

CABINET

20 DECEMBER 2021

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

Councillors:

C.A. Davies, G. Davies, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, P.M. Hughes, P. Hughes-Griffiths, D.M. Jenkins and J. Tremlett.

Also in attendance:

Councillor D.M. Cundy.

The following Officers were in attendance:

W. Walters, Chief Executive;
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services;
R. Mullen, Director of Environment;
N. Daniel, Head of ICT and Corporate Policy; Interim Head of Planning;
J. Jones, Head of Regeneration;
L. Morris, Senior Press Officer;
L. Jenkins, Executive Board Support Officer;
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer;
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer;
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer.

Virtual Meeting:- 10:00am - 10:40am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor L.M. Stephens.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interests.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE 6TH DECEMBER 2021

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 6th December, 2021 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 had been received.

6. MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT - 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

The Cabinet considered an update report on the treasury management activities and the prudential indicators for the period 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Mid-Year Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report for 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021 be approved.

7. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2022-23

The Cabinet considered the Council Tax Base 2022-23 report. Cabinet Members were reminded that the Council was required to determine, on an annual basis, its Council Tax Base and the Council Tax Base of each community within its area, for the purpose of calculating the level of Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year and, under the provisions of Section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Authorities Executive Arrangements (Functions and Responsibilities) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2004, the annual calculation had been delegated to the Cabinet.

The calculation of the Tax Base for the County Council for 2022-23 was detailed in Table 1a and summarised in Table 1b, which were appended to the report. The calculation for individual Town and Community Council areas for 2022-23 was summarised in Table 2 and detailed in Appendix A, which were also appended to the report.

Cabinet Members noted that the Tax Base report provided calculations which were Authority-wide as well as broken down into all community and town council areas for their precept purposes and that the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2022-2023 had been calculated at £74,698.57.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that

- 7.1 the Council Tax Base calculations for the financial year 2022-23 as detailed within Appendix A of the report be approved;**
- 7.2 a Council Tax Base of £74,698.57 as detailed within tables 1a and 1b of the report, be confirmed in respect of the County Council area;**
- 7.3 the relevant tax bases for the individual community and town council areas, as detailed in table 2 of the report be confirmed.**

8. CARMARTHENSHIRE ADMISSIONS FORUM - MEMBERSHIP

The Cabinet received a report on the membership of the Carmarthenshire Admissions Forum which explained that in accordance with the LA appointment policy for Admissions Forum Members, there was a requirement to review core members and school members of the Forum every 4 years and that the last full membership review took place in Autumn 2017.

It was reported that typically, the renewal of membership would fall in sync with the County Council members elections however, due to the Welsh Government elections in 2021, the local Council elections were delayed a year to 2022. Therefore, in order to comply with the Welsh Government School Admissions Code, there was a need to re-elect the core members for the period from November 2021 to the Local Government Elections in May 2022. Cabinet Members noted that receipt of confirmation had been received from the Welsh Government that re-appointment of existing members was acceptable.

The report proposed that all existing core elected members be re-elected for the period November 2021 to May 2022. This approach had been supported by the Carmarthenshire's Admissions Forum at its meeting held on 25th November 2021.

A full review of the Forum members would take place following the County Council elections in May 2022 and every 4th year after that.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the current elected member representatives on the Panel, as detailed within the report be re-appointed to the Admissions Forum up to the 9th May 2022.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL (15TH SEPTEMBER 2021) - ACOUSTIC CAMERAS

Cabinet Members received a report which detailed a Notice of Motion on the matter of acoustic cameras, which was referred to Cabinet from Council on 15th September 2021.

It was reported that since September 2021, research into the use of acoustic cameras by other local authorities had taken place with a view to understanding how these could be implemented within Carmarthenshire. The research revealed that in the main there were two significant challenges in terms of resourcing and coverage.

Cabinet Members were informed that mobile acoustic cameras had not been developed yet and that they had to be hardwired onto a lamp post. Relocating hardwired acoustic cameras to specific areas of complaint could be resource intensive and costly. In addition, Cabinet Members noted that to purchase and install four acoustic cameras across the County, it would cost the Council an estimated £110,000+ with a significant additional resource cost to maintain. This cost was deemed a financially disproportionate way of dealing with the issue.

It was further reported that at present, only 5% of the Councils complaints were attributed to vehicle noise and that each complaint was investigated accordingly with a local resolution being sought.

In recognising that loud vehicle noise was an issue which affected some residents, Members concurred that currently the most cost-effective method of managing this would be to continue to favour the local approach at present, by continuing with the current proactive approach and liaising with Dyfed Powys Police as and where necessary.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that

- 9.1 the Notice of Motion on Acoustic Cameras referred from Council on 15th September 2021 be received;**
- 9.2 the current proactive approach and the number of complaints received on this matter continue to be monitored.**
- 9.3 a report be presented to the Cabinet in 12 months should there be a marked increase in complaints any significant changes in terms of technological developments.**

10. NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL (8TH DECEMBER 2021) - 101 CALL SYSTEM

Cabinet Members received a report which detailed a Notice of Motion on the matter of the 101 call system, which was referred to Cabinet from Council on 8th December 2021.

Cabinet Members were informed that Dyfed Powys Police were currently seeking to procure an Integrated Communication Control System and Contact Management Solution which included the telephony platform for the Force Control Room based at Headquarters, Carmarthen. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys would shortly be receiving tenders from suitably qualified and experienced organisations for the supply, implementation, support and maintenance of a Contact Management Solution.

In considering that Dyfed Powys Police had committed to procure a new Integrated Communication Control System and Contact Management Solution, it was proposed that the Cabinet write a letter to the Chief Constable to acknowledge and encourage his intention to improve the current 101 call system. The proposal was duly seconded.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Cabinet write a letter to the Dyfed Powys Police Chief Constable to acknowledge and encourage the installation of a new solution as an improvement upon the current 101 call system.

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no items of urgent business.

12. 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.

13. TRANSFORMING TOWNS PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 12 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act).

The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report contained detailed information about particular business and financial affairs. In this case, the public interest in maintaining the above exemption under the 1972 Act in respect of this report outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information contained therein, as disclosure could undermine the Council's position in subsequent negotiations and adversely impact upon the public purse.

The Cabinet Members considered a report which detailed information in relation to the strategic acquisitions of properties utilising the Transforming Towns Placemaking funding.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

13.1 that the acquisition of properties utilising Transforming Towns Placemaking funding be approved

13.2 to delegate authority to the Head of Regeneration and Head of Administration and Law, in consultation with Cabinet Members with responsibility for Regeneration and Resources, to finalise and complete the proposed acquisitions;

13.2 to delegate authority to the Head of Regeneration, in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services and the Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Resources, to acquire alternative properties of a strategic nature that would add value to the Council's town centre regeneration proposals, in the event that the properties identified in this report (Table 1) cannot be purchased and to ensure maximum grant spend.

CHAIR

DATE