

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday, 22 February 2016

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

Councillors:

L.D. Evans, D.M. Jenkins, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones, P.A. Palmer, L.M. Stephens and J. Tremlett

The following Officers were in attendance:

M. James, Chief Executive
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
R. Mullen, Director of Environment
R. Sully, Director of Education & Children
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
W. Walters, Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy)
D. Williams, Press Manager
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall - 10.00 - 10.35 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Gravell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
H.A.L. Evans	9 – Affordable Homes Delivery Plan	Sister is Chief Executive of Bro Myrddin Housing Association.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 1ST FEBRUARY 2016

The Board was informed that the following had been inadvertently omitted from the minutes indicated:

Minute 14 – Revenue Budget Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19

The inclusion of the words ‘**and subject to recommendation 14.4**’ in recommendation 14.1;

The inclusion of a recommendation 14.5 ‘**that the provisional medium term financial plan be approved as a basis for future years planning.**’

It was also clarified that the agreement to pay the 1% from April was in respect of non teaching staff.

Minute 15 – Five Year Capital Programme 2016/17-2020/21

The inclusion of a recommendation 15.5 ‘**that the Director of Corporate Services will advise and recommend to County Council on 10th March of any impact and consequential action required from the Final Settlement which is**

due to be published by Welsh Government on 2nd March 2016, and debated on 9th March 2016.'

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, subject to the inclusion of the above, that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 1st February 2016 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that no questions on notice had been submitted by members.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

6. CURRENT POSITION OF FOOD HYGIENE RATING IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

The Executive Board considered a report detailing the current situation and challenges in relation to the statutory Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme which, amongst other requirements, made participation by local authorities compulsory and required food businesses supplying food to the final consumer to display their food hygiene ratings. Carmarthenshire currently had 1482 premises with a Mandatory food hygiene score and, overall, food hygiene ratings in Wales had continued to improve over the last 3 years. As a result of the revisit policy there were no businesses in Carmarthenshire which had received 'poor scores' consecutively and re-rating requests had not proven to be too onerous to date. The Department was congratulated on its implementation of the scheme.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to receive the report.

7. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE CATEGORY OF YSGOL BRO MYRDDIN FROM BILINGUAL (2A) TO WELSH MEDIUM (WM).

The Executive Board considered a report on a proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual (2a) to Welsh Medium (WM). The Board was reminded that Council, at its meeting held on the 14th October 2015 (minute 10.1 thereof refers) had resolved to initiate formal consultation on the proposal and for a further report to be submitted to the Executive Board at the end of the consultation period. As part of the consultation process consultees had been invited to forward their observations in relation to the proposal. Appendix A to the report detailed the list of respondents, Appendix B summarised the observations received and the authority's response thereto, Appendix C provided Estyn's response and Appendix D detailed the consultations undertaken with the pupils at the school.

The Board was advised that the proposals had been endorsed by the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the proposal change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual (2A) to Welsh Medium (WM) be proceeded with and a statutory notice be published to implement the proposal.

8. THE CARMARTHENSHIRE HOMES STANDARD PLUS (CHS+) "DELIVERING WHAT MATTERS"

The Executive Board considered the 'Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus

(CHS+) Delivering What Matters 2016 – 2019' plan the purpose of which was:

- to explain the vision and detail of the Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus, and what it meant for tenants;
- to confirm the financial profile, based on current assumptions, for the delivery of CHS+ over the next three years; and
- to produce a business plan for the annual application to Welsh Government for Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) for 2016/17, equating to £6.1m.

The Executive Board Member for Housing thanked all who had contributed to the plan.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

8.1 that the vision of CHS+ and the financial and delivery programme over the next three years be confirmed;

8.2 that the submission of the plan to the Welsh Government be confirmed.

9. AFFORDABLE HOMES DELIVERY PLAN.

(NOTE: Councillor H.A.L. Evans, having earlier declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the Council Chamber during its consideration).

The Executive Board considered the Affordable Homes Delivery Plan 2016-20 the purpose of which was to explain how the Authority would deliver over 1000 additional affordable homes over the next five years, with a total investment exceeding £60m, and how the number of additional homes could be nearly doubled by developing delivery options for new build schemes. The plan also clarified where these homes would be, what resources were currently available and how more affordable homes could potentially be delivered in the future.

The Executive Board Member for Housing advised that the Plan had been endorsed by the Community Scrutiny Committee on the 12th February 2016 but had recommended to the Executive Board that when preparing further proposals for the action areas due consideration be given to their deliverability and sustainability including matters such as the suitability of the existing local infrastructure for example local amenities and potential planning constraints.

Councillor D. Cundy asked whether the Authority could ensure that its Housing Division worked closely with Housing Associations so that people who cannot pay Housing Association rents do not get evicted and then require Council assistance. In response the Executive Board Member for Housing stated that this was already the case as the Council received grants which were distributed to the Housing Associations and it was incumbent on both therefore to work in partnership. In response to a further question from Councillor Cundy the Chief Executive advised that Section 106 payments would still remain as a means for providing affordable homes.

In response to a question from Councillor T. Devichand as to how the delivery plan would be affected if the Welsh Government ceased to provide funding for major repairs to existing council homes the Executive Board Member for Housing stated that the plan reflected what the Authority could achieve at present and it would be difficult to predict a future scenario. She added that the Welsh Government had provided over £6m in respect of the aforementioned for a number of years and it was hoped that this would continue. The Director of Communities emphasised that

the Delivery Plan was dynamic and could be adapted to the funding that was available

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- 9.1 that the strategy to utilise the Council's existing options to maximise the supply of affordable homes over the next five years be confirmed;**
- 9.2 that options to maximise the number of new build homes that could be delivered be investigated with a view to providing recommendations by September 2016;**
- 9.3 that the action area approach for delivering more affordable homes in different parts of the County be confirmed;**
- 9.4 that when preparing further proposals for the action areas due consideration be given to their deliverability and sustainability including matters such as the suitability of the existing local infrastructure for example local amenities and potential planning constraints.**

CHAIR

DATE