

COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2017

PRESENT: Councillor E. Morgan (Chair)

Councillors:

S.M. Allen	D.J.R. Bartlett	S.M. Caiach	C.A. Campbell
J.M. Charles	D.M. Cundy	A. Davies	D.B. Davies
G. Davies	I.W. Davies	J.A. Davies	S.L. Davies
T. Davies	W.R.A. Davies	T.T. Defis	T. Devichand
E. Dole	J.S. Edmunds	P.M. Edwards	H.A.L. Evans
L.D. Evans	W.J.W. Evans	W.T. Evans	M. Gravell
A.D. Harries	C.P. Higgins	J.K. Howell	P.M. Hughes
P. Hughes-Griffiths	I.J. Jackson	A. James	J.D. James
D.M. Jenkins	J.P. Jenkins	H.I. Jones	P.E.M. Jones
A. Lenny	M.J.A. Lewis	D.J.R. Llewellyn	K. Madge
S. Matthews	P.A. Palmer	D. Price	D.W.H. Richards
H.B. Shepardson	A.D.T. Speake	L.M. Stephens	D. Tomos
E.G. Thomas	G. Thomas	R. Thomas	S.E. Thomas
J. Tremlett	D.E. Williams	J.E. Williams	J.S. Williams

Also Present:

M. James, Chief Executive
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
G. Morgans, Interim Director of Education & Childrens Services
R. Mullen, Director of Environment
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)
W. Walters, Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)
S Burford, Project Manager
R. Dawson, Head of Integrated Services
S Jenkins, Physical Regeneration Strategic Programme Manager
J Lewis, Project Manager (Collaborative Communities)
H. Morgan, Economic Development Manager
R. Phillips, European Programmes Manager
W. Smith, External Funding Officer
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen - 2.00 pm - 3.50 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T. Bowen, A.P. Cooper, A.W. Jones, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones, W.G. Hopkins, A.G. Morgan, J. Owen, B.A.L. Roberts, G.B. Thomas, J. Thomas, K.P. Thomas, M.K. Thomas, W.G. Thomas and J. Williams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor	Minute number	Nature of Interest
J.A. Davies	6 – School Staff Absence Scheme	His son is a teacher;
J. Edmunds	6 – School Staff Absence Scheme	His daughter works in a school;
L.D. Evans	6 – School Staff Absence Scheme	Her daughter is a teacher;
K. Madge	4 – Swansea Bay City Deal	Daughter works for the Authority;
H.B. Shepardson	6 – School Staff Absence Scheme	His daughter is a teacher;
D.O. Thomas	6 – School Staff Absence Scheme	His daughter is a teacher.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chair welcomed back Cllr. H.I. Jones;
- Cllr. C. Higgins informed members that he would be running in this year's London Marathon for charity and any donations would be gratefully received.

4. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION - SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL

(NOTE: Councillor K. Madge had earlier declared a personal interest in this item.)

The Chief Executive, in his capacity as lead officer of the Swansea Bay City Deal 'pitch' team, introduced other members of the team who were in attendance namely Professor Marc Clement [Swansea University], Ian Westley [Pembrokeshire County Council] and Barry Liles [Coleg Sirgar]. The team was made up of representatives from the local authority areas of Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Pembrokeshire and Neath Port Talbot, joined by Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Hywel Dda University Health Boards, Swansea University and the University of Wales Trinity St David's and private sector partners.

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 23RD January, 2017, had considered the circulated report which provided an update of negotiations between UK Government and the Swansea Bay City Region in respect of the City Deal Investment Package and sought approval to delegate to the Leader of the Council or the Chief Executive, authority to sign a City Deal agreement (Heads of Term). The Board had endorsed the recommendation, as detailed in the report, for consideration by Council.

Members then received a presentation [also given to the Executive Board] by the Chief Executive entitled 'Swansea Bay City Region: City Deal - The Internet Coast' and viewed a 'fly-through' of the proposed Life Science and Wellbeing Village at Delta Lakes, Llanelli.

The Chief Executive advised that the team was due to make its final pitch shortly for what would be a ground-breaking City Deal worth more than £1.3billion and it was anticipated that the Welsh and UK Government would be in a position to sign the Deal by the end of February 2017.

Members welcomed the proposed Deal and thanked all who had been involved in its development. The representatives of the pitch team responded to questions. Particular concern was expressed over the need to improve transport links. Professor Clement responded that the City Deal was primarily concerned with innovation and transport issues would need to be addressed by the proposed Joint Committee detailed in the report which would be responsible for overseeing delivery of the investment package. The Chief Executive added that Welsh Government had intimated that if the Deal went ahead the Council would be able to retain 50% of the business rates received.

The Chief Executive paid tribute to his staff who had worked on the Deal.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-

‘that delegated authority be given to the Leader of the Council or Chief Executive, to sign a City Deal agreement (Heads of Terms) on the basis described in the report.’

5. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION -PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 22nd December, 2016, had considered a report detailing the requirements of The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 whereby a designated overview and scrutiny committee of a Local Authority had to have a key role in assuring democratic accountability of the Public Service Board via its prescribed role as outlined in the Act.

The Board had endorsed the recommendation, as detailed in the report, for consideration by Council.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-

‘that the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee be designated as the Authority’s Scrutiny Committee for the purposes of scrutinising the work of the Carmarthenshire Public Service Board and that this function be reflected in Article 6 of the Council’s Constitution.’

6. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION -SCHOOL STAFF ABSENCE SCHEME

(NOTE: Councillors J.A. Davies, J.S. Edmunds, L.D. Evans, H. B. Shepardson and D.O. Tomos had earlier declared a personal interest in this item.)

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 22nd December, 2016, had considered a report detailing the proposed establishment of a Schools Staff Absence Scheme which would operate initially for a period of two years commencing on 1st April, 2017 until 31st March, 2019 and would operate as a non-profit making partnership fund for the benefit of participating members. It would be reviewed annually to ensure ongoing financial viability into subsequent financial years.

The Board had endorsed the recommendation, as detailed in the report, for consideration by Council.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-

‘that the establishment of a Schools Staff Absence Scheme be endorsed.’

7. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION -CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL’S GUIDANCE AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT ON CHARGEABLE PRE-APPLICATION AND POST CONSENT ADVICE IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (PLANNING (WALES) ACT 2015) AND NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (PLANNING ACT 2008)

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 22nd December, 2016, had considered a report seeking approval for the Local Planning Authority to introduce charges for pre-application advice given to developers preparing Developments of National Significance (DNS) applications for submission to the Planning Inspectorate and to update existing guidance/fees relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

The Board had endorsed the recommendation, as detailed in the report, for consideration by Council.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:-

‘7.1 that the Council’s duties and general procedures when providing the advice service to developers of NSIP and DNS projects be agreed;

7.2 that the amendments to the existing guidance relating to NSIPs and the inclusion of provisions to deal with DNSs be agreed;

7.3 that the details relating to charges, invoicing and payment procedures be agreed;

7.4 that the details relating to developer confidentiality be agreed.’

8. EXECUTIVE BOARD - 22ND DECEMBER 2016

RESOLVED that the report of the above meeting be received.

CHAIR

DATE