

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 3.00PM

Present:

Councillor C J James - Mayor and Chairperson

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
S Aspey	D M Hughes	H E Morgan	G Thomas
M W Butcher	E M Hughes	L C Morgan	M Thomas
N Clarke	R M James	M E J Nott OBE	R Thomas
H J David	R D Jenkins	A D Owen	J H Tildesley MBE
G Davies	B Jones	D G Owen	H J Townsend
G W Davies MBE	R C Jones	G Phillips	E Venables
E Dodd	C L Jones	C Rees	K J Watts
D K Edwards	M Jones	C L Reeves	C Westwood
E P Foley	D R W Lewis	M Reeves	H M Williams
C A Green	J E Lewis	C E Smith	R Williams
M Gregory	J R McCarthy	J C Spanswick	

Officers:

D Mepham	-	Chief Executive
N Young	-	Corporate Director - Resources and Section 151 Officer
S Cooper	-	Interim Corporate Director - Wellbeing
M Shepherd	-	Interim Corporate Director - Communities
B Davies	-	Principal Solicitor
C Turner	-	Head of Safeguarding and Family Support
S Jones	-	Development Planning Manager
L Jones	-	Group Manager - Public Protection
J Parsons	-	Development and Building Control Manager
G Jones	-	Head of Democratic Services (Electronic Support)
J Monks	-	Democratic Services Officer - Committees

225 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on the 24th July 2013 were approved as a true and accurate record.

226 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members and Officers for the reasons so stated:

Councillor D Sage	-	Unwell
Councillor D Pugh	-	Holiday
Councillor P Davies	-	Holiday
Councillor K Edwards	-	Holiday
Councillor P John	-	Unwell
Councillor P James	-	Unwell
Councillor M Winter	-	Unwell
Councillor D White	-	Other Council business
Councillor R Young	-	Work commitment
A Jolley-	Assistant Chief Executive -	Legal and Regulatory Services - Annual Leave

227 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Councillor H J Townsend - Agenda Item 7(a) – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013-14 to 2016-17 - Councillor Townsend declared a personal interest as she is employed by Bridgend College and one of the budget savings identified in the report included the Learner Transport policy.

Councillor H M Williams - Agenda Item 7(d)(iv) – Bridgend Local Development Plan (LDP) – Councillor Williams declared a prejudicial interest as his family would benefit from the adoption of the LDP. Councillor Williams withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

228 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that the Civic Service which had recently taken place at Pisgah Chapel, Kenfig Hill had proved to be a memorable and pleasant day. He informed Council that six neighbouring authorities, as well as several town and community councils were represented at the event, which raised over £500 for the Mayor's charity appeal fund. He thanked all those who attended, and also the staff who had organised the event and helped to make it a success.

The Mayor announced that he had attended a presentation evening at Cynfig Comprehensive School, where awards were presented to pupils for their many achievements at the school. He advised that he had contacted schools in the Borough to invite pupils to visit Civic Offices to find out more about how the Council is run.

The Mayor drew Members' attention to the 'Open Doors' events, taking place throughout September on the history of the Borough. Details of the remaining events during September are published on the Council's website.

The Mayor announced some future events in his calendar. He would be visiting the local Police Station accompanied by Chief Inspector Joe Ruddy. On Sunday the Mayor's Grand Charity Banquet is due to take place at the Golden Well restaurant on the A48. The guest speaker will be Simon Richardson MBE and the Master of Ceremonies will be Chris Major MBE. Tickets are £25 each.

Finally, the Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending the 'Love Food, Hate Waste' road-show held recently, which highlighted the amount of food thrown away and demonstrated how leftover food could be turned into tasty dishes, demonstrated by TV chef Richard Fox. He encouraged Members to look at the site www.lovefoodhatewaste.com and mentioned a new web-based app called 'tasted' which was being launched to promote healthy eating.

229 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Principal Solicitor, on behalf of the Monitoring Officer, announced the following changes;

1. It has been necessary to change the following dates of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- From 18 November to 21 November 2013 at 2.00pm
- From 16 December to 18 December 2013 at 10.00am
- From 10 February to 12 February 2014 at 10.00am
- From 31 March to 26 March 2014 at 10.00am

Cabinet at its meeting on the 17 September 2013 approved that the dates of the Cabinet Committee Equalities would be changed as follows:

- From 27 August to 1 October 2013 at 1.00am
- From 12 March to 13 March 2014 at 10.00am
- From 13 May to 19 May 2014 at 10.00am

All changes have been set up in Members' calendars and also on the website.

2. Distribution of Committee Agenda and Reports

In order to make savings in terms of printing and postage costs and as part of staged progression towards meeting the principles of a paperless office, Members have been provided with a description of the revised distribution of committee documents and non-essential mail items.

The key changes include:

- The switch from hard to electronic documents to meet the three day rule;
- Hard copies of Cabinet meeting documents will only be provided to the Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Chairpersons;
- The re-direction of all non-essential and meeting documents for Elected Members via the Members Room before being delivered by the in-house courier on Fridays.

These procedures are due to be implemented from week commencing the 30th September 2013.

230 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader informed Members that despite some stiff competition, the Council was one of 11 local authorities to be shortlisted for funding under the 'Vibrant Towns and Vibrant Places' regeneration framework. The bid put forward by the Authority was for £14 million grant funding, out of a total of £90m the Welsh Government (WG) would be providing across the board. Stage 2 of the bid was currently being prepared and would be submitted to the WG by the 25th November 2013.

The Leader announced the recent receipt of the latest performance statistics from the WG and Local Government Data Unit. He advised that he had been pleased to see so many positive examples of areas where the Authority had performed well. He reported that the statistics showed the Council had demonstrated a 72% high performance during 2012-13 and was amongst the best performing authorities for more than 25% of the national indicators. In 61% of the national indicators, the Council exceeded and scored above the Wales average for more than half of them. Out of 36 national performance indicators, the Council exceeded the WG's statutory target of 52% and is amongst the top two recycling authorities in Wales. Out of 36 national performance indicators, comparable with the previous year, a total of 26 either improved or remained at 100%, whilst just 10 showed signs of decreasing. Six of the Council's indicators for 2012-13 were placed within the top three for Wales, with five ranked at number one.

The Leader advised that the figures demonstrated the Authority was striving to improve its performance, and thanked the dedicated staff for their efforts as well as the many partner organisations with which the Authority worked closely to deliver local services.

The Leader informed Members that there had been a number of significant educational developments with the start of the new school term. The £34m new secondary school, Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen had opened its doors to pupils in Tondu for the first time. As well as catering for 1,570 pupils, the school would act as a community hub offering many of its facilities for public use.

A 'Nurture and Family Space Facility' had opened at Oldcastle Primary School, with more than £1m having been invested in an Early Years Unit at Bryncethin Primary School, which included an outdoor soft play area and sheltered facilities, as well as a much needed safe dropping-off point.

The Leader announced that pupils of Penyfai Church in Wales Primary School would soon see their all-new £4.3m school building, which was built as a replacement for the ageing former premises. He further announced that County Primary School would also have a new school building in the near future. He advised that these were testament to the strength of the on-going school modernisation programme and partnership with the Welsh Government.

Finally, the Leader updated Members on the Deputy Leader, Councillor David Sage. Councillor Sage had sustained injuries following a fall whilst on a fishing holiday in Pembrokeshire. The Leader reported that Councillor Sage was now recovering at home but, unfortunately his mobility was extremely inhibited whilst he healed.

The Leader informed Members that during the Deputy Leader's absence, Councillor Phil White would be dealing with regeneration issues, Councillor Mike Gregory would look after equality and diversity issues, and Councillor Lyn Morgan would handle legal and regulatory services.

231 PUBLIC PROTECTION DEPARTMENT- HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2013-14

The Group Manager – Public Protection presented a report to seek Council approval for the Health and Safety Service Plan 2013-14, attached at Appendix A to the report. He advised that the Public Protection Team had a duty to produce a Service Plan for the Health and Safety Executive in line with national guidelines, and the programme of work was based around looking at all types of businesses in the Borough. The Health and Safety Service provides advice and education for businesses and employees, to promote and ensure safe working practice as well as providing advice on various licence applications in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The team also aim to maintain staff development for competent officers to enforce the legislation.

He reported that priority projects this year included:

- Liquefied petroleum gas
- Farms and animal contact
- Management of safe swimming in swimming pools
- Body piercing and tattooing

One Member asked what assessment was being undertaken to differentiate between Risk 'A' and 'Unrated', described on page 7 of the Service Plan, and whether the Risk Bands had been based on the HELA LAC 67/2 guidance. He further asked for an explanation of HELA.

The Group Manager - Public Protection explained that all assessments were supported by statutory and national guidance in order to aid consistency nationwide. The risk rating depended on the type and scale of activity, and also the persons involved, i.e. whether they were elderly or young people.

One Member asked whether there had been any progress regarding those businesses that provided procedures such as Botox, fillers and teeth whitening.

The Group Manager - Public Protection explained that there had been media issues and also national debate on those procedures through technical partners; however it remained a grey area as not all products such as the aforementioned were regulated, which was a concern for both the Welsh Government and Central Government as to whether those businesses needed to be licenced. He advised that the Public Protection Team would ensure that those businesses had general hygiene and health and safety in place at their premises, but there were no specific regulations for some of the products involving teeth whitening, and although it was not a priority the Team were working closely with Health colleagues regarding the levels of peroxide used in that process. He reported that the Royal College of Surgeons also had an interest in the issue, as there were new techniques constantly coming onto the market; however it took time for legislation to come into force.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the Health and Safety Service Plan 2013-14.

232 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2013-14 TO 2016-17

The Cabinet Member - Resources presented a report to update Council on the latest indication from the WG on funding levels for 2014-15 and 2015-16, and the actions required to deliver £13.3million recurrent savings by the 31st March 2014.

He advised that Council was currently reviewing its Corporate Plan and improvement priorities in line with the integrated business and budget planning process which was introduced last year. The Corporate Plan would be rolled forward one year to cover the period 2014-2018. It was therefore important that actions identified in business plans to deliver outcomes are commensurate with the resources identified in the MTFs.

He explained that the MTFs funding projections for 2013-14 to 2016-17, which were reported to Council in February 2013, were based on information available at that time, including potential percentage changes in Aggregate External Finance (AEF), detailed in Table 1 on page 2 of the report. The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announcement in June 2013 made it clear that cuts in public expenditure are set to be more stringent than originally forecast, and would continue for longer than anticipated. However, funding for the NHS, Schools and universal benefits i.e. free prescriptions would be protected by the WG. He advised that one of the consequences of this was that Welsh Councils had been told to expect English-style reductions to their settlements in 2014-15 and 2015-16, which was expected to amount to -4% cash cuts per annum.

He reported that the provisional settlement was not due to be announced until mid-October, and the Authority would need to plan its budget for 2014-15 to mitigate the impact a -4% settlement from the 1st April 2014. Taking into account the protection for schools funding, this would require the Council to find savings in the region of 7.5% for the remainder of the financial year 2014-15, with a further 10% saving in 2015-16. This amounted to an anticipated shortfall of £13.3 million in 2014-15, which excluded the impact of likely cuts to specific grants.

The in-year financial position, detailed in Table 2 of the report, showed that whilst it was an improvement on the previous quarter, Directors were aware of their responsibility to progress recovery plans to achieve a balanced budget by the year end.

The Cabinet Member - Resources advised that the revised funding assumptions meant that the Council was currently faced with a budget forecast shortfall of £35 million over the period 2014-15 to 2016-17. The immediate focus was on 2014-15 and the budget reduction of £13.3 million needed to achieve a balanced budget, detailed in Table 5 of the report. In addition, the Section 151 Officer was working with senior officers to identify £3 million from corporate budgets, which would include consultation with the three

recognised Trade Unions on measures which could reduce the pay bill. In the meantime, freeze on recruitment had been implemented.

Representations have also been made to the Local Government Minister requesting that local authorities be allowed as much flexibility as possible, with time to plan.

The Cabinet Member - Resources advised that it was imperative that a balanced budget be achieved, and essential that both revenue and capital expenditure were contained within identified budgets for the current year, as the alternative would have serious implications for the Council.

RESOLVED: That Council considered the content of the report and noted the actions taken to ensure £13.3 million of recurrent savings are delivered by the 1st April 2014 and the need for services to develop longer term plans to deliver future years' savings.

233 SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

The Interim Corporate Director - Wellbeing presented a report requesting Council approval of the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2012/13 and for Members to note the judgements reached regarding Social Care Services in Bridgend. The report, which was the fourth Annual Report of the Director of Social Services, was based on the Authority's self-assessment of the performance and delivery of social services. It had also been presented to a joint scrutiny panel made up of representatives from the Health and Wellbeing and Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committees, who had provided valuable feedback before it was submitted to the CSSIW.

She reported that two fundamental questions were considered during preparation of the report:

- Are there effective arrangements in place to safeguard children and adults and to promote their welfare and voice and their independence and social inclusion;
- Can performance be sustained and improved.

Paragraph 4.3 of the report outlined the key achievements over the past 12 months, which reflected that there were effective services in place for meeting the needs of those people who required the support of social care. The report also identified a series of priorities where there was scope for improvement detailed under paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8 of the report, and were also outlined in the Corporate Plan and business plans.

She reported on the CSSIW inspection in October 2012, which was the first pilot of several across Wales, and focused on arrangements the Council had put in place to fulfil those responsibilities under the Statutory Guidance on the role and accountabilities of the Director of Social Services. The CSSIW published individual reports on each local authority and some of the findings of the overall national report were listed under paragraph 4.10. The had Authority received unpublished feedback, and paragraph 4.11 set out a flavour of the content, part of which the Chief Executive had used in his Corporate Management Review. It was hoped to send a response to the feedback to CSSIW in draft form next week, as there was only a short space of time in which to reply before agreement was reached on the 4th October 2013, and the final report was due to be published on the 30th October 2013. She informed Members that the process for next year had already commenced.

One Member referred to the Serious Case Review (SCR) and the recent case reported in the national media of a young boy in England who was killed by his parents. He commented that whenever heads of departments were interviewed after such a case, they always responded by saying that they hoped to learn lessons and it would not happen again, but it did. He stated that he had not been reassured by the fact that the

Bridgend Local Safeguarding Children Board had published five SCR's; and they had identified a range of concerns which were detailed under paragraph 32 of the report. He referred to Bridgend embracing the agenda for local authorities to engage in collaborative arrangements and asked what else was being done to bring the agencies together; as one of the measured criticisms in the latest tragedy was that the different agencies were not negotiating with each other.

The Head of Safeguarding and Family Support reassured Members that the service took extremely seriously any criticisms and shortcomings in the management of safeguarding children. He expressed the fact that occasionally things did go wrong, but stressed that it was important to learn from those areas and put systems in place to ensure similar tragedies were prevented. He referred to the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board, which consisted of senior officers and professionals from all agencies that did its utmost to ensure the function of the Board was to a high standard. He referred to the recent SCR and advised that whenever a child was killed it was usually down to the failings of individual parents or carers who committed the murder and abuse, and not the agencies; and whenever there was a SCR, it impacted on staff morale. Nevertheless, attempts are made to learn from such cases and do what they could for those people who were intent on harming children. He explained that it was difficult for the general public to understand, as the media only reported the bad cases and not the hundreds who were saved from harm. He added that although the Service was constantly under pressure, the priority was to safeguard children and families within the community.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the Director of Social Services Annual Report for 2012-13.

234 **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Principal Solicitor presented a report to seek Council's approval of the appointment of Mr Kevin Pascoe as a non-voting co-optee to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

At its meeting on the 20th May 2013, the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested that consideration be given to Mr Pascoe remaining on the Committee, given that his term as a Primary School Parent Governor Representative had come to an end. Mr Pascoe had been an active representative on the Committee since 2005, involved in the on-going work of the School Performance Research and Evaluation Panel (REP), alongside the Committee meetings, which would benefit from his continued involvement.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the appointment of Mr Kevin Pascoe as a non-voting co-optee to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee until May 2014.

235 **PUBLIC PROTECTION DEPARTMENT - COMMUNICABLE DISEASE OUTBREAK PLAN FOR WALES**

The Principal Lawyer presented a report to seek Council approval for the adoption of The Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales published by the Welsh Assembly Government, attached at Appendix A to the report.

Between October 2011 and April 2012, the Welsh Government's Health Protection Committee's Outbreak and Incident Sub-Group met to consider the Heads of the Valleys Legionnaires disease outbreak in 2010, and the VTEC 0157 PT8 2011 outbreak in the UK. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- An evaluation template;

- Legionella sampling protocol;
- Advice on proactive media engagement.

Council were requested to note that there would be rare occasions where an outbreak, or incident may develop into an overwhelming communicable disease emergency, or suspicion of bioterrorism event. Such emergencies would invoke the Wales Resilience Emergency Planning structures and the Outbreak Control Team would need to consider escalation to involve the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Chair.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the adoption of the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales published by the Welsh Assembly Government in September 2012.

236 DEPARTURE PLANNING APPLICATION P/13/98/FUL

The Development and Building Control Manager presented a report to seek Council approval of a deferred planning application P/13/98/FUL as a departure from the Development Plan. The Development Control Committee at its meeting on the 25th July 2013 resolved not to refuse permission, therefore the application was deferred to Council to grant planning permission, subject to conditions.

He informed Members that the application was for the construction of a log cabin building for use as staff accommodation in connection with a horse racing and training rural enterprise, which had been submitted to the Local Planning Authority for determination.

The application was made by Mr Alec McKenzie on behalf of Mr John Flint, the owner of the rural enterprise, who sought consent to construct a two bedroom log cabin building for use as staff accommodation in connection with a horse racing and training rural enterprise located on land to the west of Woodland Park, Kenfig Hill.

The main thrust of the application for the need of the accommodation was predominantly due to the level of care and attention that was necessary to be immediately available to the horses (currently a total of 35) at any time during the day and night. The nature of the enterprise, involving both training and racing of horses involved significant amounts of preparation, maintenance and care, especially due to the number of horses at the stables, added to that, they were frequently injured as a result of the racing activities. Due to the nature of the enterprise and given that the 'end-product' was horse racing, it was imperative that medical treatment should not be delayed, as this would threaten the viability and proper functioning of the enterprise.

The Development and Building Control Manager advised that the design of the proposal was in keeping with the surrounding area and did not raise any other material planning issues. He added that there had been no objections from the Highways Department.

One Member was concerned that the application had already been turned down on two separate occasions. Although it was appreciated that a lot of businesses required shift workers, they did not necessarily live on the premises, and she believed that one house would have been sufficient. She felt that if the application was approved, it would set precedence on green wedge sites, which could jeopardise other sites.

Another Member questioned why such a high level of care was needed at the premises.

The Development and Building Control Manager appreciated that some Members had concerns, however he explained that the case officer had discussed at length proposals with the applicant, who had submitted information, including financial, on the reasons for having a residential unit on site. He advised that it was an intricate business venture which had been developed over a number of years and was unique to the Borough, and employed a number of local people. Although the applicant lived within close proximity to

the site, he was not in a position to look after the stables and facilities himself as he was required to regularly travel to other parts of the country in connection to his business. Expensive race horses were trained at the site and it was one of the top training facilities in the County, housing over £1m worth of race horses. He advised Members that in view of the policy guidelines, it was considered that the development met the criteria, and the submitted documents supported residential accommodation where there was a genuine need for a rural enterprise.

In response to a question from Members, he advised that the site accommodated over 30 race horses within two units.

RESOLVED: That Council approved planning application P/13/98/FUL subject to the conditions and notes contained within the report.

237 DEPARTURE PLANNING APPLICATION P/12/796/FUL

The Development and Building Control Manager presented a report to seek Council approval for a mixed use development on 6.5ha of land at Ty Draw Farm, North Cornelly.

At its meeting in August the Development Control Committee, after visiting the site, resolved not to refuse permission; therefore the application was referred to Council, with the request to grant planning permission, subject to a Section 106 Agreement and conditions.

The Development and Building Control Manager explained that the proposal was a 'hybrid' application. The residential part was made in full, whilst the business use was made in outline. The residential element related to 94 dwellings made up of 2/3/4 bedroom houses and 1 bedroom flats. He advised that the proposal did not comply with Unitary Development Plan (UDP), but was in line with the Local Development Plan (LDP) which would replace the UDP and in this case, the LDP indicates that the site at Ty Draw Farm was allocated for part residential and part business use. It was also recommended that a Section 106 Agreement be put in place for the applicant to make a contribution to the outlying area, to include affordable housing. He added that the residential area of the site was important to the housing allocation provision of Bridgend.

One Member pointed out that the application had been refused twice and the Welsh Government inspectors had supported the Development Control Committee's objections. He advised that this particular area of land was badly needed for industry.

Another Member referred to the contribution requirement for school children, as the report had stipulated that there would only be a requirement for three school places in a Welsh school. He asked how that number had been calculated, given that the proposal was for 95 units.

The Development and Building Control Manager advised that the Section 106 Agreement indicated that the applicant was required to make a contribution of £48,998 towards education provision within the catchment area. With regard to the Welsh school aspect he explained that the information on numbers had been supplied by the Education Department.

One Member referred to a letter the Council had received from the residents of Kenfig Hill requesting a new Welsh school to be sited at Porthcawl, which demonstrated the need for another Welsh school in the area. Another Member referred to the fact that there was a lack of open space on the site, and that it would cost double the amount stipulated in the Section 106 Agreement to build a play area.

One Member asked for clarification of the number of one and two bedroom units that would be required to be built, particularly in view of the bedroom tax, and whether six single occupancy units would be sufficient, given the current social housing crisis.

The Development and Building Control Manager advised that the Section 106 Agreement would require 12 affordable units to be built and as part of the application, consultation had taken place with the Housing Department who had provided information that the development would be suitable. He advised that he could not comment further on the number of Welsh school places; however he confirmed that the allocated number was in accordance with planning guidance. He referred to the fact that the site had been unsuccessfully marketed for business use over a long period of time and the proposed development would be mainly for residential use, which would act as an enabler to part of the site for business use.

Community on the open space and play area, he advised that the open space would be more than adequate for the size of the development.

The Cabinet Member – Children and Young People explained that most children would attend the local English medium school, or voluntary aided schools and a high proportion in the area had attended Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger Corneli or Cynffig Comprehensive school Cornelly primary and Afon y Felin primary schools. This reflected the anticipated the minimal number set out in the planning guidance formula that would require the facilities provided by a Welsh school.

Members had adopted the supplementary planning guidance; also temporary classrooms were planned for the Welsh school.

One Member requested a further report to be presented to the Development Control Committee on the value of play areas, as he believed that the estimated £40k would not cover the cost.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the planning application P/12/796/FUL subject to the conditions and notes contained within the report.

238 DEPARTURE PLANNING APPLICATION P/13/436/FUL

The Development and Building Control Manager presented a report for Council to consider planning application P/13/436/FUL as a departure from the Development Plan. The Development Control Committee (DCC) resolved not to refuse permission; therefore the application was referred to Council, which was requested to grant planning permission subject to conditions. He advised that the proposal was not connected to the LDP, but was a proposal for a new dwelling in the countryside.

The application was made by Design and Planning on behalf of Mr Les Parslow, who sought permission for an amendment to planning permission P/04/258/FUL for the rebuilding of a barn for conversion to two residential dwellings at Llangewydd Farm.

He explained the exceptional circumstances surrounding this case. In 2004 the Council approved planning permission for conversion of a redundant rural building at the farm. At that time the site was used as a breakers yard, bus depot and motor repair shop, all of which were in rough order in terms of appearance and considered to be non-conforming. The developer came in on the basis that the site would be used for residential purposes. Subsequent to gaining planning permission for residential conversion of the building, it was discovered that the foundations of the building were inadequate. A structure report was then submitted, but it could not predict the condition of the building below ground level. On the commencement of the structural work to convert the building into residential, the building collapsed.

He reported that detailed discussion took place between the Building Control Department and the developer, where it became clear that it was a genuine case. The application therefore was to rebuild the barn completely, which technically would make it a new dwelling in the countryside. The developer had commenced work on some parts of the

building and would build it in complete accordance with the previous plan so that it would resemble what was previously approved; although the floor area would need extra requirements, the design appearance would be the same. It was observed that the land to which the building related had been cleared of all its non-conforming use and should the application be refused, those uses could come back.

RESOLVED: That Council approved planning application P/13/436/FUL subject to conditions and notes contained within the report.

239 BRIDGEND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – INSPECTOR’S REPORT AND ADOPTION

The Development Planning Manager’s report presented to Council the Inspector’s Report on the examination into the Bridgend Local Development Plan (LDP) and requested the LDP’s formal adoption as amended by the changes recommended within the Inspector’s Report. The adopted LDP would form the Development Plan for Bridgend County Borough and the basis for decisions on land use planning in the Borough.

She informed Members that the Inspector had considered that the Council had provided sufficient evidence to support the LDP strategy and that through the examination process had demonstrated that it had a realistic prospect of being delivered.

The main changes that the Inspector considered were needed to meet legal and statutory requirements were summarised in Appendix 1 (the Inspector’s Report).

The amended LDP document was attached at Appendix 2 to the report, which included the consequential changes required in terms of policy and paragraph numbering.

She informed members that at the point of adoption the regulations require the publication of an Adoption Statement and this was attached at Appendix 3 and that a final Sustainability Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment are also required to be published alongside the LDP and that these have been made available in the Members Room.

Members should also be aware the report was also proposing that adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents prepared under the UDP be carried forward until they can be reviewed.

The Interim Corporate Director - Communities reported that a letter had been received from the Planning Inspectorate thanking the staff involved for their professional attitude and responding to queries. He extended his personal thanks to the Group Manager – Development, the Development Planning Manager and her team in the preparation of the LDP and the successful planning during the examination process.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Adopted the LDP as amended by the changes recommended and endorsed by the Inspector with immediate effect.
- (2) Endorsed the contents of, and authorises the Interim Corporate Director - Communities to notify and publish the adopted LDP, the Inspector’s Report, the Adoption Statement, the final Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- (3) Carried forward existing SPGs for use in the determination of planning applications, until such time as they may be formally reviewed.

240 INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOTING

The Principal Solicitor presented a report to inform Council of any information reports for noting since its last ordinary meeting.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the publication of the document contained in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

241 AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

The Principal Solicitor presented a report to seek Council's approval to amend the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation of Functions to reflect the coming into force of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.

At its meeting on the 17th September 2013, Cabinet received a report on the implementation of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, which comes into force on the 1st October 2013. It was therefore necessary to update the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation of Functions.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the amendment of the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation of Functions as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.

242 NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY THE LEADER, COUNCILLOR M E J NOTT OBE

Supporting the Financial Tax (FTT)

The Leader put forward the following motion and sought Council's support:

- Local councils are facing unprecedented financial strains in a period of austerity, which are having a real impact on public services, despite the best efforts of the Welsh Government;
- Extending the current FTT on shares to other asset classes such as bonds and derivatives could raise £30 bn per annum of additional revenue in the UK, which could find its way to cash-strapped local authorities.

He advised that this could provide the Authority with the opportunity to write to the Prime Minister, stating that the Authority supported the extension of the FTT.

Revenue from the FTT could help to repair the damage caused by cuts in public services since 2010, and local government deserved to receive a significant proportion of FTT revenues, making an important contribution to both capital and revenue expenditure, such as reversing cuts to council tax benefits.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed to:

- (1) Write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Chancellor and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, stating this Council's support for extending FTTs.
- (2) Write to the local AM and MP outlining the Council's position.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm.