

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD
POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD
27TH NOVEMBER, 2014

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: A.H.Thomas (Chairman) and A.N.Woolcock

Officers in Attendance:

H.Jenkins, Mrs.K.Jones, D.Rees, Mrs.S.Rees and Miss.G.Cirillo

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Agreed that Councillor A.H.Thomas be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD HELD ON THE 16TH, OCTOBER 2014**

Decision:

Noted by the Committee.

3. **MISCELLANEOUS GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Decisions:

1. That the following Miscellaneous Grant Applications be approved:-

- a. Citizens Advice Bureau – Grant to fully cover rent to 30th November 2015; Occupancy and Grant subject to review;
- b. NPT Credit Union - Provide grant to fully cover rent in line with rent licence agreement; Occupancy and Grant subject to review;

- c. Friends of Seven Sisters - Provide grant to fully cover rent for initial 5 year period, in line with rent review period;
 - d. Seven Sisters RFC and Seven Sisters AFC - Provide grant to fully cover rent for initial 5 year period, in line with rent review period;
 - e. Trustees of Giants Grave and Briton Ferry Boys Club – Provide Grant to fully cover rent for initial 5 year period, in line with rent review period.
2. That the following Miscellaneous Grant Application be refused:-
- a. Bibles for Children, Bath

Reasons for Decisions:

- 1. The applications are in accordance with approved criteria.
- 2. Insufficient Council Funds

Implementation of Decisions:

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

4. **COMMUNITY COUNCILS' MINOR PROJECTS SCHEME**

Decision:

That the application received from Glynneath Town Council be approved:-

50% up to a maximum of £10,000 in accordance with the schedule to be made upon receipt of paid invoices together with a copy bank statement.

Reason for Decision:

The application is in accordance with approved criteria.

Implementation of Decision:

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

5. **CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME**

Decisions:

1. That having given due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment, the request for consultation to take place on the Proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16, as detailed in the circulated report, prior to seeking Council approval to the final scheme in January 2015, be approved.
2. That the following specific consultation, be approved, as detailed within the circulated report;
 - a. that no increase in the backdate period for all claimants be applied from the standard 3 months contained in the Prescribed Scheme;
 - b. that no increase in the extended reduction period for all claimants be applied from the standard 4 weeks currently contained within the Prescribed Scheme;
 - c. that a 100% disregard for War Disablement Pensions, War Widows Pensions and War Widower's Pensions be applied for all relevant claimants.

Reason for Decisions:

To comply with the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations.

Implementation of Decisions

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

Consultation

The consultation has commenced and will end on 20th December 2014.

6. **NEATH PORT-TALBOT WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND - DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Decisions:

1. That the Accounts as detailed within the circulated report, be submitted to the Wales Audit Office for Independent Examination;

2. That the approval of new applications continue to be suspended until further notice so that the current, approved grant recipients, are contacted.

Reason for Decisions:

In order to comply with the Charity Commission's requirements and to ensure that the Fund remains solvent.

Implementation of Decisions

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

7. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT 2014-2015**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

8. **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA 2014-2015
QUARTER 2 - PERFORMANCE 1ST APRIL 2014-30TH SEPTEMBER
2014**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

9. **COMPLAINTS, COMPLIMENTS AND COMMENTS - ANNUAL
REPORT 2013-2014**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

10. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - PROGRESS REPORT**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

11. **CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - SIX MONTH PROGRESS REPORT 2014/2015 AND OUTCOME AGREEMENT GRANT PAYMENT LETTER 2013/14**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

12. **STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

13. **WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS AND OTHER MATTERS - UPDATE**

Decision:

That the report be noted.

14. **WELFARE REFORM - ADVICE LINE EVALUATION**

Decisions:

1. That the Advice Line Pilot Project, as detailed in the circulated report, be extended to the 31st of March 2015;
2. That Officers undertake a further analysis of the totality of advice calls coming into the Authority and examine how a more efficient way of dealing with such calls could be provided, enabling better access to advice for citizens;
3. That Officers explore sources of funding available in order to sustain any changes made to service delivery arrangements.

Reason for Decisions:

To enable Officers to explore options for sustaining improvement work beyond 31st March 2015 whilst maintaining current standards of service delivery.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

15. **WELFARE REFORM - BENEFIT CHANGES**

Decisions:

1. That actions taken to date to support local people affected by Welfare Benefit changes, as detailed within the circulated report, be noted;
2. That the actions planned, as detailed within the circulated report, in order to prepare for the introduction of Universal Credit, be endorsed.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure the Council is proactively preparing for the impact of Universal Credit, with a view to mitigating the risk that families affected may have some difficulties engaging with the UK Government's new methods of paying benefit claimants.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

16. **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 items 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.

17. **HOUSING BENEFIT WRITE OFFS**

Decision:

That the write off of the amounts, as detailed within the private circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The amounts are irrecoverable.

Implementation of Decision

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

18. **VALLEY LOANS WRITE OFFS**

Decision:

That the write off of the amounts, as detailed within the private circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The amounts are irrecoverable.

Implementation of Decision

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

19. **BUSINESS RATES WRITE OFFS**

Decision:

That the write off of the amounts, as detailed within the private circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The amounts are irrecoverable.

Implementation of Decision

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

20. **DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE**

Members noted that this item was subject to the three day call-in period and not for immediate implementation as incorrectly stated in the Compliance Statement within the circulated report.

Decisions:

1. That the suspension of CPR 2 of the Council's Procedure Rules relating to the invitation of tenders, as detailed within the private circulated report, be approved.
2. That the request for authorisation to be given in order to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Powys County Council to administer all Disclosure and Barring Service applications on behalf of the Authority, as detailed within the private circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decisions

To ensure that an appropriate provider is appointed to supply the Disclosure and Barring Service to the Authority in order that the Authority may benefit from a faster, efficient, and more secure method of processing Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

Implementation of Decisions

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

CHAIRMAN