

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2017-2018



Councillor David Poole

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ELECTORAL WARD: Pengam

PARTY: Labour

PROFILE: Leader of Council and Leader of Labour Party

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council
Cabinet
Cabinet as Trustees of Blackwood Miners Institute

SUBCOMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS

Joint Consultative Committee

OUTSIDE BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Cardiff Capital Region Joint Committee (Regional Cabinet)
Consortium of Local Authorities of Wales (CLAW)
Local Government Association
Welsh Local Government Association
Welsh Local Government Association – Executive Board

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Pengam Primary School
Fleur-de-Lis Primary School

ATTENDANCE

From May 2017 to May 2018 my attendance at Council meetings was as follows:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>No. Attended</u>	<u>No. Held</u>
Council	13	13
Cabinet	16	18
Cabinet as Trustees of Blackwood Miners Institute	2	2
Joint Consultative Committee	3	3

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

I undertook the following training and development seminars and courses: -

Introduction to Finance (03.06.2017)
 Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar) (20.09.2017)
 Gwent Police Priorities (Seminar) (23.10.2017)
 Planning 5 Year Supply (06.12.2017)
 Medium Term Financial Plan (Seminar) (31.01.2018)
 Data Protection (Mandatory) (12.03.2017)
 Effective Governance – Call-in (13.03.2018)
 VAWDASV E-Training

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Following the Local Government Elections in May 2017 having been appointed as Leader of Council, I undertook to meet with my Cabinet colleagues to agree a set of priorities for the Council. This resulted in a clear set of Cabinet Commitments with seven key pledges to help us shape the way we will deliver services in the future.

In my role as Leader I represent the Caerphilly County Borough Council on the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), and I am the WLGA Lead on Workforce.

I Chair the Public Services Board (PSB) whilst also representing Caerphilly County Borough Council along with partner organisations made up of the Caerphilly County Borough Council, Natural Resources Wales, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. On 6th March 2018 Council approved the PSB Well-being Plan (The Caerphilly We Want) for the period 2018 to 2023. The plan is a commitment by the statutory partners to work together to improve the wellbeing of future generations and will focus on providing the best start in life, volunteering, apprenticeships, safer and resilient communities and also to protect and enhance the local natural environment.

I also represent the interests of Caerphilly on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Cabinet. In March 2018 Council agreed the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Working Agreement Business Plan which sets out sets out proposals and themes as well as indicative financial allocations over the next 5 years. The City Deal will provide £1.2 billion funding to stimulate the economic growth of the region.

Over the last 12 months Caerphilly has faced another year of tough financial challenges, I attended public drop in sessions as part of the public consultation in December 2017 in order to listen to the views of the public on the proposals, which set out draft savings of over £7m. The final savings reduced this by just over £0.5m as a result of the consultation process.

Despite continued austerity measures, customer satisfaction remained high, 74% of Caerphilly Residents in response to our biennial Household Survey stated that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the services we provided. Key areas that generated the highest levels of satisfaction included refuse and recycling, street lighting, libraries, country parks and the local bus service.

The investment in our Housing Stock to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by 2020 continued in 2017/18 with a commitment made to Welsh Government that external and internal works would be completed by March 2019.

This was a special year in our 21st Century School buildings programme with the official opening of the Idris Davies School 3-18 on 19th April 2018. This school serves the communities of Abertyswg, and Pontlottyn as well as offering a Flying Start provision and offers those children excellent facilities.

I took part in the Young Persons 'Question Time' Event held on 26th April 2018 which introduced young residents of the county borough to democracy and highlighted services of particular interest to them. They were invited to put questions to a panel of elected representative's which alongside myself, included a Welsh Assembly Member, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and the Cabinet Member for Education.

CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY

I continue to attend meetings of the Britannia, Pengam & Fleur-de-lis Residents Association and enjoy the exchange of views in these meetings.

The legal process has began to make Francis Street and Warn Street a one way system. Unfortunately the legal process is a long process.

I have continued to respond to request from residents be it by email, mail and telephone. I have also made house visits if requested.

Being Leader has meant that I have not been able to play a very active role in the governance of Pengam & Fleur-de-lis Primary schools.