

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 25th November, 2015 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor B.Stephens – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	P.Griffiths	K.A.Privett
P.Baccara	(Mrs.)E.Hanagan	S.Rees
(Mrs.)T.A.Bates	G.Holmes	S.Rees-Owen
D.R.Bevan	G.E.Hopkins	(Mrs.)A.Roberts
J.Bonetto	J.S.James	J.Rosser
S.A.Bradwick	P.Jarman	G.Smith
J.Bunnage	(Mrs.)S.J.Jones	R.W.Smith
A.Calvert	R.Lewis	G.Stacey
S.Carter	(Mrs.)C.Leyshon	R.K.Turner
A.Crimmings	R.B.McDonald	G.P.Thomas
W.J.David	C.J.Middle	L.G.Walker
C.Davies	K.Montague	(Mrs.)J.S.Ward
J.Davies	A.Morgan	P.Wasley
G.R.Davies	B.Morgan	M.Weaver
S.Evans	M.A.Norris	E.Webster
S.M.Evans-Fear	I.Pearce	D.H.Williams
M.Forey	S.Powderhill	C.J.Willis
M.Griffiths	M.J.Powell	R.Yeo

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Bradshaw – Chief Executive
Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mr.c.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet Office & Public Relations
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors H.Boggis, (Mrs.)J.Cass, A.L.Davies, MBE, (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, (Mrs.)L.De Vet, J.Elliott, M.Forey, A.S.Fox, P.Howe, S.Lloyd, S.Pickering, J.Rosser, M.J.Watts, (Mrs.)M.Webber, W.D.Weeks, C.J.Williams and T.Williams.

65 PETITION

The Mayor announced that he had received a petition from residents in Llanharry concerning various issues in the area.

66 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor L.G.Walker declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 11 – Notice of Motion – “I claim mileage allowance and a close relative is employed by the Authority who also claims mileage”.

67 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Leader of the Council wished to thank Members and Officers who had sponsored both the Deputy Leader and himself in taking part in the Llamau Sleep Out 2015. Together, they had raised nearly £1,000 for the charity. He also wished to thank the Manager of Tesco, Upper Boat who had donated, hats, scarves and gloves which would be given to homeless people.
- (2) County Borough Councillor L.G.Walker appealed to Members and Officers to donate £1 in the box being circulated at the meeting, to assist in raising funds to be donated to Velindre Hospital by the family of Rhian Griffiths, who had sadly lost her battle with cancer at the age of 23. To date, the family had raised £160,000.
- (3) County Borough Councillor G.Holmes was pleased to announce that nearly £4,000 had been raised at the concert that was held at Llantrisant Leisure Centre on the 13th November, 2015 for the Llantrisant War Memorial Campaign. He also thanked Tesco, Talbot Green for the prizes that were donated for the raffles.
- (4) The Mayor announced that Councillor (Mrs.)J.Cass had recently undergone surgery and was now out of hospital. Members wished to pass on their best wishes to Councillor Cass and hoped that she would have a speedy recovery.

68 MINUTES

RESOLVED - to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 28th October, 2015 .

OPEN GOVERNMENT

69 STATEMENTS

There were no statements from the Council Leader or Cabinet Portfolio Holders on this occasion.

70 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

(1) From County Borough Councillor P.Baccara to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture and Leisure (County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings)

“Would the Cabinet Member please explain why, when new recycling bags are needed, our refuse operatives fail to see the red stripe and leave a new supply. These bags are sometimes available in outlets such as my Post Office, libraries etc. but the supply is always limited due to space. Food bags are almost impossible for the public to get yet we are putting stickers on wheelie bins warning of a £1,000 fine if they contain food. How can we blame and fine the public for the lack of recycling compliance when we as an authority fail to keep to our end of the deal and provide the bags needed?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings

Since we implemented fortnightly waste collections in June 2013 the demand for recycling bags has increased and this is borne out by our recycling figures – which is positive news. There has also been extra demand for recycling bags for green waste that was not predicted for this time of year. As a result we have found that our crews do run out of bags quicker than normal. We have asked crews to use their discretion and to ensure the distribution of bags is spread out across their schedules.

Unfortunately, there are times when the crews will and do run out of bags and there is very little we can do about this and it is solely down to demand.

We have recently reviewed the stock required by our distribution points and concluded that the number of food bags required is low compared to how many clear sacks are required. Having reviewed the latest round of deliveries, we can also see that very distribution point has had a delivery of clear and food bags in the last few weeks and is stocked regularly.

We are keen to have distribution points across the borough and welcome any suggestions particularly from areas that do not have any/many points. These points do not have to be commercial businesses, they can also be residents. The full list of distribution points can be seen on the website.

Finally, we have received a lot of feedback on the Council's distribution of bags and as such we are currently costing how much it would cost the Council to deliver bags to all properties at intervals throughout the year. As a Council who are making cuts we have to be sure that this cost will reap benefits in terms of increasing recycling and diverting waste away from landfill (and landfill tax).

On the issue of fining – we only fine as a last resort.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Baccara

“Do all of the outlets that supply recycling bags, keep the full range, including “dog” bags, nappy bags and bottle bags?”

Response from Councillor A.Crimmings

Nappy bags are on request but the other bags should be at the distribution points.

(2) From County Borough Councillor P.Jarman to the Cabinet Member for Council Business (County Borough Councillor M.Webber)

“As Cabinet Member for Council Business, will you make a statement on your areas of accountability and responsibilities?”

Note: In the absence of Councillor Webber, the Mayor stated that Councillor Jarman would receive a written response.

(3) From County Borough Councillor R.Yeo to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)

“Will the Leader provide an update on the development of the South Wales Metro within Rhondda Cynon Taf?”

Response from the Leader

“The first phase of the Metro - £67M and this Authority has been very successful in gaining substantial funding for projects such as work in Upper Boat, Sardis Gyrotory system and work is currently underway in Porth with a new Park & Ride –nearly £2M of investment. We have been very successful as in total we have received in excess of £8M over the last couple of years and still developing further projects. An announcement from the Welsh Government is imminent and there will be a consultation process. Officers have been actively engaged in the next stage of the Metro”.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Yeo

“That is a positive response. Is there any potential for the railway at Tynant?”

Response from the Leader

“We were successful in gaining nearly £100,000 to carry out further detailed feasibility work on that line. Analysis carried out for the area by Welsh Government and Cardiff City Council in their LDP and a case is being built in for that line. When the next announcement is being made about the Metro, hopefully that line will appear on the map and an indication of funding levels and timescales”.

(4) From County Borough Councillor S.Rees to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)

“Will the Leader give the Council an update on the implementation of the Social Services and Well-Being Act?”

Response from the Leader

“I have attended a number of meetings with the Welsh Government and Officers and Cabinet Members have also been involved. Training events have also been held. We are trying to make sure that we will be ready, as an authority, to meet the demands of the Act, which will come into force in April of next year, especially in relation to helping people staying in their own homes”.

Supplementary Question from Councillor S.Rees

“Are we working with the Local Health Board?”

Response from the Leader

“I have only attended one meeting with Merthyr Tydfil Council and the Local Health Board, but Cabinet Members meet on a regular basis with Merthyr and Officers. Councillors M.Forey and G.Hopkins keep me updated”.

(5) From County Borough Councillor P.Griffiths to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)

“What progress is being made by local authorities in the region of South Wales by working together collaboratively to achieve shared goals?”

Response from the Leader

“The ten local authorities in South East Wales have worked very well to get where we are. Six months ago people didn’t think we would get to a common agreement but we played an active role in Rhondda Cynon Taf in the process. The `ask` has gone into UK Government and we will be covering this, later on in the meeting. If this comes off and we get the full `ask` - £580M from Welsh Government and £120M contribution from the 10 local authorities – a potential pot of £1.28bn for the ten authorities We used to have SEWTA and we also have the Education Consortium. There are lots of positives and individual relationships that we are building in discussions with two other authorities on how we can share services. Also in discussion with the Police on how we can partner with them on back office. Overall local government is stepping up to the mark and RCT is trying to collaborate with other authorities wherever we can”.

Supplementary Question from Councillor P.Griffiths

“Would you agree that the Welsh Government has schizophrenic tendencies as it approaches collaboration between local authorities.

When we have successful collaboration as in the case of the Education Consortia or the South East Wales Transport Alliance they respond by seeking to abolish the local authorities or the Alliance.

The much welcomed City Deal again puts collaboration between local authorities centre stage in shaping the destiny of our communities but the reaction of the Welsh Government again appears to be chaotic.

The Welsh Government last week welcomed the City Deal as a pioneering new partnership among local authorities. This week it published its Local Government Bill and stated that there should be a memorandum on the establishment of any new collaboration and partnerships.

Do you have a remedy for the apparent schizophrenia within Welsh Government?"

Response from the Leader

"I haven't had time to read the full Bill as it is 640 pages. We are not ending new partnerships and it doesn't stop this authority at looking at new opportunities, if we can save money and that is what we should do, despite the proposed merges. We should try and save money regardless of what the Welsh Government does or doesn't do as far as mergers.

REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE SERVICES

71 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15 – COMPLETION OF AUDIT

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services indicated that in accordance with the requirements of The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations, the unaudited accounts were certified by himself by the 30th June, 2015 following financial year end. The Council also approved the audited accounts on the 30th September, 2015 which were also in accordance with the regulations.

It was further reported that the Auditor General for Wales had concluded his work on the matter raised by a member of the public and the elector concerned had been informed that the Auditor could not accept the objection and that no further formal audit action was proposed. As a result there were no changes to the accounts as presented to and approved by Council on the 30th September.

RESOLVED –

1. To note the final audit report on the 2014/15 accounts as shown at Appendix 1 to the report.
2. To re-approve the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2014/15 as required by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations, 2014.

JOINT REPORTS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

72 THE COUNCIL'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

In their joint report the Chief Executive and the Director of Human Resources advised the Council of changes to the Senior Management structure since the meeting of Council held on the 29th October, 2014, following consideration by the Cabinet on the 6th October, 2015 and reported to the Appointments Committee on the 12th November, 2015.

RESOLVED –

1. To **Note:**
 - 1.1 the changes that have already occurred in respect of the Council's Senior Management structure since October, 2014 as a result of implementation of the 2014 restructure and `Expression of Interest` exercise, as shown at Appendices 1(i), 1(ii), 1(iii), 1(iv.a) and 1(iv.b);
 - 1.2 that there has been a reduction of 3.6 FTE's in Chief Officer positions and whilst the savings from this reduction have already been accounted for within the relevant service groups, there has been an estimated reduction in resultant management costs of £242,689 (inclusive of on-costs);
 - 1.3 that connected with the changes in 1.2 above, there has been an associated reduction of 5 FTEs at the GR15 (extended Senior Management Team) grade level. Whilst savings from this reduction have already been accounted for within the relevant service groups, there has been an estimated reduction in resultant management costs of £278,834 (inclusive of on-costs);
 - 1.4 that whilst savings have already been accounted for there is a temporary estimated reduction in management costs at a Chief Officer level of £132,476 (inclusive of on-costs);
 - 1.5 that from 1st November, 2015, the revised directorate structures shown at Appendices 2(i), 2(ii), 2(iii), 2(iv.a) and 2(iv.b) have been agreed by Cabinet, which will achieve an overall reduction of 2 FTEs Chief Officer posts, with an estimated new saving of £123,276 (inclusive of on-costs);
 - 1.6 the new temporary estimated savings of £55,766 (inclusive of on-costs) following the temporary appointment of the Service Director – Children's Services on 4th September, 2015 and the successful applicant's existing post not being formally filled:
 - 1.7 that as a consequence of a change of post title there was a formal creation of a Service Director – Adult Services x 1 FTE post (Service

Director – Level 1) and Service Director – Adult Services x 0.4 FTE post (Service Director – Level 1)

- 1.8 that following an amalgamation of roles, the post of Director – Corporate Estates & Procurement Services (Director – Level 1) was created;
 - 1.9 the creation of a Service Director – Corporate Design & Maintenance (Service Director – Level 2) post; and
 - 1.10 that discussions are ongoing in terms of the Council's Chief Officer and associated management costs which may result in further savings. It is envisaged that a further report will be presented to the Council's Cabinet in early 2016.
2. To note the decisions taken by the Appointments Committee on the 12th November, 2015 as follows:-
 - 2.1 in line with the change of post title the Appointments Committee resolved that the existing employees namely Mr.Neil Elliot and Mr.Robert Gatis be assigned to the roles of Service Director – Adult Services x 1FTE post (Service Director – Level 1) and Service Director – Adult Services x 0.4 FTE post (Service Director – Level 1) respectively w.e.f. 13th November, 2015;
 - 2.2 that due to a strong contractual claim in place, the Appointments Committee resolved that Mrs.Gaynor Davies who has been acting in a temporary capacity be formally slotted into the role of Service Director – Access, Engagement & Inclusion (Service Director – Level 2), w.e.f. 13th November, 2015;
 - 2.3 that as Mr.Colin Atyeo (currently Director of Corporate Estates) would have a strong employment claim against the role of Director of Corporate Estates & Procurement Services (Director – Level 1), the Appointments Committee resolved that he be formally assigned into that role w.e.f. 13th November, 2015;
 - 2.4 that as Mr.David Powell would have a strong employment claim against the role of Service Director – Corporate Design & Maintenance (Service Director – Level 2), the Appointments Committee resolved that he be formally assigned into that role w.e.f. 13th November, 2015; and
 - 2.5 that in accordance with the revised Senior Management structure for the Council agreed by Cabinet in October, 2015, the Appointments Committee formally resolved to delete the following posts:
 - i) Service Director – Adult Services & Short Term Intervention (Service Director – Level 1);
 - ii) Service Director – Direct Services, Business & Housing (Service Director – Level 1);

- iii) Service Director – Procurement Services (Service Director – Level 2);
- iv) Head of Transportation (Head of Service – Level 1)
- v) Head of Corporate Design & Maintenance (Head of Service – Level 1);
- vi) Head of Employment Services (Head of Service – Level 1);
- vii) Head of Short Term Intervention (Head of Service – Level 2);
- viii) Head of Rhondda Locality (Head of Service – Level 2);
- ix) Head of Cynon Locality (Head of Service – Level 2);
- x) Head of Taf Locality (Head of Service – Level 2);
- xi) Head of Legal Property (Head of Service – Level 2);
- xii) Head of Corporate Asset Management (Head of Service – Level 2)
- xiii) Head of Music (Soulbury Grade)

- 3 that delegated authority be given to the Director, Legal & Democratic Services to make the consequential changes that are required to be made to the Council's Constitution as a result of implementation of the above initiatives.

73 CHIEF OFFICER VER & REDUNDANCY PACKAGES

In their joint report, the Chief Executive and the Director of Human Resources sought the Council's approval of a Chief Officer severance package, as detailed in the report, as recommended by the Council's Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Panel following its meeting held on the 16th November, 2015 and in accordance with the Council's approved 2015/16 Pay Policy statement.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to approve the recommendation from the Council's VER Panel of a Chief Officer severance package, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the report, in accordance with the Council's approved 2015/16 Pay Policy statement.

(Note: County Borough Councillors C.Davies, G.R.Davies, S.Evans-Fear, P.Jarman, I.Pearce, S.Rees-Owen, M.Weaver and E.Webster wished to have recorded the fact that they abstained from voting in the above matter.

Further Noted: That County Borough Councillors J.James and M.J.Powell voted against the above decision).

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

74 ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES 2016-18

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services sought Members' consideration to the minor revisions to the current Statement of Principles for the Gambling Act 2005 (to reflect legislative changes only), as outlined in the report that was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on the 24th November, 2015; and it was **RESOLVED** –

1. to note the view of the Licensing Committee in respect of the current Statement of Principles, which is considered to continue to be 'fit for purpose';
2. that the Council considers that the revised Statement of Principles for the Gambling Act 2005, has been updated to reflect legislative changes only;
3. to approve the changes made, and to adopt the revised Statement of Principles with effect from the 31st January, 2016 for a period of three years (unless subject to interim review).

(Note: At this juncture in the proceedings, the Deputy Mayor occupied the Chair as the Mayor had to attend a function in his role as Mayor)

75 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors L.Walker and P.Wasley was considered:-

"This motion asks that the Cabinet reconsider its decision to pay a mileage rate of 35p per mile which is 10p below the H.M.R.C. rate of 45p per mile, in the interests of efficiency and fairness to the Council's employees".

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – not to adopt the above Notice of Motion.

76 URGENT ITEM – THE CITY DEAL – BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS

With the permission of the Deputy Mayor, Members received, for information, the report of the Chief Executive, which had also been presented to Cabinet at its meeting held on the 24th November, 2015.

The report updated Members on the progress of the ten South East Wales local authorities in developing and securing a City Deal with Welsh Government and the UK Treasury Department of the UK Government and the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council gave their observations thereon.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to note the progress to date and the estimated timescales to get the full agreement of all parties to complete the City Deal.

77 URGENT NOTICE OF MOTION

In accordance with paragraph 10.5.1 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, the following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors A.Morgan, K.Montague, L.M.Adams, (Mrs.)T.A.Bates, P.Cannon,QPM, S.Carter, (Mrs.)J.Cass, A.Crimmings, W.J.David, A.L.Davies,MBE, (Mrs.)A.Davies, J.Davies, (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, (Mrs.)L.De Vet, J.Elliott, S.Evans, M.Forey, A.S.Fox, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, G.E.Hopkins, (Mrs.)S.J.Jones, W.L.Langford, R.Lewis, (Mrs.)C.Leyshon, S.Lloyd, R.B.McDonald, C.J.Middle, B.Morgan, M.A.Norris, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, K.A.Privett, S.Rees, (Mrs.)A.Roberts, J.Rosser, G.Smith, R.W.Smith, G.Stacey, B.Stephens, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, R.K.Turner, G.Thomas, (Mrs.)J.S.Ward, M.J.Watts, M.Webber, W.D.Weeks, C.J.Williams, D.H.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo was considered, the reason for the urgency being that Members needed to be made aware of the proposal to close Pontypridd Driving Test Centre:

"This Council opposes the closure of Pontypridd Driving Test Centre by the Department of Transport.

The proposal would see the removal of this facility from not only Pontypridd but the Rhondda and Cynon Valleys who currently use the centre as a result of its central location. The proposed new location does not offer the same accessibility for the County.

This Council therefore calls on the UK Department for Transport to consider its decision and to invest in a new Driver Test Centre for Pontypridd in a central location. This Council will write to the relevant Minister asking for this reconsideration".

Following consideration of the urgent Notice of Motion, it was **RESOLVED** – to adopt the Notice of Motion.

**B.STEPHENS
MAYOR**

**R.LEWIS
DEPUTY MAYOR**

The meeting closed at 7.10 p.m.

These Minutes are subject to approval at the next Meeting of the Council in January, 2016