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NP15 1GA

County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 12 January 2021

Notice of meeting / Hysbysiad o gyfarfod:

Investment Committee

**Wednesday, 20th January, 2021 at 12.00 pm,
Remote Meeting**

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for absence	
2.	Declarations of interest	
3.	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	1 - 4
4.	Performance Review	5 - 14
5.	Risk Registers	15 - 20
6.	AOB	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

D. Batrouni
P.A. Fox
R.J.W. Greenland
P. Murphy
J.Watkins
S. Howarth

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

- Gall pobl hŷn fyw bywyd da
- Pobl â mynediad i dai addas a fforddiadwy
- Pobl â mynediad a symudedd da

Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

- Camddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau ddim yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl
- Teuluoedd yn cael eu cefnogi
- Pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel

Ein sir yn ffynnu

- Busnes a menter
- Pobl â mynediad i ddysgu ymarferol a hyblyg
- Pobl yn diogelu ac yn cyfoethogi'r amgylchedd

Ein blaenoriaethau

- Ysgolion
- Diogelu pobl agored i niwed
- Cefnogi busnes a chreu swyddi
- Cynnal gwasanaethau sy'n hygyrch yn lleol

Ein gwerthoedd

- **Bod yn agored:** anelwn fod yn agored ac onest i ddatblygu perthnasoedd ymddiriedus
- **Tegwch:** anelwn ddarparu dewis teg, cyfleoedd a phrofiadau a dod yn sefydliad a adeiladwyd ar barch un at y llall.
- **Hyblygrwydd:** anelwn fod yn hyblyg yn ein syniadau a'n gweithredoedd i ddod yn sefydliad effeithlon ac effeithiol.
- **Gwaith tîm:** anelwn gydweithio i rannu ein llwyddiannau a'n methiannau drwy adeiladu ar ein cryfderau a chefnogi ein gilydd i gyflawni ein nodau.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Investment Committee held
at on Monday, 14th September, 2020 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillors: D. Batrouni, P.A. Fox, R.J.W. Greenland,
P. Murphy, S. Howarth and J.Becker

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Davies	Chief Officer, Resources
Deb Hill-Howells	Head of Commercial and Integrated Landlord Services
Matt Phillips	Head of Law/ Monitoring Officer
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Nicholas Keyse	Estates Surveyor, Estates

APOLOGIES:

Councillors J.Watkins

1. Declarations of interest

None.

2. Assessment of commercial risk appetite

The Chief Officer for Resources presented an assessment of commercial risk appetite and given current challenges brought forward a set of proposals.

The current economic climate – recommendations:

- **To pause any investment activity that falls outside the county boundary or fails to meet the aspirations of the Council.**
- **Proceed with new investments in boundary at this time only if supported by grant funding and where commercial risk is seen as acceptable when weighted against policy aims.**
- **This pause would give greater certainty around the property/investment market and surety around the Council's financial standing.**

Members agreed that this made sense in the current climate. There would be more control by remaining within the county boundary.

Councillor Howarth raised concerns around risks around grant funding and asked that officers come back for further discussion if full grant funding becomes available. It was confirmed that would be the case, and if a scheme comes forward with a potential of grant funding for commercial investment this would be brought through Investment Committee. Where there may be a case that does not require the Council to match fund, this may be a matter Council and Cabinet rather than Investment Committee.

Councillor Batrouni questioned if stopping investments out of county was a political decision. He added that this should be the time to be open to opportunities, while the market is down. He

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Investment Committee held at on Monday, 14th September, 2020 at 2.00 pm

also asked why reference was only being made to grant funding and not funding from other organisations. **ACTION – amend to refer to contributions.**

In response to the points made the Chief Officer explained that we do not have the bandwidth as a Council at the current time to be able to withstand any further downslide. In taking more speculative investments naturally introduces more risk.

With regard to out of county, he explained that policy and objective would fall away and you would be looking at investment for commercial gain and the Council is in not in a position to take that exposure at this time.

A move to dispose of assets - Recommendations:

- **To sell remaining Council sited in the current LDP**
- **Identify surplus operational and investment assets**

This did not refer to Castlegate or Newport Leisure Park.

Councillor Batrouni agreed it makes sense to dispose of assets and adjust accordingly but questioned if we were changing the strategy of the committee.

It was noted these were unprecedented times and we need to be responsible as a leadership and flexible in our thinking.

The Chief Officer explained we are not looking to curtail activity but narrowing scope at this time.

Councillor Howarth agreed that this would be suitable for the short term and asked to see a list off assets under consideration.

Establishing a Development Company – recommendation:

- **To pause any further consideration**

Councillor Becker stated that he was hearing about quantitative rather than qualitative and suggested that we are a point where we could look to gain capital receipts but remaining selective.

Councillor Batrouni opposed to the recommendation. He asked why this was happening now. He referred to the different models and pipeline sites and asked for sight of these to provide a better understanding.

He questioned the decision to leave the housing market given current house prices.

The Leader was supportive of the development company and hoped for deeper conversation in the future.

A role in driving economic growth – recommendation:

- **That any decision to sell rather than develop RLDP sites is one for future consideration**

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Investment Committee held at on Monday, 14th September, 2020 at 2.00 pm

3. Audit Committee Recommendations - Progress Update

The Committee received a report to provide members of the Investment Committee with an update on the progress made to implement Audit Committee recommendations agreed at their meeting on the 19th March 2020.

The Committee resolved to agree the recommendations:

To agree the revised terms of reference as contained in Appendix 1.

That a risk register is prepared and reviewed as a standing agenda item on future meetings.

The constitution is amended to reference the Investment Committee and its delegated functions.

Officers and technical advisors to complete declaration of interest forms when attending Investment Committee.

Members of the Investment Committee and supporting Officers to undertake an annual review of any training needs and appropriate training implemented.

All future investment proposals are to consider environment impacts of the proposed investment within the business case.

4. To exclude press and public

5. Investment portfolio Review

The report provided members of the Investment Committee with a position statement on the performance of the investment portfolio and the impact of Covid 19.

The Committee resolved to agree the recommendations in the report.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Investment Committee held
at on Monday, 14th September, 2020 at 2.00 pm**

6. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February were confirmed as an accurate record.

The meeting ended at 4.25 pm

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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