



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON 7TH MARCH 2017 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs D. Price - Mayor
Councillor J. Bevan - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Miss L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, Mrs K.R. Baker, .J. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs A. Blackman, D. Bolter, Mrs. P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, W. David, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, K. Dawson, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, Mrs C. Forehead, Miss E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Mrs J. Gale, N. George, C.J. Gordon, D.T. Hardacre, L. Harding, D. Harse, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, K. James, M.P. James, Mrs B.A. Jones, Ms J.G. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, Mrs A. Leonard, Ms P. Leonard, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, Mrs P. Marsden, S. Morgan, Mrs. G. Oliver, Mrs L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees, D. Rees, J.E. Roberts, R. Saralis, Mrs M.E. Sargent, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, J. Taylor, L.G. Whittle, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), C. Harry (Corporate Director - Communities), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), L. Donovan (Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director - Children's Services), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Also in attendance Philip Diamond (Gwent Transformation Team) and Caryn Cox (Public Health Wales)

1. **WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS**

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

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.P. Angel, D.G. Carter, H.W. David, L. Gardiner, R.W. Gough, Mrs P. Griffiths, G.J. Hughes, G. Johnston, K.V. Reynolds, Mrs E. Stenner and Mrs J. Summers.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits that she and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting and made specific reference to the visit of the Duchess of Cambridge and the charity concert held at the Central Methodist Church, Blackwood on 24th February 2017. She advised that Van Community Councillor Eileen Macey was currently unwell and that she had visited her in hospital.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Clarification was sought on the requirement for certain members to declare an interest in the report relating to the Internal Investigation of Senior Officers - Additional Financial Provision. The Interim Head of Legal Service explained that as the report was seeking approval for an additional financial provision for legal costs (and did not address the investigation itself) there was no requirement for Members to declare a prejudicial interest and leave the meeting on that basis. It was however a matter for the individual Member as to whether they wished to declare a personal and/or prejudicial interest.

Councillors N. George, C. Gordon, S. Morgan, J. Pritchard and J. Taylor declared an interest in this item. Details are minuted with the respective item.

A further declaration of interest was received from Councillor Mrs Blackman during the course of the debate on this item and is minuted accordingly.

5. COUNCIL - 24TH JANUARY 2017

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

Council held on 24th January 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 8 on page nos. 1 - 4).

6. SPECIAL COUNCIL - 31ST JANUARY 2017

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

Special Council held on 31st January 2017 (minute nos. 9 - 15 on page nos. 9 - 15).

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following reports referred from Cabinet.

7. WELL BEING OBJECTIVES 2017/18

Cabinet considered this report on 1st March 2016 and in endorsing its content recommended its acceptance by Council.

The Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of priorities called Improvement Objectives as soon as is 'practicably possible' in the new financial year, however the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 also places a legal requirement for public bodies to set and publish 'Well-being

Objectives' and publish by a specific date of no later than 31 March 2017.

As there is a cross over between the two pieces of legislation, local authorities are treating the two requirements as one outcome, to publish one set of Well-being Objectives by the 31 March 2017. The Wales Audit Office and Welsh Local Government Association have endorsed this approach.

A query was raised in relation to carbon management - reducing our footprint and as to whether, in accordance with Road Traffic Regulations, there had been any prosecution of drivers who allow their engines to run when they are stationary. In that the information was not to hand, the Member would be advised in due course.

In view of the progress of the WHQS programme, clarification was sought on the Objective 5 - Investment in Council homes to transform lives and community. It was explained that the objective should be seen in the wider sense as a catalyst to transform lives socially, economically and environmentally with an involved, integrated and collaborative approach to the delivery of the programme.

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

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the current Well-being Objectives and Well-being Statement be approved and further reviewed by the new administration after the local government elections.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT

At this point it was announced that difficulties were being experienced with the camera angles and as such those viewing on line would be able to hear the debate but not view the Members in the well of the Chamber who were speaking.

REPORT REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the report referred from the Health, Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee.

9. SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING ACT (2014) REGIONAL POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Philip Diamond (Gwent Transformation Team) and Caryn Cox (Public Health Wales) were in attendance for this item.

With the aid of a slide presentation, Phil Diamond referred to the joint duty on the 5 local authorities and Aneurin Bevan Health Board to produce a Draft Regional Population Needs Assessment Report (PNA) which has to be agreed and signed off by all parties by 31st March 2017. The first area plans must be published by 1st April 2018.

He explained that the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities and Health Boards to prepare a regional population needs assessment in relation to people requiring care and support. A draft PNA has been jointly developed across the region (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen) by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and the Gwent Transformation Team and sets out the common priorities across the region and suggested actions. The Act requires local authorities and local health boards to jointly carry out an assessment of the needs for care

and support, and the support needs of carers in the local authority areas. The care and support is in relation to people known to Social Services and recognition is also required for the large number of people who are supported through preventative services.

It was noted that a PNA must include and reference health social care priorities for the electoral cycle (3-5 years), commissioning priorities, health and social care integration (Integrated Family Support Team and children with complex needs including disabilities), pooled funds (Family Support Functions), the discharge of preventative services Part 2, information advice assistance needs and social enterprises. It must also include specific core themes dealing with children and young people, older people, health/physical disabilities, learning disability/autism, mental health, sensory impairment, carers who need support; and violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Mr Diamond advised of the ongoing process and of the requirement for a more detailed analysis and mapping of services to develop an action plan and confirmed that Officers will continue to engage with all parties to in order to achieve this.

The draft PNA presented comprises of the assessment of need and the range and level of services required and sets out the common priorities across the region with suggested actions and is based on the views of citizens, providers and the third sector. It contains proposals for regional/joint commissioning, a 'Care Closer to Home' partnership approach, early intervention and health and social care integration.

Mr Diamond provided an overview of the research and engagement process into the assessment of need (Section 1 of the draft report), the emerging priorities that have been identified and the range and level of service required going forward (Section 2 of the draft report). He advised that the data presents successes and challenges and going forward the opportunity to develop Dementia Friendly Communities, preventative working, multi-agency assessments and an outcome framework and community connectors through social capital and volunteering.

He advised that the PNA will need to link to the Wellbeing Assessment required under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Wales Act 2015. Although the definition of wellbeing is slightly different in each Act, Officers have been working closely to align the development of respective population assessments to avoid duplication and identify areas of synergy and joint working.

Members were pleased to note from the report that the PNA has been developed through extensive engagement with the recognised partnerships as well as local groups such as the Youth Forum, Older People's Forums, Carers Groups and Parenting Networks and that there will be further engagement going forward. They also welcomed the opportunity for collaborative working and queried the governance arrangements and accountability as the plan progresses. Mr Diamond advised that there is a statutory duty under the Act for each region to form a Regional Partnership Board (between the Local Authorities and Health Board in the region). The Board will include elected Member leads for Social Services and ABUHB members, as well as Directors of Social Services and ABUHB Chief Executive Officers and will act as a joint committee to oversee the PNA process. Further reports will be provided in relation to the governance arrangements as the project develops.

Members considered the challenges that face an ageing population and how the region will need to look at new ways of working and queried as to whether there will be additional finance being made available for this purpose. It was explained that it is expected that it will be cost neutral and as such there is a need to look at financial solutions within existing budgets. An example was given of the low cost scheme 'colour my zimmer' which has resulted in fewer falls being reported.

In closing Mr Diamond thanked the Members for their contribution and advised them that consultation will continue on the first area plans which must be published by 1st April 2018.

Members thanked Philip Diamond and Caryn Cox for the informative presentation and for responding to queries raised during the course of the debate

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation from the Health, Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report and explained at the meeting, the priorities and suggested actions contained within the draft Regional Population Needs Assessment be supported.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

10. LICENSING AND GAMBLING/REGISTRATION/PERMIT FEES - 2017/18

The Licensing and Gambling Committee considered this report on 2nd March 2017, and, in endorsing its content, recommended its acceptance by Council.

Members were advised that the Authority has a statutory duty to administer certain licenses, registrations and permits. The review of fees charged involves consideration of the cost to the Authority in providing the service. Some fees are set centrally by government, some permits for matters such as street collections are free of charge, and the remaining fees can be determined locally in order to recover the cost of providing that particular service. Charges must be reasonable and proportionate to the cost of the processes associated with the licensing regime.

A fee calculator toolkit, devised by the All-Wales Licensing Expert Panel, has been used to determine fees and in considering the proposal, Members were asked to note the level of fees charged in connection with the Licensing Act 2003 (as set out in Appendix 3 of the report), the fees for the majority of gambling permits and associated charges in connection with the Gambling Act 2005 (as set out in Appendix 2 of the report) and the proposed premises licence fees for 2017/18 (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report) .

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations from the Licensing and Gambling Committee be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) the level of fees charged in connection with the Licensing Act 2003 (as set out in Appendix 3 of the report) and for the majority of gambling permits and associated charges (as set out in Appendix 2 of the report) be noted;
- (ii) the reduced level of premises licence fees proposed under the Gambling Act 2005 for 2017/18 (as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report) be implemented with effect from 1st April 2017;
- (iii) the fee for Temporary Use Notices (as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report) remains at the existing level.

11. GENERAL LICENSING/REGISTRATION/PERMIT FEES – 2017/18

The Taxi and General Committee considered this report on 2nd March 2017 and, in endorsing its content, and supporting a proposal to introduce the increase for street trading licenses on a phased approach with the fee being increased incrementally over three years (Option 2), recommended its acceptance by Council.

Members were advised that the Authority has a statutory duty to administer certain licenses, registrations and permits. The review of fees charged involves consideration of the cost to the Authority in providing the service. Some fees are set centrally by government, some permits for matters such as street collections are free of charge, and the remaining fees can be determined locally in order to recover the cost of providing that particular service. Charges must be reasonable and proportionate to the cost of the processes associated with the licensing regime.

A fee calculator toolkit, devised by the All-Wales Licensing Expert Panel, has been used to determine fees and in considering the proposal. Members were asked to note the details of the existing fees and the proposed fees (as set out at Appendix 1 of the report) and to consider the recommendation of the Taxi and General Committee to introduce the increase on a phased approach and increase the fee incrementally over three years.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations from the Taxi and General Committee be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:

- (i) the level of fees proposed for 2017/18 (as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report) be implemented with effect from 1st April 2017;
- (ii) the street trading renewal fee be increased over a three-year period (Option 2), to £560 in 2017/18, £617 in 2018/19 and £674 in 2019/20;
- (iii) Marriage Act fees remain at the existing level (as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report) and the premises approval period be increased from three years to five years.

12. PUBLICATION OF PAY POLICY STATEMENT - LOCALISM ACT 2011

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the publication of the Authority's Pay Policy. Members were advised that the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to develop and make public their Pay Policy. This includes all aspects of Chief Officer Remuneration (including on ceasing to hold office), and also in relation to the "lowest paid" in the Council, explaining their Policy on the relationship between remuneration for Chief Officers and other groups.

The Pay Policy Statement appended to the report contains the full details of the remuneration position for the Council that it is required to publish under the legislation. Members were reminded of the legislative requirement for the Pay Policy to be published on an annual basis, and therefore by 31st March 2017 for this financial year. The Public Services Staff Commission in Wales have recently (December 2016) produced observations and advice to Welsh Government in respect of the Transparency of Senior Pay in the Devolved Public Sector. The Welsh Government response to this work is awaited and as such, the attached Pay Policy follows existing guidance.

During the course of the debate, a query was raised in relation to changes in regulation in that with effect from 1 April 2017, all Youth and Youth Support Workers employed by Local Authorities, schools, colleges schools and the voluntary sector will need to be registered with the Education Workforce Council (EWC). It was noted that the Council currently pays the cost of registration with a specific registration body if there is a requirement to be registered in order to practice. This is paid for from the budget for the Youth Service and is not being reimbursed by Welsh Government.

A query was raised in relation to school based staff and it was confirmed that the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 which relate to Pay Policy statements only apply to employees directly appointed and managed by the Council. Employees who are appointed and managed by school head teachers/Governing Bodies are not required to be included within the scope of Pay Policy statements.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands (and in noting that there were 12 against and 5 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report the Pay Policy Statement (Version 6) be approved and published on the Council's website.

13. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the proposed response to the Welsh Government White Paper: 'Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed' and deliberation on the response as it relates to Chapter 7 on elections and voting (consultation question 28).

Members were advised that within the White Paper Welsh Government identify a need for reform, supported by greater regional working, building on the majority of the proposals previously consulted upon and state that they wish to develop a more equal partnership with citizens. As well as setting out arrangements for regional working the White Paper describes a strengthened role for Councils and Councillors, provides a framework for any future voluntary mergers and sets out the role of Community Councils. It also outlines initial steps for financial reform.

It was confirm that discussions have been held with the political leaders on drafting the response (which were reflected in Appendix 1 of the report) and noted that Political Groups and individual Members are able to respond separately to the consultation which closes on 11th April 2017.

In noting the proposed responses as detailed in the report, specific reference was made to the views being sought on the proposals to allow local authorities to choose their own voting system (first past the post or Single Transferable Vote (STV)) and to reduce the voting age to 16 for local government elections.

After due debate, it was moved and seconded that subject to the addition of the following as it relates to Chapter 7 on elections and voting (consultation question 28), the proposed consultation responses as detail in the report be approved.

1. The retention of the first past the post voting system be supported.
2. The proposal to reduce the voting age to 16 for local government elections be supported

An amendment was moved and seconded that the Single Transferable Vote be supported.

A further amendment was moved and seconded that the proposals to allow local authorities to choose their own voting system (first past the post or Single Transferable Vote) should not be accepted, and all local authorities should be mandated to use the same voting system.

In accordance with Rules of Procedure the amendment was taken first. By show of hands (and in noting that there were 15 against) this was rejected by the majority present.

The further amendment was then taken. By show of hands (and in noting that there were 17 against) this was rejected by the majority present.

A vote was then taken on the substantive motion. By show of hands (and in noting that there were 15 against and 2 abstentions) this was approved by the majority present.

RESOLVED that subject to the addition of the following as it relates to Chapter 7 on elections and voting (consultation question 28), the proposed consultation response on the Welsh Government White Paper: 'Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed' as detailed in the report be approved and submitted accordingly.

1. The retention of the first past the post voting system be supported.
2. The proposal to reduce the voting age to 16 for local government elections be supported

14. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION – SNOWDON CLOSE FIELDS RISCA

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the outcome of a formal process undertaken by a Barrister acting as an Independent Specialist appointed to consider the merits of an application to register land as a village green referred to as Snowdon Close Fields Risca (as shown edged black on the plan accompanying the report).

It was noted that the Council, in its capacity as Registration Authority, has a duty to dispose of village green applications in accordance with the relevant legislation. In that the Council, in its capacity as land owner raised a positive objection to the application, which gave rise to a direct conflict with its role as Registration Authority, an independent expert was appointed to consider the application for registration.

Members attention was drawn to the plan identifying the area of land the subject of the village green application (appendix 1), the initial advice of Mr Marwick dated 2nd August, 2016 (appendix 2), the final report of Mr Marwick dated 31st October, 2016 (appendix 3) and correspondence from the applicant (appendix 4). It was seen that Mr Marwick had concluded that the use of the land has been "by right" and not "as of right" and as such recommends that the application be rejected.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands (and in noting that there was 1 against and 5 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons set out in the final report of Mr Marwick, which should be read in conjunction with his advice dated 2nd August 2016, the application be rejected.

15. INTERNAL INVESTIGATION OF SENIOR OFFICERS – ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL PROVISION

Councillors N. George, C. Gordon, S. Morgan, J. Pritchard and J. Taylor declared an interest (being members of the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee) and left the Chamber when the application was discussed.

A further declaration of interest was made by Councillor Mrs Blackman during the course of the debate (in view of her enquiries on the subject matter) and as such, she left the Chamber.

The Interim Chief Executive reminded Members that there should be no discussion on the ongoing investigation by the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee.

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval of an additional financial provision to ensure that sufficient funding is set aside to meet costs associated with the ongoing internal investigation of three Senior Officers.

Members were reminded of the current interim arrangements in place within the Authority arising from the ongoing internal investigation. There are revenue budgets established for the posts of Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Legal Services and the postholders currently fulfilling these duties on an interim basis are funded from these revenue budgets.

It was noted that the additional costs associated with the three Senior Officers have been funded from a provision established using General Fund reserves as approved by Council. At its meeting on the 19th July 2016, Council approved a further financial provision of £282k to be funded from General Fund balances to cover the potential salary costs of the three Senior Officers for the period 1st September 2016 to 31st March 2017.

In that the Authority is now progressing internal investigations in accordance with the approved procedures and statutory requirements, over which there is no discretion, it is recommended that a further provision of £123k should be established from General Fund balances to cover the period 1st April 2017 to 30th June 2017. This will ensure that sufficient funding is available to meet the salary costs of the three Senior Officers if the investigation process is not concluded during the first quarter of the 2017/18 financial year.

In addition to the salary costs of the three Senior Officers, legal costs are also being incurred as part of the ongoing investigation process. Due to the specialist nature of the investigation process, the services of external legal advisors have been required. It is proposed that a further provision of £140k should be established from General Fund balances to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet potential legal costs that may be incurred in the event that the internal investigation is not concluded by the 30th June 2017.

Members were advised that the financial provision for the salaries of the three Senior Officers and for legal costs will need to be reviewed again in June 2017 if the investigation process has not been concluded by that time. If matters are concluded prior to the end of June 2017 then any balance on the financial provision will be returned to General Fund balances.

Several members expressed reservations with regards to the statutory process and indicated that they were not able to support the recommendations. It was reiterated that there is no discretion over the approved procedures and statutory requirements of the internal investigation.

Following consideration and discussion, It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved.

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 15.4 (1) a request was made for a recorded vote.

FOR THE MOTION

M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, Mrs P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, K. Dawson, M. Evans, Mrs C. Forehead, Miss E. Forehead, Mrs J. Gale, D.T. Hardacre, L. Harding, D. Harse, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, K. James, Mrs B.A. Jones, Ms J.G. Jones, G. Kirby, Mrs A. Leonard, Mrs P. Leonard, A. Lewis, Mrs G. Oliver, Mrs L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, Mrs D. Price, D. Rees, R. Saralis, J. Simmonds, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt (35)

AGAINST THE MOTION

Ms L. Ackerman, Mrs K.R. Baker, P. Bevan, L. Binding, C. Elsbury, M.P. James, S. Kent, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, M.J. Prew, J.E. Roberts, Mrs M.E. Sargent, S. Skivens (13)

ABSTENTIONS

Councillor D. Bolter, W. David, N. Dix (3)

The motion was declared carried by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report and to ensure that sufficient funding is set aside to meet the potential costs of the ongoing investigation process should matters not be concluded by the 30th June 2017;

- (i) a further financial provision of £123k be funded from General Fund balances to cover the potential salary costs of the three Senior Officers for the period 1st April 2017 to 30th June 2017;
- (ii) an additional financial provision be funded from General Fund balances of £140k to meet potential legal costs to the 30th June 2017.

16. QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

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

Electronic Voting - to the Cabinet Member for Human Resources and Governance from Councillor Mrs Blackman

Under the Council's Standing Orders 15.2 Electronic Voting it states,

'For Meetings of the Full Council in the Council Chamber, voting will be by electronic voting. Should the electronic voting system be unavailable or breakdown, voting will be undertaken by a show of hands as outlined in paragraph 15.4 below. The section then goes on to describe how electronic voting will be undertaken.'

Some time ago Councillors did start to use the Electronic Voting system.

Why has it stopped and, when will it be reintroduced?

It is only right and proper that the electorate can look up how their Ward Members, voted on every issue.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR MRS C. FOREHEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

The electronic voting system had to be replaced when the webcasting system was introduced as it was discovered there were technical and incompatibility issues with the two systems. In order to resolve this it was agreed to replace the voting system and this was trialled at a few Council meetings in order for members to become familiar with the system. It was then decided to use the system at a Full Council meeting.

Unfortunately there were significant issues for Members using this system at the meeting and Members expressed a lack of confidence in the system. Members were therefore advised that the new electronic voting system would not be used as further testing and training on the system was required, decisions would be made by a show of hands.

This was subsequently discussed at Democratic Services Committee where Members sought reassurance that the use of the system would be revisited at a later date following further training for Members. Members were assured that reverting to a show of hands satisfied the test of openness and transparency as this can be clearly seen by the public in attendance.

The intention is to offer further training to all members following the AGM with a view to re-introducing the system, once Members are confident in the accuracy of the voting and in using the system.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2017 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR