

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET

5 FEBRUARY 2025

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:

F.O'Brien, N.Pearce, A.Jarrett, A.Thomas, C.Howard, K.Warren, H.Jones,
D.Griffiths, C.Griffiths, C.Saunders, H.Lervy, .M.Selby, K.Windsor-Brown, H.
Short, C.Furlow-Harris, L.McAndrew, N.Jones and C.John

Wales Audit Office:

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 Member made a Declaration of Interest at the start of the meeting:

Councillor S.Knoyle - Minute No. 19 – Acquisition of Land and Buildings at Pontneddfechan.

Minute No. 20 – Acquisition of Land at Harbourside, Port Talbot.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet, 15th January, 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

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

The Forward Work Programme was noted.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions were received.

7. **SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT**

Decision:

That Members note and endorse the Director's Annual Report 23-24 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the circulated report for commending to Council for approval.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To ensure Neath Port Talbot Social Services meet the requirements that every local authority must produce an annual report on the discharge of its social services functions.

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

8. **NEATH PORT TALBOT ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY FOR SCHOOLS 2025-2028**

Decision

That Members approve the Accessibility Strategy for Schools 2025-28.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The Council has a duty under paragraph 2(4) of schedule 10 of 'The Equality Act' 2010 prepare, implement, review and update a written

accessibility strategy, which identifies how strategic actions will improve accessibility to education for disabled pupils.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

9. **SELF ASSESSMENT 2023/2024**

Decision:

That members approve the draft self-assessment prior to publication and submission to the Welsh Government.

Reason for Proposed Decision:

To evidence how the council is meeting the duty set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, 'for each Council in Wales to keep under review the extent to which it is meeting the 'performance requirements', that is the extent to which:-

- it is exercising its functions effectively;
- it is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively;
- its governance is effective for securing the above.'

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

10. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CRM SYSTEM – CONTRACT RENEWAL**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, Members approve a new three-year contract by direct award with Alcium Software Limited, for the continued provision of their Evolutive CRM system.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The reasons for the recommendation are as follows.

- The CRM system is integral to the delivery of current and planned activity including externally funded programmes.

- Delivery timeframes e.g. Tata grant funds, do not allow for an alternative system to be considered and procured.
- External funding is available to cover the costs if completed by February 2025.

Implementation of Decision:

‘The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period’ (note: this is the default option and is expected to be the option that is used in most reports.) Please note that you should not implement recommendations until the three day call-in period has elapsed.

11. **ABERAFAN SEAFRONT MASTERPLAN**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form, Members approve the Aberafan Seafront Masterplan as at Appendix 1.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To ensure that the Council has a more cohesive, sustainable, and strategic approach to the future development of Aberafan Seafront as a leisure destination for the benefit of local community wellbeing and the local economy.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

12. **NEATH PORT TALBOT EVENTS STRATEGY 2025-2035**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form it is recommended that;

- Members approve the Events Strategy 2025-2035 for adoption by the Council.

- Members delegate the responsibility for agreeing the terms and conditions for temporary events and attractions across the County Borough to the Head of Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Nature, Tourism & Wellbeing as appropriate.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To ensure that the Council has a long-term vision and strategy for to grow the number and variety of events held in Neath Port Talbot for the benefit of local community wellbeing, local culture and the local economy.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

13. **STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIFIC LITERACY DIFFICULTIES AT CWMTAWE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the responses to consultation, and the integrated impact and risk assessments, in line with Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, Members approve the statutory publication of a proposal to close the specialist learning support centre (LSC) provision for secondary age pupils with Specific Literacy Difficulties (SpLD) at Cwmtawe Community School.

Reasons for proposed decision:

This decision is necessary to comply with the formal publication requirements imposed on the Council by the School Organisation Code and associated legislation. A draft statutory notice is attached as appendix D. Implementation of the proposal will enable the Council to promote high educational standards and the fulfilment of every child's potential. It will also enable the Council to meet its duty to ensure that resources are utilised effectively in line with the need for specialist places within the County Borough.

Implementation of the decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

14. **STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE FOR PUPILS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT AT CEFN SAESON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the responses to consultation, and the integrated impact and risk assessments, in line with Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, Members approve the statutory publication of a proposal to close the specialist learning support centre (LSC) provision for secondary age pupils with visual impairment at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School.

Reasons for proposed decision:

This decision is necessary to comply with the formal publication requirements imposed on the Council by the School Organisation Code and associated legislation. A draft statutory notice is attached as appendix D. Implementation of the proposal will enable the Council to promote high educational standards and the fulfilment of every child's potential. It will also enable the Council to meet its duty to ensure that resources are utilised effectively in line with the need for specialist places within the County Borough.

Implementation of the decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

15. **(TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT A474 HEOL Y GORS, CWMGORS) ORDER 2024**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment it is recommended that the objections are overruled in full to the (Traffic Calming Measures At A474 Heol Y Gors, Cwmgors) Order 2024 (as detailed in Appendix A to the circulated report) and that the scheme is implemented as advertised.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The Order is necessary to reduce vehicular speeds in the interest of road safety.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

16. **(FENBROOK CLOSE, ABERAVON) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING AT ANY TIME) ORDER 2024**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment it is recommended that the objections are upheld in part to the (Fenbrook Close, Aberavon) (Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Unloading At Any Time) Order 2024 (as detailed in Appendix A to the circulated report) and that a revised scheme (as detailed in Appendix B to the circulated report) is implemented.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The scheme is necessary to prevent indiscriminate parking in the interest of road safety.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

17. **URGENT ITEMS**

Because of the need to deal now with the matters contained in Minute No 19 and 20 below, the Chairperson agreed these could be raised at today's meeting as urgent items pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason:

Due to the time element

18. **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.

19. **ACQUISITION OF LAND AND BUILDINGS AT PONTNEDDFECHAN
(EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, that Members approve the acquisition of the land shown edged red on the attached plan, together with the cost of replacing the agricultural buildings totalling £510,000 plus reasonable costs. In addition, that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Property and Regeneration in order to settle the overage and potential covenant position.

In the event that a voluntary release of any rights/restrictions is not able to be achieved, Members approve the application of s.203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 in carrying out the development and that delegated Authority be granted to the Head of Property and Regeneration in order to settle any compensation claims that may arise.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

In order to allow the delivery of the Levelling Up project as outlined on the attached plan.

Implementation of Decision:

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

20. **ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HARBOURSIDE, PORT TALBOT
(EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, that Members agree to the acquisition of this site.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

In order to bring forward the Harbourside Innovation District.

Implementation of Decision:

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

21. **SEAFRONT ATTRACTIONS 2025-2027 (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14 AND 16)**

Decision:

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

- Members approve the exclusion of Contract Procedure Rule 11.4;
- Delegated authority be granted for the Head of Leisure, Tourism, Heritage & Culture in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Portfolio Holder for Nature, Tourism & Wellbeing to enter into a Licence with Studt's Funfair, to allow Studt's Funfair to occupy Council land to operate a Ferris Wheel and funfair for a term of two and a half years at Aberavon Beach.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To provide additional attractions at Aberavon Seafront for local residents and visitors consistent with the ambitions articulated in the Aberavon Seafront Masterplan and the Destination Management Plan.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

22. **CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION AND WELLBEING SERVICE (PAWS) (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, that Members:

Agree to suspend Rule 11 of the Council's Contract Procedural Rules

Provide permission for the Head of Housing and Communities to enter into a new contract with The Wallich for the provision of a Prevention and Wellbeing Service for a period of 12 months. This period being subject to the Council being able to terminate the service early by providing three months' notice to The Wallich.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

So that there is a legally binding contract enabling the continuation of these essential services whilst Officers conclude a pilot of the new service model and undertake a procurement exercise.

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

23. **PURCHASE OF COUNCIL OPERATED TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment, subject to satisfactory surveys, property searches and legal checks, that the Council purchase the current leased property which is utilised as Council operated temporary accommodation for its continued use.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To support the Council in meeting its statutory duties to relieve homelessness in a way that reduces reliance on B&Bs, reduces cost of leasing and generates an income stream.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

24. **PERMISSION TO PROCEED WITH REMODELLING OF CARE AND SUPPORT AT TREM Y GLYN (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decision:

That Members grant permission for Officers to:

- Proceed with the 12 bed reablement unit within Trem Y Glyn Residential Home.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To ensure the council is able to offer a reablement service to individuals in the community to prevent unnecessary admission into hospitals and care homes.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation from 1st April 2025.

25. **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF CHANGING ROOMS, PORT TALBOT (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment and for the reasons outlined above, Members approve the disposal of land on the terms and conditions set out in this report.

Reason for Proposed Decision:

The decision aligns with the council's objectives to address housing shortages, provide cost-efficient care solutions and maximise the value of the council's assets.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

26. **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CROESERW, PORT TALBOT (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decision:

That having had due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment,

- A public open space notice be published in accordance with Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Council

owned land at Menai Avenue, measuring approximately 4,143 m² and edged red on the attached plan (Appendix 1).

- Members approve the disposal of the land on the terms and conditions set out in this report, subject to the satisfactory consideration of any objections received as part of the public open space notices.
- Members note that in the event that objections are received, a report will be brought back to Cabinet for future determination on whether to proceed.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The disposal will provide the Council with a capital receipt while facilitating the delivery of affordable housing that supports local needs.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

27. **PERMISSION TO PROCEED WITH THE REMODELLING OF SUPPORTED LODGINGS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decision:

That Members grant permission for:

- Officers to end the current commissioning arrangements from 30th April 2025 for the delivery of the Supported Lodgings service and to transfer this service into Neath Port Talbot Council's direct provision (bring in-house).
- Officers to implement a new 'set up' payment for new Supported Lodgings hosts (up to the value of £200 per host) to reimburse their initial out of pocket expenses when joining the service.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

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

young people in Neath Port Talbot; to contribute towards the budgetary savings identified in the Council's Forward Financial Plan; and to contribute to Welsh Government's aim to rebalance the social care market by moving services away from for-profit organisations.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

CHAIRPERSON