



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 16 January 2019 at 5.00 pm at The Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park. Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

Councillor M Adams	Councillor S Belzak
Councillor R Bevan	Councillor H Boggis
Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor G Caple
Councillor A Chapman	Councillor A Cox
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor J Cullwick
Councillor A Davies-Jones	Councillor G Davies
Councillor J Davies	Councillor L De Vet
Councillor M Diamond	Councillor J Elliott
Councillor S Evans	Councillor M Forey
Councillor A Fox	Councillor H Fychan
Councillor E George	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor M Griffiths	Councillor J Harries
Councillor L Hooper	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor J James
Councillor P Jarman	Councillor M Fidler Jones
Councillor G Jones	Councillor K Jones
Councillor W Jones	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor D Macey
Councillor A Morgan	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor M Norris
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor W Owen
Councillor S Pickering	Councillor M Powell
Councillor S. Rees-Owen	Councillor S Rees
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor J Rosser
Councillor R Smith	Councillor G Stacey
Councillor E Stephens	Councillor G Thomas
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor R Turner
Councillor L Walker	Councillor M Weaver
Councillor M Webber	Councillor D Williams
Councillor G Williams	Councillor T Williams
Councillor C Willis	Councillor R Yeo

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr C Lee, Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr A Wilkins, Head of Legal - Corporate & Democratic Services

93 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors A.Calvert, G Holmes, M Tegg, T Leyshon, S Powell, E Webster, S.M.Evans, L. Jones, J Williams and P Howe.

94 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, following personal declarations of interest were made pertaining to the agenda:-

In respect of agenda item 7 - Welsh Church Act Annual Reports 2017/18:-

- County Borough Councillor R Bevan – – “I have a duty to approve/not approve Welsh Church Act Fund applications in my capacity as Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development and Housing”
- County Borough Councillor A.Morgan – “A Community Organisation that I am involved with has previously benefited from the grant”
- County Borough Councillor S Rees – “A Community Organisation that I am involved with has previously benefited from the grant”
- County Borough Councillor M.Norris – “A Community Organisation that I am involved with has previously benefited from the grant”
- County Borough Councillor J. Rosser – “A Community Organisation that I am involved with has previously benefited from the grant.”
- County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings – “A Community Organisation that I am involved with has previously benefited from the grant
- County Borough Councillor M. Fidler-Jones – “A Community Organisation that I am involved with has previously benefited from the grant.”
- County Borough Councillor J.Elloitt – “A Community Organisation that I am involved with has previously benefited from the grant.”
- County Borough Councillor S.Pickering – “A Community Organisation that I am involved with has previously benefited from the grant”
- G.R.Davies – “I am the Secretary of Blaencwm Church which has previously received funding.”
- County Borough Councillor G Caple – “My wife is the treasures of the Trehafod Community Village Hall that has previously applied for a grant.”
- County Borough Councillor W Treeby – “I am on the Nos Galan Committee which has previously applied for funding.”

In respect of agenda Item 8 – Local Council Tax Deduction Scheme:

- County Borough Councillor P Jarman referred to her dispensation granted by the Standards Committee on the 23rd November, 2018.

“To speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2019-2020 Budget process in capacity as Leader of the Opposition.”

95 PRESENTATION

The Council received Wing Commander S Rowley and Flight Lieutenant A Cole, who presented the Council with a framed photo following the conferment of the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf upon MOD St Athan and all local service personnel of the Royal Air Force, Past and Present, on the 2nd June, 2018. The Mayor welcomed the presentation on behalf of the Council and reciprocated with a plaque for the Freedom of the Borough to the Officers, celebrating the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the MOD St Athan and centenary of the Royal Air Force.

Members commented positively upon the bestowment, the parade that was undertaken and the celebratory event that took place during June within the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and also spoke of their appreciation of the work undertaken by the RAF and all armed forces personnel on behalf of the people.

96 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Borough Councillor S Pickering handed the Mayor a petition in respect of traffic calming measures at Pleasant View, Ynysybwll.
- County Borough Councillor A Cox handed the Mayor a petition (on behalf of County Borough councillor J Williams) in respect of traffic calming measures and pedestrian safety at Cymer Road, Porth.
- County Borough Councillor P Jarman made a moving tribute to the late Steffan Lewis AM. Councillor Jarman advised the Council that it was with pride and sadness that she paid this tribute, advising that Mr Lewis was a Member of the National Assembly for Wales from 2016, although many of them knew him since he was a teenager. She commented on his sharp mind, inspiration and intuition, commenting that he was a man before his time. She added that he was respected across all parties and outside of politics was a loving husband, father, son and brother, leaving behind his wife Shona and 3 year old son, Celyn. Councillor Jarman commented on Mr Lewis' pain, bravery, courage and determination throughout his illness, giving courage to many. She commented on the difference Mr Lewis made to many, adding that he was an anchor, a rock and hero to many, but would always be remembered as the boy from Gwent. Councillor Jarman concluded her tribute by reciting a poem from Helen Lowrie Marshall 'After Glow'.

The Leader also paid tribute to Mr Lewis AM, following which Members stood for a minute silence as a mark of respect.

97 MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 28th November, 2018 as an accurate reflection of the meeting subject to the following amendment:

- Minute No 82 (5) – To omit County Borough Councillor James' reference to SLA's within his supplementary question.

98 STATEMENTS

Statement from the Leader of the Council in respect of Brexit.

The Leader provided Members with an update in respect of the development of Brexit, concentrating on preparations being undertaken by local authorities in Wales rather than the discussions taking place at West Minister. The Leader referenced a Local Government Sector meeting that he had attended with the Wales Brexit Minister, First Minister and other partners including police and the NHS, adding that the meeting focused on the potential situations with a 'No Deal Brexit'. The Leader referenced the potential challenges to be faced not with just the economy but for services on a day by day basis. Reference was made to civil contingency planning and the attempts to plan for the unknown.

The Leader continued by advising of the focus in respect of fuel and food provision and the message to 'work together' with private businesses to limit impact, although he acknowledged that there would potentially be disruption at the Ports. The Leader stressed the importance of reassuring the public not to panic buy fuel and food provisions.

In respect of the precautions taken forward by the Authority in relation to food supplies for schools, nursing homes within the County Borough etc he advised that a procurement review with suppliers was being undertaken as regards contingency plans in the event of a no deal scenario. The Leader also commented on the Local Resilience Forum which meets on a regular basis, also looking at contingency planning. The Leader proceeded to advise Members of the announcement by Welsh Government of funding for additional staff to work with Authorities to assist them in any contingency planning, commenting that currently officers had been trying to undertake this work on top of their everyday job. He added that the UK Government had received 1,500 additional staff to assist them with such undertaking and Welsh Government had gained a further 200 staff whilst Local Authorities had received no additional staffing to assist them. The Leader added that Welsh Government had recognised the need for extra support and the need for dedicated staff to assist and liaise with partners going forward.

In respect of businesses the Leader advised of a £7.5m business resilience fund that was being made available, that businesses could apply to for grants if they could demonstrate the impact Brexit would have on their business.

The Leader concluded his statement by acknowledging the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, although he confirmed that Welsh Government and Local Governments were reviewing all that they could and were attempting to plan to mitigate as much as possible for the future.

a) Question from County Borough Councillor S. Rees to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“How is this Council supporting infrastructure developments in the northern Cynon Valley area?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader commented upon the work being undertaken in conjunction with Welsh Government in the Northern Cynon Valley area, referencing the dualling designs on the A465. He added that discussions had been taken forward which he was keen to develop in respect of the Aberdare bypass, leading up to the Croesbychan junction to facilitate the Cynon gateway North, commenting on the lobbying by many Members on this development. He advised of the discussions that had taken place with Welsh Government in respect of the future phase of the metro with the extension to the rail service up to Hirwaun commenting on the need to develop the rail infrastructure to support this development. The Leader also referenced investment of Robertstown Industrial Estate. The Leader concluded by advising that a lot of work had taken place looking at Aberdare, the Abernant tunnel which he would like to reopen in conjunction with the Rhondda Tunnel.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor S Rees:

Cllr Rees welcomed the Llwydcoed bypass and asked for further detail on the Robertstown Business Units development?

Response from County Borough A Morgan

The Leader referenced the works taking place within Aberdare confirming that the Council were committed to the development and also referenced the funding opportunities through the local transport intervention fund with bids across the Authority submitted. In respect of the Business Units the Leader added that these were subject to planning permission, although advised that potentially 21 units would be developed. He explained that the units would be starter units for businesses which were currently in short supply across the County Borough. The Leader advised Members that he had already been contacted by businesses interested in the units.

b) Question from County Borough Councillor H. Boggis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Will the Leader make a statement on the work of the Valleys Task Force?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader advised that the Valleys Task Force had been in place for the last 18 months / 2 years and had resulted in lots of positive engagement with communities and stakeholders in key areas for investment. He added that the Taskforce was taking a different direction from previous valley focused initiatives in delivering real improvements for communities that are bespoke for the area. He referenced national policies and the need for these to change. He referenced the development of hubs through the valley gateway project and the large substantial capital value coming through due to the bid development projects.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor H Boggis.

Councillor Boggis welcomed the Leader's reference to the Discovery Gateway project and sought an update in respect of Dare Valley Country Park status as a gateway destination.

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader agreed that Dare Valley Country Park was an exemplar of how a park could benefit a local area. He confirmed that both Dare Valley and Ynysangharad War Memorial Park were two projects that had been taken forward as a discovery gateway project. He added that £7m was available across the region in respect of the project, although he was unable to give an exact figure on the number of projects that were being taken forward across the region. The Leader spoke positively on the success of the Dare Valley Country Park which was popular with visitors, through the use of its campsite, caravan park and the potential to improve further and expand on the provisions available. The Leader advised of further bids being sought in respect of Dare Valley Country Park and Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and added that further updates in respect of these bids would be provided by the relevant Cabinet member when appropriate.

c) Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“What action is the Council taking to protect and improve key structures across the Rhondda?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader confirmed that key structures across the County Borough had received investment and listed the following to Members:

- Penrhys retaining wall
- Pontygwaith river wall
- Pontypridd Road retaining wall, Porth

The Leader continued by talking of the schemes planned for investment and design:

- Brook Street Footbridge (Ystrad)
- St Albans Bridge (Tynewydd)

- Britannia bridge

The Leader concluded by adding that lots of infrastructure improvements and upgrades were being looked at across the County Borough.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor W Lewis:

Councillor Lewis asked the Leader to provide an update in respect of Pontrhondda Bridge.

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader advised that work was being undertaken in respect of Pontrhondda bridge advising that the temporary footbridge was now in place and the main structure had now been removed. He added that there had been a slippage in timelines due to issues with ground conditions with completion set for May 2019.

d) Question from County Borough Councillor S. Pickering to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“How can the residents of Ynysybwyl benefit from the facilities developed through the tech hubs within Pontypridd and Treforest as announced by the Valleys Task Force in 2017.”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader advised that funding of £24m had been put forward across the region for a number of projects and the Leader was hopeful that the wider Pontypridd area would be identified within these projects. He commented on the new investment taken forward with Taff Vale and Treforest in addition to private business investment, commenting on the DWP office development. The Leader referenced the tech hub project and the current bid being taken forward, advising that an architect had been engaged to see how the hub would look like going forward. The Leader commented that in addition the hubs would bring forward high quality jobs to the County Borough and also provided opportunities for start-up businesses, for those businesses who were not able to have their own accommodation, providing flexibility and development. The Leader commented on the potential of 7000 jobs being available and confirmed that an update would be provided by the relevant Cabinet member once secured.

e) Question from County Borough Councillor H Fychan to the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, County Borough Councillor L M Adams :

“Has Overview and Scrutiny ever scrutinised and evaluated the outcomes and impact of projects and services developed under the RCT Together programme?”

Response from County Borough Councillor L.M Adams

Councillor Adams advised that from a number of perspectives scrutiny had received information in respect of the RCT Together process, including an update through the Council's Accommodation Strategy, and reflective scrutiny on service change decisions. Information had also been presented by the Cabinet Member as part of their now formalised scrutiny engagement sessions with the relevant committee.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor

Councillor Fychan asked whether the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny would agree that the RCT Together project in respect of the 'Muni', Pontypridd asset transfer should be scrutinised as a matter of urgency, to see if the transfer was the right thing to do, to look at the decision to transfer and to scrutinise the different models available before the Council commit to making the same mistake again.

Response from County Borough Councillor Adams

Councillor Adams commented that the Muni was a privately limited company with a range of community partners. He added that should members of Overview wish to include this in their future work programme he would be happy to give this a matter of priority.

WORK PROGRAMME

100 COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services advised Members of the updates taken forward to the Council Work Programme and confirmed that with the agreement of the Mayor the scheduled February Council meeting would be cancelled due to limited business. The Director confirmed that the next meeting of Council would take place on the 6th March, 2019.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

101 WELSH CHURCH ACT ANNUAL REPORTS 2017/18

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services sought the approval of Members of the Statement of Accounts for the Welsh Church Act Fund for the financial year ended 31st March, 2018; and it was **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve and note the Welsh Church Act Fund Annual Report and Financial Statements for the financial year 2017/2018 as attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
2. To approve and note the Letter of Representation relating to the Welsh Church Act Fund as attached at Appendix 2 of the report.
3. To note the contents of the External Auditor report, as attached at appendix 3 of the report.

102 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

In accordance with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in Wales as set by regulations made under Schedule 1B of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 (as inserted by the Local Government Finance Act, 2012) and the approval by the National Assembly for Wales of two sets of regulations (as set out in the report) on the 26th November, 2013, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services sought the approval of Members to adopt a Council Tax Reduction Scheme by the 31st January, 2019.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To note the amendments to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 (“the Prescribed Requirements Regulations”) by the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (the “Amendment Regulations”) that came into force on 9th January 2019, following approval by the National Assembly for Wales (NAfW) at Plenary on 8th January 2019;

2. To note the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken by the Council on the local discretions applicable to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2019/20;

3. To adopt the provisions of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations and any amendments made to those regulations made by the Amendment Regulations as the Council’s local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2019/20 subject to the local discretions that the Council is able to exercise as set out in (4) below;

4. To confirm the following as local discretions applicable to the Council’s local CTRS as provided for within Part 5 of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations:

Discretionary Parts of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations <i>(Part 5 – Other Matters that must be included in an authority’s scheme)</i>	Prescribed Requirements Regulations (Minimum Requirement)	Recommended Discretion to be adopted

<p>Ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to applicants where they have previously been receiving a Council Tax reduction that is to end, as they have ceased receiving qualifying benefits as a result of returning to work, increasing their hours of work, or receiving increased earnings.</p> <p><i>Regulation 32 (3) paragraph (33) of Schedule 1 and Regulation 33 (3), paragraph (35) and (40) of Schedule 6.</i></p>	<p>4 Weeks</p>	<p><u>Pensioners:</u> The standard period of 4 weeks specified in paragraph (33) of Schedule 1 will apply, and</p> <p><u>Non- Pensioners:</u> The standard period of 4 weeks specified in paragraph (35) and (40) of Schedule 6 will apply,</p>
<p>Ability to backdate an application for CTR with regard to late claims prior to the standard period of 3 months before the claim is made.</p> <p><i>Regulation 34 (4) and paragraph (3) and (4) of Schedule 13.</i></p>	<p>3 Months</p>	<p><u>Pensioners:</u> A period of 6 months will apply,</p> <p><u>Non-Pensioners:</u> A period of 6 months will apply,</p>
<p>Ability to disregard more than the statutory weekly £10 of income received in respect of War Disablement Pensions and War Widow's Pensions (disregarded when calculating income of the applicant);</p> <p><i>Regulation 34 (5), paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b) Schedule 4 and paragraphs 20(a) and 20(b) of Schedule 9</i></p>	<p>£10</p>	<p><u>Pensioners:</u> The total value of any pension specified in paragraphs 1 (a) and (b), Schedule 4 will be disregarded.</p> <p><u>Non-Pensioners:</u> The total value of any pension specified in paragraphs 20 (a) and (b), Schedule 9 will be disregarded.</p>

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

103 OUT & ABOUT TWO: THE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF 2019-2029

As in accordance with the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Group Director, Community & Children's Services presented his report to Members seeking approval of the Out & About Two: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf as endorsed by Cabinet.

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the 'Out & About Two: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf 2019-2029'.

(**N.B** the Leader of the Council refrained from voting in respect of the item as he left the meeting whilst the item was being discussed).

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

104 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a), the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services reported on the urgent decisions that were taken forward through key delegated decision during the period October – December 2018 and it was **RESOLVED** to note the information contained within the report.

105 CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with the decision taken by Minute No 10(2) of the Council meeting held on the 23rd May, 2018 the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services reported that he had received notification from the Plaid Cymru Group of changes to its membership of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Scrutiny Committee.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note that County Borough Councillor D Macey is to replace County Borough Councillor E Stephens on the Committee membership
2. That correspondence be sent to Merthyr Tydfil Council advising them of the membership change.

106 NOTICE OF MOTION

1. The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M. Forey, L.M. Adams, D.R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, G Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L. De Vet, J. Elliott, S. Evans, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries, G Hughes, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M.A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S. Pickering, S. Powderhill, S.M. Powell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, R.W. Smith, G. Stacey, M. Tegg, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R.K. Turner, M. Webber, D.H. Williams, T. Williams, C.J. Willis and R. Yeo was received was by the Proper Officer in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1(b):-

The ongoing uncertainty of the UK Government's handling of the Brexit negotiations is extremely worrying.

The European Union has provided an estimated £4bn of structural funding to Wales since 2000, with the West Wales and the Valleys region - of which this Council is situated in - qualifying for more than £2bn of EU aid alone between 2014 and 2020.

Only recently, major projects in Rhondda Cynon Taf such as the Taff Vale redevelopment (£10m) and the Coed Ely and Robertstown business units (combined £5.158m) have benefited from European funding, whilst the South Wales Metro was also

allocated £119m to progress the Phase II stage of the project. £78.4m of this funding has been allocated to delivering rail line upgrades in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

These examples highlight just how integral EU funding is to the communities making up Rhondda Cynon Taf and the wider West Wales and the Valleys region, and, whilst guaranteed assurances have been given that projects already awarded funding will be honoured, there remains major uncertainty about how key projects will be financed in the long term future. The UK Government has committed to establishing a Shared Prosperity Fund to reduce inequalities between communities across the four nations, although there have been no guarantees that Wales will not be worse off following the UK's withdrawal.

This Council:

- Notes the UK Government's disregard for Wales, evidenced through the refusal to support key projects such as the Swansea Tidal Lagoon and electrification of the South Wales mainline.
- Calls on the UK Government to ensure that the West Wales and the Valleys region continues to receive every single penny of the money that it currently receives if and when any Brexit agreement is formalised and the UK withdraws from the European Union.
- Requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the Prime Minister and the Welsh Secretary to seek assurances that this funding will be guaranteed post 2020, should the UK officially cease to be a member of the European Union on the 29th of March 2019.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion

(**N.B** Both the Labour and Plaid Cymru Members in attendance asked that it be recorded that they voted in support of the adopted Notice of Motion.)

2. The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors R. W. Smith, R. Lewis, L.M. Adams, D.R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, G Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L. De Vet, J. Elliott, S. Evans, M Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries, G Hughes, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. Jones, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M.A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S. Pickering,

S. Powderhill, S.M. Powell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G. Stacey, M. Tegg, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R.K. Turner, M. Webber, D.H. Williams, T. Williams, C.J. Willis and R. Yeo was received was by the Proper Officer in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1(b):-

Like Local Government and all other public services, Police forces in England and Wales have been subjected to significant funding cuts over the course of the last decade. This has coincided with a rise in lower-volume but high-harm crime instances since 2014, culminating in the highest number of homicides in the last decade and a steep rise in knife related crime.

In the recent Budget announcement, the UK Government pledged £160m for counter-terrorism but failed to announce any new money for vital frontline policing, and the allocation of an extra £300m announced in December's Police Settlement merely serves to dress up cuts from Central Government and passes the buck of funding for Forces to local communities by empowering Police and Crime Commissioners to raise the policing element of Council Tax. The £161m grant to be shared amongst the 43 Forces in England and Wales is inadequate, whilst the £153m grant to cover the pension contribution changes still leaves a significant shortfall for Forces to cover with the national police pension shortfall standing at approximately £420m. The blatant lack of adequate funding further increases pressure on our Police Forces, including South Wales Police, and will increase the burdens on Forces across the Country, who have already made significant savings and culled their workforce.

In light of this, the Council acknowledges that under the Conservative-led UK Government:

- Between 2010 and 2017, funding for the police in England and Wales has been slashed by around 20% in real terms.
- Since 2010, central government funding to police forces has been cut by almost a third, in real terms, leading the number of officers to fall by almost 22,000.
- The UK Government's commitment to "protect overall police spending in real terms" in the 2015 spending review has not been met as the central funding element has actually fallen in real terms. Any flat settlements for individual forces are purely contingent on local Council Tax raises which are subject to demographical constraints.
- Morale and conditions within forces have severely deteriorated. The 2018 Police Federation Pay and Conditions survey discovered that a record 7.8% of the 27,000 respondents had

taken second jobs, almost 45% worry about their personal finances, and 87.9% do not feel fairly paid after an approximate 18% pay decrease since 2009/10.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Write to the Home Secretary to convey the urgency for frontline policing to be properly funded through a long-term financial solution that reverses the severe cuts and provides much-needed relief to Police Forces across England and Wales.
- Request that a review into the current funding formula be undertaken urgently to remedy the clearly flawed arrangement that currently sees the South Wales Police excluded from receiving Capital City funding.

At the meeting, the Mayor announced that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.1 the following amendment to the Notice of Motion had been received from County Borough Councillors P Jarman, P.Jarman, G.Davies, H.Fychan, D.Grehan, A.Cox, J.Williams, M.Weaver, S.Rees Owen, J.Davies, K.Morgan, J.Cullwick, D.Macey, E. Webster, S.M.Evans, A.Chapman and E.Stephen.

Insertion at the conclusion of the original Notice of Motion:

This Council therefore resolves to:

“ Write to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Wales requesting that full Policing powers be devolved to Wales as they are in Scotland and Northern Ireland”

Following a lengthy discussion on this matter the vote was taken in respect of the Amended Notice of Motion which was lost and following the vote taken in respect of the original Notice of Motion which was carried, it was **RESOLVED** – to adopt the original Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M. Forey and L.M. Adams.

(N.B

- the Plaid Cymru Members in attendance asked that it be recorded that they voted in support of the lost amendment to

the Notice of Motion,

- Both the Labour and Plaid Cymru Members in attendance asked that it be recorded that they voted in support of the adopted Notice of Motion.)

This meeting closed at 7.50 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**