

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, 29th November, 2017 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor S.Powderhill – Deputy Mayor

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	J.Harries	M.J.Powell
D.R.Bevan	L.Hooper	S.M.Powell
S.A.Bradwick	G.E.Hopkins	S.Rees
J.Brencher	P.Howe	S.Rees-Owen
A.Calvert	G.W.Hughes	A.Roberts
G.Caple	J.James	J.Rosser
A.Chapman	P.Jarman	R.W.Smith
A.G.Cox	G.Jones	G.Stacey
A.Crimmings	K.L.Jones	E.S.Stephens
J.L.Cullwick	L.Jones	G.P.Thomas
G.R.Davies	W.Jones	R.K.Turner
J.R.Davies	R.Lewis	L.G.Walker
A.Davies-Jones	W.Lewis	M.O.Weaver
M.Diamond	C.Leyshon	M.Webber
J.Elliott	D.Macey	E.Webster
S.Evans	A.Morgan	G.D.G.Williams
M.Fidler Jones	S.Morgans	D.H.Williams
E.George	M.Norris	J.Williams
D.Grehan	W.Owen	C.J.Willis
M.Griffiths	D.Owen-Jones	R.Yeo
	S.Pickering	

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

67 CHAIR

In the absence of the Mayor, County Borough Councillor M.Tegg, the Deputy Mayor, County Borough Councillor S.Powderhill took the Chair.

68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors J.Bonetto, L.De Vet, S.M.Evans, M.Forey, A.S.Fox, H.Fychan, G.Holmes, K.Morgan, M.Tegg, W.Treeby and T.Williams.

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting:-

- County Borough Councillor S.Bradwick in respect of Agenda Item 13 – The Council’s Senior Management Structure – “One of the persons named in the Senior Management Structure is a member of the Governing Body of which I am Chairman”.
- County Borough Councillor J.Elliott in respect of Agenda Item 13 – The Council’s Senior Management Structure – “One of the people named in the report is a member of the School Governing Body of which I am a Governor”.

70 PETITIONS

The following petitions were handed to the Deputy Mayor at the meeting:-

- By County Borough Councillor J.Harries on behalf of the residents of Maerdy requesting traffic calming measures at Park Place, Maerdy to ensure the safety of the residents that use the park and Community Centre.
- By County Borough Councillor G.E.Hopkins on behalf of the residents of Llanharan requesting the removal of traffic calming measures between Hillside Road, Llanharan through to Brynna.
- By County Borough Councillor M.O.Weaver on behalf of Ton Pentre Infants School requesting the relocation of the crossing outside Weavers Garage to nearer the Post Office, as the crossing is on a bend and parked cars are blocking the view of Crossing Patrol staff and also the views of families when walking to school.

71 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) County Borough Councillor S.Morgans wished to congratulate Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda’s Public Speaking Team on winning the National Public Speaking competition. The sixth form students competed against seven other schools in the final of the Welsh medium competition which were held at the Welsh Assembly Building on the 13th November, 2017 which was organised by Rotari Cymru.
- (2) County Borough Councillor D.Grehan announced that a group of local people from Tonyrefail/Gilfach Goch are to be featured in an episode of `Let’s Get a Good Thing Going` which is to be broadcast by the BBC in December, 2017. The programme gives local people the chance to pitch for funds to use towards positive projects that will benefit the community.

Councillor Grehan stated that the scheme that is being presented by local people from Tonyrefail/Gilfach Goch is for funding for defibrilators. Councillor Grehan wished to thank Councillor D.Owen-Jones for submitting the nomination.

- (3) County Borough Councillor R.Lewis announced that during his Mayoral year £19,821.63 had been raised which would be shared amongst his chosen charities.
- (4) County Borough Councillor R.Lewis further announced that together with Councillors G.Hughes and M.Fidler Jones he would be running in the New Year's Eve Nos Galan Road Races. A collection box was being circulated round the chamber and all donations would be greatly received.
- (5) The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A.Morgan, wished Lloyd Macey, son of County Borough Councillor D.Macey, all the best for the future following his success in reaching the semi-finals of the X Factor which was viewed by people around the World and which put the County Borough on the map.

In response, County Borough Councillor D.Macey thanked everyone for their support.

- (6) The Deputy Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor M.Webber informed Members that all are welcome to attend a Carol Service which is to be held at St.Catherine's Church, Pontypridd on Sunday, 3rd December, 2017 which would be attended by the Mayor and her Consort.
- (7) County Borough Councillor R.Yeo stated that his wife would be doing a sponsored run to raise money for Welsh Hearts and a collection box was being circulated should Members/Officers wish to make a donation.

72 TRIBUTES TO MR.TONY WILKINS, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A.Morgan announced that this would be the last Council Meeting to be attended by Mr.Tony Wilkins, Director of Human Resources as he was to retire tomorrow, the 30th November, 2017. The Leader thanked Mr.Wilkins for the work he has undertaken on behalf of the Council over his many years of service and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The Leader of the main Opposition Group, County Borough Councillor P.Jarman, also paid tribute to Mr.Wilkins and thanked him for his support.

With the permission of the Deputy Mayor, Mr.Peter Crews, Branch Secretary of UNISON thanked Mr.Wilkins for the support he had given to the Unions over the years.

73 MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 18th October 2017.

74 OPEN GOVERNMENT – STATEMENT

In accordance with Procedure Rule 2 of the Council's Constitution, the Leader of the Council stated that in the New Year a report will be presented to Cabinet setting out the Council's investment plans for the County Borough, which will include a range of funding sources and will include 21st Century schools, the Taff Vale redevelopment and. Extra Care investment.

75 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

(a) From County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing (County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan)

"Will you make a statement on the Local Development Plan?"

Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

"The Local Development Plan has been in being since 2011 and is used to support planning applications. The LDP is subject to an annual monitoring process and is reported to the Welsh Government. The delivery of the Development Plan will run until 2021 and has helped to deliver thousands of new homes in Rhondda Cynon Taf, 2,000 of which have been created in the northern area. The LDP is a robust document".

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies

"The LDP is in two parts – one part for the North and one part for the South. Unfortunately, the under privileged are in the North where there is high poverty, more illness and people dying seven years on average earlier than people living in more privileged areas. Depopulation is happening and this can be seen through the number of empty properties, in my Ward alone, there are over 200 houses that are empty. One way to solve this situation is to improve transport links and the question I would like to ask as a supplementary is what is the status for the Treorchy and Gelli bypass; is that being ring fenced for development in the future?"

Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

"The Rhondda Fach is in the LDP for development and need to include the Upper Rhondda Fawr. There are Members on your side of the Chamber who don't want that to happen. It is something that is desperately needed and this Administration is prepared to look at it and take forward".

(b) From County Borough Councillor C.J.Willis to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure (County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings)

“How is the Council ensuring that every resident has access to modern sporting facilities?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings

“Creating a healthy and active borough is one of the core objectives of this Council. We have already invested £2M in the facilities on offer which have included Llantwit Fardre Sports Centre. We have invested in out-door facilities which includes the installation of 7 x 3G pitches with a further 5 being in the process of development. You will be aware that residents from your Ward have benefitted from a 3G pitch. Every resident will have access to a 3G pitch from within 3 miles of where they live”.

Comments from County Borough Councillor C.J.Willis

County Borough Councillors C.J.Willis did not wish to ask a supplementary question but thanked the Council for the investment, which would be of benefit all areas including the Ward he represents i.e. Tynant.

(c) From County Borough Councillor S.Morgans to the Deputy Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor M.Webber)

“How is the Council supporting town centres to benefit from the trading opportunities created by Christmas?”

Response from County Borough Councillor M.Webber

“I am pleased to say that once again, the Council will be supporting many events leading up to the Christmas period, including your own Ward at Ferndale where money has been allocated for you to spend on festivities. Supporting these events will lead to an increase in footfall and will create better opportunities for an increase in trade”.

Comments from County Borough Councillor S.Morgans

County Borough Councillor S.Morgans did not wish to ask a supplementary question but thanked the Council for hosting the Christmas event at Ferndale.

(d) From County Borough Councillor J.Brencher to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing (County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan)

“The Council is already delivering upon its significant ambitions for Pontypridd. What can we do next to continue the momentum of change and investment?”

Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

“Thank you for your question. As Members are aware, we have invested in Pontypridd and in the very near future will be the Taff Vale development. As far as the capital region is concerned 1,000 jobs will be coming to Taff Vale. We need to recognise that the Metro will allow 12 trains per hour. People who may need to commute from Cardiff into the Valleys for employment rather than going the other way. The Valleys Task Force, identified Pontypridd as a critical hub. We are all moving in the same direction to redevelop Pontypridd and the surrounding areas”.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor J.Brencher

“What are the key areas in Pontypridd that can drive this growth further?”

Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

“We are very fortunate, we have a good FE system with Coleg y Cymoedd, new development in Church Village. Educationally we are seeing that investment in 21st Century Schools, we have also got a University on our doorstep, so its good to promote RCT. There are other strategic areas that have been identified for investment which was alluded to Councillor G.Davies in his earlier question e.g. the Community Hub and areas for housing and tourism is the upper Rhondda area. There are a huge raft of activities and delivery for the people of RCT to drive the regeneration agenda forward”.

(e) From County Borough Councillor E.George to the Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity and Well-Being (County Borough Councillor R.Lewis)

“Will the Cabinet Member please update Council on how the RCT Together initiative is supporting community groups?”

Response from County Borough Councillor R.Lewis

“The aim of RCT Together is to work with communities and partner organisations to provide a collaborative approach and responsibilities for managing assets. There are two funds available – the Community Action fund which is managed by Interlink and the second is the Community Enabling fund, which is not for profit and is to help community based assets up to £10,000. There is just under £100,000 allocated to assist with

community asset transfers and to date 18 groups have gone through the RCT Together process”.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor E.George

“I welcome the recent announcement that the Council is going to support us in keeping open the paddling pools”.

Response from County Borough Councillor R.Lewis

“A meeting was held earlier this month, led by the Leader, Andrew Morgan, Councillor A.Crimmings and myself. We met with Paddling Pool groups that are located within RCT, where we confirmed our support and where £5,000 will be allocated per group thereby reconfirming our commitment to the voluntary sector. The RCT Together teams will work with those groups”.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

76 THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL – APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services advised Members of the outcome of the review of the political balance of the Council following the formation of the `Alliance` political group and the Council’s consideration was also sought on the allocation of Notices of Motion.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. That the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 applies, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be adopted;
2. That the Director of Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him as Proper Officer of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject, in the case of subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees, being referred to Council;
3. To appoint County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies as the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee and that County Borough Councillor M.Webber be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Democratic Services Committee;
4. That the Chair of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee be allocated to the Alliance group and that the Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee be allocated to the Plaid Cymru group;

5. That the following Members be nominated as Chairs to the Scrutiny Committees as shown below:-
 - County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams – Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 - County Borough Councillor S.Rees-Owen – Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
 - County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell – Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee
 - County Borough Councillor R.Yeo – Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee
 - County Borough Councillor S.A.Bradwick – Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

6. That the following Members be nominated as Vice-Chairs to the Scrutiny Committees as shown below:-
 - County Borough Councillor G.Thomas – Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 - County Borough Councillor W.Lewis – Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
 - County Borough Councillor G.Holmes – Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee
 - County Borough Councillor J.Elliott – Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee
 - County Borough Councillor T.Williams – Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

7. That the allocation of Notices of Motion for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2017-18 be as shown below:-
 - Labour – 4
 - Plaid Cymru – 3
 - Alliance – 1
 - Conservative – 1
 - Unallocated – 1

JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

77 ADOPTION OF UPDATED CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

In their joint report, the Director of Legal & Democratic Services and the Director of Corporate & Frontline Services advised Members of the recommendations of the Audit Committee and the Corporate Governance & Constitution Committee following meetings held on the 16th October and the 16th November, 2017 respectively; in that the Council adopt the updated Contract Procedure Rules as appended to the their report.

Following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. To note the Council's Audit Committee and Corporate Governance & Constitution Committee's recommendations that the Council adopt the updated Contract Procedure Rules as appended to the report; and
2. The Council adopts the updated Contract Procedure Rules as appended to the report subject to the ethical procurement policy being referred to within the document; and that the consequential changes to the Council's Constitution be approved.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

78 STANDARDS COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Following the Council Meeting held on the 11th January, 2017 and the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 17th May, 2017, the Director of Legal & Democratic Services advised Members of the recommendations of the Appointments Panel that had been established to interview the four applicants for the two (plus reserve) Independent Member vacancies and consideration of the Community Council Member applications.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. To approve the recommendation of the Appointments Panel to appoint Mr. John Thomas as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a term of six years commencing 30th November, 2017;
2. To approve the recommendation of the Appointments Panel to appoint Community Councillor Raymond Butler (Llantwit Fardre) as the Community Council Member of the Standards Committee commencing 30th November, 2017 for a further term until the next ordinary election for Llantwit Fardre Community Council;
3. To approve the recommendation of the Appointments Panel to appoint Community Councillor Carole Willis (Pontyclun) as the reserve Community Council Member of the Standards Committee commencing 30th November, 2017 for a term until the next ordinary election for Pontyclun Community Council
4. To note that Council will need to re-advertise the post of Independent Member (plus reserve) in light of only one applicant being recommended by the Panel for the available vacant positions;

5. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to place a further advertisement in respect of the Independent Member (plus reserve) vacancies (based on the established criteria for the post) and agree that the Appointments Panel (as constituted in paragraph 4.8 of the report) meets to consider applicants for those posts and that its recommendations be reported to Council at the appropriate time.

Note: County Borough Councillors L.Hooper and J.James wished to have recorded the fact that they voted against the above Motion.

REPORT OF THE CABINET

79 COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN – INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the report of the Cabinet which set out the position with regard to one-off resources which had become available following a review of Council earmarked reserves post completion of the audit process of the Council's 2016/17 Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED:-

1. That Council agree to the release from reserves the funding (one-off) realised as a consequence of the review of earmarked reserves, as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report; and
2. That the funding released is used to fund the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 5 (Table 1) of the report, which will then be incorporated into the Council's three year Capital Programme.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

80 2017/18 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 2017/18; and
- Prudential and Treasury indicators for the same period.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to approve the content of the report including:-

1. Approval to increase the Authorised Limits for each of the 3 years, as set out in paragraph 9.2 of the report;

2. Approval to increase the limit of Non Specified Investments to £25M with a maximum maturity of 30 years, as set out in paragraph 11.3 of the report;
3. Approval to increase the limit for Investments greater than 364 days to £25M, as set out in paragraph 11.5 of the report;
4. Approval to provide Bridge Loan finance to CSC Foundry Ltd as appropriate and required in line with the shareholder agreement, as detailed in Section 13 of the report.

81 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

RESOLVED – that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) for the following items of business on the ground that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES (CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION)

82 THE COUNCIL'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Following consideration of the joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Human Resources, containing exempt information, it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. That Council notes that:-

Between Autumn 2017 and Summer 2018, that the revised directorate structures as shown at Appendices 2(i.a), 2(i.b), 2(ii), 2(iii), 2(iv.a) and 2(iv.b) to the report will be implemented. Implementation of these revised structures will provide an overall estimated reduction in annual management costs at the Senior and Associated grade levels of £760, 270 (inclusive of on-costs);

2. That emanating from the revised directorate structures as outlined above (1), Cabinet authorised the amendment of the following posts:-
 - (i) the amendment of the post of Head of Secondary Achievement (Soulbury grade) from 1 FTE to 0.5 FTE;
 - (ii) the amendment of the post title of Principal Officer – Educational Psychology (Soulbury grade) to Head of Educational Psychology (Soulbury grade);
 - (iii) the amendment of the post title of Principal Officer – Learning Support (Soulbury grade) to Head of Learning Support (Soulbury grade);

- (iv) the amendment of the post of Head of Community Services from Soulbury grade to Head of Service Level 1;
 - (v) the amendment of the post of Head of Engagement & Participation from Head of Service Level 2 to Head of Service Level 1;
 - (vi) the amendment of the post of Director of Regeneration & Planning from Director Level 2 to Director Level 1;
 - (vii) the amendment of the post of Director of Human Resources (Director Level 1) from 0.6 FTE to 1 FTE;
 - (viii) the amendment of the post of Head of Organisational Development from Head of Service Level 2 to Head of Service Level 1;
 - (ix) the amendment of the post of Temporary Head of Procurement and Energy Management (Head of Service Level 1) to Head of Procurement and Energy Management (Head of Service Level 1) (0.6 FTE); and
 - (x) the amendment of the post of Temporary Head of Audit & Procurement Development Programmes (Head of Service Level 2) to Head of Audit & Procurement Development Programmes (Head of Service Level 2).
3. that emanating from the revised directorate structures outlined in 1 above, Cabinet authorised the creation of the following posts:-
- (i) the creation of the post of Director – Education & Inclusion Services (Director Level 2)
 - (ii) the creation of the post of Head of School Advisory Support (Soulbury grade)
 - (iii) the creation of the post of Head of Inclusion Services (Soulbury grade);
 - (iv) the creation of the post of Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services (Director Level 2)
 - (v) the creation of the post of Head of Regeneration & Prosperity (Head of Service Level 1)
 - (vi) the creation of the post of Head of Employee Relations (Head of Service Level 2);
 - (vii) the creation of the post of Head of Payroll & Pensions Services (Head of Service Level 1)
 - (viii) the creation of the post of Head of Revenues & Payments (Head of Service Level 2); and
 - (ix) the creation of the post of Head of Strategic Investment Projects (Head of Service Level 2).
- 4 It was agreed to transfer certain functions outlined in the report from Education & Lifelong Learning to Public Health & Protection and rename the revised service area to Public Health, Protection & Community Services (which sits within the Children's & Community Services directorate); and

- 5 It was agreed to transfer certain functions outlined in the report from Public Health and Protection to Regeneration & Planning (which sits within the Chief Executive's directorate).
- 6 To agree to the recommendation made by the Appointments Committee on the 7th November, 2017 to Council, that in accordance with the Council's change management process Paul Mee be appointed to the post of Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services (Director – Level 2) effective from 1st December, 2017;
- 7 To agree to the recommendation made by the Appointments Committee on the 7th November, 2017 to Council, that in accordance with the Council's change management process Jane Cook be appointed to the post of Director of Regeneration & Planning (Director – Level 1) effective from 1st December, 2017;
- 8 To agree to the recommendation made by the Appointments Committee on the 7th November, 2017 to Council that Richard Evans be appointed to the post of Director of Human Resources (Director – Level 1) effective from the day after the retirement of Tony Wilkins (the current post holder);
- 9 To agree to the recommendation made by the Appointments Committee on the 7th November, 2017 to Council that Gaynor Davies be appointed to the post of Director, Education & Inclusion Services (Director – Level 2) effective from the day after the retirement of Esther Thomas;
- 10 That delegated authority be given to the Director, Legal & Democratic Services to make the consequential changes that are required to be made to the Council's Constitution as a result of implementation of the above initiatives.

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES (CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION)

83 FINANCING OF THE TAFF VALE REDEVELOPMENT USING PRUDENTIAL BORROWING

Following consideration of the joint report of the Chief Executive and the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services, containing exempt information, it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. To agree to the inclusion in the Capital Programme of the full cost (as outlined in the report) of the Taff Vale Redevelopment scheme;
2. To agree to the funding package as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report;
3. To agree that the Council funds the amount as stated in the report, through borrowing, using the Council's powers under the Prudential Code.

S.POWDERHILL

DEPUTY MAYOR

The meeting closed at 7.26 p.m.