

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, 28th February, 2018 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor M.Tegg – Mayor

County Borough Councillors

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

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Bradshaw – Chief Executive
Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.A.Wilkins – Head of Legal – Corporate & Democratic Services
Mr.C.Hanagan – Director, Cabinet & Public Relations
Mr.R.Evans – Director, Human Resources
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors J.Brencher, A.Calvert, J.R.Davies, S.M.Evans, M.Fidler Jones, H.Fychan, G.Jones, S.Rees

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – to note that in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct the following personal declarations of interest were made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda:-

- County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan – Agenda Item 7 – Cwm Taf Well-Being Plan 2018/2023 – “I have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak and vote on this matter”.
- County Borough Councillor P.Jarman – Agenda Item 9 – The Council's 2018/2019 Revenue Budget Strategy - “I have been granted a dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2018/19 budget process”.
- County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies – Agenda Item 12 – Provision of Sanitary Products in Schools within RCT (Notice of Motion) – Final Report – “I sell those particular products”.

97 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) County Borough Councillor A.G.Cox wished to congratulate and send best wishes to Llwyncelyn Welsh Medium Primary School who had got through to the finals of Songs of Praise. The school were to be travelling to Bangor to be filmed for the competition, however, the trip had been postponed to March because of the inclement weather.
- (2) County Borough Councillor P.Jarman informed Members that following on from the Council Meeting held on the 17th February, 2018 (Minute No.86(1) refers) when it was announced that Councillor E.Stephens' sister, Rachel Stephens, was to appear on the new TV series `All Together Now`. Rachel had now reached the finals which is to be transmitted on Saturday evening (3rd March, 2018).
- (3) County Borough Councillor D.Grehan stated that he was making this announcement on behalf of Councillor H.Fychan who could not be present this evening, in that Pontypridd Post Office has opened and many people had signed the petition that had been organised by Plaid Cymru. He indicated that this was a short term solution and the Post Office was looking for a long term solution with the continued aid of support from others.
- (4) The Mayor, County Borough Councillor M.Tegg informed Members that she would be leaving this meeting early as she had another engagement to attend.

98 **PETITION**

County Borough Councillor J.Harries handed in a petition to the Mayor, on behalf of the residents of the Rhondda Fach requesting the re-introduction of the hourly X8 bus service between Maerdy and Cardiff and for a new rail link service to be introduced between Maerdy and Porth.

99 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 17th January, 2018, subject to:-

- Councillor H.Fychan being listed as present.
- Councillor J.Harries name being deleted from the list of those Members that made declaration (Minute No.85 refers).
- In response to the supplementary question Minute No.88(c) reading “....the **particular** salt used by the Council does not work if the temperature is below **-9**”.

100 **STATEMENTS**

(1) The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A.Morgan gave a verbal progress report on the City Deal. He reported that the Cardiff Capital Regional Wider Investment Fund would support a number of schemes including the following and would over time create approximately 25,000 jobs:-

- The Metro Central Project
- Regional Housing Investment Fund
- Digital Strategy
- Skills for the Future

The Leader of the Council commented on each of the above schemes and reported that in March of this year, each of the ten Local Authorities would be bringing the five year Business Plan for approval to their respective Councils, which has recently been agreed by the Joint Cabinet.

(2) The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A.Morgan informed Members of the arrangements that were in place for the inclement weather which has been forecast over the next 48 hours. All schools within Rhondda Cynon Taf are to be closed on Thursday and Friday, 1st and 2nd March respectively and therefore Home to School Transport had been duly suspended during this period. Meals on Wheels is to be delivered on Thursday (1st March) and frozen meals are to be delivered to those in receipt of Meals on Wheels on Thursday to cover Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Should a red warning be issued by the Met Office, then the Chief Executive

would be taking the decision to close Council Offices, Day Centres and Leisure Centres etc.

101 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

“Please will the Cabinet Member provide a progress report on the redevelopment of the Taff Vale site?”

Response from County Borough Councillor R.Bevan

“I will set out the chronological information – the business case was presented to the Cabinet on the 21st November and a report to Council on the 29th November. The proposed footbridge was presented to the Ynysangharad War Memorial Cabinet Committee. £10M regeneration development funding was received in November, 2017 with a full award expected today. Works started on the 8th January.

Key dates as we go forward – in March there will be a visit by the Welsh Minister for Housing and Regeneration. Construction works will also start in March and piling works start in the Spring. Cranes will be put on site this year. Subject to planning consent, work will start in the Summer of 2019 and the target date for completion is Winter 2020”.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor D.Williams.

“Thank you on behalf of my Ward and I thank the Administration for the work that has been done in pushing this forward. The work has had a positive instead of a negative response and the comments on Social Media are appalling. Thank you for inviting me to the forum”.

Response from County Borough Councillor R.Bevan

“It is important that we set up the forum and we did the same with the Lido. The meetings proved to be successful in the case of the Lido. Knowing the way Social Media operates, it is key that the right information is given to Members”.

(b) From County Borough Councillor S.Belzak to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure (County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings)

“Given the decision of the government in Beijing to close the door on January 1st, 2018 to recyclable waste from the UK and the EU27, and given that 65% of recyclable UK plastic waste (plus significant amounts of other categories or recyclable waste) was previously taken by China, what proportion of waste

separated for recycling by residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf does she expect to be actually recycled (as opposed to being incinerated or put into landfill) during the present calendar year of 2018?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings

In relation to dry mix recyclables I wouldn't expect any change or drop in recycling levels on previous years.

We've spent significant effort in establishing alternative markets for the materials long before the January 2018 cut off point by the Chinese Government.

RCT has what is considered a reasonably high quality mixed plastic and fibres grades recyclable - with long term contracts in place. As a result we've had little issue in establishing European and UK outlets for the waste.

The only considerable affect China's refusal to recycle waste will have is to drive the overall market prices down. However, projected tonnage charges still stand nowhere near landfill or incineration costs. Recycling, even at a cost would still be the most desirable both financially and in relation to the waste hierarchy.

On the percentages before and after the changes in recycling collection due to be implemented

- if no change - wouldn't expect recycling levels to go up above current level of 63%

- with the changes I would expect that once the changes have bedded in, to see the figure rise to nearer 70%

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor S.Belzak

"Would you agree that there could be an increase in fly tipping?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings

"Hopefully not, RCT Officers are proactive in tracking down offenders and have no hesitation in prosecuting - we've undertaken hard hitting awareness campaigns and the RCT message to any offenders is we will not tolerate fly tipping".

(c) From County Borough Councillor S.M.Powell to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)

“What discussions have the WLGA had in respect of the impact of Brexit on Local Government?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

“At the Joint Leaders’ Board where the 22 Leaders of the Welsh Authorities meet on a monthly basis. There is going to be an impact. We haven’t left the EU yet. The work that the WLGA has been doing will continue but there is an office in Brussels which the WLGA is now closing.

There was no Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor S.M.Powell

(d) From County Borough Councillor D.Grehan to the Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Well-Being (County Borough Councillor R.Lewis)

“Can the Cabinet Member with responsibility for community centres, the Councillor Rhys Lewis please give us some indication of the life expectancy of Tonyrefail Community Centre now that the group that met there on a daily basis have been forced out of the building?”

Response from County Borough Councillor R.Lewis

“It is the Council’s ambition for community centres to offer a range of services to our residents. The `RCT Together` team and others such as the voluntary sector provide advice and support to those centres. You will be aware that Tonyrefail community centre has been used by a group of individuals with learning disabilities, that client group is moving to Gilfach Goch as an assessment was taken of the building and the best fit would be Gilfach Goch. There has been no force enacted or implied, it was an operational decision. There are no plans to close the centre”.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor D.Grehan

“My understanding of the situation is that the community centre has failed on Health and Safety grounds. It is a difficult situation for local government – all authorities are failing to bite the Tory government. In light of the axe to close St.George’s Day Centre, people are feeling anxious. I am pleased that Tonyrefail community centre has a future. I hope that looking to the future under the Future Generations Act the Council will try to secure community assets. Can you please confirm that whilst a Health and Safety check was being undertaken, they failed to carry out a fire alarm test and yet we have

legislation under the Disability Act 1985 so why wasn't this carried out before?"

Response from County Borough Councillor R.Lewis

"I share your sentiments about Tonyrefail which has been brought about by austerity. In terms of the centre, the relocation was due in terms of the access not necessarily health and safety. There is an access issue there but no long term threat to the centre. St.Georges is currently under a consultation process and that falls outside of my portfolio and I suggest you ask the responsible Cabinet Member".

(e) From County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams to the Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee (County Borough Councillor S.Rees-Owen)

"Will the Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee make a statement on the priorities of your Committee?"

Response from County Borough Councillor S.Rees-Owen

"The priorities of the Children & Young People is exactly that ensuring that the services provided for children and young people across RCT are fit for purpose and identifying areas for improvement. I would refer you to the Committee's Work Programme that has been reported to your Committee and to meetings of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs".

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor L.Adams

"I and my Vice Chair have sat in on your Committee and the other Scrutiny Committees to give encouragement and support, do you feel that you are supported?"

Response from County Borough Councillor S.Rees-Owen

"I am a new Chair and there are a lot of new Members on my Committee, in fact 10 out of 11 are new to the Committee. We are learning together. I have a good working relationship with key Officers. I find the meetings of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs to be very beneficial as we know what is going on in each other's Committees. I know you and your Vice attend my meetings and I attend meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. I met with the Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning this week and that was a Business Meeting and I was able to tell the Cabinet Member what we were doing on my Committee. There was also a meeting with the Wales Audit Office which I attended along with the other Scrutiny Chairs and yourself. I feel well supported".

101 CWM TAF WELL-BEING PLAN 2018-2023

The Chief Executive provided Members with the Public Services Board's 'Cwm Taf Well-Being Plan 2018-2023' as required under the Well-being of the Future Generations Act.

The report of the Public Services Board advising Members of the process in drafting the plan was attached to the Chief Executive's covering report at Appendix 1 and appended thereto was the Well-Being Plan.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** – to note and approve the Cwm Taf Well-Being Plan.

Note: At this juncture in the proceedings (6.07 p.m.) the Mayor vacated the Chair in favour of the Deputy Mayor as she had another engagement to attend.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CABINET & PUBLIC RELATIONS

102 NOMINATION FOR FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH

In his report, the Director of Cabinet & Public Relations advised Members of the deliberations that took place at the meeting of the Freedom of the Borough Working Group held on the 15th February, 2018 where consideration was given to the nomination received in respect of RAF St Athan. At that meeting, members widened the nomination to include both the Royal Air Force and RAF St. Athan in order to recognise the ultimate sacrifice many air force men and women gave for the freedom of the County, also recognising both the Royal Air Force centenary and the RAF St.Athan's 80th Anniversary.

The Director, Cabinet & Public Relations informed Members that following the meeting of the Working Group, advice had been sought from the Royal Air Force in respect of the accolade and Officers were advised that due to Royal Air Force protocol such an accolade could not be accepted.

At the meeting, Members were informed that following informal discussions with the RAF, it was unlikely that the ceremony for the awarding of the Freedom of the Borough would take place during this municipal year and it the event would take place in June, 2018 as it is their Centenary year.

RESOLVED – to support the recommendation of the Freedom of the Borough Working Group in awarding the accolade of Freedom of the County Borough to RAF St.Athan.

REPORTS OF THE CABINET

103 THE COUNCIL'S 2018/2019 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the report in respect of the Council's 2018/2019 Revenue Budget Strategy on behalf of the Cabinet. The report also set out the recommendations of the Cabinet in respect of the Council's resourcing requirements, in order to assist Members to determine specific service allocations within the Council's Revenue Budget, together with the level of Council Tax for the year ending 31st March, 2019.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To note the written statement from the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services (Alun Davies AM) and the table on the 2018/2019 local government settlement, reproduced at Appendix 1 to the report;
2. To note the base budget adjustments impacting in 2018/19 as summarised in Table 1 of the report;
3. To approve the budget strategy proposals as summarised in Table 2 of the report, including:
 - i. An agreed additional efficiency sum of £1.050M (over and above the £6M agreed at 'Provisional Settlement' stage in October 2017) for 2018/19;
 - ii. A reduction in the budget allowance for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme of £0.500M;
 - iii. Use of the 'Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation Reserve' as transitional funding, totalling £1,022M for 2018/19
4. To approve Tables 3 and 4 in Section 10 of the report as the basis of allocating resources to the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), to other Council Services, and to meet its corporate financing requirements;
5. To agree the Council Tax increase for the financial year ending the 31st March 2019 at 3.30%;
6. To agree the Council's overall budget for 2018/2019, in order to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by the statutory deadline of the 11th March 2018.

Note: County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, D.R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S.A.Bradwick, G.Caple, A.Crimmings, A.Davies-Jones, L.De Vet, J.Elliott, S.Evans, M.Forey, A.S.Fox, E.George, M.Griffiths, J.Harris, G.Holmes,

G.E.Hopkions, G.W.Hughes, R.Lewis, W.Lewis, C.Leyshon, A.Morgan, S.Morgans, M.Norris, D.Owen-Jones, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, S.M.Powell, A.Roberts, J.Rosser, R.Smith, G.Stacey, G.Thomas, W.Treeby, R.K.Turner, M.Webber, D.H.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo wished to have their names recorded that they voted in favour of the above motion.

County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell wished to have his name recorded that he voted against the above motion.

County Borough Councillors A.Chapman, A.G.Cox, J.L.Cullwick, G.R.Davies, M.Diamond, D.Grehan, L.Hooper, J.James, P.Jarman, K.L.Jones, L.Jones, D.Macey, K.Morgan, S.Rees-Owen, E.Stephens, M.Weaver, E.Webster and J.Williams wished to have their names recorded that they abstained from voting on the above matter.

104 THE COUNCIL'S THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 – 2020/21 INCORPORATING A REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the report in respect of the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2018/19 to 2020/21, following confirmation of the local government settlement for 2018/19 on behalf of the Cabinet.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To note the detail of the final 2018/19 local government settlement for capital expenditure, as reproduced at Appendix 1;
2. To agree to the release of the Earmarked Reserve balances as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report;
3. To agree to allocate the funding released from Earmarked Reserves to the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 5.7 of the report;
4. To agree the proposed `core` three year programme as detailed at Appendix 2 to the report;
5. To agree the proposed total three year Capital Programme, detailed at Appendix 3 to the report which includes the following non core capital funding:-
 - Prudential borrowing to support 21st Century School Schemes and the Taff Vale Development project;
 - Capital grants for specific schemes;
 - Third party contributions;

- Additional Council resources previously allocated to support existing schemes and Corporate Plan investment priorities;
- The investment priorities details in paragraph 5.7 of the report which are funded by the release of Earmarked Reserves as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

104 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2019

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided Members with details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31st March, 2019 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions.

RESOLVED –

1. To note the level of the precept from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales;
2. To note the level of the Community Council precepts, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
3. To pass the formal Council Tax resolutions for the financial year ending 31st March, 2019, as contained in Appendix 2 to the report;
4. To note the comments of the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services upon robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves as detailed in paragraph 9.2 of the report.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

105 FINAL REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP DEALING WITH FREE SANITARY PROVISIONS IN SCHOOLS

Pursuant to Minute No. 51 of the Council Meeting held on the 20th September, 2017, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services attached to his report, the final report of the Scrutiny Working Group which had been established to deal with `Free Sanitary Provisions in Schools` following the Notice of Motion (as amended) that was adopted by full Council on the 19th July, 2017.

County Borough Councillor S.Rees-Owen, Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, Chaired the meetings of the Scrutiny Working Group presented the findings of the Working Group following the review that was undertaken, which was based on written evidence together with the significant value that was attached to the comments made by the pupils and staff of St.John's Church School and Ferndale Community School when they attended the second meeting of the Working Group.

In concluding, County Borough Councillor S.Rees-Owen outlined the recommendations as listed in the final report which she hoped would be supported and implemented by the Cabinet and she wished to leave the final address to Council by Members viewing the animated DVD that was created by pupils of Ysgol Gyfun Garth Olwg, which was of particular relevance to the Working Group when forming their recommendations to Council.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To receive the final report of the Scrutiny Working Group;
2. To refer the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group to Cabinet.

106 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8 (DURATION OF MEETING)

At this point in the proceedings it was **RESOLVED** to continue the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow consideration of the remaining agenda items and continuation of Council business.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE CABINET

107 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD

In accordance with paragraph 17.2(a) of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules as contained in the Council's Constitution, the Secretary of the Cabinet reported on the Urgent Executive Decisions that had been taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period October – December,

2017; and it was **RESOLVED** – to note the information contained in the report.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

108 CHANGE TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

In accordance with Minute No.2(2.2) of the Council Meeting held on the 17th May, 2017, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services reported that he had received notification from the Alliance Group of a change to its membership of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in that County Borough Councillor L.Walker is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor G.Williams.

RESOLVED – to note that County Borough Councillor L.Walker is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor G.Williams on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

109 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M.Griffiths and J.Bonetto was considered:-

“This Council calls for the development of plans to support Local Carbon Vehicle (LCV) infrastructure in Rhondda Cynon Taf by:

- Establishing a Working Group to look at the development of this infrastructure which will report back to Cabinet key recommendations.
- Lobby the UK and Welsh Government to fund the delivery of this technology to support future public demand and wider environmental benefits of LCV.

There is currently no public LCV charging infrastructure in Rhondda Cynon Taf, with limited availability across Wales. The UK Government has outlined plans to ban petrol and diesel vehicles by 2040. It is therefore vital that the development of infrastructure begins to cater for future public demand”.

RESOLVED – to adopt the Notice of Motion.

110 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M.Webber and S.Pickering was considered and in accordance with paragraph 12.7(b) of Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution the additional wording as shown in bold was agreed to be inserted :-

“This Council adds its support to the Lucy’s Law National Campaign to ban and outlaw third party puppy **sales and** farming. This Council will add its name to the growing list of supporting organisations and will proactively highlight the campaign to our residents across the County Borough. This council requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the UK Government, **and Welsh Government** supporting the call for urgent action on this matter”.

RESOLVED – to adopt the Notice of Motion.

**M.TEGG
MAYOR**

**S.POWDERHILL
DEPUTY MAYOR**

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.