

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2018 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor M. Adams - Mayor

Councillors:

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

Together with:

C. Harrhy (Interim Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director - Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services and Housing), M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director - Communities), K. Cole (Chief Education Officer), S. Harris (Interim Head of Business Improvement Services), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), S. Richards (Head of Education, Planning & Strategy), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), D. Lucas (Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

1. WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Mayor reminded Members that under the Council's Constitution, they should stand when addressing the Mayor unless dispensation has been given for them to remain seated. It was noted that Officers currently sit when speaking due to the current webcasting camera configuration but that this protocol will be examined for future meetings.

The Interim Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be made publicly available in live and archive form via the Council's website. She advised that decisions would be made by way of the electronic voting system for items on the agenda.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, C. Bezzina,

Mrs C. Forehead, V. James, G. Johnston, G. Kirby, Mrs G.D. Oliver, B. Owen, Mrs D. Price, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds and J. Simmonds (Deputy Mayor).

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many events and visits and the Deputy Mayor have undertaken since the last meeting. Occasions of note included the Goldwing Motorcycle Club event at Caerphilly RFC, two 100th birthday celebrations in Bedwas, the opening of the Gilberts Maze and Dragons Den in Caerphilly Castle, a dedication service at Markham Congregational Church, the recent Aber Valley Arts Festival, and the launch of the Healthy Schools celebration event.

The Mayor was pleased to report on the success of his first Mayor's Charity Concert for the year, and announced that entries for the Mayor's Christmas Card competition are now open. Members were invited to let the Mayor know of any forthcoming events that may be of interest.

During the course of the meeting, and on behalf of Llanbradach and Pwllypant Community Council, the Mayor was also presented with a £150 cheque for his Mayor's Charity, which he received with grateful thanks.

4. PETITIONS

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

- (i) Enforcement action regarding unauthorised speeding and parking of vehicles in and around Blackwood Primary School Councillor K. Etheridge:
- (ii) Action against possible closure of Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centres Councillor K. Etheridge;
- (iii) Speeding vehicles through Wingfield Crescent, Llanbradach Councillor R. Gough.

5. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Insport Development Bronze Award

Members were informed that the Council's Sport and Leisure Services department was recently awarded the Insport Development Bronze Award. The Insport Development programme aims to support the sport, leisure and physical activity sectors delivering inclusivity to disabled people. Sport and Leisure Services staff have shown a high level of dedication and commitment in the aims covered by this award, which included the delivery of service, workforce development and the provision of facilities.

Lawrence Conway (Chair of Sport Wales) together with Jared Lougher and Paul Taylor (Sport and Leisure Services) came forward in order to be congratulated by Members on their achievement.

UK Asbestos Training Association (UKATA) Workforce Development Award

Members were informed that the Council's Asbestos Health and Safety Training Team

recently received the 2018 UKATA Workforce Development Award.

The Council's asbestos awareness and training programme provides training to thousands of staff and contractors who assist with the maintenance of nearly 12,000 council houses and corporate buildings, as well as staff who work in numerous other areas. The training team is passionate about improving the skills and awareness of people coming into contact with asbestos, and help to ensure they and the people around them are kept safe.

Ali Rees-Evans and Helen Hill from the Council's Asbestos Health and Safety Training Team came forward in order to be congratulated by Members on their achievement.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7. **COUNCIL - 5TH JUNE 2018**

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

Council held on 5th June 2018 (minute nos. 1-13).

8. **COUNCIL - 17TH JULY 2018**

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

Council held on 17th July 2018 (minute nos. 1-16).

REPORTS REFERRED FROM CABINET

Consideration was given to the following report referred from Cabinet.

9. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017/18

Cabinet considered this report on 3rd October 2018 and in endorsing its content recommended its acceptance by Council.

The Performance Report is a statutory requirement under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and an important part of the Council's Performance Framework. The Council is required to assess its own performance and provide the public with a balanced picture of that performance. The report must also show how the Council performed against the Well-being Objectives it set itself for 2017/18, and must be published by 30th October 2018.

It was noted that the Council has been successful in delivering 2 of the 5 Well-being Objectives in 2017/18 and the other 3 have been judged as partly successful. The Annual Performance Report also compares the Council's performance against 20 public accountability measures (PAMs) along with the ranking positions over 3 years. 18 of these measures were used as a comparison to create a national picture across Wales. For

Caerphilly CBC, 8 of the 18 indicators are in the upper quartiles and 10 are in the lower quartiles when compared to the rest of Wales. In summary, 30% (6) improved on performance year on year, 40% (8) deteriorated year on year and 30% (6) could not be compared with the year before because they were new measures.

Members were asked to note that at its meeting on 3rd October 2018, Cabinet recommended that Council accept the Annual Performance Report for 2017/18, subject to the inclusion of two amendments at page 14 of the Report, namely that the icon for all pupils who leave compulsory education, training or work-based learning without an external qualification should state that a 'lower' number is preferred, and that the indicator at the bottom of the page should relate to pupils in local authority care only and should reflect that the indicator improved with a reduction from 18.8% to 8%. Since the publication of the agenda papers, further amendments were being required at page 28 of the report due to data validation in housing, namely that the percentage of housing stock up to the WHQS standard should be 73% (not 72%), that the satisfaction rate for internal works should be 80.6% (not 89%) and that the Council has a housing stock of 10.801 homes (not 10.785).

Council were therefore asked to accept the Annual Performance Report subject to the inclusion of the amendments agreed by Cabinet and the further amendments required in respect of housing data.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement also presented a position statement in respect of educational attainment and GCSE examination results for the 2017/18 academic year. Members were reminded of the continuing challenges faced by Education across Wales and of the continued drive to raise standards and reduce attainment gaps. Members were urged to be cautious when comparing year on year performance and drawing conclusions from GCSE results and to bear in mind the long term nature of implementing these improvements. They were advised that extensive assessment work is being undertaken by the Council and Education Achievement Service (EAS) to improve performance, ensure the right level of support is in place, and assist every pupil in fulfilling their potential. This work will include a range of tailored action plans which will be shared with Members later in the autumn.

Discussion took place regarding performance across a number of the public accountability measures. Members expressed a need to improve performance across the lower-performing measures and referenced the Council's low placing in these areas, given the parity of austerity cuts and their impact on services across all 22 local authorities in Wales. Particular mention was made to the performance measures outlining the working days lost through sickness absence by local authority employees, pupil attendance and the condition of 'A' roads across the county borough.

Council were advised that in regards to sickness absence levels, and as reported to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Head of People Services will be holding quarterly meetings with all Heads of Service to identity emerging issues, plan remedial actions, and examine whether the current policies in place are robust enough to challenge the current level of performance. Members were given assurances that sickness absence levels are being increasingly scrutinised and the policy will also come under review, and so improvements are to be expected moving forward. It was emphasised to Members that the Council takes the matter of sickness absence levels very seriously, and that additionally it should be noted that 75% of staff take no time off through sickness absence. A Member sought further information regarding the number of working days lost by staff through sickness last year and the number relating to stress, and it was confirmed that this information is contained in the reports presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee but would be forwarded to the Member following the meeting.

With regards to pupil attendance, a number of managing attendance changes have been implemented, including changes to the Education Welfare Officer service. Further arrangements planned for the new academic year, and improvements are expected in this area. Across 'A 'roads, Council was reminded that both heavy usage and severe winter weather conditions continue to adversely contribute to the overall condition of these roads.

Reference was made to the PAM013 measure (the percentage of private sector dwellings vacant for more than 6 months (11%)). A Member highlighted the ambiguity of the wording used against this measure and Officers confirmed that they would seek clarification that the correct wording has been used and respond to the Member following the meeting. Members commented on the length of the re-let periods across private sector dwellings and the satisfaction rate for external works (70%). Officers gave assurances that the Council is striving to make improvements in respect of the satisfaction rate and outlined the many mitigating factors that may impact on the level of performance. Members were also reminded of the many achievements across the Housing service, including the shortlisting of Caerphilly Homes for the 2017 APSE Annual Services Awards, and the continuing good performance across many elements of the WHQS programme. Assurances were also given that Housing performance is regularly scrutinised by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

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

It was moved and seconded that subject to the inclusion of the amendments as agreed by Cabinet and the further amendments highlighted to Council, the recommendation in the Officer's report be approved. By way of the electronic voting system this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED for the reasons contained in the report and subject to the foregoing amendments, the Annual Performance Report 2017/18 as appended to the Officer's report be accepted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION – THE PHASE OUT OF PLASTIC PRODUCTS

Consideration was given to the report, which detailed the following Notice of Motion received from Councillor C.P. Mann and supported by Councillors T. Parry, J. Roberts and J. Scriven. In accordance with Rule 11 (3) of the Constitution, the Mayor had agreed to allow the motion to be dealt with at Council, without being first discussed at an overview and scrutiny committee.

Councillor Mann requested in his Notice of Motion that:-

- (i) Council notes the huge problem posed by plastic pollution on a world scale materials which will remain intact for hundreds if not thousands of years;
- (ii) Council further notes the huge amount of plastic items being ordered on a regular basis by the authority 116,000 over a recent four-month period;
- (iii) Council resolves to re-visit its procurement practices with a view to phasing out

plastics where a sustainable alternative is available. These substitute products should be brought in over a maximum timescale of five years.

Members considered the reasons for the Motion, and the information provided in relation to the Motion, and following due debate, it was moved and seconded that its content be supported. By way of the electronic voting system this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the Notice of Motion be supported.

11. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2017/18

Dave Street, Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing, presented the report, which had been considered and endorsed by the Health, Social Care and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11th September 2018. The report detailed the key messages that had been identified in the preparation of the Annual Report for the Director of Social Services for 2017/18, and sought Council's endorsement of its content, prior to submission to the Care Inspectorate for Wales (CIW).

Members noted that this is the ninth such report for the Directorate and is written in a format that is in line with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA). The report is an opportunity for the Statutory Director of Social Services to provide a summary of how effectively the Council delivers Social Services to its citizens.

Members noted that the report places a significant emphasis on well-being, highlights the challenges faced during 2017/18 and highlights some of the priorities for 2018/19. Progress against these priorities will be a significant part of the annual report for 2018/19. The report highlights the increasing pressure on social care services in the county borough, both from a financial perspective and in terms of the complexity of need. Challenges include the increasing cost of care, the need for some people to have multiple carers, and the recruitment difficulties faced by the Council in an increasingly competitive market. Costs have also significantly increased across Children's Services due to the significant increase in the number of children brought into care. The report also evidences the emphasis on collaboration, including the establishment of the Greater Gwent Regional Partnership Board and a Population Needs Assessment which will inform Area Plans.

It was explained that subject to Council endorsement, the report would be submitted to Welsh Government and the CIW and published on the Council's website, and would be made available to members of the public, partners and stakeholders. It was noted that the Council would also be visited by Care Inspectorate Wales but would not be receiving any formal feedback this year due to restructuring priorities for the agency.

During the course of the debate, Members thanked the Corporate Director of Social Services for the comprehensive report and placed on record their appreciation to health and social services staff, carers and communities for the professional way in which they deliver these services across the Authority.

Reference was made to the requirement by WG for all local authorities to survey 25-30% of their citizens in receipt of a Care and Support Plan as of September 2017 and clarification was sought on the number of respondents. It was confirmed that approximately 2000 surveys had been sent out and circa 460 responses had been received. A Member enquired as to Officer confidence that the priorities outlined in the report can be achieved, together with details of the most challenging priorities, if there are resources in place to deliver these priorities, if a multi-agency approach is in place, and if the local health board are on board regarding timescales and delivery. Mr Street reiterated that they are striving

to be ambitious in what they achieve and that the report presents a unique opportunity to progress this aim. Safeguarding vulnerable children, young people and adults will continue to be the number one priority for the Council. Managing sufficient resources remains challenging with the loss of 134 posts in the last 5 years and therefore strong partnership working links are of the upmost importance. Mr Street highlighted the Council's good relationship with the Aneurin Bevan University Health board and outlined the emphasis that the SSWBA places on seamless working across local authorities, which the Council continues to strive to meet.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of the electronic voting system this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the contents of the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2017/18 as appended to the Officer's report be endorsed.

12. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UP TO 2021 – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2018 (INCLUDING THE 4TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY REPORT)

Consideration was given to the report, which outlined the findings of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2018 Annual Monitoring Report and the implications of the recommendations contained therein.

This is the seventh Annual Monitoring report (AMR) to be prepared for the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP) up to 2021 which monitors the period from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. The Council is required to submit the 2018 AMR (including the 4th Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report) to Welsh Government (WG) by 31st October 2018 in order to satisfy the Council's statutory requirements.

The 2018 Report concluded and recommended that substantial progress should continue to be made in the delivery of the majority of the Adopted Development Plan, that Council should continue to work towards securing the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region at the earliest opportunity, and that Council continue to address the shortfall in the 5-year housing land supply through proactive action. The report also highlighted the dis-application of paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1 (the need for local authorities to take steps to increase the supply of housing land in cases where the supply is less than 5 years) from 18th July 2018 which will have implications for the consideration of planning applications moving forward. Further details of the findings and recommendations were detailed in the Officer's report.

During the course of the ensuing debate, reference was made to the continuing significant shortfall in respect of housing supply and a Member queried if this factor would take precedence over the dis-application of TAN 1 if the Council receives development applications for greenfield sites. Officers explained that although local authorities will still need to take into account material considerations when determining planning applications, the weight that is to be attributed to the lack of a 5-year land supply will be for decision makers to determine, and future applications will therefore be considered on their merits. It was noted that there has been a slight increase in the housing land supply to 2.3 years.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of the electronic voting system (and in noting there was 1 against with 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

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

- (i) the findings of the 2018 Annual Monitoring Report and the implications of the recommendations contained therein be noted:
- (ii) the 2018 Annual Monitoring Report (Including the 4th Annual CIL Report) be submitted to Welsh Government before the deadline of 31st October 2018.

13. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to the report, which had been presented to the Democratic Services Committee on 23rd July 2018, and asked Members to consider if the Council should undertake a formal review of its communities in accordance with Section 22 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013.

Members were advised that a Commission is looking into the town and community council sector as a whole and will be reporting their findings and making recommendations to Welsh Government. Depending on which recommendations Welsh Government takes forward, it may materially affect a community review, and therefore it may be prudent to wait until after then to start a review. The views of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales have been sought and it is their preference that any review takes place after their review of the Council's divisions and electoral arrangements. The last review of communities in in the county borough was carried out in 2009.

At their meeting on 23rd July 2018, the Democratic Services Committee recommended to Council that a full community review of the Council's arrangements be carried out following the Commission's review of community councils, which would likely be following the next local elections scheduled in 2022. Council's approval was therefore sought to delay the community review until after the conclusion of the Commission's review.

During the course of the debate, and in referring to community council boundaries, a Member queried the meeting arrangements in respect of one community council, and indicated that he would follow up the matter with the relevant Officers following the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of the electronic voting system this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons set out in the report, a full community review of this Council's arrangements be carried out following the conclusion of the Commission's review of Community Councils, which is likely to be following the next local elections scheduled in 2022.

14. PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP INCREASE – CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Consideration was given to the report, which asked Council to consider recommendations from Caerphilly SACRE to increase its membership within Committee A (faith groups) and Committee B (professional teaching associations).

At its Summer Term meeting on 13th June 2018, Caerphilly Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) discussed its membership in light of new guidance from Welsh Government and a number of membership requests received, and were of the view that there is scope to extend the number of places across some of its committee groupings.

Further details of the reasons and background membership details were set out in the Officer's report and the appendices.

As the composition of SACRE membership is a matter for full Council, SACRE therefore recommended to Council that Committee A (faith groups) membership of SACRE be increased by **two** places (to comprise one place for a non-Christian faith group/religion and one place for a group who hold secular or non religious beliefs), and that Committee B (professional teaching associations) membership of SACRE be increased by **one** place and allocated to the NASUWT teaching union.

During the course of the debate, a query was received regarding youth representation on SACRE. It was explained that legislation prescribes the 3 main committee groupings (faith, teacher and councillor representatives) and that there is no provision for any other type of representative to serve on the committee. The same Member expressed a need for youth representation on SACRE and it was indicated that the observation would be noted and a response provided to the Member following the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of the electronic voting system this was unanimously agreed.

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

- (i) Committee A (faith groups) membership of SACRE be increased by two places (to comprise one place for a non-Christian faith group/religion and one place for a group who hold secular or non religious beliefs);
- (ii) Committee B (professional teaching associations) membership of SACRE be increased by one place and allocated to the NASUWT teaching union.

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

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

1. LEISURE PROVISION

To the Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement from Councillor Kevin Etheridge.

- (1) To ask the Cabinet Member for Education to confirm if Leisure Officers have had any discussions with Governors over providing services from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to Islwyn High School in the last 12 months and prior to the consultation over the Leisure and Sports strategy which ended on 21st September 2018.
- (2) To ask the Cabinet Member for Education to define the content of any discussions with the governors and any provisional agreements on funding of current services from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to Islwyn High School, and if any discussion and votes have been taken by governors in this respect, and if a "memorandum of understanding " between Council and the School has been discussed and the results of these discussions.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR PHILIPPA MARSDEN, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND ACHIEVEMENT

2. HIGHWAY MATTERS

To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability from Councillor Kevin Etheridge.

To ask the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member to confirm in regard the Sirhowy Bridge Blackwood:

- 1. Confirm it is a Private Finance Contract and the term left on the contract
- 2. Confirm all cost of repairs will fall to the private sector
- 3. Details of the penalty clauses and confirmation no cost will fall to the ratepayers of the County Borough, and the details of the cost so far incurred
- 4. The works are on track to be completed and the bridge opened end of October.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR SEAN MORGAN, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

1.	To ask the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member to confirm in regard the Sirhowy Bridge Blackwood.	I would like to confirm that the answers to the questions raised by the member are generally already available to the local members via the fortnightly updates that they receive from SEW Ltd or in information previously supplied.
2.	Confirm it is a Private Finance Contract and the term left on the contract.	Yes it is a PFI scheme and it ends January 2034.
3.	Confirm all cost of repairs will fall to the private sector.	To date all costs have been incurred by the private sector and there are no indications that any costs will be attributable to CCBC.
4.	Details of the penalty clauses and confirmation no cost will fall to the ratepayers of the County Borough, and the details of the cost so far incurred.	The penalty clauses you refer to are lane availability charges, these are hourly lane availability charges incurred by the contractor if the road is unavailable. There are varying charge amounts depending on each day and time of day the road is closed. Therefore, the monthly charges do differ each month. As a guide the lane availability charges are approximately £50k per month and to date none of these costs have been payable by the ratepayer.
5.	The works are on track to be completed and the bridge opened end of October.	Latest information posted on our website from the contractor is that works will be completed by the end of October. If the completion date changes all parties involved will be notified through the appropriate channels.

The meeting closed at 6.46 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 13th December 2018, they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR	