

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET

20 DECEMBER 2023

Cabinet Members:

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

Officers in Attendance:

K.Jones, N.Pearce, A.Jarrett, N.Daniel, A.Thomas, C.Griffiths, H.Jones, C.Furlow-Harris, N.Blackmore, A.James, T.Rees, A.Thomas and T.Davies

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

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON**

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

2. **CHAIRPERSONS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made declarations of interest at the start of the meeting:

Councillor S.Knoyle

Minute Item 6 – Third Sector Grant Funding, Award of Grants for 2024-25, as he is a Trustee of the Glynneath Training Centre.

Councillor S.Jones

Minute Item 6 – Third Sector Grant Funding, Award of Grants for 2024-25, as he is a Trustee of Afan Valley Community Leisure, and a Trustee of Cymmer Library.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions were received.

5. **BUDGET 2024/25**

Decision:

That the Chief Executive be authorised to consult with the public on the draft budget proposals contained within the circulated report.

Reason for Decision:

To fulfil the statutory requirement to consult on the 2024/25 draft budget proposals.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is for immediate implementation, following the agreement of the Cabinet Scrutiny Chair.

Consultation:

Consultation on this item will commence immediately following today's meeting and close on 10th January 2024.

6. **THIRD SECTOR GRANT FUNDING - AWARD OF GRANTS FOR 2024 - 2025**

Officers put forward an amended recommendation for consideration, following the support of the previous Cabinet Scrutiny Committee. This was in order to allow officers more time to determine whether alternative sources of funding were available for a number of the applicants. Cabinet accepted the amended recommendation, which is reflected as the decision below.

Decision:

That the granting (identified in Appendix 1 to the circulated report) to Canolfan Maerdy and Ystalyfera Development Trust, be approved, and it be noted that the additional requests for grants be brought to a future meeting of Cabinet in January 2024 for determination by Members.

Reason for Decision:

To approve grants to third sector organisations in line with the Council's Scheme.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is for immediate implementation, following the agreement of the Cabinet Scrutiny Chair.

7. **URGENT ITEMS**

No urgent items were received.

8. **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 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

9. **CELTIC FREEPORT - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

Decisions:

That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment:

1. Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member) to agree any variations that may be required to the Outline Business

Case (OBC) set out at Appendix 2 to the Private, circulated report, and to approve its submission to the UK and Welsh Governments;

2. Subject to confirmation from UK and Welsh Government that there will be appropriate retention of Non-Domestic Rates, delegated authority be granted for the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Leader and Relevant Cabinet Member) to agree final amendments to the Outline Business Case following feedback by the two governments to enable the two governments to confirm acceptance of the OBC;
3. Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive and Head of Legal and Democratic Services to sign Letters of Intent in respect of Tax Site Delivery Agreements on behalf of the Celtic Freeport;
4. Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to enter into a new Memorandum of Understanding or any ancillary agreements necessary to continue with the programme of next steps identified in the Private, circulated report, noting that further reports will be brought back to Members on the points referenced herein.

Reason for Decisions:

Freeport status will act as a catalyst for significant economic growth within the locality and the wider region linked to the emerging off-shore wind sector and wider renewables agenda. Celtic Freeport will also support work to decarbonise industry, housing and transport at local regional and national levels helping to meet the net zero carbon targets. Green economic growth will help to address structural issues of poverty and deprivation in the local and regional economy stimulating the local supply chain and increasing the skills and qualifications of the resident population.

Implementation of Decision:

The decisions are for immediate implementation, following the agreement of the Cabinet Scrutiny Chair.

Consultation:

The Freeport bid has been developed by the two local authorities, ABP and MHPA, working in partnership. Wider consultation has also taken place with a wide range of public and private sector organisations including business networks within the Freeport proposed area.

CHAIRPERSON