provide the best value for money option.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

Consultation:

A public consultation exercise on the options contained within the Cabinet Board report considered by Members on February 19th 2015 has taken place, and Town and Community Councils have also been consulted.

8. **DIGITAL BY CHOICE STRATEGY**

Decisions:

1. That the outcome of the consultation undertaken on the draft Channel Shift Strategy "Digital by Choice" be noted, and the Strategy be approved without amendment;
2. That the draft Channel Shift Strategy "Digital by Choice" be commended to Council for adoption;

3. That the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services be authorised to take the steps necessary to implement the Strategy, following adoption at Council.

Reason for Decisions:

To replace the existing Access to Services Strategy which is now outdated, creating a corporate policy framework which recognises the shifts in social trends towards greater use of on-line services, whilst also recognising the work that is needed to tackle digital inclusion and reduce the cost of public services.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

Consultation:

External consultation has taken place on this item.

9. **STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

10. **MINUTES OF THE MARGAM JOINT CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE FROM 6 FEBRUARY-6 JUNE 2015**

Noted by the Committee.

11. **MINUTES OF THE JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE – 1 MAY 2015**

Noted by the Committee.

12. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15.**

Decision:

That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

13. **URGENT ITEMS**

Because of the need now to deal with the matters contained in Minute Nos.14 and 15 below, the Chairman agreed that they could be raised at

today's meeting as urgent items pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No.2290 (as amended).

Reason for Urgency

Due to the time element.

14. **WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS - FINAL COMPLIANCE NOTICE**

Decisions:

That the Chief Executive be authorised to challenge the Welsh Language Commissioner regarding the content of the final Compliance Notice issued to this Council as detailed within the circulated report.

That, in the event that the Commissioner does not adjust the Compliance Statement, the Chief Executive be authorised to lodge appeals with the Welsh Language Tribunal and to take the actions necessary to progress those appeals within the legal mechanisms established for the purpose.

Reason for proposed Decisions:

To seek to change the final Compliance Notice which sets out the Welsh Language Standards and associated timescales that will be applied to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council on the basis that some of the Standards included in the final notice are unreasonable, disproportionate or have been included without due consultation with the Council.

Implementation of the Decisions:

The decision is an urgent one for immediate implementation. The Chairman had agreed to this course of action and therefore there would be no call-in of this decision.

15. **SYRIAN CRISIS**

Decisions:

That the the Chief Executive be authorised to indicate to Welsh Government this Council's support, in principle, for early involvement in the programme to relocate refugees affected by the situation in Syria.

That the the Chief Executive be authorised to enter into dialogue with Welsh Government officials to develop a detailed understanding of the implications attached to any persons who may be relocated to Neath Port Talbot.

Reason for Proposed Decisions:

To authorise the Council's participation in the developing programme led by the UK Government to relocate refugees fleeing the situation in Syria.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decision is an urgent one for immediate implementation. The Chairman had agreed to this course of action and therefore there would be no call-in of this decision.

16. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

Decision:

To resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Regulation 4(3)&(5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No.2290 and the relevant Exempt Paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

17. **HOUSING BENEFITS WRITE OFF (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decision:

That the write off of the Housing Benefit debts of £6,448.19 as detailed in the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The account is irrecoverable as the person has passed away and there are no monies left in the estate.

Implementation of Decision:

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

18. **WRITE OFF OF COUNCIL TAX (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decision:

That the write off of the Council Tax amounts totalling £42,620.51, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The council tax accounts are irrecoverable.

CHAIRPERSON