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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Helen Morgan
(Tel: 01443 864267 Email: morgah@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 13th April 2016

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Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of **Council** will be held in the **Council Chamber - Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Tuesday, 19th April, 2016** at **5.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

Pages

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Mayor's Announcements.
- 3 Presentation of Awards.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



- 4 Declarations of interest.
Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- 5 Special Council held on 24th February 2016 (minute nos 1 - 8). 1 - 12
- 6 Council held on 8th March 2016 (minute nos 1 - 15). 13 - 22

To receive and consider the following reports: -

- 7 City Deal - Approval of Outline Agreement. 23 - 26
- 8 Amendments to the Council's Constitution. 27 - 28
- 9 Council Tax Resolution 2016/17 - Item H Narrative. 29 - 30
- 10 Contract Arrangements of Interim Chief Executive and Continuation of Internal Management Arrangements. 31 - 34

To receive and to answer questions received under Rule of Procedure 10(2) submitted after the preparation of the agenda.

Circulation:

All Members And Appropriate Officers



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2016 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs D. Price - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

Miss L. Ackerman, M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, Mrs K.R. Baker, J. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs A. Blackman, D.G. Carter, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, W. David, H.R. Davies, D.T. Davies, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, Mrs C. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Mrs J. Gale, N. George, C.J. Gordon, R.W. Gough, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, K. James, G. Johnston, Mrs B.A. Jones, Miss L. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, Mrs R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, M.J. Prew, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, D. Rees, K.V. Reynolds, R. Saralis, J. Simmonds, Mrs E. Stenner, J. Taylor, T.J. Williams, R. Woodyatt

Together with:-

D. Street (Director of Social Services), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services), C. Harry (Corporate Director - Communities), L. Lane (Solicitor), L. Donovan (Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), A. Southcombe (Finance Manager - Corporate Finance), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Director of Social Services 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. BEREAVEMENT

The Deputy Mayor advised that the Interim Chief Executive, Chris Burns, was not present as his brother had recently passed away.

Reference was then made to the recent death of Hengoed born Graham Moore, the man who scored one of the most famous goals in Cardiff City history. At the age of 18 he netted the winner which saw Cardiff promoted to the top-flight of the English game in April 1960 when the Bluebirds beat Aston Villa 1-0 in front of 55,000 fans at Ninian Park. Graham also played for Chelsea and Manchester United before moving on to Charlton and finally Doncaster. During his career he secured 21 caps playing for Wales. Graham Moore - 7th March 1941 to 9th February 2016. Members paid tribute to his achievements.

Members and Officers stood in silence as a mark of respect and extended their condolences to the bereaved families.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H.A. Andrews, A. Angel, P.J. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs. P. Cook, Miss E. Forehead, L. Gardiner, Mrs P. Griffiths, M.P. James, Ms J.G. Jones, Ms P. Leonard, S. Morgan, Mrs G. Oliver, A. Rees, J.E. Roberts, Mrs M.E. Sargent, S. Skivens, Mrs J. Summers and L.G. Whittle.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A number of queries were raised in relation to the requirement to declare interests in the proposals detailed in the report that related to the Budget Proposals 2016/17 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2016/2021. Members were advised that the report is strategic and unless a Member has a prejudicial interest there was no requirement for them to declare. There were no formal declarations of prejudicial interest received.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL STRATEGY, CAPITAL FINANCE PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY FOR 2016/17

The Interim Head of Corporate Finance advised that in accordance with legislative requirements, Welsh Government guidance and Codes of Practice, the Council is required to approve a treasury management strategy on an annual basis. He advised that the strategy sets out details of interest rate prospects in the short and longer-term, the borrowing strategy to fund the general fund and housing revenue fund capital programmes, details of the annual investment strategy, the minimum revenue provision policy and the associated prudential indicators for the three financial years 2016/17 to 2018/19.

Members were asked to note that the 2016/17 strategy remains unchanged to the one that was approved by Council in February 2015. The Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee will continue to receive treasury management monitoring reports during the forthcoming financial year and a Members seminar will be held during the autumn facilitated by Arlingclose, the Council's treasury management advisors.

During the course of the debate, reference was made to the proposal that the Authority borrows £14.20m for the General Fund to support the 2016/17 capital programme. The Acting Director of Corporate Services advised that it is prudent to budget for the anticipated level of borrowing but that it is usual for there to be slippage in the Capital Programme so the loans would only actually be drawn down when funding is required.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands (and in noting that there was 1 against and 2 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report:-

- (i) the Annual Strategy for Treasury Management 2016/17 be approved;

- (ii) the strategy be reviewed quarterly within the Treasury Management monitoring reports presented to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and any changes recommended be referred to Cabinet, in the first instance, and to Council for a decision. The Authority will also prepare a half-yearly report on Treasury Management activities;
- (iii) the Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management as outlined in appendix 5 of the report be approved;
- (iv) the Prudential Indicators for Capital Financing as outlined in appendices 6 and 7 of the report be approved;
- (v) the use of Option 2 (for supported borrowing) and Option 3 Equal Instalment Method (for unsupported borrowing) for MRP purposes for 2016/17 be approved;
- (vi) the continuation of the 2015/16 investment strategy and the lending to financial institutions and corporates in accordance with the minimum credit rating criteria disclosed within the report be approved;
- (vii) the Authority borrow £14.20m for the General Fund to support the 2016/17 capital programme;
- (viii) the Authority continues to adopt the investment grade scale as a minimum credit rating criteria as a means to assess the credit worthiness of suitable counterparties when placing investments;
- (ix) the Authority adopts the monetary and investment duration limits as set in Appendix 3 of the report.

6. BUDGET PROPOSALS 2016/17 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016/2021

Consideration was given to the report that had been presented to Cabinet on 17th February 2016 and provided information on the proposed budget proposals for 2016/17 and the medium-term financial strategy 2016/2021.

Reference was made to the key issues outlined therein and it was noted that during the summer of 2015 the UK Government undertook a Comprehensive Spending Review and indicated that savings of between 25% and 40% may be required for non-protected areas. As a consequence of this, it was anticipated that the financial outlook for Local Government in Wales was likely to worsen and that this would be exacerbated by the likelihood of Welsh Government continuing to offer a degree of protection to the NHS.

The Spending Review outcome was not due to be announced until the 25th November 2015 and as a result, details of the WG 2016/17 Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement were not expected until the 9th December 2015. However, in light of the messages coming from the UK Government, Cabinet was presented with a report on the 14th October 2015 which included an updated MTFP covering the three-year period 2016/17 to 2018/19. This was based on a range of revised assumptions, the most significant of which was an assumed reduction in WG funding of 4.3% for 2016/17 and 2017/18 and a further reduction of 3% for 2018/19. The updated MTFP also assumed an indicative increase in Council Tax of 3.9% for each of the three years. The net result of these changes was an anticipated savings requirement of £35.2m for the three-year period.

Significant work had already been undertaken during 2015 to identify savings proposals and the report presented to Cabinet in October included details of potential savings proposals totalling £21.3m, consisting of £14.4m for 2016/17 and £6.9m for 2017/18. The savings

proposals had been subject to an impact assessment to determine whether there would be an impact on service users and/or the public. £8.7m of the 2016/17 proposals and £3m of the 2017/18 proposals were assessed as having nil impact.

At the meeting on the 14th October 2015, Cabinet endorsed the proposed package of savings for 2016/17 and agreed that those assessed as having an impact on service users and/or the public should be subject to a further period of extensive consultation prior to final budget proposals being presented to Cabinet and Special Council. Cabinet also supported the proposal to increase Council Tax by 3.9% for 2016/17 to ensure that a balanced budget could be achieved.

Details of the Comprehensive Spending Review were announced on the 25th November 2015 and the outcome was much better than anticipated. This in turn led to the ensuing cut in the 2016/17 Provisional Local Government Settlement being much less than feared. The average cut across Wales is 1.4% but this does vary by Authority due to the funding formula (the cut for Caerphilly CBC being 0.9%). Two other significant matters within the Settlement are that the Outcome Agreement Grant has now been transferred into the RSG and Local Authorities are expected to honour the schools "pledge".

Members noted the updated MTFP which reflected the 2016/17 Provisional Settlement and a further range of revised assumptions, and that the revised potential savings requirement for the three-year period 2016/17 to 2018/19 is now £24.5m instead of the £35.2m reported to Cabinet in October 2015. However, the savings requirement for the five-year period 2016/17 to 2020/21 is £36.3m. This means that all of the £21.3m savings proposals identified in the October Cabinet report will still be required and further savings proposals will need to be identified. On a positive note, the Authority now has more time to agree and deliver the savings required.

The report detailed revised savings proposals for 2016/17 totalling £11.1m. Of this total, £1.9m reflects the full-year impact of 2015/16 savings and £8.7m relates to 2016/17 savings proposals that will have no impact on service users and/or the public. The remaining proposed savings totalling £476k will have some impact on service users and/or the public and further details of these proposals were set out in the appendix 5 of the report.

It was noted that to ensure that a balanced budget is achieved for 2016/17 a Council Tax increase of 1% is proposed. This will increase the Caerphilly CBC Band D precept from £992.02 to £1,001.94 i.e. an annual increase of £9.92 or weekly increase of £0.19.

Members were reminded of the extent of the consultation that has been undertaken and of the significant financial challenges that still lie ahead. Work on future year's savings requirements continues and regular updates will be provided to Members.

Discussion ensued on the revised savings programme as detailed in paragraph 4.6.3 of the report and particular reference was made to the introduction of charges for sandwich places. It was clarified that it is proposed that a charge to the schools is introduced for this service which is currently provided free of charge. Schools may choose to make their own arrangements for setting out and clearing away sandwich places and the option for pupils to bring a packed lunch into schools would still be available.

Reference was also made to the increase in alarm charges and, in noting that this was not an item included in the report, the Member was advised that this should be raised with the Chief Housing Officer.

With regards to personnel implications, it was noted from the report that the savings proposals will result in the loss of 97 posts. 67 of these posts are currently vacant and at least 12 posts will be lost through voluntary severances or retirements. The remaining 18 posts will be dealt with through the Council's redeployment policy with a view to finding alternative suitable employment. Every effort will be made to redeploy staff but where this is not possible then

compulsory redundancy will need to be considered. For schools, and with the falling rolls of pupils and reduction in grant funding, there is a need to reduce the costs of their staffing structure. In addition the savings proposals in relation to the setting up of sandwich places in schools and the reduced staffing in Breakfast Clubs will require a reduction in paid hours.

Reference was also made to the proposals to transfer £1.6m into an earmarked reserve for dry recyclable waste and an explanation was sought as to why this was required. It was explained that reports have been presented on the contamination associated with dry recyclables and, as the contract is due for renewal in September, it is prudent to earmark reserves until these negotiations have been finalised.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. An amendment was moved and seconded that the proposals to introduce a charge for sandwich places, to withdraw funding for the Family Intervention Project and Valleys Intervention Project, for breakfast club staff reductions and the setting aside of carbon management initiatives be revisited and funded from the £1.6m to be set aside as an earmarked reserve.

The Acting Director of Corporate Services advised that the £1.8m worth of advance savings are one off and will not be available in 2017/18. The report advises that in 2017/18 the Authority is still looking at making another £7.6m of savings so the £1.8m will be carried forward and used towards that £7.6 million. There will still be £5.8 million pounds worth of savings to make (there is just £3m identified that does not impact on the public). As such, the cost in relation to waste and the carbon initiative can only be available for one year. If some of the earmarked reserves are to be used as proposed in the amendment, either a rise in council tax or alternative savings would need to be identified to produce a balanced budget.

The Corporate Director advised that the amendment put forward was not financially sound and as such could not be accepted but there was an opportunity for a further amendment to be put forward.

In view of the foregoing, and in accordance with Rules of Procedures, both the mover and seconder of the amendment agreed that it be withdrawn.

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 15.4 there was a request for a recorded vote. This was not supported.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By show of hands (and in noting that there were 4 against and 9 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) the grants passported into/out of the Financial Settlement be passed directly to those services that they relate to (paragraphs 4.2.2 and 4.2.3 of the report);
- (ii) the Outcome Agreement Grant of £1.876m transferred into the RSG continues to fund core base budgets as in previous years;
- (iii) the proposed savings for 2016/17 totalling £11.117m as set out in paragraph 4.6.3 of the report be agreed;
- (iv) the proposal to transfer £1.6m into an earmarked reserve for dry recyclable waste and the setting aside of one-off funding of £215k for carbon management initiatives as set out in paragraph 4.6.2 of the report be agreed;
- (v) the Revenue Budget proposals for 2016/17 of £324.384m as set out in the report and summarised in Appendix 4 be agreed;

- (vi) the proposed Capital Programme for the period 2016/17 to 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 6 of the report be agreed;
- (vii) the proposed use of General Fund balances as detailed in Appendix 7 of the report be agreed;
- (viii) the use of service reserves to smooth the impact of the reduction in hours in the Catering Service to avoid compulsory redundancies as set out in paragraph 7.3 of the report be agreed.

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 15.5 Councillor Mrs Blackman wished it recorded that she had voted against the motion.

Members expressed their gratitude to all staff and departments for their hard work to deliver the budget, which would provide minimal impact to the public and continues to protect staff from compulsory redundancies where possible.

7. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2016/17 AND COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

Consideration was given to the report which provided details of the Authority's Council Tax for the 2016/17 financial year prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions and sought approval of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17.

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

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

1. it be noted that at its meeting on the 9th December 2015 the Cabinet calculated the following amounts for the year 2016/2017 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and powers granted under The Local Authorities Executive Arrangements (Functions and Responsibilities) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2007 as amended.
 - (a) **59,575.14** Being the amount calculated by the Cabinet, in accordance with Regulation 3 of The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as its council tax base for the year.
 - (b) **Part of Council's Area**

	<u>Tax Base</u>
	<u>No. of D Band</u>
	<u>Equivalent Properties</u>
Aber Valley	2,005.88
Argoed	848.38
Bargoed	3,572.94
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	3,764.62
Blackwood	2,895.51
Caerphilly	6,121.31
Darren Valley	694.96
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	594.48
Gelligaer	6,200.21

	<u>Tax Base</u>
	<u>No. of D Band</u>
	<u>Equivalent Properties</u>
Llanbradach & Pwllypant	1,459.69
Maesycwmmmer	762.73
Nelson	1,589.62
New Tredegar	1,346.09
Penyrheol, Treceenydd & Energlyn	4,413.45
Rhymney	2,530.14
Risca East	2,036.27
Risca West	1,774.58
Van	1,639.02
Remainder	15,325.26
Total	59,575.14

being the amounts calculated by the cabinet, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

2. the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2016/2017 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) **£325,058,134** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (d) and 32(3)(a) of the Act;
- (b) **£1,400,000** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(c) of the Act;
- (c) **£323,658,134** being the amount by which the aggregate at (2)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (2)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;
- (d) **£263,293,016** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its council fund in respect of redistributed non domestic rates, revenue support grant, an authority's council tax reduction scheme or additional grant.
- (e) **£1,013.26** being the amount at (2)(c) above less the amount at (2)(d) above, all be divided by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year;
- (f) **£674,402** being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in section 34(1) of the Act.
- (g) **£1,001.94** being the amount at (2)(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (2)(f) above by the amount at (1)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

(h) Part of the Council's Area	County Borough & Community Council Band D	
	Local Precept	County Borough Levy
	£	£
Aber Valley	14.71	1,001.94
Argoed	13.00	1,001.94
Bargoed	16.23	1,001.94
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	17.83	1,001.94
Blackwood	19.00	1,001.94
Caerphilly	13.00	1,001.94
Darren Valley	17.96	1,001.94
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	20.19	1,001.94
Gelligaer	14.49	1,001.94
Llanbradach & Pwllpant	20.18	1,001.94
Maesycwmmmer	23.99	1,001.94
Nelson	17.20	1,001.94
New Tredegar	12.57	1,001.94
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	12.89	1,001.94
Rhymney	13.83	1,001.94
Risca East	12.00	1,001.94
Risca West	17.50	1,001.94
Van	12.47	1,001.94
Remainder	0.00	1,001.94

(i) Valuation Bands	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
County Borough Council	667.96	779.29	890.61	1,001.94	1,224.59	1,447.25	1,669.90	2,003.88	2,337.86
Community Councils									
Aber Valley	9.81	11.44	13.08	14.71	17.98	21.25	24.52	29.42	34.32
Argoed	8.67	10.11	11.56	13.00	15.89	18.78	21.67	26.00	30.33
Bargoed	10.82	12.62	14.43	16.23	19.84	23.44	27.05	32.46	37.87
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	11.89	13.87	15.85	17.83	21.79	25.75	29.72	35.66	41.60
Blackwood	12.67	14.78	16.89	19.00	23.22	27.44	31.67	38.00	44.33
Caerphilly	8.67	10.11	11.56	13.00	15.89	18.78	21.67	26.00	30.33
Darren Valley	11.97	13.97	15.96	17.96	21.95	25.94	29.93	35.92	41.91
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	13.46	15.70	17.95	20.19	24.68	29.16	33.65	40.38	47.11
Gelligaer	9.66	11.27	12.88	14.49	17.71	20.93	24.15	28.98	33.81
Llanbradach & Pwllpant	13.45	15.70	17.94	20.18	24.66	29.15	33.63	40.36	47.09
Maesycwmmmer	15.99	18.66	21.32	23.99	29.32	34.65	39.98	47.98	55.98
Nelson	11.47	13.38	15.29	17.20	21.02	24.84	28.67	34.40	40.13
New Tredegar	8.38	9.78	11.17	12.57	15.36	18.16	20.95	25.14	29.33
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	8.59	10.03	11.46	12.89	15.75	18.62	21.48	25.78	30.08
Rhymney	9.22	10.76	12.29	13.83	16.90	19.98	23.05	27.66	32.27
Risca East	8.00	9.33	10.67	12.00	14.67	17.33	20.00	24.00	28.00
Risca West	11.67	13.61	15.56	17.50	21.39	25.28	29.17	35.00	40.83
Van	8.31	9.70	11.08	12.47	15.24	18.01	20.78	24.94	29.10
Remainder	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

<u>Valuation Bands</u>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Totals For Community Council Areas									
Aber Valley	677.77	790.73	903.69	1,016.65	1,242.57	1,468.50	1,694.42	2,033.30	2,372.18
Argoed	676.63	789.40	902.17	1,014.94	1,240.48	1,466.03	1,691.57	2,029.88	2,368.19
Bargoed	678.78	791.91	905.04	1,018.17	1,244.43	1,470.69	1,696.95	2,036.34	2,375.73
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	679.85	793.16	906.46	1,019.77	1,246.38	1,473.00	1,699.62	2,039.54	2,379.46
Blackwood	680.63	794.07	907.50	1,020.94	1,247.81	1,474.69	1,701.57	2,041.88	2,382.19
Caerphilly	676.63	789.40	902.17	1,014.94	1,240.48	1,466.03	1,691.57	2,029.88	2,368.19
Darren Valley	679.93	793.26	906.57	1,019.90	1,246.54	1,473.19	1,699.83	2,039.80	2,379.77
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	681.42	794.99	908.56	1,022.13	1,249.27	1,476.41	1,703.55	2,044.26	2,384.97
Gelligaer	677.62	790.56	903.49	1,016.43	1,242.30	1,468.18	1,694.05	2,032.86	2,371.67
Llanbradach & Pwllypant	681.41	794.99	908.55	1,022.12	1,249.25	1,476.40	1,703.53	2,044.24	2,384.95
Maesycwmmmer	683.95	797.95	911.93	1,025.93	1,253.91	1,481.90	1,709.88	2,051.86	2,393.84
Nelson	679.43	792.67	905.90	1,019.14	1,245.61	1,472.09	1,698.57	2,038.28	2,377.99
New Tredegar	676.34	789.07	901.78	1,014.51	1,239.95	1,465.41	1,690.85	2,029.02	2,367.19
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	676.55	789.32	902.07	1,014.83	1,240.34	1,465.87	1,691.38	2,029.66	2,367.94
Rhymney	677.18	790.05	902.90	1,015.77	1,241.49	1,467.23	1,692.95	2,031.54	2,370.13
Risca East	675.96	788.62	901.28	1,013.94	1,239.26	1,464.58	1,689.90	2,027.88	2,365.86
Risca West	679.63	792.90	906.17	1,019.44	1,245.98	1,472.53	1,699.07	2,038.88	2,378.69
Van	676.27	788.99	901.69	1,014.41	1,239.83	1,465.26	1,690.68	2,028.82	2,366.96
Remainder	667.96	779.29	890.61	1,001.94	1,224.59	1,447.25	1,669.90	2,003.88	2,337.86

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (2)(g) and (2)(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

3. it be noted that for the year 2016/2017 the major precepting authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

<u>Valuation Bands</u>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Precepting Authority</u>									
Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent	146.71	171.16	195.61	220.06	268.96	317.86	366.77	440.12	513.47

4. having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (2)(i) and (3) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts of Council Tax for the year 2016/2017 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

<u>Valuation Bands</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Aber Valley	824.48	961.89	1,099.30	1,236.71	1,511.53	1,786.36	2,061.19	2,473.42	2,885.65
Argoed	823.34	960.56	1,097.78	1,235.00	1,509.44	1,783.89	2,058.34	2,470.00	2,881.66
Bargoed	825.49	963.07	1,100.65	1,238.23	1,513.39	1,788.55	2,063.72	2,476.46	2,889.20
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	826.56	964.32	1,102.07	1,239.83	1,515.34	1,790.86	2,066.39	2,479.66	2,892.93
Blackwood	827.34	965.23	1,103.11	1,241.00	1,516.77	1,792.55	2,068.34	2,482.00	2,895.66
Caerphilly	823.34	960.56	1,097.78	1,235.00	1,509.44	1,783.89	2,058.34	2,470.00	2,881.66
Darren Valley	826.64	964.42	1,102.18	1,239.96	1,515.50	1,791.05	2,066.60	2,479.92	2,893.24
Draethen, Waterloo & Rudry	828.13	966.15	1,104.17	1,242.19	1,518.23	1,794.27	2,070.32	2,484.38	2,898.44
Gelligaer	824.33	961.72	1,099.10	1,236.49	1,511.26	1,786.04	2,060.82	2,472.98	2,885.14
Llanbradach & Pwllypant	828.12	966.15	1,104.16	1,242.18	1,518.21	1,794.26	2,070.30	2,484.36	2,898.42
Maesycwmmmer	830.66	969.11	1,107.54	1,245.99	1,522.87	1,799.76	2,076.65	2,491.98	2,907.31
Nelson	826.14	963.83	1,101.51	1,239.20	1,514.57	1,789.95	2,065.34	2,478.40	2,891.46
New Tredegar	823.05	960.23	1,097.39	1,234.57	1,508.91	1,783.27	2,057.62	2,469.14	2,880.66
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	823.26	960.48	1,097.68	1,234.89	1,509.30	1,783.73	2,058.15	2,469.78	2,881.41
Rhymney	823.89	961.21	1,098.51	1,235.83	1,510.45	1,785.09	2,059.72	2,471.66	2,883.60
Risca East	822.67	959.78	1,096.89	1,234.00	1,508.22	1,782.44	2,056.67	2,468.00	2,879.33
Risca West	826.34	964.06	1,101.78	1,239.50	1,514.94	1,790.39	2,065.84	2,479.00	2,892.16
Van	822.98	960.15	1,097.30	1,234.47	1,508.79	1,783.12	2,057.45	2,468.94	2,880.43
Remainder	814.67	950.45	1,086.22	1,222.00	1,493.55	1,765.11	2,036.67	2,444.00	2,851.33

5. the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme continue for the 2016/17 financial year along with the previously agreed local discretions.

8. CITY DEAL

Consideration was given to the report which sought approval for the next stage of the development of a City Deal investment plan for the Cardiff City region (comprising the ten local authorities in South East Wales), and to allow the Council Leader to sign the undertaking with UK and Welsh Government to work towards a finalised plan for the region.

The Corporate Director Communities reminded Members of previous reports on City Deal whereby it had been agreed to participate in preparing plans for the region along with neighbouring local authorities, the UK and Welsh Governments, to support the development of a plan for the City Deal and contribute towards the cost of research and financial planning. It was noted that Council agreed to contribute £59,989 towards a £1/2m fund for this purpose (it was pointed out that there was an error in paragraph 2.2 of the report as it states £1m and not £1/2m). On the 15th October 2015 Council resolved to support the ongoing work towards a City Deal subject to further reports being presented and with Council approval needed for any long term financial commitment.

It was noted that the next stage is for the ten local authorities, the UK Government and Welsh Government to sign an agreement in principle which will outline the overall objectives of the City Deal. This is expected to take place in the next few weeks. Following this, more detailed work will be undertaken to identify potential projects, a methodology for approving and evaluating projects and for the financing of the plan. A further report will be presented once that is completed.

There are around 30 City Deals in place across the UK of various size and values and the aim of this City Deal is to support the local economy and improve the national economy at the

same time through a series of positive interventions. Over the past six months the scale of the City Deal has become clearer and it seems likely that it would involve total investment of around £1.28 million. Around half of this money would be invested in the South East Wales metro project and the remainder on a package of projects to create new jobs, training and community regeneration. The final terms of the scale of the City Deal and the relative contributions of the UK, Welsh and Local Government are still under discussion. However Welsh Government has pledged £580 million towards the metro element of the Deal and it is anticipated the UK Government will contribute a similar amount.

Local Authority's will also need to make a contribution and the value and share of these contributions will be determined throughout the year through further discussion. Any commitment from this Authority will require further approval by Council. The governance and management arrangements of the City Deal will also need to be finalised and this will be presented to Council once the Heads of Terms and general principles are agreed by the UK and Welsh Government. It was recognised that the City Deal will provide an opportunity for joint working and collaboration between Local Authority's to deliver an integrated approach to regional working. In order to take the plan forward and to develop further details costing of the proposals a small delivery team is required and each Local Authority will be asked to contribute.

Members were advised that the objectives will include the metro and other infrastructure and transport improvements, investment in training for people seeking work and upskilling for those already in work, improvements to digital infrastructure across the region and other initiatives to improve business growth for new and existing businesses. Following this more detailed work will be undertaken to identify potential projects, a methodology for approving and evaluating those projects and for financing the plan. A further report will be presented to Members once this work is completed for approval.

It was accepted that the City Deal represents the opportunity for co-ordinated investment across the region and it was suggested that the proposed Delivery Group should consult with the Business Forum and regular reports be presented providing updates on progress (and particularly on the methodology for approving and evaluating projects). An assurance was given that this would be the case and that no decision would be taken until a report has been presented to Council for consideration.

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

RESOLVED that it be agreed to support the ongoing work as outlined in the report to prepare a City Deal agreement in principle for the region and that the Leader be authorised to sign an agreement with the other nine local authorities in the region, UK and Welsh Government as outlined therein.

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 15.5 Councillor Mrs A. Blackman wished it recorded that she had voted in favour of the motion.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2016 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR

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COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH 2016 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Gardiner - 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.G. Carter, Mrs P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, H.W. David, W. David, D.T. Davies, H.R. Davies, K. Dawson, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, Mrs C. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Ms J. Gale, N. George, C.J. Gordon, Mrs P. Griffiths, D.T. Hardacre, D. Havard, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, K. James, M.P. James, G. Johnston, Mrs B.A. Jones, Ms J.G. Jones, Miss L. Jones, S. Kent, G. Kirby, Ms P. Leonard, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, Mrs G. Oliver, Mrs R. Passmore, D.W.R. Preece, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees, D. Rees, 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. HARRY (Corporate Director – Communities), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer), G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), L. Donovan (Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development), C. Jones (Head of Performance and Policy), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), L. Lane (Solicitor), J. Morgan (Trading Standards, Licensing and Registrars Manager), M. McSherry (Licensing Manager), D.A. Thomas (Senior Policy Officer – Equalities and Welsh Language) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

1. WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer 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. She advised that decisions would be made by a show of hands.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Ackerman, H.A. Andrews, D. Bolter, Miss E. Forehead, R.W. Gough, G.J. Hughes, D.V. Poole, M.J. Prew, Mrs D. Price, Mrs E. Stenner and L.G. Whittle, together with C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive) and D. Street (Corporate Director of Social Services).

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits that he and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting, and advised Members that the Mayor's Charity total for this year currently stood at approximately £13,700. He referenced a large donation received earlier that day and expressed his gratitude for the kindness and generosity shown to his charity appeal over the past year.

Members were also advised that the Cefn Hengoed Ladies Choir will be performing at Blackwood Miners Institute on 17th March 2016, with all proceeds going to the Mayor's Charity.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Wales Online Health Hero Award

Members were informed that Michelle Johnson from Engineering Services has recently received a Health Hero award from Wales Online for her outstanding work with heart patients.

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 recovery, she approached the cardiac rehabilitation team at the University of Wales Hospital to see if she could help with patients who had suffered heart attacks or had heart surgery. Michelle now volunteers two evenings a week in the hospital's cardiac rehabilitation programme, on top of her full time job at Caerphilly Council and looking after her children.

To prove her dedication to the role, Michelle spent over £600 of her own money to take an intensive seven-day course in Level 4 cardiac rehabilitation at the University of Gloucestershire. She is now organising her own specialist fitness classes at the Ararat Baptist Church in Whitchurch every Thursday evening.

Staff at the University Hospital of Wales nominated Michelle to become a Health Hero, and have praised her "never-ending sense of humour" and caring personality which gives patients a huge psychological boost.

In addition, Michelle also recently attended the annual NHS Employee Recognition Awards ceremony, where she won the prestigious Volunteer of The Year Award.

Michelle Johnson came forward to receive the award from the Mayor and Members congratulated her on her achievement.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer advised Members that in relation to Agenda Item No. 11 (Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2016/17) there is a specific exemption within the Members' Code of Conduct which relates to payments (by virtue of Section 12 paragraph (b)(iv)) and therefore there was no requirement for Members to declare a prejudicial interest on that basis.

It was noted that with regards to Agenda Item No. 10 (Designation of Interim Head of Democratic Services), an Officer would be required to declare an interest and leave the meeting. Details are minuted with the respective item.

6. COUNCIL – 26TH JANUARY 2016

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

Council held on 26th January 2016 (minute nos. 1-13).

7. SPECIAL COUNCIL – 3RD FEBRUARY 2016

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

Special Council held on 3rd February 2016 (minute nos. 1-4).

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following reports referred from Cabinet.

8. ANIMAL WELFARE (BREEDING OF DOGS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2014

The report was presented to Cabinet on 17th February 2016 and outlined new statutory legislation to licence Dog Breeding Establishments in Wales. At that meeting, Cabinet unanimously agreed that the recommendations in the report, which contained proposals for determining the licence applications received by the Authority and for the setting of a licence fee under the new legislation, be approved.

Cabinet also recommended to Council that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Constitution to reflect the implementation of the Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014.

In response to a Member's query, Officers confirmed that there is only one licensed commercial breeder currently registered in the county borough, but explained that they regularly check online selling pages/adverts/social media to monitor the situation and to minimise occasions of breeders operating without a licence. Members were informed that these regulations will assist Licensing staff in addressing the issue of unlicensed dog breeding across the county borough.

Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation 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, the Council's Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution to reflect the implementation of the Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014.

9. STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN AND OBJECTIVES 2016 - 2020

The report, which was presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 1st March 2016 and thereafter Cabinet on 2nd March 2016, sought Council approval on the adoption of an updated Strategic Equality Plan and Objectives for 2016-2020.

Since April 2012, the Council has had in place a four-year Strategic Equality Plan alongside a Welsh Language Scheme in order to comply with statutory duties, and which have been supported by the Equalities and Welsh Language Strategic Objectives and Action Plan. This

operational document was created as the requirements of both statutory duties have converged over the years, and so this unified action plan has reduced duplication and streamlined their implementation.

All local authority Welsh Language Schemes come to a formal end in March 2016 due to the introduction of new legislation and so the Council's Welsh Language Scheme document will be removed from the policy framework, so that actions within the Strategic Equality Plan related to the new Welsh Language Standards can replace it.

The Strategic Equality Plan has undergone minor updates in order to reflect changes or to provide additional information. The Objectives and Action Plan have been developed to take achievements and progress into account and to bring the document in line with the Welsh Language Standards. This has also ensured that the Council has a good foundation in place to meet three of the Well-being goals of the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Both documents were the focus of consultation and engagement exercises, and the comments and additional information received were reflected in the amended draft policy wherever possible.

It was noted that the draft revised Strategic Equality Plan and the Objectives and Action Plan had since been updated following comments received at the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and thereafter Cabinet, and therefore Members were asked to approve the final version of this updated policy and unified action plan.

During the course of the ensuing debate, Members placed on record their thanks to Officers for the extensive work undertaken in the development of the updated policy and unified action plan, and welcomed the Council's commitment to Equalities and Welsh Language work.

Following consideration of the report, and subject to the aforementioned amendments, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations from the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and 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, the updated Strategic Equality Plan and the Objectives and Action Plan as set out in the Appendices to the report (and including the amendments proposed by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and thereafter Cabinet) be approved.

10. PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE – PONTLLANFRAITH HOUSE

The report, which was presented to Cabinet on 2nd March 2016, recommended to Council the formal adoption of the Site Development Brief for the Pontllanfraith House Site as Supplementary Planning Guidance to both the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) and the Deposit Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2031.

Council has agreed the closure of Pontllanfraith House as a corporate office as part of its Medium Term Financial Plan. The offices have been vacated and the services previously provided from that office relocated to other corporate offices. The site has therefore become surplus to requirements and it is proposed to offer the site for sale for residential development.

The report also outlined the progress made to date in structuring a Development Brief, including public consultation, and proposes to submit the Brief for adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance. The Guidance will be issued to potential developers who have interest in purchasing the site so that they may be advised of the Council's ambitions for the site in planning terms. It was noted that there will be a minimum level of affordable housing provided as required in the Council's approved LDP.

Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation 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, the Development Brief for Pontllanfraith House Site Council be formally adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to both the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 and the Deposit Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2031.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

11. DESIGNATION OF INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Cath Forbes-Thompson declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

The report, which was previously considered by the Democratic Services Committee on 2nd March 2016, sought Council approval for the designation of the Scrutiny Manager as the statutory Head of Democratic Services on an interim basis.

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requires each local authority to designate an Officer to the statutory post of Head of Democratic Services. The Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer carries the statutory designation as Head of Democratic Services. However, the substantive postholder has been appointed to the role of Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. As a result of these arrangements, the Democratic Services Committee, at its meeting held on 28th May 2014, confirmed the designation of the Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer as Head of Democratic Services.

The Interim Officer has recently left the Authority and therefore it has been necessary to make a new designation. The Head of Democratic Services must not be the Council's Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, or Chief Finance Officer, as these posts already carry a statutory officer designation. It was therefore proposed that the Council's Scrutiny Manager be designated as the Council's Interim Head of Democratic Services initially until 31st August 2016, when the interim arrangements for the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer are due to be reviewed.

Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations from the Democratic Services Committee 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 Scrutiny Manager be designated as Interim Head of Democratic Services on an interim basis until 31st August 2016;
- (ii) the Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to make the appropriate amendments in the Council's constitution.

12. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

The report detailed the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' final determinations relating to councillors and co-opted members for 2016/17, and sought decisions from Council on certain aspects of the Members remuneration scheme for 2016/17. The draft determinations of the Panel were previously presented to the Democratic Services Committee

on 18th November 2015 and the views expressed were included in the consultation response to the Panel.

As with previous years, the Panel determinations do not include any increases in the majority of payments made to Councillors and Co-opted Members for 2016/17, aside from minor changes to subsistence allowances.

Senior Salaries are payable to Members that hold certain prescribed roles and are limited to a maximum of 18 posts within Caerphilly Council. The Panel's determinations include a number of changes from their determinations in 2015/16, in they have introduced 2 salary levels for these posts and stated that it will be a matter for individual authorities to decide on which level of Executive salary to apply to such posts. The Panel have also introduced 2 salary levels for Committee Chairs and in 2014 introduced three levels of salary for Civic salaries. Again it is a matter for Council to determine which levels will be applied to these posts.

It was noted that the Panel's draft report included a limit on the number of Executive Members who were able to receive the higher level of salary, but has now been removed. In addition there was originally a determination to reduce the remuneration for the Leader of the largest opposition group and for Deputy Leaders but these have also been removed.

A copy of the Panel's Annual Report for 2016/17 was appended to the Officer's report. The Panel's determinations will take effect from the date of the Council's Annual General Meeting in May 2016. Members or Co-opted Members may forego any part of their remuneration entitlement by giving notice in writing to the Interim Chief Executive.

Members were referred to recommendations 9.3 to 9.6 of the report, which sought a decision from Council in respect of the 2016/17 salary level for the Authority's Deputy Leaders, Cabinet Members, Committee Chairs and Civic Salaries. A number of options were listed against each of these posts for Members' consideration. The remaining recommendations within the report sought the approval of Council on other aspects of the Members remuneration scheme.

Following consideration and discussion of the report, it was moved and seconded that Option 2 (Level 2 salary) for the named posts contained within recommendations 9.3 to 9.6 of the report be selected as the approved option. Each of these recommendations were taken as individual motions and put to the vote. By a show of hands (and in noting there were 10 abstentions) on each vote taken, it was agreed by the majority present that Option 2 (Level 2 salary) for the named posts contained within recommendations 9.3 to 9.6 of the report be approved.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) Option 2 (Level 2 salary), as detailed in section 4.10 of the report, be set as the appropriate level of Deputy Leaders salary for 2016/17;
- (ii) Option 2 (Level 2 salary), as detailed in section 4.11 of the report, be set as the appropriate level of Cabinet Members salary for 2016/17;
- (iii) Option 2 (Level 2 salary), as detailed in section 4.14 of the report, be set as the appropriate level of Committee Chairs salary for 2016/17;
- (iv) Option 2 (Level 2 salary), as detailed in section 4.16 of the report, be set as the appropriate level of Civic Salaries for 2016/17.

Councillor K.V. Reynolds, Leader of Council, advised Members that as a contribution towards the financial savings required across the Authority, he would be reducing his remuneration entitlement by 5%, and would inform the Interim Chief Executive of his intention to do so accordingly.

It was then moved and seconded that the remaining recommendations within the report be approved. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) the determinations of the Panel, including the appropriate level of Senior Salaries, travel and subsistence allowances and fee payments to Co-opted Members be implemented;
- (ii) the maximum number of days payable to co-opted Members of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee and to co-opted (lay) Members of the Standards Committee remain at 10 days per year, as stated in paragraph 4.26 of the report;
- (iii) the Officers listed at paragraph 4.28 of the report continue to act as the 'appropriate officer' for Co-opted Members as indicated;
- (iv) no allowance payment be made for travel claims for journeys made within Members' wards, as stated in paragraph 4.33 of the report.

13. 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 2016 for this financial year.

During the course of the debate, queries were raised as to the content of the Pay Policy Statement, including variations of the Living Wage rate listed within the document, the accuracy of the number of employees listed within the Authority (circa 9,600) and the accuracy of the combined revenue and capital budget for 2015/2016 (listed as over £600 million). Officers explained that the £600m figure quoted reflects all revenue spend from the general fund, the Housing Revenue Account fund and capital expenditure and therefore equates to a substantial amount. It was confirmed that the new Living Wage should be listed as £8.25 per hour and that this would be amended prior to the final version of the Pay Policy being published. Officers also explained that the number of employees listed is not a full-time equivalent, includes schools and takes into account variances in staffing levels, and therefore the numbers will fluctuate across a period of time.

It was moved and seconded that subject to the foregoing amendment, the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands (and in noting there were 16 against) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, and subject to the amendments being made to reflect the new Living Wage rate as being £8.25 per hour, the Pay Policy Statement (Version 5) be approved and published on the Council's website.

14. LICENSING/REGISTRATION/PERMIT FEES – 2016/17

The report, which proposed an increase in the Licensing/Registration/Permit Fees for the next financial year, in order to recover reasonable costs of providing the service, was considered by the Licensing Committee on 18th February 2016. Following discussion on its content, the Licensing Committee noted the level of fees charged in connection with the Licensing Act 2003 and unanimously recommended their acceptance by Council.

The report and its appendices detailed fee increases in a number of areas, and it was noted that in respect of fees for premises licences and club premises certificates (which are centrally set by the UK Government), that the Home Office are currently consulting local authorities on the likely costs of these types of licences, and it is hoped that legislation enabling these to be locally set will finally be implemented.

Members noted that the proposals in respect of taxi vehicle licences would be advertised in the local press for a period of 28 days to allow for any trade objections. Historically the Licensing Committee have been given delegated authority to consider any objections received, determine the fees and the date they come into force. If no objections are received then the fees would automatically apply at the end of the 28 day period. The cost of the MOT/Compliance check has been deducted from the fee for 2016/17 as these will in future be paid directly to the garage at the time of the test. Arising from changes to the duration of licences under the Deregulation Act 2015, reviewed fees for hackney carriage/private hire vehicle drivers and private hire operator licences were considered by the Licensing Committee on 24th September 2015 and approved by Council on 17th November 2015, and hence will not be reviewed again until 2017/18.

Following discussion on the contents of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained therein be approved. By a show of hands (and in noting there were 5 against and 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report:-

- (i) where appropriate, the fees proposed for 2016/17, as outlined in Appendices 1 and 3 to the report, be implemented with effect from 1st April 2016;
- (ii) the proposed fees for hackney carriage/private hire vehicle licences be advertised and the Licensing Committee be given delegated powers to consider any objections received and to determine the fees to be charged and the date on which any variations should come into force.

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

Consideration was given to the following question received under Rule of Procedure 10(2). In accordance with the revisions to the Council's Constitution, the answers are also provided.

Housing Benefits - to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services from Councillor Mrs A. Blackman

1. Can the Cabinet Member tell us the number of Housing and Council Tax Benefits claims there are in the financial year 2015/16?
2. How many of them are for Housing Benefit?
3. How many of them are for Council Tax Benefit?
4. For the financial year 15/16 how much will Council receive from the Department of Work and Pensions to cover the cost of these benefits?
5. At present, how many council tax payers are there across Caerphilly County Borough?
6. At present, what percentages of Council Tax payers are receiving Council Tax Benefit?

**RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES -
COUNCILLOR MRS B. JONES**

1. The current number of live claims are 19,576
2. There are currently 14,203 Housing Benefit live claims (6,574 Private tenants and 7,629 Council tenants)
3. There are currently 19,046 Council Tax Reduction live claims
4. For the financial year 2014/15 the council received £60.5 million in subsidy to cover the cost of Housing Benefit payments. The total cost for 2015/16 will not be known until the final claim is made in April 2016.
With regards to Council Tax Reduction we do not receive subsidy to cover this from the Department of Work and Pensions. Instead, we receive a grant from Welsh Government which is incorporated within the RSG. For 2015/16 Caerphilly received £13.7 million.
5. To date there are 78,646 Council Tax payers in Caerphilly.
6. 24.2% Council Tax payers in Caerphilly receive Council Tax Reduction.

The meeting closed at 5.47 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 19th April 2016, they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR

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COUNCIL – 19TH APRIL 2016

SUBJECT: CITY DEAL – APPROVAL OF OUTLINE AGREEMENT

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of the approval of the outline terms of a City Deal investment plan for the Cardiff City region, comprising the ten local authorities in South East Wales, and to seek approval for further negotiation of the next steps in the process.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Members agreed at Council in February of this year that that the Leader be authorised to sign an in principle agreement with the other nine local authorities in the region, UK and Welsh Government for the purposes of agreeing the framework of a £1.2 billion investment plan for the region.
- 2.2 Accordingly, on the 15th March 2016 an agreement was signed by the ten local authority Leaders in the region, the First Minister for Wales, Carwyn Jones, and Greg Hands, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. This agreement sets out, subject to formal approval by each of the parties at the appropriate stage, an outline proposal for the £1.2 billion investment plan.
- 2.3 Further work will now be required to agree funding contributions and the mechanism for drawing down UK and Welsh Government contributions, and for agreeing detailed plans for the use of the fund.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Economic development and job creation has long been a high priority of the council. It is a major part of national policy for the UK and Wales and features prominently in the multi-agency Single Integrated Plan for Caerphilly County Borough. The 'City Deal' offers the prospect of attracting significant infrastructure improvements, new business growth and investments in skills and training. These would support the policy and priority areas.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 On the 17th June 2015, Cabinet agreed to support the development of a plan for the City Deal, with all ten local authorities contributing towards the cost of research and financial planning. This council contributed £59,989 towards a £500,000 fund for this purpose. On the 6th October last year, Council resolved to support the ongoing work towards a City Deal subject to further reports being presented and with Full Council approval needed for any long term financial commitment. In February of this year, members agreed that the authority (through the Leader) should formally sign a commitment to participate, subject again to further reports and formal approval by council for any financial contribution.

- 4.2 Accordingly, on the 15th March 2016 an agreement was signed by the ten local authority Leaders in the region, the First Minister for Wales, Carwyn Jones, and Greg Hands, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. This agreement sets out, subject to formal approval by each of the parties at the appropriate stage, an outline proposal for the £1.2 billion investment plan.
- 4.3 Further work will now be required to agree funding contributions and the mechanism for drawing down UK and Welsh Government contributions, and for agreeing detailed plans for the use of the fund. It will also be necessary to develop appropriate management and governance arrangements and a sound methodology for the apportionment of funds to particular projects, and to enable effective monitoring of the results and the performance of the plan.
- 4.4 As Members will recall from earlier reports, a City Deal is an agreement where the national government provides money for cities or city regions to invest in return for a guarantee of economic growth. Their contribution is made alongside a contribution from the local authorities in the area concerned and, in the case of Scotland and Wales, from the respective devolved government also. In addition, further funding can be drawn in for particular schemes from other sources such as the European union.
- 4.5 In outline, the main elements of the agreement reached on the 15th March are;
- That a £1.2 billion investment fund be established based on per head of population, this is the biggest City Deal entered into anywhere in the UK so far.
 - £500m of the fund will come from the UK government; £500m from Welsh Government; and £120m will come from the ten local authorities. Detailed plans for the relative share by each local authority and how that is to be funded, and over what timescale, will be developed for consideration by each authority as part of the next stage.
 - That the largest part, £734million, will be earmarked for the South East Wales Metro project which will radically improve rail and other public transport provision.
 - £495 million will be allocated for other schemes. These could include new employment sites and premises; measures to promote housebuilding (perhaps in areas not currently being targeted by developers); measures to boost employability and skills; support for new and expanding businesses; and other measures designed to grow the local economy;
 - The scheme will extend over 20 years.
 - That appropriate governance mechanisms will be developed for overall management of the scheme by a Joint Committee / Joint Cabinet from the 10 local authorities.
 - That an Independent Growth and Competitiveness Commission will be established to undertake research and recommend on the crucial and most important steps which the region needs to take to catch up with rates of economic growth in other parts of the UK and Europe.
 - That a representative body or voice for business be established in the region to ensure that businesses are able to contribute effectively to the plan.
 - That a wider representative body (an Economic Growth Partnership) be established to enable other key partners (in education, voluntary and community enterprise, and the like) to play their part in shaping the plan.
- 4.6 It is anticipated that further reports will come before members in due course dealing with:
- (i) The constitution, responsibilities and governance of the proposed Joint Committee / Joint Cabinet which will be required to manage and direct the plan;
 - (ii) Detailed arrangements for the funding of the plan, outlining the exact contribution required from each authority;
 - (iii) Proposals for determining the allocation of the fund to specific projects.
- 4.7 Each of these will need to be approved by members, and today's report is provided solely to update members as to progress since the last meeting.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no specific equalities implications from this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 No commitment to contribute to the City Deal fund will be entered into without specific approval of Full Council at a later date once further details are known.

6.2 As indicated previously, some relatively small contribution towards a team of officers may be required to support the development of the plan. This will be met from within existing resources.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Although initial discussion have been undertaken with some local organisations, there are no specific proposals within the City Deal that would enable detailed consultation at this stage.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Members note the in principle agreement reached on the 15th March 2016 and await further reports as outlined.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 This City Deal proposal will secure at least £1.2billion additional investment in the region. If the council did not participate it could lead to the loss of significant sums of money from both UK and Welsh government towards much needed projects in our area.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Not applicable as no binding commitment is being entered into at this stage.

Author: Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Consultees: Gail Williams, Acting Monitoring Officer
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services
Christina Harry, Director Community Services

Background Papers:
Report to Cabinet 17th June 2015
Report to Council 6th October 2015
Report to Council 24th February 2016

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COUNCIL - 19TH APRIL 2016

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

REPORT BY: INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek members approval of minor changes to the Council's Constitution and approval for the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer to incorporate the changes, if approved.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution promotes and supports the ethical standards of the Council and elected members and ensures that the Council operates efficiently and with transparency in relation to its decision making.

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 This report outlines proposed changes to the Council's Constitution.

4. THE REPORT

Background

- 4.1 The Council's Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures, which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.
- 4.2 The Constitution is a "living document" in that it is continuously being updated and revised to reflect new legislation, improvement in procedures and changes to working practices.
- 4.3 The report seeks Members' approval to amend the Council's Constitution at Part 3, Section 5 headed 'General Delegations of Powers: Council & Executive Powers', paragraph f(vii) to provide for the incorporation of substitute officers in the absence of the single officer currently named in the Constitution. The proposed amendment to read as follows:-

POWER

(f) To act as proper officer:-

(viii) to act as Registrar of Local Land Charges & Commons Registration Officer

DELEGATED TO

Head of Regeneration & Planning or
**Development Control Manager or
relevant Director or Head of Legal Services***

(* the words in bold are the proposed additional substitute officers)

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council's Constitution takes account of all equality related issues.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None arising from the Report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising from the Report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Report reflects the views of the Consultees.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that Council:-

9.1.1 Note the contents of the Report.

9.1.2 Approve the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution set out in paragraph 4.3.

9.1.3 That the Interim Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to make the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure that the Council's Constitution is updated to reflect current arrangements.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

Author: Gail Williams, Interim Monitoring Officer
Consultees: Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer
Dave Street, Corporate Director
Christina Harray, Corporate Director
Cllr B Jones, Deputy Leader
Cllr C Forehead, Cabinet Member
Cllr K. James, Cabinet Member

Background Papers

Council's Constitution (not attached) (see Council's website) (hard copy in Members Library)



COUNCIL – 19TH APRIL 2016

SUBJECT: COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2016/17 – ITEM H NARRATIVE

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update members on the omission of a descriptive narrative paragraph in the 2016/17 Council Tax Resolution reported to Special Council on the 24th February 2016.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides details of a paragraph omitted from the Council Tax Resolution 2016/17 presented to Special Council on the 24th February 2016.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Council is required annually to approve a balanced budget and agree Council Tax levels.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Council Tax Resolutions – Item H Part of the Council's Area

- 4.1.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 set out the rules for the calculation of the Council Tax base. This is the amount required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to be used in the calculation of the Council Tax.
- 4.1.2 Item H of the Council Tax Resolution 2016-17 details the calculation of the Authority's band D Council Tax inclusive of Community Council precepts.
- 4.1.3 The following narrative paragraph was omitted from the Resolution presented to Special Council:

“being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (2)(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (1)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts, of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.”

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As part of the 2016/17 budget-setting process Equalities Impact Assessments have been completed for the savings proposals that impact on service users and/or the public.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The omitted paragraph is a descriptive narrative of the calculated figures in Item H and has no impact upon the value of the figures reported in item H.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that the descriptive narrative outlined in paragraph 4.1.2 of this report be adopted as part of the Council Tax Resolution 2016-17.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Council is required annually to agree a Council Tax rate.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Finance Act 1992 and regulations made under the Act.

Author: Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance

Tel: 01443 863022 E-mail: harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer

Andrew Southcombe, Finance Manager, Corporate Finance

Nicola Roberts, Principal Group Accountant, Corporate Finance

John Carpenter, Council Tax & NNDR Manager

Amanda Main, Acting Housing & Council Tax Benefits Manager

Gail Williams, Acting Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

Background Papers:

Special Council Report 24th February 2016 - Council Tax Resolution 2016/17 and Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Cabinet Report 17th February 2016 - Budget Proposals 2016/17 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2016/2021.

Cabinet Report 9th December 2015 - Council Tax Base 2016/17.



COUNCIL – 19TH APRIL 2016

SUBJECT: CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CONTINUATION OF INTERNAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council is required by law to have in place a Head of Paid Service. Within the Council, this responsibility is designated to the Chief Executive.
- 1.2 On 22 July 2014, Council appointed Chris Burns to the post of Interim Chief Executive. This report seeks a decision from Council to further extend the contract arrangements.
- 1.3 Members will also be aware that interim arrangements have been in place in relation to the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer since March 2013 and April 2014 respectively.
- 1.4 This report also requests that Council delegate the decision to extend the interim contract arrangements outlined in paragraph 1.3 above to the Interim Chief Executive.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Interim arrangements have been in place for the positions of Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer as outlined in section 1 of this report, which now need to be reviewed by Council and a decision made with regards to their continuation.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 To achieve the Council's strategic aims, provide services as planned and to fulfil its statutory duties, including the duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Members will be aware of the current interim arrangements in place within the Authority since the initial suspension of three Senior Officers.
- 4.2 As stated, the Council is required by law to have in place a Head of Paid Service. Within the Council, this responsibility is designated to the Chief Executive, who also undertakes the required statutory roles of Proper Officer for the registration of births, marriages and deaths and the Returning Officer.

- 4.3 Following a competitive external recruitment process, on 22 July 2014, Council appointed Chris Burns to the post of Interim Chief Executive to undertake these duties on a fixed term contract for a period of 12 months. Council, on 9 June 2015, agreed to further extend the contract for a period of 12 months with effect from 1 September 2015.
- 4.4 To end this interim contract on 31 August 2016, three months' notice has to be provided to Mr Burns on 31 May 2016 at the latest.
- 4.5 Members will be aware that the Criminal Proceedings against the three Senior Officers were dropped in October 2015 and the Authority is progressing internal procedures in accordance with the statutory requirements.
- 4.6 The procedures must be conducted fairly and thoroughly and therefore are taking time to progress accordingly.
- 4.7 It is therefore now appropriate to consider the contract of the current Interim Chief Executive and whether or not this should be extended beyond 31 August 2016, having regard to the three month notice period required.
- 4.8 Currently, the Authority is engaged in a number of significant projects, including City Deal, Twenty First Century Schools, management of the medium term financial plan, responding to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the proposed reform of Local Government. In order to provide ongoing continuity for the organisation, it is proposed to extend the Interim Chief Executive's contract by a further year i.e. to 31 August 2017, at which time it would be reviewed again.
- 4.9 If Council agrees to the extension of the fixed term contract, the Interim Chief Executive will be employed on the agreed salary and terms and conditions as published in the Council's Pay Policy Statement.
- 4.10 For completeness, Members are advised that the Interim Chief Executive has indicated his agreement to an extension of the contract for a further 12 months, subject to Council approval.
- 4.11 The proposed extension to the interim appointment will be subject to early termination by the service of three months' notice by either party. This will enable the Council to review the arrangements quickly should circumstances change.
- 4.12 Members are asked to note that Welsh Government have been notified that Council are being asked to consider an extension to this interim appointment.
- 4.13 Members will be aware that the Chief Executives terms and conditions are agreed by a separate body i.e. the JNC for Chief Executives, which negotiates on a national basis. Agreement has now been reached on a national pay award and this is 1% with effect from 1 April 2016 and 1 April 2017. WLGA have received confirmation from the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel that the pay award can be implemented without the involvement of the panel.
- 4.14 Pay awards for the Chief Executive are currently not covered in the Council's Pay Policy, therefore, Members are asked to agree the national pay award of 1% with effect from 1 April 2016 for the Interim Chief Executive.
- 4.15 Members will also be aware from previous reports that interim arrangements are in place in relation to the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer.

4.16 Due to the circumstances outlined within this report which is requesting Council's agreement to extend the contract of employment for the Interim Chief Executive, Members are also asked to delegate authority to the Interim Chief Executive to extend both these contracts of employment as appropriate.

4.17 Should circumstances change, the interim contracts can again be reviewed quickly.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No equality impact assessment has been undertaken on this report as it essentially covers an extension to arrangements already agreed.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are revenue budgets established for the posts of Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer. Postholders currently fulfilling these duties are funded from these revenue budgets.

6.2 Additional costs associated with the three Senior Officers have been funded from a provision established using General Fund reserves as approved by Council. A further report to Council will be prepared if this provision requires additional funding.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The personnel implications are included in this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Council is asked to agree to extend the contract of the current Interim Chief Executive for a further 12 months with effect from 1 September 2016. This fixed term arrangement is subject to 3 months' notice period on either side.

9.2 Council is asked to agree the national pay award of 1% with effect from 1 April 2016 for the Interim Chief Executive.

9.3 Council is asked to delegate the decision to the Interim Chief Executive to extend the contracts of the current Interim Director of Corporate Services and Interim Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer as appropriate.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure the Council complies with its statutory requirements to have in place a Head of Paid Service.

10.2 To ensure the Council has effective leadership to provide ongoing continuity for the organisation to deliver services to the residents of the County Borough.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000
Local Government and Housing Act 1989
Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014
Local Government (Wales) Bill 2015

Author: Lynne Donovan, Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development

Consultees: David Street, Corporate Director – Social Services
Cllr Keith Reynolds, Leader of the Council
Cllr Christine Forehead, Cabinet Member for HR and Governance
Cllr Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Andrew Southcombe, Finance Manager

Background papers: Council report 22 July 2014 'Recruitment of Interim Chief Executive'
Council report 9 June 2015 'Contract arrangements of Interim Chief Executive''