

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 27th April 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor B.Stephens – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	M.Griffiths	S.L.Rees
(Mrs) T.A. Bates	P.Griffiths	(Mrs) A.Roberts
D.R.Bevan	G.E.Hopkins	G.Smith
J.Bonetto	P.Howe	R.W.Smith
S.A.Bradwick	P.Jarman	G.Stacey
J.Bunnage	(Mrs) S.J.Jones	(Mrs) M.Tegg
P.Cannon,QPM	W.L.Langford	R.K.Turner
S.Carter	R.Lewis	G.P.Thomas
(Mrs) J.Cass	(Mrs) C.Leyshon	L.G.Walker
A.Crimmings	R.B.McDonald	(Mrs) J.S.Ward
W.J.David	C.J.Middle	P.Wasley
(Mrs) A.Davies	A.Morgan	M.J.Watts
C.Davies	B.Morgan	M.Webber
G.R.Davies	M.A.Norris	E.Webster
(Mrs) L.De Vet	I.Pearce	C.J.Williams
J.Elliott	S.Pickering	D.H.Williams
S.M.Evans	M.J.Powell	C.J.Willis
M.Forey	K.A.Privett	R.A.Yeo

Officers in Attendance

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

Mr.G.Isinigrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services

Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources

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

139 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors P.Baccara, H.Boggis, A.Calvert, a.L.Davies,MBE, (Mrs) M.E.Davies, S.M.Evans-Fear, (Mrs) E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, J.S.James, S.Lloyd, K.Morgan, S.Powderhill, S.Rees-Owen, J.Rosser, W.D.Weeks and T.Williams.

140 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Council Member

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor (Mrs) M. Tegg declared a personal interest in agenda item no.8 – Financing of 21st Century Schools Programme Using Prudential Borrowing – “I am Chair of Governors at Cymmer Infants and Junior Schools”.

Council Officers

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

“In relation to Agenda Item 12, I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. I will leave the meeting for this item.”

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

“In relation to Agenda Item 12, I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. I will leave the meeting for this item.”

(3) Mr.G.Isinigrini, Group Director, Community & Children’s Services

“In relation to Agenda Item 12, I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. I will leave the meeting for this item.”

(4) Mr.T.Wilkins, Director, Human Resources

“In relation to Agenda Item 12, I declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. Given my duties as Director of HR, I believe that I am best placed to present the report and recommendations to Members and address any queries they may have with regards to the report.”

(5) Mr.P.J.Lucas, Director, Legal & Democratic Services

“In relation to Agenda Item 12, I wish to declare a personal and pecuniary interest in the matter. Given my duties as the Director, Legal & Democratic Services, I believe that I am best placed to remain in the meeting to address any legal queries that council may have with regards to the report.”

141 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Mayor announced that on 16th May 2016, ceremonies were taking place to award of the ‘Freedom of the Borough’ and present ‘Good Citizen Awards’. He requested Members to inform his Office as soon as possible as to whether they were able to attend the event.
- (2) The Mayor urged Members to purchase Raffle Tickets currently on sale in aid of his chosen Charities.

- (3) The Leader of the Council formally advised the Council that that on 12th April 2016, he appointed County Borough Councillor Maureen Webber as Deputy Leader of the Council.

142 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23rd March 2016.

OPEN GOVERNMENT

143 STATEMENTS

There were no statements made by the Council Leader or Cabinet Portfolio Holders on this occasion.

144 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

- (1) From County Borough Councillor S.Bradwick to County Borough Councillor J.Rosser (Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Libraries and Heritage)**

“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on Digital Inclusion?”

In the absence of County Borough Councillor J.Rosser at the meeting, the Mayor informed County Borough Councillor Bradwick that he would receive a written response, in accordance with adopted procedures.

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

“Please could the Leader update Members on the recent landslip which took place on Maerdy Mountain?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

A report should be coming forward to the Cabinet for consideration in the next 4-6 weeks and hopefully this will give us an indication of what is needed and the costs involved. Work is not likely to start until mid to late Summer and could take several months to complete.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor G.Smith

“Maerdy Mountain road and the Rhigos Mountain road are key routes to the Rhondda and investment is great. Can you given an update on investment on the Rhigos Mountain road.”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“We are still planning to re-surface around 6 km of road. It is over-laying so it will be strengthening the road rather than taking up what is there. A considerable amount of drainage work needs to be done and this will be carried out in the next 4-6 weeks. We will be in a position then for the main re-surfacing work to commence during the School Holidays to limit the impact but it is likely that there will be closures on that mountain but the two mountain roads will not be closed at the same time. Any closure of the Rhigos Mountain road will be minimised.”

(3) From County Borough Councillor R.B.McDonald to County Borough Councillor A.Morgan (Leader of the Council)

“Will the Leader please provide an update on the progress of the City Deal?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“The progress since the last Council meeting is that 4-5 key areas of work are going forward. The first one will be establishing a Joint Cabinet (in shadow form) so a report will be coming to the Cabinet and/or Council in the future. We are also working on having a Joint Transport Authority. There is a huge amount of work going on led by Jane Cook around ‘Mapping’ of land use and within 4-6 weeks this will be evidence based to bring forward projects. We want to bring in private investment and have had a positive meeting around establishing a new South Wales Business Forum set up by businesses.”

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor R.B.McDonald

“Obviously, the City Deal is a massive opportunity for RCT and no doubt, many areas could benefit. An area of particular concern for me and residents in my Ward and surrounding areas is the A4119 where it becomes a single carriageway by the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. This is the single biggest blocker for the Coed Ely development. Can you provide any assurance that this is to be improved, potentially, by the City Deal”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“I cannot give a categorical decision now but I think it is something that is coming up in the Mapping and something we are putting forward in our regional intentions. The A4119 is a strategic corridor. We have been trying to look at traffic light junctions by the Castell-y-Mynach to improve flows. As part of the infrastructure plan, I hope to bring to the Cabinet and Council this year that we are trying to do something around the A4119 which needs to be dualled. It may make the Coed Ely site more attractive to developers. I hope by the end of this year, we will be in a position to say it is part of the infrastructure plan coming forward for this Authority.”

(4) From County Borough Councillor C.Williams to County Borough Councillor A.Morgan (Leader of the Council)

“Will the Leader make a statement on Highways Investment?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“We have invested heavily in road over the last few years. Firstly, on the condition of our carriageways, we have gone from being one of the worst to now be in the top quartile in Wales. Investment is making a difference. We are spending millions on footways which helps bring down our injury claims through the good work of our inspectors, finance and legal people who try and make sure that we defend as many claims as possible. There is still a significant backlog with our structures. We have a significant number of bridges being monitored and some need complete renewal. We are making progress but there is still a long way to go.”

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor C.Williams

“Can the Leader advise us how residents will be kept informed of any investment works in RCT?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“All works that are on-going are on the Council’s website. Any work on the highways is published every week. We are looking as well to promote more and more on social media so people can interact. Hopefully, this can be launched this year and it will provide information on what works are being done. I want an Investment Map which will show what is being done and what has been completed as this will help people to see what’s happening.”

(5) From County Borough Councillor P.Jarman to County Borough Councillor K.Montague (Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty, Engagement and Housing)

“As Cabinet Member for tackling poverty, housing and other matters, will you make a statement on your accountabilities and associated responsibilities?”

In the absence of County Borough Councillor K.Montague at the meeting, the Mayor informed County Borough Councillor Jarman that she would receive a written response, in accordance with adopted procedures.

REPORT OF THE CABINET

145 MEDIUM TERM SERVICE PLANNING – UPDATE COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services outlined the report of the Cabinet which provided an update on the financial impact on the Council's Revenue Budget of the decision taken not to implement the change in the Home to School Transport Policy previously agreed by the Cabinet on 8th September 2015 and in doing so, not introduce a charge for the discretionary elements of the service.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the financial impact of the decision not to implement changes in the home to Scholl Transport Policy on the Council's Revenue Budget for 2016/17.
- (2) To agree that the budget shortfall arising from the decision not to implement Home to School Transport Policy changes is addressed through:-
 - Senior Management Structure Savings (part year 2016/17 impact of £0.280M)
 - Council Tax Reduction Scheme Savings (£0.600M)
 - Use of £0.004M available resources initially set aside as part of the fund to support hardship requirements in relation to Home to School policy changes.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

146 FINANCING OF THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME USING PRUDENTIAL BORROWING

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services outlined his report which sought the Council's approval in respect of the following:

- a capital investment of £1.956m at Cymmer Infants and Junior Schools; and
- financing the refurbished school buildings through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme (£0.978m) and from Council borrowing (£0.978m) using its powers under the Prudential Code.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To agree to the inclusion in the Capital Programme of the major capital works at Cymmer Infants and Junior Schools at a total cost of £1.956m.

- (2) To agree that the net cost to the Council of £0.978m is funded through borrowing, using the Council's powers under the Prudential Code, with the annual revenue cost of £0.048m being met from savings from this and other recent school closures and amalgamations.

147 NOTICE OF MOTION

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

"This Council notes:

1. That the EU and USA launched negotiations in July 2013 on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)
2. That negotiations are underway to determine which goods and services TTIP will apply to and if new rules can be agreed to protect investors, harmonise standards, reduce tariffs and open new markets throughout the EU and USA
3. That there has been no impact assessment about the potential impact on local authorities.
4. That there has been no scrutiny of the negotiating texts by local government and no consultation with local government representatives.
5. That MPs are also unable to scrutinise the negotiating documents.

This Council believes that:

1. TTIP could have a detrimental impact on local services, employment, suppliers and decision-making.
2. A thorough impact assessment of TTIP on local authorities must be undertaken before the negotiations can be concluded.
3. The proposed Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism has been used by corporations to overturn democratic decisions by all levels of governments at significant public cost. Local decision-making must be protected from ISDS.
4. The EU's food, environmental and labour standards are better than those in the US and TTIP negotiations must raise and not lower these standards across the EU and USA.
5. Sourcing supplies and employment locally is important to strengthening local economies and meeting local needs. TTIP must not impact on local authorities' ability to act in the best interests of its communities.

This Council resolves:

1. To write to the Welsh First Minister and Minister for Public Services; RCT MPs and AMs; and all Welsh MEPs, raising our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and the secrecy of the negotiating process.
2. To write to the Local Government and Welsh Local Government associations to raise our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and ask them to raise these with Government on our behalf.
3. To call for an impact assessment on the impact of TTIP on local authorities.
4. To publicise the Council's concerns about TTIP; join with other local authorities which are opposed to TTIP across Europe and work with local campaigners to raise awareness about the problems of TTIP.
5. To contact the municipalities twinned with Rhondda Cynon Taf in Europe asking them to consider passing a similar motion on TTIP
6. To request the appropriate Cabinet Member to take forward these actions and for the matter and any subsequent responses and actions to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee."

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the above-mentioned Motion.

(Note: The following *lost Amendment to the Motion* standing in the names of P.Jarman, G.R.Davies, C.Davies, E. Webster, S.Evans-Fear, K.Morgan, I.Pearce, S.Rees-Owen and M.O.Weaver was moved and seconded (for ease of reference the amendments are shown in *italics*)

"This Council notes:

1. ***That the European Commission has been given a negotiating mandate by the European Council to make a trade deal between the EU and the USA.***
2. That the EU and USA launched negotiations in July 2013 on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)
3. That negotiations are underway to determine which goods and services TTIP will apply to and if new rules can be agreed to protect investors, harmonise standards, reduce tariffs and open new markets throughout the EU and USA
4. That there has been no impact assessment about the potential impact on local authorities.
5. That there has been no scrutiny of the negotiating texts by local government and no consultation with local government representatives.
6. That MPs are also unable to scrutinise the negotiating documents.

This Council believes that:

1. TTIP could have a detrimental impact on local services, employment, suppliers and decision-making.

2. A thorough impact assessment of TTIP on local authorities must be undertaken before the negotiations can be concluded.
3. The proposed Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism has been used by corporations to overturn democratic decisions by all levels of governments at significant public cost. Local decision-making must be protected from ISDS.
4. The EU's food, environmental and labour standards are better than those in the US and TTIP negotiations must raise and not lower these standards across the EU and USA.
5. Sourcing supplies and employment locally is important to strengthening local economies and meeting local needs. TTIP must not impact on local authorities' ability to act in the best interests of its communities.

This Council resolves:

1. ***To call on the EU to halt all negotiations, to publish its negotiating mandate and allow for the proper democratic scrutiny of this deal by the European Parliament, National Parliaments and the National Assembly for Wales.***
2. To write to the Welsh First Minister and Minister for Public Services; RCT MPs and AMs; and all Welsh MEPs, raising our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and the secrecy of the negotiating process.
3. To write to the Local Government and Welsh Local Government associations to raise our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and ask them to raise these with Government on our behalf.
4. To call for an impact assessment on the impact of TTIP on local authorities.
5. To publicise the Council's concerns about TTIP; join with other local authorities which are opposed to TTIP across Europe and work with local campaigners to raise awareness about the problems of TTIP.
6. To contact the municipalities twinned with Rhondda Cynon Taf in Europe asking them to consider passing a similar motion on TTIP
7. To request the appropriate Cabinet Member to take forward these actions and for the matter and any subsequent responses and actions to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee."

148 NOTICE OF MOTION

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

M.J.Watts, (Mrs) M.Webber, D.Weeks, C.Williams, D.H.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo was moved and seconded:

“This Council instructs the Director of Legal & Democratic Services to present a report to the Annual General Meeting setting out a proposal to enable all non-executive members to participate in the scrutiny process.”

and following consideration thereof, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the above-mentioned Motion.

149 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

(Note: Having earlier declared personal and pecuniary interests (Minute No.140 refers), Mr.C.Lee, Mr.C.Hanagan and Mr.G.Isingrini left the meeting for the next item of business)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION

150 CHIEF EXECUTIVE POST – TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS

In his report, the Director of Human Resources provided an update on the temporary arrangements for the Chief Executive’s role and suggested that a further temporary appointment be made.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) In light of the continued uncertainty about the future of local government, the Council agrees to a further twelve month temporary appointment to the post of Chief Executive, effective from 1st September 2016.
- (2) To agree that the current temporary incumbent, Mr. Christopher Bradshaw, be offered a new twelve month temporary contract w.e.f. 1st September 2016.
- (3) That during the new temporary contract, Mr. Bradshaw continues to retain the responsibility for 21st Century Schools alongside the temporary appointment to the Chief Executive role.
- (4) To continue with the arrangement of not filling Mr. Bradshaw’s substantive post and that the additional internal day to day management support that was put in place under the leadership of Mrs Esther Thomas remains during this new temporary period. Due to the recent pay award, there is a slight change to the cost of this additional temporary support, which is

based on a one grade increase within the existing Chief Officer salary structure from £14.7k to £14.9k (inclusive on on-costs)

- (5) That the Director of Legal & Democratic Services continues to undertake the temporary role of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer during this time.
- (6) To note the further temporary estimated salary savings during the period of this new temporary appointments, which in line with the recent pay award have slightly increased from £132.5k to £133.8k (inclusive of on-costs) effective from 1st September 2016.

151 MAYOR'S REMARKS

Before closing the meeting, the Mayor (County Borough Councillor B.Stephens) advised that this was the last meeting of the Council he would chair before retiring as Mayor at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. He wished to place on record his thanks to both Members and Officers for all their support during his term of office and stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

**B.STEPHENS
MAYOR**

The meeting terminated at 6.20 p.m.