

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET BOARD – 15TH JANUARY 2015

POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD

Cabinet Board Members:

Councillors: P.A.Rees and A.N.Woolcock (Chairman)

Officers in Attendance:

H.Jenkins, Mrs.K.Jones, D.Rees, R.George and Mrs.T.Davies

1. **BUDGET 2015/16 - CORPORATE SERVICES**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

2. **MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS APPLICATIONS**

Members were interested in the Cyd Cymru scheme, and felt that it would be useful to discuss the scheme within the Low Income Families group, as it ties in with benefit reforms.

Decisions:

That:-

1. the £555.62 in respect of Cyd Cymru – Wales Together money, received from Cardiff City Council be donated to Wales Air Ambulance (registered charity);
2. the funding application in respect of Margam Youth Centre, Margam (as detailed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report), be approved.

Reason for Decisions:

To decide on the funding applications.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

3. **BUDGET 2015/16 - CORPORATE STRATEGY AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Decision:

That the consultation be noted, and the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services be authorised to implement the savings proposals as detailed within the circulated report.

Reason for Decision:

To provide the formal authority for the savings proposals set for the Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services to be implemented.

Implementation of Decision:

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

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation as part of the wider budget proposals for the financial year 2015/16.

4. **PERIODIC REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS**

Members noted that a screening assessment had been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the Screening Assessment it was determined that the policy did not require a full Equalities Impact Assessment. Officers explained to Cabinet Members that while it was necessary to complete a comprehensive statutory review every five years, all Polling districts, places and stations are reviewed as a matter of course after each electoral event.

Decisions:

That:-

1. there be no changes to any of the Polling Districts within the County Borough;
2. the proposed changes in locations of Polling Stations, as detailed within the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decisions:

To provide for the effective management of the electoral process within the County Borough.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

5. **BUSINESS RATES - RECOVERY OF COSTS**

Decision:

That the overall figure for costs remain unchanged, but the apportionment be amended as below:

- the issue of a summons - £41.00
- the granting of a liability order - £29.00

Reason for Decision:

To set the 2015/16 administrative costs to be recovered from the issue of summonses and liability orders.

Implementation for Decision:

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

6. **CIVIC CENTRE CASH OFFICES - OPENING HOURS**

Members noted that further discussions would take place, and that if staffing arrangements would allow, the Cash Offices could open from 9.30am. An update report would be brought before the Committee in due course.

Decision:

That in order to achieve the target savings of £50,000 for 2015/16, the opening hours of the Cash Offices at Port Talbot and Neath Civic Centres be amended to 10.00am to 3.00pm, Monday to Friday, from the 1st April 2015.

Reason for Decision:

To satisfy budget saving proposal included in the Forward Financial Plan for 2015/16.

Implementation of Decision:

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

7. **COUNCIL TAX - RECOVERY OF COSTS**

Decision:

That the costs for recovery of Council Tax be increased, with effect from 1st April 2015 to the following:

- the issue of a summons - £41.00
- the granting of a liability order - £25.00

Reason for Decision:

To set the 2015/16 administrative costs to be recovered from the issue of summonses and liability orders.

Implementation of Decision:

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

8. **NPT WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2013-14**

Decision:

That the Letter of Representation (as detailed at Appendix 2 to the circulated report) be approved, and that the Statement of Accounts 2013/14 (as detailed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report) be submitted to the Charity Commission.

Reason for Decision:

To comply with the Charity Commission's requirements and to ensure that the fund remains solvent.

Implementation of Decision:

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

9. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING 2014-15**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

10. **URGENT ITEM**

Because of the need to deal now with the matters contained in Minute No. 11 below, the Chairman agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290 (as amended).

Reason:

Due to the time element.

11. **BLUE BADGE TOOL KIT**

Decisions:

That:

1. the action taken by the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services to suspend use of the Welsh Government toolkit and revert back to previous administrative arrangements for determining eligibility for a Blue Badge, be approved;
2. the proposal to re-assess the 41 applications administered against the toolkit, reverting to previous administrative arrangements, be approved;
3. the actions of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services in writing to officials to draw attention to the problems experienced in using the toolkit, the intention to suspend its use within Neath Port Talbot and the offer to work with Welsh Government to improve the current toolkit, be noted.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure those people eligible for a Blue Badge access the scheme.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

12. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

Decision:

That pursuant to Regulation 4(3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No. 2290, the public be excluded for the following item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

13. **COUNCIL TAX WRITE OFFS**

Members queried the areas of the specific addresses listed in Appendix 1 to the private circulated report and were given details by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services.

Decision:

That the Council Tax write offs, for the amounts detailed within the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The accounts are irrecoverable.

Implementation of Decision:

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

CHAIRMAN