

**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**

**CABINET**

**8 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Cabinet Members:**

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

**Officers in Attendance:**

K.Jones, A.Thomas, N.Pearce, A.Jarrett, N.Daniel, H.Jones, C.Griffiths, D.Griffiths, S.Rees, C.Morris, C.Furlow-Harris, R.Crowhurst, L.Beynon, L.McAndrew, A.Thomas and T.Davies

**Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair:** Councillors P.Rogers and C.Jordan

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

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

2. **CHAIRPERSONS ANNOUNCEMENT/S**

The Chair explained that the private report, Item 15 (Proposed Option Agreement - Easements Within the Tonmawr Area) would be withdrawn from consideration at today's meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made declarations of interest at the start of the meeting, re Item No. 11 – 2023/24 Risk Register Monitoring – as they all have family working for Tata Steel. They did not consider the interests to be prejudicial, so they remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting thereon:

- Councillor S.K.Noyle
- Councillor J.Hurley
- Councillor N.Jenkins

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 20 September 2023, be agreed as an accurate record.

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

It was noted that Item 7 and Item 15 had been withdrawn from consideration at the meeting, and would be rescheduled on the Forward Work Programme.

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions had been received.

7. **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 22/23**

**Decision:**

That the report be withdrawn from consideration at the meeting, and rescheduled to the meeting of Cabinet on 28 November 2023.

8. **BIODIVERSITY DUTY PLAN (2023-2026)**

**Decisions:**

1. That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment, the following be commended to Council for approval:
  - a. The Biodiversity Duty Plan (2020-2023) Implementation Report as detailed in Appendix 2 to the circulated report.
  - b. The Biodiversity Duty Plan (2023-2026) as detailed at Appendix 3 to the circulated report.

2. That the publication procedures, as set out in the circulated report, be implemented.

**Reason for Decisions:**

To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and to ensure that the Council commits to take steps to help nature recover.

**Implementation of Decisions:**

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

9. **PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CASH OFFICES AT NEATH AND PORT TALBOT CIVIC CENTRES**

**Decision:**

That the permanent closure to the public of the cash offices at Neath and Port Talbot Civic Centre's, be approved.

**Reason for Decision:**

To agree a permanent arrangement in relation to the two cash offices.

**Implementation of Decision:**

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

10. **2022/23 - TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT**

**Decision:**

That the monitoring report be noted.

11. **2023/24 RISK REGISTER MONITORING**

**Decision:**

That the monitoring report be noted.

12. **URGENT ITEMS**

No urgent items were received.

13. **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 item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 13 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

14. **PASSENGER TRANSPORT REVIEW - APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

During the earlier Cabinet Scrutiny Committee, an extra recommendation was commended for Cabinets consideration. Cabinet agreed the extra recommendation, which was agreed and is reflected as decision No. 4. below.

**Decisions:**

1. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Engineering and Transport, to commission consultancy services with respect to Home to School and ALN passenger transport work stream 'review', identified as part of the Councils short to medium term financial plan.
2. That Rule 7.3 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules be suspended, and a contract be awarded to the consultants outlined within the private circulated report, via the public sector Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO).
3. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Engineering and Transport, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to complete the necessary agreement and associated documents, utilising the public sector Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) Consultancy Framework, to facilitate same.

4. That a time line be put in place, and a parallel action agreed to look at enhancing skills of the team and growing the team.

15. **PROPOSED OPTION AGREEMENT - EASEMENTS WITHIN THE TONMAWR AREA (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

**Decision:**

That the private report be withdrawn from consideration at today's meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON**