

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 25th March, 2015 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor M.J.Watts – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

D.R.Bevan	P.Griffiths	S.Rees-Owen
J.Bonetto	(Mrs.)E.Hanagan	(Mrs.)A.Roberts
S.A.Bradwick	G.E.Hopkins	J.Rosser
J.Bunnage	P.Howe	G.Smith
A.Calvert	P.Jarman	G.Stacey
P.Cannon,QPM	(Mrs.)S.J.Jones	B.Stephens
S.Carter	W.L.Langford	R.K.Turner
(Mrs.)A.Crimmings	R.Lewis	L.G.Walker
W.J.David	(Mrs.)C.Leyshon	(Mrs.)J.S.Ward
(Mrs.)A.Davies	K.Montague	M.O.Weaver
C.Davies	A.Morgan	M.Webber
G.R.Davies	B.Morgan	E.Webster
(Mrs.)M.E.Davies	K.Morgan	W.D.Weeks
(Mrs.)L.De Vet	I.Pearce	C.J.Williams
S.Evans	S.Pickering	D.H.Williams
M.Forey	K.A.Privett	T.Williams
A.S.Fox		C.J.Willis

Officers in Attendance

Mr.S.Merritt – Chief Executive
Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.C.Bradshaw – Director, Education & Lifelong Learning
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mr.C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

122 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, P.Baccara, (Mrs.)T.A.Bates, H.Boggis, (Mrs.)J.Cass, A.L.Davies,MBE, J.Davies, S.M.Evans-Fear, M.Griffiths,S.Lloyd, C.J.Middle, M.A.Norris, M.J.Powell, S.Rees, R.W.Smith, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, G.Thomas, P.Wasley and R.Yeo

123 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Declarations of Interests by County Borough Councillors

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the following declarations of personal interests were made by the under-mentioned County Borough Councillors:

- County Borough Councillor S.Carter – Agenda Item 8 – Enabling Fund for Community Led Services – “Because of the link with the community”.
- County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)E.Hanagan – Agenda Item 10 – The Council’s 2015/16 Pay Policy Statement – “I am related to a Chief Officer”.

Declarations of Interests by Council Officers in relation to Agenda Item No.10 – The Council’s 2015/16 Pay Policy Statement

(1) Mr.T.Wilkins, Director of Human Resources –

“I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter.

In accordance with my duties as Director of Human Resources, I believe I am best placed to present the report and recommendations to Members.

I would remind Members that the making of the annual Pay Policy Statement is distinct from the Council’s contractual and statutory obligations as employers and the process of making the statement, therefore, can have no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees.

I will be able to advise Members in respect of queries they have in relation to the

report following its presentation.”

(2) Mr.P.J.Lucas, Director of Legal & Democratic Services –

“I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and will be able to advise Members in respect of procedural matters arising from the report”.

(3) Mr.S.Merritt – Chief Executive

“I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion on the item.”

(4) Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services

“I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion on the item.”

(5) Mr.C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations

“I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion on the item.”

(6) Mr.C.Bradshaw – Group Director, Education & Lifelong Learning

“I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion on the item.”

(7) Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services

“I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion on the item.”

124 MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENT

At the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor announced that for the avoidance of any doubt and in accordance with paragraph 23 of Part 4 – Rules of Procedure of the Council’s Constitution, he would allow the use of social media at this meeting.

125 MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 4th March, 2015 subject to the supplementary question from County Borough Councillor S.Rees-Owen as referred to in Minute No.117(2) being amended to read as follows:

“You will recall that the Leader issued a press statement on the 11th December, 2014 giving notice that a report would be presented to Cabinet in the New Year on the Home to School transport scheme. The statement mentioned the fact that over £3M of the £10M it costs to run the present scheme is discretionary because of distance and post 16 provision. Can you give an assurance today that you will oppose any attempts to reduce the budget line for home to school transport when the report is eventually brought forward”.

126 OPEN GOVERNMENT – STATEMENTS

By the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“At the last meeting of Council, I mentioned that I had asked the Director of Human Resources to carry out a review following the stepping down of Steve Merritt as Chief Executive. The options paper will be coming to Council on the 22nd April, 2015 following discussions that I have had with the Director of Human Resources”.

127 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

(1) From County Borough Councillor R.Lewis to the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee (County Borough Councillor P.Jarman)

“Will the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee please make a statement on the mentoring and development of Members?”

Response from County Borough Councillor P.Jarman

“Such matters are provided in the Elected Members Development Strategy for the period 2012-2016 as debated on the 2nd October, 2012 by the Democratic Services Committee”.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor R.Lewis

“Could the Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group inform whether any of her Members have had any training regarding the Council’s Policy Budget Framework and will they be putting an alternative in 2015/16?”

Response from County Borough Councillor P.Jarman

Note: County Borough Councillor P.Jarman raised a point of order as in accordance with paragraph 9.6 of Part 4 of Rules of Procedure within the Council’s Constitution – *a supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply given to it;* and therefore Councillor Jarman did not respond to the supplementary question.

(2) From County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)

“Will the Leader make a statement on the Budget Policy Setting Framework as set out within the Constitution?”

Note: In the absence of Councillor L.M.Adams, the Mayor indicated that a response to the question would be made in writing.

(3) From County Borough Councillor S.Powderhill to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Sport (County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings)

“Will the Cabinet Member for Leisure please make a statement on Hawthorn Pool?”

Note: In the absence of Councillor S.Powderhill, the Mayor indicated that a response to the question would be made in writing.

(4) From County Borough Councillor J.Bonetto to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Services and Equalities (County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins)

“Will the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services please make a statement on partnership working?”

Response from County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins

“In order to effectively meet the needs of our children, young people and their families, we need a strong multi agency approach across the spectrum of service responses from prevention, early intervention, preventing escalation and managing crisis where necessary. Indeed, the new model for Children’s Services will be dependent on strong partnership working and I was pleased at a meeting of Cabinet last week to receive the latest update report on the progress being made with the development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. Cwm Taf LHB, Social Services and the Well-Being Partnership, there is undoubtedly a need for us to work closer, particularly with Health. The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub brings together a range of safeguarding services and is an excellent example of public services working together for the benefit of our communities.”

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor J.Bonetto

“I applaud this joined up approach to safeguarding and not aware of any similar approach in Wales, can the Member confirm this?”

Response from County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins

“Similar arrangements have been looked at across Wales, however, Cwm Taf MASH is the most comprehensive in Wales and will clearly put us and partners on the map in our safeguarding role. We must recognise that this approach is not a guarantee for safety to residents but services are talking regularly to each other.”

(5) From County Borough Councillor G.Smith to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)

“Will the Leader make a statement on regeneration?”

Response from the Leader, County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“Town centre regeneration for many years have been successful in getting funding in Pontypridd and also attracted funding in Porth, Ferndale etc. Officers work hard across the region for European funding. A number of strategic sites have been worked on e.g. Cynon Valley Furnacite which is classed as a large development site with housing, shops and recreational facilities. The Welsh Government announced yesterday £500,000 funding for Pontypridd and maybe at the next Council meeting I can give an update”.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor G.Smith

“The Council already has a strong track record to support town centres, what is the ambition for the next 12 months?”

Response from the Leader, County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“I continue to honour what I said when I became Leader – we have kept and extended free car parking in the Council’s car parks during the Christmas period and we are looking to also provide free parking during small business week. We are also continuing to work with Welsh Government and other funding partners to seek and secure funding to allow us to maintain the support we have given to our town centres over recent years”.

REPORTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

128 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INCORPORATING INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MRP STATEMENT FOR 2015/16

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services set out the Council’s:-

- Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16
- Investment Strategy for 2015/16
- Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2014/15 (actual to date) and 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

Following the observations of the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To approve the Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Prudential and Treasury Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement as set out in the report.
2. To grant the Section 151 Officer (or in his absence the Deputy Section 151 Officer) with delegated powers to exceed the fixed/variable limits, in the best financial interests of the Authority only, and if utilised, that this be

reported to the next available meeting of the Council, as shown at paragraph 18.6 of the report.

129 ENABLING FUND FOR COMMUNITY LED SERVICES

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services outlined a proposal to establish a Council Enabling Fund for Community Led Services which would provide further support towards sustaining Council services through alternative community based delivery models.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To agree an amount of £0.100M to be earmarked for the Fund; and
2. To agree the general purpose of the fund as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report.

REPORT OF THE CABINET

130 THE COUNCIL'S THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 – 2017/18

The Cabinet set out in their report, the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18, following the Local Government settlement for 2015/16 and it was **RESOLVED** – that following the approval of Cabinet at its meeting on the 19th March, 2015:

1. To note the detail of the final 2015/16 Local Government settlement for capital expenditure, as shown at Appendix 1 to the report;
2. To agree the proposed `core` three year programme as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
3. To agree the three year Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

131 THE COUNCIL'S 2015/16 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

In accordance with the requirements of Section 38(1) of the Localism Act, 2011, the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services appended to their joint report a copy of the Council's Pay Policy Statement 2015/2016; and it was **RESOLVED** – to approve the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix A to the report.

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CABINET & PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**132 CONSULTATION – WHITE PAPER – “REFORMING LOCAL
GOVERNMENT: POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE**

In their joint report, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Service Director for Cabinet and Public Relations sought the Council’s approval to the establishment of a Cabinet Working Group and a Scrutiny Working Group to seek comments of Members on the recent White Paper published by the Welsh Government on behalf of the Minister for Public Services, Leighton Andrews AM, in order that the findings from both Working Groups can be reported to the Council Meeting on the 22nd April, 2015.

RESOLVED –

1. That Working Groups of both the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be established to consider and make comment on the Welsh Government’s White Paper – “Reforming Local Government : Power to Local People”.
2. That the comments from both Working Groups be reported to the meeting of Council on the 22nd April, 2015, in order that the Council’s response to the consultation document can be made by the deadline of the 28th April, 2015.

133 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

- (1) The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors R.Lewis, B.Stephens, L.M.Adams, (Mrs.)T.Bates, D.R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S.A.Bradwick, (Mrs.)J.Bunnage, A.Calvert, P.Cannon,QPM S.Carter, (Mrs.)J.Cass, (Mrs.)A.Crimmings, W.J.David, A.L.Davies,MBE, (Mrs.)A.Davies, J.Davies, (Mrs.)M.Davies, (Mrs.)L.De Vet, J.Elliott, S.Evans, M.Forey, A.S.Fox, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, G.E.Hopkins, (Mrs.)S.J.Jones, W.L.Langford, (Mrs.)C.Leyshon, S.Lloyd, C.J.Middle, K.Montague, A.Morgan, B.Morgan, M.A.Norris, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, K.A.Privett, S.Rees, (Mrs.)A.Roberts, J.Rosser, G.Smith, R.W.Smith, G.Stacey, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, R.K.Turner, G.Thomas, (Mrs.)J.S.Ward, M.J.Watts, M.Webber, W.D.Weeks, C.J.Williams, D.H.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo was moved and seconded:-

“This Council notes the work undertaken by the Mayor as First Citizen of the County Borough including the contribution made through charity funding raising activity that has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for worthy causes.

This Council reconsiders the role and functions of the Mayor of the Council as defined in the 1972 Local Government Act.

That the role of the Mayor should be revised as in, the role and responsibilities it holds within the Council. Such changes could include the reduction/removal of ceremonial activity to support the on-going efficiencies being made by the Council.

Furthermore, the function of chairing the Constitution Committee of the Council could also form part of this new role. This and other changes should be considered by the Constitution Committee with any recommendations being reflected at the Council's Annual General Meeting."

In accordance with paragraph 10.4.1 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, the following notice of amendment to the Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors P.Jarman, G.R.Davies, K.Morgan, I.Pearce, E.Webster, C.Davies, M.O.Weaver, S.Rees-Owen and S.M.Evans-Fear was moved and seconded:-

"This Council notes the work undertaken by the Mayor as First Citizen of the County Borough, including the Mayor's Charity which has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for worthy causes during the lifetime of this Council.

In a further attempt to bridge the Council's Budget gap the Council will give consideration to the future role and functions of the Mayor.

In an effort to promote community engagement and to hand more power to communities, by putting people in control, this Council will launch a Countywide referendum to determine whether the public think the role of Mayor should be retained before reconsidering the role and function of the Mayor as defined in the 1972 Local Government Act."

Following a discussion and consideration of the amended Notice of Motion as presented in accordance with paragraph 10.4.1 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, it was **RESOLVED – not** to adopt the amended Notice of Motion.

(Note: County Borough Councillors G.Hopkins and D.Williams wished to have their names recorded that they voted against adopting the amended Notice of Motion)

In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules, a discussion took place on the original Notice of Motion and it was **FURTHER RESOLVED –** to adopt the following Notice of Motion:

"This Council notes the work undertaken by the Mayor as First Citizen of the County Borough including the contribution made through charity funding raising activity that has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for worthy causes.

This Council reconsiders the role and functions of the Mayor of the Council as defined in the 1972 Local Government Act.

That the role of the Mayor should be revised as in, the role and responsibilities it holds within the Council. Such changes could include the reduction/removal of ceremonial activity to support the on-going efficiencies being made by the Council.

Furthermore, the function of chairing the Constitution Committee of the Council could also form part of this new role. This and other changes should be considered by the Constitution Committee with any recommendations being reflected at the Council's Annual General Meeting."

- (2) The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors D.H.Williams, R.Lewis, L.M.Adams, (Mrs.)T.Bates, D.R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S.A.Bradwick, (Mrs.)J.Bunnage, A.Calvert, P.Cannon,QPM S.Carter, (Mrs.)J.Cass, (Mrs.)A.Crimmings, W.J.David, A.L.Davies,MBE, (Mrs.)A.Davies, J.Davies, (Mrs.)M.Davies, (Mrs.)L.De Vet, J.Elliott, S.Evans, M.Forey, A.S.Fox, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, G.E.Hopkins, (Mrs.)S.J.Jones, W.L.Langford, (Mrs.)C.Leyshon, S.Lloyd, C.J.Middle, K.Montague, A.Morgan, B.Morgan, M.A.Norris, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, K.A.Privett, S.Rees, (Mrs.)A.Roberts, J.Rosser, G.Smith, R.W.Smith, G.Stacey, B.Stephens, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, R.K.Turner, G.Thomas, (Mrs.)J.S.Ward, M.J.Watts, M.Webber, W.D.Weeks, C.J.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo was moved and seconded:-

"This Council should lend its support to the British Legion's Insult to Injury Campaign.

Veterans injured during Service are having to give up most of their compensation to pay for the costs of their social care.

Military compensation is awarded as recompense for the pain, suffering and loss of amenity experienced by injured Service personnel and veterans; it should **not** be treated as normal income.

This Council considers it unfair that War Pensioners are treated differently to other injured veterans. It is also unacceptable that War Pensioners are treated less favourably than civilians who have been injured in the work place, who are able to place compensation awarded into a trust fund. This Council believes this point to not take account of the Armed Forces Covenant, which states that Service personnel, veterans and their families should face no disadvantage as a result of Military Service.

The Council believes such an approach to be unfair and therefore requests the appropriate Scrutiny Committee/s to consider the issue to ensure all

appropriate measures are taken by this local authority to address this issue. This Council also calls upon the Welsh Government to take the steps to address this issue at an all Wales level by providing the necessary guidance to ensure veterans will not in future be penalised in this way.”

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – accordingly.

M.J.WATTS

MAYOR

The meeting closed at 6.20 p.m.

