

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD
CABINET BOARD - 31 MARCH, 2016
POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD

Cabinet Board Members:

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

Officers in Attendance:

D.Rees, S.John, Mrs.J.Banfield and Mrs.T.Davies

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

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

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY, 2016**

Decision:

Noted by the Committee.

3. **MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS - APPLICATIONS**

Decisions:

1. That the following Miscellaneous Grant Applications be approved in the sums detailed within the circulated report in accordance with the Policy criteria:
 - a. HM Lord Lieutenant of West Glamorgan – 90th Birthday celebrations for residents of Neath Port Talbot and Swansea who share the same birth year as her Majesty the Queen of 1926;

- b. Cwmavon Community Engagement Centre – Grant to cover the annual lease of the Community Centre upon transfer to the community group;
 - c. South Wales Miners' Museum - Grant to cover the annual ground lease of the Miners' Museum adjoining Afan Argoed Visitors Centre.
2. That the following Miscellaneous Grant Application, not in accordance with the Policy criteria, be refused:
- a. Derby Toc H Children's Camp, Derby – Holidays for deprived children in the Derby area.

Reason for Decisions:

To decide on providing financial support in respect of the grant applications received.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

4. **PUBLIC ACCESS WI-FI**

Members were pleased to note that the publically accessible Wi-Fi is intended to be available from early May 2016. Initially it is intended that the service be broadcast within all the Authority's public areas including the Committee Rooms and Council Chamber. It is also intended to consult with Heads of Service to ascertain where else its provision would prove beneficial.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

5. **BLUE BADGE SCHEME UPDATE**

Decision:

That an update be presented to the Local Service Board in order for further discussion to take place, and the report be noted.

6. **WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS 2016-2017**

Members queried the amount of telephone calls received by the Local Authority from members of the public who wanted to conduct their business through the medium of Welsh. It was noted that this number was approximately 200 calls. Members noted that the Local Authority had challenged 55 of the Welsh Language Standards 2016-2017.

Decisions:

1. That in order to remove potential confusion over the Council's obligations in relation to the Welsh Language, the Council's Welsh Language Scheme be rescinded;
2. That the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Welsh Language Standards 2016-2017 document produced in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 as attached to the circulated report, be approved;
3. That the Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council be authorised to undertake such actions to ensure compliance with the Welsh Language Standards, including the updating of the Council's Comments, Compliments and Complaints Policy in line with receipt of the standards.

Reason for Decisions:

To discharge the Authority's duty in relation to Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards (No. 1) Regulations 2015.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

7. **URGENCY ACTION 0026 - WELSH LANGUAGE MEASURE (WALES) STANDARDS INVESTIGATIONS**

Decision:

That the following urgency action taken by the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services, in consultation with the requisite Members, be noted:-

Officer Urgency Action No. 0026, 29 April 2014.

Welsh Language Measure (Wales) Response – Standards Investigations – Questionnaire.

8. **UNIVERSAL CREDIT - CUSTOMER SUPPORT**

Decisions:

1. That the service arrangements with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) in relation to Universal Credit Work, as detailed in the circulated report, be approved;
2. That delegated authority be given to the Head of Financial Services to finalise the service and funding agreement with the Department of Work and Pensions.

Reason for Decisions:

To agree the service level agreement and financial support arrangements between the Authority and the Department of Work and Pensions.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

9. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING 2015-2016**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

10. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015/2016**

Decision:

That the Policy and Resources Forward Work Programme April – June 2016, be noted.

11. **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.

12. **COUNCIL TAX - WRITE OFFS**

Decision:

That the amounts of Council Tax Write Offs, as detailed within the private circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The accounts are irrecoverable.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is for immediate implementation, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee had agreed to this course of action and there would be no call in of this decision.

13. **HOUSING BENEFIT - WRITE OFFS**

Decision:

That the amounts of Housing Benefit Write Offs, as detailed in the private circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The accounts are irrecoverable.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is for immediate implementation, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee had agreed to this course of action and there would be no call in of this decision.

14. **BUSINESS RATES - WRITE OFFS**

Decision:

That the amount of Business Rates Write Offs, as detailed in the private circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

The accounts are irrecoverable.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is for immediate implementation, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee had agreed to this course of action and there would be no call in of this decision.

15. **FOOD PROCUREMENT**

Decisions:

1. That the requirements of competition be excluded and Rule 2.1 of the CPRs be suspended;
2. That authority be given to make a direct award to the Suppliers between the Council and the current Suppliers of the Welsh Purchasing Framework (WPC), for a period of 6 months commencing from 1 May 2016, including an option to extend the period for up to a maximum of a further 6 months.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure continuity of the provision of the Services pending the implementation of a new contract under the National Procurement Services Framework.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

CHAIRPERSON