



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 23 September 2020 at 5.00 pm

**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 Edwards      | Councillor Sera Evans   |
| Councillor S Evans        | Councillor J Davies     |
| Councillor M Forey        | Councillor A Fox        |
| Councillor H Fychan       | Councillor E George     |
| Councillor D Grehan       | Councillor E Griffiths  |
| Councillor M 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 W Lewis        | Councillor C Leyshon    |
| Councillor A Morgan       | Councillor K Morgan     |
| Councillor M Norris       | Councillor D Owen-Jones |
| Councillor W Owen         | Councillor S Pickering  |
| Councillor M Powell       | Councillor S Powell     |
| Councillor S. Rees-Owen   | Councillor S Rees       |
| Councillor A Roberts      | Councillor J Rosser     |
| Councillor G Stacey       | Councillor E Stephens   |
| Councillor G Thomas       | Councillor W Treeby     |
| Councillor L Walker       | Councillor M Weaver     |
| Councillor M Webber       | Councillor E Webster    |
| Councillor D Williams     | Councillor J Williams   |
| Councillor T Williams     | Councillor R Yeo        |

**Officers in attendance**

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive  
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services  
Ms G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services  
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources  
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services  
Mr N Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services  
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

## 1 Apologies

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillors S Belzak, J Elliott, J James, R. Turner, M Fidler Jones, K Jones, S Morgans, M Tegg, G Williams and C Willis.

## 2 Welcome & Introductions

Introductions were made by the Group Leaders present:-

County Borough Councillor A Morgan (Labour Group)  
County Borough Councillor P Jarman (Plaid Cymru Group)  
County Borough Councillor L Walker (In the Group Leader's absence -RCT Independent Group)  
County Borough Councillor L Hooper (In the Group Leader's absence- Conservative Group)

## 3 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

## 4 Announcements

- County Borough Councillor L Hooper presented a petition on behalf of the residents of Crib-Y-Lan and he urged the council to legally retrieve the developer bond that was in place and pursue the road work contributions for the residents of Crib-y-Lan.

## 5 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting subject to County Borough Councillor J Rosser being present and the final word in the final paragraph on page 11, which should read 'expedience' not 'experience' as set out in the Minutes:-

"Not least in my opinion that the then 1<sup>st</sup> Minister was also the Assembly Member for Bridgend. I still have doubts that the commitment given for the retention of a 24/7 A&E provision is long term, driven by medical judgement as opposed to political *expedience*."

## 6 Suspension to Standing orders

The Deputy Leader made a statement in respect of moving the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 15.1 and advised that in order to facilitate the smooth running of the Council meeting through Zoom, Group Leaders have agreed in advance that where a vote is taken on any item, the individual Group Leader will exercise the vote on behalf of all their Members present for the item in question.

In order to implement the revised voting procedures the Deputy Leader moved the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 15.1, which states that a matter will be decided by a simple majority of those Members voting and present in the

room at the time the question was put.

Following consideration of the matter it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Council Procedure Rule 15.1

## **7 Statements**

### **Statement from the Deputy Leader of the Council in respect of Remembrance Sunday**

The Deputy Leader announced that in advance of Remembrance Sunday on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020, wreaths will be available to purchase via the Council Business Unit so that Members will be able to pay their respects. Council was advised that over the next few days Welsh Government would publish guidance on the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday under the current restrictions. In her role as Armed Forces Champion, the Deputy Leader stressed the importance of paying tribute to the all those who have fought and lost their lives in conflicts.

## **8 Members' Questions**

### **Question from County Borough Councillor S. Evans to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:-**

“Can the Cabinet Member please make a statement on arts and cultural performances in respect of the coronavirus pandemic?”

### **Response from Councillor R Lewis**

“Councillor Rhys Lewis acknowledged that the Arts and Cultural sector across the country has experienced a difficult six months so Council Officers have been innovative and provided arts and cultural services online. A number of performances and participation activities such as Welsh language singing and movement activities for children have been arranged with further performances and activities coming in the autumn period. The Youth Arts and Sonic Youth music industry programmes have continued alongside other outreach project programmes for young people and have provided access to professional tutors and promoted skills development. This has been used in the Forte project and one to one coaching and mentoring. Officers have engaged online through radio stations for those residents in digital poverty.”

### **Supplementary question from Councillor Sheryl Evans to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:-**

“Councillor Evans expressed her thanks to the Cabinet for seeking online opportunities for our communities and asked if there will be further opportunities for other entertainment online such as the Pantomime?”

### **Response from Councillor R Lewis**

“Over 15,000 people regularly attend the Pantomime so our Council officers are considering this and other online opportunities to bring a little bit of Christmas cheer to residents during these difficult times”

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

“Can the Council Leader/Cabinet Member outline what measures are in place in RCT schools to respond to confirmed cases of coronavirus?”

**Response from Councillor A Morgan:**

“The Leader advised that all schools across RCT have been provided with a detailed process to follow in the event of suspected positive cases with guidance and process maps to support them. A huge amount of work has been carried out during the summer period which has involved the individual schools, LEA’s, Public Health Wales and officers from RCT Council. In the event of a positive case(s) the school submits the relevant information to a dedicated inbox directly to the relevant department within the Council so that the schools may be supported throughout the process. Schools have also received template letters which they can use to communicate with families in the event of any identified positive cases. The Leader advised that there are over 4,000 school based staff and over 30,000 pupils on site in schools and the vast majority of positive cases identified have been outside of the school environment therefore the advice to parents is that school remains the safest place for children to be at the moment.”

**Supplementary question from Councillor J Edwards to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“What plans are in place to continue education in any incidences where a school has to close due to a high number of confirmed cases?”

**Response from Councillor A Morgan:**

“Councillor Morgan advised that individual schools have their own robust processes in place regarding self-isolation and remote learning. There are also safeguarding protocols in place which the Director of Education and Inclusion Services can respond to in further detail where there is concern regarding individual schools”

**Question from County Borough Councillor G. Caple to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

“Can the Leader of the Council please provide an update on the recent inspections at supermarkets across RCT?”

**Response from Councillor A Morgan:**

“Initially 45 of the largest Supermarkets were visited by the Council’s Public Health, Trading Standards and Environmental Health teams. Where action was required a number of Improvement Notices were issued. The vast majority of

supermarkets and smaller business are trying to comply. The checks include availability of hand sanitisers in store, cleaning materials for baskets and trolleys and whether the supermarkets and shops are managing the numbers of customers in store. The Leader confirmed that an update would be given on those Premise Notices served later in the meeting”

**Supplementary question from Councillor G Caple to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“I am grateful for a comprehensive response and I commend the Leader for establishing an effective enforcement regime across Public Houses, Supermarkets and Social Clubs to ensure Covid-19 compliance to slow the spread of the virus and protect Public Health. Please can the Leader expand on the effect of inspections on Licensed premises.”

**Response from Councillor A Morgan:**

“The Council’s Licensing staff are being supported by South Wales Police and by the Council’s own enforcement teams to visit as many Licenced Premises as possible. The Council is obliged to publish the details on the Improvement or Closure Notices on the Council website as well as the detail being published on the premises itself. A further 4 Licensed Premises (possibly 6 which will be confirmed later) have been issued with notices within the last 24 hours, more detail on which will be provided later in the meeting”

**Question from County Borough Councillor H Fychan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“How are you including the evidence of residents affected by the flooding that has taken place this year in the report into the floods that have hit our communities this year, including the recovery plans?”

“Sut ydych chi’n cynnwys tystiolaeth y trigolion effeithwyd gan y llifogydd sydd wedi taro ein cymunedau eleni i’r adroddiad ynglyn a’r llifogydd, gan gynnwys y cynlluniau adfer ar gyfer y cymunedau hyn?”

**Response from Councillor Morgan:**

“Councillor Morgan advised that the Council is committed to consider the investigation reports of those areas for which the Council is responsible e.g surface water flooding events and culverts. Responsibility of flooding directly from the rivers lays with Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The Council has tasked consultants with carrying out surveys of residents in those areas worse hit such as in Pentre and other locations to take statements and collect photographic and video evidence. The Council will consider the NRW report, which will be published in late October, and its own Statutory report through the Council’s Scrutiny process to allow Members to engage and have an input into the Council Statutory report. Today’s council meeting was originally assigned to engage Members with the flood reports but the leader advised that the item has been postponed to a time when all the information is available and the relevant reports have been published”

**Supplementary question from Councillor H Fychan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“You will be aware that there is a petition being discussed in the Senedd soon in relation to an independent investigation into the flooding. As part of that campaign we have received shocking evidence from people about the lasting impact the flooding has had on mental and physical health. From your response it is clear that we have not been able to collect evidence from residents and it appears that we don’t have the intention of doing that in a systematic way. Is a lack of capacity responsible for that? For not getting evidence from those affected or attempting to get evidence? Or is it a matter of not seeing the value as a Local Authority? If it is a lack of capacity would you now support an independent investigation so that we can get a full picture of the lasting effects not only with regards to knowing what work needs to be done but also how to support residents who have had their mental and physical health affected alongside the local economy.”

**Response from Councillor Morgan:**

“The Leader reiterated that where the Council is responsible, for example with regards to surface water flooding, it is engaging with residents through the consultants it has appointed, but where the flooding is from the rivers, responsibility lies with Natural Resources Wales. Welsh Water is responsible for carrying out an investigation in respect of the foul water flooding. There are a number of areas where there are consultants and contractors working, the former to gather statements and photographic and video evidence from residents. The Leader concluded that he would be happy to speak with the individual Member on any of the issues raised.”

**Question from County Borough Councillor E Webster to the Leader of the Council County Borough Councillor A Morgan:-**

“Winter storms have caused major flooding issues in many of our communities. Is there a timescale for fixing the culverts that failed in Treorchy during Storm Dennis?”

**Response from Councillor A Morgan:**

“The Leader stated that whether the culverts failed is questionable, in some cases the culverts were overwhelmed by the rainfall and worked to their maximum capacity, so were unable to deal with the volume of water. The Leader advised that NRW have now classed the storm as a 1 in 290 year event with most infrastructure being designed to endure a 1 in a 100 year storm and with an allowance for climate change. The Leader confirmed that around 2km of culvert has been inspected in the Treorchy area, much of which is underground requiring camera surveys and divers and 25 tonnes of materials has been removed to ensure maximum capacity. Temporary cages have been installed where needed and the Council has had funding approved for a new head wall and new inlet.”

**Supplementary question from Councillor E Webster to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“Councillor Webster stated that this is a regular event and the culvert does fail. I am glad to hear the header is being replaced on the culvert. Will the council take responsibility if it floods again and with residents fearing flooding in bad weather, will the council support Welsh Government or other funding opportunities to put

flood doors on properties or will that be left to charities?”

**Response from Councillor A Morgan:**

“The Leader advised that where appropriate the Council does support applications for flood doors however where a culvert needs repairing or work needs action the source of the flooding should and will be addressed. Flood protection measures will be considered in cases where the source of the flooding cannot be alleviated. The Council is in the process of serving enforcement action against one landowner due to repair or ownership responsibilities. Where the Council has responsibilities it will uphold them and where necessary the Council will act as the flood management authority and serve notice on those who carry out works they shouldn't. The Leader referred to an unofficial dam in one watercourse in Treorchy which was removed immediately following the storm. Not all flooding events is the responsibility of the Council to resolve and where necessary it will act with others including land owners.”

**9 Update from the Leader of the Council & Chief Executive in respect of the Coronavirus in Rhondda Cynon Taf**

The Leader advised that this was the third update he had provided to Council in respect of Coronavirus in the County Borough in as many weeks and he took the opportunity to clarify some of the key points of the local lock down measures. He emphasised that all licensed premises will not be able to sell alcohol after 10pm, to include Off Licences, bars and restaurants, residents will only be able to meet outdoors for the time being and will not be able to meet members of their extended household indoors or form an extended household. In addition clarification was provided

The Leader emphasised the importance of licensed premises remaining open during this time to prevent residents gathering and socialising in each other's houses and to implement the track and trace provision and ensure the provision hand sanitisers in licensed premises.

The Leader provided data in respect of the numbers of positive cases in RCT to emphasise the growing numbers and positivity rate:-

September 2020 in RCT -:

10<sup>th</sup>– 9 cases per day  
11<sup>th</sup>– 23 cases per day  
12<sup>th</sup> – 25 cases per day  
13<sup>th</sup> – 47 cases per day  
15<sup>th</sup> – 38 cases per day  
16<sup>th</sup>– 62 cases per day  
17<sup>th</sup> - 32 cases per day  
18<sup>th</sup>– 45 cases per day  
19 – 47 cases per day  
20<sup>th</sup> -56 cases per day  
21<sup>st</sup> -40 cases per day  
22<sup>nd</sup> –77 cases per day  
23<sup>rd</sup>- 93 cases per day

The data demonstrates that in less than 14 days there has been an increase

from 9 to 93 positive cases per day. The Leader advised that of concern is the positivity rate as a result of testing, which was 1.5-2% a few weeks ago for every 100 people being tested and is now (as of the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020) 9% which evidences community transmission.

The Leader identified those premises, licensed premises, supermarkets and other businesses that have received closure notices and remain closed, those premises which have received improvement notices which remain live and those which have been lifted following compliance and immediate improvements made.

With great sadness the Leader made a short statement in relation to the recent death of a member of Council staff linked to a Covid related illness. He extended his sympathy to the family at this difficult time.

The Leader advised that there are robust measures and set processes in place where cases have been identified in schools. He referred to the panel consisting of Public Health and Environmental Health Officers which is in place to guide and advise teachers and parents through effective communication processes on appropriate action such as deep cleaning of the school or self-isolation of individuals or whole classes. He reiterated the importance of the work of the track and trace teams and the importance of testing in a timely manner.

The Leader emphasised the importance of testing following signs of symptoms and dispelled the myth that more testing will produce more positive cases which will lead to lock down. He added that identifying community transmission and getting residents to self-isolate is key to overcoming the number of positive cases.

The Leader explained that the testing process has not been without its challenges. Following lobbying for a testing facility to be established in Clydach Vale, it was scaled back after only a few days. Additional capacity was increased over the previous weekend in partnership with other organisations and the cap raised from 60 to 120 tests. Approximately 1,000 tests were undertaken during the first weekend. Subsequently the cap has been lifted to 300. The Leader confirmed that the cap at the Circo testing (temporary) sites is limited to 300 tests but could potentially undertake up to 500 tests at full capacity. The Leader advised that at both the Clydach facility and Abercynon Sports Centre car park 300 tests per day can be undertaken as well as the Lighthouse Lab in Navigation Park, Abercynon. On average the tests can take up to between three and five days to return.

The Leader thanked a number of staff including the Corporate Estates Team, the Chief Executive and the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication who have collaborated to determine the most appropriate support to facilitate and support the testing sites. The Leader also went on to explain the initial difficulties associated with the National testing system which has resulted in people from Bath and Bristol coming across the border to be tested at the Abercynon site. At present there is still no agreement with Welsh and UK Government about a handover to establish a local booking system.

The Leader also thanked the Local Health Board, particularly the Director of Public Health and Chair of the Incident Management Team, who has worked tirelessly alongside council staff. He advised that any changes in the numbers of positive cases are likely to be evident after the next 7-10 days.



The Chief Executive advised that there is a similar picture with regards to the rising cases across the three local authorities in Cwm Taf Morgannwg with the impact on our public services becoming evident with 14 positive cases recorded across four care homes and one supported living accommodation based in RCT. Across Cwm Taf Morgannwg 43 key workers (police officers, hospital staff, teachers and care staff) and 94 pupils or staff across 43 schools have tested positive. An announcement made this afternoon has confirmed there are 34 cases across two wards in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital which is linked to transmission within the hospital. As a result, increased testing has been undertaken and wards have been closed, all emergency and elective hospital admissions are being tested. There is now limited visiting to the hospital.

The Chief Executive advised that the rise in the number of cases is having an impact on the test, trace and protect service, which RCT runs on behalf of the 3 local authorities within Cwm Taf Morgannwg but is coping well with the increase in the number of cases. Over the last 19 days the team has worked with 947 positive cases which has meant 3,122 contacts to follow up by text or phone which can be a slow process. The numbers equate to over 4,000 people being contacted daily.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the service is also provided on behalf of Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend and he advised that with 26% of all the positive cases to date in Wales recorded in Cwm Taf Morgannwg, the additional workload has impacted slightly on the performance over the past 5 days with 87% of cases being followed up within 48hrs and 78% of all contacts being followed up in that same period. Additional support has been provided recently from Powys and Monmouthshire County Borough Councils, who have experienced low cases, to undertake some of the contact tracing. Staff have been reallocated from other duties to the team, numbering over 70, with more to be recruited to cope with continued rise in demand.

The Chief Executive also provided an update with inspections to licensed premises and supermarkets in addition to inspections to major employer sites. Recruitment is underway to the enforcement teams to support and challenge businesses in manufacturing, leisure, hospitality, tourism to ensure they comply with Covid regulations.

A request was made for Members to direct all their questions and queries in relation to the new regulations to the Members Services inbox where a timely response will be provided. Members were also advised that as demand on key staff is currently high, there may be a reduction in other services areas where staff have been relocated to cope with the demand in these key essential services. The Chief Executive advised that further information on the potential for a reduction in services in some areas will be provided in due course.

Following the presentation by the Chief Executive, a 'heat map' was shown on screen to demonstrate the numbers of positive Covid cases across the County Borough. The Leader stated that there are now cases in all areas, even in lower super output areas which demonstrates that the geography of the valleys determines that the population travels across the county to shop and work.

Questions were received initially from the Group Leaders:-

County Borough Councillor P Jarman (Plaid Cymru Group)

- Inspections – are they random or only activated following intelligence or complaints?
- Could we have regular updates on the location of the testing sites and that signposting is clear to avoid any potential contact between those testing positive and businesses;
- How long are we planning for these new arrangements? How will we resource any additional required support?

The Leader of the Council responded to all the queries raised and advised that the testing centres are controlled by the UK Government and Welsh Government and therefore agreement for the deployment of the centres has to be sought. They are agreed for a week at a time and a further applications are required for extensions, hence the delay in circulating notification and confirmation of their location.

It was confirmed that signage has since been manufactured and displayed at the testing sites following the initial complaints. With regards to using the Abercynon Leisure Centre car park as a testing site, the decision was made to close the Abercynon Leisure Centre until 6pm to avoid any members of the public entering when testing is underway.

The Leader confirmed that initially over 75% of all cases were in the 20-29/30-39 age range, however that is no longer the case as the virus is now affecting all age groups. He advised that the review period for the current restrictions in RCT is 14 days but he anticipated them to be in place for at least 4 weeks, depending on the actions of the residents to adhere to regular hand washing and social distancing measures.

County Borough Councillor M Powell (RCT Independent Group) raised queries in relation to the following matters:-

- Can concern regarding residents of RCT travelling to and from any UK airports be brought to the attention of the Welsh Government?
- Is the three layer face mask the most appropriate facial covering to wear?
- Can the 'heat map' shown earlier in the meeting be circulated to all Elected Members?

The Leader confirmed that AM's and MP's have been lobbying travel companies to honour the local lockdown restrictions in RCT so that local residents will receive compensation in the event of having to cancel their holiday which is the current legal position.

The Leader advised that wearing a visor can protect against airborne particles and where there is an exemption from wearing a mask, a visor is the recommended alternative. The preferred option is a face mask with the exception of certain exemptions.

The Leader advised that the 'heat map' referred to earlier in the meeting is not a RCT document but has been signed off by the Incident Management Team to be

shared at today's Council meeting.

The Leader clarified the process for the improvement notices following a query by County Borough Councillor L Hooper (in the absence of the Leader of the Conservative Group Councillor J James).

The Deputy Leader thanked the Leader of the Council for providing an update, the third update to Council and acknowledged the Leader's meetings with Welsh Government as the reason for having to leave the former Council meetings earlier.

The Leader of the Council provided responses to all the following queries:-

- With the sale of alcohol now restricted to a 10pm deadline, are patrons able to purchase drinks and remain on the premises indefinitely?
- Are residents encouraged to undertake a second test if their symptoms persist past the self-isolating period?
- What support is the Council offering those residents who are unable to wear face masks and, despite wearing 'hidden disability' lanyards, continue to be challenged and asked personal questions?
- Are there clear masks available for residents with hearing impairments so they can continue to lip read?
- Are we able to regularly receive data on the numbers of Covid-19 cases within our individual wards?
- Clarification on the National and local lock down regulations regarding the 6 meeting rule.

The Leader explained that clear guidance on the recent local lock down measures and restrictions would be circulated as he acknowledged the potential confusion in understanding the changes that have been implemented over the last few weeks.

The Leader emphasised that no-one should feel stigmatised for not wearing a face covering with a valid exemption. However, in those cases where individuals refuse to follow the rules and not wear face coverings they risk having to pay £200 penalty.

The next series of questions from Members included the following points:-

- Concerns that parents collecting and dropping off their children to school are congregating, flouting the 2 metre rule and not wearing face masks
- How is the wearing of face masks for the entire journey being managed on local buses?
- On the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020 shielding was removed, will it return and if so are we prepared?
- Is it possible to receive updates on the Improvement Notices issued within our individual wards?

- Are pupils who are in a bubble in school and who test negative for Covid-19 able to return to school?

The Leader confirmed that notification regarding appropriate behaviour during the school drop off and collection has been issued to all schools asking parents to follow social distancing and comply with the recently introduced restrictions but he assured Members that the message would be reinforced. Members were advised that warning and reporting procedures are in place on all school buses in cases of non-compliance. For incidences on other local transport carriers, the Leader urged local members to provide the Council's transport Unit with specific details.

The Leader reminded Members that shielding was paused and not stopped and although the Council would support the measures to re start shielding if necessary, it would impact on some council services such as the track and trace teams and enforcement teams.

Members were advised of the process for issuing improvement notices, publication on the council website and information included on the Members daily updates circulated by Democratic Services.

Further queries were raised as follows:-

- Will schools close for an additional week over the Half term Holiday?
- Is there any flexibility in the system for those pupils who have been denied transport to schools in RCT?
- Is it the school's responsibility or that of the Track and Trace teams to inform parents if a child tests positive?

The Leader confirmed that the sale of seats on the Home to School Transport service will start this week on a first come first served basis. Members were also advised that there are over 30,00 pupils in schools across RCT and 4,000 school staff and yet numbers of positive cases remain low. Many cases are linked to clusters outside the school setting. In cases where pupils test positive for Covid-19, all schools have a protocol in place and can issue letters to the families following sign off by the Chair of Governors.

In conclusion, the Leader responded to concerns that some tourist spots within RCT are being visited by people outside the area and he assured Council that the issues about that and additional signage have been raised with the Assistant Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Discussions with Mid Wales Police, who were proactive when similar issues occurred in Pen Y Fan will be undertaken.

## **10 Council Work Programme**

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented the Council Work Programme for the 2020/21 Municipal Year and advised that under the current circumstances, a degree of flexibility would be required when considering the work programme. Subject to any comments the Council Work Programme would be published as usual to the Council website.

The Service Director Democratic Services provided an update in respect of previous Notices of Motions to Council such as how future rail and transport infrastructure and services could develop and build on the early stages of implementation of the South Wales Metro in Rhondda Cynon Taf, which had been undertaken by the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee. A commitment to re convening the Scrutiny Working Group was given by the Service Director and the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

## 11 Notice of Motion

To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors J Bonetto and G Holmes:

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council calls on the UK Government to provide sector-specific funding to the UK's aviation industry in order to protect high-value skills and jobs in RCT and across Wales and the UK into the future.

We urge the UK Government to provide funding levels commensurate to the aviation sector's strategic importance and to do so urgently, in order to help the sector through this difficult period and to prevent job and skills losses at General Electric in Nantgarw, British Airways in Llantrisant and other aviation sites across Wales and the UK; in addition to the thousands of jobs in the wider supply chain.

We believe that the aviation sector has a bright future and that if the UK Government fails to act it will not only have devastating economic and social impact on the affected communities, but the loss of high-skilled jobs will put the UK's aviation industry at a competitive disadvantage when the recovery begins. Any investment package must, however, also take in to account climate

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion in respect of the Council's call on the UK Government to provide sector-specific funding to the UK's aviation industry in order to protect high-value skills and jobs in RCT and across Wales and the UK into the future.

**This meeting closed at 7.40 pm**

**Cllr S Powderhill  
Chairman.**