

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of the meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 5 p.m.

**PRESENT**

County Borough Councillor B Stephens – in the Chair

**County Borough Councillors**

L M Adams	D R Bevan	H Boggis
J Bonetto	S A Bradwick	A Calvert
S Carter	(Mrs) A Crimmings	W J David
(Mrs) A Davies	C Davies	G R Davies
(Mrs) L De Vet	J Elliott	S M Evans
M Forey	A S Fox	M Griffiths
P Griffiths	G Holmes	G E Hopkins
P Howe	P Jarman	(Mrs) S J Jones
W L Langford	R Lewis	(Mrs) C Leyshon
C J Middle	K Montague	A Morgan
B Morgan	M A Norris	M J Powell
S Rees	S Rees-Owen	J Rosser
G Smith	G Stacey	(Mrs) J S Ward
P Wasley	(Mrs) M Webber	E Webster
W D Weeks	D H Williams	R A Yeo

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr C Bradshaw – Chief Executive  
Mr C Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services  
Mr T Wilkins – Director, Human Resources  
Mr P J Lucas - Director of Legal & Democratic Services  
Mr N Jones – Service Director, Operational Finance

**114. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors P Baccara, (Mrs) T A Bates, J Bunnage, A L Davies MBE, J Davies, (Mrs) M E Davies, S MJ Evans-Fear, (Mrs) E Hanagan, S Lloyd, K Morgan, I Pearce, S Pickering, R W Smith, (Mrs) M Tegg, R K Turner, G Thomas, M Weaver, T Williams and C J Willis.

**115. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

County Borough Councillor P Jarman declared that she had been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2016/17 budget process.

**116. PETITION**

County Borough Councillor G Holmes presented the Mayor with a petition signed by all residing in the hamlet of Rhiwsaeson calling on the Council to introduce traffic restrictions. He also provided a copy of the petition for the Leader of the Council.

**117. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 February 2016.

**OPEN GOVERNMENT**

**118. STATEMENTS**

- (1) The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan, reminded Members of the Council's decision to implement the Living Wage of £7.50 per hour on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 which had benefited around 3600 employees. He informed Members that as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 this would rise to £7.85 per hour.
- (2) The Leader of the Council also updated Members on progress in relation to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. He reported that matters were progressing at pace and it was likely that an announcement would be made some time the following week. It was hoped to have an agreement on the Heads of Terms in a matter of days but these will come before Full Council in due course. However, a letter would be sent to all Members outlining the terms.

**REPORT OF THE CABINET**

**119. COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN – INVESTMENT PRIORITIES**

The Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services reported on the conclusions of a further review as requested by Cabinet, of Council Reserves as part of the setting out of the 2016/17 budget strategy, alongside the projected out-turn position for this financial year (quarter 3 2015/16) and the new Corporate Plan 2016-2020).

The Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services reported that as a result of the review it was proposed that a total sum of £8.92M could be released from reserves. He also explained that the Quarter 3 performance report presented to Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 projected a year end revenue position of £2.403M underspend.

The Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Service reported that Cabinet, having carefully considered the options available around the use of these resources totalling £11.329M, had identified a number of specific areas which align with the priorities contained within the Council's new Corporate plan and

explained that Paragraph 6 (Table 1) of the report set out those areas which it was proposed that the Council agree to invest in.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

- (i) to release the reserves as detailed at paragraph 4 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the use of the quarter 3 projected underspend as detailed at paragraph 5 of the report; and
- (iii) that the reserves and underspend released are used to fund the investments priorities as detailed in paragraph 6 (Table 1) which will be incorporated into the Capital Programme and Revenue Budget as appropriate.

## **REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES**

### **120. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2017**

The Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services provided Members with details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

- (i) to note the final Local Government Settlement as published on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 in Appendix 1 and its implications for this Council as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report;
- (ii) to note the level of precept from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales;
- (iii) to note the level of the Community Council Precepts, as detailed in Appendix 2;
- (iv) to pass the formal Council Tax resolutions for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, as contained in Appendix 3 of the report;
- (v) to note the comments upon robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves as detailed at paragraph 9.2 of the report.

**(Note:** County Borough Councillor M J Powell wished to have recorded that he voted against the above the above decision which he felt was iniquitous to those areas of the County Borough with community/town councils supporting services which would otherwise be funded by the Council resulting in a rise in precepts)

**B STEPHENS  
MAYOR**

The meeting closed at 6.05 pm.

