



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD OCTOBER 2019 AT 5.30PM

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Simmonds - Mayor

Councillors:

M. Adams, Mrs E. Aldworth, A. Angel, J. Bevan, C. Bezzina, A. Collis, S. Cook, C. Cuss, W. David, M. Davies, D.T. Davies, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, A. Gair, J. Gale, N. George, C. Gordon, D.T. Hardacre, L. Harding, D. Harse, D. Havard, M. James, M. James, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, Mrs B. Jones, G. Kirby, Mrs A. Leonard, C.P. Mann, P. Marsden, S. Morgan, Mrs G. Oliver, B. Owen, T. Parry, Mrs L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, D.W.R. Preece, Mrs D. Price, J. Pritchard, J. Ridgewell, R. Saralis, G. Simmonds, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L G. . Whittle, T. Williams, B. Zaplatynski.

Together with:-

C. Harrhy (Interim Chief Executive), M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director of Communities), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Director – Social Services and Housing), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), D. Lucas (Team Leader, Strategic Planning), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), R. Roberts (Business Improvement Manager), P Cooke (Senior Policy Officer) L. Lane (Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer) S. Harris (Interim Head of Business Improvement Services & Acting S151 Officer) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

UPDATE – COUNCILLOR KEVIN ETHERIDGE

The Mayor on behalf of Council wished Councillor Etheridge well and a speedy recovery.

WEB-CASTING FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Interim Chief Executive reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed and would be made publically available in live and archive form via the Council's website. She advised that decisions would be made via the electronic voting system.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C. Andrews, P.J. Bevan, L. Binding, D. Cushing, K. Etheridge, Mrs C. Forehead, E. Forehead, J. Fussell, R. Gough, A. Higgs, A. Hussey, V. James, S. Kent, P. Leonard, B. Miles, J. Roberts, M. Sargent, J. Scriven and T. Williams.

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor outlined the events he and the Deputy Mayor had undertaken since the last meeting of Council and referred Members to the list of engagements included at Agenda Item No. 2 of the agenda pack.

The Mayor referred Members to some key visits he has undertaken, which included the Young Enterprise Wales National Final in which 2 Caerphilly Schools were participants.

The Mayor thanked Members and Officers for their support and attendance at his Civic Service Event in July, which was a great success.

Council noted the Mayor's attendance at the BEM presentation in which former Councillor Leon Gardiner was awarded a medal and Members were asked to note that a Help the Heroes event has been organised at Castle Court Shopping Centre on 2nd November, in which the Mayor urged as many Councillors, Officers and members of the public as possible to attend and support the Heroes.

3. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 28(3)

There were no petitions.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Estyn Report Excellent Status

The Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement announced that following recent Estyn Inspections, three of the borough's schools; Trinant Primary School, Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre and Risca Primary School received an excellent status in three or more areas.

Council were advised that the Headteachers, staff and governors at the schools are fully dedicated to providing the best education for their pupils, which is demonstrated in their academic and non-academic achievements year on year. At the recent Estyn Annual Awards ceremony, each school was presented with a certificate to mark the hard work and commitment that lies behind this achievement. The Cabinet Member welcomed Ian Elliot, Jayne Arthur, Sian James, Mike Cook, Ffion Green and Linda Harris and asked that they come forward so that Council could recognise their awards.

Road Safety Awards

The Cabinet Member for Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability announced that Mr Lynn Griffiths, Headteacher at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili, has won a Road Safety Award for his total commitment in supporting his school's "walking bus".

Council were advised that Every Friday for the last 15 years, Mr Griffiths has "driven" his pupils to and from school. Not only has this helped reduce congestion around the school, but has also contributed to the health and well-being of hundreds of pupils, past and present, and most importantly making sure they know and understand the rudiments of road safety. His enthusiasm has been contagious. His staff and children have enjoyed taking part in the "walking bus", which is now an imbedded part of school culture and continues to run every

Friday. The Cabinet Member welcomed Mr Lynn Griffiths and asked that he come forward so that Council could recognise his award.

Wales Veterans Awards, Community Category

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services announced that Lisa Rawlings was awarded Silver in the Community Category at the first ever Welsh Veterans Awards earlier this year.

Council noted that there are tens of thousands of former military personnel that, on retirement from the Armed Forces, have gone on to contribute immensely to the areas in which they live and work. The Welsh Veterans Awards have been established to reward veterans for their achievements in business, sport and more widely.

The Cabinet Member advised that Lisa served 25 years in the Royal Air Force and was a Flight Operative Manager. She served world-wide including in Northern Ireland and Afghanistan. Since September 2017, Lisa has worked for Caerphilly County Borough Council as the Regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer for the Gwent Region, supporting the five local authorities in the area to embed the Covenant in their operations.

Lisa has worked tirelessly, both in their role within the Authority and outside work, to promote and protect the rights of military personnel. She has been instrumental in ensuring that the Authority achieved a Gold award under the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme which will be presented next month and recently Lisa has worked with Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council, Keep Wales Tidy and the Parachute Regiment to fundraise for a memorial garden in honour of Warrant Officer 2 Michael Williams, a friend who was tragically fatally wounded on operation against the Taliban in the Upper Sangin Valley in 2008. The Cabinet Member welcomed Lisa Rawlings and asked that she come forward so that the Council could recognise her award.

Rose Brown, MBE and Wales Care Awards

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Well Being announced that a member of staff within the Social Services Directorate has been awarded an MBE.

Council were advised that Rose Brown started within Gwent County Council over 30 years ago, progressing to Manager of South East Wales Shared Lives Scheme in 2010. Rose is passionate about Shared Lives and is wholeheartedly determined to deliver and support both Shared Lives carers and individuals in a confident, passionate, purposeful and flexible manner. This scheme provides support to adults with differing needs and makes a huge difference to their lives. Since its start in 2010 this scheme has built up a very good reputation across the local authorities, Welsh Government and Shared Lives Plus.

It was noted that Rose has successfully led the team since its commencement in 2010 and was nominated for an MBE for her passion, commitment and the scheme's achievements over the last 9 years. Rose was awarded a silver award in Leadership and Management in Supported Living and Small Group Category at the Wales Care Awards and the Cabinet Member welcomed Rose Brown and asked that she come forward so that Council could recognise her award.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D. Hardacre declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 12 – Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Annual Report and Annual Letter 2019/19. Details are minuted with the respective item.

6. COUNCIL – 4TH JUNE 2019

RESOLVED that subject to it being noted that Councillor J. Bevan was in attendance, the minutes of Council held on the 4th June 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

7. SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL – 30TH JULY 2019

RESOLVED that subject to it being noted that Councillor J. Bevan was in attendance, the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on the 30th June 2019 be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

8. TO RECEIVE AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10 (2)

To the Leader of Council from Councillor Graham Simmonds:

Can the Leader confirm whether the administration adheres to the Nolan Principles of openness and transparency?

Response from the Leader

In response to the question, it was confirmed the administration adheres to the Nolan Principles of openness and transparency and that as elected members, there is a legal duty to act ethically. When elected, members sign the declaration of acceptance, giving a written undertaking to observe the code of conduct for members, which is underpinned by the 'ethical framework' otherwise known as the 'Nolan principles'. The principles include Selflessness; Honesty; Integrity and Propriety; Duty to uphold the Law; Stewardship; Objectivity in decision making; Equality and respect; Openness; Accountability and Leadership.

The Interim Leader of Council confirmed that she is comfortable and confident that cabinet colleagues and she fully adhere to the principles in their work to improve the quality of life for the citizens of the county borough.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION – BAN ON ANIMALS AS PRIZES ON CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LAND

Consideration was given to the Notice of Motion received from Councillor J. Pritchard and supported by Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, W. David, P. Bevan, L. Whittle, G. Kirby, S. Morgan, A. Hussey, Mrs B. Jones, Mrs T. Parry, R. Gough, A. Farina-Childs, C. Cuss, G. Johnston, B. Owen, K. Etheridge, C. Mann, Mrs D. Cushing, A. Whitcombe, Mrs D. Price, Mrs A. Gair, Mrs C. Andrews, Mrs P. Marsden, Mrs A. Leonard, A. Collis, A. Angel, Mrs P. Leonard, L. Jeremiah, W. Williams, A. Higgs, S. Morgan, S. Cook, J. Simmonds, J. Taylor, T.J. Williams, D.W.R Preece and Mrs Eluned Stenner. It was noted that the motion had been considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee in 17th September 2019 and had been supported by its Members.

Councillor Pritchard requested that in his Notice of Motion that Council:

- (i) Ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Caerphilly County Borough Council land.
- (ii) Write to the Welsh Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land in Wales.

It was noted that the Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure in now referred to Scrutiny for consideration.

Members supported the notice of motion and clarification was sought on whether an outright ban could be obtained across the Borough including private land, and the enforcement powers the Council has to uphold the ban. Officers explained that Welsh Government legislation does not allow for a Borough wide ban to be placed, however the Council has the authority to implement a ban on Council owned land. Officers added that there is currently no enforcement process to issue fines or confiscate animals offered as prizes.

Having fully considered the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained within the Officer's report be approved and way of the electronic voting system this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) An outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Caerphilly County Borough Council Land be implemented;
- (ii) A letter be sent to the Welsh Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land in Wales.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION - #PLEDGE2TALK CAMPAIGN

Consideration was given to a Notice of Motion has been received from Councillors B. Jones, S. Morgan, C. Gordon, C. Cuss, Mrs E. Stenner, Mrs L. Phipps, N. George and Mrs P. Marsden.

It was noted that in accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Constitution, the Mayor has agreed to allow the motion to be dealt with at Council, without bring first discussed at an overview and scrutiny committee.

Councillor B. Jones requested in her Notice of Motion that Council:-

- (i) Support the #IPledge2Talk suicide prevention campaign and will work to support positive mental health in the Council Communities, in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces;
- (ii) Makes Mental Wellbeing a priority across all local authority's areas of responsibility;
- (iii) Appoints Councillor C. Gordon (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services) as this Council's 'Mental Health Champion'.

In support of the Notice of Motion, Councillor Jones wished it noted that in Wales more than 300 people die each year by suicide. In 2017, 278 of the 360 lives lost were male. We all have our part to play in reaching out and offering support to those in need by providing an opportunity to talk. Many people feel unable to talk about mental health due to the stigma that surrounds admitting there's a problem, we need to overcome this and we can all play a part in helping other feel comfortable enough to seek help.

The #IPledge2Talk Campaign was recently launched at the Senedd in collaboration with Mind Cymru, as a Local Authority, we acknowledge our crucial role in promoting awareness of the mental health and wellbeing.

Encouraging mental well-being should be a priority across all local authority's areas of responsibility, including housing, community safety and planning. As a Council, we can champion mental health on an individual and strategic basis by appointing an elected member as a 'Mental Health Champion'.

In supporting the Notice of Motion, a Member queried whether funding is offered to Mind Cymru. Officers confirmed that there is a small allocation of voluntary sector funding to the charity.

A query was raised around support offered to the homeless population and also young people within the borough. It was noted that staff within Mental Health Services work alongside Housing in order to address these issues and offer support where possible. In respect of young people, it was noted that a lot of work is now taking place within schools to raise awareness of Mental Health, and the Junior and Youth Forum have identified Mental Health Support as their main priority for the upcoming year. In addition, CAMs offer support to young adults, however waiting lists for support services are long.

Having fully considered the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained within the Officer's report be approved and show of hands it was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the #IPledge2Talk suicide prevention campaign and work to support positive mental health in the Council Communities, in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces be supported;
- (ii) Mental Wellbeing be made a priority across all local authority's areas of responsibility;
- (iii) Councillor C. Gordon (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services) be appointed as this Council's 'Mental Health Champion'.

11. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19

Consideration was given to the report presented, which was supported by Cabinet on 16th October 2019 and provided Council with the Authority's annual self-assessment of its performance, the Annual Performance Report for 2018/19, and sought the views and approval of Council prior to publication on the internet by 31st October 2019.

The Annual Performance Report is a statutory requirement under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, it forms 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. In addition, the Council must also report progress on the six Well-being Objectives it set for itself within the Corporate Plan 2018-2023. The annual report represents the first year's progress on the five- year plan.

In addition, it was noted that the Wales Audit Office is required to check whether an authority has complied with the statutory duty and to issue a 'certificate of compliance' in response. The Annual Performance Report demonstrates to the Wales Audit Office how we have met our duty.

Council were provided with a presentation, which outlined each of the six Well-Being Objectives and progress against each Objective.

It was noted that some of the key achievements under Well-Being Objective 1 (Improve Education Opportunities for all) included; Inspire to Work has supported 160 young people (aged 16-24), 95 of which have gained qualifications, 40 have gained employment and 9 had progressed to further learning opportunities; funding has been successfully obtained to provide additional childcare by 2021 totally £5.1m investment; the successful delivery of the £56.5m 21st Century Schools Band A Programme and the project launched to tackle Period

Poverty has successfully been implemented in Schools, Period Dignity provides free products to girls and young women across schools within the Borough and the project also aims to go Plastic free.

Under Well-Being Objective 2 (Enabling Employment), it was noted that Communities for Work Programmes have supported 246 people into employment across the borough; The City Deal unveiled a 5-year plan for South East Wales, with the overarching economic objective to create 250,000 new jobs; extensive work has been undertaken with a focus on interaction with the Business Community and the Regeneration Department have undergone a restructure, as a result of changes in funding and uncertainty for EU funding post Brexit.

In considering Well-Being Objective 3 (address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve peoples well-being), it was noted that 6,166 homes have been completed under the Wales Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) programme; Home visits have resulted in an extra £628,000 additional income for tenants; loans and Grants totalling approx. £794,000 to improve owner/ occupier homes and the successful prevention of 471 households from becoming homeless in 2018/19. In addition, Cabinet noted that the WHQS works are on target to complete by June 2020, however post 2020, additional works could be required under Energy Efficiency agendas. Work is also underway to increase the number of affordable homes across the borough, as well as reducing the number of empty properties, and bringing them back into circulation and fit for purpose.

Well-Being Objective 4 (Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increased opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the Environment) demonstrated that the Authority continue to play a leading role in shaping and delivering the ambitious City Deal programme, which will deliver a far reaching package of benefits of the region totalling £1.2 billion in investment; we are among the first in Wales to have our Active Travel Routes and Integrated Network Maps approved by Welsh Government and the Caerphilly Interchange will be a transport hub located at the top of Caerphilly Town to provide access to bus, coach, rail and other transport links to other areas/ regions. Officers explained that these are long-term investments, including a number of partner agencies to improve transport links and accessibility across the Borough, as well as meeting environmental needs, such as the implementation of Electric vehicle charging points.

In discussing Well-Being 5 (Creating a County Borough that supports a healthy lifestyle) it was noted that there were 1.5m visits to parks and countryside, this is the highest level recorded to date, the most popular activity being walking; 40% girls now participating in sport and physical activity at least 3 times a week and 71% of girls are confident of trying new activities; The adoption of the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy (2019-29) in November 2018 is a significant milestone and there are 84,000 participants that took part in Sport Caerphilly activities.

Officers referred to Well-Being Objective 6 (Support citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing) and it was noted that key outcomes have been supporting people to help themselves by providing advice and information including signposting to other services; having meaningful conversations to help people identify 'what matters' to them to inform 'their choices'; we have invested in the DEWIS Cymru web base system, this is an online support resource that can help you think about what matters to you, and gives information about the people and services in their area.

In discussing the Public Accountability Measures Comparison 2019/20 and it was noted that there are 35 Public Accountability Measures in the total set, 19 of which can currently be compared across Wales, with the ranked position. Of those we can compare 14 year on year against our performance in the previous year. As many of the 35 measures are taken from other national data sets, which have their own timeframes, many won't be available to the PAM set until the end of 2019.

Council were asked to note that following feedback from Cabinet, in relation to pages 85 and 86 of the report, a tabled document provided details of the additional commentary and actions for PAM indicators, as noted in red on the sheet, which would be included in the final publication of the document.

The Interim Leader wished her gratitude be relayed to all staff involved in the completion of the report and moved the recommendations for the approval of the report.

In considering the report and presentation, queries were raised around the number of jobs allocated as a result of developments at Oakdale Plateau. Officers explained that there are still areas that are undeveloped and were not able to provide the figures at the meeting but would circulate following the meeting.

In discussing Well-Being Objective 2, queries were raised around the 25k jobs to be created as a result of the City Deal and sought further information on the number of jobs that will remain within the Borough. Officers explained the aspirational figure will be spread across all 10 Local Authorities.

Discussions took place around Well-Being Objective 1 and attainment across Caerphilly Schools and concerns were raised that Caerphilly performance was below the Welsh Average. Officers explained that whilst the comments are accurate for the 2017/18 academic year, interim results have suggested an improvement on previous year's data, however the final verified figures would not be available until the new year.

In considering Well-Being Objective 3, discussions took place around the WHQS Programme and whilst it was acknowledged that there have been significant improvements made to homes and progress across the scheme, a number of complaints have been received in respect of standards of work, welfare, safety and the conditions in which tenants have been expected to live whilst works are undertaken. Officers acknowledged that there have been a number of difficulties during the duration of the programme, including the loss of contractors, user satisfaction surveys are completed at the completion of works and have been undertaken by Wales Audit Office (WAO) and therefore the information within the report represents the information gathered from this process.

A further query was raised in relation to the employment opportunities offered as a result of the programme and whether there were any plans to develop smaller business units across the borough similar to Caerphilly ICE. Officers explained that similar projects have been developed within the Winding House and with Linc Housing. In addition, it was noted that turnover in business units has improved with vacancies being filled more quickly and additional builds will be taking place in Rhymney and Nelson, which will increase the Council's portfolio.

Having fully considered the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained within the Officer's report be approved and way of the electronic voting system, and in noting there were 48 for and 1 abstention, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's Report the Annual Performance Report 2018/19 be approved.

12. PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN FOR WALES – ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL LETTER 2018/19

Councillor D. Hardacre declared a personal interest in this item as a Community Councillor for Darran Valley. Whilst the Monitoring Officer advised that declaration of interest was not necessary given the nature of the report, it was the member's decision and Councillor Hardacre felt a declaration of a personal interest would be appropriate and also chose not to take part in the debate or voting on this item.

Consideration was given to the report which informed Council of the publication of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report and Annual Letter (2018/19) in respect of this Council by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

It was noted that the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) issues an Annual Letter to each Local Authority in Wales which sets out a clear and concise breakdown of all complaints received and investigated by the PSOW during 2018/19 specifically related to the Authority. The Annual Letter in respect of Caerphilly was appended to the report at Appendix 1.

Members noted that the number of complaints received by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales in respect of Caerphilly had increased this year to 65, compared to the 40 received last year. Of the 65 complaints received, 26 were made prematurely (an increase of 19 from last year), 6 were out of jurisdiction, and 26 cases were closed after initial consideration (an increase of 4 from last year). In addition, it was noted that there were 9 early resolutions and 1 complaint upheld/ partially upheld.

The report also detailed that in respect of Code of Conduct complaints received by the Ombudsman, 3 complaints related to Caerphilly County Borough Councillors, all of which were closed after initial consideration. In respect of Town and Community Councillors 4 complaints were received, in relation to Darran Valley Community Council, all of which were closed after initial consideration.

The report referred to the Annual Letter which detailed the introduction of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019 , which affords new powers aimed at improving access to the office of the PSOW; providing a seamless mechanism for complaint handling when a patient's NHS care is inextricably linked with private healthcare; allowing the PSOW to undertake own initiative investigations when required in the public interest and ensuring that complaints data from across Wales may be used to drive improvement in public services for citizens in Wales.

Having fully considered the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained within the Officer's report be approved and way of the electronic voting system, and this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the content the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – Annual Report and Annual Letter 2018/19 be noted.

13. PROPOSAL FOR A STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP) FOR THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION

Consideration was given to the report which sought Council's agreement to commence the process of preparing a Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region, including its governance arrangements and cost contributions.

The report set out proposals to prepare a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the 10 Local Planning Authorities in the Cardiff Capital Region. The decision to proceed with the SDP requires endorsement by all 10 councils in the region to authorise the Responsible Authority to submit a proposal to prepare the SDP to Welsh Government. A similar report is being presented to each of the 10 Councils over the coming months.

It was noted that the SDP is a regional level Strategic Development Plan that sits above a Local Development Plan and below the Welsh Government's National Development Framework and it provides the strategic framework for LDP's to be prepared. A SDP provides certainty to developers, investors and communities that key strategic decisions in respect of housing, transport, employment and infrastructure provision are being taken to an appropriate

regional level, whilst still allowing key decisions on planning proposals to be taken locally through Local Development Plan allocations and policies and thereafter in development management decisions.

The report identified some key issues for consideration around the preparation of the SDP, in particular: the extent of the Strategic Planning Area Boundary; governance arrangements; the scope and content of the SDP' and the length of the SDP plan period.

Council noted that the plan preparation process requires the identification of a Responsible Authority to submit the proposal to prepare the SDP to Welsh Government, and it is recommended that the Vale of Glamorgan Council take this role.

A new Strategic Planning Panel will have the responsibility for preparing and adopting the SDP. The Panel will comprise of elected representatives from every Local Planning Authority within the Cardiff Capital Region boundary with each member having a weighted vote. It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection represents Caerphilly County Borough Council on the Panel.

It was detailed that if all 10 Councils agree to proceed with the SDP, a formal proposal will be prepared by the Responsible Authority and submitted to Welsh Government. Thereafter, WG will prepare the appropriate regulations and the work on the preparation of the SDP will commence.

Concerns were raised around the staff resources identified at page 150 and the time and effort that will be input into the Plan and its future. Officers explained that the report identified existing staffing within Policy teams across the region.

Further concerns were raised in relation to the increasing population, in particular in the Cardiff region and whether the infrastructure outlined within the plan would be sufficient to manage the projected population growth. Officers explained that this would be a regional concern and an issue addressed by all 10 Local Authorities identified within the region to manage.

Clarification was sought on whether the SDP would supersede the production of a Local Development Plan (LDP). It was explained that a further report is for consideration at a later point in the meeting. Officers highlighted that there is a long period of time until the SDP can commence, due to Welsh Government regulations not being available however a light touch LDP can only be prepared when an SDP is adopted. A full LDP is being considered at a later point in the agenda. .

The Interim Leader noted that Councillor Poole was one of the two Leaders in the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Cabinet who were instrumental in ensuring that the principle of a SDP was agreed by the Joint Cabinet and supported by Welsh Government. The Interim Leader offered her thanks to Councillor Poole for his hard work in driving this forward. Having fully considered the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained therein be agreed and by way of the electronic voting system and in noting there were 46 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the content of the report be agreed and the Responsible Authority be authorised to submit the Proposal for a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region to the Minister on behalf of the 10 Local Planning Authorities in the region;
- (ii) It be agreed that the Vale of Glamorgan Council be the Responsible Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan (SDP);

- (iii) It be agreed that the strategic planning area should comprise the 10 local planning authority areas within the Cardiff Capital Region as shown on the map at Appendix A of the report;
- (iv) That relevant officers be authorised to engage with the Welsh Government in drafting the Strategic Development Plan Regulations to deliver the following governance arrangements for the SDP and Strategic Planning Panel (SPP):
 - i. that the Strategic Planning Panel (SPP) will be comprised of 10 Members, 1 from each constituent Local Authority with the weighting of votes for each constituent Local Authority being based on its population and geographical area as detailed in 3.4i of the Officers Report.
 - ii. That Constituent Councils will be engaged through a prior consultation process as set out in Figure 1 and the SPP shall have full regard to the comments of the constituent Councils.
 - iii. That decisions made on the SDP by the SPP shall require a 70% quorum of voting Members on the Panel and decisions shall require a 70% majority vote of a quorate meeting.
- (v) The setting up of an Interim Strategic Planning Panel be agreed prior to the formal establishment of the SPP and the nominated Member represent Caerphilly County Borough Council on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel with delegated authority to take initial decisions on the preparation of the SDP (with a vote weighted in accordance with the table at Recommendation 3.4i and thereafter on the Strategic Planning Panel.

Caerphilly County Borough Council nominates Councillor Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection.

It be agreed that in the event that Member is no longer able to sit on Interim Strategic Planning Panel, delegated authority be given to the Leader of the Council to nominate a new Member to represent the Council on the Interim Strategic Panel and Strategic Planning Panel.
- (vi) A Regional SDP officer team be established to progress the preparation of the SDP, to be appointed by representatives of the Interim Strategic Planning Panel, with appropriate human resource support from the Responsible Authority.
- (vii) The cost of preparing the SDP be agreed to be shared across the 10 Authorities on a proportional cost, based on the voting representation on the Strategic Planning Panel. That this be reviewed on an annual basis with the initial contribution of £50,000, to cover the start-up costs likely to be incurred in this financial year 2019/20, being paid by Welsh Government in accordance with the Minister's letter dated 15th July 2019.

14. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UP TO 2021 – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2019 (INCLUDING THE 5TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY REPORT)

Consideration was given to the report which outlined the findings and recommendations of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan 2019 Annual Monitoring Report and to recommend that the 2019 Annual Monitoring Report be approved by Council, be submitted to Welsh Government in order to satisfy the Council's statutory requirements and agree the commencement of the preparation of a full revision of the Adopted Local Development Plan.

Council noted that it is a statutory requirement that the Council submits an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to the Welsh Government (WG) that monitors whether or not the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP) is being implemented successfully. The overall purpose of the AMR is to identify whether the LDP Strategy, or any of the Strategy Policies, are not being implemented and if they are not, identify steps to rectify this.

This is the eighth Annual Monitoring Report to be prepared for the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 and it monitors the period from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. The purpose of the AMR is to consider whether the Strategy for the Adopted LDP is being implemented and whether a review should be undertaken, to do this the AMR focusses on the implementation of the objectives and strategic policies, considering whether they are being implemented as the Strategy would expect.

Members noted that the 2019 AMR also includes the annual monitoring statement for the Council's implementation of its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Whilst this does not form part of the AMR, it is included as they both have the same requirements for submission to WG. It was noted that the AMR had identified that significant progress had been made in delivering the LDP however, as in previous years, the AMR identified 2 of the Strategic Policies are not being implemented as expected. As a result AMR concludes that a review is required.

The 2013 AMR and subsequent AMRs have clearly identified the need for the LDP to be reviewed. Work commenced on a Review of the LDP in 2013, but in July 2016 the Council resolved to withdraw the Replacement LDP and seek support for the early preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region.

Following extensive discussions, in June 2019 the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Cabinet endorsed the principle of preparing the SDP and agreed a report template to be considered by each of the 10 Council within the Cardiff Capital Region, which sets out the geographical area to be covered by the SDP; the scope and content; governance arrangements and cost. The SDP report is due to be considered by each of the 10 LAs in the autumn of 2019. Subject to the agreement by the 10 LAs, it is anticipated that work will progress on the SDP. However, the proposed timescales for the preparation of the SDP will mean that the SDP is unlikely to be adopted until 2025 at the earliest.

The AMR concludes and recommends that substantial progress has been made in implementing the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 and in recognition of the need to identify more land for employment and housing to support local need and regional aspirations the 8th Annual Monitoring Report recommends that a review of the Adopted LDP be commenced. In the period up to the adoption of a new Replacement LDP, the Council will continue to address the shortfall in the 5 year housing land supply through proactive action.

Members noted that with the AMR recommending that a review of the Adopted LDP be undertaken, consideration needs to be given to the form of revision that will be undertaken. There are two options for the form of review:

- Full Review: A full review of the LDP utilising the whole LDP preparation process could be undertaken immediately and result in the Authority being without a LDP for only 2 and a half years;
- LDP Lite: The 2015 Planning Act made provision for local authorities to prepare a light touch review of the plan where a Strategic Development Plan is in place. Whilst the preparation process is shorter and would deliver an adopted plan in a quicker timescale, an LDP Lite cannot be prepared and adopted until the SDP itself has been adopted.

Council noted that the report recommends that a Full Review of the LDP be commenced. However, were asked to note that the Review of the LDP will be a costly and time consuming process and will require the Strategic Development Plans Team's full focus in order to deliver the Review within the required 3 and a half year timescale. The Review of the LDP will also incur significant costs arising from the need to establish an evidence base to support the plan, engagement and consultation and the Examination process for the plan, which were outlined in detail within the report.

Members noted that in order to undertake the Review, the Strategic and Development Plans team full commitment will be required, however they have a critical role in the preparation of policy documents such as A Foundation for Success: The Regeneration Strategy for the County Borough and Masterplans for both Caerphilly Basin and Ystrad Mynach. It is therefore recommended that a 2-year, fixed term post be created in order to continue the work on the remaining documents.

Discussions took place around planning issues identified as a result of appeals being overturned and developers being enabled to build on Greenfield sites, as a result of no LDP in place. It was noted that there is currently a consultation underway from Welsh Government around changes to TAN 1, for which Officers will provide updates in due course.

Following debate and clarification from Officers, it was moved and seconded that 2 additional recommendations in relation to the prioritising of affordable and new build housing developments on brownfield sites and compliance with the highest environmental standards be included at *vi, vii*.

Following consideration of the recommendations contained in the Officers report and the subsequent additional recommendations, it was moved and seconded they be approved and by way of the electronic voting system and in noting there were 36 for and 5 against, this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the findings of the 2019 Annual Monitoring Report be noted and the 2019 Annual Monitoring Report be approved;
- (ii) the 2019 Annual Monitoring Report (Including the 5th Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Report) be submitted to the Welsh Government before the deadline of 31st October 2019;
- (iii) the commencement of a full Review of the Adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan be agreed;
- (iv) the financial measures be approved and budgetary provision be made available where necessary to fund the preparation of both the regional Strategic Development Plan (subject of a separate Council Report on 08.10.19) and the Replacement Local Development Plan;
- (v) the creation of a 2-year fixed term post funded from the Communities Directorate Service Reserves to complete the delivery of the suite of Masterplans to supplement the council's Regeneration Strategy 'A Foundation for Success' be agreed.

Additional Recommendations:

- (vi) *Prioritise affordable and new build council housing on Brownfield sites to preserve the natural environment and help address the Climate Emergency;*

- (vii) *All Housing Development should comply with the highest Environmental Standards.*

15. PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE THE FUTURE GENERATIONS ADVISORY PANEL

Consideration was given to the report which sought Council's consideration on the proposal to discontinue the Future Generations Advisory Panel.

It was noted that the Future Generations Advisory Panel (FGAP), previously known as the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel (SDAP), was established in February 2002 to advise on, and mainstream sustainable development. In May 2016 the Panel became the FGAP, partly in response to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Significant steps have been taken in embedding sustainable development and well-being in service planning and decision-making across the local authority since the inception of SDAP. The FGAP continued this work and has achieved its core aim to raise awareness of well-being in the context of future generations. It is considered that a formal group is no longer required to champion these issues.

A Member expressed their concern at the poor attendance at the FGAP in comparison to SDAP, however agreed that significant progress had been made. The Member sought assurance that the focus will still remain without a Panel to take forward and suggested that a review be undertaken in 6-12 months, prior to disbanding the group.

Having fully considered the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained within the Officer's report be approved and by way of the electronic voting system and in noting there were 43 for and 5 against this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the proposal to discontinue the Future Generations Advisory Panel be endorsed.

The meeting closed at 19:45pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2019 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR