

## **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, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 5 p.m.

### **PRESENT**

County Borough Councillor S.Powderhill – Deputy Mayor

### **County Borough Councillors**

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

### **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.A.Wilkins – Head of Legal, Corporate & Democratic Services  
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources  
Mr.C.Hanagan – Director, Cabinet & Public Relations  
Mr.P.Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement  
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

### **30 CHAIR**

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

### **31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors M.Forey, L.Hooper, P.Jarman, K.Morgan, S.Rees-Owen, M.Tegg, L.Walker, E.Webster and T.Williams.

### **32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** – to note that In accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies declared personal interests in the following matters:-

- (1) Agenda Item 7 – The Council’s Draft Corporate Performance Report – “There is reference in the report to substance misuse services and I supervise such services”.
- (2) Agenda Item 10 – Notice of Motion – “I sell the items that are being referred to”.

### **33 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) The Director, Cabinet & Public Relations informed Members that the necessary works had been undertaken to ensure that the translation equipment and the loop system were now in working order and those Members present who wished to use the devices to connect to the loop system were guided on their use.
- (2) County Borough Councillor G.E.Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Children’s Services thanked those who attended Parti Ponti which was held at Ynysyngharad War Memorial Park, Pontypridd on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. He also wished to place on record his thanks to Menter Iaith who organised the annual Welsh festival.
- (3) County Borough Councillor S.Pickering announced that raffle tickets were being sold to help raise funds for the Ynysybwl festival which is being held in August.

### **34 PETITIONS**

The following two petitions were handed to the Deputy Mayor by County Borough Councillor A.Chapman on behalf of the residents of Treorchy:-

- (1) In respect of the public toilets opposite Treorchy Library – “the state of the toilets have been an issue for some time, although quick to respond to cleanliness issues there are also structural issues that need to be looked at”.
- (2) In respect of the land at the right hand side of The Park and Dare Theatre, Treorchy – “to be used as a Communal rest area/garden with pots etc., with three park benches already donated”.

**35**     **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2017, subject to the supplementary question raised (Minute No.26(a) refers)) reading “Is it possible to have 20 mph limits outside all schools in RCT, especially the main `A` roads?”

**36**     **MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS**

**(a)     From County Borough Councillor D.Grehan to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)**

“Will you make a statement on the highway infrastructure in Tonyrefail?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan**

“You will be aware that we are looking to develop capacity on the A4119 and we have recently put forward proposals which will come to Council and the Cabinet in respect of duelling the A4119 up to Coedely and down to the M4 junction. Park and Ride will also impact on the infrastructure, not just in Tonyrefail. We are currently in consultation with Welsh Government and hopefully a package of improvements will come forward”.

**Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor D.Grehan**

“Thank you for the information regarding the A4119, I am glad that plans are developing in this area, not just for the people of Tonyrefail but for everyone travelling to Talbot Green or Cardiff, as it is relevant to everyone.

A problem that is indeed relevant to all areas is where do we park our cars? Many houses now have two, three or four cars and our long terraced streets can’t cope; it is a problem throughout RCT. I hope the Council will be proactive in an approach to this growing problem. One possible solution would be to take away double yellow lines that now line one side of many roads, and allowing the creation of one way systems, and thus leaving both sides of the roads free for parking. One such road that would benefit is Pretoria Road in Tonyrefail. Would the Council, in the long term be willing to look at opening the top of High Street in order to facilitate this move? In the short term there is a far more pressing matter; The Welsh School is to be relocated from School Street to Martins Crescent, as you know nearly half the children will be travelling by bus, as you will also know buses are unable to travel down Martins Crescent. Does the council have a plan in place to ensure the safe daily drop off of the children to their new school?

**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan**

“All existing lines were reviewed about 4 – 5 years ago. Yellow lines are not put down at will. Some lines were removed but the vast majority remained in place as they were still necessary. To remove yellow lines ad hoc, I would not recommend. One way systems are something I would not support as

accidents and collisions increase especially if no traffic calming measures have been put in place. It is recognised that drivers tend to go faster in one way systems, so if we were to proceed we would have to consider installing road humps etc in consultation with the Ambulance service and Police which would necessitate the placement of Traffic Orders. Under the Capital Programme we put bids in to Welsh Government, which is done on a priority basis and is an ongoing process.

It would be helpful if Members gained a better understanding of the Capital Programme, especially in respect of highways matters and maybe Officers could make a presentation prior to a future Council meeting, however, there are a number of pre-Council training events but it would be helpful for Members”.

**(b) From County Borough Councillor J.Brencher to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)**

“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement of the redevelopment of the former Taff Vale Precinct?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan**

“Since 2015 when we purchased the lease, progress has been made, which can’t be seen in terms of physical progress but a considerable amount of work is going on in the background. The contract has been awarded to Willmot Dixon and construction will start on site in early 2018 and complete in 2019. Members will be aware that Transport for Wales and the new Metro provider will be coming to Pontypridd and basing its Headquarters in the redeveloped Taff Vale site. There will be in excess of 1,000 people working on the site when developed which will increase the footfall in the town to support the existing local economy. There are three proposed buildings on the plan, which will include a central library, a One4All and a gym with a number of training suites.

**Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor J.Brencher**

“It is clear that the purchasing of the site and the direct intervention taken by the Council was a much needed kick start, which people of Pontypridd wanted to see. Thank you. Could you tell us of any additional plans that the Council has to continue this pro active approach?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan**

There are a number of areas that we are looking at, but some that we cannot divulge because of commercial sensitivity.

A Welsh Government loan has been secured to redevelop the former Marks & Spencer building to provide new retail space and housing units.. Leading national chains have shown an interest in taking up space on that site. Subject to approval, such as planning, further plans are proposed in Pontypridd during the next few months”.

**(c) From County Borough Councillor R.Yeo to the Cabinet Member for Prosperity and Wellbeing (County Borough Councillor R.Lewis)**

“Will the Cabinet Member update Council on the recent proactive actions of the Cabinet to tackle the nuisance of dog fouling in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor R.Lewis**

“Dog fouling was a recurring theme during the recent elections. Cabinet have agreed to the introduction of a dog control Public Spaces Protection Order across the whole of RCT which will commence as from the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2017. The Enforcement Team will be increased to ten Officers and if the Order is not complied with then a fixed penalty fine of £100 can be incurred. It will be a requirement for a person in charge of a dog at all times to carry bags for the disposal of dog faeces.

There has been a lot of public support for these measures and during the public engagement as high as 98% agreed that dogs should be kept on leads in playgrounds etc and 100% agreed that dog owners must carry suitable means for disposing of dog mess. The Cabinet is confident that the Public Spaces Protection Order will be a deterrent for dog owners”.

**Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor R.Yeo**

“Would you agree to appear before the relevant Scrutiny Committee to give an update following the introduction of the Order?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor R.Lewis**

“Yes, of course, I will be more than happy to attend with Officers to give an update on progress and recognising the importance scrutiny has to play in the administration of this Council, following the commencement of the Orders on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2017”.

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

“How is the Council seeking to support our local town centres?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan**

“This Authority remains committed to supporting our town centres in recognition of the vital role they play to our residents

Our town centres have many challenges such as out of town and on-line shopping. However, there are some grants that can boost the activity in our town centres such as the rate relief scheme through Welsh Government and the small maintenance grant which assists retailers in keeping shop fronts in decorative order. Also looking at the installation of WiFi and reasonable car parking charges.

I welcome the RCT Invest scheme which will benefit many areas and I look forward to the implementation of that scheme.

**Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor G.Hughes**

“I am pleased to hear of the progress made with maintenance grants. Could you update the residents of Tonypany on improvements to Tonypany town centre?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan**

“Through the Making Better Use programme, we recently received some investment to ensure the highway network within the town centre provides good and safe access which includes improvements to Dunraven Street and upgrade to the bus station; in an effort to support our local high streets”.

**(e) From County Borough Councillor H.Fychan to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise & Housing (County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan)**

“Will the Cabinet Member provide an update about regeneration plans for Pontypridd Town Centre?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan**

“The Administration is continuing to play a major role in developing Pontypridd. The Leader previously mentioned the development at Taff Vale and the impact this will have on the boost in economy within the town. I am also looking forward to the City Deal project when it moves forward and to the re-opening of the former Marks & Spencer’s site to other retailers and these actions demonstrate our commitment to the town”.

**Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor H.Fychan**

“We have already heard about the development of Taff Vale from the Leader. How are these developments going to merge together e.g. Taff Vale Precinct, the leisure centre and the YMCA. How many, genuinely new jobs are going to be created. People are worried that we are going to see more empty offices?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan**

“That is a crystal ball question. We are in discussions with potential investors and the number of jobs that will be created is an unknown quantity. We are pulling things together. Pontypridd has moved forward and we have seen that in the growth in footfall. A significant number of jobs will come into the area which will increase the employment and the empty property issue that you have raised”.

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **37 THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017/18**

The Chief Executive attached to his report at Appendix 1, the Council's draft Corporate Performance Report 2017/18, which was structured around the Council's three strategic priorities namely – Economy (building a strong economy), People (promoting independence and positive lives for everyone) and Place (creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work).

Through the publication of the Corporate Performance Report 2017/18, the Council can demonstrate its progress against the delivery of its agreed strategic priorities and also meet its legal duties in respect of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Draft Corporate Performance Report was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 and subject to the Council's consideration, and taking account of the feedback from Cabinet, an approved version of the Report would be made available on the Council's internet site and notified to partners and other stakeholders.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to approve the Council's draft `Corporate Performance Report 2017/18` taking into account the feedback from Cabinet at its meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

### **38 CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF CWM TAF COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL AND CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

In accordance with the decision taken by Minute No.2(2.2) of the Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, the Director, Legal and Democratic Services advised Members that he had received notification from the Labour Group of changes to its membership of Cwm Taf Community Health Council and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

#### **RESOLVED –**

1. That County Borough Councillor D.Owen-Jones be nominated to sit on the Cwm Taf Community Health Council in place of County Borough Councillor S.Morgans for the remainder of the term, i.e. to May, 2021;
2. That County Borough Councillor R.W.Smith be nominated to sit on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in place of County Borough Councillor S.Powderhill.

## **REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE SERVICES**

### **39 2016/17 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

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 through Regulations issued under the Local Government Act, 2003, the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services provided Members with information on the following:-

- The Council's Treasury Management activity during 2016/17; and
- The actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2016/17

Following the observations made by the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services and a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to note the contents of the report.

### **40 NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors E.Stephens, G.Davies, H.Fychan, J.Williams, L.Jones, S.Rees-Owen, M.Weaver, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, S.Evans-Fear, E.Webster, A.Chapman, P.Jarman, K.Morgan, D.Grehan, A.Cox, W.Jones and D.Macey was received was received by the Proper Officer in accordance with paragraph 10.1(b) of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution:-

"That this Council will support, in principle, subject to an Officer Report, the provision of free sanitary products such as tampons and towels, in all Secondary Schools in the County as an acknowledgement that they are as essential as toilet paper for the personal hygiene of female pupils.

The Officer report will relate not only to the financial cost of the provision, which will be met centrally but the benefits of this investment in terms of promoting dignity, equality, health and wellbeing and its effect on education in a County that has such a high number of pupils living in poverty".

At the meeting, the Deputy Mayor announced that in accordance with paragraph 10.4.1 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution the following amendment to the Notice of Motion had been received from County Borough Councillors S.Evans and J.Harries:-

"That this Council will research the availability of free sanitary products, such as tampons and towels, in all Secondary Schools in the County as an acknowledgement that they are as essential as toilet paper for the personal hygiene of female pupils.

Request that a report be presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee which will consider the availability of hygiene products in RCT schools and, if appropriate, bring forward recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet in respect of this matter relating to dignity,



equality, health and wellbeing and its effect on education in a County that has such a high number of pupils living in poverty”.

Following a lengthy discussion on this matter and following a vote in favour of the Amendment to the Notice of Motion which became the Substantive Motion, it was **RESOLVED** – to adopt the Amendment to the Notice of Motion as reproduced below:-

“That this Council will research the availability of free sanitary products, such as tampons and towels, in all Secondary Schools in the County as an acknowledgement that they are as essential as toilet paper for the personal hygiene of female pupils.

Request that a report be presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee which will consider the availability of hygiene products in RCT schools and, if appropriate, bring forward recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet in respect of this matter relating to dignity, equality, health and wellbeing and its effect on education in a County that has such a high number of pupils living in poverty”.

#### **URGENT BUSINESS – JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR, CABINET & PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The Deputy Mayor informed Members that by reason of special circumstances, i.e. the need to respond to the Welsh Government’s consultation document by the deadline of the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, the joint report of the Director, Legal and Democratic Services and the Director, Cabinet and Public Relations would be considered at this meeting.

#### **41 ELECTORAL REFORM IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WALES – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

In their Joint Report, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Director of the Cabinet and Public Relations sought the approval of Council to the establishment of a Working Group of the Cabinet and a Working Group of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to give consideration to the consultation paper published by the Welsh Government on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 in relation to Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales in order that the Council can received comments from Members of both Working Groups which will form the basis of the Council’s response by the deadline of the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017; and it was **RESOLVED** – accordingly.

**S.POWDERHILL**

**DEPUTY MAYOR**

**The meeting closed at 7 p.m.**

These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council