



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 25 November 2020 at 5.00 pm

County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance: -

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

Councillor M Adams	Councillor R Bevan
Councillor H Boggis	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor A Calvert	Councillor G Caple
Councillor A Chapman	Councillor A Cox
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor J Cullwick
Councillor G Davies	Councillor J Davies
Councillor L De Vet	Councillor M Diamond
Councillor J Edwards	Councillor J Elliott
Councillor S Evans	Councillor S Evans
Councillor M Forey	Councillor A Fox
Councillor H Fychan	Councillor E George
Councillor E Griffiths	Councillor M Griffiths
Councillor G Holmes	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor P Howe	Councillor G Hughes
Councillor J James	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 W Owen	Councillor S Pickering
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 G Thomas	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor L Walker	Councillor M Weaver
Councillor M Webber	Councillor E Webster
Councillor D Williams	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
Mrs G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion 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

Owen Griffiths, Flood, Water & Tip Risk Manager
A Stone, Strategic Projects Manager

Mr Jones, Audit Wales
Mr C Rees, Audit Wales

52 Apologies

An apology of absence was received from County Borough Councillors S Belzak, A Davies-Jones, M Fidler Jones, D Grehan, J Harries, L Hooper, M Tegg, R K Turner, G Williams and C Willis.

53 Welcome & Introductions

Introductions were made by the Group Leaders present:-

County Borough Councillor A Morgan (Labour Group)
County Borough Councillor P Jarman (Plaid Cymru Group)
County Borough Councillor M Powell (RCT Independent Group)
County Borough Councillor J James (Conservative Group)

54 Declaration of Interest

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

Agenda item 8 – FINANCING OF THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME USING PRUDENTIAL BORROWING

- County Borough Councillor P Jarman referred to her dispensation granted by the Standards Committee on 29th November 2019 providing the member "dispensation to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2020-21 Budget process in her capacity as Leader of the Opposition
- County Borough Councillor S Rees –Personal interest- "I am a Governor on Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar"

Agenda Item 6 – UPDATE IN RESPECT OF THE CORONAVIRUS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

County Borough Councillor R Lewis – Personal Interest- "A close relative of mine works for Public Health Wales Vaccine team"

55 Announcements

- County Borough Councillor P Jarman paid tribute to the late former County Borough Councillor A Hobson who represented Taffs Well. He was a dedicated Member of the Council who served as a Cabinet Member for Environmental Improvement from 1999 and was instrumental in the closure of Nantygwyddon Tip. The arrangements of former Councillor Hobson's funeral arrangements were relayed to Members.

- County Borough Councillor T Leyshon reminded Members that the RCT Santa Appeal would close at 4pm on the 27th December and urged Members to participate via the RCT website or by telephone and the details were provided.
- County Borough Councillor D R Bevan announced that the Council had been recognised for the planning excellence award for the development of Llys Cadwyn in Pontypridd via an online ceremony which was very good news for the Local Authority.

56 Suspension to Council Procedure Rules 15.1

The Deputy Leader made a statement in respect of moving the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 15.1 and advised that in order to facilitate the smooth running of the Council meeting through Zoom, Group Leaders have agreed in advance that where a vote is taken on any item, the individual Group Leader will exercise the vote on behalf of all their Members present for the item in question.

In order to implement the revised voting procedures the Deputy Leader moved the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 15.1, which states that a matter will be decided by a simple majority of those Members voting and present in the room at the time the question was put.

Following consideration of the matter it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Council Procedure Rule 15.1

57 Political Group Attendance Figures

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications provided the numbers in attendance for each of the Political Groups as follows:-

Labour Group– 42 members
 Plaid Cymru Group – 16 members
 Conservative Group – 1 member
 RCT Independent Group – 7 members

58 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 7th October 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

59 Members' Questions

Question from County Borough Councillor S Rees to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

Will the Leader of the Council make a statement on the Test, Trace, Protect regional service?

Response from the Leader:

The Leader advised that the Test, Trace, Protect Regional Service is a successful regional collaboration between Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board, RCT County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and

Bridgend County Borough Council and reports to Welsh Government. The Council's Group Director for Children and Community Services is Vice Chair of the Board. He added that an additional recruitment process had recently been undertaken to ensure the service maintains its targets as it has done throughout the Pandemic, becoming the best service in Wales for the percentage of contacts it makes.

The Leader advised that the service is crucial in collating information on specific incidents which informs the work of the enforcement teams. He paid tribute to the hard work of the redeployed council employees and those additional, newly recruited staff who work extended hours to maintain the high standards of the service.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor S Rees:

Can the Leader give us some indication as how the performance of the Test, Trace and Protect Service in Wales compares to the service in England?

Response form the Leader:

The Leader confirmed that, overall, the all Wales figures are much better than those in England. The figures are as follows: -

- Cwm Taf -98% confirmed cases and 87% contacts have been reached,
- All Wales -92% confirmed cases and 82% contacts have been reached

The Leader added that in England, although the performance levels have improved recently, there remains a stark difference between the English and Welsh performance levels. The Leader attributed the success of the Cwm Taf operation to local knowledge and the collaboration between the public sector and the local health board, the former having experience in establishing similar operations albeit on a smaller scale.

Question from County Borough Councillor S Pickering to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

Can the Leader update on progress on Storm Dennis repairs across the County?

Response of the Leader:

The Leader confirmed that a report would be presented to Cabinet in the forthcoming weeks which will provide an update on progress of the repair work following Storm Dennis. He added that although Covid has hampered some repair works and restricted access and some companies have had to furlough staff, he was pleased to confirm that the majority of schemes are on site and underway or at the design stage. The leader concluded that a number of substantial bids have already been approved by Welsh Government and the local authority will be bidding in excess of £4m for further flood alleviation schemes.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor S Pickering:

Can you also update me on the progress of the schemes in my Ynysybwl ward please?

Response of the Leader:

The Leader confirmed that general capital works, not linked directly to the floods, has progressed on the retaining walls along the main road running from Glyncoch to Ynysybwl (the wall on the left hand side) and to the footbridge on the public right of way, YC72. With regards to flood related repair work, the Council's Corporate Estates have been dealing with the footbridge on Gelli Road leading to Windsor Colliery, including the culvert in that location. The Leader advised that Clydach Terrace investigations are ongoing and Natural Resources Wales have undertaken dredging to the river and removed debris and built up the stone river wall. The Mill Road culvert scheme is being designed by the Council's partners Redstart and will be included in the bidding to Welsh Government. The footbridge on the FP72 route which includes work to parapets, access and rail repairs will also be considered as a part of next year's work. He concluded that the Maesyffynnon footbridge is to be replaced and the scheme will be progressed next year.

From County Borough Councillor G Stacey to the Deputy Leader of the Council County Borough Councillor M Webber:

How is this Council supporting employment in Rhondda Cynon Taf during the Covid 19 Pandemic?

Response from the Deputy Leader:

The Deputy Leader confirmed there are a number of programmes that provide direct employment, support and assistance to local residents. She added that the global pandemic has had a huge impact on many residents through job losses or furlough. The Deputy Leader advised that the council recently advertised 10 further employment opportunities with 6 Apprenticeships and 4 Graduate positions, in addition to its annual recruitment programme, which, for this financial year has already seen 21 Graduates and 26 apprentices recruited over a 3 phase period which totals 25 Graduates and 32 apprentices.

The Deputy Leader explained that this has allowed the council to support the local economy by providing well paid jobs and build resilience within the council. The 'Step in the Right Direction' traineeship and 'Care to work' schemes have continued with 5 trainees recruited and placements secured in Parks, ICT and Social Care. There have also been 32 referrals for 'Care to Work' in the same period. The Deputy Leader advised that despite the pandemic, staff are continuing to supply a number of other employment programmes for a range of individuals with support through virtual 1-1 sessions where possible.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor G Stacey:

The pandemic has impacted on the wellbeing of workers, can you make a statement on the 'Stay Well at Work' programme and outline how it has helped businesses and workforces throughout the pandemic?

The response of the Deputy Leader:

The Deputy Leader advised that the 'Stay Well at Work' scheme is led by the council and is part funded by the European Social Fund through Welsh Government. It provides direct and rapid access to specialist support through no cost to small businesses and their employees. The scheme offers business and HR support as well as dedicated occupational health and clinical interventions such as physiotherapy and coaching that may help support people to remain in

or return to work. This service has continued to support small to medium enterprises throughout the county borough. The Deputy Leader concluded that the delivery has been modified to enable an uninterrupted service throughout the pandemic.

From County Borough Councillor P Jarman to the Deputy Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor M Webber:

Which Council Staff are designated Key Workers?

The response of the Deputy Leader:

The Deputy Leader advised that the WLGA held its AGM on the 23rd October where Leaders throughout Wales from all political persuasions praised the council workforces. The Leader of RCT Council and Leader of the WLGA led the support and stated that ‘the key work of our council staff with our partners will continue to guide us through these dark times’.

The Deputy Leader added that the staff are the council’s best assets and the council is grateful for their commitment and efforts in supporting the RCT communities. There are some areas that provide direct and essential frontline services hence the key worker classification and their ongoing contribution is vital in keeping the council services running. In these difficult and unprecedented times based on that description the Deputy Leader advised that key workers include: -

- Health & Social Care staff.
- School based staff to include teachers and support staff.
- Frontline service areas which require critical business continuity such as streetcare, childcare and cleansing.
- Staff who process and deliver the business support programmes who help to maintain the economy play a key component in the service.
- Leisure service staff who have been redeployed to support the most vulnerable by delivering food packages.

In conclusion, the Deputy Leader added that all staff can be defined as key workers and should be formally recognised by this administration as such.

Supplementary question from Councillor P Jarman:

Councillor Jarman stated that on the 2nd October Members were advised via email that a Covid 19 test booking line had been created for key workers and their families through the Council’s Occupation Health & Wellbeing Unit. It listed the definition of key workers in an education setting, health & social care setting, including children or adults waiting for a placement, but it also identified staff ‘in areas that require business continuity’. Councillor Jarman had queried what category of staff could be described as key workers under that description but did not receive a reply. Councillor Jarman added that on the 9th October a further staff update was circulated with the same description ‘in areas that require business continuity’. She added that there had been no response to her follow up email seeking clarification.

Councillor Jarman requested that the Cabinet Member for Human Resources provide a response to the unanswered questions set out in here emails.

Response from Councillor M Webber:

Councillor Webber asked Councillor Jarman to forward her emails to ensure a reply is forthcoming.

Question from County Borough Councillor G Jones to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development and Housing, County Borough Councillor D R Bevan:

Will the Cabinet Member please highlight what support is available, to businesses in RCT during the coronavirus pandemic?

Response from Councillor D R Bevan:

Councillor Bevan advised that council officers have been working closely with local businesses to offer support with the raft of measures that have come from the UK and Welsh Government. They are offering support and advice based on the grant aid and with regards to Covid. In terms of non-domestic rates support Councillor Bevan stated that the Council has provided nearly £44m of funding to 3,759 businesses and those that weren't eligible have been signposted to other means of support. Recently, the WG announced the Firebreak lockdown grant, RCT Council received 2,000 applications to the value of £5.6m. A business start-up grant was also made available from WG, 50 applicants received £130,000 each. Councillor Bevan advised that the Council does have other support programmes which are available such as the Town Centre Maintenance Grant and the Pontypridd Property Improvement Grant and this has resulted in £300,000 worth of funding being made available. The Council has introduced a further three new schemes, the Town Centre Covid-19 Recovery Grant, the Major Projects Investment Fund and the Flood Resilience Grant which has been reported to Cabinet recently."

60 The Council Work Programme 2020-21

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications advised Council that the Health Board's Chair and new Chief Executive will attend the subsequent Council meeting on the 16th December 2020 and the Local Government Settlement, due to be reported to the next meeting will be reported through the various committee at a date following the later publication of the information.

The Service Director also reminded Council that there will be the need to consider recommendations from the Appointments Committee and for Council to ratify those decisions of the meeting on the 20th November 2020.

61 UPDATE IN RESPECT OF THE CORONAVIRUS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

The Leader advised that since the Firebreak the number of positive cases of Coronavirus has reduced. The figures had exceeded between 250-300 cases, but the figures have dropped to approximately 100 cases per day, where the positivity rate was 30% it is now 15%. The Leader warned against any complacency and added that although the Firebreak has brought with it some improvement, discussions with the Health Board and Welsh Government have confirmed that the downward trend has now flattened. The Leader referred to the recent announcement by the four nations about relaxing measures over the Christmas period, but with further interventions in place in the period leading to

the festive break.

The Leader advised that there would be a joint approach to establishing the vaccine centres with the Council's Corporate Estates supporting the arrangements. The lower Cynon area has been highlighted as an area to undertake mass testing, but more details would be provided at the next council update in two weeks' time.

The Group Leaders were afforded the opportunity to ask questions

Councillor P Jarman – Group Leader Plaid Cymru Group

Councillor Jarman supported a mass testing operation in view of the high number of positive cases day on day in the Cynon Valley and asked if it is possible to catch Covid for a second time?

Councillor Jarman also raised a query as to whether relatives of residents in Care Homes could attend using the care home visitor pods?

The Leader confirmed that end of life visits have been maintained throughout the pandemic and Social Care Officers are in discussions with the Private Care Homes about allowing family time and visits but measures can't be relaxed too soon for fear of an outbreak within the care homes.

Councillor M Powell – Group Leader, RCT Independent Group

Councillor Powell stated that the vaccine is key to progressing and improving the current situation but how it is rolled out is key. He added that there hadn't been any reports available on Care Homes recently but been informed of incidences where patients have been released from hospital into care homes without being tested for Covid-19 which had left staff and other residents feeling frightened.

Councillor Powell asked what the outcome would be if the R rate was above 1 especially with the Christmas celebrations ahead and what plans are in place should we find ourselves overwhelmed again?

The Leader pointed out that there is a lag of between 10-14 days in reporting the figures but assured Members that the impact of the firebreak would continue to be seen as the data shows that the R number is currently below 1 as the number of positive cases has decreased from 30% to 15%. A further update would be provided at the next Council meeting.

The Leader advised that the pilot scheme would be on a small scale undertaking approximately 30,000 tests to identify those who are asymptomatic to help prevent the spread of the virus. The Leader explained that the Track and Trace teams are working very well in RCT and dealt with, in excess of, 400 cases per day during the first wave of the virus. Members were advised that a four nations approach will be progressed over the coming weeks.

Councillor J James – Group Leader of the Conservative Group

Councillor James raised concern that he was currently sourcing his information relating to Covid-19 matters, such as the test centres, from the media and he sought confirmation that updates would be forthcoming from the Council.

The Leader advised that daily updates are circulated to Members via email from the Council's Democratic Services and as soon as the details on the pilot for the lower Cynon area have been confirmed, all Members will receive factual information and not that based on speculation. The Leader reminded Council that the pilot is a combined submission between this and other local authorities as well the Cwm Taf Health Board and as such details would be circulated as soon as possible.

62 Statement of Accounts for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund 2019/20

Mr M Jones, Wales Audit Office introduced his colleague Mr Rees and presented members with the Audit of financial statements 2019-20 for the RCT Pension Fund and for RCTCBC, commenting that the process for the audit of accounts had been delayed because of the Covid -19 pandemic. Mr Jones paid tribute to the RCT Finance staff for their support during the process.

Members were reminded that the Wales Audit Office is proposing an unqualified opinion from the Auditor General. Mr Jones assured members that the valuer's comments relating to material uncertainties as referred to in RCT's disclosure at year end does not affect the overall opinion. For information Mr Jones also pointed out the detail at Appendix 3 regarding the corrected misstatements.

With regards to the RCT Pension Fund, Mr Jones confirmed that no corrected misstatements demonstrated the high quality of the draft accounts.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the presentation.

The Director of Finance and Digital Services presented the Council with the Statement of Accounts updated and final together with the letters of representation for the financial year ended 31st March 2020. The Director advised that the timescales for the preparation and audit of the statements have been amended in close liaison with Audit Wales in view of the pandemic and added that it is testament to the team and wider council staff that the financial management and control arrangements have been maintained.

The Director confirmed that the Audit Committee considered the draft accounts in July and update in October 2020 as required by the Local Government Measure (paragraphs 11.1 and 11.2).

Following consideration thereof and responses to queries in respect of the material valuation uncertainties, fees and derecognition of infrastructure assets it was **RESOLVED** –

1. Approve and note the Statement of Accounts of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC (Appendix 1), and associated Letter of Representation (Appendix 2).
2. Approve and note the Statement of Accounts for Rhondda Cynon Taf

Pension Fund (Appendix 3), and associated Letter of Representation (Appendix 4).

3. Approve and note the audited final out-turn position for the Council with regard to the financial year 2019/2020 and the level of General Fund Balances (paragraph 8.4); and

4. Note the considerations and comments of the 20th July 2020 and 5th October 2020 Audit Committee meetings as required by the Local Government Measure (paragraphs 11.1 and 11.2).

63 Financing of the 21st Century Schools Capital Programme using Prudential Borrowing

Through his report, the Director of Finance & Digital Services sought Members approval for a capital investment of £4.500M for an extension at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar incorporating 4 classrooms and establishing a new Meithrin and to finance the project through the Welsh Government's (WG) 21st Century Schools Band B grant; Welsh Government's Childcare Grant and to fund the Council's contribution from Council borrowing using its powers under the Prudential Code.

Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Agree to the inclusion in the capital programme of a new extension at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar at a total cost of £4.500M.
2. Agree that the net capital cost to the Council of £1.291M is funded through borrowing, using the Council's powers under the Prudential Code, with the annual revenue cost of £0.052M being met from savings from previous school reorganisations.

64 2020/21 Mid-Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report

In accordance with the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management the Director of Finance and Digital Services provided Members with information on:-

- The Council's Treasury Management activity during the first six months of 2020/21; and
- Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the same period

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

65 Flooding in RCT in 2020

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications presented his joint

report with the Group Director Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services which set out to provide members with the opportunity to consider information relating to the severe flooding which took place across the County Borough during 2020 and update members on the work which has been undertaken to date by the Council in response. The Service Director advised that the scrutiny process is distinct from the processes set out in section 5 and 6 of the report as the Scrutiny committee will consider the content of submissions and information received from partners and local members through the evidence session at its next meeting, before determining independent comments or recommendations for consideration by Cabinet.

Through his Power Point presentation, the Flood, Water and Tip Risk Manager for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council illustrated the impact of Storm Dennis during February 2020 across the County Borough and the Council's subsequent response and recovery. The presentation also advised Members of the Tips maintenance, specifically the Tylorstown landslip which occurred in February 2020.

The presentation outlined some of the following key issues;

- Storm Dennis;
- Event Preparation;
- February Storm Event;
- Response and Recovery-short, medium and long term
- Property Flood Resilience;
- Tips Maintenance

Following the presentation, the Group Leaders and other Members raised a number of queries relating to the report, the scrutiny process and the next steps. The Leader advised that in addition to the Scrutiny Inquiry Session a further report would be provided to scrutiny next month with the opportunity to consider the Council's Section 19 statutory reports on conclusion of the ongoing investigations. He also confirmed that there remained opportunity for all Members to submit their written submissions beyond the deadline, to outline their individual experiences. In conclusion, the Leader confirmed that the SLT review would be reported to Cabinet in December where a number of recommendations would be considered.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Note the information contained within the presentation received from Officers and within the body of the report; and
2. Receive at a future meeting of Council, the Section 19 statutory reports on conclusion of the ongoing investigations that the Council is undertaking into the February Floods as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA);
3. Note that Cabinet will consider a report in December setting out a number of key actions from the lessons learned work undertaken, including the internal Officer reviews and the work of scrutiny; and
4. Note the ongoing scrutiny work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on this subject.

To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of: Councillors H.Fychan, E.Griffiths, P.Jarman, K.Morgan, D.Grehan, S.Rees Owen, M.Weaver, E.Webster, S.Evans, A. Chapman,G.Davies, J.Williams, A. Cox, J.Cullwick, J. Davies, E.Stephens, L. Jones

Unprecedented. Devastating. Traumatizing. Those are the three most often used words in relation to the floods that hit so many communities across RCT this year. And we weren't the only communities affected, with similar scenes being seen across Wales.

Council notes the significant costs related with the recovery, and that is has been estimated that at least £500m more is needed in the next decade if Wales is to avoid significant flooding. Council further notes that as a result of climate change, flooding is far more likely to occur in the future.

Council acknowledges that many questions our residents have relating to the floods remain unanswered nine months on, with some suffering further floods as recently as August. Every time there is now heavy rainfall, people are naturally anxious.

Council believes that though a number of reports have either been published or are pending, it is clear that they are limited in scope and are conducted by the organisations themselves rather than by external, independent agencies. Neither do they address the impact on the mental and physical health of residents, nor the lasting economic and social impact.

Council supports the thousands of residents that signed a recent Senedd petition that there must now be an independent inquiry into the floods to bring together all the reports, scrutinise them and bring together the evidence and experiences of residents and businesses. It is the only way that we can secure the answers and justice for the residents and businesses affected.

Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the First Minister of Wales to call for an independent inquiry, stating that the Council will participate openly and transparently in such a process so that lessons can be learnt for the future and investment secured for flood prevention measures.

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 L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, H Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J Brencher, A Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L De- Vet, J. Edwards, J Elliott, S. Evans, M Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. Hughes, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S Pickering, S. Powell, S. Powderhill, 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.

Unprecedented. Devastating. Traumatizing. Those are the three most often used words in relation to the floods that hit so many communities across RCT this

year. And we weren't the only communities affected, with similar scenes being seen across Wales.

Council notes the significant costs related with the recovery, and that it has been estimated that at least £500m more is needed in the next decade if Wales is to avoid significant flooding. Council further notes that as a result of climate change, flooding is far more likely to occur in the future.

Council acknowledges that residents have many questions and want assurances on the pace of progress of works, with some suffering further floods as recently as August. Every time there is now heavy rainfall, people are naturally anxious.

Council notes the thousands of residents that signed a recent Senedd petition for an independent inquiry into the floods to bring together all the reports, scrutinise them and bring together the evidence and experiences of residents and businesses.

Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the First Minister of Wales to outline the progress made by the Council in evaluating the response by the local authority and partners (such as Natural Resources Wales) to these unprecedented weather events. It will also consider what can be done differently to further improve the partnerships, planning and the future response of all public agencies in Wales, stating that the Council will 'Continue to participate openly and transparently in such a process, so that lessons can be learnt for the future and investment secured for flood prevention measures.

Council notes that the Cabinet and Senior Officers are planning to bring forward a further report in December with further recommendations.

**

In accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 12.7, a vote was taken in respect of the amendment to the Notice of Motion and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the amendment.

Clarification was sought in respect of the total of Councillors present in accordance with their political groups: -

Labour Group 38
Plaid Cymru Group 16
Conservative Group 1
RCT Independent Group 5

Following discussion in respect of the substantive motion and in accordance with the Council Rules of Procedure 12.7, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the substantive motion.

**

At this juncture in the proceedings it was **RESOLVED** to suspend the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8 and for consideration of the remaining agenda item, Agenda item 11B, Notice of Motion regarding PPE to be deferred to the subsequent Council meeting on the 16th December 2020.

**

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the question be now put following which and in accordance with the Council Rules of Procedure 12.7, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the substantive motion

This meeting closed at 8.14 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**