



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 28 November 2018 at 5.00 pm at the The Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park. Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

### **County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-**

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

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

### **Officers in attendance**

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive  
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services  
Mr C Lee, Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services  
Mr P Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services  
Mr C Jones, Director, Legal & Democratic Services  
Mr C Hanagan, Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services  
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources

## 77 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillor M Tegg, T Williams, J Harries, A Davies-Jones, K Morgan, S.M Evans, E Webster, M Powell and S Belzak.

## 78 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were received:

- County Borough Councillor E Stephens declared a personal interest– Late Report Item “I work for an MEP and am therefore employed by the European Parliament.”
- County Borough Councillor P Jarman referred to her dispensation granted by the Standards Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2018. “To speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2019-2020 Budget process in capacity as Leader of the Opposition.”

## 79 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Borough Councillor S Morgans handed the Mayor a petition on behalf of Councillor J Harries (who was unable to attend the meeting), in respect of a request from local Members to cut down trees.
- County Borough Councillor S Pickering advised Members of her forthcoming ‘Arctic Survival Challenge’ that she was taking part in, tackling freezing temperatures in the wilderness of Northern Sweden, 150 km south of the Arctic Circle on behalf of the Royal British Legion and details of sponsorship were provided.
- County Borough Councillor G Davies congratulated the Welsh rugby team on their recent performance during the autumn internationals leaving the team 3<sup>rd</sup> in the rugby world rankings. Councillor Davies referenced rugby player Tomas Williams, a former Treorchy Comprehensive School pupil from the Rhondda who was inspirational to the games. It was noted that a letter and an invitation to attend the Parlour would be sent to Mr Tomas as an official acknowledgement of his success.

## 80 MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

**Statement from the Leader of the Council in respect of Senior Management Review.**

The Leader advised Members of the recent opportunity brought forward to review the Senior Management structure for the Authority, advising of a report coming forward to the December Cabinet meeting. He added that the report would present a reduction in a number of senior officer posts resulting in a reduction in management costs around £400,000. He added that it was appropriate that the Authority review the structure following the reduction in staffing levels that had been witnessed to date. The Leader concluded that the projected reduction in costs would help with the budget going forward.

**Statement from the Deputy Leader of the Council - Cabinet Member for Council Business**

The Deputy Leader requested all Members to join her in congratulating the staff within the HR Employment, Education and Training Team that coordinates the Apprenticeship and Graduate programme for RCT Council, advising that the team have helped the Council to win the Large and Macro Employer of the Year in the Apprentice Awards Cymru 2018. The Deputy Leader continued by advising that the Council were the only Authority in Wales to achieve such an award, and attributed this to the hard work and dedication of the team who work tirelessly to support the Council's apprentices and graduates. The Deputy Leader added that the award is an illustration that the Council is an excellent place for people to learn and develop in a dynamic and future-focused organisation, with the prospect of continuous employment on the completion of their two-year training programme.

**Statement from the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services**

The Cabinet Member announced to Members that the Welsh Mining Experience had won the Family Venue of the Year award at the Welsh Hospitality Awards. She advised that the Award recognised the venues and attractions in Wales that stood out above the rest for their commitment to providing first class customer service and the positive impressions they leave on visitors. She added that it was a glowing testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff at the Welsh Mining Experience that we were able to win this award after being nominated by members of the public.

The Cabinet Member continued by addressing the need to continually support the Council's visitor attractions adding that through the Council's capital programme and other sources of funding, £750,000 had already been invested into improving the visitor offer at the WME and this has led

to visitor numbers increasing by over 50%.

## **82 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

### **1. From County Borough Councillor S Pickering to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services (County Borough Councillor A Crimmings)**

“Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Council’s significant investment in our play areas?”

#### **Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings.**

The cabinet Member advised that since the programme started in 2015, 97 play areas had benefited from an investment of over £3.2million. She added that Sports Wales had previously advised that such investment had seen over half of the total improvement in Wales being carried out in RCT alone.

The Cabinet Member informed Members that 27 play area investment projects were scheduled for completion by 31<sup>st</sup> March 201. The Cabinet Member commented on the investment to the two plays areas in Ynysybwll.

**County Borough Councillor S Pickering had no supplementary question to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services.**

### **2. Question from County Borough Councillor P Jarman to the Leader of the Council, county Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“Please will you make a statement on the problems endured at the new junction on the A4059 at Newtown Mountain Ash?”

#### **Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

The Leader commented that he was aware of the concerns raised in respect of the new layout at the junction, which he attributed to aggressive driving and drivers over taking unsafely. He advised that 2 stages of safety audit are undertaken during the design stages of major highway projects and an RSA3 is also undertaken following the opening of a new scheme to motorists. He added that this scheme is conducted independently of the Council by accredited road safety experts and traffic police. The Leader commented on the small proportion of poor driving witnessed across the Authority which causes concern and added that in respect of the junction in question, signage had been installed to advise of the need to merge, although he advised that he had requested for further signage to be installed. He commented on the need to work with the Police to look at enforcement action against the poor driving witnessed which caused

the concerns raised. He concluded by adding that the function of the new junction would alter once the scheme was fully operational in the Winter 2019/20, which would generate more equal lane usage by motorists naturally obviating perceived issues.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor P Jarman:**

Councillor Jarman commented on the Leaders awareness of the concerns and the criticism of the layout of the junction which causes motorists to accelerate to over 30mph and the shortage of the 2 lane arrangements leading to numerous near misses, with motorists continuing at speed towards the pedestrian crossing despite the added signage and the conclusions of the safety audit report. Councillor Jarman commented on the affects the road had on local residents with excessive car horn beeping. The Councillor asked whether the Leader still stood content that the junction was safe for the public or whether further work was recommended?

**Response from County Borough A Morgan.**

The Leader commented that the road layout was not unsafe but rather it was the small number of motorists and the way they drove that caused the road to become unsafe. He added that if motorist followed the highway code and followed the signage in respect of the merging of lanes there would not be any issue. The Leader continued by advising of a number of similar junction layout across the County Borough. He reiterated that more signage was needed and awareness raising which he had already addressed and reiterated his comments in respect of the need for law enforcement for speeding and driving with undue attention.

**3. Question from County Borough Councillor A Fox to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“Will you provide an update on the progress of delivery on the core public commitments made last year?”

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

The Leader added that he would address some of the detail of this question during the ‘Leaders Annual Debate’ to avoid any repetition and continued to advise of the increased investment within schools in respect of school building projects, and also the increased funding for the schools budget by £2m for 2018/19, although he added that he was aware this funding still did not address the cost pressures facing schools.

Highway investment was commented upon with the Leader

commenting that other Authorities were looking at cut backs in these areas, where as RCT were looking at investment and maintenance commenting on the £23.5m agreed to maintain road networks over the next 3 years.

The Leader commented on the investment made within the Council's leisure Centres which was illustrated with the updated equipment and the increased number of users of the centres. The Leader took the opportunity to discuss the Extra Care strategy and the work progressing on the Maesyffynnon site. The Leader concluded his response by commenting upon the employment opportunities within the Council and the awards achieved in respect of the graduate and apprentice schemes and the free childcare offer being rolled out across the County Borough.

**County Borough Councillor A Fox had no supplementary question to the Leader of the Council.**

**4. Question from County Borough Councillor J Bonetto to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and the Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G Hopkins**

“ What action is the Council taking to prepare for the Winter pressures soon to be impacting on our social services provisions?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor Hopkins**

The Cabinet Member commented upon the Councils Winter Plan which was produced in partnership with the University Health Board setting out joint approaches in terms of managing hospital admissions and discharges. The Cabinet Member commented on the positive working in previous years with such a joint approach. The Cabinet Member took the opportunity to put on record his thanks for the work carried out by staff during the inclement weather, continuing to deliver for the needs of those most vulnerable. The Cabinet Member commented on the lessons learned from previous years adding that the Authority were on 'Gold command' for 10 weeks adding that he would ensure that communication and engagement arrangements were even more focussed for the year ahead.

The Cabinet Member commented on the 'debut' of the Stay Well @ Home service which had resulted in positive results in prevention of hospital admissions and successfully helping people to get home from hospital as soon as possible, allowing people to receive care in their own homes. The Cabinet Member also commented upon the delivery of flu vaccines to Council staff and Members concluding that the pressures on the social service provision was prevalent across the year.

**There was no supplementary question from Council Bonetto to the Cabinet Member.**

**5. Question from County Borough Councillor J James to the Cabinet Members for Enterprise, Development & Housing, County Borough Councillor D R Bevan:**

“ Will the Cabinet Members for Enterprise Development and Housing make a statement on the importance of Special Landscape Areas within the County Borough?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor R Bevan:**

The Cabinet Member advised that Special Landscape Areas are non statutory Local Development Plan designations which play an important role in landscape protection within the land use planning system in Wales. He added that such areas complement the statutory national landscape designations such as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. He added that SPA have been designated to protect areas of fine landscape quality within RCT, adding that the Council have similar but area specific SLA policies for the Northern and Southern Strategy area in the LDP. The Cabinet Member continued to advise that development within SLA's are required to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character as set out within the Councils policies.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor J James**

Councillor James commented upon SLAs which provide protection for unique landscape, further commenting that at a recent Council meeting of the Planning & Development Committee an application for residential development within the Councillors ward, (which was off plan) was agreed yet the area has unique habitat area within the proposed development. The Councillor asked for reassurance that the area would be protected under the LDP.

**Response from County Borough Councillor R Bevan**

The Cabinet Member commenced by advising that he was taking caution with his response as the application in question was yet to become a full planning application as it was still in pre-application process and out to public consultation. The Cabinet Member continued by adding that the decision taken by the Planning and development committee was outside of the LDP policy area for housing development adding that the decision was subject to referral to the Welsh Government for that reason.

The Cabinet Member commented on the significant area of SLA south and east of Efail Isaf, being wholly outside the settlement boundary and the areas being vulnerable to development due to the Church Village bypass. He added that the Council also need to be aware of the Tan 1 and 5year housing supply adding that the Council judge each application on its merits and for officers to determine if an

application is recommend for approval or refusal.

## **83 STATE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH DEBATE**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2 the Mayor stated that he would invite the Leader to address Council following which the Leader would respond to Members' comments on his Annual Report.

The Leader opened his address by stating that this was an opportunity to showcase some of the things that the Council had achieved over the last 12 months and the areas that he would like to bring forward for consideration in respect of investment projects, transformation projects and commented on the need to still ensure sustainability as the Council are still in austerity measures, referencing the Local Government settlement and the potential further savings that would need to be made. The Leader added that the Council could not be complacent if it was to continue to implement changes for residents and communities in the future.

### **Budget**

The Leader assured Members that the Budget was still the Council's top priority and reflected that the Council were still experiencing austerity measures. He advised of the £6m efficiencies achieved over the last year adding that he tried to avoid transferring the worst of the cuts to the frontline service and residents. The Leader continued to discuss the Council Tax setting adding that RCT was below the Welsh average and the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest in Wales based on average per dwelling.

### **Education & Schools**

Members were advised that £8m had been invested across the schools of RCT over the last year adding that not once had the schools budget been cut due to the austerity measures, although he noted that the funding provided to schools did not meet the growing demands placed on schools. The Leader continued by advising of the investment taken forward through the Band A C21st School projects and the investment of £3.5m across 6 schools through the Welsh Language Early Years Capital Grant. He advised of the investment taken forward across 3 schools to reduce class sizes and the investment of £995k for the new extension to Ffynnon Taf through both CIL and Capital funding.

The Leader continued by advising of the £168m strategic Business Case approved by Welsh Government for the Band B projects and also referenced the School Holiday Enrichment programme which had been extended to five schools across the County Borough and the benefits this brought to both pupils and families.

The Leader referenced the proposed increase for school budget of £2m for 2018/19 and commented on the lobbying taken forward to

Welsh Government for further funding. The Leader concluded his update in this area by commenting on the results achieved across the Authority highlighting that a small dip in performance had been witnessed across the key stages although explained that a number of factors including the curriculum change and changes in the expectation for outcomes could be attributed to this dip, although he added that performance was on target.

### **Highways & Strategic Projects**

The Leader reminded Members that the Cabinet had recently approved a 3year - £23.5m highways improvement scheme commenting that better roads across the County Borough meant less claims against the Council. He advised Members that due to investment in the highways the percentage of classified roads in the red condition category had dropped from 7.2% to 4.8% overall in the last year. The Leader continued by advising of the investment to the carriageways and footways and the improvement made to structures across the County Borough advising of the £6.007m being spent on schemes in the Rhondda, including £1.5m to the Pontrhondda Bridge and £682k to repair the Pontypridd Road River Wall.

The Leader continued his address by outlining the major schemes undertaken such as the Beddau Halt junction and the remodelling of the layout in Tonypany Town Centre. Investment had been undertaken in respect of the Park and Ride facilities in preparation for the South Wales Metro. Other major projects taken forward during the year included the Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link Road, the A4119 Dualling, Llanharan Bypass, which were core manifesto commitments, in addition to the Aberdare Bypass and the Treorchy- Gelli Link Road with £1m and £200,000 allocated respectively to support investigatory works with the Leader referencing potential options that could be taken forward.

### **Town Centres**

The Leader commented on the ongoing commitment to support the Town Centres across the County Borough following measures such as the free/reduced car parking introduced last year. The Leader commented on the Town Centre Maintenance Grant which had been extended to Treorchy and also successfully piloted in Tonypany and Mountain Ash with 97 applications received across the 3 Town Centres. He confirmed that the scheme would be further extended to Aberdare, Porth and Ferndale over the next year.

Secured investment had been achieved from WG to improve Tonypany Library and advised that the Council were working with Avant Cymru and the Chamber of Trade on the delivery of the Festy Porth event. He also advised that discussions were being taken forward with the Chamber of Trade to develop an action plan to facilitate the spending of the Aldi Section 106 money ( £30k).

Outside of Town Centres the Leader mentioned the EU funding secured to progress the development of modern business units in Roberstown and Coed Ely, adding on the commitment to continue to make RCT an attractive location for employees and businesses, referencing the secured employment of DWP in Treforest along with the Welsh Revenue Authority.

### **Leisure & Play Areas.**

The Leader reiterated the comments of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services referencing the significant investment in both indoor and outdoor leisure facilities over the last year. The Leader continued to address the investment listing the refurbishments at Llantrisant Leisure Centre and the changing rooms at a number of pools across the County Borough. He advised that the Rhondda Fach Sports centre was continuing to be developed, with 2 indoor 3G pitches already installed.

The Leader referenced a recent meeting he attended with Sports Wales who highly praised the work of the Council and the investment across this area, with the Leader commenting on the 3G facilities opened across the County Borough and the ongoing work to deliver even further in this area.

In respect of play areas Members were advised that 27 projects were scheduled for completion by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. He added that since the programme started in 2015, 97 play areas (45% of current stock) had benefitted from over the £3.2m of investment.

### **Social Services**

The Leader referenced the good progress made in the delivery of the Maesyffynnon Extra Care facility and also spoke positively of the award winning StayWell@Home service. He commented that such services continue to successfully help people to stay in their own homes and to get back from hospital as soon as possible. He added that it was crucial in alleviating strain on health services, especially over the winter. The Leader added that since October last year 334 referrals had been supported through the StayWell@Home Service and the delivering of 1,408 adult homecare packages totalling 16,643 hours a week.

The Leader continued by advising of the delivery of Disabled Facilities Grant and the Care and Repair scheme with the 'enable' grant supporting 790 people since 2017.

The Leader took the opportunity to discuss resilient families. 1027 families had been referred since January 2018 (35% more than expected). Reference was also made to Community Hubs and the positive work and investment taken forward across these sites.

### **Employment Opportunities in the Council.**

The Leader advised Members that the Council had recruited 186 apprentices through the Councils award winning apprentice scheme since September 2012 with 100% of apprentices gaining

their qualification framework and 92% securing sustainable employment. 13 Graduates had been recruited in 2018, building on the 9 that were successfully recruited the year previous. Members were informed that over 1000 people attended the two careers fairs hosted by the Council, with over 70 employers also in attendance. The Leader referenced the work taken forward in respect of armed forces and equalities with the Council ranking amongst Stonewall's top 100 employers. He also added that RCT Council were still the only Council in Wales to have received the Armed Forces Gold Award.

The Leader concluded his overview adding that over the next 12 months the Council would continue to be ambitious in delivering on its core aims and commitments.

The Leader then responded to a number of questions /comments from Members, such as:-

- Members welcomed the prudent investment and the direction of the Council referencing the cuts being taken forward by other Councils due to Austerity.
- The provision of adequate teaching resources within the new schools going forward – The Leader referenced the extra £2m provided to Schools and spoke of the work undertaken with Trade Unions in respect of staffing and redundancies.
- Staffing – Welcome the Senior Management Structure Review / Gender Pay Gap
- Public Consultation in respect of the debate – webcasting of Committee meetings.
- Access into the Rhondda Valley including Cycle Lane provision and the Rhondda Tunnel – The Leader referenced the options that could be taken forward in respect of access and the bid taken forward to WG to assist with funding. The Leader agreed on the need to encourage active travel and the process needed to be undertaken in respect of public consultation.
- Special School Provision – The Leader commented on the funding being invested across schools within the County Borough and agreed to write to the Member detailing the long term plans for the school discussed.
- Welsh Language & Culture Services – The Leader advised of the Councils submission to host the Eisteddfod.
- Scrutiny – Working together to achieve positive outcomes
- Taff Vale developments – Positive progress being taken forward.
- Residential developments – New School proposals
- Council Tax – Council Tax comparative to be circulated to all Members for information.

## **COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

### **84 COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services provided Members with a brief update in respect of the Council Work Programme. Members were advised that the Presentation from the RAF would take place during the January meeting and that following the Leaders announcement in respect of the Review of the Senior Management Structure a report would come forward to Council in the New Year. Members were also advised that further addition to the programme involved a report in respect of Brexit and the invitation to the Standards Chair to present the Committees Annual report at the Council AGM.

### **JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES.**

### **85 THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL AND ALLOCATION OF NOTICES OF MOTION**

The Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services presented Members with the report which provided details of the Councils Political balance following the reduction in membership of the Plaid Cymru and Conservative political groups and the consequential effect on the appointment of Scrutiny Committee Chairs.

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

1. That the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be adopted;
2. That the Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject to any subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees being referred to Council;
3. To note that Members of the Cabinet are not eligible for appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Committees;
4. To note that at least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Audit and Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from these positions;

5. That the Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee be allocated to the Plaid Cymru Group;
6. That the following Members be nominated as Chairs to the Scrutiny Committees as shown below:-
  - County Borough Councillor L.M. Adams – Overview & Scrutiny Committee
  - County Borough Councillor S. Rees-Owen – Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
  - County Borough Councillor J Williams – Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee
  - County Borough Councillor R. Yeo – Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee
  - County Borough Councillor S.A. Bradwick – Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee
7. That the following Members be nominated as Vice-Chairs to the Scrutiny Committees as shown below:-
  - County Borough Councillor S. Evans – Overview & Scrutiny Committee
  - County Borough Councillor W. Lewis – Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
  - County Borough Councillor G. Thomas – Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee
  - County Borough Councillor G Holmes– Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee
  - County Borough Councillor T. Williams – Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee
8. That the allocation of Notices of Motion be amended to reflect the following:
  - Labour – 9 (reduction of 1)
  - Plaid Cymru – 4 (reduction of 1)
  - Conservatives – 1 (reduction of 1)
  - Alliance – 2 (unaffected)
  - Unallocated – 1 (unaffected).

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES.**

**86 2018-19 MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

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, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services provided Members with information on:-

- The Council's Treasury Management activity during the first six months of 2018/19; and
- Prudential and Treasury indicators for the same period.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the content of the Report.

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **87 GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVISION OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES (LOCAL POLICY) 2019 - 2021**

In accordance with statutory requirements the Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services provided Members with the revised Statement of Principles, under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 (i.e. the local policy statement for the management of gambling activity within the boundary of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council), for the period 2019 – 2021.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the revisions to the policy as advocated by the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services; which were also considered and endorsed by,
  - the Licensing Committee on 11th September 2018
  - Cabinet on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
2. To adopt the revised Statement of Principles in line with statutory requirements.

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF SERVICES.**

### **88 SUPPORTING THE WORK OF MEMBERS - TELEPHONE AND EMAIL FACILITIES AND ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services presented Members with his report which advised of the decision taken forward by the Democratic Services Committee meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 in respect of the IRP recommendation surrounding supporting the work of Members, with particular reference to telephony provision.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To endorse the agreed way forward as recommended by the

Democratic Services Committee as outlined below:

- i. To provide elected Members with 2 options with regard to the provision of telephony:
  - Option 1 – elected Members make their own arrangements, pay the associated bill and receive a payment of £19.64 per month as a contribution toward the cost of telephony.
  - Option 2 – a handset is provided and paid for by the Council (no requirement for elected Members to pay a bill / receive payment from the Council).
2. That the arrangements become effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 and the estimated annual cost is built into the Council's budget setting arrangements for 2019/20.

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

### **89 APPOINTMENT OF A RESERVE INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Director of Legal & Democratic Services advised Members of the recommendations of the Standards Appointments Panel following the recent interviews conducted by the Panel for the position of reserve independent Member to the Standards Committee.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation of the Appointments Panel to appoint Mr. Colin M. Pallant as reserve Independent Member of the Standards Committee for a term of six years commencing 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

### **90 RECORDING OF MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

The Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services advised Members of the decision taken forward by the Democratic Services Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, in respect of the recording of Member Attendance.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:-

1. To endorse the decision taken forward by the Democratic Services Committee as outlined below:
  - i. To the future recording of Members attendance utilising the following categories of apologies:

- a) **Council Duties** – i.e. attendance at another Council meeting /representing the Council at a specific event – i.e Mayoral duties / Cabinet Member duties.
  - b) **Business Duties** – i.e. LEA School Governor Duties / Community Council duties / Outside Bodies / Community Health Council
  - c) **Carer Responsibilities** – Including caring for both younger and older generations / Family Members.
  - d) **Sickness**
  - e) **Work Commitments**
  - f) **Bereavement**
  - g) **Apology**
2. That the Interim Head of Democratic Services notifies all Members of the agreed way forward for all future meetings, taking into consideration the time required to amend the current attendance recording system.
  3. That the Interim Head of Democratic Services provides feedback to the Council’s Standards Committee in respect of the reporting of Member Attendance.
  4. That the proposed way forward of recording Member Attendance is utilised until the full implementation of the Modern.Gov system in respect of recording of attendance.

## 91 NOTICE OF MOTION

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

“Over a million people in the UK are affected by Acquired Brain Injuries

(ABI) and every 90 seconds someone is admitted to hospital with an ABI, either through the sustaining of a traumatic injury or through illness-related medical conditions.

It is estimated that the cost to the economy is around £15bn a year, yet the research and support available is inadequate. Early access to specialist rehabilitation is vital, as those suffering from ABIs are less likely to return to work and play an active role in society, consequently impacting on the emotional and physical well-being of both themselves and their carers.

Children from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are also considerably more likely to sustain an ABI before the age of 5, many of which go undiagnosed for their lives and have a considerable impact on their quality of life thereafter.

At present, there are no major trauma centres in Wales, and patients have to be transferred to the nearest facility in England, where there are often no specialist rehabilitation consultants.”

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to:

- Support the Brain Injury Charity, Headway, and support their future campaigns to raise awareness of the hugely damaging effects of ABIs.
- Request that the Leader of the Council writes to both the Welsh Government’s Cabinet Secretary for Health and the Chief Executive of the Cwm Taf UHB to request an update on the major trauma centre to be established in the South Wales region.”

## **URGENT BUSINESS - REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **92 UNDERSTANDING THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF BREXIT AND IN PARTICULAR A "NO DEAL" BREXIT ON THE COUNCIL**

With the agreement of the Mayor, being of the opinion that the report of the Chief Executive – ‘Understanding the potential impact of Brexit and in particular a ‘No Deal’ Brexit on the Council’ be considered in accordance with the provision of section 100(b)4(B) of the Local Government Act 1972, as a matter of urgency, by reason of special circumstance i.e. To ensure Members are aware of the potential impact of Brexit, in its various forms to help inform future Council decision making.

The Chief Executive of the Council presented Members with his report which provided an overview of the potential impact of Brexit on the Council and its residents. The Chief Executive assured Members that Council officers will continue to liaise with Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association, partners and third party suppliers and contractors to ensure the Council better understand the risks of a No-Deal Brexit and the impact on the Council’s services and local

communities.

Following brief discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the information contained within the report.
2. To receive further briefings to Cabinet, Council and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the period to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**(N.B** During consideration of this item 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.)

**This meeting closed at 8.05 pm**

**Cllr S Powderhill  
Chairman.**