



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 27 November 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 R Bevan
Councillor H Boggis	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor A Calvert
Councillor G Caple	Councillor A Cox
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor J Cullwick
Councillor A Davies-Jones	Councillor G Davies
Councillor J Davies	Councillor J Elliott
Councillor S Evans	Councillor S M Evans
Councillor M Forey	Councillor A Fox
Councillor E George	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor M Griffiths	Councillor E Griffiths
Councillor J Harries	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor L Hooper	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor P Howe	Councillor G Hughes
Councillor P Jarman	Councillor G Jones
Councillor L Jones	Councillor W Jones
Councillor R Lewis	Councillor C Leyshon
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 M Powell	Councillor S Rees
Councillor S. Rees-Owen	Councillor A Roberts
Councillor J Rosser	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 J Williams
Councillor C Willis	Councillor R Yeo

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr S Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr P Nicholls, Service Director Legal Services
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr P Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Mr N Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services

79 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S. Belzak, J. Brencher, A. Chapman, L. De Vet, M. Diamond, M. Fidler Jones, H. Fychan, J. James, K. L. Jones, W. Lewis, M. Tegg, E. Webster and T. Williams.

80 Declaration of Interest

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

Item 11 – Shared Community –Model Charter Revisions

- County Borough Councillor J Bonetto declared the following personal interest – “Member of Taffs Well/Nantgarw Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor Dan Owen-Jones declared the following personal interest – “Member of Tonyrefail Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor D Grehan declared the following personal interest – “Member of Tonyrefail Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor A Davies-Jones declared the following personal interest – “Member of Tonyrefail Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor M J Powell declared the following personal interest – “Member of Pontypridd Town Council”
- County Borough Councillor S Powell declared the following personal interest– “Member of Llantrisant Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor S Powderhill declared the following personal interest– “Member of Pontypridd Town Council”
- County Borough Councillor L Walker declared the following personal interest – “Member of Llantwit Fardre Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor G Stacey declared the following personal interest– “Member of Llantwit Fardre Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor G Hopkins declared the following personal interest – “Member of Llanharan Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor R Turner declared the following personal interest– “Member of Llanharan Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor M Griffiths declared the following personal interest – “Member of the Pontyclun Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor A Roberts declared the following personal interest – “Member of the Gilfach Goch Community Council”
- County Borough Councillor W Owen declared the following personal interest – “Member of the Llanharan Community Council”

81 Announcements

- The Deputy Leader sought Members' support for donations to help raise money for the charity “Friends of the Animals Wales by purchasing calendars which are on sale for the cause.
- The Deputy Leader wished to congratulate Emma and Andy Wilkins on the recent birth of their daughter, likewise to Rachel James on the birth of her daughter;

- The Deputy Leader paid tribute to Rob Griffiths, site supervisor, who would shortly be retiring from the Authority and expressed her gratitude, on behalf of all Members for his long term service.
- County Borough Councillor K Morgan wished to pay tribute to an environmentally conscious citizen, Mr M Jenkins, for his recycling efforts in the community and for raising awareness of the issues via social media. Councillor Morgan referred to specific areas within her ward where Mr Jenkins has concentrated his recycling efforts such as Aberdare Park, Dare Valley Country Park and St John's Baptist School in Cwmdare.
- On behalf of County Borough Councillor M Tegg, County Borough Councillor D Owen-Jones praised the work of 'Lindsay Leg Club Foundation', which provides on-going care for residents with leg problems on a weekly basis in Trebanog. It was stated that Councillor Tegg formed the Committee and is the current Chair, which now has over 100 members. Last year the work received national recognition and it was noted that on behalf of the Mayor a letter recognising the good work would be sent to the organisation.

82 Minutes

Full Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 23rd October 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting subject to the following amendment:-

Minute 70 (3) – Minute to read – “since that date the funding has changed from Vibrant and Viable Places to targeted TRI funding”

83 Statements

Statement of the Leader of the County Borough, County Borough Councillor A Morgan – Revenue Budget Consultation

The Leader advised Members that following the announcement of the General Election, the Welsh Government Settlement to Local Government has been delayed resulting in the Revenue Budget Consultation for this Council process being a staged approach. The first high-level phase is already underway with the deadline on the 16th December 2019 proving challenging due to the Election. Phase two will commence in January/February 2020.

The Leader reported that Members were advised that there was uncertainty due to the delay in the announcement of the provisional Local Government Settlement from Welsh Government and both Council and Cabinet meetings would be rescheduled as appropriate to meet the Statutory deadline before the 11th March 2020.

84 Members' Questions

Question from County Borough Councillor M. Forey to the Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

“Could the Cabinet Member please outline how this Council is supporting a

Healthy and Active RCT”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

“Councillor Crimmings advised she was pleased to support a healthy Rhondda Cynon Taf in line with the three primary focuses – investment, schools and community

The Cabinet Member outlined the five-year “invest to save” programme in the Councils fitness and leisure facilities, which has seen Leisure for Life memberships consistently rise above the 10,000 target, and leisure centres exceed its visitor figures in 2018/19. The capital investment programme has also provided an upgrading of 111 (51%) of the Councils outdoor play facilities, and the development of 14 new artificial pitches, which has enabled further external funding of over £500K to be accessed.

In addition, Councillor Crimmings advised that the Sports and Health Development teams work in partnership to deliver a wide range of grant funded supported services for the more inactive residents such as the ‘Get Out Get Active’ scheme.

Councillor Crimmings reminded Members that Leisure works closely with schools and school staff to ensure that children have the physical literacy skills and opportunities to be active for life. This includes working in partnership to develop and manage facilities as part of the 21st Century Schools Investment Programme such as Aberdare Community School and the Ron Jones athletics stadium, and artificial pitches at Tonyrefail, Garth Olwg, Y Pant, Brycelynnog and Nantgwyn schools. The Council supports 50 Young Ambassadors in schools, who develop their own skills through providing opportunities for their peers to engage in regular physical activity, and delivers a comprehensive junior school-swimming programme.

In conclusion Councillor Crimmings referred to the Council accessing grant funding to enable it to work with a wide range of partners in the development of new sustainable community based sport and physical activity opportunities. These include the ‘Superagers’ project in partnership with Bridgend and Merthyr Councils, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Health team, and the voluntary sector to develop increased community capacity to deliver sustainable exercise opportunities for older residents and the development of outdoor groups.

The service works with our colleges and universities to recruit and deploy nearly 200 volunteers into community sport and school settings annually, and increases community physical activity opportunities through providing training, community chest grants, and club support. In addition to expanding the traditional sports clubs, examples include supporting the Women’s Institute in Llantwit Fardre to deliver sustainable walking netball sessions”.

County Borough Councillor M Forey had no supplementary question to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services.

Question from County Borough Councillor K Morgan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Will the Leader make a statement regarding Highways Investment in Hirwaun

please?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Councillor A Morgan stated that since 2011 the Council has invested a total of £791,869.70 in this area across the Hirwaun ward.

This financial year has seen an investment of £336,649 for carriageways, footways and structures, with the remaining £447,226.45 in highway improvements since 2011.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor K Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan welcomed regular maintenance work but stressed there is a lack of investment in villages and towns and an over-reliance on the planning system and on accident statistics which promotes a ‘reactive’ response. Councillor Morgan asked for a more proactive traffic management system.”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan explained that funding is targeted to areas where there are high numbers of accidents recorded and a significant part of the funding has been allocated to new digital cameras which can be used as evidence to prosecute drivers. Councillor Morgan advised that specific areas of concern can be looked at such as the duelling of the Head of the Valleys roundabout and the ‘rat runs’ through the village of Hirwaun.”

Question from County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development and Housing, County Borough Councillor D R Bevan:

“Could the Cabinet Member please outline what steps this Council is taking to support businesses and the local economy across Rhondda Cynon Taf?”

“Before responding, Councillor Bevan wished Councillor Morgan’s mother a speedy recovery. He advised that the Council is committed to the growth and regeneration of the County Borough and provides a targeted, focussed and co-ordinated package of support for businesses including the Enterprise Investment Fund which, through £250,000 annual investment provides financial assistance for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) as well as existing businesses.

Councillor Bevan provided detail of the Town Centre Maintenance Grant, a scheme which has to date approved £121,000 of investment across the County’s towns. He referred to the Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme which has supported improvements to commercial premises and the creation of residential units within Pontypridd Town Centre and to the development of the YMCA as well as the £9.3 million investment to create much needed new modern factory units in Coed Ely.

In conclusion, Councillor Bevan provided details of the Business Improvement District (BID), a successful mechanism by which traders determine what is needed and raising a levy. With support from Welsh Government funding, the Council has been supporting further BID developments such as in Treorchy and a further process next year in Aberdare. He referred to the support centre which had recently been opened by himself and the Deputy Leader which will offer

significant advice to businesses.”

County Borough Councillor S Morgans had no supplementary question to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development and Housing.

Question from County Borough Councillor D Grehan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Hoffwn i wneud cais i'r aelod cabinet priodol i wneud datganiad ar bolisi 'r cyngor ar oleuadau stryd.”

“I'd like to ask the relevant cabinet member to make a statement on the Council's policy on street lights.”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan informed Members that in May 2014 and in response to budget restrictions, the Council decided that with the exception of sensitive areas such as town centres and junctions, a part night lighting regime, between 12pm and 5am, would be introduced to assist highway users. Councillor Morgan reminded Members that the Council has no statutory duty to provide street lighting.

Councillor Morgan added that the Council is converting its entire stock of street lighting to further its revenue savings.”

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor D Grehan:

“Councillor Grehan asked the Leader whether the Council could assist two residents in his ward who work for the emergency services, one a police officer, the other a nurse who have concerns about returning home from work in the dark due to the part night lighting regime. Councillor Grehan added that the police officer has been followed home from Cardiff in the past.”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan asked Councillor Grehan for further information on the specific cases but added that should lights be moved in some areas the lights would go out in others. Councillor Morgan hoped South Wales Police had investigated the concern of the police officer being followed home”.

Question from County Borough Councillor P. Jarman to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“What is the purpose of the WLGA”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“ County Borough Councillor A Morgan provided an overview of the WLGA's role:-

- The WLGA promotes the important role of local government to Assembly Members and seeks to enhance and protect councils' reputation and secure positive change to legislation;
- Much of the WLGA's work is focussed on the National Assembly for

Wales, the Welsh Government and other national stakeholders and partners. The WLGA also liaises with the Wales Office and works closely with the LGA in London in seeking to influence non-devolved policies and legislation and, in particular, responding to developments around Brexit.

The WLGA's work involves engagement with Ministers, National Assembly Members, and other national and governmental organisations;

- The WLGA represents all 22 Local Authorities who work well together;
- Key areas of work include bilateral meetings between WLGA Spokespersons, Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor P Jarman:

"Councillor Jarman pointed out that as one of sixty six backbenchers she couldn't recall the Executive reporting back in detail from the WLGA by way of regular bulletins. Councillor Jarman referenced the election of a new WLGA Leader on Friday and a recent WLGA debate on CJC's and she asked for an explanation as to what are the CJC's, what are their functions and when will they be set up?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

"Councillor Morgan explained that discussions are ongoing but he referred to the availability of a 451 page guidance document and the terms of reference for those Bodies which the Local Authorities have co-produced. In terms of feedback, Councillor Morgan advised that the process is the same as it is with the Council's Cabinet meetings, agendas and reports are published in advance of the meeting on the Council website for public access and anyone can attend the meeting."

Question from County Borough Councillor E. Griffiths to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

"Can you make a statement outlining what steps are being taken to expand the network of public charging points for electric vehicles across the Authority, and what is the timescale of expansion, in response to the growing demand and usage of electric and hybrid cars?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

"Councillor Crimmings advised that this is an area of development and a number of options are currently being considered by the Council. Councillor Crimmings reminded Members that the Overview & Scrutiny Working Group had undertaken a detailed review of the development of the infrastructure to support low carbon vehicle ownership in RCT as a result of a Notice of Motion which had been proposed and seconded by Councillors M Griffiths and J Bonetto respectively. The recommendations have been since reported to Council and Cabinet will shortly deliver its response to those recommendations".

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor E Griffiths:

"Councillor Griffiths asked why this Council has not taken advantage of the funding available as other Local Authorities have, such as Monmouthshire Council which has benefitted from £500K. Councillor Griffiths acknowledged that although some work has been done in RCT the Council has not developed this

work”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

“Councillor Crimmings confirmed that as the uptake of Low Carbon Vehicles is low in RCT and the technology and infrastructure is developing so quickly, the Council is evaluating the options available to it”

85 State of the County Borough Debate

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2 the Presiding Officer stated that he would invite the Leader to address Council following which the Leader would respond to Members’ comments on his Annual Report.

The Leader opened his address by stating that this debate was in the context of the Council’s Corporate Plan and the Council’s delivery against those objectives. He reminded Members that the Council had recently considered its progress in relation to these areas and is currently consulting a new draft Corporate Plan with residents. The Leader urged Members to have their say and to encourage their residents to do the same to make a difference in the areas that matter most to our communities.

The Leader advised Members that following nine years of austerity, education and social care continue to be priorities, even though these services are under pressure through factors such as teachers’ pay and pension costs, an increasingly longer-living population with more complex needs, and inflation.

Social Services

Members were advised that the Council continues to make good progress in modernising the care system that is provided for older residents in the County, and it was confirmed that the Maesyffynnon development in Aberaman is due to open in the New Year. Construction is also making good progress on the Pontypridd Extra Care scheme in the Graig, whilst design options for Porth and Treorchy are being worked through. The Leader outlined the award winning Stay Well @ Home service, which continues to help our Health Service by supporting people to remain in their own homes and leave hospital as soon as possible. In 18/19, the service supported 664 referrals and had supported a further 261 between April and October of this year.

Members were informed that through the Transition Fund recently acquired, the service will be expanded through the SW@H Rapid Response, which will enable a range of community-based professionals to provide a same-day service to help people live at home. It is targeted at those who do not need to go to hospital but need extra support to manage at home. The Leader referred to another scheme to be launched through the funding, which will be an enhancement of the Assistive Technology Lifeline – providing a 24-hour, 365 day rapid response service to respond to residents who have fallen or called for assistance via their pendent. Again, this supports people to live independently and provides reassurance that help is always at hand.

The Leader stated that Council is currently delivering 1,360 Homecare packages totalling 16,528 hours per week, along with 565 Direct Payments consisting of 169 children and 396 adults at a total of 9,431 hours per week. So far this year the Council has delivered 190 Disabled Facilities Grants to 174 adults and 16 children, last year it delivered 379 and 310 the year before that. The ENABLE

grant has supported 1,423 people since 2017 at a cost of £316k. So far this year the scheme has supported 197 people at a cost of £76,000. To date £45k has been spent on the Council's Handyperson scheme compared with 2017/18 and 2018/29 in which £60k was spent. Twenty two Maintenance Repair Assistance Grants have been completed so far this year at a spend of £102,778.

The Leader took the opportunity to discuss the Council's Resilient Families service which continues to provide support for families in crisis, with 1,608 referrals in 18/19 (34% more than expected). Of these, 398 were self-referrals, 42 were direct referrals from DCT; and 306 were step-downs. Only 6% of referrals required escalation. The Leader added that so far this year there have been 1011 referrals to the RFS, 222 of which are self-referrals, 7 direct referrals from DCT and 265 stepped down. Again, 6% have been stepped up to Children's Services.

Members were informed that whilst still higher than many other LAs, RCT's Children Looked After numbers have not seen the increase that many other Local Authorities. CLA numbers across Wales have been on an upward trend over the last few months with a 3% increase on what was reported in March 2019. Recently published All Wales data shows that 14 out of the 22 Authorities experienced an increase in their CLA numbers per 10,000 – RCT's remained the same.

Education

The Leader stated that in terms of attainment, performance in RCT schools has remained broadly similar at Foundation, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 phases. At Foundation Phase, the Wales average for the Outcome Indicator has reduced by 2.6% points to 80.0%, primarily due to the implementation of new outcomes in the Assessment Framework. However, the gap between eFSM and nFSM pupils has increased over the most recent year, as it has at KS2 level as well, where there has also been a slight increase in the gap between boys and girls. The Leader added that at KS3, however, the gap between eFSM and nFSM has narrowed, although the gap between boys and girls has increased across all core subjects.

The Leader reminded Members that the Welsh Government has introduced new interim KS4 measures that are intended to better capture the whole learning experience and progress of learners. The provisional outcomes suggest that A*-C grades gained by RCT pupils has increased by 1.2% points and those achieving A*-G grades has also increased by 0.8% points. At A-Level, 96.1% of learners achieved A-E grade outcomes with 70.3% securing A*-C grades. Nearly 20% attained A*-A grades and the number of learners gaining the Level 3 threshold was 98.3% - 2.1% points up on 2018.

The Leader assured Members that the Council continues to closely monitor attainment and performance at all Phases and realises that this is an area for improvement. Similarly, the Council recognises that there is room for improvement with attendance, particularly at Secondary School level. At Primary level, attendance is at 94.3% - down 0.3% from 16/17, although the gap between those eligible for Free School Meals and non-eligible pupils has narrowed to only 2.2%. Nevertheless, the 94.3% attendance rate is below our ambitious 95.1% target. Over the same period, Secondary School attendance has decreased 0.7% to 92.8% - meaning it is 1% below the national average level and also below our target of 94.1%. The gap between FSM and non FSM

has also narrowed slightly.

The Leader advised Members that Education remains a core priority area for the Council, as evidenced by its commitment to increasing the Schools Budget this year by £5.2m. The £173.4m Band A phase of the 21st Century Schools Programme has delivered brand new learning facilities in Tonyrefail, Tonypany and Cwmaman to name a few, and the Council is now progressing the £168m Band B phase which will deliver new schools in the northern Cynon and Greater Pontypridd areas. Supplementing this is the annual programme of planned capital and revenue works, which in 2018 saw £9.7m in planned capital and £3m in revenue minor repair work carried out on schools across the County.

The Leader concluded his update in this sector by advising that the Council also has a strong commitment to improving Welsh medium provision across RCT, with significant investment committed to increasing the number of available places in the County. This includes new schools for Llyn-Y-Forwyn, Dolau and Cwm Rhondda, which builds on the extra capacity created at Garth Olwg and Llwynhelyn and to be delivered at Rhydywaun at YGG Aberdar.

Highways and Transport

The Leader reported on the significant progress made with the programme of transport investment via annual capital programme and 3-year £23.5m programme. Over 2,000 carriageways, 370 footways and 39 structures have been improved since 2011/12 over 100 carriageways and 24 footways have been improved this year alone and 3 more structures will also be completed by the end of the financial year. He added that just 4.8% of roads required maintenance, which has contributed to a significant saving of £1.17m per year based on average claim cost in 18/19. The Bridge Condition Indicator rate is also now at 76%.

The Leader outlined a number of major schemes such as the A4119 improvements and the Cynon Gateway Scheme and he concluded that there have been significant discussions with Welsh Government regarding further funding.

Leisure, Parks and Play Areas

The Leader informed Members that 111 play areas have been enhanced since 2015 across all wards with 115 play areas, which are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2019/20, meaning 51% of the Council's stock will have received almost £4m of investment. A further £400k in improvement projects has also taken place across all 13 RCT Cemeteries.

The Leader advised Members that this is the second year of significant capital investment into parks infrastructure with over £1.5 million committed to date. Works include upgrading pitch drainage, improvements to gates, fences, walls, paths, ditches, culverts and structures and works to the camping site, bike trails and adventure park within Dare Valley Country Park.

Community Hubs

The leader reminded Members that a number of Community Hubs have opened such as in Mountain Ash which has proven to be extremely popular with over 62,000 visits being recorded between June and October, with 34,470 library visits – double the number at the previous library. He added that in the Ferndale Hub, led by the Fern Partnership, 79 children have registered with the library

since its opening with an overall increase in library visitor numbers of 41%. The Leader referenced Llys Cadwyn, which will house a Community Hub once completed, with a new library, café and One4All services.

Town Centres

The Leader advised Members that the Council continues to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to supporting its town centres. A number of Christmas events are taking place with the free parking initiative, which will return this year – Tonypandy's event was last weekend and an event in Mountain Ash is next weekend.

The Leader confirmed that the Council has secured £1m of grant funding for the TRI programme to create new and improve existing high street premises and residential units. It has also recently approved a Business Rate Relief scheme to support up to 500 businesses across the County to pay their business rates in the next financial year.

Corporate Plan. Budget, Poverty and Environment

The Leader reported that the investment and delivery of projects satisfies the aims of the Corporate Plan, with the current plan due to expire, the Council has initiated a consultation on the priorities over the next plan period. This has been launched alongside the first phase of the Council's annual budget consultation.

The Leader commented that the Council is not proposing any service cuts whatsoever and is looking to implement a Council Tax rise of 3%, which will almost certainly be the lowest in Wales for the second successive year. This Council has had the smallest overall rise in Council Tax of any Welsh Local Authority for the last four consecutive years. Other Local Authorities are more than double that figure.

The Leader stressed the importance of the Council being more environmentally responsible as an organisation to ensure that it can achieve its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Leader outlined the Council's environmentally-friendly measures such as all the Council's 21st Century Schools are built to a high standard and with a reduced carbon footprint, all energy in Council buildings come from renewable sources and a significant number of street lights have been converted to energy efficient LED.

The Leader concluded his overview adding that over the next financial year, the Council would continue to progress these measures and focus on how the Council tackles poverty in its communities.

The Leader then responded to a number of questions /comments from Members, such as:-

- Improvements to the Council's service delivery through improved scrutiny measures;
- Valleys Lines and Metro timeline - The Leader to raise the capacity issue with Transport for Wales who are performing well and are on target. Extended Sunday services;
- Heads of the Valleys A4065- The Leader assured Members that the scheme will continue on the grounds of road safety issues;

- Update on the Coed-Ely Development - The next 18 months will see significant improvements;
- Further interventions in place by the Council to address child poverty:-
 - Bring back into use Empty Properties for families;
 - Rhondda Fach minibus services to transport employees to their place of work;
 - Further interventions and measures will be brought forward to influence the Valleys Task Force.
- Tyntyla Footbridge update - challenging due to its erosion and unstable ground, further details to be provided;
- Clarification on the Dare Valley Country Park improvements –Positive progress being taken forward with a number of developments to the park such as an increase in caravan pitches and a new adventure playground. The Leader confirmed that there is no connection between the investment and any future housing developments as the road is not a public highway.
- Rhondda Tunnel – Remains a priority for the Council and funding is being sought from Welsh Government. Abernant tunnel is able to qualify for active travel funding.
- Porth Town Centre – First capital project from City Deal funding will be for Porth town centre regeneration scheme and new transport hub, the first of many to come;
- School attendance – Acknowledge the drop in attendance in both primary and secondary but need to consider the increase in term time holidays both locally and on a National level;
- Defibrillators – Continued fundraising and roll out of defibrillators in Council buildings and libraries, support for campaign to have them in all schools;
- Recycling in RCT – The Leader stressed the importance of education and involving children in the process, figures show an increase in the first four months of just under 70%;
- Bringing unadopted roads up to standard- Series of meetings with Welsh Government's Economic & Infrastructure Committee and Developers to tackle the issue.

86 Council Work Programme

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications provided Members with a brief update on the Council work programme advising that the following items would be considered at the January Council meeting:-

- A Political balance report following the result of the Bi-Election on the 5th December 2019;
- An update report from the Climate Change Champion Member and Officer in respect of the work of the Climate Control Steering Group;
- A report on the Welsh Church Act Accounts; and
- Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2019 –the report will provide the outcome of the statutory review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations within the area of the Local Authority and Parliamentary Constituencies of Cynon Valley, Pontypridd, Rhondda and Ogmore.

87 2019-2020 Mid Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report

In accordance with the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in

Local Authorities, the Director of Finance and Digital Services provided Members with information on:-

- The Council's Treasury Management activity during the first six months of 2019/20; and
- Prudential and Treasury indicators for the same period.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the content of the Report.

88 Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan Review Report

Through his report, the Director of Prosperity and Development provided Members with the opportunity to approve the content and conclusions of the Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP Review Report, which outlines the reasons for, and the need to begin the preparation of a revised LDP for Rhondda Cynon Taf. Members were advised that following agreement the RCT Local Development Plan Review report would be submitted to Welsh Government alongside and in line with the timetable as set out in the Revised LDP Draft Delivery Agreement.

Members were referred to Appendix 1 of the report which sets out the key considerations and conclusions of the formal full review of the LDP with the Director advising that subject to Council agreement, the next report for consideration would be the revised LDP Delivery agreement. This agreement sets out the most appropriate timetable (preparation and delivery of a revised LDP taking no longer than 3.5 years from commencement to its adoption), budget, staffing and other resources required to undertake the preparation of the a full revision of the LDP.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the content and conclusions of the Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP Review Report, which outlines the reasons for and the need to begin the preparation of a revised LDP for Rhondda Cynon Taf for the period 2020 to 2030, in line with the proposed Draft Delivery Agreement. This will then be submitted to Welsh Government alongside and in line with the timetable as set out in the associated Revised LDP Draft Delivery Agreement; and
2. To request that the Director of Prosperity and Development consider how the proposals from the Overview & Scrutiny Working Group, established to consider how future rail and transport infrastructure could develop in the future with the advent of the South Wales Metro from 2022, might compliment and contribute towards the LDP review by the Council.

89 Proposals for a Draft Delivery Agreement for the Rhondda Cynon Taf Revised Local Development Plan

The Director of Prosperity and Development presented his report and sought Council' approval in respect of the Draft Delivery Agreement for the Revised Local Development Plan (LDP) for Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Director advised that the draft Delivery Agreement sets out the proposed timetable and proposed community involvement scheme for the preparation of a revised LDP.

The Director referred Members to the sections within the report which set out the

fundamental elements of the draft Delivery Agreement for the RCT revised LDP, particularly the project management timetable, community involvement scheme, resources and a robust budget. He assured Members that consideration of the most current information would be undertaken for the preparation of a revised LDP.

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

1. To approve the draft Delivery Agreement (DA) proposed for the Revised LDP for Rhondda Cynon Taf which outlines the timetable and method of community involvement and engagement for a revised Local Development Plan for RCT; and
2. Agree its submission to Welsh Government for approval (in line with its timetable), alongside the LDP Review Report.

90 Licensing Act 2003 - New Statement of Licensing Policy 2020-2025

The Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services provided Members with the new Statement of Licensing Policy (Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment) 2020-2025. The Director advised that the policy is subject to review every five years and the date for formal review and publication of revisions is due, therefore it is necessary for the new policy to be adopted by Full Council with a view to it taking effect from the 7th January 2020.

The Director referred Members to section 4 of the report, which provided a summary of key changes to the policy which have been incorporated into the new policy to reflect legislation.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the Statement of Policy (Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment) 2020-2025 as endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting on the 17th October 2019 with a view to the new Statement taking effect from the 7th January 2020.

91 Shared Community - Model Charter Revisions

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications advised Members of the revisions made to the 'Shared Community Model – Model Charter' as originally agreed at Council on the 12th January 2011. Members were advised that the revisions were in place to encompass the updates in legislation and to incorporate the principles and wellbeing goals of the Future Generations & Wellbeing Act.

The Service Director referred Members to section 5 of the report, which outlines how the Council is working in conjunction with the Community and Town Councils to strengthen partnerships through regular meetings and discussions around training needs and support. Members were advised that the launch of the new Members portal will facilitate improved communication with the Community Councils with the added resource of the Council's Democratic Services Committee.

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

1. To agree to the revisions to the “Model Charter” as attached to the report which had been tailored around the needs of the Authority and the Community & Town Councils within Rhondda Cynon Taf; and
2. To agree to the continuation of the Community Liaison Committee, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Council Business.

92 Food Register in Rhondda Cynon Taf - Notice of Motion Update

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented his report in which he advised Council of the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group which was established to deal with a ‘Food Register in RCT’ following a Notice of Motion agreed by Council on the 24th October 2018. Members were informed that the Cabinet response to the recommendations would be reported to the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee in December 2019.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the work of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee in relation to the work undertaken following the Notice of Motion agreed at Council as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report; and
2. Note that the five recommendations resulting from the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee were presented to Cabinet on the 17th October 2019 as set out in the original report.

93 Notice of Motion

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

The use of fireworks has long been a tradition in our communities to celebrate events such as Bonfire Night and the New Year. The impact of Fire Works is increasingly a concern to residents who either own pets or to Armed Forces personnel suffering with PTSD.

RSPCA Cymru have launched a campaign to increase public awareness and reduce the potential for injury or distress to animals by proposing the adoption of a policy for the responsible sale of fireworks, including the potential for silent fireworks, which would achieve a compromise between allowing our communities to celebrate key events, while ensuring that these celebrations are conducted in a sensitive and respectful manner.

The Council therefore requests an Officer report for consideration by Cabinet, which outlines how this local authority may support the RSCPA Campaign by:

- Considering a requirement for all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.

- Consider the development of a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.

- Consider encouraging local suppliers of fireworks to retail 'quieter' fireworks only for public display.

This Council also resolves to write to the Welsh Government, urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of fireworks displays.

This Council notes the strong commitment already shown by the authority towards animal welfare through its support for the Lucy's Law campaign and to our Armed Forces community through the Armed Forces Covenant, with a cinema screening for veterans with PTSD recently being held at the Park and Dare Theatre on Bonfire Night.

This Council notes the lead taken by the Nos Galan Committee, which has already agreed to review its use of fireworks for the 2020/2021 event.

At the meeting the Chair 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 (Proposer) & G R Davies (Seconder), E. Webster, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, J.Williams, A.Cox, H.Fychan, D.Grehan, E.Griffiths, K.Morgan, S.Rees Owen, M.Weaver, S.Evans, A. Chapman, L.Jones & E.Stephens

The use of fireworks has long been a tradition in our communities to celebrate events such as Bonfire Night and the New Year. The impact of Fire Works is increasingly a concern to residents who either own pets or are vulnerable people living with autism or Armed Forces personnel suffering with PTSD.

RSPCA Cymru have launched a campaign to increase public awareness and reduce the potential for injury or distress to animals by proposing the adoption of a policy for the responsible sale of fireworks, including the potential for silent fireworks, which would achieve a compromise between allowing our communities to celebrate key events, while ensuring that these celebrations are conducted in a sensitive and respectful manner.

The Council therefore requests an Officer report for consideration by Cabinet, which outlines how this local authority may support the RSCPA Campaign by:

- Considering a requirement for all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people

- Consider the development of a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks

-Consider encouraging local suppliers of fireworks to retail 'quieter' fireworks only for public display.

This Council also resolves to write to the Welsh Government, urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of fireworks displays

This Council notes the strong commitment already by the authority towards animal welfare through its support for the Lucy's Law campaign and to our Armed Forces community through the Armed Forces Covenant, with a cinema screening for veterans with PTSD recently being held at the Park and Dare Theatre on Bonfire Night.

This Council notes the lead taken by the Nos Galan Committee, which has already agreed to review its use of fireworks for the 2020/2021 event.

Following discussion, it was proposed that the mover and seconder consider moving an alteration to the Motion to include reference to include the word 'autism'.

In accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 12.7, a vote was taken in respect of the amendment to the Notice of Motion and it was **RESOLVED** not to adopt the amendment.

(**Note:** County Borough Councillors P Jarman and J Davies wished to have it recorded that they voted to adopt the amendment to the Notice of Motion)

Following further discussion in respect of the substantive motion and in accordance with the Council Rules of Procedure 12.7, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the motion as altered by the Proposer (Cllr S Rees) & Secunder (Cllr J Bonetto) and with the agreement of Full Council as follows:-

"The use of fireworks has long been a tradition in our communities to celebrate events such as Bonfire Night and the New Year. The impact of Fire Works is increasingly a concern to residents, those who have Autism, those who own pets or to Armed Forces personnel suffering with PTSD for example.

RSPCA Cymru have launched a campaign to increase public awareness and reduce the potential for injury or distress to animals by proposing the adoption of a policy for the responsible sale of fireworks, including the potential for silent fireworks, which would achieve a compromise between allowing our communities to celebrate key events, while ensuring that these celebrations are conducted in a sensitive and respectful manner.

The Council therefore requests an Officer report for consideration by Cabinet, which outlines how this local authority may support the RSCPA Campaign by:

- Considering a requirement for all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable

people

- Consider the development of a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.

- Consider encouraging local suppliers of fireworks to retail ‘quieter’ fireworks only for public display.

This Council also resolves to write to the Welsh Government, urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of fireworks displays.

This Council notes the strong commitment already shown by the authority towards animal welfare through its support for the Lucy’s Law campaign and to our Armed Forces community through the Armed Forces Covenant, with a cinema screening for veterans with PTSD recently being held at the Park and Dare Theatre on Bonfire Night.

This Council notes the lead taken by the Nos Galan Committee, which has already agreed to review its use of fireworks for the 2020/2021 event.

94 Urgent Business - Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications provided Members with a summary of the initial Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill. The Service Director advised Members that the matter will be the subject of an initial discussion at WLGA Council on 29th November 2019 and a detailed summary of the Bill, produced by the WLGA, was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

Members were advised that the Council’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee would consider formulating a proposed position on the proposals contained within the ‘Local Government & Elections (Wales) Bill’ by way of a Special meeting for future endorsement by Full Council.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. To acknowledge the detailed summary of the “Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill”, provided by the WLGA which will be the subject of an initial discussion at WLGA Council on 29th November 2019; and
2. That the Council’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider formulating a proposed position on the proposals contained within the ‘Local Government & Elections (Wales) Bill’ for future endorsement by full Council.

This meeting closed at 7.55 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**