

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET

21 MAY 2020

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: R.G.Jones (Chairperson), D.Jones, E.V.Latham,
A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, A.Wingrave and
L.Jones

Officers in Attendance:

S.Phillips, A.Evans, A.Jarrett, H.Jenkins, N.Pearce, C.Griffiths, C.Morris,
C.Furlow-Harris, J.Burge, M.Shaw, S.Blewett, S.Curran, A.Manchipp,
C.Davies and T.Davies

Invitees: Councillors S.ap Dafydd, S.Freeguard, M.Harvey, S.K.Hunt,
S.A.Knoyle, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison,
S.Penry, S.Pursey, L.M.Purcell, S.Reynolds,

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor R.G.Jones be appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made a declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Councillor D.Jones Re: Item 5, Appointment of Local Authority
Governors, as she is a governor of Cilfrew
Primary and Llangatwg Community School.

Councillor A.Lockyer Re: Item 5, Appointment of Local Authority
Governors, as he is a Governor at Ysgol

Gyfun Castell Nedd and his son is a teacher at Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive.

Councillor P.A.Rees

Re: Item 5, Appointment of Local Authority Governors, as he is a governor at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School.

Councillor P.D.Richards

Re: Item 5, Appointment of Local Authority Governors, as he is vice chair of governors at Blaenbaglan and Baglan Primary School.

3. WELSH GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members received a verbal update on the current position regarding Welsh Government funding and policy announcements, including grants to small businesses, Economic Resilience Fund and NNDR business rates relief, from the Director of Finance and Corporate Services.

It was noted that Welsh Government were looking at making further grant awards to different bodies and organisations in the coming weeks, in addition to the £24.4 million already paid out to 2221 organisations.

An update was given on the funding to the Council and the services it provides (local government finance funding):

- £30 million was made available initially (£7 million for free school meals, £10 million for homeless and £13 million for general services),
- £40 million further was made available for the social care hardship fund to end of May,
- £33 million further for free school meals until end of August,
- £3 million for IT for vulnerable children who have no access to technology.

Further Welsh Government funding announcements were expected shortly.

Members noted that £500 would be paid to care workers by the Welsh Government – it was anticipated this money would go directly to the residential care providers for distribution, as the service was no longer provided in house within the Council. Eligibility for the payment was as yet unclear, but further updates would be provided to Members when available.

£63,000 had been reimbursed to the Council from the Welsh Government for the month of March for increased expenditure due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and a claim for £814,000 had been submitted for April.

Information had been submitted via the Welsh Local Government Association to the Welsh Government regarding loss of income and the impact on Council Tax support and collection – the Director was awaiting clarification re any possible funding to come out of this.

A budget monitoring review would take place before the end of May to identify the consequences of these issues on Council budgets. The Director advised Members that an early budget monitoring report would be presented at the next meeting of Cabinet for discussion.

Decision:

That the verbal update be noted.

4. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019-2020**

Decisions:

Following the recommendations made by the earlier Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet agreed to include the additional wording at decision 3, ***as written in italics and bold.***

1. That the progress made on the Corporate Governance improvement work undertaken during 2019-2020 be noted,
2. That the Annual Governance Statement 2019-2020 attached at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be approved,
3. That the proposed Corporate Governance improvement work be undertaken during 2020-2021, as detailed in the circulated report, be approved, ***subject to early and urgent review of the objectives, due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.***

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure the Annual Governance Statement meets the requirements of Regulation 5(2) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 in relation to an annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's systems of internal control and the preparation and approval of an Annual Governance Statement.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

5. **APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS**

Members discussed the appointment of Alyson Jones to Crymlyn Primary School (detailed below) at the meeting. This appointment was not contained within the circulated report, as she was the second applicant to apply for the position at Awel Y Mor Primary.

Decisions:

That, in line with approved policy, the following Local Authority governor representatives be appointed to the following existing and forthcoming vacancies:

Awel Y Mor Primary School

Appoint Phillip O'Leary

Baglan Primary School

Reappoint Cllrs Carol Clement-Williams and Peter Richards

Blaenbaglan Primary School

Reappoint Cllr Peter Richards

Catwg Primary School

Reappoint Reanne Lee

Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School

Reappoint Cllrs John Warman, Peter Rees and Sheila Penry

Cilfrew Primary School

Reappoint Arlene Harvey and Cllr Doreen Jones

Crymlyn Primary School

Appoint Alyson Jones

Cwmnedd Primary School

Reappoint Eddie Exley Jones

Cwmtawe Comprehensive School

Reappoint Cllr Linet Purcell and Julie Mallinson

Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive School

Reappoint Campbell T Coram, D. Keith Davies and Paul Winstone

Gnoll Primary School

Reappoint Cllr Alan Lockyer

Godre'rgraig Primary School

Reappoint Cllr Rosalyn Davies

Llangatwg Community School

Reappoint Cllr Doreen Jones and Aylwin Jones

Appoint Christopher Coles

Rhyd Y Fro

Reappoint John Williams

Tonnau Primary School

Appoint Jeanette Francis

Wauanceirch Primary School

Reappoint Bethan Healey

Ynysfach Primary School

Reappoint Aylwin Jones

YGG Blaendulais

Reappoint Cllr Stephen Karl Hunt and Emyr Lewis

YGG Castell Nedd

Reappoint Cllr John Miller

YGG Cwmnedd

Reappoint Cllr Del Morgan

YGG Pontardawe

Reappoint David Howell Lloyd Williams

YGG Trebannws

Reappoint Cllr Rebeca Phillips

Reason for Decisions:

To enable the Authority to contribute to effective school governance through representation on school governing bodies.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

6. **CAPITAL OUTTURN 2019-20**

Decision:

That the 2019/20 Capital Programme outturn position be approved.

Reason for Decision:

To agree the capital outturn position for 2019/20.

Implementation of Decision:

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

7. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2019-20**

Decisions:

1. That the 2019/20 financial outturn position as detailed in the circulated report, be noted,
2. That the additional reserve transfers of £1.161m as summarised in paragraph 3.2 of the circulated report and detailed at Appendix 4, be approved.

Reason for Decisions:

To finalise the Council's General Fund Revenue Outturn and Reserves position for the 2019/20 financial year.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

8. **DECARBONISATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY**

Decision:

That the responses to the representations received, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the circulated report be agreed, and the revised Decarbonisation and Renewable Energy Strategy, as detailed at Appendix 2 to the circulated report, be published.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that a clear Strategy/Action Plan is issued by the Council in respect of the Climate Change/Decarbonisation agenda.

Implementation of Decision:

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

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

9. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS - LEIROS PARK AND RAVENSWOOD CLOSE, BRYNCOCH**

Decision:

That the Prohibition of Waiting at Anytime Order 2020 at Leiros Parc Drive and Ravenswood Close, Bryncoch, Neath, (as detailed at Appendix A to the circulated report) be implemented as advertised, and the objector informed accordingly.

Reason for Decision:

To prevent indiscriminate parking in the interest of highway safety.

Implementation of Decision:

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

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

10. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS - SWANSEA ROAD, TREBANNOS**

Decision:

That the (Revocation) (Prohibition of Waiting, Loading or Unloading at Any Time) and (Speed Cushions) Order 2020 at Swansea Road, Trebannos (as detailed in Appendix A to the circulated report) be implemented as advertised, and the objector informed accordingly.

Reason for Decision:

To reduce traffic speed adjacent to the school, and to allow the safe passage for emergency service vehicles and public transport to align themselves in order to straddle the cushions in the interest of road safety.

Implementation of Decision:

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

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

CHAIRPERSON