



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 4 March 2020 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 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 Cox	Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor J Cullwick	Councillor G Davies
Councillor J Davies	Councillor L De Vet
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor J Edwards
Councillor M Forey	Councillor S Evans
Councillor H Fychan	Councillor E George
Councillor E Griffiths	Councillor M Griffiths
Councillor J Harries	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor L Hooper	Councillor P Howe
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor J James
Councillor G Jones	Councillor P Jarman
Councillor W Jones	Councillor K Jones
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor A Morgan	Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor M Norris
Councillor S Pickering	Councillor W Owen
Councillor S Rees	Councillor M Powell
Councillor J Rosser	Councillor A Roberts
Councillor E Stephens	Councillor G Stacey
Councillor G Thomas	Councillor M Tegg
Councillor R Turner	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor D Williams	Councillor M Webber
Councillor J Williams	Councillor G Williams
Councillor C Willis	Councillor T Williams
	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 C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr N Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

129 Apologies

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillors S. Belzak, A. Chapman, A. Davies-Jones, M. Diamond, S. M. Evans, M. Fidler Jones, A.S. Fox, D. Grehan, G. E. Hopkins, L. Jones, S. Powderhill, S. M. Powell, S. Rees-Owen, L. Walker, M. Weaver and E. Webster

130 Declaration of Interest

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

In respect of Item 6: Making a Difference – The Council's Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024

- County Borough Councillor E. Stephens – “I work for the DWP who operate Universal Credit”

In respect of the following Agenda Items:-

Item 6: Making a Difference – The Council's Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024

Item 7: Revenue Budget Strategy 2020/21

Item 8: Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23

Item 9: Council Tax Resolution 2020/2021

- County Borough Councillor P Jarman referred to her dispensation granted by the Standards Committee on 29th November 2019 providing the member “dispensation to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2020-21 Budget process in her capacity as Leader of the Opposition”

In respect of Item 7 - Revenue Budget Strategy 2020/21

- County Borough Councillor H. Fychan – “Cyn aelod o fwrdd y Muni ac aelod o fwrdd Artis”

(Note: A further two declarations of Personal Interests were made later in the meeting by County Borough Councillors R. Lewis and G. Thomas (Minute No.140 reflects) in respect of Item 11-Notice of Motion).

131 Announcements

- County Borough Councillor L. De Vet (and Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) announced that she was selling Raffle tickets for the Mayor's Spring Raffle;
- County Borough Councillor P. Jarman announced that a young resident in her ward, Ellie Pryor had been selected to represent team GB in the junior weightlifting category. Councillor Jarman also announced that Mr Dave Church, Head of Religious Studies at Mountain Ash Comprehensive School has been nominated by pupils and shortlisted for 'Pupil Award for the Best Teacher' in the Professional Teaching Awards Cymru. The awards take place in Hensol Castle in May 2020. It was noted that in recognition of the achievements, the Mayor would send a letter of congratulations to both.
- County Borough Councillor J. Rosser announced that in relation to the UK Career Development Awards 2020, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC has been shortlisted in the category "Careers Programme in Special Schools" and Hayley Jacobs from Bryncelynnog School has been shortlisted in the category "Individual Best Practice Awards - Careers Leader of the Year". Councillor J. Rosser wished to congratulate them all and Sian Woolson and her team for co-ordinating.
- County Borough Councillor J. Harries wished to congratulate Daniel Isaac for being chosen to represent Wales in Taekwondo for Team GB.
- County Borough Councillor M. Powell wished to pay tribute to the Church of the Latter Day Saints Church and other faith denominations for their help and support during the recent floods.

132 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 5th February 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Matters Arising – The Chair announced that all Cabinet responses to the previous meeting's questions had been provided and circulated as appropriate.

133 Statements

The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan made the following statement in respect of the Coronavirus.

Councillor Morgan advised that at the moment, the priority is to contain the virus and prevent the spread of infection and the best way people can protect themselves and others from infection is thorough handwashing and avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth. He added that the majority of the population need take no special measures at the moment other than following handwashing advice and following the returning travellers advice closely, self-isolating when necessary.

It was confirmed that the Council has circulated information on handwashing and

provided returning travellers advice to staff. Information, support and advice has also been provided to schools across the County Borough.

Members were advised that if the situation escalates there may be further implications for Council Services, particularly Public Health, Protection & Community Services and Adult Services, but all services could potentially be affected should staff absences increase due to COVID 19.

The Council's Senior Leadership Team have been briefed on this issue and services will be required to ensure their business continuity plans are up to date and resilient. The Council has already put in place workforce plans to manage absences due to COVID 19, with guidance circulated to staff on 2nd March.

134 Members' Questions

Question from County Borough Councillor J. James to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:-

"Last year Wales celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the Welsh Assembly. Will the Leader of the Council outline the impact that devolution has had on the people of RCT?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

"Councillor Morgan stated that there is a greater protection in Wales from austerity than has been seen in England, afforded to Councils by the Welsh Government. Wales is fortunate to have free childcare and free prescriptions, record investment in schools (the 21st Century Schools programme is being rolled out across schools in RCT) and free bus travel. Wales also has best recycling rate in the UK."

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor J. James:

"Councillor James stated that the Welsh Government has shown a lack of ambition and scope. He referred to the NHS waiting times and poor economy and lack of direction for the past 20 years. Councillor James asked whether now was the time to hold a Referendum, a People's vote?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

"Councillor Morgan advised that as a region we have one of the fastest growing economies in the UK and are making significant progress. As to the vote, Councillor Morgan added that he welcomed engagement from Welsh Government which is lacking with the UK Government. He referred to the ambitions of the Welsh Government to boost the number of Welsh speakers to 1 million and of other benefits across the board which would not be achieved through direct Westminster rule."

Question from County Borough Councillor P Jarman to the Cabinet Member for Adult & Children's Services County Borough Councillor T. Leyshon:-

"How many families are living in poverty in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough"

Response from County Borough Councillor T. Leyshon:

“Councillor T. Leyshon advised that according to the national survey for Wales in 2017/18 16% of adults in Wales are materially deprived, 39% of parents with three or more children are materially deprived, 49% of single parents are materially deprived. Councillor Leyshon added that 46% of people living in social housing are materially deprived, compared with 31% in private rented accommodation and 7% in owner-occupied housing. Councillor Leyshon went on to report that 37% of people in material deprivation are lonely compared with 12% of those who are not deprived.

Councillor Leyshon reported that research carried out by Loughborough University estimated the number of children to be living in poverty across RCT to be 13,350 (24%), this increased to 17,612 (32%) after deducting housing costs. RCT had the 2nd highest percentage of children living in poverty before housing costs (Cardiff were the highest with 25%) and the joint 3rd highest after housing costs (Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil both had 34%).

Councillor Leyshon reported the following figures that found Penrhiwceiber at the top of the rankings for both before and after housing costs, while Mountain Ash East was 16th before housing and 22nd after; and Mountain Ash West a position behind in 17th and 23rd.

In conclusion, Councillor Leyshon advised that in recognition of this, the Council is proposing that funding is allocated toward tackling poverty in partnership with local partners as part of this year’s budget”.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor P. Jarman:

“Councillor Jarman thanked the Cabinet Member for the statistics and emphasised that there are too many families living in poverty. The Member quoted Welsh Government’s Child Poverty Strategy which defines child poverty as *“A long-term state of not having sufficient resources to afford food, reasonable living conditions or amenities or to participate in activities (such as access to attractive neighbourhoods and open spaces) that are taken for granted by others in their society”*. Councillor Jarman asked for the percentage of families living in poverty who are single parent households to be provided.”

Response from Councillor T. Leyshon:

Councillor T. Leyshon confirmed that the information would be provided to Councillor P. Jarman following the meeting.

Question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:-

“Can the Leader please comment on the situation with the National Lido of Wales”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan stated that the damage to the Lido is extensive but the cleansing work is underway. He added that it seems highly unlikely that the Lido will reopen this summer but regular progress updates would be provided”

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher:

“What damage is there to the bridges and structures across the County Borough?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan confirmed that structural damage has affected the White Bridge in Berw Road, the M&S Bridge in Pontypridd and Castle Inn Bridge in Treforest. Two of the three bridges in Pontypridd will need to be demolished as the bridges could collapse if people walk on them. He added that the Pontypridd Park Bridge is an important link between the town and the park but could take months to repair.”

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

“Would the leader of the council provide members with an update on the proposed extension of the Aberdare line to Hirwaun/Rhigos?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan stated that progress with Transport for Wales will be brought forward to explore the options as to how such passenger services can be provided. The options include changing the existing line to ‘light rail’ or tarmac the line and convert it to road bus which runs on rails. He added that WeITAG have been approached to accelerate the existing timelines but confirmation of a single option for further development and identification of potential station sites is ongoing.”

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor H. Boggis:

“What can the Council do to improve the links to the upper Cynon Valley during evenings and weekends?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan responded that public transport does run into the evening on most routes but added that the Council is looking at the regulation of buses and would encourage any bus operator should they wish to run non-profitable routes across the valley”

Question from County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:-

“Will the council leader make a statement on the land slips in the Rhondda Fach caused by Storm Dennis?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan confirmed that a response to Councillor S. Morgans question had already been given in his previous statement”

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor S. Morgans:

“The legacy of coal tips is an issue that affects vast swathes of the UK and is therefore a national issue – should this not have a national body to administrate the monitoring and evaluation of coal spoil sites?”

Response of County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan confirmed that at present there is no one single body that has overall responsibility for the regulation of disused tips, they are either privately owned or owned by the local authority, Natural Resources Wales or the Coal Authority. Councillor Morgan stated that compiling a list of all the tips in the area so that one overarching body has overall responsibility for them has now become a priority.”

Question from County Borough Councillor J Bonetto to the Leader of Council , County Borough Councillor A Morgan:-

“Can the Leader please outline what support and assistance the Council is giving to residents affected by Storm Dennis?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan confirmed that a response to Councillor J. Bonetto’s question had already been provided in his previous statement”

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto:

“Can you tell us what support is in place for the businesses in those areas that have been affected and in Treforest Industrial Estate?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan stated that 75% of businesses in Treforest/Nantgarw had been flooded, of which 95% of the businesses in the old Treforest Industrial Estate have been affected by Storm Dennis. A business owner from the Estate has attended the Major Incident Recovery Board and the Council’s business support staff have been present in our town centres and affected sites to offer direct assistance. Councillor Morgan advised that larger businesses are being directed to Welsh Government for support.”

Question from County Borough Councillor S. Pickering to Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, Councillor A. Crimmings:

“This Council has made significant investment in leisure and sports facilities over recent years in support of creating a ‘healthy and active RCT’. Can the Cabinet Member please outline what further investments in sports facilities and parks is planned for the forthcoming financial year?”

Response of County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

“Councillor Crimmings confirmed that the Council has allocated significant funding toward leisure and play over the last five years and is continuing to invest in parks and play areas in 2020/21, as outlined in item 8 of the Council agenda. Members were advised that the focus will be on carrying out improvements to changing rooms through a programme of changing room replacement and refurbishment. The Council has over 100 buildings in its parks

and the programme will seek to deal with the worst of these buildings and bring them up to a good standard.

Councillor Crimmings stated that the programme of play area improvements has improved a total of 115 play facilities right across the length and breadth of the County with a further 15 play areas being brought up to standard in 2020/21. Councillor Crimmings reported that over the past 5 years the Council has undertaken an ambitious programme of refurbishment to the Leisure Centres and fitness suites which has led to sustained increases in Leisure Memberships, which has now reached over 10,000.

In conclusion, Councillor Crimmings announced that the Council is opening a new fitness facility in the Llys Cadwyn development in Pontypridd. The standalone unique facility includes an 80 station Techno Gym equipment fitness suite, a multi activity room as well as associated changing facilities. The new facility is due to open on 30th March and work has already started on recruiting new members of staff. Members were also informed that additionally, the Council has delivered 13 3G sports pitches and is currently in the process of working to provide a 14th facility in the Treorchy area”.

136 Council Work Programme - For Members Information

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications advised Members of the updates in respect of the forward Council Work Programme and of the items which would be reported to the Council meeting on the 18th March 2020. He added that the Freedom of the Borough report would be presented in April 2020.

137 Making a Difference - The Council's Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024

The Chief Executive presented his report which set out a new draft Corporate Plan from 2020-2024. He advised that the first draft of the new Corporate Plan had been subject to a pre-scrutiny exercise by the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee and a 12 week comprehensive consultation process involving local communities and council staff and had been considered by Cabinet. Members were informed that feedback from the consultation process had demonstrated clear support for the Council's vision and the three priorities contained within it.

The Chief Executive advised that despite the current worldwide uncertainties such as the UK's new trade arrangements and the impact of digitalisation, the Council's proposed vision for the next four years was set out (in section 4 of the report) which embraced the purpose and ambition of the local authority.

Following his presentation the Chief Executive responded to a number of queries and provided clarification on the use of the terminology 'Carbon Neutral' and 'Net Zero'. Following further discussion it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Corporate Plan 2020-2024.

138 Revenue Budget Strategy 2020/21

The Director of Finance and Digital Services presented his report which provided information on the final local government settlement for 2020/21 and set out the recommendations of the Cabinet with regard to the Council Revenue

Budget and the level of Council Tax for the year ending 31st March 2021.

In concluding his presentation, the Director of Finance & Digital Services confirmed that in response to the exceptional event, Storm Dennis it was appropriate that £1m from the General Reserves had been released closely followed by a further £0.500m to support the recovery process. The level of General Reserves would be replenished going forward as part of the Council's continued strong financial management.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Note the written statement from the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Julie James AM) and the table on the 2020/21 Final local government settlement, reproduced at Appendix 1 of the report;
2. Note the implications for the Council and the remaining budget gap as set out at Table 1 of the report;
3. Agree a Council Tax increase for 2020/21 of 2.85%;
4. Agree the uplift to the aggregate Schools Budget as detailed at section 8 of the report;
5. Agree the budget strategy proposals as set out at paragraphs 9.3(a) to 9.3 (i) of the report;
6. Agree the use of the 'Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation Reserve' as transition funding, totalling £0.800M for 2020/21;
7. Approve Tables 3 and 4 in Section 12 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; and
8. Agree the Council's overall budget for 2020/21 at £508.747M, in order to pass the necessary statutory resolutions to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by the statutory deadline of the 11th March 2020.

139 Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23

The Director of Finance & Digital Services presented the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2020/21 to 2022/23, following receipt of the final local government settlement for 2020/21.

Members took the opportunity to discuss the report in detail and in conclusion the Director of Finance & Digital Services confirmed that there had been a significant reduction in the number of insurance claims since £800k had been released for investment in the Council's highways infrastructure. He advised that as a result of recent events, the Insurers had been placed on notice to deal with the insurance claims.

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

1. Note the detail of the final 2020/21 local government settlement for capital expenditure, reproduced at Appendix 1 of the report;

2. Agree to the release of the Earmarked Reserve balances as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report;
3. Agree to undertake Prudential Borrowing as set out in paragraph 5.5 of the report;
4. Agree to allocate the funding released from Earmarked Reserves and Prudential Borrowing funding to the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 6.2 of the report;
5. Agree the proposed 'core' three year programme detailed at Appendix 2 of the report;
6. Agree the proposed total three-year Capital Programme, detailed at Appendix 3 of the report, which includes the following non-core capital funding:
 - Prudential borrowing to support 21st Century School Schemes, the Llys Cadwyn (Taff Vale) Development and Highways Improvements schemes;
 - Capital grants for specific schemes;
 - Third party contributions;
 - Additional Council resources previously allocated to support existing schemes and Corporate Plan investment priorities;
 - The investment priorities detailed in paragraph 6.2, which are funded by additional one off WG capital funding detailed in paragraph 3.2, the release of Earmarked Reserves as per paragraph 5.3, and Prudential Borrowing as per paragraph 5.5 of the report.

140 Council Tax Resolution 2020/2021

In his report the Director Of Finance & Digital Services provided Members with details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31st March 2021 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Note the level of the precept from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales;
- ii) Note the level of the Community Council Precepts, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- iii) Pass the formal Council Tax resolutions for the financial year ending 31st March 2021, as contained in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- iv) Note the comments of the Director of Finance & Digital Services upon robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves as detailed at paragraph 9.2 of the report.

141 Change of Membership

In accordance with the decision taken by Minute No 13(1) of the Council meeting held on the 15th May, 2019 the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications reported that he had received notification from the Labour Group of changes to its membership in respect of the following Committees, the Planning & Development Committee; the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee and the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

It was also reported that with regard to the decision taken by Minute 17 of the Council meeting held on the 17th May 2017 a nomination was sought to replace County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto on the Community Health Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the following:

1. That County Borough Councillor S. Powderhill is to replace County Borough Councillor S. Powell on the Planning & Development Committee;
2. That County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins is to replace County Borough Councillor A. Davies-Jones on the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee;
3. That County Borough Councillor R. Turner is to replace County Borough Councillor A. Davies-Jones on the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee; and
4. That a nomination from the Plaid Cymru Group is to be provided to replace County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto on the Community Health Council and further, correspondence be sent to the Cwm Taf Community Health Council advising them of the Authority's nominated representative.

142 Notices of Motion

A. Members **RESOLVED** – that in view of the Secunder of the Notice of Motion, County Borough Councillor A. S. Fox 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 E. George, A. Fox, 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. Edwards, J Elliott, S. Evans, M Fidler Jones, M. Forey, M. Griffiths, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. W. Hughes, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S Pickering, S. Powell, S. Powderhill, S. Rees, 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.

In the absence of Cllr A. Fox, Cllr L.M. Adams seconded the Motion.

Over the previous decade, the Conservative Government has cut police officer numbers by over 20,000, leading to a diminished presence on our streets which has coincided with rises in lower-volume but higher-harm crime instances such as knife related crime and homicides. These cuts have also significantly reduced morale and conditions within police forces as officers are stretched to the limit.

In the months preceding the recent General Election, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, committed to recruiting "20,000 new police officers" which will be "put on the streets of this country." The Government has also said that all officers recruited as part of this drive will be in addition to those hired to fill existing

vacancies and will also be on top of the numbers being recruited through the increase in Police funding for 2019/20.

These target recruitment figures will however, according to the Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, require up to 500,000 applicants over the next three years with up to 50,000 needing to be hired to offset the number of officers retiring or leaving early each year.

In the South Wales Police Force area, the austerity policies pursued by the Conservative Government have seen a net reduction of 113 officers from the Force and this Council has previously supported a Motion calling for frontline policing to be properly funded and a review of the funding formula to be undertaken. Under the UK Government's recruitment plans, South Wales Police could be in line to see additional resources provided for staff recruitment and it is vital that the overwhelming majority of the additional resources should be focussed towards community policing and keeping streets across our communities safe.

This Council therefore resolves:

- For the Leader of the Council to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to enquire how many of the recruited Officers will be allocated to community based policing.

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, G. Davies, H.Fychan, E.Griffiths, K.Morgan, J.Williams, A.Cox, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, A.Chapman, S.Evans, E.Webster, L.Jones, E. Stephens, M.Weaver, S.Rees Owen, D.Grehan.

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vital that the overwhelming majority of the additional resources should be focussed towards community policing and keeping streets across our communities safe.

This Council therefore resolves:

To note the statement in the South Wales Police Commissioner's Budget report to the South Wales Police and Crime Panel on the 30th January 2020, when the level of increase in the Police Precept was considered and approved by the Panel.

The statement says that " the proposed budget strategy reflects a PCSO establishment of 200 Full Time Equivalent posts funded from the South Wales Police budget which complements the 206 CPSOs funded by the Welsh Government resulting in 406 PCSOs across the force area or 100 PCSOs per Basic Command Unit (BCU) which ensures South Wales Police remains part of our communities through Neighbourhood Policing."

This Council further resolves that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chair of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel, Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, who has responsibility for operational matters, to confirm that those details set out in the Police and Crime Commissioners report were adopted to enable the delivery of effective community based policing in Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

Following a discussion on this matter, the vote was taken in respect of the amendment to the Notice of Motion and it was **RESOLVED** not to adopt the amendment.

Following further discussions on the original motion it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion.

(Note: All members of the Plaid Cymru Group present and County Borough Councillors M. Powell, W. Owen and G. Williams wished to have it recorded that they voted in favour of the amendment).

(Note: County Borough Councillor R. Lewis and G. Thomas declared personal interests during discussion on the item as follows:

- County Borough Councillor R. Lewis – "I am a member of the Police & Crime Panel";
- County Borough Councillor G. Thomas – "I am a member of the Police & Crime Panel")

To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors J. Harries, 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. Edwards, J Elliott, S. Evans, M Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. W. Hughes, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S Pickering, S. Powell, S. Powderhill, S. Rees, 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.

With the recent devastation to our communities brought about by Storm Dennis over the weekend, the lives of many of our residents and businesses have been significantly impacted by the unprecedented damage caused by the flooding.

River level gauges indicate that each of our rivers broke their highest recorded levels, with the River Taff breaking a 40 year record when reaching 5.2m. On top of this, some communities in the northernmost reaches of the County experienced a month's worth of rainfall in just 24 hours.

The Council's staff, contractors, emergency services and other organisations have worked tirelessly since the weekend in responding to the flooding and the subsequent clean-up operation. Whilst the full extent of the damage is yet to be understood, it is clear that significant amounts of money will be needed to repair the damage to homes, businesses, Council buildings and infrastructure.

The Welsh Government has announced that between £5m and £10m will be made available to support residents and businesses that have suffered from internal flooding, and the Council has also established its own Storm Dennis Hardship Fund – showing a clear commitment to supporting residents and businesses across the County and beyond.

Despite this, the absence of support from the UK Government is noticeable and has already been condemned publicly by many, with no COBRA meeting being called in spite of the widespread flooding and damage witnessed across Wales and large parts of England following two successive weekends of intense weather.

Therefore, this Council notes:

- The UK Government's disregard for communities across Wales and England following some of the worst weather in recent history.
- The absence of any support from the UK Government in assisting communities, businesses, Local Authorities and the Welsh Government in the response to the flooding.
- The dedication of the Council's staff, emergency services, contractors, partner organisations and neighbouring authorities in providing help and support to those who have been impacted.

This Council therefore resolves:

- For the Council Leader to write to the Prime Minister asking what assistance the UK Government is planning to offer in the recovery and repair operations that are underway.

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, G. Davies, H.Fychan, E.Griffiths, K.Morgan, J.Williams, A.Cox, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, A.Chapman, S.Evans, E.Webster, L.Jones, E, Stephens, M.Weaver, S.Rees Owen, D.Grehan.

With the recent devastation to our communities brought about by Storm Dennis over the weekend, the lives of many of our residents and businesses have been significantly impacted by the unprecedented damage caused by the flooding.

River level gauges indicate that each of our rivers broke their highest recorded levels, with the River Taff breaking a 40 year record when reaching 5.2m and added to that culverts blocked and pumping stations failed. On top of this, some communities in the northernmost reaches of the County experienced a month's worth of rainfall in just 24 hours.

The Council's overstretched staff, contractors, emergency services, communities and volunteers and other organisations have worked tirelessly since the weekend in responding to the flooding and the subsequent clean-up operation. Whilst the full extent of the damage is yet to be understood, it is clear that significant amounts of money will be needed to repair the damage to homes, businesses, Council buildings and infrastructure.

The Welsh Government has announced that between £5m and £10m will be made available to support residents and businesses that have suffered from internal flooding, and the Council has also established its own Storm Dennis Hardship Fund – showing a clear commitment to supporting residents and businesses across the County and beyond.

Despite this, the absence of support from the UK Government is noticeable and has already been condemned publicly by many, with no COBRA meeting being called in spite of the widespread flooding and damage witnessed across Wales and large parts of England following two successive weekends of intense weather.

Therefore, this Council notes:

- The UK Government's disregard for communities across Wales and England following some of the worst weather in recent history.
- The absence of any support from the UK Government in assisting communities, businesses, Local Authorities and the Welsh Government in the response to the flooding.
- The dedication of the Council's overstretched staff, emergency services communities, volunteers, contractors, partner organisations and neighbouring authorities in providing help and support to those who have been impacted.

This Council therefore resolves:

- That the Council Leader to write to the Prime Minister asking what assistance the UK Government is planning to offer in the recovery and repair operations that are underway.

Following a discussion on this matter, the vote was taken in respect of the

amendment to the Notice of Motion and it was **RESOLVED** not to adopt the amendment.

In accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 12.7, the mover of the motion moved an alteration to the Motion to include additional text as set out underlined below:

*"River level gauges indicate that each of our rivers broke their highest recorded levels, with the River Taff breaking a 40 year record when reaching 5.2m and **added to that culverts blocked**"*

*"The Council's **overstretched** staff, contractors, emergency services **communities and volunteers**"*

*"The dedication of the Council's **overstretched** staff, emergency services **communities, volunteers** contractors, partner organisations and neighbouring authorities in providing help and support to those who have been impacted."*

The altered motion therefore read:

With the recent devastation to our communities brought about by Storm Dennis over the weekend, the lives of many of our residents and businesses have been significantly impacted by the unprecedented damage caused by the flooding.

River level gauges indicate that each of our rivers broke their highest recorded levels, with the River Taff breaking a 40 year record when reaching 5.2m and added to that culverts blocked. On top of this, some communities in the northernmost reaches of the County experienced a month's worth of rainfall in just 24 hours.

The Council's overstretched staff, contractors, emergency services communities and volunteers and other organisations have worked tirelessly since the weekend in responding to the flooding and the subsequent clean-up operation. Whilst the full extent of the damage is yet to be understood, it is clear that significant amounts of money will be needed to repair the damage to homes, businesses, Council buildings and infrastructure.

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Therefore, this Council notes:

- The UK Government's disregard for communities across Wales and England following some of the worst weather in recent history.
- The absence of any support from the UK Government in assisting

communities, businesses, Local Authorities and the Welsh Government in the response to the flooding.

- The dedication of the Council's overstretched staff, emergency services communities, volunteers contractors, partner organisations and neighbouring authorities in providing help and support to those who have been impacted.

This Council therefore resolves:

- For the Council Leader to write to the Prime Minister asking what assistance the UK Government is planning to offer in the recovery and repair operations that are underway.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the alteration as moved by the Proposer.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the substantive Notice of Motion.

This meeting closed at 7.55 pm

**Cllr G. Hughes
Chair**