

CABINET

MONDAY, 25 JULY 2022

PRESENT: Councillor L.D. Evans (Vice Chair in the Chair)

Councillors (In Person):

C.A. Davies	G. Davies	P.M. Hughes	G.H. John
A. Lenny	E.G. Thomas	A. Vaughan Owen	

Councillors (Virtually):

J. Tremlett

Also in attendance (Virtually):

Councillor D. Cundy

The following Officers were in attendance (In Person):

W. Walters, Chief Executive
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services
A. Williams, Head of Waste and Environmental Services
D. Hockenhill, Marketing and Media Manager
H. Morgan, Economic Development Manager
C. S. Higginson, Media Manager
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator
J. Owens, Democratic Services Officer [Minute Taker]

The following Officers were in attendance (Virtually):

J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities
I. Jones, Head of Leisure
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer
J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

Chamber - County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP and remotely: 10.00 - 10.52 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D. Price.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Declaration Of Interest</u>
W. Walters, Chief Executive	12 - Oriol Myrddin Capital Project	Husband works for one of the contractors on the framework.

3. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

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

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

5. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF)

The Cabinet considered a report which detailed the level of funding to be provided to Local Authorities across the South-West Wales region over the next 3 years in accordance with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) priority areas.

The Cabinet's endorsement was sought on the South-West Wales Regional Investment Plan set out at Appendix A to the report, which had been co-ordinated by Swansea Council as the lead Authority on behalf of the South-West region, for approval by the UK government and for delivery of the Fund thereafter.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT:

- 5.1 The steps taken to date to enable the County to benefit from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) be endorsed;
- 5.2 The Regional Investment Plan for South-West Wales, which set out how the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) will be used in the region between 2022/23 and 2024/25, be approved prior to its submission to UK Government.

6. CARMARTHENSHIRE NATIONAL URDD EISTEDDFOD 2023

The Cabinet considered a report which provided information on the National Urdd Eisteddfod to be hosted by Carmarthenshire in 2023. It was noted that the event had been postponed from 2021 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Cabinet acknowledged the benefits that would be derived in terms of the economic well-being of Carmarthenshire, and the contribution to the development of the Welsh Language in the county which was reflective of the commitment to support the aspiration of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050. In this regard, reference was made to the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) recently approved by the Minister for Education and Welsh Language, which set out the Council's development of the Welsh language provision in its schools for the next 10 years.

The Cabinet noted the request made by the Urdd for possible additional support to ensure the successful management of the event in light of the changes made following the coronavirus pandemic. In this regard the Authority's staffing implications were considered by the Cabinet. Reference was made to a Service Level Agreement which would be developed between the Authority and the Urdd to ensure that the best possible experience is given to the children, young people, and residents of the county during the 12month preparation period and during the week of the event.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

- 6.1** That financial support be provided to the Carmarthenshire 2023 National Urdd Eisteddfod, with a financial contribution of £80,000 to be made to the Urdd Eisteddfod;
- 6.2.** That support be provided to the National Urdd Eisteddfod in accordance with the services listed in the report;
- 6.3** The Marketing and Media Manager be appointed to lead on the project, with quarterly reports submitted to the Cabinet.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE CROSS PARTY ADVISORY PANEL

Further to minute 9.2 of the meeting held 4th July 2022, consideration was given to a report on the proposed terms of reference and membership for the Climate Change Cross Party Advisor Panel, which was being established to support the Authority's approach to climate change and nature emergency.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the membership and terms of reference of the cross party Climate Change Advisory Panel detailed within the report be approved.

8. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT & PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2021/22.

As part of the requirements of the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Cabinet considered the Council's Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report for the 2021-22.

The Council adopted the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy and the five year capital programme for 2021-22 on the 3rd March 2021. The Annual report listed the activities that took place in 2021-22.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report for 2021-22 be adopted.

9. COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT.

The Cabinet considered the Council's Revenue Budget Monitoring Report which provided members with an end of year financial position in respect of 2021/22.

It was reported that the final outturn figures indicated an underspend for the year at departmental level of £5,345k (and included the effect of the overbudgeted pay award for April 2021). After taking account of capital charges and the movement in Earmarked and Departmental reserves, the net position for the Authority was a £1,433k underspend.

Cabinet noted that the underspend was, in the main, attributable to factors which related to the coronavirus pandemic. In this regard, it was reported that substantial additional grant funding had been received from Welsh Government before the year end, and further coronavirus-related costs had been largely refunded under the Welsh Government hardship scheme. It was also explained that some capital financing under expenditure had been utilised to address significant pressure points on in-year capital project budgets. Furthermore, it was recognised that some services had been paused or reduced due to coronavirus restrictions as well as staffing vacancies during the reporting period which had contributed to the underspend.

Consideration was given to the Housing Revenue Account appended to the report at Appendix B which conveyed an underspend of £8,907k for 2021/22. A synopsis of the main variances was provided to Cabinet in respect of repairs and maintenance, supervision, management and support, provision for bad debt, capital financing charges, grant funding and income.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Council's Revenue Budget Monitoring for Year End 2021-22 be received.

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972.

The Chair advised that no items of urgent business had been received.

11. 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 item as the report contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

12. ORIEL MYRDDIN CAPITAL PROJECT

The Chief Executive, W. Walters having earlier declared an interest in this item, departed the meeting.

Following the application of the public interest test it was RESOLVED pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 11 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 respect of this report outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information contained therein as disclosure would undermine the Council's position in the procurement process and unfairly prejudice the preferred contractor in the wider marketplace.

The Cabinet considered a report which provided information in respect of the development of the Oriel Myrddin Gallery.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the recommendations as outlined in the report in order to support the development of the Oriel Myrddin Gallery.

CHAIR

DATE