



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBER PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 4TH JULY 2023 AT 5.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor M. A. Adams - Mayor
Councillor J. Simmonds - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

E.M. Aldworth C. Andrews, A. Angel, C. Bishop, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, P. Cook, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, D.T. Davies MBE, G. Ead, G. Enright, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, C. Forehead, E. Forehead, J. E. Fussell, A. Gair, N. George, C. Gordon, D. Harse, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, M. James, L. Jeremiah, G. Johnston, J. Jones, S. Kent, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, A. McConnell, B. Miles, C. Morgan, S. Morgan, T. Parry, L. Phipps, M. Powell, D.W.R. Preece, H. Pritchard, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Rao, J. Reed, J. Roberts, R. Saralis, S. Skivens, E. Stenner, J. Taylor, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe, L.G. Whittle, S. Williams, W. Williams, J. Winslade, K. Woodland, C. Wright

Together with:

C. Harrhy (Chief Executive), D. Street (Deputy Chief Executive), M.S. Williams (Corporate Director Economy and Environment), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), L. Lane (Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), R. Thomas (Planning Services Manager), D. Lucas (Team Leader, Strategic Planning), M. Godfrey (Team Leader - Pollution Control and Emergency Planning and Resilience), E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer), R. Barrett (Minute Taker)

Also present:

D. Walker (Future Generations Commissioner for Wales) and A. Horn (Office of the Future Generations Commissioner).

IN MEMORIUM

The Mayor referred to the loss of Councillor Jim Sadler, who passed away on 23rd May 2023. Members and Officers stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

Councillor Roy Saralis spoke of his profound sadness in losing his ward colleague and long-time friend and referenced the numerous messages of condolence received from so many Members, which had been much appreciated by Councillor Sadler's family. Councillor Saralis paid tribute to Councillor Sadler's long-standing support as a local party member and campaigner. Councillor Saralis expressed his sadness that Jim's tenure had been so short and reflected on their time together and wished for his dearly missed friend to now rest in peace.

CHANGES TO THE RUNNING ORDER

The Mayor advised that he had given permission for the Leader of Council to make a statement, and also for Agenda Item 11 (Presentation from the Future Generations Commissioner) to be taken directly after Agenda Item 5.

RECORDING, FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Executive reminded those present the meeting was being live streamed, and a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Broughton-Pettit, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, K. Etheridge, B. Owen, D. Price and J. Scriven.

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor referred to the many engagements and events that he and the Deputy Mayor had attended since the last meeting of Council, with 17 events attended between them. The wide range of engagements included a sponsored walk with Fochriw Primary school, gala and centenary concerts, commissioning ceremonies and long-service awards, visits to local care homes and a fundraising event for the Mayor's chosen charity, Sight Cymru. The Civic Office had particular pleasure in receiving a visiting delegation from the Council's twinning town of Ludwigsberg. On 24th June 2023, the Deputy Mayor attended the first ever Caerphilly Pride event, and he expressed his thanks to the many staff who had organised this wonderful event.

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

There were no petitions received.

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Nant y Parc Primary School – World Class Schools Quality Mark

The Cabinet Member for Education and Communities was pleased to announce that Nant-y-Parc Primary School had been accredited with the World Class Schools Quality Mark and are the first primary school in Wales to achieve this award. The Quality Mark is awarded by the education charity 'World Class Schools Quality Mark'. The Cabinet Member expressed her pleasure in recognising the hard work and commitment shown by the pupils and shared the same pride of their parents and the staff.

Council was then shown a video which gave Members a small insight into life at the school.

Adding to this achievement, the Cabinet Member was delighted to announce that the school had since been named "World Class School of the Year" by the education charity.

Headteacher Nicola Davies and teacher Emma Winter were invited forward by the Mayor so that Council could congratulate them on both of these fantastic achievements.

South-East Wales Schools and Colleges Awards/ Gwent Adult Community Learning Partnerships Awards

The Cabinet Member for Education and Communities was delighted to announce the successes at two recent awards ceremonies. The South-East Wales Schools and Colleges Awards saw a number of schools and their staff winning 7 categories in total. Meanwhile, the Gwent Adult Community Learning Partnerships Awards achieved wins in the Tutor of the Year, the Group Award and Learner/s of the Year categories. The Cabinet Member asked Members to join her in congratulating the winners on their success, and expressed the hope that they can attend Council in September 2023 for their achievements to be formally recognised.

Empty Homes Team – National Empty Homes Network Awards

The Cabinet Member for Housing was pleased to announce that two members of CCBC's Empty Homes Team were recently recognised at this year's National Empty Homes Network Awards. Jamie Wagenaar received the Rising Star Award and Oliver Denton was highly commended in the Empty Homes Practitioner of the Year category. It was noted that Jamie and Oliver work as part of the team responsible for tackling the issue of empty privately owned homes in the borough, which has successfully returned over 100 empty homes back into beneficial use. The approach used by the team has also been cited as best practice by Welsh Government. The hard work and dedication put in by Jamie and Oliver, along with other members of the team, is admirable and the Cabinet Member expressed his pride in having such incredible members of staff working for the borough.

Jamie Wagenaar and Oliver Denton were invited forward by the Mayor in order for Members to congratulate them on their achievements.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A. Farina-Childs declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 12 – Notice of Motion – Ty Llwyd Quarry, Ynysddu, as he works for BRUSH Switchgear. He left the meeting during consideration of this item. Details are also minuted with the respective item.

11. PRESENTATION FROM THE FUTURE GENERATIONS COMMISSIONER

With the permission of the Mayor, this item was brought forward on the agenda.

The Leader of Council was pleased to introduce Mr Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, and referred to his extensive background and experience in the public sector prior to taking up his new post in March 2023 for a term of seven years.

The Commissioner thanked Members for the opportunity to address Council to share his experience and outline his role and responsibility within his current position. He advised Members that he had recently met with the Leader and Chief Executive to discuss his role and how his office might work alongside Caerphilly Council. The Commissioner explained that his role had been established as a result of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which requires all public bodies in Wales to think about sustainable development in all that they do, including the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate changes. This will ensure that we not only

resolve the issues of today but also the issues of tomorrow and is world-leading legislation which is already having a significant impact in Wales.

The Commissioner provided an overview of the Act and referred Members to the information available on the Future Generations Wales website.

The Commissioner made reference to the Five Ways of Working, which will be used by the Auditor General to look at local authorities' progress in terms of delivering the Act and understanding whether these have been applied to decision-making, policy making and service delivery. He referred to Caerphilly Council's Well-being Objectives which have been established in line with the Act, and the fact that the Authority already works collaboratively as part of the Gwent Public Service Board which forms part of the integration and collaborative agenda. However, the Authority now needs to consider how it applies the Five Ways of Working throughout the Council and how it drives cultural change right across the organisation in guiding staff to take this forward.

The Commissioner explained that he is keen to work alongside local authorities to facilitate change, and acknowledged the difficult circumstances being faced in terms of budgetary pressures and service demands. He emphasised that part of his role is to support, advise, monitor, assess and challenge progress and review when needed. He welcomed any input from Councillors in shaping his priorities for his new Plan which will be in place by October 2023. He looked forward to supporting Caerphilly Council's journey in terms of delivering the Act and the ongoing relationship and the conversations they would have.

The Leader thanked the Commissioner for taking the time to speak at Council, and asked how the Authority can focus on long-term preventative issues whilst in the midst of an economic crisis. The Commissioner explained that there is simply no choice in terms of sustainable development and that the world is running out of time to address these issues. Therefore, public bodies need to think about solutions 50-75 years ahead of time and consider whether solutions are still likely to be the right one in terms of future generations and whether these will continue to be sustainable in the long term. He confirmed that his Office would be able to give advice and examples of how such decisions have been taken across other local authorities to inform the Council's decision-making moving forward.

Council were invited to ask questions and the Commissioner responded to a query regarding his influence at a WG level in order to address these major issues facing future generations. The Commissioner explained that although his powers within the role are limited, there is much emphasis around cross-sector collaborative working and progress being made by working together in a positive manner. In response to a further query, the Commissioner confirmed that social care is high on the agenda, and he is also keen to focus on engagement at a societal level across Wales for these issues around sustainable development to be recognised. The Commissioner emphasised that he is keen to manage expectations and that some of these issues have been around for generations, and whilst he will strive to influence outcomes wherever possible, these issues are not directly under his control and his role is to support public bodies in managing the implementation of the Act.

Council noted the contents of the presentation from the Future Generations Commissioner, and the Mayor thanked Mr Walker for his attendance and for responding to Members' queries.

6. ANNUAL COUNCIL HELD ON 11TH MAY 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the annual meeting of Council held on 11th May 2023 (minute nos. 1-19) be approved as a correct record.

7. COUNCIL HELD ON 23RD MAY 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd May 2023 (minute nos. 1-15) be approved as a correct record.

STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF COUNCIL

With the permission of the Mayor, the Leader of Council delivered a statement.

Members were reminded that in March 2020, the free school meals home delivery scheme commenced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. CCBC began delivering 5,580 meals and this demand quickly increased to over 7,000 pupils receiving a nutritious free meal direct to their door.

In 2020 Wales became the first UK nation to guarantee free school meals for eligible families during the school holidays and over the past 2 years the Council continued to deliver much needed food parcels over school holiday periods, which were fully funded by Welsh Government. Due to resource and supplier challenges associated with the delivery of food parcels to individual family homes, a decision was made to change the scheme to the Post Office Voucher scheme to the value of £19.50 per week, per child. It was felt that a voucher system would allow eligible families to receive cash payments directly, offering them more choice and flexibility.

Unfortunately, last Wednesday, the Welsh Government announced there will be no further extension of funding to cover the upcoming summer holiday period or beyond. WG funding will therefore stop, bringing an abrupt end to a much-needed service to our vulnerable children. The cost-of-living crisis has become a significant burden on our communities, especially those from low-income backgrounds. Rising prices have placed a severe strain on many households, with many forced to choose between necessities, including eating or heating. The feedback already received from families has evidenced that they were absolutely relying on this payment and had every expectation it would continue during the Summer Holiday.

The Leader expressed the vital need for our children and young people to enjoy their school holidays in the knowledge that there is food available for them, and that the Council can help take some pressure off families who are struggling to make ends meet.

Members were advised that in order to support our most vulnerable families through this very difficult time, Cabinet will consider a proposal next week to continue this funding for the upcoming summer holidays through the allocation of a one-off fund of £900k to support the continuation of the food vouchers for this summer holiday period only. The Leader has also asked Officers to bring forward a report in early Autumn, which will outline options to ensure much needed support is sustained, and is financially sustainable, over the longer term, forming part of our overall Caerphilly Cares support package. To agree to continue this funding in the long term would mean building in, in excess of £2million into our base budget, at a time when we are already facing a £50million deficit over the next two years, so this could not be an option.

Whilst the Leader expressed his surety that Members across the Council would support this initiative, he asked the Plaid Cymru Group if they would support him in writing to the First Minister asking that Welsh Government review the Universal Free School Meals policy, in light of the pressures the poorest families in our communities are under, in the midst of this Cost of Living Crisis, which goes on in both school term time and holiday time.

Councillor L. Whittle responded as the leader of the Plaid Cymru Group was pleased that the Council were making alternative arrangements in respect of the free school meal provision

during the summer holiday period. He confirmed that the Plaid Cymru Group would lend their full support to the proposal and had also lobbied Members of the Senedd in this regard.

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

Question from Councillor A. Whitcombe to the Leader of Council, Councillor S. Morgan

With the real need for housing in the borough, what has CCBC done to help bring back empty properties into the local housing market?

Response from the Leader of Council to Councillor A. Whitcombe

I want to highlight the progress we have made with Private Empty Properties. We have increased the supply of housing by supporting opportunities to bring long-term, empty homes in the private sector back into use. The Valley Task Force grant has been finalised with 66 grants being completed over the programme, with a total spend of just under £1.5m. Cabinet has recently agreed to the National Empty Home Grants over the next two years. The grant was launched in April 2023 with £2.6 million spend available for the programme. The Empty Homes Team returned 105 long term empty homes, to beneficial use, simply through engagement with owners. We are also pursuing enforcement action with 73 properties identified as high-risk, priority empty properties, which are being proactively targeted.

The Welsh Government approved, 5 Year Empty Property Action Plan, is on target for delivery and is being driven forward by the Team, while a communication plan is ongoing to promote the work undertaken by the Team. The Empty Homes Strategy, entitled “No Use Empty” was approved by Cabinet on 8th March 2023 and is now being implemented. The consultation on the Strategy confirmed overwhelming support from the public to tackle empty property issues. We have made a positive start to this challenging programme. We accept there’s much more to do and as this work progresses, regular updates to the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet will be provided.

Finally, I would like to thank the award-winning team of 5 staff, headed by Claire Davies, for all the fantastic work they have been doing, so much has been achieved, but as I say much more to do yet.

9. TO RECEIVE AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RECEIVED UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10

Question from Councillor A. McConnell to the Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces, Councillor C. Morgan

Can the Cabinet Member for Waste and Green Spaces offer an update on the ‘No Mow May’ campaign?

Response from the Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces to Councillor A. McConnell

Members will no doubt be very aware of our commitment to biodiversity within the county borough and the support you all gave us at the Biodiversity seminar last October.

We have just completed our first No Mow May and it has brought a mixed response from our residents and mixed results operationally. We have received many positive messages from the public, but we have also received some not so positive comments. Whilst we celebrate and enjoy the positive results from the No Mow May trial, we recognise there are some areas

we haven't quite got right, and we know we will have to change our approach in some key areas before next season. Sadly due to the extreme heat and lack of rain experienced across the UK in recent weeks, the planting of wildflowers has not been as successful as we would have liked.

Now that the No Mow May period has concluded, everyone wants their grass areas cut and cut quickly. Whilst we are working through this, we have a backlog, and I would ask Members and members of the public for their continued patience as the staff work through the county borough. I want to thank the Parks and Countryside Teams as we work through this new approach. It hasn't been easy, but I know the teams remain committed to this. We are in the process of recruiting an additional 10 staff to further support the team and we have ordered new machinery and spare parts as the impact of the high grass has affected our machinery too.

We have learnt a lot from our first No Mow May and we intend to build upon this year's experience in order to improve our approach next year. As the Cabinet Member I want to assure you that we will do just that. Another Members Seminar is planned for the Autumn for Members to discuss and consider our next steps, including the lessons learned from this year and the way forward for biodiversity across the county borough. This will then be captured in a Cabinet report before the new season commences. Our approach will be communicated to all Members and members of the public to ensure everyone understands and is engaged with the approach we are taking.

I think we all now know that "Nature isn't neat" but we know that we need to find a middle ground that balances our biodiversity intentions and responsibilities alongside keeping our area green and clean.

10. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS UNDER RULE OF PROCEDURE 10 TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING

Question from Councillor K. Etheridge to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection, Councillor P. Leonard

To ask the Cabinet Member why the elected members comments for the Ynysddu Wards views were ignored who made the decision to ignore their constructive amended comments, and not include them in the newsletter distributed to residents and how this fits in with the National Principles For Engagement in Wales and do they feel this is good practice and sets a precedent in all other Team Caerphilly Wards?

Written response from the Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection to Councillor K. Etheridge

I can confirm the Corporate Director for Economy and Environment made the decision to progress sending the newsletter out. There were no factual inaccuracies in the newsletter, and it was deliberately designed to be succinct and supported by a series of FAQs on the internet which can easily be updated / amended as required. In his email response to Councillors Reed and Jones on 8th June 2023 the Corporate Director stated:

"I note your extensive comments but I am advised by my technical officers that there are no factual inaccuracies contained within the newsletter. The newsletter is not misleading in any way and has been designed as a short background summary for residents to be informed of what the council has done and is planning in relation to Ty Llwyd. Consequently delivery of the newsletter will be going ahead as scheduled for the end of this week.

Importantly, the newsletter signposts residents to a series of FAQ's which will also go live on our web site and includes contact numbers for Maria Godfrey and Ceri Evans who are willing to discuss any queries that residents may have. The FAQ's are more appropriate to upload information as and when updates are required and are also the most appropriate place for addressing the queries raised in various emails on the subject of Ty Llwyd."

1 Engagement is effectively designed to make a difference

Engagement is effective and designed to make a difference but only if both parties are willing.

2 Encourage and enable everyone affected to be involved, if they so choose

A meeting was organised between CCBC Officers, NRW, Arkadis, both Ynysddu Ward Councillors, Myself and the Leader, to involve, encourage and enable them to take part in discussions regarding Ty Llwyd Quarry. Unfortunately, both Ward Councillors decided not to attend, resulting in the residents having no voice and no representation in the meeting.

3 Engagement is planned and delivered in a timely and appropriate way.

The above meeting was planned well in advance in a timely manner with representatives from all organisations involved but unfortunately both Ward Councillors failed to attend, this I find inappropriate and certainly not 'good practice'

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION - TY LLWYD QUARRY, YNYSDDU

Councillor A. Farina-Childs declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, as he works for BRUSH Switchgear, and he left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Consideration was given to the Notice of Motion which was received from Councillor J. Jones and Councillor J. Reed and was supported by Councillor K. Etheridge.

Councillor J. Reed presented the Notice of Motion which had been considered and supported by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 2nd May 2023. At that meeting, Councillor J. Jones and Councillor J. Reed made an amendment to their motion which is set out in full below, with the changes highlighted.

"In their notice of motion Councillor J. Jones and Councillor J. Reed, due to the concern of residents, call on the Council to write to the Welsh Government to support their request to the First Minister Mark Drakeford, for an Independent Public Inquiry and to investigate and facilitate funding within the Environmental Protection Act Part Two A Second Part Process, on the Ty Llwyd Quarry".

Councillor J. Reed confirmed that she wished to further adjust the wording of the Notice of Motion for consideration by Council and this was moved and seconded.

Queries were raised in relation to the proposed amendments and the meeting was adjourned at 6.50 p.m. in order for clarification to take place.

The meeting reconvened at 7.01 p.m. and Officers provided further clarification and advice in relation to the Notice of Motion.

Councillor J. Jones and Councillor J. Reed, as the signatories to the Notice of Motion, confirmed that they wished to amend the wording of the Notice of Motion to read as follows:-

“In their notice of motion Councillor J. Jones and Councillor J. Reed, due to the concern of residents, call on the Council to write to the Welsh Government to support their request to the First Minister Mark Drakeford, for an Independent Public Inquiry and to investigate and facilitate funding within the Environmental Protection Act Part 2A on the Ty Llwyd Quarry”.

The amended Notice of Motion was moved and seconded. Voting took place by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation, and in noting there were 57 for, 0 against and 4 abstentions, this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the amended Notice of Motion be supported.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION - MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE (MND) CHARTER

Consideration was given to the Notice of Motion which was received from Councillor N. George and was supported by Councillors C. Andrews, P. Leonard, E. Forehead, S. Cook, C. Morgan, J. Simmonds, E. Stenner, J. Pritchard and S. Morgan.

Councillor N. George presented the Notice of Motion which had been considered and supported by the Social Services Scrutiny Committee on 30th May 2023. The Notice of Motion requested that CCBC adopt the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter to raise awareness internally and, ultimately, achieve better outcomes for people living with the disease.

There were no questions received and the Notice of Motion was moved and seconded. Voting took place by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation, and in noting there were 59 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Notice of Motion be supported.

14. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH 2ND REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UP TO 31 MARCH 2035 – PRE-DEPOSIT PLAN - INITIAL CONSULTATION REPORT

Consideration was given to the report, which sought Council endorsement of the Initial Consultation Report and the Pre-Deposit consultation of the Local Development Plan, and Council agreement to the undertaking of a regional assessment of growth and migration across the region, during which work on the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan would be suspended.

Members were advised of the outcome of the statutory 6-week consultation on the Pre-Deposit LDP which was held between 19th October and 30th November 2022, with just under 2000 representations received (including 327 on the Pre-Deposit Plan and 1641 on Candidate Sites). Regulation 16A of the LDP regulations require the Council to prepare an Initial Consultation Report that sets out how the consultation was publicised and addresses the issues raised through the representations received, which was set out at Appendix 6 of the Officer's report.

Welsh Government submitted its comments on the Pre-Deposit plan on 25th November 2022 and these comments are split into two categories; general comments requiring further information and clarity, which are addressed in the Initial Consultation Report, and Conformity Objections that raises conformity issues in respect of three parts of the plan. These objections could have significant implications for the Pre-Deposit Plan and these are outlined in the Initial Consultation Report, but no recommendation in respect of them has been made.

The first Conformity Objection is to the Strategic Site at Maesycwmmmer, and unless this objection is overcome, it raises significant doubt over whether the Plan could be found sound at examination. Recommendations in respect of this issue would be reported to full Council on completion of the work associated with the second issue below. The second Conformity Objection relates to how the proposed level of growth proposed in the Plan was developed from a regional assessment of growth. Despite the very significant reservations of all local authorities in the region and the differing WG approach to growth in other authority plans, the SE Wales Planning Officers Society are seeking to commission this work for the Cardiff Capital Region area. This work will be a fundamental piece of evidence for all plans in the region, and will take a lengthy period of time to complete. As a result, the report sought a temporary halt on progress of the LDP until such time as this work has been conducted. The third Conformity Objection relates to adopting a nature-based approach to preparing the Plan. Whilst the Plan was developed on this basis, it was not clearly set out in the evidence base. It is therefore proposed that an additional evidence paper be prepared that addresses this issue once work on the Plan is recommenced.

The first step in considering the way forward for the Plan is for the regional work to be undertaken and completed, and Council were therefore asked to approve the recommendations set out in Sections 3.1 to 3.4 of the Officer's report.

Council discussed the report and a Member enquired how their community council would be able to submit further comments in relation to the Strategic Site at Maesycwmmmer. The Team Leader for Strategic Planning explained that whilst regulations state that comments can only be submitted during the consultation period, Officers would welcome receipt of any further comments in terms of the Candidate Sites. However, these would not be able to be reflected in any Council report put forward in respect of the Strategic Site because of these limitations placed by the regulations.

A Member asked if financial provision had been made in the extension of the LDP process. The Officer confirmed that the financial situation in respect of the preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP was set out at the very start of the process in 2019. However, this is a rolling programme with no definitive budget. A report will be brought back following the completion of the regional work, which will address any financial issues, and therefore will be revisited at that time. In response to a further query on timescales, the Officer confirmed that production of this report will depend on how long the regional work takes to be completed, which in his view would take at least 6 months, meaning that this will be early 2024 before the Council is in a position to look at outcomes and next steps.

Members congratulated D, Lucas and his team for the masterful way in which they had countered the Welsh Government objections and thanked them for the preparation of the comprehensive report.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Officer's report be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation (and in noting there were 57 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the content of the Initial Consultation Report be noted;
- (ii) the recommendations set out in the Annexes of the Initial Consultation Report be endorsed;
- (iii) a temporary halt on work on the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan be agreed until the conclusion of the regional work required by Welsh Government in respect of growth and migration are known, at which time the Council can consider the options for moving forward with plan preparation at a subsequent Council meeting;
- (iv) It be agreed that, given the emphasis by Welsh Government on collaborative working and the rapidly changing national and regional context for plan preparation, the Leader lobbies the WG and the CCR (CJC) regarding the urgency of progressing an agreed planned timeline for the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan for the CCR.

The meeting closed at 7.41 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 27th September 2023 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR