



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 23 October 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 J Bonetto
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor G Caple	Councillor A Chapman
Councillor A Cox	Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor J Cullwick	Councillor A Davies-Jones
Councillor G Davies	Councillor J Davies
Councillor L De Vet	Councillor M Diamond
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor S Evans
Councillor M Forey	Councillor H Fychan
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor E Griffiths
Councillor M Griffiths	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor P Howe	Councillor G Hughes
Councillor P Jarman	Councillor G Jones
Councillor K Jones	Councillor L Jones
Councillor W Jones	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor A Morgan	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor M Norris
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor S Pickering
Councillor M Powell	Councillor A Roberts
Councillor J Rosser	Councillor M Tegg
Councillor G Thomas	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor L Walker	Councillor E Webster
Councillor J Williams	Councillor T Williams
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 A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

Others in Attendance:

Professor Marcus Longley – Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
Dr Sharon Hopkins (Interim Chief Executive of the HB)
Dr Greg Dix, Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Care.
Dr Nick Lyons (Medical Director)
Mr Mick Giannasi (Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Independent Maternity Services Oversight Panel)

65 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors H Boggis, A Calvert, S. Evans, M Fidler Jones, A.S.Fox, E George, J Harries, G Holmes, J James, W Owen, S Powell, S Rees, S Rees-Owen, G Stacey, E Stephens, R K Turner, M Weaver, G.Williams, D Williams and C Willis.

66 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were made pertaining to the agenda:

Item 6 – Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

- County Borough Councillor R Yeo declared the following personal interest– “My wife works for Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB, within Prince Charles hospital”
- County Borough Councillor M Forey declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest– “I was the Elected Member representative of Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB for 3 years until my period of service ended in January 2016”
- County Borough Councillor K Morgan declared the following personal and non-prejudicial interest: “I work for Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB”
- County Borough Councillor G Jones declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: “ Family member works for Health Board”
- County Borough Councillor J Bonetto declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: ”Member of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Health Council”
- County Borough Councillor G Davies declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: Up until May 2018 I was contracted to Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB”
- County Borough Councillor M Adams declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest:” My wife used to work in maternity services at RGH and wife is in receipt of a NHS pension”
- County Borough Councillor P Jarman declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: I am a former Member of Cwm Taf Teaching UHB”
- County Borough Councillor G Caple declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: “ My son is a Junior Doctor and was working within Prince Charles hospital during the relevant review period, although not within maternity services”
- County Borough Councillor J Davies declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: “Registered with Cwm Taf Nurse Staff Bank”
- County Borough Councillor R Lewis declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: “ Family member works for Health Board”
- County Borough Councillor S Evans declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: “ I work for the NHS”
- County Borough Councillor R Bevan declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: “ I submitted an online petition in respect of the Health Board”

Item 5 - Members Questions

- County Borough Councillor S Belzak declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: “ I am a governor of a school referenced within one of the questions”
- County Borough Councillor H Fychan declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: “ I am a Board Member of Artis Community”
- County Borough Councillor J Brencher declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest:” I am a Director on the YMCA”

Item 7 – Council Corporate plan – Investment priorities

- County Borough Councillor P Jarman referenced her dispensation granted by the Standards Committee on the 23rd November 2018 providing the member “dispensation to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2019-20 Budget process in her capacity as Leader of the Opposition.”

Item 8 – Council Tax Discount

- County Borough Councillor P Howe declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest “ I have been personally affected by the policy”

Item 10 B – Paddling pool Notice of Motion.

- County Borough Councillor J Davies declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest “ I am Chair and Trustee of a local paddling pool”
- County Borough Councillor E Webster declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest “ I am a volunteer of a local paddling pool”
- County Borough Councillor R Lewis declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest “ I am a member of Abercynon local paddling pool”
- County Borough Councillor M Forey declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest “ My Son in law works within the Council's leisure department”
- County Borough Councillor S Pickering declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest “ I am a Member of Butchers local paddling pool”
- County Borough Councillor A Morgan declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest “ I am a member of a local paddling pool Committee”
- County Borough Councillor J Cullwick declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest “ I am volunteer of a local paddling pool group”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- County Borough Councillor P Jarman paid tribute to former County Borough Councillor D. Macey who had resigned his position on the 21st October as Councillor for the Ynyshir ward. Councillor Jarman commented on the sterling work Councillor Macey had undertaken on behalf of his residents. Members wished former Councillor Macey best wishes with his new employment.

- The Chair on behalf of all Members took the opportunity to congratulate County Borough Councillor A. Fox on the recent arrival of his daughter and also welcomed County Borough Councillor M. Diamond back to the Chamber after a short illness.
- County Borough D. Owen-Jones spoke of the recent and continued success of The Cory Band, complimented in the Assembly as 'Ambassadors of the County Borough and Wales as a whole' following their recent success as 2019 National Champions of Great Britain. The Member commented on the recognition of the success of the band by the Council through a letter of congratulations, to which Members supported.
- County Borough Councillor J. Rosser advised members of the successful anthropology project she had been involved with, within local Schools. The Member advised that there were two books left for purchase, which had been written, illustrated and published bilingually.
- County Borough Councillor J. Brencher took the opportunity to thank Members and officers for their welcome to Uganda officials as part of the Ponty Partnership.
- County Borough Councillor S. Morgans advised that the Rhondda Rotary were 'lighting up in purple' (lighting up iconic buildings in purple) in respect of national polio day.
- County Borough Councillor G. Davies paid tribute to Rhian Morgan Ellis, head of Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda, who was named Head teacher of the Year in a Secondary School at the Pearson National Teaching Awards which is considered the "Oscars" of the teaching profession. The Member commented on the work of the Head Teacher and her commitment to the pupils and the community and requested the Council's 'congratulations' be sent to Ms. Ellis.

68 MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 18th September 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

69 STATEMENTS

Statement of the Leader of the County Borough, County Borough Councillor A Morgan – Climate Change.

The Leader advised Members that at the Cabinet meeting held on the 17th October 2019, he announced the creation of a new Cabinet Steering Group to respond to issues of Climate Change and to develop transformational plans to ensure the Council, as an organisation, is Carbon Neutral by 2030. The role of the Steering Group would also be to support residents, businesses and community groups to make their contributions to reducing their carbon footprint and also become Carbon Neutral as soon as possible.

The Leader advised that the Steering Group would be a cross party working group with the inclusion of two community groups who have been particularly active in challenging and supporting the Council's response to the Climate

Change agenda. County Borough Councillor Rhys Lewis, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being & Cultural Services, would Chair the Group and be the Member Climate Change Champion, and will be supported by the Chief Executive who will take the officer lead.

Members were advised that the Leader had tasked Councillor Lewis to develop an ambitious transformational plan to meet the challenging 2030 Carbon Neutral target, and that the plan would be presented to Cabinet before the end of the financial year, to ensure the plan was sufficiently resourced, with the plan also coming forward to January Council meeting.

The Leader continued by providing Members with an overview of the work already undertaken by the Council over the past 5 to 10 years and the significant progress in reducing the Council's carbon footprint; exceeding the challenging waste recycling targets, and ensuring our procurement of supplies and services and our pension fund investments are socially and environmentally responsible. The Leader provided examples which included:

- Ensuring that 100% of the Council's electrical energy supply is from renewable energy sources;
- Upgrading of all the street lights to efficient LED units and turned off street lights in specific localities;
- Investment in solar panels, LED lighting, wall and roof insulation, energy efficient gas boilers, and combined heat and power units in many schools, leisure centres and council buildings.
- Installation of electric cooking equipment in all new kitchens to benefit from the renewable electricity we procure;
- Recycling targets - In August this year the Council recycled 70% of its waste, already achieving the 2025 target;
- Investment in the Healthy Hillside project with Welsh Government and the Fire Service with benefits for carbon reduction, biodiversity and air quality;
- Through planning agreements with windfarm developers, hundreds of hectares of peat and associated habitats have been targeted for restoration and their carbon and water storage has been increased;
- Investment in 20 micro generation Hydrogen Fuel Cells for our highest energy users (care homes, large schools and leisure centre) with the ambition to do more – this has a significant impact on the emission of greenhouse gases;
- Ensuring all new schools and other council buildings are certified as BREEAM “Very Good” or “Excellent” with EPC ratings of A;
- Through various government grant schemes, enabling many residents on low incomes to improve the heat insulation in their own homes. Members were advised that the Cabinet recently agreed a new Warmer Homes Fuel Poverty Strategy;
- Working with partners to develop renewable energy projects such as, Clydach hydroelectricity, Vattenfall Wind Farm, Gasification Boiler at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, Bryn Pica Eco Park.
- Receipt of over £450,000 of income from renewable energy generated from Council buildings.
- Reduction of staff mileage claims by over 1 million miles per annum through smarter ways of working over the past 5 years.

The Leader continued by advising that such changes had reduced the Council's carbon footprint by 37% (12,725 tonnes) over the past five years, but added that

the Council still needed to significantly accelerate this carbon reduction.

Members were further informed of the proposals the Leader wished addressed by the Member Champion which included:

- Facilitating of the generation of green energy, such as wind and solar farms, hydro power and I expect to see the Council invest in the Taff's Well Spring Heat Recovery Project over the coming months that will provide energy to heat Ffynnon Taf Primary School and a local community hall;
- Ensuring investment in the Eco Park in Bryn Pica is accelerated so that plastics collected in RCT are recycled and reused into new products manufactured locally;
- Introducing a large tree planting programme across the County Borough in partnership with NRW. This will also form part of the Council's commitment to improve the flood management systems across the County Borough protecting more homes and businesses as a result of the changes in the climate;
- Shifting away from the Council's use of diesel and petrol fuelled vehicles, adopting new technology solutions as and when they are fit for purpose;
- Continuation of procuring the vast majority of our goods and services locally, in particular food supplies from local providers within the Capital region and preferably within the County Borough;
- Simplifying the opportunity for community groups to have free access to vacant council plots of land to develop into local allotments, to plant fruit orchards or trees, or use for other environmental purposes;
- Engaging the Council's Youth Forums in advising and supporting the Steering Group in its work.

Details of the Council's key responsibilities in relation to the administration of the Local Authority Pension Fund in Wales on behalf of 71,000 members was also advised upon by the Leader, with the Leader commenting on the various correspondence recently received about the Pension's Committee's position on Climate Change and how this affect's the Funds investment strategy.

"As you may be aware, the Pension Committee took a decision yesterday to move £163M of investments to a Low Carbon Equity Tracker Fund, already reducing the Fund's exposure to carbon emitting companies. This takes into account both current carbon emissions and potential future emissions. The Fund is also in the process of updating its Investment Strategy Statement to further reflect its intentions with regard to climate change risk, including developing divestment principles.

Clearly, responsible investing is not just about climate or carbon risk. Broader ESG considerations include Clean Energy Opportunities, Pollution, Waste, Workforce, Safety, Supply chains, corporate governance, tax transparency, corruption etc. "

The Leader thanked Members for their indulgence with his statement but again stressed the importance of providing Members with a full position statement in relation to Climate Control. He concluded that whilst a further report would be brought back to Council in January and on a regular basis thereafter, as Councillors, there was a need to create greater momentum for change within the Council and across the County Borough and it is up to us both individually and collectively to ensure we make a difference as soon as possible.

N.B – Members were advised that a copy of the statement would be made

publicly available following the meeting.

70 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. **Question from County Borough Councillor G Jones to the Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing and Cultural Services (County Borough Councillor R Lewis):**

“Can the Cabinet Member please provide an overview on the performance of RCT’S theatre’s and outline what program of events are in place for the festive period?”

Response from County Borough Councillor R Lewis:

“Councillor Lewis reminded Members that RCT Theatres (the Coliseum Theatre and the Park and Dare Theatre) are only one of 3 Local Authority-run theatres awarded Arts Portfolio Wales status with the Arts Council of Wales.

The Cabinet Member continued by advising of the attendance figures at events between April and September 2019 totalling 17,273 and in the same period 3,116 individuals participating in arts activities at RCT Theatres and as part the Council’s outreach programme. He advised that for this year, the focus was on a more targeted approach to provision, such as providing workshops for young carers, young people at risk of being looked after, and more able and talented individuals.

Details of Service User feedback was also provided for the benefit of Members with 71.15% of service users informing that the service had made a positive difference to their lives. This is an increase from 66.67% reported for the same period in 2018.

The Cabinet Member concluded his response by advising of the events taking place across the theatres during the festive season.”

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor G Jones:

“Councillor Jones asked the Cabinet Member to further elaborate on the Council’s wider arts and cultural strategy?”

Response form County Borough Councillor R Lewis:

“The Cabinet Member referenced the report that had been reported to Cabinet on the 17th October, and proceeded to provide Members with the key initiatives contained within the strategy and report.

Members were advised that Core funding of the service had been maintained by the Council with details of the financial investment by the Arts Council of Wales also. The Cabinet Member advised of the refurbishment work being undertaken across the theatres.

Councillor Lewis commented on the wider out-reach work undertaken by the Service with partnership work with resilient families, social services and schools across the County Borough, providing all young people with the opportunities to experience the Arts, regardless of their background.

Before concluding Councillor Lewis provided context to the wider strategy and the current position in respect of the Muni Arts Centre and the Awen

Cultural Trust and the YMCA project Board. The Cabinet Member concluded by confirming that the Council had a lot to celebrate in respect of the work of the service.

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

“Will the Leader of the Council please provide an update on the delivery of the Manifesto Commitments made to Residents in 2017?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan provided an overview of the following commitments:

- Commitment to Protect the Schools Education budget and increase the funding by at least £1m each and every year, advising that Education continues to remain a priority for the Council and the Leader advised that the Council had exceeded this commitment in each financial year.
- Invest in Extra Care facilities across the County – Members were provided with an update into the Work to deliver the Maesyffynnon development, the Extra Care development on the Graig in Pontypridd and the development within Porth.
- Continue to invest in Children’s Play Areas - Councillor Morgan provided detail of the £3.8m investment by the end of this financial year into improving 111 play areas since 2015. He added that this year’s capital programme saw £600k allocated to delivering improvements to 14 play areas, and this followed respective investments of £1.06m of total funding in the last financial year and £790,000 in 2017/18.
- Work with the Welsh Government to deliver the SW Metro – the Leader referenced the work undertaken in preparation for the vast improvements that the Metro would bring to the County Borough once implemented and spoke of the work in relation to park and ride schemes.
- Invest in our outdoor sports facilities and 3G pitches - It was advised that 13 outdoor sports pitches had been delivered, with a further development planned for Treorchy Comprehensive after funding had been secured earlier in the year. The Leader also took the opportunity to advise of the developments undertaken with the athletics facilities across the County Borough.
- Invest in infrastructure across the County – Details were provided in respect of Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link; A4119 Dualling , Llanharan Bypass and Taff Vale/Llys Cadwyn

The Leader continued to provide an update in respect of the work undertaken to support Town Centres, the Council’s successful apprentice and graduate scheme, the investment being taken forward through the 21st Century Schools programme, the extended Child Care offer, before concluding with information in respect of ‘Keeping our streets and highways clean’.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor D Owen Jones:

“The Councillor advised that he was pleased to hear of the developments with the A4119 scheme, and asked whether the Leader could further

advise what were the next steps in delivery of the project?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

“Councillor Morgan advised that the Council continued to press Welsh Government for funding in respect of the scheme and commented on the continued dialogue he and Council officers had with Welsh Government in respect of the matter. In relation to the physical work, Councillor Morgan advised of the work to remove the roundabout situated at South Wales Fire & Rescue Headquarters and provided further explanatory information as to how the road layout would look following such work and the benefits associated.”

3 Question from County Borough Councillor M Powell to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development and Housing, County Borough Councillor D R Bevan:

“Would the responsible cabinet member make a statement on the current situation regarding the Pontypridd YMCA refurbishment?”

Response from County Borough Councillor R Bevan:

“Councillor Bevan informed Members that the Council were working closely with the YMCA contractors (Knox & Wells) to establish their work programme and that it was hoped that works would commence in January 2020.”

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor M Powell:

“Councillor Powell referenced the funding committed by WG and the Arts Council for Wales to the refurbishment of the YMCA in 2015 and a lower amount referenced in June 2019 and queried the discrepancies in the funding allocations and further queried how much the Council were now needing to provide to fund the development rather than the original proposed grant sums previously advised upon.”

Response from County Borough Councillor R Bevan:

“Councillor Bevan provided detail of the planning application that was submitted in 2016 which outlined the major development to the YMCA. Members were advised that since that date the funding had changed due to a re-profile of partners of ‘tribe’. He added that the Council and Welsh Government had revised the planning application in February 2018 and assured of the financial commitment by all partners to deliver and look forward to the development of the YMCA.”

4 Question from County Borough Councillor G Davies to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G Hopkins:

“Will you please make a statement about the provision of Social Prescriptions in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”

Response from County Borough Councillor G Hopkins:

“Councillor Hopkins commented on the appropriateness of the question with members of the Health Board being in attendance, commenting that this was an important issue for both Health and Social Services. The Cabinet Member continued by advising that endorsement had been given to a shared understanding and regional collaborative approach to social prescribing at a strategic level that is supported through the Regional Partnership Board and Public Service Board. He advised that a multi-agency, cross-sector group, to further develop the social prescribing model and link worker/co-ordinator role had been established that includes representation of the third sector in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

Councillor Hopkins continued by advising of the local mapping of roles and the referral pathway with the majority of referrals through GP practices, however members were advised that work was ongoing to encourage referrals from other agencies and settings including secondary care.

The Cabinet Member concluded his response by providing an overview of the current position across the County Borough and the proposed development of social prescribing via the Transformation programme which includes plans to expand the social prescribing capacity by 4 posts (Three permanent and one fixed term).

71 CWM TAF MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

The Chair reminded Members of the request by Council to invite Members of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board to the Council meeting following Health Board representation at the June Council meeting and on behalf of the Council the Chair welcomed the following Members of the Health Board and the Chair of the Oversight Panel to the meeting:

- Professor Marcus Longley – Chair of the Board
- Dr Sharon Hopkins -Interim Chief Executive of the Health Board
- Dr Greg Dix - Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Care.
- Dr Nick Lyons - Medical Director
- Mr Mick Giannasi - Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Independent Maternity Services Oversight Panel

The Chair of the Health Board thanked the Council for the invitation to the meeting and welcomed the opportunity to discuss the work of the Board to address the serious failings identified in the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist’s report.

The Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Independent Maternity Services Oversight Panel, Mr M. Giannasi provided Members with a PowerPoint presentation in respect of the ‘First Quarterly Report to Minister for Health and Social Services’. The presentation provided Members with an overview of:

- The background to the Ministerial intervention in Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board;
- The role and purpose of the Independent Maternity Services Oversight Panel; and
- The key messages and conclusions contained within the Panel's First Quarterly Progress Report;

The presentation advised that the Maternity Services Improvement Plan (MISP) included 79 recommendations with the Health Board assessment concluding that 24 (30%) of the recommendations were being delivered and 55 (70%) of the recommendations being work in progress. In respect of the Delivery Against 'Make Safe' Recommendations, the Panel had been 'reasonably assured' that 8 of the 11 recommendations had been delivered and embedded in operational practice. The Chair of the Panel concluded his presentation by advising that the Health Board still had a long way to go to deliver the 78 recommendations in the MSIP which still needs further development and better resourcing, however, there was evidence that immediate safety critical recommendations have been addressed and there were 'green shoots' of improvement in other areas.

The Leader of the Council thanked the representatives for attending the meeting and commented on the difficult conversations that had already taken place with the Health Board in respect of the review and posed a number of queries in relation to 'how did the Health Board get to the position it was in?' 'Is the health Board in general providing a safe and sustainable Health Board for the residents of the County Borough?' and 'what are the Health Board doing to put things right?' referencing in particular the complaints process in place.

The Chair of the Board thanked the Leader for his observations and advised that the handling of complaints had been prioritised although the change was not a quick change to get right. Representatives from the Board provided detail of the changes taking place with more face to face communication with clinicians on the frontline and the resource implications in respect of this way forward which would need to be addressed. The Interim Chief Executive referred to some exemplar practices with the Princess of Wales Hospital which the Board were looking to adopt as new ways of working across the Board.

The following comments and questions were raised by Members during a lengthy discussion to which the Health Board then responded:

- Governance & Scrutiny – Confirmed a complete review in respect of both areas.
- When did the problems commence? - No evidence to pin point a point of time, although presumably a number of years.
- What the Board were doing to sort out bullying prevalent within the organisation; Restoring confidence as a leadership team, Re-consider the South Wales Programme - Board have recognised the 'bullying culture' identified and are taking forward an 'engagement and involvement' programme with 'lets talk together' for both patients and staff and a 'speaking up' programme. Engaging staff in solutions and maintaining transparency and openness with Board Committee meetings. Representatives also referenced the 'values & Behaviour' programme and the new operating model being taking forward 'CTM' which was locality focused. In respect of the South Wales Programme, (which was further questioned by Members) Members were advised that the

programme was developed due to sustainability issues within the Royal Glamorgan Hospital and advised that this had not changed, although the Chair of the Board added that the Board needed to look at the programme with a 'fresh pair of eyes'. Members were advised of the move of inpatient paediatrics was on hold until the A&E concerns had been addressed.

- "Pick your dignity up off the Floor" – had the practice of additional beds being pushed into maternity rooms stopped? – Representatives guaranteed that this practice had stopped and provided assurances on the checks and balances undertaken in respect of capacity issues.
- Barriers to success – listening to staff, training staff without them feeling additional pressures including the reimbursement of staff for conducting training out of work hours.
- Investigating ICT Servers within the investigation – The Chair of the panel advised that such investigation was not necessarily part of the Panels Terms of Reference, as the Panel were looking at the Board moving forward, adding that it would only be taken forward if the enquiry necessitated this action.
- Assurance that staffing levels are safe? Members were advised that monitoring of staffing levels was provided on a daily basis with weekly discussions with Welsh Government. The Chair of the Panel reiterated that this was still work in progress but advised of the interim professional judgement as the levels were quality assured by clinicians in Welsh Government.
- Issues with merging of 2 ICT Servers following merger of Bridgend health Board? Board members advised that no formal reporting of any harm to patients had been highlighted although there were issues with the merging of systems that had resulted in administration difficulties with missing notes or duplication of appointment.

The Leader took the opportunity to thank the representatives for their attendance and their open and honest responses to the comments made. He repeated his own concerns that no disciplinary action had been taken forward following the results of the serious failings identified and looked forward to receiving the Board Members at a future meeting to receive evidence and assurance of the improvement of the discussed services.

The Chair of the Council thanked the Board representatives for their attendance and also acknowledged the conduct of the public in attendance and paid respects to the families present.

(N.B. Due to time constraints a number of questions could not be posed by Members of the Council.)

72 COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME 2019 -2020

The Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication provided Members with an update on the Council work programme advising that due to the potential timings of the publication of the Provisional Settlement a verbal update would need to be provided at the November Council meeting in respect of the settlement. Members were also advised of additional potential items in respect of a Political balance report at the January Council meeting and as agreed during previous agenda items, a report in respect of Climate Change in January and the attendance of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg health Board

representatives at the February Council meeting.

The Service Director took the opportunity to remind Members of the proposed extra ordinary Council meeting on the 29th October to discuss the Council position in respect of Brexit and advised that due to the uncertainty with negotiations by the UK Government Members would be advised as soon as practically possible whether the meeting would need to be taken forward.

73 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8

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.

74 COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN - INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

The Director of Finance and Digital Services presented the report of the Cabinet which set out the position with regard to one-off resources which had become available following a review of Council earmarked reserves post completion of the audit process of the Council's 2018/19 Statement of Accounts. The report also provided the opportunity for the Council to further invest in its Investment Priority areas, aligned to the Corporate Plan, 2016 – 2020.

The Director advised that the level and use of earmark reserves was constantly reviewed as part of the Council's robust financial management arrangements and referred Members to section 4.3 of the report which outlined the extent to which any amounts could be released. Section 5.4 of the report also provided narrative about potential areas for future investment with £5.800M of investment which could be fully funded through the release of one off earmarked reserves.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To release from reserves the funding (one-off) realised as a consequence of the review of earmarked reserves, as detailed at paragraph 4.1 to 4.3 of the report;
2. That the funding released is used to fund the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report which will then be incorporated into the Council's three year Capital Programme and / or Revenue Budget as appropriate.

75 COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT

Through his report the Director of Finance & Digital Services provided Members with the opportunity to review the level of Council Tax discount for prescribed classes of dwellings within the County Borough and to review, amend or reaffirm the level prescribed.

Members were referred to section 3 of the report which outlined the requirements of the Council in respect of the Council Tax discount provision, with the Director advising that the Council has discretion to award up to 50% discount in respect of two prescribed classes of dwellings (usually described as second homes and holiday homes), i.e. Class A and Class B. Members were further advised of Class C dwellings and the Director confirmed that the Council had previously determined not to allow a discount in respect of Class A, B and C

properties.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To agree the continuation of no Council Tax discount in respect of Class A, B and C properties.

(**N.B** During discussions in relation to this item, County Borough Councillor P. Howe declared an interest in the matter which is referred to in Minute 66)

76 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a), the Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication reported on the urgent decisions that were taken forward through key delegated decision during the period July – September 2019 and it was **RESOLVED** to note the information contained within the report.

77 NOTICE OF MOTION

- A.** The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillor G Hughes, G Caple, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, J. Bonetto, H Boggis, 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, 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, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo was considered:

“To mark World Mental Health Day on October 10, this Authority gives its support to the #IPledge2Talk suicide prevention campaign and commits to working to support positive mental health in communities across Rhondda Cynon Taf, in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces.

As a Local Authority, we acknowledge our crucial role in promoting awareness of this issue, as evidenced by a previous Notice of Motion that not only reaffirmed this Council’s support for the Welsh Government’s Talk to Me 2 campaign, but sought to explore awareness raising campaigns for mental health within the Authority and also across the County Borough.

Encouraging mental well-being should be a priority across all of the Local Authority’s areas of responsibility, including housing, community safety and planning. In addition, this pledge will also cover the support that this Council provides to our Armed Forces Community, which sadly sees disproportionately high rates of suicide amongst our veterans in particular.

Members call upon our Mental Health Champion to continue raising the profile and importance of this matter.”

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, E. Webster, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, J.Williams, A.Cox, H.Fychan, D.Grehan, E.Griffiths, K.Morgan, S.Rees Owen, M.Weaver, S.Evans, A. Chapman, L.Jones & E.Stephens:

“To mark World Mental Health Day on October 10, this Authority gives its support to the #IPledge2Talk suicide prevention campaign and commits to working to support positive mental health in communities across Rhondda Cynon Taf, in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces and continues to support the Samaritans in this work.

As a Local Authority, we acknowledge our crucial role in promoting awareness of this issue, as evidenced by a previous Notice of Motion that not only reaffirmed this Council’s support for the Welsh Government’s Talk to Me 2 campaign, but sought to explore awareness raising campaigns for mental health within the Authority and also across the County Borough.

Encouraging mental well-being should be a priority across all of the Local Authority’s areas of responsibility, including housing, community safety and planning. In addition, this pledge will also cover the support that this Council provides to our Armed Forces Community, which sadly sees disproportionately high rates of suicide amongst our veterans in particular.

Members call upon our Mental Health Champion to continue raising the profile and importance of this matter. That this motion is referred to the Health and Wellbeing Committee to scrutinise what has been done by the Mental Health Champion following a similar motion being referred to them by Full Council in October 2018.”

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 and in accordance with the Council’s Rules of Procedure 12.7 the mover of the motion moved an alteration to the Motion to include the wording “ *and continues to support all support agencies*” at the end of the first paragraph.

The altered Motion therefore read:

“To mark World Mental Health Day on October 10, this Authority gives its support to the #IPledge2Talk suicide prevention campaign and commits to working to support positive mental health in communities across Rhondda Cynon Taf, in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces and continues to support all support agencies.

As a Local Authority, we acknowledge our crucial role in promoting awareness of this issue, as evidenced by a previous Notice of Motion that not only reaffirmed this Council’s support for the Welsh Government’s Talk to Me 2 campaign, but sought to explore awareness raising campaigns for mental health within the Authority and also across the County Borough.

Encouraging mental well-being should be a priority across all of the Local Authority’s areas of responsibility, including housing, community safety

and planning. In addition, this pledge will also cover the support that this Council provides to our Armed Forces Community, which sadly sees disproportionately high rates of suicide amongst our veterans in particular.

Members call upon our Mental Health Champion to continue raising the profile and importance of this matter.”

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion with the alteration.

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

“The paddling pool events that were organised by voluntary groups throughout the summer proved to be a massive hit with both children and their parents. As a consequence this Council commits to funding the lifeguard costs for 6 weeks next summer so that all pools can plan, without exception, to remain open throughout the whole of the school holiday period.

This Council requests that an Officer report be presented for consideration by Cabinet on the matters associated with this proposals.”

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 Sue Pickering, Wendy Treeby, G Hughes, G Caple, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, J. Bonetto, H Boggis, 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, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S. Powell, S Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G Stacey, M Tegg, G Thomas, R K Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo:

“The paddling pool events that were organised by voluntary groups throughout the summer proved to be a massive hit with both children and their parents. As a consequence this Council will continue to work with community groups, to provide a package of support to remain open throughout the whole of the school holiday period, that reflects the ongoing discussions which are taking place.

This Council requests that an Officer report be presented for consideration by Cabinet on the matters associated with this proposals. This report should reflect how the Council may support the individual circumstances of specific facilities and the preparedness of community groups.”

Following a discussion on this matter, the vote was taken in respect of

the amendment to the Notice of Motion and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the amendment, which then became the substantive motion, as set out above, to which Members **RESOLVED** to adopt.

78 URGENT ITEM - MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

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 and Communication reported that he had received notification from the Plaid Cymru Group of changes to its membership of the following Committees of the Council: Council's Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In accordance with Minute 13(2) the Plaid Cymru group membership of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee also needed to be amended following the abovementioned changes with the members of which to be nominated from the membership of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note that County Borough Councillor G. Davies is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor D Macey on the Council's Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee;
2. To note that County Borough Councillor A. Cox is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor D Macey on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
3. To note that County Borough Councillor A. Cox will also take forward the Plaid Cymru group representation on the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

This meeting closed at 8.30 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**