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Notice of the Decisions of the **Meeting of the Cabinet** held at the Council Chamber, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron and remotely on **Tuesday, 18 February 2025**

This Notice is published at 5.00pm on Thursday, 20 February 2025. Requests to call-in any decision to be delivered to the Head of Democratic Services by 5.00pm on Thursday, 27 February 2025. The decisions will come into force (if no valid call-in application is received) on Friday, 28 February 2025.

PRESENT: Councillor Bryan Davies (Chair), Councillors Catrin M S. Davies, Clive Davies, Keith Henson, Wyn Thomas, Matthew Vaux and Alun Williams.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Shelley Childs, Euros Davies, Marc Davies, Amanda Edwards, Elaine Evans, Elizabeth Evans, Gwyn Wigley Evans, Keith Evans, Raymond Evans, Wyn Evans, Hugh Hughes and Gareth Lloyd.

(10.00am - 12.13pm)

155 **Apologies**

- i. Councillor Gareth Davies, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement apologised for his inability to attend the meeting due to other Council commitments.
- ii. James Starbuck, Corporate Director apologised for his inability to attend the meeting.

156 **Chair's Announcements**

- i. A warm welcome was extended to Debbie Evans to her first Cabinet meeting following her appointment as Corporate Manager - Service Accountancy.
- ii. The Leader apologised to Cymdeithas Aberaeron Society following his comments at the Cabinet meeting held on 21 January 2025 related to the relocation of Aberaeron Library.

157 **Disclosure of Personal/ Prejudicial Interests**

- i. Councillor Matthew Vaux declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to item 165 and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.
- ii. Councillor Keith Henson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to items 168 and 169 and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matters were being discussed.

158 **To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Cabinet and any matters arising from those Minutes**

To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Cabinet held on 21 January 2025.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

- 159 Any petitions received: "Residents of Lon Glan-y-Mor, Borth who are signatories to the letter concerning the current state of the road"**
It was noted that the above petition had been received and would be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines in the Petitions Protocol.
- 160 Reports of any decisions (if any) having been called in from Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
None.
- 161 Any feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee not otherwise on the agenda**
None.
- 162 To note the feedback from each Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
To note the feedback from each Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 163 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon the 25/26 Revenue Budget and the Multi Year Capital Programme**
DECISION:
1. To note that Mid & West Wales Fire Authority's approved 25/26 Fire levy for Ceredigion County Council is £5.836m (being an increase of 7.3%), which results in a £301k cost pressure on the Council's 25/26 Budget (equivalent to a c0.6% Council Tax increase for Ceredigion residents).
 2. That, in light of the publication of the Independent Cultural Report, a request is made to the Fire Authority for the Chief Fire Officer to attend a future meeting of either Full Council or the Overview & Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee or Governance & Audit Committee.
 3. To approve the schedule of Fees & Charges to be effective from 01/04/25 as outlined in:
 - a) Appendix 1
 - b) Appendix 2
 - c) Appendix 3
 - d) Appendix 4
 4. To recommend to Full Council that:
 - a) the 25/26 Budget Requirement is £209.234m.
 - b) the level of the 25/26 Council Tax for County Council purposes is a 9.9% increase, which would equate to a Band D increase of £170.88 (being £14.24 per month).
 - c) the updated Multi Year Capital Programme, as presented to Cabinet on 21/01/25, is approved.
 - d) the Capital Strategy, as presented to Cabinet on 21/01/25, is approved.
 5. To note that if the Final Settlement is different to the Provisional Settlement (i.e. the inclusion of a Funding Floor), then a revised Budget and Council Tax recommendation will be presented to Full Council.

Reason for the decision:

To enable the 2025/26 Budget preparation to continue, so that Budget papers and Council Tax calculations can be prepared for the Full Council meeting on 03/03/25.

164 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon the Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 and the MRP Policy for 2025/26

DECISION:

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To recommend to Full Council:
 - a) the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy for Borrowing and Investments for 2025/26
 - b) the approval of the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2025/26; and
 - c) that Council delegates authority to the Section 151 officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement, to amend the Treasury Management Strategy, and Investment Schedule, during the course of the year.

Reason for the decision:

To set a Treasury Management Strategy and Minimum Revenue Policy for 2025/26.

165 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon Welsh Government's Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2025-26

DECISION:

To adopt the Welsh Government's Non-Domestic Rates - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2025-26 (appendix 1) as a Discretionary Non- Domestic Rates Relief under Section 47 of the Local Government Act 1988, effective from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026.

Reason for the decision:

To support local businesses using available grant funding.

166 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Legal and Governance upon the Revised Coroner Pay Arrangements for 2024/25 and pay arrangements for 2025/26

DECISION:

1) 2024-2025: (1/4/24-31/3/25)

That Cabinet approves the revised pay rate for 2024-2025: (1/4/24-31/3/25) as follows:

Senior part-time Coroner:

- i. Retention Salary of £22,755 p/a to cover retention/out of hours service availability from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.
- ii. Using the daily rate of £502 to pay the Coroner an annual salary of £12,550 (@25 days pa including training days)

Total annual sum £35,305.00 per annum (plus on-costs).

Assistant Coroner:

- full day: £428
- half day: £214

2) 2025-2026 – (1/4/25-31/3/26)

That Cabinet approves the pay arrangements for 2025-2026: (1/4/25-31/3/26) as follows:

a) Senior part-time Coroner:

- i. Retention Salary of £22,755 p/a to cover retention/out of hours service availability from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.
- ii. Using the daily rate of £502 to pay the coroner an annual salary of £12,550 (@25 days pa including training days)

Total annual sum £35,305.00 per annum (plus on-costs).

iii. Office expenses/business support allowance - £500

b) Assistant Coroner:

- full day: £428
- half day: £214

Travel/Mileage

0.45p per mile.

Reason for the decision:

Compliance with relevant legislation and JNC Circulars, mitigation of challenge and safeguarding public funds.

167 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Economy and Regeneration upon the Ceredigion Local Development Plan 2007-2022 Interim Guidance Note 2024

DECISION:

To approve the Ceredigion Local Development Plan 2007-2022 - Draft Interim Planning Guidance Note: Housing January 2025 (Appendix 1), and subsequent publication.

Reason for the decision:

- To provide information to supplement the implementation of the Council's planning policies to deliver affordable homes in larger and smaller settlements to meet the needs of the communities.
- To help to deliver the Corporate Strategy (2022 – 2027) objective 'Creating Sustainable, Greener and Well-connected Communities'.

168 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cymorth Cynnar upon the Common Allocations Policy (Draft) including feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DECISION:

- To adopt the revised Common Allocations Policy (Appendix 1), effective from Summer 2025.

- To note the feedback from the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for the decision:

To enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duty to ensure social housing is allocated to those who are in most housing need.

169 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cymorth Cynnar upon the HSG Floating Support Sheltered Accommodation Tender

DECISION:

To approve the award of the HSG Floating Support Sheltered Accommodation contract to Tenderer 1, as outlined in Appendix 1.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure a continued level of Housing Support is provided to residents of the relevant Sheltered Accommodation Schemes.

170 EXEMPT ITEM

The report relating to item 169 on the agenda, Appendix 1, is not for publication as it contains exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007. If, following the application of the Public Interest Test, the Council resolves to consider this item in private, the public and press will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration, in accordance with Section 100B(2) of the Act.

Members were requested when dealing with the item, to consider whether the item should remain exempt and whether to exclude the public and press from the Meeting.

DECISION:

Having considered the public interest test, that the item should remain exempt.

Not to exclude the public and press from the meeting.

Reason for the decision:

The document was not discussed in public.

171 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cymorth Cynnar upon the Age-Friendly Employer Pledge including feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DECISION:

- To approve that Ceredigion County Council signs up to the Age-Friendly Employer Pledge as outlined in the report.
- To note the feedback from the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for the decision:

As a demonstration of Ceredigion County Council's commitment to improving the workplace experience for those employees over 50 years of age.

172 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Lifelong Learning upon the LA Representative on Governing Bodies

DECISION:

To confirm the nomination outlined in the report as LA representative on the Governing Body of the relevant School.

Reason for the decision:

To nominate representatives of the LA on Governing Bodies.

173 To note the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cynnal upon the CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group Safeguarding Report - Quarter 2 2024/25 including feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet noted the report and the feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

174 Any other matter the Chairman decides is for the urgent attention of the Cabinet

None.

Confirmed at the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 March 2025

Chairman:_____

Date:_____