

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on 06 November 2018

Present:

- Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister (Chair)
 - Alun Davies AM
 - Mark Drakeford AM
 - Vaughan Gething AM
 - Lesley Griffiths AM
 - Ken Skates AM
 - Kirsty Williams AM
 - Jeremy Miles AM
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- Shan Morgan, Permanent Secretary
 - Peter Greening, Head of Cabinet Division
 - Toby Mason, Head of Strategic Communications
 - Jo Salway, Deputy Director Cabinet Office
 - Madeleine Brindley, Special Adviser
 - Kate Edmunds, Special Adviser
 - Andrew Johnson, Special Adviser
 - Rachel Maycock, Special Adviser
 - Huw Price, Special Adviser
 - Jane Runeckles, Special Adviser
 - Alex Rawlin, Special Adviser
 - Christopher W Morgan, Cabinet Secretariat (minutes)
 - Damian Roche, Cabinet Secretariat
 - Tracey Burke, Director General for Education and Public Services (item 4)
 - Claire Germain, Head of Local Government Partnerships Policy (item 4)
 - Carol Harris, Project Manager - Electronic Registers of Common Land (observer)

Apologies:

- Julie James AM

Item 1: Minutes of the previous meeting

1.1 Cabinet approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Item 2: First Minister's items

UK Government's Budget

2.1 It was reported that there was very little in terms of a consequential from the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent Budget, as it included the previously announced additional funding for the NHS. In fact, this original consequential had been reduced by £32m leaving only an additional £165m to allocate over two years.

2.2 The Cabinet Secretary for Finance advised Ministers that he would provide an oral report to Cabinet the following week on a package of measures for Local Authorities, in line with the commitment to provide extra financial support to Local Government. A paper setting out the full suite of allocations arising from the consequential would be presented to Cabinet on 20th November.

Item 3: Government Plenary Business

3.1 Cabinet discussed the contents of the Plenary Grid and noted that, in the absence of the Leader of the House, the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs would deliver the Business Statement that afternoon.

Item 4: Future Role of the Community and Town Council Sector in Wales

4.1 The Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services introduced the paper, which asked Cabinet to note the outcome of the Independent Review on community and town councils and to agree the proposed policy approach.

4.2 The Review of the community and town council sector had been established in July 2017. The panel, jointly chaired by former Assembly Members, Gwenda Thomas and Rhodri Glyn Thomas, had spent around a year gathering evidence from a range of stakeholders.

4.3 The final report, which had been submitted in early October, made the case for retaining the community and town council sector in Wales and that its contribution should be significantly enhanced.

4.4 It was recommended that the proposed policy approach should be based around strengthening community and town councils by creating an enabling and permissive environment where they could, and should, play a greater role based upon local need. This would be within the framework of a national statement of ambition which recognised the diversity of the sector.

4.5 Cabinet welcomed the paper and agreed that community and town councils provided a valuable service for residents. However, it would be wrong to impose structures or create councils where they were not needed or wanted.

4.6 Cabinet approved the paper.

**Cabinet, Plenary and Committee Secretariat
November 2018**