

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, 26 March 2014 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillors A.Crimmings – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	M.Griffiths	S.Rees
P.Baccara	P.Griffiths	S.Rees-Owen
(Mrs) T.A.Bates	(Mrs) E.Hanagan	(Mrs) A.Roberts
D.R.Bevan	G.Holmes	J.Rosser
H.W.Boggis	G.E.Hopkins	G.Smith
J.Bonetto	P.Howe	R.W.Smith
S.A.Bradwick	J.S.James	G.Stacey
J.Bunnage	P.Jarman	B.Stephens
A.Calvert	(Mrs) S.J.Jones	(Mrs) M.Tegg
S.Carter	R.Lewis	G.P.Thomas
(Mrs) J.Cass	(Mrs) C.Leyshon	L.G.Walker
A.Christopher	R.B.McDonald	(Mrs) J.S.Ward
W.J.David	C.J.Middle	P.Wasley
A.L.Davies, MBE	A.Morgan	M.J.Watts
(Mrs) A.Davies	B.Morgan	M.O.Weaver
C.Davies	M.A.Norris	M.Webber
G.R.Davies	I.Pearce	E.Webster
(Mrs) M.E.Davies	S.Pickering	D.H.Williams
J.Elliott	M.J.Powell	C.J.Willis
M.Forey	K.A.Privett	R.A.Yeo

Officers in Attendance

Mr.S.Merrit – Chief Executive

Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate Services

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

Mr.C.Bradshaw – Director, Education & Lifelong Learning

Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources

Mr.N.Wheeler – Service Director, Streetcare

Mr.N.Elliott – Service Director, Direct Services, Business & Housing

121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors P.Cannon,QPM, J.Davies, (Mrs) L.De Vet, S.M.Evans-Fear, A.S.Fox, W.L.Langford, S.Lloyd, K.Montague, K.Morgan, S.Powderhill, R.K.Turner, W.D.Weeks, C.J.Williams and T.Williams.

122 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor M.Forey declared a personal interest in agenda item no.4 – Presentation – Developing a Strategic Direction for Older Persons Mental Health Services – “I am an independent (elected member) of the Cwm Taf Health Board”.

123 ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor announced that she would be taking part in the “Three Peaks Challenge” in May 2014 in aid of her charities. Members were invited to sponsor her for the challenge or were welcome to join her in the event.

124 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2014.

125 PRESENTATION DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR OLDER PERSONS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Council received a presentation from Dr.Paul Davies, Assistant Director of Operations (Mental Health & CAHMS), Cwm Taf Health Board entitled “Developing a Strategic Direction for Older Persons Mental Health Services”.

Dr.Davies informed the Council that Cwm Taf Health Board had been working to improve mental health services for all adults living in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil. A first phase of work which looked at services for people of working age has been completed and the second phase was now underway and concentrated on services for older people.

Older people’s mental health services had traditionally been available for people over the age of 65 and it was believed that eligibility for the new services in Cwm Taf should be based on what best meets the needs of patients and not age. The following areas had been identified as part of this work:

- Develop and enhance the role of the crisis team
- Extend home treatment to include all ages – this will help reduce admission rates and length of hospital stay
- A needs-led primary care mental health support service – this will offer general and age appropriate services across the age spectrum
- Improve discharge efficiency
- Improve services to residential and nursing home residents
- Develop additional day care services
- Improve services to primary care
- Address inequitable workloads at consultant and locality levels.

The Health Board planned to redesign older people's mental health services over the next three years, shifting the focus of treatment and care from in-patient settings to the community in order to improve the quality of patient care. The aim was for patients to have high quality treatment and care in the right place at the right time without delays and to be treated by people with a high level of expertise.

Dr.Davies pointed out that to do nothing was not an option as the demographic profile demonstrated a growth in demand which would engulf the current model of services not only in mental health but the wider healthcare system.

On the basis of the changes proposed, the Board plan to have:

- Shorter inpatient stays for assessment through locating all assessment on one site at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital
- Reduced lengths of stay in specialist dementia bed through enhanced community services, better discharge, faster access to diagnosis and therapies and avoiding unnecessary admissions
- Safe and high quality patient environments and investment in staffing and community based services through bed reduction at either Ward 1 Dewi Sant Hospital or Ward 35 at Prince Charles Hospital.

A period of engagement with service users commenced on 15th January 2014 and would run up to 28th March 2014. During this period there would be extensive discussion with a wide range of stakeholders to raise awareness, seek views and ideas to inform and develop a range of options for the future of older people's mental health services. The outcome of the engagement exercise would be included in a robust project plan for implementation of the proposed service changes which may then be subject to formal consultation.

Members were invited to give their views on the proposed changes and in particular, the three Questions being asked of stakeholders. Members were advised that a document summarising the proposals would be emailed to them tomorrow and any comments were welcomed and should be returned to the Health Board by 28 March 2014.

Following the presentation, Dr.Davies and his colleague, Ms.Daphne Meredith-Smith responded to questions raised by Members.

The Mayor then thanked Dr.Davies and Ms.Meredith-Smith for their presentation to Members and they in return, thanked the Council for the opportunity to do so.

126 OPEN GOVERNMENT - STATEMENTS

There were no statements from the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Portfolio Holders on this occasion.

127 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

(1) From County Borough Councillor L.Walker to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Christopher)

In view of the current economic climate would it be more prudent to cancel our membership of the W.L.G.A. and use that money in the region of £140,000 to fund priority services as membership is not a statutory requirement?

Response from the Leader of the Council

As far as I am concerned, we get value for money in the level of support and advice provided by the W.L.G.A. I know you asked a previous Council Leader the same question and our position has not changed since then.

There are twenty-two member Authorities and through the W.L.G.A. we all speak as one when speaking to Welsh Ministers.

To leave the W.L.G.A. would not be a good idea with current austerity cuts and funding problems. I think the role of the W.L.G.A. is crucial for us at this particular time.

I know the W.L.G.A. is looking at contributions from next year on to see if they can be reduced so financially, we get more out of the W.L.G.A. than we put into it.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Walker:

I am concerned about the service provided by the W.L.G.A. on their website, some of the information there is four years old. Do you think it is good value for money.

Response from the Leader of the Council:

I was not aware of that and I will take this up tomorrow morning with the W.L.G.A. because that is not acceptable.

(2) From County Borough Councillor L.Walker to the Cabinet Member Member for Sustainable Development, Leisure and Tourism (County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan)

Would you agree with me that in the interest of fairness Hawthorn Pool be removed from Phase 2 of the consultation process as the Pool has now been closed for remedial work to be carried out on the roof of the pool. Therefore, it is now placed in an unfair position and should be looked at after the work has been carried out.

Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan:

I cannot agree with the views you put forward in your question, in that, as you are aware the decision to close the pool was taken by the relevant Officers on Health and Safety grounds and we await the outcome of the detailed survey being undertaken.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor Walker:

When the work is carried out, can you give me assurances that this pool will re-open?

Response from County Borough Councillor Bevan:

The answer to that question is given in my initial response. We await the outcome of the survey that our officers and experts will be undertaking.

(3) From County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Christopher)

How much has Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council paid out in compensatory payments over the last five financial years?

Response from the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Christopher)

I know you have been in correspondence with Officers over this question and because this year is not yet complete, I can only provide figures for three years:

2010/11 - £3,732,134

2011/12 - £652,303

2012/13 - £2,288,086

It appears to me that this links to redundancy payments so I would add two key points.

Firstly, each application for voluntary redundancy is subject to a strict business case assessment which always results in significant paybill savings being made and for the three years in question, these significantly exceed the costs incurred.

Secondly, all applications are subject ultimately to Member approval through a Voluntary Early Retirement/Redundancy Panel.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor Powell:

I take on board your response but it did not fully answer my request for information. Would you be able to give me details of compensatory payments

we have paid out to employees for the loss of a limb, etc, including insurance payments as well.

Response from the Council Leader:

I will refer the matter to the Officers and you will get a written response.

(4) From County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Christopher)

How much does Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council pay in unchecked invoices per year?

Response from the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Christopher)

From the information I have received, we don't pay any unchecked invoices so the answer is "nil".

Response from County Borough Councillor Powell:

I will take your word it is "nil" to your knowledge on the information provided to you by the Officers to that effect.

Response from the Leader of the Council:

If you have further information, perhaps you can provide it to the Officers otherwise I will have the Officers to contact you and get back to you on it.

Response from County Borough Councillor Powell:

I am in a difficult position here with the information I have. The Authority has paid out considerable sums of money on invoices that are identical but over different periods of years on exactly the same invoices so would it be prudent if I were to provide the information I have, in the form of emails and values of money so that the Officers can then get back to me with clarification before I take it any further.

Response from the Leader:

If you have that information, you should go to the Section 151 Officer.

Response from County Borough Councillor Powell:

This is what I shall do at this point in time.

REPORT OF THE CABINET

127 THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15 – 2016/17

Set out in the report of the Cabinet was the proposed Capital Programme for 2014/15 – 2016/17, following the local government settlement for 2014/15 and following consideration of the information contained therein, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the detail of the final 2014/15 local government settlement for capital expenditure reproduced in Appendix 1 to the report.
- (2) To agree the proposed “core” three year programme detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.
- (3) To agree the three year Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES

128 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INCORPORATING INVESTMENT STRATEGY, PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MRP STATEMENT FOR 2014/15.

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate Services set out details of the following:

- Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15
- Investment Strategy for 2014/15
- Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2013/14 (actuals to date) and 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17
- Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement

and following consideration of the Director's comments, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Prudential and Treasury Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement as set out in the report.
- (2) To grant the Section 151 Officer (or in his absence the Deputy Section 151 Officer) with delegated powers to exceed the fixed/variable limits, in the best financial interests of the Authority only and if utilised, that this be reported to the next available meeting of the Council (paragraph 18.7 of the report refers).

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

129 PROVISION OF BYELAWS ON ACUPUNCTURE, TATTOOING, SEMI-PERMANENT SKIN-COLOURING, COSMETIC PIERCING AND ELECTROLYSIS

The Group Director, Environmental Services informed Members that to enable the new “Model Byelaws for Acupuncture, Tattooing, Semi Permanent Skin Colouring, Cosmetic Piercing and Electrolysis”, approved by Council on 24 July 2013 (Minute No.42 refers), to be confirmed by Welsh Government, the Council had to resolve to set the date on which the provisions of Section 14-17 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 should come into force.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** to enable the new Model Byelaws on ear piercing, tattooing, acupuncture and electrolysis (including cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin colouring) to be confirmed by Welsh Government and apply in Rhondda Cynon Taf, that the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, Part VIII, Section 14-17 come into force in Rhondda Cynon Taf from 1st May 2014.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGA & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

130 APPOINTMENT OF WHOLE TIME CORONER

Pursuant to Minute No.117 (Council Meeting, 26 February 2014), the Director, Legal & Democratic Services, in his report, advised Members of the outcome of discussions with relevant parties on the proposed merger of Coroner Areas and proposed, that if agreement was not forthcoming, to proceed with the appointment of whole time Senior Coroner for the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys Area.

At the meeting, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services reported orally that since compiling his report, he had received notification from Cardiff Council, as lead Authority for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Coroner Area, to the effect that they intended to undertake a review of the Coroner service in their area to include a possible merger and a final response would be forthcoming in due course.

In the circumstances, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services recommended that the Council consider proceeding with the appointment of whole time Senior Coroner for the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys area, as outlined in his report.

It was **RESOLVED** that in the absence of any agreement by all interested parties to a merged Coroner Area with Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan:

- (1) the post of whole time Coroner for the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys be advertised as soon as possible.

- (2) The Appointment Panel consists of the Leader of the council, Cabinet HR Portfolio Holder and the Leader of the largest Opposition Group (or substitutes).

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

131 THE COUNCIL'S 2014/2015 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

(Note: The following declarations of interests were received in respect of the above-mentioned matter:

- **From the Director, Human Resources (Mr.T.Wilkins)**

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

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

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

I will be able to advise Members in respect of queries they have in relation to the report following its presentation.

- **From the Director, Legal & Democratic Services (Mr.P.J.Lucas)**

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

- **From the Chief Executive (Mr.S.Merritt)**

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

- **From the Group Director, Corporate Services (Mr.C.Lee)**

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

- **From Mr.N.Wheeler, Service Director, Streetcare (Mr.N.Wheeler)**

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

- **From the Director, Education & Lifelong Learning (Mr.C.Bradshaw)**

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

- **From the Service Director, Direct Services, Business & Housing (Mr.N.Elliott)**

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

In the joint report of the Director, Human Resources and the Director, Legal & Democratic Services provided Members with information in respect of the Council's 2014/2015 Pay Policy Statement for consideration and following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Pay Policy Statement as set out in Appendix A to the report.

(Note: The following lost amendment to the motion was moved by County Borough Councillor P.Jarman and seconded by County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies:

“That the following documents, which are already in the public domain, be appended to the Pay Policy Statement 2014/2015 for ease of reference:

Senior Salaries

Electoral Fees for Returning and Deputy Returning Officer

15 Spot Salaries

Soulbury Salaries)

132 NOTICE OF MOTION

Pursuant to Minute No.120 (Council Meeting, 26 February 2014), the following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillor L.G.Walker, P.Wasley and P.Howe was moved and seconded:

“Would Council consider in the best interests of the good people of Rhondda Cynon Taf and in the Democratic Process, that the motions allowed to the opposition groups be increased to five for the Independent Group on an annual basis”

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** not to adopt the above-mentioned motion.

133 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors P.Jarman, G.R.Davies, K.Morgan, I.Pearce, S.Rees-Owen, M.Weaver, E.Webster, C.Davies and S.Evans-Fear was moved and seconded:

“This Council resolves to work towards making Rhondda Cynon Taf “Dementia Friendly” a status officially recognised by the Alzheimer’s Society.

This Council will appoint an elected Member to the position of Dementia Champion and also appoints a lead Officer for dementia.

This Council will also encourage staff and Members of the Council to become a “Dementia Friend” through the Alzheimer’s Society “Dementia Friends” initiatives.

This Council will participate in awareness raising and ensure that consideration is given to people living with dementia and their carers by including them explicitly in Equality Impact Assessments”

and following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Motion.

**A.CRIMMINGS
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 7.40 p.m.