



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 6TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Gardiner - Mayor
Councillor Mrs D. Price - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, Mrs K.R. Baker, J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs A. Blackman, D. Bolter, D.G. Carter, Mrs P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, W. David, C. Durham, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, Mrs C. Forehead, Miss E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Ms J. Gale, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, Mrs P. Griffiths, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, M.P. James, G. Johnston, Mrs B.A. Jones, Ms J.G. Jones, Miss L. Jones, S. Kent, Ms P. Leonard, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs G. Oliver, Mrs R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew, J.A. Pritchard, K.V. Reynolds, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, Mrs J. Summers, J. Taylor, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), C. HARRY (Corporate Director – Communities), D. Street (Corporate Director of Social Services), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer), P. Elliott (Head of Regeneration and Planning), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Policy), R. Kyte (Team Leader - Strategic and Development Planning), P. Martin (Conservation and Design Officer), A. Price (Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer), R. Roberts (Performance Manager) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

Also present:-

Non Jenkins and Sara-Jayne Byrne (Wales Audit Office)

1. WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Interim Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be made publicly available in live and archive form via the Council's website. He advised that decisions would be made by a show of hands.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H.A. Andrews, Mrs G. Bevan, D.T. Davies, K. Dawson, G. Kirby, D. Rees, Mrs E. Stenner and L.G. Whittle.

3. BEREAVEMENT – COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR J.R. DAVIES

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Community Councillor J.R. Davies, who was widely known amongst the Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen community as “Ray the Coal”. All present stood for a moment of silence as a mark of respect.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits that he and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting. He also made reference to the recent MacMillan Coffee Morning fundraiser hosted by Council staff across a number of corporate offices and thanked all staff involved for the significant amounts raised for his charity appeal.

5. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Young Enterprise Awards – Lewis Girls School

Members were informed that the Young Enterprise Team from Lewis Girls School were named ‘Best Company’ at the Young Enterprise Area Awards earlier this year.

This competition involves teams from different schools who must create a company from scratch and then design a product to sell. The company set up by the Lewis Girls School pupils, called Liberty, devised the innovative idea to design, create and sell wall-hangings in a range of different themes and styles. The product was a huge success and is testament to the hard work and commitment of its creators.

Poppy Miller, Alice Donegani, Hannah Santos, Bethan Jones, Sophie Bolter, Sophie Gwylim and Jenna Taylor came forward to receive the award from the Mayor.

Royal Welsh

Members were reminded that in September 2010 the Council granted the Freedom of the County Borough to the Royal Welsh. This was a memorable day, with thousands of people lining the streets of Caerphilly and Blackwood to cheer the troops and celebrate this special occasion.

It was thought fitting to show the Council’s respect and appreciation to the Royal Welsh by commissioning the ceremonial belt for the Drum Major of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Welsh. Embroidered on the belt is the Regimental Crest and some of the many battle honours which the Regiment has won over the last 325 years. On the shoulder of the belt are the armorial arms of Caerphilly Council, which will be proudly displayed whenever the Royal Welsh’s Band and Drums performs throughout Wales over the next 25 years. The Royal Welsh have expressed their gratitude for the support given by the Council to the Regiment over the years.

Captain Ben Phillips, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd), Chris Kilmister and Drum Major Andrew Jones came forward to receive the ceremonial belt from the Mayor.

6. PETITION – REQUEST FOR A ZEBRA CROSSING, CROESPENMAEN

The Mayor received a petition presented by Councillor K. Lloyd on behalf of local residents of Croespenmaen, which requested that a zebra crossing be placed on the road outside Croespenmaen Baptist Church. The Mayor indicated that it would be referred to the appropriate directorate for attention.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

8. COUNCIL – 21ST JULY 2015

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

Council held on 21st July 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 9).

9. ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT – WALES AUDIT OFFICE

The report informed Members of the content of the Annual Improvement Report, which is a summary by the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) of the Council's performance against their statutory duty for 2014/2015. The report outlined how the Council monitors and tracks proposals that are made for improvement by WAO so that Members can have assurance that a robust process is in place for following up on the suggested improvements.

Non Jenkins was welcomed to the meeting and introduced her colleague Sara-Jayne Byrne, who is already known to Members via her work with internal auditors and has recently joined the Wales Audit Office.

Ms Jenkins gave an overview of the content of the Annual Improvement Report (AIR), which is a public document summarising other reports made throughout the year. It was explained that any recommendations for improvement made previously are already known and have already been reported to the Council's Corporate Management Team and Audit Committee.

Members were advised that based on the work of the Wales Audit Office and relevant regulators, the findings of the Auditor General are that the Council is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure during 2015-16. Ms Jenkins outlined the areas where the Council had met key requirements in respect of accounts, governance and performance, together with areas where further improvement is needed. The full findings were detailed within the Annual Improvement Report, a copy of which was appended to the Officer's report.

Ms Jenkins explained that despite the uncertainty faced by the Council as a result of ongoing legal proceedings as outlined within the Report in The Public Interest (March 2013), the Council has demonstrated resilience in continuing to deal with normal business and has responded to increasing financial challenges. In closing, Ms Jenkins acknowledged the good working relationship between the Council and the Wales Audit Office and thanked all those involved for their valued co-operation over the past two years.

Members were pleased to note the overall positive findings of the report and acknowledged the amount of work involved in its production. Clarification was sought on the contents of the Annual Audit Letter for 2013-14, which referred to significant adjustments of £74m made to the statement of accounts in respect of the valuation of property, plant and equipment, together with a number of matters being considered by the Appointed Auditor. Members were advised that the letter related to the 2013-14 accounts, during which time auditors had made a number of adjustment to these accounts. This had subsequently been identified as an area for improvement, with it recognised by the auditors in September 2015 that the situation had improved and that the number of adjustments made in respect of the valuation of assets had significantly reduced. Officers also advised the matters being considered by the Appointed Auditor also referred to the previous financial year and there remained no issues outstanding.

Reference was made to the AIR finding that owing to cuts in resources, the Council will find it difficult to fulfil new statutory duties to protect the public and the environment in the future, and concerns were expressed that a previous proposal to delete an Environmental Health Officer post as part of Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) savings is due to be re-submitted as a potential future saving. Officers confirmed that there are proposals moving forward in respect of this matter and these will be subject to the same level of scrutiny as all other proposals within the MTFP process.

A Member sought clarification on the AIR finding in respect of the Council's Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) allocation and whether those in the greatest need are receiving help. Officers explained that in order to move forward in respect of this area, a review had recently been undertaken of Discretionary Housing Payments, which had resulted in a revision to the eligibility criteria and the adoption of a more consistent approach to allocations to target those most in need.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Annual Improvement Report be endorsed and the process for the routine monitoring of any outstanding proposals be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Annual Improvement Report be endorsed and the process for the routine monitoring of any outstanding proposals be noted.

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following reports referred from Cabinet.

10. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015 – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

In that Officers had recently received a number of representations from Members on this item which required further information, it was moved and seconded that consideration of the report be deferred to a future point in time. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

11. BUTE TOWN CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL AND CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (CAA AND CAMP) FINAL DRAFT 2015

The report, which was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 15th September 2015 and Cabinet on 30th September 2015, sought approval on proposals to adopt the Bute Town Conservation Area Appraisal and Conservation Area Management Plan 2015 (CAA and CAMP) as supplementary planning guidance to the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP), prior to consideration by Council.

Members were advised that Bute Town was first designated a Conservation Area on 20th October 1972. An Article 4 Direction for Bute Town has also been in place since 23rd April 1979. As a consequence of work associated with the bid for Heritage Lottery Funding for Bute Town, the Conservation Area has been reassessed, and on 11th February 2015 the Planning Committee resolved to extend and re-align the Conservation Area. They further resolved to replace the Article 4 Direction with a new, extended Article 4(2) Direction boundary, for the proper and sustainable management of the historic environment.

A Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAA and CAMP) for Bute Town has now been produced which reflects the updated Conservation Area Boundary, and approval was sought to adopt this as supplementary planning guidance to the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP). As this will supersede existing guidance, approval was also sought for the current 'Bute Town Conservation Area Design Guide' and 'Bute Town Conservation Area Enhancement Plan (August 2005)' to be consequently cancelled. A copy of the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan was appended to the report.

During the course of the ensuing debate, Members requested that their thanks and appreciation to all staff involved in the development of this conservation document be placed on record. Reference was also made to the negative visual impact of a lean-to structure within Bute Town, and Officers advised that this could possibly be screened off with trees/hedging as an interim measure, with a number of other development options possible should further funding bids be successful.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations from Cabinet as outlined in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons set out in the report:-

- (i) the Bute Town Conservation Area Appraisal and Conservation Area Management Plan 2015 (CAA and CAMP) be formally adopted as supplementary planning guidance to the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP);
- (ii) the 'Bute Town Conservation Area Design Guide' and 'Bute Town Conservation Area Enhancement Plan (August 2005)' be consequently cancelled.

12. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014/15

Cabinet considered this report on 30th September 2015 and in endorsing its content recommended its acceptance by Council.

The Performance Report is a statutory requirement under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and an important part of the Council's Performance Framework. The Council is required to assess its own performance and provide the public with a balanced picture of that performance.

In addition, the report highlighted how the Council performed against the Improvement Objectives it set itself for 2014/2015. Members noted that although the report referred to 5 Improvement Objectives, there are 6 Improvement Objectives set by the Authority, of which, 4 have been successful and 2 have been partially successful, with only 1 being carried forward to 2015/16. Overall, it was noted that there is a mixed picture of performance across the Local Authority and against All Wales data, with some areas performing exceptionally well and others in need of further improvement. Full details of the Council's performance in relation to Wales across all 43 indicators were included in the Annual Performance Report appended to

the Officer's report.

Discussion took place in respect of a number of the performance indicators outlined in the report and their respective all-Wales ranking. Reference was made to the indicator in respect of the percentage of municipal waste recycling and its lowered performance against the previous year. Officers explained that although the Council were meeting the statutory target for recycling, there were a number of reasons for the drop in performance, including new legislation on permitted recycling materials, and that a number of options were being considered in conjunction with Welsh Government to improve performance in this area.

Reference was made to a perceived lack of improvement against the previous year's all-Wales rankings in respect of those indicators relating to Education. Officers explained that although the 3-year trend shows improvement against all indicators and the Council have aspirations to improve their all-Wales performance, there are many reasons why improvements are not reflected in the all-Wales rankings, including that of socio-economic issues within the county borough.

Officers also explained that they are working in partnership with the Education Achievement Service (EAS) who have undertaken the role of challenging all secondary schools to improve performance, which includes ensuring that all pupils leave with a approved external qualification. Members suggested that EAS representatives could attend Council to outline their contribution to school performance. In addition to it being confirmed that EAS staff attend Scrutiny Committee meetings, Members were also informed that reports detailing the performance of all schools in the county borough are regularly presented to the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee.

During the course of the debate Members asked that their appreciation for the hard work of teaching staff within the Authority be placed on record.

Members noted a decrease in the all-Wales ranking in respect of the percentage of reported fly-tipping incidents cleared within 5 working days and queried whether this was due to the recent waste disposal changes implemented within civic amenity sites. It was explained there had been a technical reason for the delays in clearing up after incidents of fly-tipping and it did not mean that there was an increase in fly tipping incidents across the Authority. It was emphasised to Members that fly tipping is a nationwide issue and that the Council undertake stringent enforcement action against those involved in such incidents.

Clarification was sought on the reasons for the lowered performance of some Social Services indicators against the previous year's targets and whether there was a relationship with the under spend for 2014/15. Officers explained that consideration had been given to the results of the performance indicators and a change of approach implemented across some service areas as a result. It was emphasised to Members that in the case of some lower-performing indicators, it is more appropriate to effectively understand and meet the needs of vulnerable service users than to reach a solution in the quickest way. It was noted that a report is due to be presented to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in the near future which will further address the performance results contained within the Annual Performance Report. Officers also explained that the projected under spend simply reflected the demand for services at the given time.

Members thanked the Officer for the detailed report and noted the contribution of all staff involved in the development of the Annual Performance Report.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation from Cabinet as outlined in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED for the reasons set in the report, the Annual Performance Report 2014/15

as appended to the Officer's report be accepted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

13. SCRUTINY REVIEW 2015

The report, which outlined the findings and recommendations identified from a review of scrutiny arrangements carried out to identify improvement to the operation of scrutiny following recommendations from the Wales Audit Office, was considered by the Democratic Services Committee on 16th September 2015.

The report identified the issues for improvement contained in the WAO report and identified by workshop groups attended by Members and Officers. The outcome of the workshops highlighted issues in relation to agendas, forward work programmes and witnesses, information and reports, task and finish groups, scrutiny support, the role of Cabinet and scrutiny members at committee, meeting organisation and chairing skills, and finally the external scrutiny role of local authorities.

Members were advised that the Project Group has developed its recommendations based on the issues raised by both Members and Officers and considers that these will address the issues raised by Wales Audit Office.

Members' attention was directed to recommendation (iv) of the covering report, (whereby scrutiny committees will discuss their forward work programmes at each meeting). At the Democratic Services Committee meeting of 16th September 2015, an amendment to this recommendation was moved and seconded and unanimously agreed, in that scrutiny chairs be allowed to accept the addition of urgent items to scrutiny committee agendas.

Officers also highlighted recommendations (vi) and (vii) of the covering report, which proposed that non-statutory co-opted members from scrutiny committees be replaced by a list of stakeholders and external witnesses for use when required, and that an expert witness protocol be developed to ensure witnesses are fully briefed and deliver balanced and fair evidence.

During the course of the ensuing debate, Members referenced the valued contributions of the non-statutory co-opted members who sit on the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee, and stated that their removal would be a detrimental loss to the scrutiny committees. Members also extended their thanks to those Officers involved in the review of scrutiny arrangements and discussed the housekeeping arrangements in and around scrutiny committee meetings.

An amendment to recommendation (vi) was moved and seconded, in that the proposal to remove the non-statutory co-opted members from the scrutiny committees be deleted from the recommendation. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

Subject to the agreed amendment to recommendation (vi), it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the Officer's covering report be approved, and by a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons set out in the report:-

- (i) A limit of no more than 4 items be placed on scrutiny committee agendas;

- (ii) there be a limit placed on the number of special scrutiny meetings held per scrutiny committee, of two additional meetings per annum, with priority for the Medium Term Financial Plan;
- (iii) Cabinet and scrutiny committee forward work programmes include a brief narrative on key issues to be covered in the reports;
- (iv) scrutiny committees discuss their forward work programmes at each meeting and confirm the 4 items to be discussed at the following meeting. The Chair of the relevant committee will decide whether any additional items are to be added to the agenda if presented urgently before the next meeting, subject to the limit of 4 items per agenda and acknowledging a special meeting can be arranged if necessary;
- (v) Scrutiny Leadership Group recommend whether referrals of individual Ombudsman reports from Standards Committee should be referred to scrutiny committee (and if so which committee);
- (vi) a list of stakeholders and external witnesses be developed for each scrutiny committee (maintained and agreed by Scrutiny Leadership Group). These can be called upon for specific agenda items to give evidence;
- (vii) an expert witness protocol be developed to ensure that witnesses are fully briefed and, in accordance with good practice, to ensure that evidence provided to the scrutiny committee is balanced and fair;
- (viii) information items be removed from scrutiny committee agendas and instead be placed on the Members Portal in consultation with Democratic Services Committee;
- (ix) a prioritisation matrix be developed for requests for reports from Members and the public;
- (x) comments from the workshops about report content be fed back to the relevant Directors. The quality of reports will be reviewed and monitored by Scrutiny Leadership Group for 6 months from the implementation of the new arrangements;
- (xi) a protocol be developed for Task and Finish Groups and agreed by Democratic Services Committee, with a limit of two Task and Finish Groups to run at a time, to ensure that the burden on limited resources is managed appropriately;
- (xii) the members training programme be further developed to incorporate relevant comments from the workshops including developing Cabinet Members' roles and be monitored by the Democratic Services Committee and Cabinet Member with responsibility for HR, Governance and Business;
- (xiii) guidance on the format and content of the Cabinet Members written statement be developed. A new protocol will be developed to provide that the statement is shared ahead of the relevant meeting with scrutiny committee members and placed on the Members Portal, in advance of the scrutiny meeting. The protocol will give advice on the type of information to be included in the statement;
- (xiv) good practice for pre-meetings be shared amongst Scrutiny Leadership Group including peer observations;
- (xv) the possibility of joint scrutiny committees be explored and the minutes of joint

committees and other information about relevant outside bodies be published on the Members Portal;

- (xvi) a dedicated performance management meeting be held for each scrutiny committee once per annum;
- (xvii) the protocol for External Audit, Inspection and Regulatory Bodies interface with scrutiny be presented to Council for consideration and adoption once it is completed;
- (xxiii) the terms of reference and membership of the Scrutiny Leadership Group be reviewed to take into account any changes required as a result of the scrutiny review;
- (xix) a self-evaluation of scrutiny arrangements be carried out within 12 months of the changes being agreed;
- (xx) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the constitution in line with the above recommendations.

14. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON DRAFT DIRECTIONS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

Consideration was given to the report, which detailed the proposals contained in the Welsh Government Draft Directions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales (LGBC) consultation report and sought Members views to enable the Council to respond to the consultation exercise. The LGBC report, which was appended to the agenda papers, proposes changes to the total number of county borough councillors to be elected at future elections.

The WLGA are currently preparing a response to the LGBC consultation report and early feedback suggests that in addition to the issues of the potential size of some new wards and the number of councillors in some councils, there is a particular concern about the implication of the Direction stating that new wards should be based on a grouping of 2 or more existing wards. This proposed grouping presents a number of challenges, as some existing wards may already have the appropriate 1:4,000 ratio, but the Direction appears to preclude them from continuing in their current form.

Merging 2 or more existing wards will mean it will be difficult for LGBC to achieve its main statutory aim (as per the current Local Government Bill) of achieving consistency/parity of councillor: elector ratios across a new principal council area. Merging 2 or more existing wards in an arbitrary approach may run counter to the main direction that LGBC should follow which is to take into account the 'particular characteristics of an area' when creating new wards.

Members' attention was directed to information from the WLGA contained in the report, which showed the current and proposed Councillor numbers across merging Local Authorities in South-East Wales. The proposal would give the current Caerphilly County Borough Council area approximately 32 Councillors for 132,157 electors, which is a substantial reduction from the current 73 Members, and some of the challenges outlined in respect of the proposed grouping of 2 or more wards would apply in this area.

Officers outlined the challenging timescale for the mergers and initial reviews as set out in the report. Following consideration of any consultation responses, which also allow for the submission of individual responses from Members, Welsh Government will issue the Directions.

Members expressed concern at the proposals to decrease Councillor numbers across the county borough and outlined the difficulties in properly representing a ward of increased population size. It was noted that the timetable for the mergers and initial reviews as set out in the report could be subject to change.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED for the reasons set in the report, the ongoing Welsh Government Draft Directions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales consultation be noted.

15. CITY DEAL – CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION

The report advised Members of the latest developments in the emerging “City Deal” for the Cardiff Capital region and the 10 local authorities in the south-east Wales region.

Members were reminded of a presentation made to Council in March 2015 regarding the Cardiff Capital Region. It is anticipated that the future shape of this project, together with the the Board which oversees the project, will be the subject of a Ministerial announcement in the near future. This project was initiated by the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport to develop plans for a City Region approach to economic development and regeneration in South East Wales. Similar approaches have been undertaken in the Swansea City Region and North Wales.

More recently, plans have been under development for a ‘City Deal’ covering the 10 local authorities in the South East Wales region. Though separate to the Capital Region Board project, this is a related initiative as a means to give effect to and implement some of the vision developed by the Board. It will be important that the two operate in tandem.

All 10 authorities have been participating in the development of this City Deal which promises to be an exciting opportunity to drive development, economic growth and job creation at a faster pace than that seen for a long time. There have been a number of similar ‘City Deal’ initiatives in England and one to date in Scotland. It would be a tripartite agreement between the 10 local authorities, UK Government and Welsh Government to collaborate on investment in infrastructure, business development skills, training and related areas over a 10 – 15 year period. Officers explained that full details of the City Deal have yet to be confirmed but further progress reports will be brought back to Council pending further developments.

Members welcomed news of the latest development and outlined the many positive benefits that the project could bring to the county borough. A need for funding to be allocated proportionally to local authorities was expressed by Members, together with a call for investment to be centred on the development of local communities. A number of Members urged a cautious approach to the proposals and expressed concerns that the development of transport links into major city centres might have a detrimental impact on the local economy in terms of tourism and everyday spending.

Officers explained that the development was still in the very early stages and referenced a number of successful City Deals set up throughout the UK. The key challenges, the processes involved and the options to be considered in the development of the project were outlined to Members. These will become clearer once discussions over priorities and funding between UK, Welsh and local government develop and mature throughout 2015 and into 2016.

It was also confirmed that to date, the Council has contributed towards the initial planning and preparation of the emerging City Deal proposal. No other formal commitment of funds is

required at this time, and any further financial contribution from the Authority will be the subject of further reports before any firm commitment is made.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be endorsed. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons set out in the report:-

- (i) the progress to date and future plans for developing the City Deal be noted;
- (ii) the Council's willingness to develop this concept be confirmed, subject to further reports at an appropriate time as to any additional funding implications and the type of investment likely to be generated.

16. QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

There were no questions submitted under Rule of Procedure 10(2).

The meeting closed at 6.58 pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2015, they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR