



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 5 February 2020 5.00 pm at The Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypandy, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors in attendance:-

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

Councillor M Adams	Councillor S Belzak
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 G Davies
Councillor J Davies	Councillor L De Vet
Councillor M Diamond	Councillor J Edwards
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor S Evans
Councillor M Forey	Councillor A Fox
Councillor H Fychan	Councillor E George
Councillor E Griffiths	Councillor M Griffiths
Councillor J Harries	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor L Hooper	Councillor P Howe
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor J James
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 S Morgans
Councillor M Norris	Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor S Pickering	Councillor M Powell
Councillor S Powell	Councillor S Rees
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor J Rosser
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor E Stephens
Councillor M Tegg	Councillor G Thomas
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor L Walker
Councillor M Weaver	Councillor M Webber
Councillor E Webster	Councillor J Williams
Councillor T Williams	Councillor C Willis
Councillor R Yeo	

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital 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

Others in attendance

Professor Marcus Longley – Chair of the Health Board
Dr Sharon Hopkins - Interim Chief Executive of the Health Board
Dr Greg Dix - Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Care.
Dr Nick Lyons - Medical Director

113 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors A. Davies-Jones, S. M. Evans, M Fidler Jones, D. Grehan, G. E. Hopkins, K. L. Jones, W. Owen, S. Rees-Owen, R. K. Turner, G. D. G. Williams and D. H. Williams.

114 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interests were made pertaining to the agenda:

In respect of Item 7 – The Council's Pay Policy Statement:

Council Officers

· Mr C Bradshaw – Chief Executive “The Pay Policy statement for the Council has no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees and simply sets out the Council's approach to previously approved pay policies, therefore I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion.”

· Mr A Wilkins– Director, Legal Services “The Pay Policy statement for the Council has no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees and simply sets out the Council's approach to previously approved pay policies, therefore I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion.”

· Mr C Hanagan – Service Director of Democratic Services and Communications “The Pay Policy statement for the Council has no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees and simply sets out the Council's approach to previously approved pay policies, therefore I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion.”

· Mr R Evans – Director, Human Resources “The Pay Policy statement for the Council has no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees and simply sets out the Council's approach to previously approved pay policies, therefore I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion.”

· Mr G Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services “The Pay Policy statement for the Council has no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees and simply sets out the Council's approach to previously approved pay policies, therefore I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion.”

· Mr N Wheeler – Group Director, Highways & Streetcare Services “The Pay Policy statement for the Council has no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees, therefore I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion on the item.”

· Mr B Davies – Director, Finance “The Pay Policy statement for the Council has no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees, therefore I will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented and during subsequent discussion on the item.”

In respect of Item 4 and 12 - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board/Urgent Notices of Motion the following Members declared personal but non-prejudicial interests:

County Borough Councillor J Bonetto – “I am a Member of the Community Health Council”

County Borough Councillor M Forey – “I am a former Elected Member representative on the Health Board

County Borough Councillor P Jarman – “I am a former member of the Cwm Taf LHB”

County Borough Councillor L M Adams – “My wife is a former employee of the Health Board and is in receipt of NHS pension”

County Borough Councillor D R Bevan – “My daughter is working on a Joint project with the Health Board”

County Borough Councillor G Caple – “My son is a Doctor and has worked for CTMLHB”

County Borough Councillor G Caple - “I am a member of the Community Health Council”

County Borough Councillor A Crimmings – “I have a Family relative who works for CTMUHB”

County Borough Councillor J R Davies – “Previously worked for Cwm Taf, still registered Bank Nurse”

County Borough Councillor G R Davies – “Roeddwn yn cyfarwyddwr o cwmni oedd a cytundeb gyda Bwrdd Iechyd Cwm Taf”

County Borough Councillor J Elliott – “I have a family member who works for Cwm Taf UHB”

County Borough Councillor S Evans – “I am an NHS employee”

County Borough Councillor J Harries – “I have family members work for CTMUHB”

County Borough Councillor R Lewis –“I have a family relative who works for CTMUHB”

County Borough Councillor A Morgan –“My involvement in Maternity Services and as Council Leader”

County Borough Councillor S Morgans –“My daughter is a nurse at Royal Glamorgan Hospital”

County Borough Councillor K Morgan –“I am employed by CTMUHB”

County Borough Councillor M Norris –“I have family members who work for Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB”

County Borough Councillor M Tegg –“I am the Chair of the Lindsay Legg Club”

County Borough Councillor Weaver –“I have previously worked for Cwm Taf Health Board”

County Borough Councillor R Yeo – “My wife works for Cwm Taf UHB in Prince Charles Hospital”

Council Officer

Mr G Isingrinni, Group Director, Community & Children’s Services – “I am an associate Member on the UHB”

In respect of Item 10 – Notice of Motion (Citizen’s Advice RCT):

County Borough Councillor J Brencher – “My son is a volunteer Director of the RCT Citizens Advice”

County Borough Councillor E Stephens –“I work for the DWP who operate Universal Credit, I work where CAB hold sessions”

115 Announcements

- County Borough Councillor A. Chapman announced that Treorchy has recently won the Best High Street Award, not only in Wales but in the UK due to the hard work of the traders, business owners old and new and the support of the community. She added that her own business is celebrating its 20th year of being part of Treorchy's high street this year. Treorchy, which is recognised as a Key Settlement currently has a low vacancy rate and a diverse range of shops and businesses. In RCT's Local Development Plan Key Settlements are seen as "less strategically significant than the Principal Towns" and for years there has been a campaign for Rhondda to benefit from having at least one Principal Town. There is a national campaign to save our high streets and Treorchy is seen as an area that is bucking the trend as a bustling and forward thinking town. For these reasons, Councillor Chapman asked that Treorchy is considered for Principal Town status when the LDP is reviewed.

- County Borough Councillor W. Jones announced that Jayne Ludlow, Manager of the Wales women's national football team and former player would be presented with an MBE on the 14th February 2020. Councillor Jones asked that the Council acknowledge her achievement following the ceremony.
- County Borough Councillor J. Rosser announced that a Trealaw Resident - Christian Roach - (known to both herself and Cllr Gareth Hughes) was diagnosed with Testicular Cancer in 2018. Following surgery and chemotherapy and although in recovery, he will continue to have tests for another 4 years. He was naturally devastated to have had that diagnosis but wanted to share his story to urge other men to keep an eye on all aspects of their health. To raise awareness he spread the message on social media and used other innovative ways - including have a slogan in Christmas lights on the outside of his house - which reached the national press, and as a result he had people phoning to ask him for advice and most importantly, we have heard from medical staff that this has seen an increase in the numbers of men from the Rhondda presenting for checks. It took a lot of courage to speak out about his condition, and the fact that he has encouraged others to check themselves is commendable. It was noted that in recognition of this, he and his family would be invited to the Mayor's Parlour.

116 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 15th January 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting subject to the following:-

To include the declaration of personal interest of County Borough Councillor J. Edwards regarding Agenda Item 8 – Welsh Church Act Annual Reports 2018/19 – “In my employment capacity, I signpost/support 3rd Sector community groups to access the funding”

To amend the following statement of County Borough Councillor J. James:-
 “County Borough Councillor J. James enquired whether the Council would be passing on its congratulations to Councillor A. Davies-Jones on becoming the new MP for Pontypridd following the Election”

117 Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

The Chair outlined the process for the ensuing debate and questions which had been structured as follows:-

- The progress being made on Maternity Services and next steps.
- An update on wider service delivery matters and improvements (including pressures generally being felt across the NHS in Wales.)
- The implementation of the South Wales Programme

The Chair welcomed the following Members of the Health Board to the meeting:-

- Professor Marcus Longley – Chair of the Health Board
- Dr Sharon Hopkins - Interim Chief Executive of the Health Board
- Dr Greg Dix - Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Care.
- Dr Nick Lyons - Medical Director

It was agreed that the Board would answer Members' questions in the first instance which would also address the key issues following the opening statements of the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor A. Morgan, advised that the latest winter progress report shows that Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board has made "good progress" in recent months in dealing with serious failings in its maternity services which is positive to see. However, he questioned how the public could be expected to believe the updates based on previous inaccurate assurances provided. He stated that sickness levels across the Board remain high and there is an over reliance on Bank Nurses.

Councillor Morgan made no apology for his involvement in the recent BBC programme where evidence and statements from Health Board representatives did not match. He questioned whether the appropriate checks and balances were in place and referred to individual cases stating that one poor outcome is one too many.

He expressed his disappointment in respect of the investigation into the internal report and he hoped that in future all Executive Board Members would have the confidence to challenge and speak out, and that an issue as important as this warranted more than a 35 minute discussion as had taken place at the previous meeting of the Health Board.

The Leader of the Council considered that Maternity Services was now on the right track however, he commented that the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board complaints procedure still required attention and family facilities such as showers were needed at the Prince Charles Hospital. Councillor Morgan paid tribute to the families involved in the events of the past 9-12 months, to their bravery in helping to shape the future of the service and stated that the focus should now be on improving the service.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor P. Jarman stated that the BBC Documentary had not been easy viewing given the heartache suffered by many families. She added that the Plaid Cymru Group supported the call for a Police Investigation into whether there are any criminal offences relating to Corporate Manslaughter.

Councillor P. Jarman referred to points 7.62 and 7.64 of the Review of Maternity Services at Cwm Taf Health Board report (*"Independent Board members must investigate the lack of action by the Executive Team and Board following receipt of the consultant midwife's report in September 2018"*) and (*"Independent Board members should receive training in the implications of The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 to better understand their role in ensuring the safety of the services which the Board provides"*). Councillor Jarman added that as a Corporate Body, the Board and Executive could face corporate negligence and called on the proper authority to investigate.

Professor M. Longley expressed his gratitude to the Council for its feedback. He advised that there had been some progress made in Maternity Services and attributed the progress to the involvement of the families affected. Professor Longley referred to the Independent Review report which had undertaken a detailed investigation and produced a detailed response, item by item. He stressed that all recommendations and actions had been accepted. He reported

that a good debate had taken place where every Independent Member of the Board had participated, to ensure that lessons had been learned.

Professor M. Longley referred to the Corporate Manslaughter & Homicide Act 2007 and confirmed that the Board has fully complied and has received the appropriate training. He also confirmed that conversations with the Police are ongoing as with the Independent Oversight Panel.

Dr Sharon Hopkins, Interim Chief Executive of the Health Board acknowledged the issue of sickness and the use of Bank Nurses and stated that all comments have been taken into account and issues are fully understood. She added that there was still work to be done.

Dr Greg Dix, Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Care stated that an increase in sickness can often be associated with a period of bad press. He confirmed that all the required safety measures have been implemented which would provide a level of assurance. An escalation process is in place to ensure the safety of all women and a Quality Dashboard is reviewed daily and scrutinised weekly by Welsh Government. There have been 2 Health Inspectorate Wales published reports and Community Health Council reports which validate the work.

Dr Greg Dix reported that a psychology team has been appointed to work and support the first 25 women going through the review process. He set out some of the reasons for the current midwife vacancies but stated that the new Director of Midwifery had been in post for 3 weeks and was holding staff sessions.

The Chair announced that the first section of the debate and associated questions would now take place and the Board Members received the following Elected Members' questions relating to **"the progress being made on Maternity Services and next steps"** :-

County Borough Councillor M. Powell

"What actions have been taken to raise the level of service provision and patient safety in the maternity unit?"

County Borough Councillor J. Brencher:-

"Is the Health Board making a concerted effort to encourage home births as a result of new maternity arrangements being unable to provide sufficient capacity?"

County Borough Councillor M. Webber

"3 of the 4 senior officers who have been implicated in the potential "suppressing" of a report on maternity services to the Board are no longer in the employment of Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board. Can you confirm whether or not the fourth individual remains in the employment of the Health Board and what progress has been made into the investigation of this matter?"

Professor Longley stated that it was inappropriate to make comments on the status of individual employees. He added that at the meeting held on the 19th December 2019 the Board resolved that the considerations of the investigation panel were still being actioned and would shortly be concluded.

Dr Greg Dix confirmed that having a home birth is an option available to all women although is not encouraged due to capacity issues. He commented that a Consultant Midwife has been recruited and there is support in place for women who choose a home birth.

Dr Greg Dix referred Members to earlier discussions at the meeting in respect of service provision issues. .

The Chair announced that the second section of the debate and associated questions would now take place and the Board Members received the following Elected Members' questions relating to **“the wider service delivery and improvements (including pressures generally being felt across the NHS in Wales)”**. The Leader and Opposition Leader's comments would precede the debate.

The Leader of the Council commented on the wider service delivery issues and on the good working relationship in place with integrated health and social care. He recognised the existing pressures on A&E and the increase of 10% across Wales on patients presenting themselves to A&E which warrants the need to look at discharge processes and adaptations at home.

Councillor Morgan mentioned the positive work which is being carried out such as CAMHS, the Regional Partnership Board and the joint working through ICF/RPB, these areas which need to be expanded. He praised the Health Board for being open and transparent about issues. The Leader of the Opposition stated that there was room for improvement.

Professor M Longley also paid tribute to the close cooperation within health and social care in Wales and referenced the additional funding to be spent by the two sectors in areas where it is needed.

County Borough Councillor M Forey

'What changes are intended to improve the internal governance arrangements of the Health Board?'

County Borough Councillor S.A. Bradwick

“What are you doing and what have you put in place to resolve patients' complaints to make things easier for us, because from first-hand experience, the complaints department is rubbish , patients have to chase up their complaints like I had to and then their response was not good at all.”

County Borough Councillor E. Stephens

“After speaking to a resident in Gelli recently, I was shocked to hear that complaints are still not being answered within the allocated time. What is being put in place to monitor this, and what are the next steps if the current process is failing?”

Dr Sharon Hopkins, Interim Chief Executive of the Health Board advised that there is a whole programme of work in place to review the corporate governance issues paying particular attention to how the 'risk process' is developed. It was confirmed that there is a new operating model to strengthen and review the

clinical governance process which puts patients and communication at the heart of everything that the Health Board does. Efforts to improve engagement such as the active work staff survey which involves 5,000 participating staff are ongoing.

Dr Greg Dix explained that they are currently working with three families to develop an effective complaints process. He also stated that there is now a dedicated team in Maternity Services (a lead midwife, a Manager and Administrator) which has already seen a reduction in the backlog of complaints. There has been an overhaul of the internal complaints and governance procedure (reduction in the 30 day turnaround and an additional quality assurance check is in place). This has resulted in an increase in the compliance rates, from 45% last year to 70% in December 2019 with a target set at 90%.

Dr Greg Dix advised that a previous criticism had been a lack of learning so as a result a new Learning Co-ordinator is in place and now any concerns are shared across the Board. The improvements have led to longer responses but ensures that things are right.

County Borough Councillor G. Jones

“What is happening within this health authority, that’s failing to maintain staff members and failing to recruit adequate qualified medical staff, in order to provide us with good quality and acceptable levels of care”

County Borough Councillor D R Bevan

“Can you confirm that there will not be any loss of Acute Medical beds at Royal Glamorgan now or in the future?”

Dr Nick Lyons - Medical Director, explained that the challenge is attracting medical staff, being innovative and making the jobs appealing to doctors. He added that they have invited Doctors to ring to discuss opportunities in research and teaching and opportunities to work across the Health Board.

Dr Nick Lyons confirmed there is no intention to reduce the bed base in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital and no intention to reduce Acute Medical beds in any of the hospitals.

The Chair announced that the third section of the debate and associated questions would now take place and the Board Members received the following Elected Members’ questions relating to **“The implementation of the South Wales Programme”**.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Board for attending the meeting and acknowledged the difficult conversations to be had.

He added that he has major concerns about the partial closure/downgrading of the A&E service and (this is a cross-party concern) the impact on the communities. The Leader advised of the importance of consulting with residents. He alluded to the difficulties communities will have in accessing Prince Charles Hospital, for example, Maerdy has a low percentage of car ownership and getting to the hospital by public transport can often entail multiple bus changes. The Council also closes its mountain roads in times of severe weather and with a duty of care to its staff, it can be for weeks at a time. The Leader referred to

the pressure on the ambulance service as a result of the proposals and asked that the topography of the Valleys is taken into consideration.

Councillor Morgan acknowledged the difficulties in recruiting but suggested that recruiting across the whole of the Health Board instead of to specific hospitals and reviewing adverts for employment may offer a solution. The Leader explained that making the Minor Injuries Units more accessible by foregoing appointments and improving the Primary Care provision, Out of Hours Services, could lessen the impact on A&E.

Councillor Morgan agreed that it is right to deliver a safe service but more needs to be done in terms of recruitment.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor P Jarman stated that it has been a long standing belief of the Plaid Cymru Group that A&E at the Royal Glamorgan should be retained and she advised that the Board need to look at the South Wales Programme with 'a fresh pair of eyes'.

Professor M Longley stated that there is an absolute need to look at A&E in the Royal Glamorgan as the situation is not tenable beyond the short term, is not safe or sustainable and needs to be addressed. He alluded to the national shortage of Consultants in Emergency medicine for the difficulty in recruiting staff. Professor Longley acknowledged that the area does have a unique geography which does need to be considered and applying the 'Rhondda Test' is crucial in considering access to services. He added that there does need to be a re-purposing of the out of hours service and presenting a consultant led service for 24 hrs needs to be worked up. Professor Longley confirmed that public meetings are being held almost daily to listen to the public and ultimately make the service safe and sustainable.

County Borough Councillor J. Williams

"What evaluations have taken place to date of the impact of the South Wales Programme as it has been implemented so far and what evidence do these evaluations provide of the consequences for patients?"

County Borough Councillor J Harries

"Whilst the plans to downgrade A&E services at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital may look good on a map, the stark reality for many of our residents is markedly contrasted. Can you tell me what consideration has been given to patients who have to travel over mountains, potentially in hazardous winter conditions, just to access A&E services?"

Following his question, Councillor J Harries commented that he felt it was a disgrace how the Health Board had not afforded the Leader of the Council the opportunity to address a recent Health Board meeting. He challenged Professor Marcus Longley to resign as Chair, and stated that he had lost confidence in the him as a Chair.

County Borough Councillor G R Davies

"Yn y drafodaethy y Bwrdd Dydd Iau diwethaf ar ddyfodol yr Adran Damweiniau ac Argyfwng Ysbyty Brenhinol Morgannwg, dywedodd y swyddog sydd yn gyfrfol am yr adrefni fod dim ystategau ar gael am y nifer neu'r fath o achosion sydd yn

cael ei drin yn yr Adran dros nos. Os mae hwn yn wir fel gallwch chi argymhell cau yr Adran dros nos?”

“In the Board’s discussion on Thursday regarding the future of Accident and Emergency services at the Royal Glamorgan, the officer responsible for re-organisation said that no statistics were available about the number nor the kinds of cases that are treated in the Department through the night. If this is true, how can you suggest closing the Department at night time?”

In response to the issue of whether evaluation has taken place to date of the impact of the South Wales Programme, Dr Sharon Hopkins stated that the evaluation process is taking place via the Scrutiny panel, the HIW report and evaluation of the Tirion midwife-led birth centre at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. She confirmed that she was unable to comment on the impact assessment of the South Wales Programme but stressed the importance of addressing issues of access and equity through any future model which is developed in partnership with local residents.

Dr Nick Lyons, Medical Director stated that the Board is looking at the impact on individual patients and some clinical scenarios will be built into the review. He added that although there is a wealth of data available, it needs to be trustworthy and some of the historical data needs to be validated.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor P Jarman asked the Board if the current local consultants could be employed on a permanent basis. It was confirmed that the consultants have been asked but their response is dependent on whether option one or two is progressed by the Health Board.

County Borough Councillor M Griffiths

“Pontyclun sits on the boundary with Cardiff and is in close proximity to the 10,000 new houses that are being built in the north west of Cardiff County. The significant population growth that this development will entail will have significant implications for transportation, with a substantially increased demand on Junction 34 of the M4 which will likely have a knock-on impact on to the ability to access services. What consideration has been given to population growth and increased development both inside the Cwm Taf Morgannwg footprint and in neighbouring Health Board regions? “

County Borough Councillor E Griffiths

“Roedd Bwrdd Iechyd Cwm Taf yn cydnabod yn 2013 bod prinder doctoriaid ag ymgynghorwyr yn cael effaith negyddol ar ymdrechion i benodi staff. Pe bai'r Bwrdd Iechyd wedi dechrau cyllido hyfforddiant i ddoctoriaid ag ymgynghorwyr meddygol mewn partneriaeth gyda Adran Iechyd Llywodraeth Cymru, byddai gyda ni opsiynau recriwtio iach yn yr ardal. Gallwch chi egluro i ni, os yw'r argyfwng yn Ysbyty Morgannwg Brenhinol yn deillio o esgeuluso gweithgareddau i ddatblygu'r gweithlu, neu oherwydd diffygion ymdrechion recriwtio gan y Bwrdd Iechyd?”

“The Health Board’s recognised in 2013 that there was of a lack of doctors and consultants in the area and that this was having an adverse impact on recruitment efforts. If the Health Board, in partnership with the WG’s Department of Health, had started funding the training of additional doctors and consultants at this point, we would now have increased recruitment options for the area.

Can you clarify for us whether the current crises in the Royal Glamorgan is due to a neglect of workforce development activities by the Health Board or a lack of recruitment efforts by the Health Board?"

County Borough Councillor L M Adams

"What impact will the proposed downgrading / closure of A & E at Royal Glamorgan have on the "Stay Well at Home Service for residents of Rhondda Cynon Taff?"

Dr Sharon Hopkins agreed that the population growth is a new consideration and needs to be tested as with any new model and will make services such as the Stay Well at Home Service even more significant as more services will be available closer to communities.

Dr Nick Lyons explained that to qualify as a consultant takes fourteen years. He stressed that the merger with Bridgend has opened up opportunities to recruit across the board and has added an element of flexibility to the recruitment process.

The Leader of the Council concluded his representation.

The Leader stressed that this Council wants the A&E Department to be fully retained in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital and reiterated the importance of being consulted as new information comes forward. He stated that there are lots of areas that need engagement such as recruitment and retention of consultants, staff training, housing developments and ambulance times. The Leader suggested that a Frequently Asked Questions sheet is produced to aid those the Health Board would be engaging with.

In conclusion, the Leader acknowledged that the Board Members are not shying away from the issues but emphasised the need for sensible arguments going forward to achieve a safe and sustainable service.

The Leader of the Opposition concluded her representation.

Councillor Jarman agreed that it had been a worthwhile discussion. She pointed out that the topography of the area and the lack of public transport during the day were of concern. Councillor Jarman advised that it was a duty on us all to provide safe services with permanent consultant cover in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. In conclusion, Councillor Jarman acknowledged the hard times ahead for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board but the longer term benefits for the wider public interest.

Professor M Longley explained that the Board was working towards the same goal, to achieve the best solution. He set out the key issues to be addressed:-

- The current department can't continue as it is;
- There are critical workforce shortages;
- The local topography is unusual

Professor Longley stressed that the Board want to get it right and would leave 'no stone unturned' in an effort to find a solution through shared information. He confirmed that over the next few weeks there are public meetings almost every

other day which would provide opportunities to explain the position. He explained that the current issues/problems are not what people deserve and following a gathering of information, data sharing and consideration of modelling options from around the UK results would be shared with the Council and local residents via the website and by a FAQ's sheet. Professor Longley reminded everyone that it had to be a collective effort and it would be better achieved together.

118 Urgent Item - Notices of Motion

The Presiding Officer announced that he had agreed to accept two Urgent Notices of Motions onto the Agenda which Members had been given notice of. In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules Members were asked to undertake a vote on their agreement for them to be discussed at the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to consider the following two urgent Notices of Motion:-

A. "To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors, A. Morgan, M. Webber, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, H Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J Brencher, A Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L De- Vet, J. Edwards, J Elliott, S.Evans, M Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G Hughes , G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S Pickering, S. Powell, S. Powderhill, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G Stacey, M Tegg, G Thomas, W Treeby, R K Turner, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo.

Following the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board meeting this week, where it was decided to review options for the provision of A&E services at Royal Glamorgan Hospital, this Council places on record that full A&E services should be maintained and calls for the Health Board to review and implement a focused recruitment campaign, to recruit the required consultants to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region to work across the 3 hospitals and not be employed at individual hospitals, which has been the failed strategy to date.

This Council further calls upon the Welsh Government to insist that Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board reviews what was agreed under the South Wales Programme almost 7 years ago due to increased demands on hospitals within the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg foot print, taking into account the significant housing developments and population growth within this new administrative boundary and within Cardiff North, and the impact this has had on the capacity and capability of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Princess of Wales Hospital and Prince Charles Hospital to manage the existing and future demand for services. It should also take in to consideration the current limited hours of operation of the Minor Injuries Units at both Ysbyty Cwm Cynon and Ysbyty Rhondda along with the need to increase out of hours GP provision within the community to reduce the demand already placed on A&E services and the staff that work there.

This Council has grave concerns on the impact on A&E waiting times at neighbouring hospitals due to a lack of capacity, should Royal Glamorgan A&E be closed or downgraded, and the huge additional pressure this will place on the ambulance service in terms of travel distance and also potential waiting times at hospitals due to capacity issues.

With Maternity services within our area placed into "special measures" and the

wider Health Board placed in to “intervention,” and now with the further issues around A&E provision, we reaffirm this Council’s concerns and place on record that unless all options to retain services are fully considered, then this Council will call for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board to be placed in to special measures.

While we accept that this isn’t an issue of funding but rather one of recruiting, we do not believe that the Health Board executives have tried hard enough in using the levers at their disposal to recruit the required number of consultants to run a safe service.

We therefore request that the Council Leader writes to the Chief Executive and Chairman of the Health Board expressing these views and placing on record this Council’s position that A&E services must be retained at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

We call upon Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board to double their efforts to recruit the required consultants to run a safe and sustainable A&E at Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

We also call for the Council Leader to write to the Health Minister to insist that as part of a review on any options brought forward that they must revisit the evidence from 7 years ago under the South Wales Programme, which is now out of date”.

B “To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M. Powell, L. Walker, G. Williams, P. Howe and W. Owen

"This Council calls upon the Welsh Government to place the entire Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board in special measures with immediate effect.

Maternity services within the area have already been placed into special measures, and it is clear from recent reports that other services within our hospitals have been equally affected by staff shortages and poor management.

We now face the possible loss of A&E from the only county hospital within Rhondda Cynon Taff, this on top of the removal of other services which is already under way.

There is no evidence to suggest that patients’ needs will be adequately met at Prince Charles or the Princess of Wales hospitals or that sufficient planning has been put into these moves. Promised alternative community services as outlined in the South Wales Programme have not been forthcoming and staff shortages seem not to have been addressed in any measure.

There is a need for an urgent review of all health board services and this Council does not believe that the current board is capable of ensuring safe and effective outcomes for patients in this area.

This Council calls upon the Welsh Government to remove the current Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board members and place the service into special measures."

During discussion and consideration of Urgent Motion **A**, the Leader of the Alliance Group announced that, in consultation with his Group Members, he

wished to withdraw the Notice of Motion (set out at **B**). In view of this decision, it was **RESOLVED** to withdraw the above-mentioned Notice of Motion submitted by the Alliance Group and to consider the Notice of Motion set out at **A**.

Following further discussions it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion set out at **A**.

(**Note:** County Borough Councillor K. Morgan wished to have it recorded that she abstained from voting on the matter).

119 Council Work Programme - For Members Information

The Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications advised Members of the updates in respect of the forward Council Work Programme and of the Budget items which would be reported in March.

120 The Council's 2020/21 Pay Policy Statement

In accordance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act, 2011, the Director, Human Resources provided Members with information in respect of the Council's 2020/21 Pay Policy Statement.

Following discussion and assurance that the Council continues to reduce the gender pay gap, Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Pay Policy Statement as attached at Appendix A of the report.

121 Appointment of the Director Of Children's Services

The Director of Human Resources presented his report which sought ratification of the decision of the Council's Appointments Committee regarding the appointment to the post of Director of Children's Services. Members were informed that following completion of the formal recruitment and selection process, the Appointments Committee determined to recommend that Ms Annabel Lloyd be appointed to the post of Director of Children's Services.

Members wished to express their best wishes to the current Director Ann Batley who retires in April 2020. It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the recommendation of the Council's Appointments Committee that Ms. Annabel Lloyd be appointed to the post of Director of Children's Services.

122 Change of Membership

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented his report to seek a nomination for the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). He advised that to ensure this Council's membership is complete a fifth Member is now sought.

Following consideration of the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication it was **RESOLVED** – that County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon is appointed to the Welsh Local Government Association Committee for the remainder of the 2019-2020 Municipal Year.

123 Members' Questions

It was proposed that Council suspend the agenda item to receive Members' questions and for written responses to the questions contained within the officer report to be provided by the relevant Cabinet Members.

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Members' questions and for written responses to be provided by the relevant Cabinet Members.

(**Note:** County Borough Councillor J. James wished to have it recorded that he voted against suspending the agenda item).

124 Notices of Motion

To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors G Hughes, G. Caple, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, H Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J Brencher, A Calvert, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L De- Vet, J Elliott, S.Evans, M Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S Pickering, S. Powell, S. Powderhill, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G Stacey, M Tegg, G Thomas, W Treeby, R K Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo.

“During the recent General Election, each of the main political Parties committed to an increased programme of public spending which seemingly signalled an end to the decade of public sector austerity that has cut public services to the bone. Despite the broadly common theme of increased spending, the differences on economic policies, taxation and spending were the most diverse for a generation.

Here in Wales, local services have experienced cuts of £1b since 2010, with RCT suffering a £95m reduction in revenue funding over the same period. Despite the severe cuts imposed by Westminster, Welsh Authorities have been afforded as much protection as possible from the Welsh Government, and this has largely avoided seeing the crisis that some Councils in England find themselves in.

Despite the Welsh Government's clear commitment to supporting local government, with 2020/21 set to be the best funding settlement for 12 years, the longer-term financial outlook is still uncertain and challenging, with Councils set to be forced to continue making tough decisions to prioritise services and account for additional pressures stemming from pay and inflationary increases and significant demand-led pressures impacting on core areas such as education and social care.

The Conservative Government in Westminster now has a real opportunity to deliver on their words in ending austerity once and for all, with the Chancellor announcing that his first budget will be delivered on March 11th. Sajid Javid has already claimed that “billions of pounds will be invested across the country” and it is vital that the Government acknowledge the hardships endured by Local Government over the last ten years with the provision of additional funding, which Welsh Local Authorities could then benefit from under the Barnett formula.

This Council therefore:

- Calls for a real end to austerity and for meaningful investment in public services.

And resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Wales, the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer via the Council Leader to lobby the Government to convey the above resolution”.

In accordance with the Council’s Rules of Procedure 12.7 the mover of the motion moved an alteration to the Motion to include additional text as set out underlined below:

“This Council therefore:

- Calls for a real end to austerity, a review of the Barnett formula and for meaningful investment in public services.*

And resolves to:

- Write to all MP’s representing the County, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer via the Council Leader to lobby the Government to convey the above resolution.*

The altered Motion therefore read:

“During the recent General Election, each of the main political Parties committed to an increased programme of public spending which seemingly signalled an end to the decade of public sector austerity that has cut public services to the bone. Despite the broadly common theme of increased spending, the differences on economic policies, taxation and spending were the most diverse for a generation.

Here in Wales, local services have experienced cuts of £1b since 2010, with RCT suffering a £95m reduction in revenue funding over the same period. Despite the severe cuts imposed by Westminster, Welsh Authorities have been afforded as much protection as possible from the Welsh Government, and this has largely avoided seeing the crisis that some Councils in England find themselves in.

Despite the Welsh Government’s clear commitment to supporting local government, with 2020/21 set to be the best funding settlement for 12 years, the longer-term financial outlook is still uncertain and challenging, with Councils set to be forced to continue making tough decisions to prioritise services and account for additional pressures stemming from pay and inflationary increases and significant demand-led pressures impacting on core areas such as education and social care.

The Conservative Government in Westminster now has a real opportunity to deliver on their words in ending austerity once and for all, with the Chancellor announcing that his first budget will be delivered on March 11th. Sajid Javid has already claimed that “billions of pounds will be invested across the country” and it is vital that the Government acknowledge the hardships endured by Local Government over the last ten years with the provision of additional funding, which Welsh Local Authorities could then benefit from under the Barnett formula.

This Council therefore:

- Calls for a real end to austerity, a review of the Barnett formula and for meaningful investment in public services.

And resolves to:

•Write to all MP's representing the County, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer via the Council Leader to lobby the Government to convey the above resolution".

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion with the alteration.

(**Note:** County Borough Councillors J. James and L. Hooper wished to have it recorded that they voted against the notice of motion with the alteration.)

B.To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors G.R.Davies, P.Jarman, E.Stephens,L.Jones, S.Rees Owen, M.Weaver, D.Grehan, H.Fychan, E.Griffiths, K.Morgan, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, J.Williams, A.Cox, E.Webster, A.Chapman, S.Evans,

This Council values the great contribution that Citizens Advice makes to the quality of life of the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf. It is therefore very concerned about the cuts in outreach services in the County Borough.

Citizens Advice services have been completely withdrawn from Cwmbach, Pontyclun, Pontygwaith,Treherbert and Ystrad. In other areas the service has been curtailed. This will inevitably mean that vital advice will be more difficult and expensive to access. This is at a time when Universal Credit is being rolled out across the County Borough and legal aid has been decimated. Sadly three members of staff have been made redundant.

These cuts are the result of the reallocation of resources by the Welsh Government resulting in the loss of £144k in revenue to RCT Citizens Advice. Council calls for an urgent meeting with representatives of Citizens Advice and the Welsh Government to remedy the situation and if necessary explore alternative funding sources for this vital service.

At the meeting the Chair announced that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.1 the following amendment to the Notice of Motion had been received from County Borough Councillors H. Boggis, J. Edwards, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J Brencher, A Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L De- Vet, J Elliott, S.Evans, M Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G Hughes, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S Pickering, S. Powell, S. Powderhill, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G Stacey, M Tegg, G Thomas, W Treeby, R K Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo.

This Council values the great contribution that Citizens Advice makes to the quality of life of the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf. It is therefore very concerned about the cuts in outreach services in the County Borough. Citizens Advice services have been completely withdrawn from Cwmbach, Pontyclun, Pontygwaith, Treherbert and Ystrad. In other areas the service has been curtailed. This will inevitably mean that vital advice will be more difficult and expensive to access. This is at a time when Universal Credit is being rolled out across the County Borough and legal aid has been decimated. Sadly three members of staff have been made redundant.

These cuts are the result of the reallocation of resources by the Welsh Government resulting in the loss of £144k in revenue to RCT Citizens Advice.

{Add: This Council notes the significant funding already provided by this Local Authority, totalling £447,000 per annum, which has been protected in recent years to provide the resources for Citizens Advice RCT to support residents impacted by the challenges of Universal Credit and the impact of austerity locally.

This Council calls on the Welsh Government to consider additional support for Citizens Advice RCT so they are not adversely affected by the new funding reallocation}.

Council calls for [~~Delete: an urgent meeting with representatives of Citizens Advice and~~] the Welsh Government to remedy the situation and if necessary explore alternative funding sources for this vital service.

The motion amended will read:-

This Council values the great contribution that Citizens Advice makes to the quality of life of the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf. It is therefore very concerned about the cuts in outreach services in the County Borough. Citizens Advice services have been completely withdrawn from Cwmbach, Pontyclun, Pontygwaith, Treherbert and Ystrad. In other areas the service has been curtailed. This will inevitably mean that vital advice will be more difficult and expensive to access. This is at a time when Universal Credit is being rolled out across the County Borough and legal aid has been decimated. Sadly three members of staff have been made redundant.

These cuts are the result of the reallocation of resources by the Welsh Government resulting in the loss of £144k in revenue to RCT Citizens Advice.

This Council notes the significant funding already provided by this Local Authority, totalling £447,000 per annum, which has been protected in recent years to provide the resources for Citizens Advice RCT to support residents impacted by the challenges of Universal Credit and the impact of austerity locally.

This Council calls on the Welsh Government to consider additional support for Citizens Advice RCT so they are not adversely affected by the new funding reallocation.

Council calls for the Welsh Government to remedy the situation and if necessary explore alternative funding sources for this vital service.

In accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 12.7, a vote was taken in respect of the amendment to the Notice of Motion and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the amendment subject to a further alteration to the amendment. In accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 12.7 the mover of the amendment to the motion moved an alteration to the amended Motion to include the text as underlined below :

"This Council calls on the Welsh Government to meet representatives of Citizens Advice to consider additional support for Citizen's Advice RCT so they are not adversely affected by the new funding reallocation"

The amended notice of motion (to include the alteration) would read as:-

“This Council values the great contribution that Citizens Advice makes to the quality of life of the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf. It is therefore very concerned about the cuts in outreach services in the County Borough. Citizens Advice services have been completely withdrawn from Cwmbach, Pontyclun, Pontygwaith, Treherbert and Ystrad. In other areas the service has been curtailed. This will inevitably mean that vital advice will be more difficult and expensive to access. This is at a time when Universal Credit is being rolled out across the County Borough and legal aid has been decimated. Sadly three members of staff have been made redundant.

These cuts are the result of the reallocation of resources by the Welsh Government resulting in the loss of £144k in revenue to RCT Citizens Advice.

This Council notes the significant funding already provided by this Local Authority, totalling £447,000 per annum, which has been protected in recent years to provide the resources for Citizens Advice RCT to support residents impacted by the challenges of Universal Credit and the impact of austerity locally.

This Council calls on the Welsh Government to meet with representatives of citizen advice to consider additional support for Citizens Advice RCT so they are not adversely affected by the new funding reallocation.

Council calls for the Welsh Government to remedy the situation and if necessary explore alternative funding sources for this vital service”.

Following further discussion in respect of the substantive motion, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the motion.

(Note: County Borough Councillor E. Stephens wished to have it recorded that she abstained from voting on the matter).

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman**