

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday, 23 May 2016

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Present as observers:-

Councillors D. Cundy, T. Devichand and J.S. Edmunds.

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 am - 12.30 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L.D. Evans and P.A. Palmer.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 25th April 2016 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair advised that no public questions on notice had been received.

6. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (CARMARTHENSIRE DOG CONTROLS)

With reference to Minute 17 of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 21st March 2016 reconsideration was given to the report submitted thereto on the introduction of the Public Spaces Protection Order (Carmarthenshire Dog Controls) but with the inclusion of the full consultation responses which had originally been inadvertently omitted.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to endorse the original decision made on the 21st March 2016.

7. WALES AUDIT OFFICE - ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2015-16

The Executive Board considered the Welsh Audit Office's Annual Improvement Report which summarised the audit work undertaken at Carmarthenshire County Council since the last such report had been published in July 2015. Each year the Auditor General must report on how well Welsh councils were planning for improvement and delivering their services and for 2015-16 he had concluded that Carmarthenshire County Council had demonstrated ambition in its vision, with collective leadership and more robust and transparent governance, and had delivered improved outcomes for its citizens although some out-dated approaches may limit the speed of progress.

Whilst Members considered that the report was extremely positive views were expressed that the WAO failed, where it referred to 'weaknesses' or 'out-dated approaches', to give examples of best practice or improvements that could be made. The Leader agreed to follow this up in a letter to the WAO particularly in light of the fees it was paid by the Council for the report.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the report be accepted.

8. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PANEL MEMBERSHIP - INDEPENDENT GROUP

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to note that the Independent group had nominated Councillor Ivor Jackson to replace Councillor Giles Morgan on the School Improvement Panel

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as the reports contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

11. NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN OF WALES (NBGW) TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute Number 10 above, to consider this matter in private, with the public excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

The Executive Board considered an invitation from the former Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, Ken Skate AM, for Cllr. Meryl Gravel to become Chair of the National Botanic Garden Wales Task and Finish Group which would make recommendations on the most realistic and viable ways of assuring the long term viability of the NBGW.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to agree that Cllr Meryl Gravel be appointed to Chair of the Task and Finish Group for the NBGW.

- 12. WELLNESS & LIFE SCIENCE VILLAGE, DELTA LAKES, LLANELLI**
Following the application of the public interest test it was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in Minute Number 10 above, to consider this matter in private, with the public excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

The Executive Board considered a report detailing a proposal to develop a Wellness and Life Science Village at Delta Lakes, Llanelli, which had the potential to transform the Carmarthenshire economy with an investment of over £100m and the creation of over 1000 jobs. The project derived from an idea within the work undertaken by a regional partnership between two University Health Boards [Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Hywel Dda] and Swansea University. The Partnership, collectively known as ARCH [A Regional Collaboration for Health] had approached Carmarthenshire County Council in mid 2015 with the opportunity to develop the 'Wellness' project and the concept had since grown with rapid momentum and captured national interest. Delta Lakes had been identified as a strategic site for employment and growth and provided the foundations for what was considered would be one of the largest infrastructure opportunities the County was ever likely to see.

Arising from the aforementioned the authority had been approached by KNS (Kent Neuro Science Ltd), a company with a proven track record for similar developments within the health, medicine and wellness sector. Accordingly the Chair welcomed representatives from KNS, Swansea University and ARUP to the meeting and each gave a presentation on the concept of a Wellness and Life Science Village and its wider benefits for the economy of the area.

Following the presentations the representatives were thanked for attending and withdrew from the meeting.

The scale of the proposal and its likely economic benefits to the County were reiterated following which it was recommended that an exclusivity agreement be entered into with KNS to enable negotiations and a full business case to be further developed.

Tribute was paid to the work undertaken by officers in regard to the scheme to date.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that an exclusivity agreement be entered into with the third party developer, KNS, Kent Neuroscience Ltd. with a view to ensuring the aspirations of the Wellness and Science Village within Carmarthenshire.

CHAIR

DATE