



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 18 September 2019 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 Adams	Councillor S Belzak
Councillor R Bevan	Councillor H Boggis
Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor A Calvert	Councillor A Chapman
Councillor A Cox	Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor J Cullwick	Councillor G Davies
Councillor J Davies	Councillor L De Vet
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor S Evans
Councillor S Evans	Councillor M Forey
Councillor E George	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor M Griffiths	Councillor J Harries
Councillor G Holmes	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor P Howe	Councillor G Hughes
Councillor P Jarman	Councillor G Jones
Councillor W Jones	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor D Macey	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor K Morgan	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor M Norris	Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor W Owen	Councillor M Powell
Councillor S Powell	Councillor S. Rees-Owen
Councillor S Rees	Councillor A Roberts
Councillor J Rosser	Councillor G Stacey
Councillor E Stephens	Councillor M Tegg
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor L Walker
Councillor M Weaver	Councillor M Webber
Councillor E Webster	Councillor D Williams
Councillor G Williams	Councillor J Williams
Councillor T Williams	Councillor C Willis
Councillor R Yeo	

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr N Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

53 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S Bradwick, G. Caple, A. Davies-Jones, M. Diamond, M. Fidler Jones, A Fox, Fychan, E.M. Griffiths, L. Hooper, J. James, K. Libby-Jones. L Jones, G. Thomas & R. Turner.

54 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following Declarations of Interest were made:

- County Borough Councillor S Belzak – agenda item 5(1) “I am on the Governing Body of YGG Pontsionnorton & Cilfynydd Primary but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct.”
- County Borough Councillor E Stephens – agenda item 11(A) – “The train line would run directly outside my house”

55 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chair, on behalf of all Members took the opportunity to wish County Borough Councillor M Diamond a swift recovery following his recent illness.
- The Leader reminded Members that representatives from Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board would be attending the next meeting of the Council (23rd October 2019) to allow Members to continue to seek reassurances of the services being provided to residents. It was advised that due to the importance of this item, some Council Business items originally scheduled for the meeting would need to be deferred.
- The Leader announced of the potential need to hold an extra-ordinary meeting of the Council to discuss the implications of Brexit on the 29th October at 5pm. He advised that the date would be confirmed nearer the time, however asked Members to hold this date in their dairies in the interim.
- County Borough Councillor Sera Evans advised Members that the marvellous Treorchy had been shortlisted for the prestigious 'Great British High Street Awards', adding that only two other Welsh high streets had been nominated - Swansea and Narberth. Preparations were well underway for the judges' visit on the 24th September. Councillor Evans added that if successful, the award would be a fantastic achievement for the town and also an outstanding accolade for the whole of RCT. Councillor Evans continued by asking all Members to take part in the vote and agreed to circulate the [link](#) to the competition.
- County Borough Councillor Sera Evans sought Members support for

donations in respect of her forthcoming fund raising event (Cardiff Half marathon) that she was undertaking on behalf of the charity Halcyon Foundation and referenced her previous discussions in the Council Chamber in respect of the support she and her family had received from the Halcyon Foundation charity which provides support to the families of autistic children and young people and fills the gaps that the NHS is very often unable to plug. Councillor Evans asked if Members would be willing to sponsor her for the event and agreed to circulate her just giving link to all Members.

- County Borough Councillor D Macey advised that his son, Lloyd Macey was mentoring the 'Mini's' within the Youth Eurovision competition and asked Members to support and vote for the group.
- County Borough Councillor D Macey also advised that Ynyshir Primary School had been successful, winning two categories within the 'Big Draw' competition and were to attend the 'Big Draw Festival Awards' ceremony on the 28th September in Manchester to accept the awards. The Member asked if Members could kindly donate to assist the school in attending the Awards event and spoke of the positive support received from Rhondda Rotary in respect of sponsorship.
- County Borough Councillor T Williams advised of the success of 'Streetwise' dance group receiving 10 trophies at the recent Blackpool competition and holding the prestigious title of world champions.
- County Borough Councillor J Rosser provided Members with an update in respect of the School holiday enrichment programme, a programme aimed to prevent children going hungry in the summer holidays and to improve children's health and promote learning through a programme of enrichment activities. Members were advised that schools were selected due to the high percentage of pupils who access Free School Meals, and aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils but inclusive of siblings above the age of 5. Councillor Rosser advised that the programme was held within 7 Schools, one of them a Special school, but actually involved pupils from 16 schools as where appropriate the programme was extended to include children from neighbouring schools. Details of the programme were provided which included engagement with parents and guardians and supported through other partner agencies such as Trivallis. The programme was completed with a graduation ceremony which was attended by parents, Cabinet Members and other Members. Councillor Rosser concluded her update by providing extracts of the positive feedback provided by both pupils and parents in respect of the programme.
- Members joined County Borough Councillors M Powell and W Jones who wished Cory Hill, Dillon Lewis, Tomas Williams and the rest of the welsh rugby squad every success with the forthcoming Rugby World Cup campaign in Japan.

56 MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 31st July 2019 as an

accurate reflection of the meeting.

57 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. **The Chair advised that in the absence of County Borough Councillor E Griffiths at the meeting, the question posed to County Borough Councillor J Rosser, Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services would fall.**

2. **Question from County Borough Councillor G Hughes to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:**

“Would the cabinet member please outline what progress has been made in delivering the improvement works to King George V athletics track and what timeline users can expect to be able to make use of the new facility?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

“Councillor Crimmings commented that most Members would be able to observe the ongoing works being undertaken when traveling to the Council Headquarters adding that so far, the majority of work had focused on the groundworks.

Members were advised that a new drainage system has been installed on both the inner field and the track area, although concerns had been raised regarding water pooling on the surface although reassurances had been provided that this was normal at this stage and would be resolved once the grass started to grow. The next stage of development would involve the installation of the kerbs and track edging before the synthetic track surface could be laid. The grass seed has also been spread over the inner football field.

Councillor Crimmings continued by advising that following on from the successful planning application for the floodlights, the bases for the columns were now being installed throughout the site and as per the planning application, the lights would be switched off by 9.15pm, which gives the users time to safely exit the site.”

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor G Hughes:

“Councillor Hughes commented on the high usage of the facilities and spoke of the concerns raised by residents that following the level of investment, whether the facilities would still provide open use and access to residents?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

“Councillor Crimmings noted that the facility was extremely popular amongst local running and sports groups and was regularly used by residents, which she observed when traveling to the Council Offices. Councillor Crimmings confirmed that the current usage policy would still apply following the completion of the works, advising that outside of block bookings the site would remain open for the public to use.”

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

“Could the Leader of the Council please provide an update on the progress of the Pontrhondda Bridge scheme and a timescale for completion?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan noted the difficulties experienced by the local Member and residents, following the postponement of work on the Bridge Refurbishment due to the original contractors going into administration in March 2019 and the need to bring in a second contractor to take forward the work. Members were advised that as the scheme involved a number of contractor design inputs into the project this further delayed the process of the Council appointing another contractor.

Following the appointment of Knights Brown as contractors an evaluation of the work completed needed to be undertaken to establish any design liabilities and insurance processes.

Councillor Morgan advised that work recommenced on site in June 2019 adding that there has been steady progress on site with the main bridge beams lifted into position during the summer and also the completion of the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water main sewer works across the bridge.

He added that another main milestone with the development was the waterproofing of the structure although this was weather dependant. It was advised that subject to any adverse and inclement weather conditions, the removal of the temporary footbridge and work to the bridge structure would be completed for use by December 2019.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor Lewis:

“Councillor Lewis commented on the issues experienced by residents but took the opportunity to thank the Council for expediting the work following the administration of the original contractor.”

4 Question From County Borough Councillor J Brencher to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Can the Leader please make a statement on the recent youth issues across RCT and outline what steps the Council is taking to support young people and work with the police to identify those causing problems?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan commenced by advising that the Council continues to place a huge emphasis on early intervention and prevention of youth anti-social behaviour, working as part of a multi-agency Community Safety Partnership, which involved a close working relationship between South Wales Police and many Council services including education,

youth offending, community safety, youth engagement and Resilient Families.

He advised that the youth disorder experienced in RCT early in the summer was focused on the Pontypridd Town Centre, with also one off disorders experienced in Mountain Ash and Aberdare, with youths travelling back and fore between Town Centres. The Leader added that he was aware that the gathering of high numbers of young people during the disorder experienced in Pontypridd Town Centre caused significant concern to the residents and communities and advised that the Police, Council and Partners worked together to ensure a rapid response to this incident on the night and investigations had resulted in positive action being undertaken, with multiple arrests and over 50 young persons referred into the Community Safety ASB processes.

Members were advised that following the incident the Council recognised the need to respond to the 'perception' that there was an increase in youth related anti-social behaviour, and a multi-agency operation (Operation Neptune) was implemented across RCT for the duration of the summer, which focused on Education, Engagement and Enforcement approaches. The Council provided additional funding to increase the resource available particularly for educational and engagement initiatives.

Councillor Morgan reiterated that youth related ASB and disorder remains at a low level in RCT when compared to other areas, although he added that the Council remained committed to having an increased focus on early intervention and prevention. Members were informed that a full analysis and review of Operation Neptune was taking place, but early indications suggested that as a result of the Council and Partners activities a significant decrease in youth related ASB and disorder had been demonstrated in 2019 compared to previous years.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor J Brencher:

"The Member asked whether Councillor Morgan could elaborate on the diversionary measures in place to avoid youth ASB and the activities available to young people in Pontypridd?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

"Councillor Morgan took the opportunity to clarify the position in respect of youth activities available within Pontypridd Town Centre advising that following the closure of the Muni, youth provision was provided within the Lido and Pontypridd Rugby Club and had not ceased. Members were advised that feedback from the activities illustrated that the provision had been well used within the venues. Councillor Morgan advised that once the Muni was re-opened it would be the intention to move the provision back to this venue and to further enhance the offer available."

5 Question from County Borough Councillor D. Owen Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on the progress of the 3 year - £23.5m Highways Scheme?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan advised that improving the County’s highways network remains a core part of the Council’s commitment to creating better transport links for residents, visitors and businesses. Councillor Morgan commented that as portfolio holder for this area for the eleventh year a significant amount of funding had been committed to this priority area which had contributed to the percentage of all classified roads requiring maintenance dropping to just 4.8% in 2018/19, when the same figure stood at 15.7% in 2010/11.

Members learnt that work was progressing well on the 3-year £23.5m Highways Improvement Scheme and there has been a significant amount of work carried out within the initial 6-month period from when it commenced. Councillor Morgan continued by confirming that 125 carriageway schemes and 50 footway improvement projects had been planned for the first year and, to date, 74 carriageway and 24 footway schemes had been successfully completed.

The Member concluded by advising that with such a significant investment across the Authority it was important that the right contractors and labourers were appointed to deliver on the schemes.”

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor D Owen-Jones:

“Councillor D Owen - Jones asked the Member for clarification on how the Authority compared against other Local Authorities in Wales and how such investment would benefit RCT over the three years in respect of such comparison.”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan commented that as part of the budget settlement, £20m had been provided for highway maintenance and advised that all local authorities had therefore heavily invested in highway maintenance, although no other Local Authority had invested to the same level as RCT. He added that the Authority were in the top quartile and with the continuation of the level of investment this position would be maintained with the Authority potentially being placed in the top 3 in Wales. Councillor Morgan spoke of the additional benefits with the investment with the reduction in trips and falls, insurance claims and positive affects with reduction of accidents to the NHS and time in hospital. Councillor Morgan concluded that such investment was simply what the public wanted from the Authority.”

6 Question from County Borough Councillor G Davies to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

“Will you provide a report on summer activities held in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”

“Councillor Crimmings advised that the Council provided a number of summer sporting activities for children across Rhondda Cynon Taf through holiday play schemes run throughout RCT, with one of the settings at the Cwmparc Family Hub in Treorchy.

The Free Swim Initiative was also offered in swimming pools right across RCT, whilst both structured swimming lessons and general entries were offered between Monday and Friday throughout the school holidays. The Member continued that in addition to the Free Swimming Initiative, all of the Council’s leisure centres offered children free use of courts for 5v5 football, badminton and squash. Councillor Crimmings concluded by informing Members that all parents in RCT were offered a discounted offer for their children to use the Council’s fitness suites and classes over the summer period of £20 for the entire school holidays with over 600 school children taking up the offer.”

Supplementary question from Councillor Davies:

“Councillor Davies commented on the paddling pools that organised voluntary groups had run over the summer had proved positive for both children and parents and paid tribute to each paddling pool voluntary group, congratulating them on the fantastic success witnessed. The Member referenced the problems experienced with Butchers pool in Ynyswbwl which needed to close for an extended period as it was unable to raise the £700 council charge for lifeguards. He added that this 2 week closure was disappointing and the Member asked how the Council would look to avoid this in the future and asked whether the council would be prepared to fund lifeguards for a 6 week period next year, to allow the pools to remain open through the school summer holidays?

Response from County Borough councillor A Crimmings:

“Councillor Crimmings commented that in respect of the paddling pool referenced there had been lots of miscommunication and agreed that the outcome of the 2 week closure was disappointing for the Council and its residents. The Member advised that a debrief was being undertaken and further added that a full presentation had been initially provided to the voluntary groups with ‘questions and answers’, which voluntary organisations then signed up to, and commented on the importance of organisations reading what they signed up to.”

58 WALES AUDIT OFFICE ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT AUDIT

Mr C Davies, Wales Audit Office, presented Members with the Annual Improvement Audit Report (AIR) 2018-19 for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council. Members were reminded that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) requires the Auditor General to undertake a forward-looking annual improvement assessment, and to publish an annual improvement report, for each improvement authority in Wales. Mr Davies confirmed that the Council was meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement and advised that the AIR was a positive report for the Council.

Following a discussion and a number of queries that were clarified by Mr Davies

and Officers in respect of self evaluation of scrutiny within the Authority, the Planning Committee's contribution to improving wellbeing, review arrangements of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and publication of budget reporting information, it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

59 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication advised Members of the updates taken forward to the Council Work Programme and confirmed that with the agreement of the Chair the scheduled February Council meeting had been brought forward to the 5th February 2020. He also advised that due to the need to reduce the number of items on the agenda for the October meeting, for reasons earlier outlined by the Leader of the Council, the Community Charter would be presented at the November Council meeting instead.

60 **BREXIT - UPDATE**

The Chief Executive provided Members with an oral update in respect of Brexit commenting on the recent events with the suspension of Parliament and its implications including the current consideration of this decision by the Supreme Court. The Chief Executive commented on the Prime Ministers refusal to go and negotiate an extension of the leaving date, which needed to be agreed with the EU by 19th October, commenting that the implications of such would mean that the UK could potentially crash out of the EU 12 days later. The Chief Executive did add that there was still the opportunity for a deal to be agreed between the UK and EU, if both parties were prepared to compromise and address the Irish backstop issue. If no extension or a deal is agreed, the UK could still leave the EU on 31 October with no deal.

Members were further advised that if the UK Parliament had not agreed to a General Election or a fresh referendum, some European countries may not support a further extension of Brexit, as they see little point in extending the date when the UK is unable to articulate what an alternative deal could look like. With all this uncertainty, the EU has stepped up its preparations for a No Deal Brexit.

Members were advised of the work undertaken to date in different areas including that within some major ports that handle fresh food and industrial components to be able to clear customs on-line mid channel, safeguarding of visa free travel between the UK and EU and the measures in place to safeguard the payment of pensions to most UK and EU nationals living abroad in the UK.

The Chief Executive further reported on the actions taken forward by the Council in respect of the implications on the County Borough:

- EU Citizen Settlement Scheme
- Supplies and Services
- Access to Data/Information Systems/GPDR
- Various trade licences
- Businesses - providing updated information as and when appropriate.
- Discussion with Other public sector partners – potential for civil unrest
- A General Election –contingency planning for a General Election within the next couple of months.

The Chief Executive advised that planning for a No Deal Brexit had been difficult

although the Council had sought to do what it could, but added that there was still considerable uncertainty as to the reaction of the 27 EU countries and other trading partners when having to apply World Trade Organisation trade rules which cannot favour the UK without an agreed trade deal.

The Chief Executive concluded that this week, Grant Thornton who are appointed by the WLGA, did an assessment of the Council's Brexit preparations and they considered that the Council had done what it reasonably could to best mitigate the known risks.

Group Leaders commented on the update and the uncertainties with Brexit adding that the preparations needed to be undertaken could not be fully implemented due to the uncertainties, adding that the well being of the residents and business within the County Borough would always be paramount.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update provided.

61 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

The Director of Legal Services provided Members with a brief overview of the report which presented the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales' (the 'Commission') draft proposals concerning its review of the Electoral Arrangements of the Council. Members were advised of the representations made in relation to those draft proposals by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which were included as an appendix to the report and presented to the Commissioner for consideration and the Director further reported on the timetable for conducting the remainder of the Commission's review. Members were reminded that the statutory consultation run by the Commission in respect of the draft proposals had closed on the 17th September 2019.

Members **RESOLVED** to :

1. Note the Commission's Draft Proposals in respect of the Council's future Electoral Arrangements, as outlined in the Commission's Draft Proposals Report;
2. Note the representations made at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22nd July 2019 in relation to the Commission's Draft Proposals, which were submitted to the Commission; and
3. Note the timetable, outlined in paragraphs 3.15 – 3.17 of the report, in respect of the process for conducting the remainder of the review by the Commission

(**N.B** County Borough Councillors M.Powell and W.Owen voted against the recommendations and wished to have their names recorded accordingly)

62 LOW CARBON VEHICLE (LCV) INFRASTRUCTURE IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF - NOTICE OF MOTION UPDATE

For information purposes, the Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication referred Members to the findings and ten recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group which was established to consider the

development of 'Infrastructure to support Low Carbon Vehicle Ownership in Rhondda Cynon Taf' following the Notice of Motion considered by Council at its meeting held on the [28th February 2018](#). The Notice of Motion stood in the names of County Borough Councillors M. Griffiths and J. Bonetto.

The Service Director advised that all ten recommendations, which were endorsed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 3rd September 2019 (subject to minor amendments to recommendation 9) would be presented to Cabinet on the 24th September for consideration.

Following a discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the review undertaken following the Notice of Motion agreed at Council, as outlined within Appendix 1 of the report.
2. To note that the 10 recommendations resulting from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (and as listed below) would be presented to Cabinet on the 24th September 2019:
 - i. *'The Council should seek to enhance the availability and accessibility of public access EV charging in the short term at key Council locations such as leisure centres and tourist destinations'*.
 - ii. *'The Council should consider steps to facilitate infrastructure to support the predicted increase in electric vehicle usage and consider how these steps might encourage residents across all areas of RCT to opt to purchase an electric vehicle. As part of this the Council should involve residents and collaborate with businesses and the wider public sector in the development of these proposals. The Council should also consider the commercial opportunities available to it.'*
 - iii. *'The Council should consider developing supplementary planning guidance to ensure that fast-charging infrastructure can be supported both in residential and non-residential development. Looking to the future, the Council should consider now, how wider urban design could complement the evolution to electrified transport and wider changes in mobility and transport behaviour in the longer term. The Council should avoid considering EV infrastructure as a single issue, but instead should take an integrated approach by considering how energy generation and supply to support the wider reduction of carbon footprint. The Scrutiny Working Group believes a proactive approach could prevent any future challenges from the outset and prevent the Council from being penalised financially should strict financial*

penalties for higher emission vehicles be introduced’.

- iv. *‘As part of future fleet renewal, the Council should seek where possible to replace current petrol or diesel vehicles, with Electric Vehicles. Where range of such vehicles may currently cause operational issues, the Council should consider hybrid/mild-hybrid options or the latest technology petrol/diesel options which meet or exceed Euro 6. The Working Group believes that this could be done via a trial of electric/hybrid electric vehicles within an appropriate Council Service such as Meals on Wheels to see how it can be viable and cost effective for the Council going forward. As a result of the pace of improvement in Electric Vehicle range, the Council should continuously review opportunities in the medium to longer term to consciously opt, where possible for electric/hybrid electric options. Such a commitment should be based also upon the potential revenue savings in fleet running costs’.*
- v. *‘The Working Group believes that a wider partnership approach to the development of EV infrastructure could reduce some of the operational challenges presented by current EV-range limits. The Group also felt there was huge potential in a collaborative regional approach more broadly across the Capital Region’.*
- vi. *‘As technology is changing, the Council should begin now to consider how it responds to a future shift to electric vehicles between now and the UK Government deadline for combustion engine production, not just at a strategic community leadership level. The Council should consider how it can encourage local vocational providers to respond to the shift in the emerging technology and develop relevant courses which will advance the mechanical skills required to maintain and service electric vehicles’.*
- vii. *‘The Council should consider placing an onus upon its supply chain to support an EV or LCV approach, in areas such as Home to School Transport and Taxi licences’.*
- viii. *‘The Working Group believes the Council should call upon the Welsh Government to take a more proactive approach in facilitating EV infrastructure to ensure that Wales leads from the front and is in the best position to secure the potential economic opportunities. The Group also believed that the Council should call upon the UK Government to take more radical steps in respect of incentivising a shift to electric vehicles, learning from the example set by Scandinavian countries’.*

- ix. *'The Working Group identified that all major events hosted by RCT would benefit from having the appropriate electric charging infrastructure in place to supply visitors for the duration of the event. The Working Group believes that the Council should investigate the implementation of the appropriate (mobile) infrastructure in order to demonstrate its commitment to the local environment, help cater for visitor's charging needs and exhibit leadership in an emerging industry. The working group also recognised the need to promote the role of public transport & active travel in future event management planning'.*

- x. *'The Working Group also urges the Council to recognise that planning effectively now is key for the longer term sustainability of the local economy'.*

63 CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with the decision taken by Minute No 13(1) of the Council meeting held on the 15th May, 2019 the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication reported that he had received notification from the Labour Group of changes to its membership of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. To note that County Borough Councillor A Davies-Jones is to replace County Borough Councillor J Harries on the Committee membership

64 NOTICE OF MOTION

- A. The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors G.Davies, K.Morgan, P.Jarman, S.Rees Owen, M.Weaver, E.Webster, D.Grehan, H.Fychan, D.Macey, A.Cox, J.Williams, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, E.Stephens, L.Jones, A.Chapman and S.Evans was considered:

"With the advent of the approved Metro in 2022; coupled with the aspirations as set out in the Council's proposed Tourism strategy the time is now right to push for future rail development in the County.

This Council therefore calls on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Cabinet and Transport for Wales to commit to extending the Aberdare passenger line to Hirwaun subject to full consultation with the public and other stakeholders on the location of the station so that it is accessible and fully utilised.

This Council further calls on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Cabinet and Transport for Wales to also extend the Treherbert line to Tynewydd. subject to its inclusion in the reviewed RCT Local Development Plan."

In accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 12.7 the mover of the motion moved an alteration to the Motion to include:

“And that the matter be referred to the Council’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration, with a widening of the Motion to include the wider County Borough footprint”.

The altered Motion therefore read:

“With the advent of the approved Metro in 2022; coupled with the aspirations as set out in the Council's proposed Tourism strategy the time is now right to push for future rail development in the County.

This Council therefore calls on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Cabinet and Transport for Wales to commit to extending the Aberdare passenger line to Hirwaun subject to full consultation with the public and other stakeholders on the location of the station so that it is accessible and fully utilised.

This Council further calls on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Cabinet and Transport for Wales to also extend the Treherbert line to Tynwydd. subject to its inclusion in the reviewed RCT Local Development Plan.

This Council therefore resolves to refer the matter to the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee for further consideration, with a widening of the Motion to include the wider County Borough footprint”

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** to refer the Notice of Motion with the alteration to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

- B. The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors J. Bonetto, M. Webber, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, H Boggis, S. Bradwick, J Brencher, A Calvert, G. Caple, 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. W. Hughes, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S Pickering, S. Powell, S Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G Stacey, M Tegg, G Thomas, W Treeby, R K Turner, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo was considered:

“After almost a decade of public sector austerity and the resulting savage cuts across public sector funding imposed by consecutive Conservative-led Westminster Government, this Council notes the staggering loss of 60p out of every £1 received from central government to local government in the last ten years.

This Council wishes to place on record how this unsustainable arrangement is placing significant burden on the essential frontline services run by Councils and continues to push local authorities towards a crisis point as the demands on services such as social care and education continue to escalate.

As part of this, hardworking public sector staff have also suffered through years of pay restraint that has contributed to a real-terms decrease in wages, despite increasing workloads and job insecurity. As a result, this Council would like to

place on record its thanks for the immense contribution Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's staff make each and every day in providing the best possible services in challenging circumstances.

This Council believes that:

- The extent of austerity has reached a point where even the awarding of a proper pay rise could seriously threaten the delivery of frontline services.
- As a consequence of this, the Council believes that the UK Government must take responsibility and fully fund a fair increase in pay for Council staff and not transfer the responsibility to local authorities.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Support our Trade Union colleagues in demanding a fair and fully funded pay settlement for the Council's staff.
- Call on the WLGA and LGA to make representation to the UK Government.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Continue to encourage all Council employees to join a trade union."

At the meeting the Chair announced that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.1 the following amendment to the Notice of Motion had been received from County Borough Councillors P.Jarman, G.Davies, S.Rees Owen, M. Weaver, J.Williams, A.Cox, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, L.Jones, E.Stephens, H.Fychan, D.Grehan, K.Morgan, E.Webster, D.Macey, A.Chapman and S. Evans:

"After almost a decade of public sector austerity and the resulting savage cuts across public sector funding imposed by consecutive Conservative-led Westminster Government, this Council notes the staggering loss of 60p out of every £1 received from central government to local government in the last ten years.

This Council wishes to place on record how this unsustainable arrangement is placing significant burden on the essential frontline services run by Councils and continues to push local authorities towards a crisis point as the demands on services such as social care and education continue to escalate.

As part of this, hardworking public sector staff have also suffered through years of pay restraint that has contributed to a real-terms decrease in wages, despite increasing workloads and job insecurity. As a result, this Council would like to place on record its thanks for the immense contribution Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's staff make each and every day in providing the best possible services in challenging circumstances.

This Council believes that:

- The extent of austerity has reached a point where even the awarding of a proper pay rise could seriously threaten the delivery of frontline services.
- As a consequence of this, the Council believes that the UK Government and the Welsh Government must take responsibility and fully fund a fair increase in pay for Council staff and not transfer the responsibility to local authorities.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Support our Trade Union colleagues in demanding a fair and fully funded pay settlement for the Council's staff.
- Call on the WLGA and LGA to make representation to the UK Government and the Welsh Government.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State for Wales to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from UK government.
- Meet cross party with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Continue to encourage all Council employees to join a trade union."

Following a discussion on this matter, the vote was taken in respect of the amendment to the Notice of Motion and it was **RESOLVED** not to adopt the amendment.

Following further discussions on the original motion it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion.

This meeting closed at 7.30 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**