



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Bevan - Mayor
Councillor M. Adams - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Mrs E. Aldworth, C. Andrews, A. Angel, C. Bezzina, L. Binding, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, W. David, D.T. Davies, K. Dawson, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina Childs, Mrs C. Forehead, Ms E. Forehead, A. Gair, Ms J. Gale, N. George, C. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.T. Hardacre, L. Harding, D. Harse, A. Higgs, A. Hussey, M. James, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, Mrs B. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, Mrs A. Leonard, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, Mrs P. Marsden, B. Miles, S. Morgan, Mrs G. Oliver, B. Owen, T. Parry, Mrs L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, J. Pritchard, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L G. Whittle, T. Williams, W. Williams, B. Zaplatynski

Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), C. HARRY (Corporate Director – Communities), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer), D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), T. Stephens (Development Control Manager), R. Kyte (Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning), D. Lucas (Principal Planner), R. Roberts (Performance Manager) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

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 P.J. Bevan, A. Collis, M. Davies, J.E. Fussell, D. Havard, V. James, D.W.R. Preece, Mrs D. Price and J. Ridgewell.

3. BEREAVEMENT

The Mayor referred to the recent passing of Blackwood Community Councillor Jim Criddle. All present stood in silence as a mark of respect to the former County Councillor and extended their condolences to the bereaved family.

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, including a visit to Penallta RFC to meet rugby players and officials, and two civic service receptions in neighbouring local authorities. The Mayor spoke of his pleasure at attending several milestone wedding anniversary and birthday commemorations and thanked the Deputy Mayor for his continued support in carrying out these engagements.

5. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Welsh Heart Health Professional of the Year Award - British Heart Foundation

Members were informed that Michelle Johnson from Engineering Services has recently received the Welsh Heart Health Professional of the Year Award from the British Heart Foundation in recognition of her drive and commitment in helping to improve the lives of heart patients and their families.

In 2013, Michelle suffered terrible injuries in a serious car crash and spent months recovering in hospital and at home with the assistance of doctors, nurses and community resource teams. Following her long recovery Michelle wanted to give something back to the NHS and, with her background in fitness, approached the Cardiac Rehabilitation Team at the University Hospital of Wales to volunteer and help with cardiac patients. Michelle now works with the NHS two evenings per week as part of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Team, helping the patients on their road to recovery through the Phase III Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme, and has also achieved a Level 4 Exercise Instructor qualification to support her role.

Michelle has continued her community support by organising fundraising events and has raised over £5,000 to date, which has been used to buy lifesaving defibrillators for her local primary and secondary schools, football clubs and libraries.

Although Michelle was unable to attend the presentation in person, Members were very pleased to hear the details of her impressive work with cardiac patients and congratulated her on achieving this prestigious award.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Gail Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer) declared an interest in a petition being presented to Council (Proposed Housing Development, Grove Park) as she resides in this area. In that there was no debate on this item, she remained in the Chamber during presentation of the petition to Council.

7. PETITIONS

The Mayor received the following petitions presented by Members on behalf of local residents and indicated they would be referred to the appropriate directorate for attention:

- (i) Road Surface - Caldicot Close, Grove Park, Blackwood - Cllr K. Etheridge;
- (ii) Proposed Housing Development, Grove Park – Cllr K. Etheridge;
- (iii) Lighting of Colliers Lane leading to Courtabella House, Argoed – Cllr W. Williams.

8. COUNCIL – 25TH JULY 2017

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

Council held on 25th July 2017 (minute nos. 1-11).

9. SPECIAL COUNCIL – 31ST JULY 2017

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

Special Council held on 31st July 2017 (minute nos. 1-6).

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following report referred from Cabinet.

10. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016/17

Cabinet considered this report on 4th October 2017 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. The report must also show how the Council performed against the Well-being Objectives it set itself for 2016/17 and how it performed against its eight priorities which ran from 2013 to 2017 and have now come to the end of their published timeframe.

Members noted that 2 of the 5 Well-being Objectives set by the Authority for 2016/17 have been successful and 3 have been partly successful. Overall, there is a mixed picture of performance across the Local Authority and against national data, with some areas performing exceptionally well against national indicators and others in need of further improvement. Caerphilly saw 16 indicators improve upon their 2015/16 results and 6 indicators decline in performance compared to the 2015/16 result. Details of the reasons for performance of the individual indicators, together with details of the Council's performance in relation to Wales across all 31 indicators were appended to the Annual Performance Report.

Discussion took place regarding several of the performance indicators outlined in the report and their respective all-Wales ranking. Members expressed a need to improve performance across Education and utilise intervention strategies where required (particularly in relation to Key Stage 4) and sought details of intended improvements for lower-performing areas. Reference was also made to an underspend within the Education Directorate. Members were pleased to note the continued high performance across performance indicators relating to special education needs and requested that their thanks to staff be placed on record.

The Interim Chief Executive reminded Members that the data relates to the previous school year but acknowledged the need for improvement across Key Stage 4 performance. It was explained that additional financing has been allocated to schools for a range of provisions such as special classes to enhance English and Mathematics learning, which have been positively received by schools. Members were advised that the Council continues to work in partnership with the Education Achievement Service (EAS) and headteachers in regards to improving school performance, and were also reminded of the continued capital investment in schools via the 21st Century Schools Programme.

A Member highlighted the Council's low ranking regarding the percentage of pupils leaving education without an approved qualification. The Interim Chief Executive referred to the challenging personal circumstances of some learners and explained that a continuing priority for the Council is to reduce the gap in attainment between pupils in advantaged and disadvantaged communities and ensure that all pupils are given the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential.

Reference was made to a drop in performance against the Council's Corporate Priority in respect of Social Care needs. It was explained that the situation is being monitored but that the Council is experiencing an increase in complex cases which are having an impact on the overall demographic, which were outlined further in the Annual Report from the Director of Social Services being presented to Council later that evening.

A Member referred to the performance data for Caerphilly Homes and queried the continued high level of vacancies within the private rented sector. It was confirmed that this information would be provided to the Member following the meeting. Reference was also made to issues raised by local residents arising from the recent implementation of new recycling measures. Officers reiterated the need for these measures in order to reduce the level of contaminated recycling and explained that the targeted approach undertaken by the Authority has led to the new procedure being successfully adopted by the majority of residents.

Discussion took place regarding the Council's progress in respect of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, including the South Wales Metro transport scheme and other investments, and the potential benefits these could bring to the county borough. It was explained that a Business Plan is being developed which will examine potential projects across the county borough. These will be discussed at a future Members' seminar before being presented to Council for consideration.

Members thanked the Officer for the comprehensive 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 contained in the report, the Annual Performance Report 2016/17 as appended to the Officer's report be accepted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

11. SCRUTINY REVIEW: SCRUTINY SELF EVALUATION AND PEER REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report, which was presented to the Democratic Services Committee on 28th September 2017. The report detailed the outcome of the scrutiny self-evaluation and the peer review arising from the Scrutiny Review agreed by Council on 5th October 2015.

It was noted that a questionnaire was issued to all Members and senior Officers in November 2016, which used the Outcomes and Characteristics of Effective Scrutiny in Local Government as the basis for its questions. Arrangements for a peer review and to take part in reciprocal peer evaluations were also made with two neighbouring authorities. Having considered the outcome of the self-evaluation and peer review, the Scrutiny Leadership Group recommended to the Democratic Services Committee (and thereafter Council) that a scrutiny self-evaluation exercise is carried out twice per council term in order to provide ongoing feedback and monitoring of scrutiny arrangements.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, a scrutiny self-evaluation questionnaire be carried out twice per council term in order to measure scrutiny performance.

12. ANNUAL LETTER FROM PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES 2016-2017

Consideration was given to the report, which had been presented to the Standards Committee on 28th September 2017. Members were provided with the Annual Letter (2016-2017) from the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales regarding complaints received and investigated by the Ombudsman. The data attached as an appendix to the Annual Letter included a detailed breakdown of complaints received and investigated, and included a new set of statistics regarding Ombudsman interventions (including all cases upheld as well as early resolution and voluntary settlements).

In relation to Caerphilly, the number of complaints received by the Ombudsman was at a similar level to the previous year (56 in 2015/16 compared to 54 in 2016/17). Members noted that the Authority's largest area of complaint is Housing and of the 12 complaints in relation to this area, 6 were made prematurely (i.e. had been referred to the Ombudsman before exhausting the Council's Corporate Complaints Process and 1 complaint was referred out of time). The remaining 5 referrals were not taken into investigation. Practically it is not possible to prevent premature referrals to the Ombudsman. The Council's Complaints Policy is available via the Council's website and a hard copy booklet is readily available to the public.

The Annual Letter also referred to a significant drop in Children's Social Services complaints this year from 9 to 3, with no upheld complaints and only 7% of cases requiring Ombudsman intervention (the second lowest of any local authority). Members also noted that overall 14 premature complaints were received by the Ombudsman, which is slightly less than the Local Authority average of 15. There were 4 early resolutions/interventions by the Ombudsman (3 Social Services complaints and 1 in relation to waste collection).

Reference was made to the Code of Conduct complaints for elected Members within Section E of the Annual Letter, with 7 code of conduct complaints made against Members of Caerphilly County Borough Council during 2016/17. 6 were closed after initial consideration and 1 found no evidence of a breach.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the contents of the Annual Letter as appended to the report be noted.

13. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE ELECTORAL REFORM IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to the report, which sought Council approval for the proposed Caerphilly County Borough Council response to the Welsh Government (WG) consultation document on Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales.

Members were advised that as a result of provisions contained within the Wales Act 2017 coming into force next year, WG is taking the opportunity to review how Assembly and local government elections function in Wales and to explore ways in which it may be possible to promote participation in local government elections. Members were referred to a number of key points from the consultation document which were set out in the report and were asked to endorse the Council's proposed response to the consultation as appended to the report.

Discussion took place regarding votes for 16 and 17 years olds and a Member queried whether WG could be asked to consider providing political education within the school curriculum. It was confirmed that this suggestion could be included in the Council's covering letter to WG. Members debated the merits of Single Transferable Vote versus the first-past-the-post system. Discussion also took place regarding the restrictions placed on council staff in standing for their own local authority. The Interim Chief Executive confirmed that Council employees wishing to stand for election have been accommodated if they make a request to resign and be re-employed if unsuccessful at election.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. An amendment to the report recommendation was moved and seconded that the Council support a change to the Single Transferable Vote (STV) within their response to the consultation on electoral reform (in place of the retention of the first-past-the-post system).

A vote on the amendment was taken first, and by a show of hands, this was rejected by the majority present. A vote was then taken on the substantive motion, and by a show of hands (and in noting that there were 17 against) this was approved by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the response to the consultation on electoral reform in local government in Wales as appended to the report be endorsed.

14. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2016/17

The report detailed the key messages that had been identified in the preparation of the Annual Report for the Director of Social Services for 2016/17, and sought Council's endorsement of its content, prior to submission to the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW).

Members noted that this is the eighth such report for the Directorate and that in line with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) a new report format was formally adopted this year to be compliant with the Act. This has given staff an opportunity to determine the areas in which the appropriate information is at hand and where information gathering needs to be developed in readiness for 2017-18. It also allows the Council the opportunity to benchmark performance in order to provide a meaningful comparison in future years.

Members noted that the report places a significant emphasis on well-being and highlights some of the priorities for 2017-18. Progress against these priorities will be a significant part of the annual report for 2017-18. The report highlights the increasing pressure on social care services in the county borough, both from a financial perspective and in terms of the complexity of need. This has been demonstrated within the report by the level of growth required over the past four years and the increasing challenge of coming within budget,

especially in regards to significant demographic pressures within Adults Services and Children's Services during 2016/17. It was explained that the draft report had been submitted to CSSIW and the comments received were positive, and that subject to Council endorsement, the report would be made available to members of the public, partners and stakeholders.

During the course of the debate, Members thanked the Corporate Director of Social Services for the comprehensive report and placed on record their appreciation to staff for the professional way in which they carry out their duties.

A Member referred to the percentage of looked after children achieving the core subject indicator at Key Stage 4 (15.49%) and queried how this compares to previous years and across Wales. The Corporate Director of Social Services explained that due to the new measures, the Council has little comparable information from previous years to benchmark performance. However, the result is not untypical of other authorities across Wales and the Authority continues to face challenges regarding the educational attainment of looked after children. A query was received regarding the low percentage of children seen by a dentist within 3 months of becoming looked after (43.86%). It was explained that this is due to the need to find a suitable dentist for the child and also because of the short reporting timeframe against this performance measure.

A Member suggested that it would be useful for the summary of performance to show the numbers of people included against each performance measure, in addition to the percentage. A query was also received in respect of social care providers and whether savings could be made by bringing these services in-house. Officers explained that generally the cost difference is narrowing due to legislative changes such as National Minimum Wage but that the Council continues to monitor the financial landscape within this area.

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

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the contents of the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2016/17 be endorsed.

15. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UP TO 2021 – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2017 (INCLUDING THE 3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY REPORT)

Consideration was given to the report, which outlined the findings of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2017 Annual Monitoring Report and the implications of the recommendations contained therein.

This is the sixth Annual Monitoring report (AMR) to be prepared for the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) up to 2021 which monitors the period from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. The Council is required to submit the 2017 AMR (including the 3rd Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report) to Welsh Government (WG) by 31st October 2017 in order to satisfy the Council's statutory requirements.

The 2017 Report concluded and recommended that substantial progress should continue to be made in the delivery of the majority of the Adopted Development Plan, that Council continue to seek the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region, and that Council continue to address the shortfall in the five year housing land supply through proactive action. The AMR 2017 also recommended that a further report be presented to Council, following consideration of the SDP by the Regional Cabinet, to consider the Council's approach to the need to review the LDP. Further details of the findings and recommendations were detailed in the Officer's report

Members were reminded of the decision of Council on 19th July 2016 to withdraw the Deposit Replacement LDP and were advised of the strengthening pressures on the Council to commence work on a Replacement LDP. These include a statutory requirement to move to review after four years, the passage of time since the 2013 AMR identified the need to prepare a new plan, the increasing risk that the county borough will not have development plan coverage post 2021, the urgent need to increase the housing land supply, and the likelihood of further unplanned development being allowed on appeal in the short term. It was noted that since the withdrawal of the Deposit Replacement LDP, Officers have continued to lobby WG regarding TAN 1, which sets out the methodology behind the calculations behind the 5 year housing land supply. WG have recently indicated that they are minded to review TAN 1 as part of discussions regarding the development of the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital City Region.

It was explained that an options report in respect of the Strategic Development Plan is expected to be considered by the City Region Joint Cabinet (Regional Cabinet) before the end of the year, when a formal decision in respect of the preparation (or otherwise) of the SDP will be made. Following the decision, a further report will be presented to Council to either outline the preparation process for the SDP, if approved, or to consider options in respect of reviewing the Adopted LDP if the decision is taken not to pursue a SDP.

Members noted that during the monitoring period a total of £228,330.49 was received in CIL receipts. In accordance with the CIL Regulations a total of £30,820.36 was passed to 8 Community Councils (Local Councils). The remaining revenue will be used to assist in funding appropriate infrastructure.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. An additional recommendation was proposed and seconded that the Council write to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs to urge Welsh Government to place a moratorium on TAN 1. The mover of the motion agreed to incorporate this additional recommendation within his motion.

Discussion then ensued on the content of the report and Members referred to the pressures placed on the Council, and in particular the Planning Committee, which have arisen from the lack of a 5-year land supply and have led to 3 successful appeals from housing developers in recent months. Members raised concerns that future housing development in the Caerphilly basin will place further pressure on the surrounding travel infrastructure and lead to an increase in pollution levels, and spoke of the need to develop affordable housing and regenerate northern valley areas. A Member referred to the number of residents in employment as identified in the data for the 2017 AMR and expressed a need to ensure that residents have access to a good standard of employment to protect their quality of life. Members also spoke of the availability of brownfield sites and in particular the need to incentivise brownfield development. Officers confirmed that this issue has been highlighted to Welsh Government who are examining the way forward on this matter.

A Member sought clarification on the work being carried out by the Council since the withdrawal of the Deposit Replacement LDP and also queried the Council's position regarding planning applications pending approval or otherwise of the SDP. Officers explained that although the Deposit Replacement LDP had been withdrawn, the Adopted LDP remains in place which sets out the Council's land use policies and proposals to control development in the county borough. It was confirmed that Officers are continuing to gather supporting evidence in readiness for the decision regarding the SDP. Queries were received as to whether the Council could curtail major developments pending a decision on the SDP and the nature of TAN 1 and whether greenfield sites are included in the consideration of applications on planning merits. It was explained that each application has to be considered on its own merits in accordance with local and national planning policy and guidance, which is also applicable to greenfield sites. Officers also responded to queries in respect of CIL revenue collection and distribution and outlined the process by which this is carried out.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report (including the additional recommendation) be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

- (i) the findings of the 2017 Annual Monitoring Report and the implications of the recommendations contained therein be noted;
- (ii) the 2017 Annual Monitoring Report (Including the 3rd Annual CIL Report) be submitted to Welsh Government before the deadline of 31st October 2017;
- (iii) Council write to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs to urge Welsh Government to place a moratorium on TAN 1 (i.e. the method upon which the 5 year housing land supply is calculated).

16. AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION – CHANGES TO PROTOCOL FOR WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Consideration was given to the report, which sought Members' approval of a minor change to the Council's Constitution in respect of the Protocol for Webcasting of Council Meetings set out in Part 5 – Codes and Protocols and for the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer to incorporate the changes.

Members were advised that the Council Agenda now includes a statement confirming that the use of the Welsh language is welcome at the meeting, subject to a minimum notice period of 3 working days. It was explained that a minor amendment was required to the Webcasting Protocol (which stated that at least a 5 day notice period is required). In order to regularise the position it was proposed that the Webcasting Protocol be amended to refer to a 3 working day period to provide consistency with the information provided in the Agenda.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations 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 contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution as set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report be approved;
- (iii) the interim Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to make the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution.

17. QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

Consideration was given to the following Question under Rule of Procedure 10(2). In accordance with the revisions to the constitution, the answer is also provided.

BLACKWOOD HIGH STREET - TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY FROM COUNCILLOR K. ETHERIDGE

To ask the Cabinet Member how much money has been paid out in claims in Blackwood High Street over the last 2 years to residents; motorists.

To ask the Cabinet Member in view of the obstructive and illegal parking on Blackwood High Street and the many hundreds of paving stones cracked in the interests of best value and pedestrian safety would it not be effective to consider partial railings to stop these constant obstructions, and what is the detailed policy of the Council as I understand the police have not got the resources to deal with these matters.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR S. MORGAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

There have been no claims paid out over the last 2 years in relation to Blackwood High Street. However, there are 6 claims currently pending. Of those claims 4 are related to the footway, 1 carriageway and 1 related to a wheelie bin being set on fire. The current estimated value of those pending claims are £28,661. Please note that the pending value is in no way an indication that any payment will be made. The authority has wholly appropriate inspection and maintenance regimes in place and these claims will be defended. The authorities record of defending such claims is very good.

I agree that there has been an increase of vehicles parking on footways, which are causing damage to the paving slabs and could cause a danger to the general public. This has occurred since the removal of the barriers and the discontinuation of Traffic Wardens in approximately 2012. I can also confirm that the Police are either unwilling or under resourced to take action against drivers that are disregarding the various parking orders.

Officers have looked at various options that could be applied like the installation of bollards or reinstatement of railings, which will obviously restrict the opportunity for vehicles to mount the footway. However, it has been the Councils position for a number of years to remove 'street clutter' and promote the use of a 'shared space', hopefully making the environment more pleasing from an aesthetics point of view. I believe if the enforcement was undertaken the need for bollards and/or railings would not be required.

Unfortunately it is the police who currently hold the powers to deal with illegal parking. I can confirm that discussions are currently ongoing in relation to the authority considering taking on the relevant powers under Civil Parking Enforcement. However, due to the timeframes involved to gain Cabinet and WG approval to transfer the powers once the business case has been finalised, this is well over a year away.

In an effort to reduce damage by the vehicles mounting the kerbs, there are considerations being made to trial imprinting of 6mm tarmac to mimic cobbles, pavements and slabs (various designs and colours available) to improve durability and hopefully reduce maintenance costs. Meetings have been undertaken with various suppliers and Officers are awaiting costs before making a decision on whether this option provides value for money. However, we do appreciate that this is not the answer to the problem and that enforcement is needed to prevent all illegal parking in the town.

The meeting closed at 7.08 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2017, they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR