

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET

28 JUNE 2023

Cabinet Members:

Councillors: S.K.Hunt (Cadeirydd), S.A.Knoyle, N.Jenkins, J.Hurley, S.Harris, J.Hale, A.Llewelyn, W.F.Griffiths, S.Jones and C.Phillips

Officers in Attendance:

A.Jarrett, A.Thomas, N.Daniel, C.Griffiths, S.Brennan, H.Jones, C.Owen, C.Furlow-Harris, S.Griffiths, R.Headon, S.Davies, A.Thomas, P.Chivers and T.Davies

Scrutiny Invitees: Councillors P.Rogers and J.Henton

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

Agreed that Councillor S.K.Hunt be appointed as Chair for the meeting.

2. **CHAIRPERSONS ANNOUNCEMENT/S**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

That the minutes of the previous meetings, held on the following dates, be agreed as an accurate record:

9 April 2023 (Special)
25 April 2023 (Special)
10 May 2023 (Special)
17 May 2023 and
24 May 2023 (Annual Meeting)

5. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were received.

7. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022 - 2023**

Decision:

That the Annual Governance Statement 2022-2023 attached at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be approved.

Reason for Decision:

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 and the duty contained under the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to keep its performance under review.

Implementation of Decision:

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

8. **WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY 2023-2028**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment:

1. The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023-2028, be agreed.
2. The Strategy be commended to Council for formal adoption.

Reason for Decisions:

To ensure the Council meets the required contained in Welsh Language Standards 145 (promotion).

Implementation of Decisions:

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

Consultation:

This item has been subject to external consultation.

9. **COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS – LONG TERM EMPTY HOMES AND SECOND HOMES**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Screening Assessment:

1. A consultation exercise be carried out, on the proposed use of the Council's discretionary powers, in respect of long term empty homes and second homes.
2. The results of the consultation exercise be brought back to a future meeting of Cabinet, in order for a recommendation be made to full Council.

Reason for Decisions:

To determine if Council Tax premiums should be applied on long term empty properties and second homes.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

Consultation:

There is a requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item, details of which are set out in the circulated report.

10. **DIGITAL, DATA AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY**

Decision:

That the Digital, Data and Technology strategy be commended to Council for adoption on 12th July 2023.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that the Council's Digital, Data and Technology Strategy remains current and fit for purpose.

Implementation of Decision:

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

Consultation:

This item has been subject to a peer review with other organisations.

11. **THIRD SECTOR GRANTS APPLICATION ARRANGEMENTS - 2024/2025**

Decisions:

That the following be approved as the criteria for inviting bids for funds, governed by the Third Sector Grants Scheme 2024-25:

- Contribution to the delivery of key policies and priorities which are contained in the council's Corporate Plan 2023-2027.

- Reducing the demand on council services. For example, promoting and assisting citizens to use the council's digital services; promoting participation in discretionary services to increase footfall; or through early intervention and prevention activities that maintain or improve people's well-being.
- Levering in of additional resources. Applications that demonstrate how council funding will be used to lever in additional resources in support of council policies and priorities are particularly welcomed.
- Financial sustainability. The council will wish to be satisfied that the applicant is not dependent on continuing council funding to achieve financial sustainability.
- In addition to the above, applications are particularly welcome that focus on activities that will help community groups and societies impacted by the cost of living crisis, those still feeling the effect of the pandemic and applications looking to further develop community capacity/collaboration.

Reason for Decision:

To ensure funding decisions made for the 2024-25 financial year in relation to grants awarded under the Third Sector Grants Scheme, are aligned with the council's overall priorities.

Implementation of Decision:

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

12. **QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

13. **REVENUE OUTFURN AND RESERVES POSITION STATEMENT 2022
23**

The Chief Finance Officer placed on record his thanks to all Directors, Heads of Service and accountable managers, who manage budgets on a daily basis.

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

14. **WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

Decision:

That the monitoring report be noted.

15. **URGENT ITEMS**

No urgent items were received.

16. **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 Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

17. **UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment screening:

1. The projects submitted (as detailed within the private, circulated report), under the Neath Port Talbot Skills and Multiply Open Call (round 1), subject to Subsidy Control assessments, be approved.
2. A Skills round 2, targeted call for applications, be launched, specifying those areas of Skills which are required to meet the challenges and opportunities in Neath Port Talbot.
3. The unallocated Skills allocation be included in the Skills round 2 targeted call for applications, and year 1 Multiply allocation be allocated to year 2 core Skills priority budget (subject to UK government confirmation).
4. That further consideration be given to the next steps in relation to Multiply; that the Strategic Skills Lead prepare an options paper for consideration; and delegated authority be granted to the Director of Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member(s) to agree to launch an open call for projects under the Multiply priority.
5. That the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Neath Port Talbot Grants approval process be introduced, including delegated authority levels, with regular reporting to Cabinet.

Reason for Decisions:

To enable Neath Port Talbot Council to implement the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Implementation Plan and advise Skills and Multiply applicants of the open call funding decision.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

18. **FORMER NEATH LEISURE CENTRE AT DYFFED ROAD, NEATH
(EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Decisions:

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

1. The demolition and site clearance of the former leisure centre in Dyfed Road, Neath, and the allocation of the amount specified within the private, circulated report to undertake the works, be agreed.
2. Delegated authority be granted for the Head of Property and Regeneration to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer, for the above mentioned works, so that site work can begin as soon as practically possible, to ensure it can be completed during the closed cricket season.

Reason for Decisions:

To allow for the safe demolition and site clearance, and to relieve the Council of its Health and Safety obligations for the management of a high risk empty property, and to reduce its obligation to pay non domestic rates.

Implementation of Decisions:

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

Consultation:

The ward members have been consulted on the proposal.

CHAIRPERSON