



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 6 March 2019 at 5.00 pm at the 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 R Bevan
Councillor H Boggis	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor A Calvert	Councillor G Caple
Councillor A Chapman	Councillor A Cox
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor J Cullwick
Councillor A Davies-Jones	Councillor G Davies
Councillor L De Vet	Councillor M Diamond
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor S Evans
Councillor S Evans	Councillor M Forey
Councillor A Fox	Councillor E George
Councillor M Griffiths	Councillor J Harries
Councillor G Holmes	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 C Leyshon	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor M Powell
Councillor S Powell	Councillor S. Rees-Owen
Councillor S Rees	Councillor A Roberts
Councillor J Rosser	Councillor R Smith
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor E Stephens
Councillor M Tegg	Councillor G Thomas
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor R Turner
Councillor L Walker	Councillor M Webber
Councillor E Webster	Councillor G Williams
Councillor J Williams	Councillor T Williams
Councillor C Willis	Councillor R Yeo

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr C Hanagan, Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services
Mr C Jones, Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr C Lee, Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services

107 APOLOGIES

Apologies of attendance were received from County Borough Councillors S Belzak, D Grehan, H Fychan, P Howe, L Jones, D Macey, K Morgan, S Morgans, M Norris, W Owen, S Pickering, M Weaver and D Williams.

108 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of personal interest were made at the meeting. The Members remained in the meeting when the items were discussed and voted upon:

Agenda Item 5 : Public Questions

- County Borough Councillor J Rosser –“ I was appointed at the Council's 22nd AGM (17.05.17) to the Board of Governors – Coleg Morgawngw (now Coleg Y Cymoedd) for a 4year term, but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Members Code of Council. “
- County Borough Councillor M Fidler Jones – “I am on the Governing Body of Hawthorn Primary School and Heol Y Celyn Primary School which is referenced in the C21st School proposal but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Members Code of Council.”
- Mr C Bradshaw – Chief Executive - “ I was appointed at the Council's 22nd AGM (17.05.17) to the Board of Governors – Coleg Morgawngw (now Coleg Y Cymoedd) for a 4 year term.

Agenda Item 9: Review of the Council's Senior and Associated Management Post Structure

- County Borough Councillor R Bevan – “A family Member works as a Senior Officer within the Authority although the post is not referenced within the report or the report presented to Cabinet on the 18th December 2018.”

The following officers declared a personal and pecuniary interest in this matter and left the meeting when the matter was discussed and voted upon:

- Mr C Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
- Mr C Jones – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
- Mr C Hanagan – Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services

The following officers declared personal and pecuniary interests in this matter but remained present whilst the report was considered in order to advise Council:-

- Mr C Bradshaw – Chief Executive
- Mr R Evans – Director, Human Resources

Agenda Item 10: Capital Programme

- County Borough Councillor G Davies “ I am a governor of YGG Ynyswen

named in the report but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Members Code of Council”

- County Borough Councillor R Lewis – “I am a chair of Governors at YGG Abercynon named within the report but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Members Code of Council.”
- County Borough Councillor W Lewis – “I am a Governor at Gelli Primary, named within the report but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Members Code of Council.”
- County Borough Councillor J Bonetto – “I am a Governor at Ffynnon Taf Primary School, named within the report but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Members Code of Council.”
- County Borough Councillor G Hopkins – I am a Governor of Llanharri Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Members Code of Council.”
- County Borough Councillor S Rees – I am a Governor of YGG Aberdar School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Members Code of Council.”
- County Borough Councillor D. Owen-Jones – I am a Governor of Tonyrefail Community School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Members Code of Council.”
- County Borough Councillor M Powell - “My wife works for the Council and also I am a governor of Coedpenmaen Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Members Code of Council.”

Agenda item 11: Revenue Budget Strategy

- 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.”
- County Borough Councillor J Harries – “I am a Member of the South Wales Fire Authority.”
- County Borough Councillor S Bradwick –“ I am the Vice Chair of South Wales Fire Authority.”

Agenda Item 14 A: Notice of Motion

- County Borough Councillor J Harries – “I am a Member of the Royal British Legion”
- County Borough Councillor R Smith – “I am a Member of the Royal British Legion”
- County Borough Councillor R Lewis – “I am a Member of the Royal British Legion”
- County Borough Councillor J James – “I use to work for the Royal British Legion”

109 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Mayor advised Members that the funeral of County Borough Councillor P Howe’s mother took place earlier today and on behalf of County Borough Councillor Howe the Mayor thanked all those Members that had provided him with support during this difficult time.
- The Mayor advised Members that County Borough Councillor Sue Pickering was currently undertaking the Artic Survival Challenge for Royal British Legion and wished her well with the challenge.
- County Borough Councillor R Bevan advised Members that two young men from the Rhondda, Conor Thomas of Tylorstown and John Harding had been selected for the Wales under 15’s Boys Club of Wales Squad and will be representing the country in May. Councillor Bevan added that yet again the achievements of the two young men demonstrates the incredible talent of young people from our communities in Rhondda Cynon Taff.
- The Leader, along with the Deputy Leader and County Borough Councillor P Jarman led the tributes to the three Senior officers who were shortly leaving the Authority namely Mr Chris Lee, Mr Chris Jones and Mr Colin Atyeo. Members took the opportunity to thank the three officers for their work, support and commitment to the Authority over the many years of service and wished them all well in their future endeavours.

110 MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 16TH January 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting subject to the following corrections:

- The inclusion of County Borough Councillor H Fychan Declaration of Interest in respect of the Members Questions – “ I was previously on the Board of the Muni Arts centre” to Minute No. 94
- Conclusion of Minute No.106.2 to read ‘Resolved – to adopt the original Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors R.Smith and R.Lewis.’

111 STATEMENTS

Statement from the Leader of the Council in respect of the A465.

The Leader referenced the difficulties experienced by hundreds of residents in the Cynon Valley due to the closure of the A465, advising that this road may still not be re-opened this evening. The Leader advised that he had been liaising with Cllr Thomas as local member and the Welsh Government in respect of the issues. He advised members that the issue was a trunk road agency issue caused due to a damage culvert, adding that the pumps being used by the agency were not sufficient for the volume of water needing to be pumped. The Leader categorically stated that this issue was not related to Tower Colliery as originally suggested by the Trunk Road Agency. The Leader spoke of the problem and delays facing many Cynon valley residents and commuters, some facing a 50mile detour and 3hour delay, with the addition of impacts on school run's. It was further noted that a warning had been issued under the Land Drainage Act and if action had not been taken then a legal notice would be issue. The Leader advised that he would be bringing the matter to the attention of the Minister at a meeting he was attending on the 7th March, as it was unacceptable for the road to be closed. The Leader concluded by assuring members that the Council were doing everything they could in respect of the issue although it was a matter for the Trunk Road Agency.

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

The Leader provided Members with an update since his previous statement at the January Council meeting. He advised that a survey had been taken across staff in respect of the EU settlement scheme with the costs being waived. The Council had liaised with the Trade Unions and only a very small number of staff (under ten) were affected.

In respect of food supply and the potential of disruption of service the Leader referenced work undertaken by the Councils procurement unit and WLGA. He added that fuel disruption was not anticipated unless panic buying occurred.

The Leader assured Members that everything possible was being done with discussions also being undertaken in respect of waste and potential implications in respect of recycling. Members were advised of the potential problem when driving across Europe if a no deal Brexit was taken forward due to the future need for a 'Green Card'.

The Leader referenced a further update would be provided at the 27th March Council meeting and referenced the difficulties of contingency planning for the unexpected, although confirmed that the Council were trying to plan for all scenarios as much as possible.

Statement from the Deputy Leader of the Council in respect of Lucy's Law.

The Deputy Leader referenced the Notice of Motion that was presented to Council eleven months ago in respect of third party puppy sales – Lucy's Law. The Deputy Leader added that this NOM was unanimously supported across all political parties in the Council Chamber. Member were advised that following numerous visits to Welsh Government and lobbying by herself, County Borough Councillor Leyshon and County Borough Councillor Bonetto along with Friends of Animals Wales, all Councils in Wales, apart from Monmouthshire Council had signed up to support the Notice of Motion, the first in Wales.

Members were advised that the Welsh Government were currently undertaking a 12 week consultation on banning third-party puppy and kitten sales. The Deputy Leader concluded her statement by adding that she would be continuing her fight and support until Lucy's Law was legally implemented.

Before the Public Questions were conducted the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services provided both Members and the public an overview of the process to be undertaken. The Director also advised that the subject matter of the questions was to be considered at the Cabinet meeting on the 21st March and therefore Members may not be able to comment on any aspect which may prejudice the outcome of the Cabinet decision.

1. Question received from Ms C King to the cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning, County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

Can the cabinet member for education give a statement explaining how disrupting the education of the children from Tonteg three times throughout their educational pathway, fit in with your RCT council corporate policy which states "every child should have the opportunity to have the best education available"?

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

The Cabinet Member thanked Ms King for her question and reiterated the comments of the Director of Communication & Interim Head of Democratic Services that the Cabinet would be receiving the outcome of the consultation in respect of the proposals on the 21st March and clarified that no decision on this or any proposal had yet been made.

The Cabinet Member continued by advising that pupils being educated in different schools and on different sites as they progress through their education journey is commonplace, not just in RCT but across the whole of Wales and England. The Cabinet Member concluded that in such circumstances effective transitional arrangements are key.

Supplementary question from Ms King:

From one parent to another, how would you tell your ten year old daughter that she will not be able to attend the same comprehensive school as her friendship group or big brother?

Response for County borough Councillor J Rosser:

The Cabinet Member commented that it would be inappropriate for her to comment at this time due to the prescriptive consultation process that needs to be followed and as no decision has yet to be taken.

2 Question received from Ms L Williams to the cabinet Member for Children & Young People, County Borough Councillor C Leyshon:

Could the cabinet member for Children and Young People make a statement on how the 21st Century Schools proposals which involve splitting children in Tonteg from their friendship groups, peers, and local communities, comply with the principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the UN Charter for Young People?

Response from County Borough Councillor T Leyshon:

The Cabinet Member thanked Ms Williams for her question and also reiterated that the proposals would be considered at a future Cabinet meeting. She continued by advising that the proposals were aligned with

both the aims of the future Generations Act and the UN Convention on the rights of the Child and 7 core aims as by investing within the schools and developing schools that are fit for the 21st Century, RCT Council were providing children with the best start in life, a comprehensive range of high quality education and learning opportunities. The Cabinet Member concluded by referencing the high quality play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities that are also provided.

Supplementary Question by Ms Williams:

Ms Williams commented on Article 12 of the UN Convention and the right of the child to express their views, feelings and wishes on all matters that affect them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously, which she added had not been fulfilled by RCT Council with the proposed catchment change area for Tonteg. Ms Williams continued that the children's views of Tonteg nor the school had been asked to express their views and their feelings had not been considered. She continued to ask how it was possible that the Council were able to produce an easy read document for the Councils consultation in respect of residential care services however there had been no easy read consultation on the school proposals or any approach to the children who these proposals would affect.

Response from County Borough Councillor T Leyshon.

County Borough Councillor Leyshon advised that as she was not the Cabinet Member for Education she was unable to answer the question but advised that a written response would be provided by the relevant Cabinet Member.

3 **Question received from Mr G Ward to the cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning, County Borough Councillor J Rosser:**

Could the cabinet member for education give a statement providing a detailed year by year breakdown of the numbers quoted in the 21st Century Schools proposals for numbers of children from Tonteg who are impacted by the proposed changes to Hawthorn comprehensive school catchment area.

Response from Cabinet Member J Rosser:

The Cabinet Member provided the following data in respect of Gwauncelyn Primary Pupil Numbers:

- Year 3: 53 total – 26 in catchment
- Year 2: 56 total – 26 in catchment
- Year 1: 55 in total – 33 in catchment
- Reception : 51 in total – 27 in catchment
- Nursery: 51 in total – 26 in catchment.

Supplementary Question from Mr Ward:

The Cabinet Member was asked to explain why his daughter is out of 56 pupils in her Year group the only child out of eleven children from Gwauncelyn Primary. He added that he had been reliably informed of this information by talking to the people and more importantly the children of Tonteg something which he added that

the Council had failed to do, adding that it affects only three children from Llantwit Fardre Primary and just one from Maes Y Bryn in the year 2022 ?

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

The Cabinet Member commented that she was unsure of the figures quoted adding that the figures that she had were based on the current numbers within Gwauncelyn. She add that there were also 43 pupils that live in Gwauncelyn catchment area that currently other schools that will be affected by the catchment change proposals. The Cabinet Member agreed to provide further detail to Mr Ward.

4. **Question received from Mr C Garlick to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan :**

"Could the cabinet member for transport give a statement on the safety of the current walking route that has be declared as "safe" in the 21st Century Schools Proposals between Tonteg and Hawthorn School?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader referenced the recent review that was undertaken in respect of the route which deemed the route to be 'available', which did not necessarily mean it was safe but that it was available to use. He added that if the proposals were to be taken forward then a further review would be carried out with a further review into the access and if any modifications needed these would be implemented as appropriate, or if the route was not deemed suitable then other options would be considered such as bus provision.

Supplementary question from Mr Garlick:

Mr Garlick referenced the guidance requirements that state that the views of the child should be taken into account. Mr Garlick enquired whether the views of the children would be taken into account if the proposals were taken forward and how this would be undertaken?

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader referenced the guidance brought forward by Edwina Hart and the physical inspection that would need to be undertaken if the proposals were taken forward. He also referenced the measures put in place to capture the feedback from the children and the local community. The Leader advised that any safe route review conducted by the Authority following a new school proposal always took forward a public consultation although this was not always statutory required.

5 **Question received from Mr Marshman to the cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning, County Borough Councillor J Rosser:**

"Could the cabinet member for education give a statement on why the local authority is basing its 21st Century Schools consultation on the new school code opposed to the first edition code that the welsh government indicate should of been used?"

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

The Cabinet Member advised that the new edition of the code stated that if a consultation period commenced before the 1st November 2018 then the first edition of the code was to be used. For clarity the Cabinet Member confirmed that the consultation period commenced on the 15th October, 2018. She added that the overarching legislation that determines how a Council consults is the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, adding that the School Organisation Code sits within this Act. The Cabinet Member continued by explaining that the Council had ensured that the statutory responsibilities of both editions of the Code have been met. She added that a 'belt and braces' approach had been adopted to ensure that the Council had fully complied with all statutory obligations.

Supplementary question from Mr Marshman:

Mr Marshman commented upon the importance of the School organisation code and the consultation requirements to ensure a high standards was maintained. He added that the Welsh Government guidance was clear in respect of which edition of the code should have been followed when undertaking the consultation, to which the Council had not adhered to. Mr Marshman commented that as the Council used the wrong edition of the code then the consultation was flawed and asked how parents could have confidence in the consultation when the incorrect code was used?

Response from County Borough Councillor Rosser:

The Cabinet Member advised that the Council had actually complied with both versions of the code and had therefore gone over and above the statutory requirements outlined within the process.

Before concluding the item the Mayor thanked the Members of the public for their questions to Council.

113 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

- 1. From County Borough Councillor R. Yeo to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon:**

"Will the Cabinet Member please provide Members with an update on the rollout of the Welsh Government's Childcare offer?"

Response from County Borough Councillor Leyshon:

County Borough Councillor Leyshon confirmed that this hugely beneficial scheme had been available to families across the whole of Rhondda Cynon Taf since September 2018. She added that the offer was originally administered by school catchment areas but was consequently changed to cover electoral wards to improve coverage and make it easier for parents to apply.

Members were advised that to date, the Council have received over 1,100 applications (1131) with almost 1,100 (1,095) of those being eligible to take advantage of the scheme, showing that there are a sizeable number of parents across RCT taking advantage. County Borough Councillor Leyshon concluded her response by advising that the Council were also now accepting applications on behalf of Merthyr Tydfil

Council and similarly, would be assisting Bridgend CBC in administrating their offers in April 2019.

County Borough Councillor Yeo had no supplementary question.

2. From County Borough Councillor A. Chapman to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A. Morgan):

“Will the Leader make a statement on how the Council deals with complaints of littered land in private ownership?”

Response from County Borough Councillor Morgan:

The Leader advised that there were two pieces of legislation available through Public Health and Protection and waste Services. Both powers can be utilised to require private land owners to remove any waste, including the accumulation of litter, if risk of rodents being attracted. He also added that this also applied of the litter was so extensive that the appearance of the land became an eyesore or was detrimental to the amenities in the area. The Leader referenced S87 of the Environmental Powers Act 1990 in respect of the offence to drop or leave litter, which was also reinforced through the Public Spaces and Protection Order. The Leader concluded by reiterating that enforcement was available under two pieces of legislation.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor A Chapman:

County Borough Councillor Chapman enquired as to whether the Council have powers to force enclosure of land to avoid unauthorised access for general public safety. Councillor Chapman continued to advise of the danger sites such as Cae Mawr Industrial Estate and land opposite Treorchy Co-op which poses a danger to young people and children within her ward. The Councillor Continued by adding that Cae Mawr has been described as a ‘death trap’ by local residents and land opposite Treorchy Co-op has been unkempt for many years with direct access into the river which is a particularly dangerous area.”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader advised that this didn’t come under the legislation previously mentioned but did come under the planning legislation which he termed the ‘Untidy Land Act’. The Leader continued that the Council did have powers to enforce when relating to unsafe land or structures, with statutory notices being places. The Leader referenced previous use of the legislation and a public notice to eradicate the nuisance. The Leader advised that he would address the issue with relevant officers on behalf of the Member.

3. From County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto to the Deputy Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor M. Webber):

“Can you please update Members on the Council’s schemes for supporting young people into employment in addition to apprentices and graduate schemes?”

Response from County Borough Councillor M Webber:

County Borough Councillor Webber advised of the commitment of the

Council to supporting young people and fostering employment opportunities both internally and externally, where possible. Councillor Webber advised that in addition to the Councils highly successful Apprenticeship and Graduate schemes, which have seen a combined 79 posts created since the beginning of this Council term, with a further offer of a range of other employment pathways. Members were advised that the Council had today announced that a further 25 apprenticeship posts and 9 graduate posts have been created for the next financial year to build on the excellent progress to date.

Examples of work within Secondary schools through Employability courses were provided to Members which provides preparation for the essential skills needed for entering the job market. Provision is also made to provide all secondary and SEN schools with an employer database with over 600 local employers listed who have agreed to provide work experience opportunities to young people in Years 10 to 13. Members were also provided with the internal employment programmes within the Council, with the Councillor referencing

- the Step in the Right Direction - 18 Trainees recruited with 3 securing employment; 6 completed a qualification and 3 working towards a qualification. 4 left the scheme before their 2 year contract ended.
- Care2Work - 104 young people referred to the programme with 85 enrolled and engaged. 15 secured employment and 65 entered further education or training with another 5 entering voluntary work

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor Bonetto:
Councillor Bonetto asked the Member how the Council was linking up with Transport for Wales to provide youth employment opportunities at the new depot in Taffs Well?

Response from County Borough Councillor M Webber:

County Borough Councillor Webber commented that the Council recognise that this is an excellent opportunity for young people in RCT and its intention to collaborate with Transport for Wales on this. Members were advised of the Councils Job Fair that took place earlier that day in the Councils Michael Sobell Leisure Centre, to which Transport for Wales attended. Councillor Webber advised that over 900 people had attended the Jobs fair, commenting that this was an excellent way for young people to engage. Councillor Webber concluded her response by commenting on the Centre of Excellence at the Coleg Y Cymoedd site in Nantgarw that is the only of its kind in Wales.

5 From County Borough Councillor A. Davies-Jones to the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (County Borough Councillor J. Rosser):

“Will the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the progress of the 21st Century Schools Programme in the Tonyrefail area?”

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

County Borough Councillor Rosser commented on the excellent progress that has been made in the Tonyrefail area with the development of the new Tonyrefail Community School (3-19). The primary building has been

completed and the secondary aged pupils will be in their new school after the Easter holidays. Councillor Rosser continued by advising that in addition a new Early Years building has been completed on site which provides wrap around child care. Details of YGG Tonyrefail were provided with the Member advising that the school was now housed in the former Tonyrefail Primary School with over £1M of investment undertaken to refurbish an existing school which was in a relatively good state of repair. This has provided additional capacity to grow Welsh medium provision within Rhondda Cynon Taf. In addition, the school now also houses a Welsh Early Years Unit as well as a Flying Start provision.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor Davies-Jones:

Councillor Davies-Jones commented that the residents of Tonyrefail were very pleased to see the construction complete and enquired whether there were any intentions to extend the provision at Tonyrefail Leisure Centre than was provided already

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

Councillor Rosser confirmed that lessons were being held within the centre and that there was no planned extension of this provision at the current time.

5 Question from County Borough Councillor L. Hooper to the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (County Borough Councillor J Rosser):

“Can the Cabinet Member please outline the reasons for the proposed catchment area change of Tonteg for 11-16 education?”

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

County Borough Councillor Rosser advised that the Council as part of its strategic role has to manage the supply and demand of school places and that it regularly reviews catchment changes to address any surplus capacity issues in schools and to best manage demand in areas of growth.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor L Hooper:

Councillor Hooper referenced the growth to local communities along the Church Village bypass corridor and the consequent increase in pupil numbers at Bryncelynnog although added that it was not fair to parents and pupils in the community of Tonteg to sever their traditional, natural connection to Bryncelynnog in anticipation of other local population changes. The Member welcomed the investment in Bryncelynnog which he commented was long overdue and suggested that part of that investment should be dedicated to increasing 11-16 capacity at Bryncelynnog to avoid the need for the catchment change. Councillor Hooper asked the Cabinet Member to confirm that this was an alternative proposal that the cabinet would consider and also asked for assurance that community links would be taken into consideration when the cabinet meets to consider the item later in the month.

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

Councillor Rosser advised that the Cabinet would consider all of the

responses received including the questions raised at the meeting this evening at the cabinet meeting on the 21st March, but added that she could not provide an answer to the question as this was one of three proposals and changes to catchment areas being considered. She added that to provide equitable provision of education reviews were needed to be undertaken from time to time.

114 WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services advised Members of the update to the work programme which included a verbal update in respect of Brexit at the 27th March meeting.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES

115 CHIEF OFFICER VER AND REDUNDANCY PACKAGES

Following a recommendation from the Council's Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Panel the Director of Human Resources advised Members of the one Chief Officer severance package (as detailed in the report) in accordance with the Council's approved 2018/19 Pay Policy statement.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve a Chief Officer severance package (as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report) in accordance with the Council's approved 2018/19 Pay Policy statement.

116 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED**: "That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of the exempt information as defined in paragraph 12 and 13 of Part 4 of the Schedule 12A of the Act".

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

117 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S SENIOR AND ASSOCIATED MANAGEMENT POST STRUCTURE

The Chief Executive presented his report to Members containing exempt information, which advised Council of the recent Senior Management restructure agreed by Cabinet on the 18th December 2018 and 24th January 2019. The report further requested Members to consider the recommendations emanating from the Appointments Committee meeting held on the 19th February 2019.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. That from April 2019, that the revised directorate structures shown at

Appendices 2(i), 2(ii), 2 (iii) and 2(iv) to the report will be implemented. Implementation of these revised structures will provide an overall estimated reduction in annual management costs at the Senior and Associated Management grade levels of £392,240 (inclusive of on-costs);

2. That emanating from the revised directorate structures outlined in 2.1.1 of the report, Cabinet authorised the amendment of the following posts:
 - i) To the amendment of the post of Head of Legal Services – Planning & Environment (Head of Service Level 2) to Head of Legal Services (Head of Service Level 1);
 - ii) To the amendment of the post of Service Director – Cabinet Office & Public Relations (Service Director Level 2) to Service Director – Democratic Services & Communications (Service Director Level 2);
 - iii) To the amendment of the post of Head of Payroll & Pensions (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – Pensions, Procurement & Transactional Services (Service Director Level 2);
 - iv) To the amendment of the post of Head of Audit & Procurement Delivery (Head of Service Level 2) to Head of Procurement Delivery (Head of Service Level 1);
 - v) To the amendment of the post of Service Director – Highways & Streetcare (Service Director Level 2) to Service Director – Frontline Services (Service Director Level 1);
 - vi) To the amendment of the post of Head of Streetcare (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – Streetcare Services (Service Director Level 2);
 - vii) To the amendment of the post of Head of Highways & Engineering (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – Highways & Engineering (Service Director Level 2);
 - viii) To the amendment of the post of Head of Strategic Investment Projects (Head of Service Level 2) to Head of Strategic Investments (Head of Service Level 1);
 - ix) To the amendment of the post of Head of Regeneration & Prosperity (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – Prosperity and Development (Service Director Level 2);
 - x) To the amendment of the post of Director of Financial Services (Director Level 2) to Director of Finance & Digital Services (Director Level 1);
 - xi) To the amendment of the post of Service Director – Resources & Performance Services (Service Director Level 2) to Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services (Service Director Level 1);
 - xii) To the amendment of the post of Head of ICT (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – ICT & Digital Services (Service Director Level 2);

- xiii) To the amendment of the post of Service Director – Children’s Services (Service Director Level 1) to Director of Children’s Services (Director Level 2);
 - xiv) To the amendment of the post of Service Director - Adult Services (Service Director Level 1) to Director of Adult Services (Director Level 2);
 - xv) To the amendment of the post of Head of Transformation Services (Head of Service Level 1) to Head of Children Looked After (Head of Service Level1);
 - xvi) To the amendment of the post of Head of Assessment & Direct Services (Head of Service Level 1) to Head of Care & Support (Head of Service Level1);
 - xvii) To the amendment of the post of Head of Assessment & Care Planning (Head of Service Level 1) to Head of Intensive Intervention (Head of Service Level 1);
 - xviii) To the amendment of the post of Head of Environmental Health & Trading Standards (Head of Service Level 2) to Service Director – Public Protection Services (Service Director Level 2);
 - xix) To the amendment of the post of Head of Community Learning (Head of Service Level 1) to Service Director – Community Services (Service Director Level 2); and
 - xx) the amendment of the post of Head of Participation & Engagement (Head of Service Level 1) to Head of Community Wellbeing & Resilience (Head of Service Level1);
3. That emanating from the revised directorate structures outlined in 2.1.1 of the report, Cabinet authorised the creation of the following posts:
- i) the creation of the post of Director of Legal Services (Director Level 2);
 - ii) the creation of the post of Service Director – Legal Services (Service Director Level 2);
 - iii) the creation of the post of Director of Corporate Estates (Director Level 2);
 - iv) the creation of the post of Head of Corporate Design (Head of Service Level 2);
 - v) the creation of the post of Head of Corporate Maintenance Services (Head of Service Level 2);
 - vi) the creation of the post of Head of Operational Property Services (Head of Service Level 2);
 - vii) the creation of the post of Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services (Group Director Grade); and

- viii) the creation of the post of Director of Prosperity and Development (Director Level 2);
- 4 That emanating from the revised directorate structures outlined in 2.1.1 of the report, Cabinet agreed to transfer
- i) Certain functions outlined in the Cabinet report from the Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Group (currently Corporate & Frontline Services Group) to the Chief Executive Group;
 - ii) Certain functions outlined in the Cabinet report from the Chief Executive Group to the Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Group (currently Corporate & Frontline Services Group);
 - iii) Certain functions outlined in the Cabinet report from Legal Services (currently Legal & Democratic Services) to Democratic Services & Communication (currently Cabinet Office and Public Relations);
 - iv) Certain functions outlined in the Cabinet report from Democratic Services & Communications (currently Cabinet Office and Public Relations) to Prosperity & Development Services and Public Health, Protection & Community Services; and
 - v) Certain functions outlined in the Cabinet report from Public Health, Protection & Community Services to the Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services Group;
- 5 To endorse the recommendation made by the Cabinet on the 18th December 2018 that Mr. Gio Isingrini, the Group Director for Community & Children's Services, also undertakes the role of Deputy Chief Executive effective from 11th March 2019;
6. To endorse the recommendation made by the Appointments Committee on the 19th February 2019 to Council, that in accordance with the Council's change management process, Mr. Barrie Davies is assigned to the post of Director of Finance & Digital Services (Director Level 1), effective from 11th March 2019;
- 7 To endorse the recommendation made by the Cabinet on the 18th December 2018 that the designation of the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) role be assigned to Mr Barrie Davies effective from 11th March 2019;
- 8 To endorse the recommendation made by the Appointments Committee on the 19th February 2019 to Council, that in accordance with the Council's change management process, Mr. Christian Hanagan is assigned to the post of Service Director – Democratic Services & Communication (Service Director Level 2), effective from 1st April 2019;
- 9 To endorse the recommendation made by the Appointments Committee on the 19th February 2019 to Council, that in accordance with the Council's change management process, Mr. Nigel Wheeler is appointed to the post of Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline

Services (Group Director Grade); effective from 11th March 2019;

- 10 To endorse the recommendation made by the Appointments Committee on the 19th February 2019 to Council, that in accordance with the Council's change management process, Mr. Simon Gale is appointed to the post of Director – Prosperity, Development Services, effective from 1st April 2019;
- 11 To endorse the recommendation made by the Appointments Committee on the 19th February 2019 to Council, that in accordance with the Council's change management process, Mr. David Powell is appointed to the post of Director – Corporate Estates, effective from 1st April 2019;
- 12 To endorse the recommendation made by the Appointments Committee on the 19th February 2019 to Council, that in accordance with the Council's change management process, Mr. Andrew Wilkins is appointed to the post of Director – Legal Services, effective from 1st April 2019;
- 13 To approve that the statutory role of Monitoring Officer be assigned to the Director – Legal Services;
- 14 To appoint Mr. Andrew Wilkins, as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer with effect from 1st April 2019 and Mr. Paul Nicholls be appointed as the Deputy Electoral Registration Officer with effect from 1st April 2019.
- 15 To give delegated authority 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.

(N.B. As Minute 108 refers, a number of declarations of interest were made pertaining to this item of business.)

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

118 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the report in respect of the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2021/22, following confirmation of the local government settlement for 2019/20 on behalf of the Cabinet.

Members took the opportunity to discuss many aspects of the report and the investments to be taken forward and following such discussions it was announced that the Council had been successful in its bid to host the 2022 National Eisteddfod of Wales.

Following a detailed discussion in respect of the programme it was **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the detail of the final 2019/20 local government settlement for capital expenditure, reproduced at Appendix 1 of the report;

2. To agree to the release of the Earmarked Reserve balances as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report;
3. To agree to allocate the funding released from Earmarked Reserves to the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 5.7 of the report;
4. To agree the proposed 'core' three year programme detailed at Appendix 2 of the report;
5. To agree the proposed total three-year Capital Programme, detailed at Appendix 3 of the report, which includes the following non core capital funding:
 - i. Prudential borrowing to support 21st Century School Schemes, the Taff Vale Development and Highways Improvements schemes;
 - ii. Capital grants for specific schemes;
 - iii. Third party contributions;
 - iv. Additional Council resources previously allocated to support existing schemes and Corporate Plan investment priorities;
 - v. The investment priorities detailed in paragraph 5.7 which are funded by the release of Earmarked Reserves detailed in paragraph 5.3.

(**N.B** as Minute 108 refers, a number of personal declarations of interest were made pertaining to this agenda item)

119 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the report in respect of the Council's 2019/2020 Revenue Budget Strategy on behalf of the Cabinet. The report also set out the recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of the Council's resourcing requirements, in order to assist Members to determine specific service allocations within the Council's Revenue Budget, together with the level of Council Tax for the year ending 31st March, 2020.

Following a discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the written statement from the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Julie James AM) and the table on the 2019/2020 local government settlement, reproduced at Appendix 1 of the report;
2. To note the base budget adjustments impacting in 2019/20 as summarised in Table 1 of the report;
3. To approve the budget strategy proposals as summarised in Table 2 of the report, including:
 - I. Incorporating additional funding provided by Welsh Government estimated to be £2.600M in support of funding pressures in Social Services and Children's Services for 2019/20;
 - II. An agreed additional efficiency sum of £0.121M (over and above

the £6M agreed at 'Provisional Settlement' stage in October 2018) for 2019/20;

- III. A reduction in the budget allowance for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme of £0.300M;
 - IV. Savings generated totalling £0.517M from the ongoing rationalisation of office accommodation;
 - V. A £1.030M saving in capital charges achieved through deployment of a low risk and successful treasury management strategy;
 - VI. A projected part year saving of £0.458M from the installation of state of the art modern technology at the Council's Material Recovery Facility;
 - VII. Subject to Council approval, Senior and Associated Management Structure savings totalling £0.340M for 2019/20; and
 - VIII. Use of the 'Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation Reserve' as transitional funding, totalling £1.537M for 2019/20.
4. To approve Tables 3 and 4 of Section 10 of the report as the basis of allocating resources to the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), to other Council Services, and to meet its corporate financing requirements;
 5. To agree the Council Tax increase for the financial year ending the 31st March 2020 at 3.60%;
 6. To agree the Council's overall budget for 2019/2020, in order to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by the statutory deadline of the 11th March 2019.
 7. To authorise the Council's Section 151 Officer to amend as appropriate the level of Transitional Funding (Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation Reserve) on confirmation of pension costs and funding for both Fire Fighters and Teachers, and in the event that the Senior and Associated Management Structure savings are not agreed, with any base budget implications reflected in the Quarter 1 performance report during 2019/20.

120 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8

It was **RESOLVED** to continue the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow consideration of the remaining agenda items and continuation of Council business.

121 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided Members with details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31st March, 2020 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the level of the precept from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales;
2. To note the level of the Community Council Precepts, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
3. To pass the formal Council Tax resolutions for the financial year ending 31st March 2020, as contained in Appendix 2 of the report;
4. To note the comments of the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services upon the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves as detailed at paragraph 9.2 of the report; and
5. To note the intention of the Welsh Government to pass legislation intended to exempt Care Leavers from Council Tax effective from 1st April 2019, which will therefore replace the Council's current Council Tax Discretionary Policy for Care Leavers.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

122 RESIGNATION OF THE SENIOR CORONER FOR THE SOUTH WALES CENTRAL CORONER AREA

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services advised Members of the resignation of Mr. Andrew Barkley, the Senior Coroner for the South Wales Central Coroner Area and continued to provide detail of the proposed interim arrangements to be put in place until his successor is appointed.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the resignation of the Senior Coroner for the South Wales Central Coroner Area.
2. To note the interim arrangement whereby the existing Area Coroner, Mr. Graeme Hughes, will assume the role of Acting Senior Coroner from 1st April 2019 to ensure continuity of service delivery.
3. That in accordance with past practice, to agree a panel of 3 elected Members, consisting of the Leader, the Deputy Leader (as Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Coroner Service) and Leader of the largest Opposition Group (or their nominated substitutes) be constituted as a Senior Coroner Appointment Panel.

123 NOTICE OF MOTION

Before considering the Notices of Motions the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services advised Members that all Labour Members names should be listed against the Notices of Motion for consideration.

A. To following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M. Webber, J. Harries, 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, M. Forey, M. Fidler Jones, E. George, M. Griffiths, 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.M. Powell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, R.W. Smith, G. Stacey, M. Tegg, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R.K. Turner, D.H. Williams, T. Williams, C.J. Willis & R. Yeo was received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

An estimated 1 in 10 of the UK's population are belonging to the Armed Forces community, yet the 2011 census highlighted the fact that politicians, charities and service providers have a very limited understanding of this often overlooked group.

Here in Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Council has a proud record of supporting the Armed Forces community and remains to be the only Welsh Local Authority to receive the prestigious Gold Award from the Ministry of Defence for the support it provides locally. The Council is always looking to improve the support we provide to our service men and women, veterans and their families.

The Royal British Legion's Count Them In campaign aims to increase awareness and understanding by ensuring that the 2021 Census captures the relevant information on the Armed Forces community in order to better inform and shape the support organisations can provide in fully meeting the needs of the whole military community.

Following consideration of the Notice of Motion is was **RESOLVED** to:

- i. Support the Royal British Legion's Count Them In campaign to ensure that crucial information can be gathered on the UK's significant Armed Forces community.
- ii. Request that the Deputy Leader of the Council writes to the UK Government's Minister for the Constitution to request that the relevant questions be included in the 2021 Census.

B. Members RESOLVED – that in view of the Seconder of the Notice of Motion, County Borough Councillor M Norris providing apologies for the meeting, Council Procedure Rule 10.6 be suspended in order that the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors S. Evans, M. A. Norris, 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, A. Fox, M. Forey, M. Fidler Jones, E. George, M. Griffiths, J Harries, G Hughes, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, D. Owen-Jones, S. Pickering, 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 & R. Yeo be considered:

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is a fatal and rapidly progressing disease that affects the brain and spinal cord by attacking the nerves that control the body's movement, meaning that the disease can leave sufferers trapped in a body that is progressively unable to carry out the most basic of human functions - including an eventual failure to be able to breathe.

Around 5,000 adults from all communities and walks of life are affected at any one time in the UK, and, as there is currently no known cure for Motor Neurone Disease, it is important that those who suffer from the disease are given the care and respect they deserve. The MND Charter seeks to this by providing those suffering from the disease with a greater quality of life, dignity and respect for people with MND and their carers.

The Council **RESOLVED** to:

- i. Adopt the Motor Neurone Disease Association's MND Charter to help make a positive difference to the lives of people living with MND in our local community.
- ii. Refer the issue to the Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee for further consideration of the practical implications and how the Council can best implement the aims of the Charter.

This meeting closed at 8.30 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**