

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavillions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 16th December, 2015 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor B.Stephens – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

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|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| L.M.Adams | P.Griffiths | (Mrs.)A.Roberts |
| D.R.Bevan | G.E.Hopkins | J.Rosser |
| S.A.Bradwick | P.Howe | G.Smith |
| J.Bunnage | P.Jarman | R.W.Smith |
| A.Calvert | (Mrs.)S.J.Jones | G.Stacey |
| P.Cannon,QPM | R.Lewis | (Mrs.)M.Tegg |
| S.Carter | (Mrs.)C.Leyshon | R.K.Turner |
| A.Crimmings | S.Lloyd | G.P.Thomas |
| W.J.David | R.B.McDonald | L.G.Walker |
| A.L.Davies,MBE | C.J.Middle | (Mrs.)J.S.Ward |
| J.Davies | K.Montague | P.Wasley |
| G.R.Davies | A.Morgan | E.Webster |
| J.Elliott | B.Morgan | W.D.Weeks |
| S.Evans | I.Pearce | C.J.Williams |
| M.Forey | S.Powderhill | D.H.Williams |
| A.S.Fox | K.A.Privett | C.J.Willis |
| M.Griffiths | S.Rees | R.Yeo |

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Bradshaw – 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.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mr.B.Davies – Director, Financial Services
Mr.C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet Office & Public Relations
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors P.Baccara, (Mrs.)T.A.Bates, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, (Mrs.)J.Cass, C.Davies, (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, (Mrs.)L.De Vet, S.M.Evans-Fear, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, J.S.James, W.L.Langford, K.Morgan, S.Pickering, M.J.Powell, S.Rees-Owen, M.J.Watts, M.Weaver, (Mrs.)M.Webber and T.Williams.

79 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor P.Jarman declared an interest in Agenda Item 2 – The Council's 2016/17 Revenue Budget – The Provisional Settlement – “the Standards Committee recently granted me dispensation to speak and vote at meetings of the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees on matters relating to all services affected by the budget process for a period leading up to and including the formal approval of the budget for 2016/2017 by the Council.”

80 PRESENTATION

With the permission of the Mayor, County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)J.S.Ward introduced Members to Captain KC and Marcia Zurian, Corporate Services Officer of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Captain KC wished to thank Councillor Ward on behalf of himself and the Ghurkas for collecting donations towards the Nepal Appeal, which totalled £500 and he also wished to thank Members for their support in raising this amount of money.

Captain KC presented the Mayor with a kukri (ceremonial knife) and to Councillor Ward he presented an Appreciation Certificate.

Both the Mayor and Councillor Ward thanked Captain Kacey, on behalf of the Council, for his kind rewards.

81 ANNOUNCEMENT

With the permission of the Mayor, County Borough Councillor D.H.Williams, stated that he had been requested by a family in Rhydyfelin to thank the Members and Officers who had been influential in saving a man's life. The person concerned collapsed whilst playing football on Thursday, 3rd December, 2015 and if it had not been for the prompt action of individuals prior to the arrival of the paramedics a fatality could've resulted.

REPORTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

82 THE COUNCIL'S 2016/17 REVENUE BUDGET – THE PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services informed Members that instead of making a PowerPoint presentation to Members in respect of the Provisional Settlement as indicated on the agenda, he would provide Members with a commentary on the report (copies circulated at the meeting) which was also presented to Members of the Cabinet at its meeting held yesterday (15th December, 2015).

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services reported that on the 9th December, 2015, the Minister for Public Services, Leighton Andrews AM,

announced the provisional 2016/17 Local Government and attached at Appendix 1 to the report was the statement of the Minister and the key data table which showed the allocation to each of the Authorities in Wales.

It was reported that in relation to the 2016/17, the estimated funding gap as at the 10th November, 2015 when the Cabinet decided to consult on a series of Service Change proposals totalled £27.2M, which was based on a -4% estimated settlement. The impact of the Provisional Settlement had been assessed and the result was a reduction in the initial budget gap for 2016/17 to £19.564M, this was significantly better than anticipated. However, it was still a funding reduction and after taking account of further reductions, resulting in a budget gap of £17.515M, further savings proposals would be required and all opportunities to deliver greater levels of efficiency should be maximised.

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

1. To note the provisional 2016/17 Local Government settlement, as announced by the Minister for Public Services on the 9th December, 2015;
2. To note that the final 2016/17 Local Government settlement is expected on the 2nd March, 2015;
3. To note that the general budget strategy consultation commenced on the 16th December, 2015 and will close on the 18th January, 2016.

83 2015/16 MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT STEWARDSHIP REPORT

In accordance with the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided Members with information on:-

- The Council's Treasury Management activity during the first six months of 2015/16; and
- Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the same period.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to note the contents of the report.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

84 REVIEW OF THE CORONER SERVICE

Pursuant to Minute No.117 of the Council Meeting held on the 26th February, 2014, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services reported that the Ministry of Justice were currently consulting on the proposed merger of the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys and Cardiff and The Vale of Glamorgan Coroner Areas with relevant stakeholders affected by the proposals.

It was proposed that the merger would come into effect by the end of March, 2016 and attached to the report at Appendix 1 was a copy of the Business

Case, which had been prepared jointly by the relevant Councils, setting out details of the proposal.

Following the observations made by the Director, Legal & Democratic Services, it was **RESOLVED** – That the Council makes the following response to the consultation on the proposed merger of the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys and Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Valleys Coroner Areas be submitted to the Ministry of Justice, and as commended by the Cabinet following its meeting held on the 15th December, 2015:-

1. The Council agrees the proposed merger of the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys and Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Coroner Areas;
2. The Council agrees with the assessment made in the Business Case, as shown at Appendix 1 to the report, of the impacts of the proposed merger; and
3. The Council agrees no negative impacts of the proposed merger have been identified.

85 WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) BILL

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services sought the approval of Council to the establishment of Working Groups of both the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the documents published by the Welsh Government in relation to the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill in order that the Council can receive comments from Members of both Working Groups which would form the basis of the Council's response by the deadline of the 15th February, 2016; and it was **RESOLVED** - accordingly.

86 URGENT BUSINESS – REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) FUNDED LIFELONG LEARNING CENTRE, GARTH OLWG

The Mayor being of the opinion that the report of the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services, containing exempt information, be considered at this meeting, in accordance with the provision of Section 100(b)4(B) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances i.e. the need to note the decision made by Cabinet at its meeting held on the 15th December, 2015 to proceed with voluntarily terminating the PFI Contract relating to the Lifelong Learning Centre at Garth Olwg and for Council to agree the way forward to secure the necessary authority to borrow.

Also in accordance with paragraph 21.1 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, Standing Orders were suspended in order for the report of the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services, containing exempt information to be considered at this meeting.

It was therefore, **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended), as in the opinion of the Director, Legal & Democratic Services, the report of the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services contains exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided the Council with details of a proposal to refinance the Council's Lifelong Learning Centre at Garth Olwg, which is currently funded by a Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

Following consideration of the report and a discussion, it was **FURTHER RESOLVED** –

1. To note the decision of Cabinet on the 15th December, 2015 to proceed with voluntarily terminating the PFI Contract; and
2. To agree that borrowing necessary to enable the refinancing be undertaken using the Council's powers under the Prudential Code; and
3. That Members receive further details of the transaction once it has been commercially settled.

**B.STEPHENS
MAYOR**

The meeting closed at 6.20 p.m.