



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 25 July 2018 at 5.00 pm at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park. Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

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

Officers in attendance

Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr C Lee, Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr C Jones, Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr C Hanagan, Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services
Mr P Griffiths, Service Director, Performance & Improvement

31 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, A. Calvert, A.Davies-Jones, M Diamond, S.M.Evans, M.Forey, H.Fychan, G.E.Hopkins, K.Morgan, M.Tegg, L.Walker, G.D.G.Williams, D.H.Williams and C.J.Willis.

32 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

33 PRESENTATION BY THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

The Mayor welcomed Mr O Watkins, M Redmond and D Mosley to the meeting and through the aid of a PowerPoint presentation Members were advised of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales - Electoral Review for Rhondda Cynon Taf, 2018.

Members were provided details in respect of the review including the statutory criteria and commission policies, council size model, development of proposals and the continuation of involvement through consultation with local Members.

In respect of the council size model Members were advised that due to the factors needed to be taken into consideration, it would place the Council within Category two, with the Commission determining that Category two Councils should have a councillor to population ratio of 1:3,000, resulting in a Council size aim of 79. Members were further advised however that the Commission had set constraints in Council size with a maximum size of 75 members. The officers therefore confirmed that the review would concentrate on a Council size of 75 Members for Rhondda Cynon Taf, and application of this policy would result in a ratio of one councillor to 2,302 electors.

The Commission Officers continued their presentation advising of the factors that they would take into consideration within their review including natural boundaries (topography, rivers etc) and manmade boundaries (major road networks, rural and urban divides) and also commented on the things that would not be considered such as postcodes or addresses. Member's attention was drawn to areas of concern, with four wards within the County Borough having a variance of greater than 25%.

The presentation was concluded by the Officers advising of how the Council could assist going forward with the review and the timetable of events.

Members thanked the officers for the presentation and the approach taken to date with question and answer sessions for both officers and group leaders and spoke of the approach to be taken forward by the Council, with further detailed discussion at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in September. Members were also advised that a presentation was being made to the Town and Community Councils on the 26th July.

Members raised the need for the review to take into consideration the local government bill to be taken forward by Welsh Government, which will include reform of local authority electoral arrangements, including reducing the voting age to include 16 and 17-year-olds, which would impact on the electoral figures going forward.

The Boundary Commission officers thanked the Members for their comments and welcomed further comments, observations and suggestions to assist them in their review. Following conclusion of the item the officers left the meeting.

34 ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Mayor congratulated Daniel Davies of Trallwn who was crowned 'The Voice Kids' champion 2018 on his recent success and spoke of the talents and caring personality of the young man, who was currently a pupil at Hawthorn High School. County Borough Councillor M Powell, local Member also spoke highly of Daniel who was a credit to his family, the Community and to the County Borough. It was noted that Daniel and his family would be invited to the Parlour for an official acknowledgment of his success.
2. The Leader joined County Borough Councillor R Turner and P Jarman on their best wishes to Ms K May, Head of Democratic Services on her impending retirement and it was noted that on behalf of all Members a letter would be sent to Ms May.
3. County Borough Councillor G Holmes handed a petition to the Mayor on behalf of residents of Dan Caerlan, Llantrisant on the reinstatement of Dan Caerlan's Children Park.
4. County Borough Councillor J Harris wished every success to the Pendyrus Male Voice Choir for its forthcoming trip to the festival Interceltique de Lorient on the 2nd August, where the choir would be flying the flag for Rhondda Cynon Taf.
5. County Borough Councillor R Lewis advised Members of a recent event attend at the Senedd by County Borough Councillor M Webber, T Leyshon, J Bonetto and himself in respect of 'Lucy's Law' which was subject to a Notice of Motion by the Council on the 28th February, 2018 Minute (110 refers), with campaigners thanking the Council for its support to the campaign.

6. County Borough Councillor P Jarman acknowledged the success of 'Howards Angels', following the team's win of a 'Drink Wise Age Well' Curling competition within Cwm Taf. County Borough Councillor Jarman commented on the success of the group who have demonstrated that people can age well and it was confirmed that the team would be invited to the Mayor's Parlour to note their achievement.
7. County Borough Councillor A Cox handed the Mayor a petition on behalf of the residents of Porth, calling on the Leader to meet with residents and Porth Councillors to discuss the problems with parking and traffic management in the North Road / Syphon Street / Edwards Street / Cross Street area of Porth and following a consultation with the residents, implement an appropriate scheme.
8. The Mayor announced the recent bereavement of Town Councillor Keri Woodward.

35 MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 27th June, 2018 as an accurate reflection of the meeting subject to the amendment of Minute 22 (Presentation – Transport for Wales) that Members were advised to write in with their questions to Transport for Wales and that responses would be returned to Members directly.

36 STATEMENTS

1. The Leader placed on record his thanks to South Wales Fire & Rescue on behalf of the Authority for the work undertaken over the past few weeks tackling wild fires, in the recent dry weather conditions. The Leader advised of a recent visit to Tonypany Fire Station where he and other Authorities met with Alun Davies AM and had the opportunity to formally thank the Chief Fire Officer and fellow fire officers for their hard work. The Leader spoke of the invaluable work of the aerial fire fighting measures with the helicopter water bombing target areas. The Leader requested that a letter be sent to the Chief Fire Officer, by the Mayor, recording the Authority's thanks for all of the fire-fighters hard work and efforts.
2. The Leader took the opportunity to advise Members of the recent events that had taken place to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Council's twinning with Ravensburg, in Germany. The Leader commented on the commitment between both Ravensburg and Rhondda Cynon Taf to establish better twinning links, through a letter of intent, which would assist with educational trips going forward. The Leader also spoke of the opportunity for the Authority and Ravensburg to apply for Erasmus funding through a European funding stream to support exchange visits for students and

promotion of adult education, with Ravensburg leading on the bid on behalf of the two.

37 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. From County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)

“Will the leader of the Council provide an update on the WLGA’s discussions with the Welsh Government on the proposals to reorganise local government?”

Note: The Mayor advised that as County Borough Councillor M Adams had submitted apologies for the meeting, the question was not put.

2. From County Borough Councillor J.Cullwick to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services and Welsh Language (County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins)

“Our very elderly residents in RCT get a free TV licence and an extra £100 fuel allowance to make life more pleasant. Yet often they cannot return to a parking space near their property if they go out for a drive. Has RCT considered how to best help these very elderly residents who want to retain their independence and community involvement or as long as possible?”

Note: The Mayor informed Members that in the absence of Councillor G.Hopkins a response would be made in writing.

3. From County Borough Councillor H.Boggis to the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (County Borough Councillor J.Rosser)

“How does the Council encourage and promote the take up of Free School Meals in schools across the County Borough?”

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser

- Members were advised that all eligible families were actively encouraged to take up the offer with schools actively signposting entitled parents to available support, and often help with the completion of necessary paperwork. The Council’s Benefits team also encourage eligible parents to apply through social media and the website, and also advise parents who are applying for other concessions. Members were advised that the Council’s Benefits and Catering teams work closely together, and with other agencies, to support increased take up of those entitled to FSMs. County Borough Councillor Rosser concluded her response by

advising of the flexible use of FSM entitlement – where pupils can purchase sandwiches/baguettes as opposed to just set meals and the creation of private accounts created by the Benefits team with schools, to prevent any stigma attached to FSM for the pupils entitled.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor H Boggis

What steps will the Council be taking to ensure that children who have access to FSMs are provided for during the summer holidays?

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser

Councillor Rosser advised that the Authority would continue to ensure that children don't miss out over the school holidays and advised that the Council would once again be running free summer holiday clubs for schools with high FSM numbers, with an extra 3 schools added to the Welsh Government subsidised programme for this year, adding that Councillor Boggis would be pleased to know that Penywaun Primary School was to be included as part of the pilot.

Members were advised that the SHEP (School Holiday Enrichment Programme) would run for 4 weeks of the holidays between 31st July to the 23rd August, over Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for Children aged 7-11, although siblings over the age of 5 were also able to benefit. Councillor Rosser advised that the sessions would include breakfast and lunch with a range of activities for children to enjoy.

4. From County Borough Councillor G.W.Hughes to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services (County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings)

“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the Council's investment in athletic facilities in the County Borough?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings

The Cabinet Member commented on the excellent progress being made on the £3m Ynys athletics facility in Aberdare, which forms part of the Council's wider investment in the area. County Borough Councillor Crimmings spoke of her recent visits to the site and how impressed she was with the way it was shaping up.

Members were advised of the plans to install a new six lane running track around the new 3G sports pitch at Bryncelynog Comprehensive School, and she added that this would include a

100m sprint area along one of the straights.

Councillor Crimmings added that Councillor Hughes would be pleased to know that the Council were also looking at options to improve the King George's Park facility, and further details of this scheme would be announced in the future. This would mean that the three main areas of the County Borough would have state of the art athletics facilities to make use of, which she added would be the envy of many other Councils across Wales.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor G Hughes

I'm pleased to hear of the investment into King George and I'm sure the athletic groups will be too. Sport and physical activities is of great importance in development and monitoring of wellbeing, can you provide us with an update on 3G improvements and the importance of outdoor activities?

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings

Councillor Crimmings agreed on the importance of physical activity within communities for the benefits of residents health and well being for both the younger and older generation. Members were advised that the work was progressing well with the Council's ambitious plan to ensure that residents live within 3 miles of a 3G facility, with work ongoing at facilities in Porth and Ferndale, whilst future schemes were also continuing in Beddau and Penywaun.

Investing in creating a healthy and active RCT remains a core commitment of the administration, and through RCT Invest, the completion of these schemes would take the overall number of 3G pitches delivered to 13.

Councillor Crimmings advised of the progress made in relation to the younger generation of the County Borough, with continued improvements with the play area improvements programme, where over half of the total improvements across Wales have come within in Rhondda Cynon Taf over the last three years. The Cabinet Member concluded by expressing how pleased she was with the work being taken forward.

5. From County Borough Councillor L.Hooper to the leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)

"With the recent announcement by the Department for Works and Pensions of its plans to relocate an estimated 1700 staff to the Treforest Industrial Estate, what plans does the Council have to increase capacity on the surrounding roads to the Estate?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan.

The Leader responded to the question although was mindful that the proposed new development for DWP was currently the subject of a live planning application, so did not want to predetermine any aspects. However, he noted that he was aware that there was not enough parking spaces available at the site and advised of the discussions that had been taken forward with Welsh Government in respect of potential works with the offslip of the A470 north bound and spoke of the current traffic problems and acknowledged the potential hazardous conditions with vehicles utilising the hard shoulder during heavy traffic periods. The Leader commented on discussions with Welsh Government in respect of the potential addition of a new station at Nantgarw, as it was recognised that the current Treforest stop to be unsafe due to its location and ease of access. He added that the intention would be to fast track the new station and to improve Treforest for public transport usage, with the potential usage of buses and the metro.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor L Hooper

I welcome the relocation of jobs and the significant investment to the County Borough, although I share the concerns of the local residents in respect of travel arrangements. There is a large emphasis on staff using the metro, but with the new office being in place from 2021 there is a time difference with the valley lines electrification of 2023, meaning people will need to drive to work on already congested roads into the estate, especially the A473 Tonteg bypass into the industrial estate. Will the Council explore options and consider improvements and I ask the Leader to publish options and commit to improvements before the new offices are up and running?

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan.

The Leader responded by advising that he would not commit to anything as a transport assessment would need to be completed as part of the planning application process. The Leader commented on the positive regeneration of the site and the bringing of jobs into the County Borough rather than offices being located within the Cardiff area. He continued by adding that both Welsh Government and Transport for Wales were very positive with the potential of accelerating the timelines for the metro, adding that 2023 was the timescale for full electrification of valley lines when the proposal was a phased approach of implementation across the valley lines. The Leader concluded by adding that lots of work was ongoing in the background and that he was confident that the DWP timescales could be met.

38 COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME AND CALENDAR UPDATE

The Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations referred Members to his report which provided Members with the revisions to the Calendar of Meetings, as agreed at the Council AGM, in respect of forthcoming Committee meetings for both Council and Overview & Scrutiny. The Service Director explained that due to the timescale of events proposed in respect of the Boundary Commission review it would be necessary to amend some of the Committee meetings already scheduled.

Members were referred to 5.1 of the report which highlighted the new dates going forward and it was confirmed that the Health & Well Being Scrutiny Committee would take place on the 25th September, 2018.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the meeting of Council scheduled for the 5th September is postponed to the 19th September 2018, for the reasons identified within section 4 of the report.
2. To note the revised dates to previously published Scrutiny Committee meeting dates that are due to take place later in the Municipal Year and identified in section 5 of the report, with the inclusion of Health & Wellbeing scrutiny committee taking place on the 25th September, 2018.
3. That the relevant Committee work programmes are amended to take into consideration the changes listed above.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

39 THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement provided Members with the Council's draft Corporate Performance Report (CPR) which contained progress for 2017/18 and plans for 2018/19 in respect of the Council's three strategic priorities. Members were also advised that the report also set out how the CPR enables the Council to meet its statutory reporting requirements.

Members were referred to Appendix 1 of the report which detailed the draft CPR, which was structured around the Council's priorities of Economy, People & Place. The Service Director commented that the CPR provided elected Members, partners, residents, staff and regulators with an overview of progress and plans, as well as access to further detailed information.

Members were advised that the draft had also been presented to the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee for pre-scrutiny and to the Cabinet on the 17th July.

Members discussed in detail aspects of the report although overall felt

that the report was a fair and balanced reflection and assessment of the work of the Council, highlighting both services working well and areas that needed further improvements.

The 'period poverty' – breaking down barriers section of the report was discussed with Members requesting that in addition to the availability of free sanitary provisions as referenced within the report, the educational and awareness raising recommendations of the scrutiny working group are also taken forward and highlighted within the document.

Following detailed discussions and questions to the Service Director, it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the draft CPR (as attached at Appendix 1) taking into account Members comments.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

40 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 2017/18; and
- The actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2017/18.

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.

41 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - UPDATE

Through the aid of a PowerPoint presentation the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided Members with an update on the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2018/19 to 2021/22, based on current modelling assumptions in advance of formulating the detailed budget strategy proposals for 2019/20 during the autumn.

The Group Director explained that whilst investment through the use of one off funds had been very positive, it was recognised that further work must be done to address base budget shortfalls and further difficult decisions needed to be considered to balance its ongoing revenue budget into the medium term.

Members were provided with information surrounding the key assumptions in respect of income and expenditure. The Group Director

continued by explaining to Members that the modelling assumptions were all subject to change and would be reviewed as part of the detailed budget strategy work in the autumn. The 'base case' includes a reduction in Welsh Government funding of 1% per annum over the three year period. The variability of the potential level of Provisional Settlement from Welsh Government has a significant impact on the budget gap, at £3.6M per 1% as illustrated within the projected budget gap graph within the presentation.

Following detailed discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the current position modelled in respect of the 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22' and receive further updates in the Autumn as part of the annual budget setting process
2. That all Members endorse the position of all 22 Council Leaders across Wales formally writing to the Secretary of State for Education and also writing to the First Minister, asking Welsh Government to make up the short fall within each of the Councils set budget for the 2018/19 financial year, due to the impact of the teacher pay rise implications, recently announced by the UK Government.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

42 CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Director, Legal & Democratic services provided Members with an overview of his report which provided details of the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (the "CCRCD") as commended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 25th June, 2018.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To endorse the creation of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee ("JOSC") as detailed within the report for the purposes of scrutinising the CCRCD and Cabinet and which shall comprise of an elected Member from each of the ten CCRCD constituent authorities, namely: Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Cardiff, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan; as commended by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. To nominate County Borough Councillor Graham Thomas to represent the Authority on the proposed CCRCD JOSC.
3. To note that each of the ten constituent authorities of the CCRCD will all individually and collectively need to agree to the

establishment of the proposed JOSC for it to proceed.

4. To note that Bridgend County Borough Council will carry out the role of Host Authority in respect of administering the proposed CCRCJ JOSC.

43 CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP OF CWM TAF COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

In accordance with the decision taken by Minute No 12(2) of the Council meeting held on the 23rd May, 2018 the Director, Legal & Democratic Services reported that he had received notification from the Labour Group of changes to its membership of Cwm Taf Community Health Council and it was **RESOLVED** to note that County Borough Councillor Gareth Jones is to replace County Borough Councillor D Owen-Jones on the Cwm Taf Community Health Council from July 2018 to July 2021.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, CABINET & PUBLIC RELATIONS

44 LOCAL CARBON VEHICLE (LCV) INFRASTRUCTURE IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF - NOTICE OF MOTION

The Director, Cabinet & Public Relations provided Members with a brief update relating to the Notice of Motion on Low Carbon Vehicle Infrastructure adopted by Full Council at its meeting on the 28th February 2018(Minute 109 refers). Members were advised that the matter is on the work programme of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee for consideration in September 2018.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the interim report.

45 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a), the Secretary to the Cabinet reported on an urgent decision that was taken forward through a key delegated decision on the 31st May, 2018 in respect of 'Increasing Welsh Medium Provision – Welsh Government Capital Grant'; and it was **RESOLVED** – to note the information contained within the report.

This meeting closed at 7.50 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**