



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 3RD MARCH 2020 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Simmonds – Mayor
Councillor C. Andrews – Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

M. Adams, Mrs E.M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, P. Bevan, C. Bezzina, A. Collis, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, W. David, D.T. Davies, M. Davies, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, A. Gair, Ms J. Gale, N. George, C. Gordon, L. Harding, D. Havard, A.G. Higgs, A. Hussey, M.P. James, V. James, G. Johnston, S. Kent, G. Kirby, Mrs A. Leonard, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, P. Marsden, B. Miles, S. Morgan, Mrs G.D. Oliver, B. Owen, Mrs T. Parry, Mrs L. Phipps, D.V. Poole, D.W. Preece, D. Price, J. Pritchard, J. Ridgewell, J.E. Roberts, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds, S. Skivens, Mrs E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, R. Whiting, L G. Whittle, T. Williams, W. Williams and B. Zaplatynski.

Together with:-

C. Harrhy (Interim Chief Executive), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services), M.S. Williams (Corporate Director Communities), L. Lane (Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), L. Donovan (Head of People Services), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), D. Lucas (Team Leader, Strategic Planning), S. Pugh (Head of Communications), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

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 by way of the electronic voting system.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Angel, L. Binding, K. Dawson, C. Forehead, R. Gough, D. Hardacre, D. Harse, L. Jeremiah, Mrs B. Jones, R. Saralis and M. Sargent.

2. 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 referred to a recent Quiz and Curry Night event for which over £700 was raised and donated to the Mayor's Charities. Members were asked to note that following the events success, a further Quiz and Curry Night has been arranged in April.

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

It was noted that there were no petitions to be presented on this occasion.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Storm Dennis

The Mayor invited the Interim Chief Executive to provide an update on the recent events surrounding Storm Dennis.

It was noted that, at the last meeting the Interim Chief Executive indicated that the key staff involved in the major disruption caused by the storms of the recent weeks would be invited to the meeting. The unprecedented weather events had a significant impact on many homes and businesses across the County Borough and around 250 homes and 15 business premises and many sports pitches and pavilions were severely impacted. Furthermore, it was noted that there was extensive damage done to schools, road surfaces, bridges and culverts along with several felled trees, which were safely removed, and coal tips were put under pressure and continue to be closely monitored. Members were asked to note that Social Care staff provided round the clock support to the most vulnerable residents of the borough and the switchboard and out of hours service dealt with an overwhelming volume of calls for help. It is estimated that the cost to date is close to four million pounds and this is likely to at least double as forecasts are estimated over the next few months.

The exact disruption and damage have been significant but it has been a privilege to see first-hand how staff have stepped in to support the community throughout these challenging conditions. Members were advised that colleagues from a number of service areas were in attendance, all who had played a key role in responding to the requests for help from residents, and many of them worked around the clock in atrocious conditions to make a positive difference. It was reiterated that this was an exceptional example of Team Caerphilly, and these employees are a shining example of the positive difference that can be made when working together for the good of all. The Chief Executive offered her personal thanks to those staff involved in the response to the storm devastation.

The Mayor invited the Leader, Councillor Philippa Marsden to address the meeting.

The Leader wished to thank all those involved in dealing with the response to the recent storms, their efforts are appreciated by everyone across the borough. Members were asked to give those present a well-deserved round of applause.

Members noted that the financial assistance to homes and businesses affected by the floods have been well received and Officers have been busy visiting these premises to arrange payment and offer any additional support that may be required. Flood damaged items are being removed from homes at no cost to homeowners and assistance has been offered to clear properties of elderly and vulnerable people in the worst affected areas. In addition, Members noted that support has been offered to several residents to access the Welsh Governments discretionary assistance fund, as well as offering Council Tax exemptions in appropriate cases.

The Leader highlighted that the recent storms and floods are a key indicator of the climate emergency and the urgency to commit to tackle the challenge. With this in mind, it was noted that urgent discussions are required, across all levels of government to develop a coherent and deliverable strategy to minimise the impact of future storms and flood damage. As a result, the Leader and MPs have written to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State of Wales, as well as the First Minister to lobby for funding for the infrastructure that is required in communities.

The storms in recent weeks has tested the resilience and commitment of the workforce, who have risen to the challenge and gone that extra mile to help residents when they needed it most. The Leader offered her heartfelt gratitude to those in attendance for their support.

The Mayor invited Councillor Mann to address Council.

Councillor Mann, in echoing the comments of the Leader praised the efforts of the staff, who worked tirelessly in fast flowing flood water, in the middle of the night in order to provide help to those in need. It was noted that there were several wards affected by the floods, causing a huge disruption and loss to many and therefore it is important that lessons are learned from this experience, in particular, issues arising from drainage and infrastructure issues. It is imperative funding be sourced to tackle these issues in the future, as this was a clear sign of the changing climate. Councillor Mann wished to thank everyone involved in dealing with the recent events.

Councillor Evans wished to express his gratitude to those staff involved. It was noted that the residents of the New Tredegar ward were devastated by the floods and damage brought by Storm Dennis which has been traumatic for many people in this ward and across the borough. The work of Caerphilly County Borough Council staff, emergency services and the army has been exemplary, and both the ward members wished their gratitude noted.

Councillor Havard provided an update on the impact Storm Dennis had on the ward of Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen, which was badly hit, with flooding from the river and damage to the various rugby clubs and properties along the river. Many of the stories from residents, some having had to vacate their properties via windows due to the rising water in their properties and the damage caused by the flood has been significant, however, the response from the Council has been great, and there has not been a single complaint received from residents during this difficult time. Councillor Havard wished his gratitude to be noted for the efforts of all those involved.

The Mayor added that sterling work was undertaken in the Crosskeys ward to provide support to those in need.

The Mayor invited all those staff involved to step forward so that the Council provide their heartfelt gratitude and recognise their significant efforts in combatting the impact of Storm Dennis.

Llancaiach Fawr Manor

The Cabinet Member for Homes, Places and Tourism advised that Llancaiach Fawr Manor was awarded the “Best Visitor Attraction” at the recent South East Wales Tourism Awards Ceremony.

It was noted that Llancaiach Fawr offers visitors an immersive experience that transports them back to a day in the life of the services at the Manor during 1645. The enthusiasm and commitment of its staff are just some of the reasons for Llancaiach Fawr’s popularity with visitors of all ages.

Lesley Edwards, Assistant General Manager of Llancaiach Fawr Manor and Louise Griffith, Learning and Interpretation Manager were invited to come forward so that Council could recognise their award.

Jon Congreve – Invictus Games

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Neighbourhood Services was pleased to announce that Mr Jon Congreve, a resident of the borough, has been selected to represent Team UK at the Invictus Games in May and will be competing in archery, swimming and rowing. Mr Congreve served in the army for 22 years, leaving the service as a Staff Sergeant in the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers.

In readiness for the event Mr Congreve has been attending training camps delivered by Help the Heroes, and in order aid his training, Mr Congreve has been given temporary free access to the Council's leisure facilities.

It was noted that Mr Congreve competed against more than 350 military personnel and veterans for one of the 65 places available on Team UK. The rigorous selection process was based on the benefit the Invictus Games will give an individual as part of their recovery, combined with performance and commitment to training.

Mr Jon Congreve was invited to come forward so that the Council could recognise his award.

Nant y Parc Primary, Estyn Report

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing was pleased to announce that following its recent Estyn inspection, Nant-Y-Parc Primary School was rated excellent in all areas.

Members were asked to note that the report stated that the staff have a clear vision for the school, which focuses strongly on pupil and staff wellbeing, creative a highly effective learning organisation and that pupils talk proudly about their school and describe it as a very caring and welcoming community. It was noted that the school is fortunate to have a community that includes committed governors, highly dedicated staff, talented pupils and supportive parents, who share a passion for learning together and always strive for the best.

Members were asked to view a video which demonstrates the feeling of community by the staff and pupils.

Following the presentation of the video, Nicola Davies, Headteacher and Matthew McCabe, Deputy Headteacher were invited to come forward so that Council could recognise their excellent report.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M. Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 10 – Publication of the Pay Policy Statement 2020/2021, in that his wife is employed by the Local Authority. The Monitoring Officer advised that as the report was a statement of fact, and not specific to employees of the Local Authority and no decisions were being taken that would affect the council's staff, in the circumstances there was no reason to declare the interest.

6. MINUTES – COUNCIL – 21ST JANUARY 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of Council on the 21st January 2020 (minute nos. 1-11) be approved as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

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

To the Leader of Council from Councillor Kevin Etheridge

To ask the Leader in regard the Sport and Active Leisure Strategy and the reference to Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre which I mentioned on 21.01.20 – Why were Elected Members not told about the Leisure Strategy proceeding to the High Court of Appeal in London on 20.02.20 when papers were submitted to Court on 03.01.20 by the Council, given that Elected Members only found out when this appeared on Social Media by the campaigners, does the Leader feel this appropriate under the Consultation and Engagement Strategy?

Response from the Leader of Council – Councillor P. Marsden

Thank you for your question, you will recall that I wrote to all Members on the 6th February to advise them that a hearing is taking place at the Court of Appeal on 20th February, I did this as there are lots of rumours and speculation circulated on social media and I want to clarify our position.

Just to reiterate we were defending an appeal that was brought by a local resident against the High Court's decision on our Sport and Active Recreation Strategy and it was not about the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. It is very timely that you have submitted your question this evening, as we have been notified today that the appeal was unsuccessful, which means that our Sports and Active Recreation Strategy has essentially been given a clean bill of health by the court.

The full costs relating to the appeal are not yet known, but it's a shame that the Council was required to use public money that has been diverted from frontline services in order to defend this case. With regards to the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, the current position remains unchanged. There are currently no immediate plans to close the centre, instead this and other facilities will be reviewed as part of our future plans, which will be developed with the input from all elected Members over the coming months. Referring back to your question, we wouldn't normally inform members about forthcoming legal proceedings as this is dealt with by officers using delegated powers, the Consultation and Engagement Strategy that you refer to in your question outlines how the Council will inform and engage with residents and other external stakeholders. Members' rights of access to information are covered within the existing constitution.

Councillor Etheridge highlighted that he was pleased that the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre has been halted, in the interest of the community and the 5,000 residents who had signed the petition. Members were asked to note the previous motion to Scrutiny Committee recommending that it is referred to Council as the decision was in question and concerns were raised around the costing exercise and therefore, Councillor Etheridge asked a supplementary question whether the Leader would now agree to give a guarantee that a vote will take place a Full Council where the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy can be considered, which would ensure positivity in driving forward Team Caerphilly within the Communities.

The Leader reiterated that the plans remain unchanged at this time in relation to the Leisure Centres across the borough with no immediate plans to make further changes. It was noted that a review will be undertaken, and Members will have an opportunity to provide an input and there will be a strong focus on Ward Member involvement and consultation, and that is all that can be committed to at this moment.

8. TO RECEIVE AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10(4).

To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Transportation and Sustainability from Councillor James Pritchard.

Will the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Transportation and Sustainability explain Caerphilly County Borough Council's historical and current approach to street lighting? I know from talking to residents that the night-time switch off from 12 midnight until 5.30am, while welcomed by many, is also causing great concern to many.

Response from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Transportation and Sustainability – Councillor Sean Morgan.

In 2018 Caerphilly County Borough Council's Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet endorsed a programme to implement LED installation and part night lighting between the hours of midnight and 5.30am, except for major junctions and town centres. The decision to implement these changes was made in response to existing environmental concerns, as you are aware the Council declared a climate emergency and committed itself to becoming a carbon neutral Council by 2030, the decision was also made in light of the requirement to make Medium Term Financial Plan savings carrying out this decision will save the council in excess of a million pounds a year in the future and reduce its carbon footprint by almost 3000 tonnes a year.

Now I understand people's concerns about the lighting switch off and I understand that when someone living alone and feeling vulnerable looks out of their window at 2am, and it's fairly dark, it can be worrying and I do feel for these people whilst they adjust to the change, but people who are worried or feel vulnerable should be comforted by the fact that a recent national study on the effect of reduced street lighting on road casualties and crime in England and Wales concluded that overall there was no evidence of an association between reduced street lighting and increased crime. Meetings have also taken place with Gwent Police to discuss any concerns they have noted with any increased levels of crime, Gwent Police have confirmed that they have not seen any changes as a result, but they would continue to monitor the situation and provide us with information if there appears to be any significant change. We will also be watching if there are any issues with similar local authorities who are part night lighting to varying degrees such as Newport and Torfaen.

To date there have been 187 complaints, but that number is quite small, when you consider that we have changed over 8,500 lamps across the Borough. In addition, the complaints are mostly centred around access to properties and security of properties and vehicles part on the road. The street lighting system was not installed for the purposes of security but to aid traffic along the road. However, there are many positives, we have received several compliments in regard to carbon reduction and improved Dark Skies, as it was known that the previous streetlights have thrown many nocturnal wildlife into disarray. Therefore the light switch off has had a massive impact on biodiversity and letters of congratulations have been received from environmental activities and I believe Caerphilly Friends of the Earth, who are very positive about this move, and I believe it has been broadly welcomed by the Independent and Plaid opposition parties. I have a quote from 2010 in which Councillor Mann highlights the lack of necessity for streetlights to be on between midnight and 5.30am along roads, town centres and villages where there is little traffic on the road, and further supported the Notice of Motion on Climate Emergency. In addition, both opposition parties were given the opportunity to comment and propose alternative recommendations to the budget proposals, through their Scrutiny Committees and in Council, and no alternative recommendations were made, therefore this silence is taken as agreement to the proposal, so I thank our opposition Councillors for their support and remembering that difficult decisions have to be made. I am proud of our Labour group who have not shied away from difficult decisions when they are the right decisions and when we are looking at the wellbeing of future generations and the five

ways of working, I know that we have made the right decision for the people of this borough and for the future generations of the people of this borough.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION RELATING TO THE EFFECT OF FIREWORKS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DISPLAYS

Consideration was given to the Notice of Motion received from Councillor N. Dix and supported by Councillor D.W.R. Preece. The Notice of Motion was considered and unanimously supported by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 11th February 2020 and meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.

The Notice of Motion requests that the Council: -

- (i) Write to Welsh Government urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of firework displays; and
- (ii) Write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.

In support of the motion, additional information was provided by the RSPCA stating: -

- (i) Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals. They can be a source of fear and distress for many animals (including pet animals, farm livestock and wildlife). Animals affected not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries – sometimes very serious ones as they attempt to run away or hide from the noise.
- (ii) The unpredictable, loud and high intensity noises that many fireworks make can cause fear. For example, studies have found fireworks to be the most common cause for fear responses in dogs and it is estimated that 45% of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks. A New Zealand survey recorded 79% of horses as either anxious or very anxious around fireworks or over the Guy Fawkes Day period.
- (iii) Debris produced by fireworks, if found on the ground, can also pose a hazard to animals such as horses and farm livestock. Although there is limited direct evidence it is also likely that fireworks and their debris will cause disturbance to wildlife and are likely to cause suffering or distress depending on the distance from the explosive and the noise level.
- (iv) RSPCA Cymru believes there is a real need to raise awareness amongst owners of animals about fireworks phobia. This phobia can be treated (in dogs at least) in the long term but owners need to prepare themselves and their pets sooner, rather than just before the fireworks are let off. There is a need to raise awareness about the impact of fireworks on animals to the wider public to encourage them to be more considerate of those with pets, horse and livestock as well as local wildlife.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Dix and Councillor Preece for the Notice of Motion Report and discussion ensued.

Whilst supporting the Motion, Councillor Gair requested that an additional 3 points be included in the Notice of Motion. These included:

- (v) To require the public firework displays held on local authority land to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;
- (vi) Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people, including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks; and
- (vii) To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock quieter fireworks for public display.

In response to the amendments, the Monitoring Officer wished it noted that, regarding a public awareness campaign, this is currently undertaken via the Caerphilly Council website. In addition, it was noted that in relation to encouraging local suppliers to stock quieter fireworks, whilst Officers can make this request to suppliers, this would be a responsibility of the Licensing Authority to enforce.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Motion, along with the additional 3 recommendations be approved and by way of electronic voting system and in noting that there was one against, this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the Notice of Motion be supported.

10. PUBLICATION OF THE PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2020/21

The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer advised Members that it was acceptable for Officers to remain in the Chamber as their individual terms and conditions were not being decided upon.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services advised Members that the Localism Act 2011 requires that Local Authorities develop and make their Pay Policy public before 31st March each year, which includes 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.

Members were asked to note that the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 which related to Pay Policy Statements only apply to employees directly appointed and managed by the Council. Employees who are appointed and managed by school Headteachers/ Governing Bodies are therefore, not required to be included within the scope of Pay Policy statements. This reflects the unique employment legislation position whereby all school employees are employed by the local authority but decisions about the appointment and management of such employees are mostly discharged by the head teacher.

The Cabinet Member referred to the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix 1 of the report, which contained full details of the renewed relation position for the Council for 2020-2021. Members were asked to note that the National Pay Awards 2020-2021 remain subject to negotiation and therefore remain unchanged from last year's pay policy, with the exception of the Chief Executive salary, which is now £140,000 as per the decision of Council on the 19th November 2019. In addition, Members were also asked to note that the Council pay the Foundation Living Wage rate and it has been recommended to increase this hourly rate in accordance with the National payment. With that in mind, the report therefore sought approval from Council for the publication of the Authority's Pay Policy for 2020-2021.

The Head of People Services wished an amendment noted at recommendation 3.1 of the report, referring to the Foundation Living Wage, which should read 1st November 2019, as opposed to 2018.

The Mayor thanked the Cabinet Member and Officer for the report and debate ensued.

It was noted that previously the Plaid Group had not been in support of the report, however, in noting that a number of concerns had been clarified within the report and Appendix and in always supporting the Living Wage, it was suggested that the recommendations be put to the vote.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that recommendations in the report be approved and by way of electronic voting system and in noting that there was one abstention, this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report:

- i) The Pay Policy Statement 2020/2021 (Version 9) be published on the Council's website;
- ii) Foundation Living Wage be paid at an hourly rate of £9.30 with effect from 1 November 2019.

11. SECOND REPLACEMENT CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UP TO 2035 – DRAFT DELIVERY AGREEMENT

The report sought approval to commence consultation for a six week period on the second replacement Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan up to 2035 Draft Delivery Agreement for 6 weeks, commencing Wednesday 22nd April 2020 and sought approval to set up the Local Develop Plan Focus Group (LDP Focus Group) and agree its composition to assist in the preparation of the second Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2035 (Second replacement LDP). In addition, the report sought Council approval for the reporting process for key stages in the preparation of the second Replacement LDP.

Members were asked to note that the Council resolved to commence a full version of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 at the Council meeting held on 23rd October 2019. Welsh Government requires that all local authorities undertaking a plan review prepare their development plans within a three-and-a-half-year period, with the delivery timeframe and mechanisms being set out in a Delivery Agreement (DA) that must be the subject of Welsh Government Approval. The preparation of a DA is a key requirement in preparing the second Replacement LDP that includes a timetable for the delivery of the revised LDP and the Community Involvement Strategy (CIS) – which sets out who will be consulted and when.

It was noted that the DA forms an important and legal part of the second Replacement LDP. Delivery in accordance with the DA will be an important test of the 'soundness' of the second Replacement LDP. The Draft DA is required to be the subject of consultation and it proposed to publish the Draft DA for consultation for six weeks, commencing Wednesday 11th March 2020 and concluding on Wednesday 22nd April 2020.

Members were asked to note that the three-and-a-half-year preparation period for the second Replacement LDP represents a significant challenge given the scale and extend of the work required. Consequently, it is proposed that the LDP Focus Group be reconstituted for the preparation of the second Replacement LDP to condense the reporting period for plan preparation; provide a sounding board for considering the second Replacement LDP content and generating alternatives.

The report outlined that the LDP Focus Group would be composed of all Cabinet Members and 2 nominated back bench members from the leading party, the Leader and one nominated

Members from the majority opposition party, two representatives from the independent members, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee, the Chair and Vice-Chair of Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and all Heads of Service. It was noted that the recommendations to Council will need to be constructive and the LDP Focus Group will be governed by its Term of Reference, which were appended to the report.

Members noted that due to the potential delays that the Council reporting process could have, it is proposed to follow the same simplified reporting procedures as were used for the preparation of the previous 2 plans and the process will include presenting the emerging evidence base and draft policy framework to the LDP Focus Group for its consideration and comment, to report the LDP Focus Group's comments and recommendations directly to Council for consideration and decision, to report the notes of all LDP Focus Group meetings to the subsequent Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for consideration and to make available the notes of the LDP Focus Group meetings as an integral part of the emerging evidence base.

Members thanked the Officer and Cabinet Member for the report and debate ensued.

A member, in accepting the report and supporting the Delivery Agreement and Replacement, felt that significant emphasis needed to be placed on the consultation stage of the process and the views of the public be considered throughout the process, residents be given a voice that will be heard and taken into account. Officers assured Members that the feedback in the consultation process will be taken into account in the creation of the Replacement LDP.

Councillor Whittle reiterated that request made by Councillor Taylor regarding the consultation process and raised concerns for a number of overturned planning decisions, which were denied by the Council and overturned by Welsh Government and hope that the Replacement LDP will remove the risk of this continuing in the future.

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

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report:

- i) The Draft DA be agreed for consultation;
- ii) The Draft DA be subject of a six-week consultation period commencing Wednesday 11 March 2020 and concluding on Wednesday 22 April 2020;
- iii) The setting up of the LDP Focus Group be agreed to assist in the preparation of the Second Replacement LDP;
- iv) The composition of the LDP Focus Group and Draft Terms of Reference for the Group be agreed; and
- v) The reporting process utilising the LDP Focus Group be agreed.

The meeting closed at 18:00pm

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2020 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR