

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON  
WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE 2010 AT 3.00PM

Present:

Councillor - W H C Teesdale Mayor in the Chair

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
D A D Brett	E P Foley	D N W Jones	J C Spanswick
R D L Burns	M Gregory	M Lewis	J H Tildesley
M W Butcher	P A Hacking	C J Michaelides	M Thomas
D Buttle	T Hacking	L C Morgan	D A Unwin
N Clarke	C E Hughes	W B Morgan	K Watkins
H J David	E M Hughes	M E J Nott	K J Watts
A E Davies	K S Hunt	P Penpraze	C Westwood
C Davies	M Inglesant	D R Pugh	M C Wilkins
G Davies	C J James	B I Quennell	H M Williams
E Dodd	R M James	M Reeves	R Williams
D K Edwards	R D Jenkins	D Sage	M Winter
P A Evans	A Jones	S B Smith	R E Young

Officers:

J Farrar	- Chief Executive
A Harris	- Corporate Director - Wellbeing
P A Jolley	- Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
R Fletcher	- Head of Street Scene
D Llewellyn	- Group Manager Development
G P Jones	- Principal Cabinet and Committee Officer (electronic back-up)
M A Galvin	- Senior Cabinet and Committee Officer

353 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the following meetings of Council be approved as a true and accurate record:-

Ordinary Meeting	- 19 May 2010
Annual Meeting	- 19 May 2010

354 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:-

Councillor C A Green	- Holiday
Councillor K R T Deere	- No reason given
Councillor R Shepherd	- Unwell
Councillor G Thomas	- No reason given
Councillor P J White	- No reason given
H Anthony	- Holiday
L Fradd	- Holiday

355 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared prejudicial interests in the items so specified and withdrew from the meeting whilst the item was being considered:-

- Councillor P A Evans - Agenda Item 7 - Bridgend (LDP) Evidence Base: Examining Alternative Demographic and Labour Market Projections April 2010 - As he owned land in Coychurch included in the Local Development Plan.
- Councillor C E Hughes - Agenda Item 7 - Bridgend (LDP) Evidence Base: Examining Alternative Demographic and Labour Market Projections April 2010 - As he owned land in Laleston included in the Local Development Plan.
- Councillor H M Williams - Agenda Item 7 - Bridgend (LDP) Evidence Base: Examining Alternative Demographic and Labour Market Projections April 2010 - As he owned land in Blackmill included in the Local Development Plan.
- Councillor K S Hunt - Agenda Item 7 - Bridgend (LDP) Evidence Base: Examining Alternative Demographic and Labour Market Projections April 2010 - As he owned land in Maesteg included in the Local Development Plan.

356 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Mayor announced that people may have noticed that Bridgend County Borough Council was again flying a special Armed Forces Day flag in honour of servicemen and women past and present. On Monday the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chief Executive and himself attended a formal flag raising ceremony with MP's, Janice Gregory AM, local veterans and the Royal Welsh. The flag would fly up to and including Armed Forces Day itself which was on Saturday, 26 June 2010. The Mayor stated that those present may be interested to know that a celebratory service organised by local veterans would also be held by the quadrangle at the bottom of Park Street, Bridgend at 11.30am on Sunday 27 June, followed by a social event in the United Services Club.
2. The Mayor congratulated Councillors and staff who had taken part in the 'I'm a councillor, get me out of here' event. Those involved spent the night in Merthyr Mawr learning bushcraft skills to raise awareness of Biodiversity Week. He was told that they all enjoyed their night under the stars and didn't have to do anything too strange.
3. The Mayor said 'da iawn' to Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, for winning the Can Actol (which means Action Song) at the National Urdd Eisteddfod at Ceredigion. Thirty pupils from the school, aged between seven and eleven performed on Bank Holiday Monday in the grand final, beating thirteen other schools from across Wales.
4. Finally, the Mayor spoke of the Science Award ceremony held at the Grand Pavilion today. This had involved 400 children in attendance. He confirmed that it was a delightful occasion following which all who took part received a certificate for the Award. The Mayor advised that the qualification was only given after the children passed a test. He added that Bridgend were the lead County Borough in Wales and possibly in the

UK in obtaining these awards through encouraging schools and their pupils to actively participate.

357 CABINET MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) The Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader announced that the preferred Bidder for Phase 1 of the regeneration of Porthcawl would be made known tomorrow.

(2) Cabinet Member - Resources

(1) The Cabinet Member - Resources reminded Members of the forthcoming Member Development sessions that were being held before the next Council meeting:

(a) Night Time Economy on 5 July 2010 at 10.00 - 13.00 in the Council Chamber:

A combined Development Control and Licensing Committees meeting with South Wales Police to discuss issues around Policing initiatives and the impact that the policies set by the Committee having on policing within the County Borough. All Members were welcomed.

(b) ICT 4 Members Outlook on 6 July 2010 - 12 noon in the Council Chamber. This was a repeat of the previous sessions held and would include a health check for laptops.

(2) Members were circulated a Training Needs Analysis questionnaire which was due to be returned today. The Cabinet Member reminded Members that if they had not completed or returned this questionnaire to-date a copy of the form was tabled on their desks to complete and return to Member Services by the end of the week.

(3) A further form had been tabled regarding the introduction of a text reminder service which was planned to be introduced so as to provide improved ways of Member communication. If Members wished to participate they were asked to complete the form and return it to Members Services at the end of the meeting.

(3) Cabinet Member - Children and Young People

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People, reminded Members of the Corporate Parenting training session that was to take place on 29 June between 10.00am and 1.00pm in these offices.

This event would provided Members with an opportunity to explore their role as corporate parents and to consider how to make a positive contribution to the lives of children and young people who are looked after and care leavers.

All members should advise her or the appropriate lead officer if they were going to attend.

Alternative dates would be scheduled in the future for those interested who could not attend next week.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People echoed the comments of the Mayor in relation to the National Science Awards.

She pointed out that working on an all UK basis, it was worth pointing out that schools in the old Mid Glamorgan area made up 40% of these awards.

She extended her appreciation to the organisers, teachers and pupils for this excellent attainment.

358 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

None.

359 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Leader was delighted to inform Members that Bridgend County Borough officially had some of the cleanest streets in Wales according to a new litter league table compiled by the GMB Union from official data. Bridgend's score of 98% not only topped the Welsh average of 95.4% but also made it one of the top three performers in Wales. He extended his thanks to the Street Scene Department for their hard work in achieving these excellent results.
2. He advised that Street Scene colleagues had also been working very hard with the Council's new partners May Gurney to roll out the new waste and recycling scheme. The recycling rates across the Borough had been phenomenal since this commenced and he praised residents for the way they were adapting to the changes. He also congratulated the Customer Service Centre team who he knew had been helping to explain the new system to anyone who had called in to enquire about it. It was a huge change which would take some adjusting to but the Leader was confident that the actions of the Council would send it to the top of the recycling league table for Wales. Only this week WAG had chosen to launch its Towards Zero Waste Strategy in Bridgend in recognition of the work the Authority were doing on this important topic.
3. This week was Social Care Week the Leader advised, and a great opportunity to recognise our social workers, home care workers, residential care workers, community occupational therapists and others working in this important sector. Every single day in Bridgend County Borough around 3,000 adults and more than a thousand children and families received support from the Council's Social Care Services teams, in partnership with private, independent and voluntary sector partners. Unless you were the person receiving care, this work could go unnoticed the Leader advised, so he extended a big thank you for everything that was being contributed to this key service.
4. The Leader finally announced that there was still time to vote for the two Bridgend County Borough council employees who were in the running for the prestigious Council Worker of the Year Awards 2010. They were the only finalists from Wales and they needed employers and constituents' votes. Clive Blackshaw and Stephen Cottrell were nominated in the Lifetime Achievement and Green award categories, respectively. Voting could be done via the website or by contacting the Council's communications team.

360 QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

- (1) Councillor A Jones put the following question to the Cabinet Member - Wellbeing:

“It has been drawn to my attention that Bridgend County Borough Council intend to withdraw any further financial support after 2011 for the Brass Band Championship Competition, which is held annually at the Grand Pavilion Porthcawl. Is this correct? If so, when and by whom was this decision made?”

**Response by Councillor L C Morgan, Cabinet Member - Wellbeing:**

“The Council has supported the Brass Band Championship, held annually in February, at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl for a significant number of years, albeit there has not been any formal open-ended agreement to this effect.

The previous Group Manager for Arts and Culture, Gill Elfyn Jones, met with Mr Roger Price, the organiser of the Brass Band Competition in financial year 2008/9, and they reached mutual agreement that the grant given by the Local Authority would initially reduce by 50% in 2009/10 (from £3,000 to £1,500 - a delegated power was signed to approve this on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010) and then be withdrawn fully with effect from financial year 2010/11. This was based on recognition of the increasing budgetary pressures the service faced and also on the basis that the Arts and Culture Service does not support other events of this nature, despite receiving many requests from event and festival organisers each year.

It is my understanding that the tapering funding agreement was reached to allow time for the Brass Bands Championship to find alternative sources of funding and prepare and plan to develop the event in a sustainable way without the need for the Local Authority grant.

The Arts and Culture Service budget can no longer sustain supporting events in this way although the event will continue to benefit from a discounted hire rate at the Grand Pavilion as do all charity and not for profit events.

The event organisers have also been advised that the Council manage a Strategic Tourism Events Grant scheme and that because the event does bring in day visitors to the County Borough it may be eligible to receive support in this way.”

Supplementary question from Councillor A Jones:

He enquired how priorities in Arts and budget were determined?

**Response by Councillor L C Morgan, Cabinet Member - Wellbeing:**

The Cabinet Member - Wellbeing advised that in the current critical economic climate some priorities could be processed through the Strategic Tourism Events Grant Scheme. In relation to this competition he further advised that there could possibly be scope for the Porthcawl Town Council to sponsor the event. He concluded by adding that due to the extremely difficult financial constraints the Council were currently facing and were to continue to face in the future, similar events such as this would inevitably become casualties of funding from the Authority.

- (2) Councillor K Hunt put the following question to the Cabinet Member - Communities:

“A flock of sixty sheep are continually causing problems. They are a danger on the highways and some have been killed. The sheep droppings are everywhere, leaving a terrible mess also on the playing fields.

Plants in some gardens have been destroyed and the sheep have been rubbing up against cars and caravans. The farmer is blaming the Council for not repairing the section of fence owned by the Council. The fence is broken in one place, adjacent to the football field where players cross to retrieve their ball. The farmer has agreed for the Council to erect the stile, this has not been done.

Sections of fence broken by vandals on Valleys to Coast land have been repaired. The Council no longer has a shepherd.

Please could you therefore advise me what is the Council’s responsibility and what can be done?”

**Response by Councillor J C Spanswick Cabinet Member - Communities**

**The relevant law relating to straying animals is:**

- a) **Highways Act 1980, Section 155 - Penalties in connection with straying animals.** If any horses, cattle, sheep, goats or swine are at any time found straying or lying on or at the side of a highway their keeper is guilty of an offence. This does not apply to a highway passing over common, waste or unenclosed ground. A person guilty of an offence is liable to pay the reasonable expenses of removing any animal so found straying.
- b) **The Animals Act 1971 - Duty to take care to prevent damage from animals straying onto the highway.** Where damage is caused by animals straying from unfenced land to a highway a person who placed them on the land shall not be regarded as having committed a breach of duty to take care by reason only of placing them there if he had a right to place the animals on that land.

In this instance, the flock of sheep have a right to be on the farmer’s land and it appears that the gap in the Council’s fence is the cause of the problem, however it must be questioned whether this is the only access from the farmer’s land into the community.

The gap in the fence has been repaired in the past, but as Councillor Hunt points out the fence is broken again when players on the adjacent field want to retrieve their ball. A stile is to be erected, which is being sourced from the Public Rights of Way team and will be erected in the next few weeks.

The Council no longer employs a shepherd, as there is no resource to enforce the straying of animals. Animals, around half of which are domesticated dogs and cats, are from time to time killed on the county borough highways and are collected and disposed of promptly to an animal crematorium, to which a fee is paid depending on the size of the animal. Details for the past two years are as follows:

2008/09	26 animals (includes 7 dogs, 6 cats, 4 lambs/sheep) cost £400
2009/10	13 animals (includes 1 dog, 6 cats, no lambs/sheep) cost £260

Supplementary question from Councillor K Hunt:

“Is the collaborative working between Council Departments and outside agencies such as V2C robust enough to cater for animal straying?”

**Response by Councillor J C Spanswick Cabinet Member - Communities/Head of Street Scene:**

“The Cabinet Member - Communities advised that he had recently attended his first V2C meeting where he had stressed the importance of shared working particularly in relation to Sustainable Development and Energy Conservation issues, and assured the Councillor that he would address the issue of animal straying also.

The Head of Street Scene advised Council that in relation to animals such as horses and cattle straying onto the highway, then this was an offence that should be immediately reported to the Highways Customer Care Team.”

(3) Councillor D A Unwin put the following question to the Cabinet Member - Resources:

“In these economically challenged times, may we please be apprised of the results of any energy efficiency initiatives undertaken within BCBC during the financial year ended 31 March 2010 with an estimate of savings made compared to total expenditure on all forms of energy; and what further initiatives are currently being undertaken across the Authority, including our schools, to further reduce energy costs during this, and future years.”

**Response by Councillor H J David Cabinet Member - Resources**

**Background**

To carry out its various functions/activities the Authority has 291 operational sites, consequentially this requires approximately 423 electricity supplies, 237 Gas Supplies, 7 Oil Supplies, 7 LPG supplies, & 290 Water Supplies. The Authority’s expenditure on all forms of energy serving the aforementioned buildings totalled **£4,894,690** and **£579,661** on water for the period of January to December 2009. The figures for 2010 are currently being collated. A selection of key activities is shown below: -

**Energy & Water Cost Savings 2009**

Utility cost savings of **£184,023** were saved through the adoption of energy & water good housekeeping advice provided by the Energy Section and utility investigations and the rectification of billing anomalies. In addition adjustments were made to heating schedules and set points. Wastage checks carried out which identified equipment being left on when buildings were unoccupied, water leaks and faults on internal water services. Finally £42,000 was saved from facilitating the production of display energy certificates and Advisory Reports internally for 2009 providing total cost saving of **£226,023**. It must be noted that it is often difficult to identify specific energy and water savings due to lack of sub-metering and savings on one measure maybe negated by the influence of another area (i.e. upgrade of controls negated by colder winter etc).

**CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Performance**

The Authority achieved a total CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of 10.81 % (1,631 Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>) from 2004 to 2009 compared to a baseline year of 2003 (Policy Incentive Baseline).

Achieving a reduction of 1.84 % (268 tonnes) from to 2008 compared to 2009. Space heating *consumption figures were normalised for degree days: twenty year average, also Green energy utilised within calculations.* Baseline dataset will change next year to align with the dataset that will be used for the CRC/Energy Efficiency Scheme.

### Day to Day, & General Activities

Some of the day to day and general activities carried out by the unit include:

- **System Link energy & water management database:** Population, development & maintenance of the System Link dedicated energy & water management database.
- **Utility meter readings:** Increased the amount of sites recording and supplying utility meter readings carryout monthly energy monitoring reports to identify anomalies/problems and leaks etc.
- **General queries:** Unit responds to numerous queries from general public on domestic energy related issues.
- **Annual energy/water consumption and cost:** Currently writing Annual Energy/Water Consumption and cost report for all of the Authority's buildings.
- **Energy web-page:** Currently compiling content with the intent of upgrading the energy management page on Bridgend's website.
- **Community warmth programme:** Main scheme currently on hold due to Warm Wales experiencing funding problems, Energy Manager looking at the possibility of facilitating smaller pilot programme.

### Main Projects

- **Leisure site specific energy and water management action plans:** The Energy Manager in collaboration with Leisure will write site specific energy and water management action plans, the action plans will identify measures that will then allow Leisure to apply for various spend to save funding.
- **Variable speed drives:** Devised and implement Variable Speed Drive (VSD) programme installed VSD at Bridgend REC, surveyed Civic Centre, Maesteg, Sports Centre, Ynysawdre Pool.
- **Building management system (BMS) strategy :** Energy Manager and the Senior Mechanical Engineer developed BMS strategy document : Pilot Projects : Ogmore Vale Primary, Brynteg Comp, etc after completion a decision will have to be made what section/department will implement the Strategy.
- **CHP projects:** Energy Section plan to investigate all potential sites suitable for CHP applications within the Authority with the assistance of the Carbon Trust.

### Further / Proposed Activities

- **Carbon Trust's Carbon management project:** Energy Manager was successful in securing funding for the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Project, this initiative will assist the Authority reduce its energy usage and



consequential Carbon Emissions and identify realistic and deliverable CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets.

- **Authority wide water management programme:** Plan to devise and implement Water Management programme (utilising water management company perhaps utilising Aqua logic who are Welsh Water's approved contractor ) carryout audits on buildings water services and provide cost of installing water reducing devices etc.
- **Electrical base load investigations:** It has been identified that a number of buildings have significant electrical base loads, which require site investigations to determine the cause of this electrical wastage.
- **Across directorate management structure:** Plan to implement a across directorate management structure for energy and water management.
- **Identify 20% of the highest energy & water using buildings:** This will help target the buildings that will provide the greatest potential for energy reduction. Benchmarking will also be carried out as part of the process.
- **Heating control system audit programme:** To audit building heating control systems determining set points etc re-commissioning systems where required, generating a list of remedial works.

### Statutory Legislation

- **CRC / Energy Efficiency Scheme:** Lead section on CRC / Energy Efficiency Scheme facilitating the preparation and delivery of the scheme for the Authority. The scheme will have a significant financial impact and the Authority's energy performance will be published in a league table nationally. The financial impact will be approximately £250-£275k with the majority of the monies being recycled in the first few years but it is imperative that the Authority adopts a long term plan to reduce energy consumption and the consequential impact of the scheme.

CRC / Energy Efficiency Scheme Actions:

- a) Carried out presentation to Heads of Service Group
  - b) Devise and implement CRC preparation and action plan
  - c) Register with Government: Nominate responsible person
  - d) Account for 100% energy consumption for the Authority (Buildings & Street Lighting)
  - e) Produce foot print report 2011 (repeated annually)
  - f) Produce Annual report (repeated annually)
- **Display Energy Certificates:** Satisfy the statutory Display Energy Certificate requirement for the Authority: the Energy Section produced 69 certificates and reports for the qualifying buildings within the Authority for 2009.

### Schools Energy Management Activities

- **Energy surveys:** The Energy Management Unit was successful in securing funding from the Carbon Trust for energy surveys for 14 Primary schools and 4 Comprehensive schools. The Energy Management Unit will visit each school to discuss the aforementioned report recommendations over the coming months and develop action plans for each school.

- **Building management system / controls strategy (Pilot projects):** To progress the draft Building Management System / Controls Strategy it was agreed to carry out a number of pilot projects which will identify any issues/barriers that need addressing.
- **Energy & water performance display:** Developed Energy & Water performance Monitoring Display Strategy for the new Caerau Primary. Once the display has been refined it will be rolled out on other new build and refurbishment projects.
- **Training:** The Energy Section carries out the training of caretakers and building managers on the provision of energy & water efficiency good practice, when required.
- **Authority wide: Loft Insulation project:** Intent of implementing the upgrade of buildings loft insulation to required levels (Targeting Primary Schools in the first instance). To be successful the project would require the assistance/input of other sections.
- **Water leaks:** Identified a number of significant water leaks e.g. LLangewydd Primary, Porthcawl Comp, Oldcastle Primary, West Park Primary and Betws Primary.

#### **Automatic Meter Reading Strategy (AMR)**

The implementation of (AMR) Automatic Meter Reading (Intelligent meters) will assist the Energy Management Unit to significantly improve the energy & cost performance of the Authority's buildings by providing the following functions and benefits:

- Enhanced real-time Management Reporting
- Half-hourly consumption information
- Daily meter readings
- Efficiency Monitoring and Targeting
- Helps identify energy wastage
- Establish enhanced procurement profiles
- Monitor Energy Efficiency performance of measures (identify savings accrued)
- Eliminates estimated invoices
- Eliminates credit notes
- Reduced administration / eliminates adjustments on invoices
- Gains early action status for CRC/EES

The electricity and gas industry estimated savings through AMR at 5% to 10% this provides indicative cost savings of £148k up to £297K for Electricity and £86k up to £172k for Gas. There is no installation cost for installing AMR for electricity and gas, however there will be standard charges for the use of AMR. The following estimated costs are for the provision of AMR on electricity and gas will be: **a)** Electricity: £50k/annum **b)** Gas: £42/annum

To conclude the Authority's Energy & Water Management Unit carries out a wide remit of activities serving members of the public and various departments within Bridgend CBC. It is important to note that the Authority's expenditure on utilities is £5.4 Million and there is the risk of significant price increases in the forthcoming years due to the volatile nature of the energy markets and the fact that electricity and gas prices are linked to the price of oil, hence with Peak oil being a focal issue it can be assumed that utility costs will inevitably increase over the next 20

to 30 years. There are also the implications of the CRC/Energy Efficiency Scheme which also adds focus to the necessity for effective energy management.

The Cabinet Member - Resources concluded by giving examples of further building stock and appropriate new or replacement of facilities such as schools that had been developed or constructed with energy efficiency facilities.

(4) Councillor K J Watts put the following question to the Leader:

“A substantial sum of money has been paid by this Authority to the Ogmore Angling Association for infringement of property rights arising from the building of the Angel Walkway. Both parties agreed to a confidentiality clause (gagging order) concerning this matter thereby denying taxpayers of Bridgend CBC information on how their taxes are being spent.

As all financial transactions have to be included in the Authority’s accounts at the end of the financial year can the Leader or Cabinet member please tell Council how this payment to the Ogmore Angling Association will be shown and under which budget heading?”

**Response by Councillor M E J Nott - Leader**

The transaction will not appear on the face of the accounts but will be included within the total expenditure line for General Contingencies.

Supplementary Question by Councillor K J Watts:

As the amount paid will be included in General Contingencies when the Authority’s statement of accounts are published at the end of the financial year, it will therefore not be identifiable. Could it therefore please be explained to the Council and the taxpayers of Bridgend, what has been the purpose behind making the amount paid to OAA unavailable through this jointly agreed confidentiality order and how this promotes openness, transparency and trust in this Authority.

**Response by the Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer**

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer explained that the purpose of such clauses in legal agreements is similar to minutes containing confidential or exempt information being put on pink paper.

It was simply necessary in order to protect the Authority (and other parties) to undertake any settlement without any other party or the public having access to this.

He further explained that such a confidentiality clause is not included in the majority of such agreements but in this particular case it was no more than a private resolution to litigation.

It had been agreed between the three parties involved, to include such a clause in the agreement purely for protection purposes and not for any other reason.

361 **BRIDGEND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) EVIDENCE BASE:  
EXAMINING ALTERNATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC AND LABOUR MARKET  
PROJECTIONS - APRIL 2010**

The LDP Steering Group submitted a report to Council, the purpose of which, was to advise that on the 3 June 2010 the Development Control Committee in their role

as the 'LDP Steering Group' considered a report on the examination of alternative demographic and labour market projections for Bridgend County Borough.

The report sought to inform Members of evidence which has implications for the deposit Bridgend Local Development Plan which was due to be published later this year.

The Group Manager advised Members that the main thrust of the report highlighted that following the consultation exercise arising from the Bridgend LDP: Pre-Deposit Proposals which went out to public consultation, during the period of consultation, the Welsh Assembly Government released its own population and household projections for Bridgend County Borough, which reflected stronger population and household projections for Bridgend County Borough that was proposed in the LDP Pre-Deposit proposals.

In view of this and in response to the significant changes to the national, regional and local context, the Council then commissioned Cambridge Econometrics (CE) to further strengthen and develop the evidence base underpinning the LDP, with the particular focus of the study being to reassess the link between planned dwellings provision, population and employment targets.

Attached to the report therefore at Appendix 1, was a document entitled Examining Alternative Demographic and Labour Market Projections Study produced by Cambridge Econometrics, to the findings which have provided the Council with a deeper understanding of the underlying trends for population and employment within the County Borough.

The report then proceeded to outline information regarding Alternative Population Projections for Bridgend County Borough as well as the prospects for Employment.

Paragraph 4.9 of the report then outlined some key findings from the Cambridge Econometrics as a result of the Analysis (i.e. Appendix 1) of the report.

Paragraph 4.10 of the report then contained land use policy implications for the LDP, which in order to be 'sound' should be founded on an update information base and accommodate the anticipated level of future development.

The Group Manager Development confirmed that the work undertaken by Cambridge Econometrics represented a 'snapshot' in time of where the Council were in terms of projections, as statistics were constantly being revised and new projections published.

The outcome of this analysis however did indicate that though the Strategy proposed was robust, there was a need to re-examine allocation for land dedicated for housing and employment, and it had been agreed that this would be undertaken.

A Member of Council stated that as a result of yesterday's budget there would be a serious effect on employment projections, and asked if an assurance could be given to re-consult Cambridge Econometrics on any further minor refinements that may be required before the Deposit Plan is published.

The Group Manager Development agreed that this suggestion would be accommodated so as to ensure the Plan contains the most up to date information prior to being referred to the Inspectors.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Noted the production of the Cambridge Econometrics report Examining Alternative Demographic and Labour Market Projections attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
- (2) Endorses the use of the Cambridge Econometrics Population and Employment Projections as the basis of the Deposit LDP.

362 WLGA WALES CHARTER FOR MEMBER SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Chief Executive presented a report, in order to inform Members about the above Charter and its requirements and to seek Council's view in relation to the Authority applying for Charter status.

The background to the report advised that the WLGA had developed the Charter in an attempt to give structure and impetus to the services that support elected Members within Welsh local government.

Paragraph 3.2 of the report advised that the report had three levels, Charter, an Advanced Charter and an Excellence Award, and it was recommended that Councils sought to achieve each level on an incremental basis.

It was further explained that authorities could retain the Charter for a maximum of three years and then either make a fresh submission for the basic Charter or apply for the Advanced Charter and following that the Excellence Award.

Appendix 1 to the report, contained a table which set out the criteria against which support arrangements were assessed within each Charter level. The Chief Executive added that, although the report related to a Cabinet function, it was felt appropriate to submit the report to Council to receive the views of all Members, and in particular, with regard to the points made in Paragraph 4.3 of the report. These included: the role descriptions of key member profiles, which were fully set out in Appendix 2; the importance of member training; and the introduction of a Member Mentoring Scheme.

The Chairperson of the Corporate Resources and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee commended the report which he considered to be an important document which required embracing.

If the Charter was committed to, this would assist Members in defining their respective roles to better support services for the community he added.

He thanked Officers for their work in relation to the report and to the growing commitment that had recently been shown towards the Member Development Programme, and encouraged Councillors to endeavour to play an active part in initiatives and training events proposed for the future.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People reminded Members that training was extremely important in all walks of life, in order to cope with the changing demands of roles and jobs, and the role and remit of a Councillor in this regard was no different.

A Member of the Development Control Committee commended the work of Officers in the Planning Department for the development of the successful training programme, which were assisting the Committee in making balanced decisions

through knowledge of the various rules and regulations associated with planning law.

The Leader closed the debate by confirming that the role and responsibility of a County Borough Councillor was far more demanding now than previously, and committing to the Charter was an important part of meeting these demands.

RESOLVED: That Council recommends to Cabinet:

- (1) An application for Charter status be submitted this year;
- (2) The adoption of the Role descriptions set out in the appendices to the report;
- (3) The need to improve levels of Member participation when training opportunities are offered;
- (4) The development of a mentoring scheme within BCBC; and
- (5) The desired attributes of a Member mentor.

363 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chief Executive presented a report, that sought approval for the appointment of Mr Richard Humphries, representing the National Union of Teachers (NUT) to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a non-voting co-opted member, due to a previous incumbent Mr S J Redmond having completed his term of office.

The Chief Executive added that the above Scrutiny Committee had been consulted and had recommended the nomination to Council to approve the appointment.

RESOLVED: That Council approves the appointment of Mr R Humphries as a non-voting Co-opted Member representing the National Union of Teachers (NUT), to serve a maximum term of four years on the Committee.

364 APPOINTMENT PROCESS

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to establish an Appointments Committee to undertake the appointment of Head of Safeguarding and Family Support (a JNC officer post).

The Monitoring Officer referred Members to the background of the report which explained the legislative requirements in relation to the composition of the Committee, as well as the steps that should be followed as part of the recruitment process from long-listing, various assessments, short-listing, a presentation by candidates to Council, culminating in feedback being collated by the Appointments Committee, prior to making a decision regarding any appointment.

The report recommended a suggested membership of the Committee considered appropriate, by Officers. This was based on the political representation of the Authority and appropriate size for the purpose of recruitment.

Details of this were outlined in Paragraph 4.2 of the report, whilst Paragraph 4.3 of the report outlined the role of the Committee in respect of the appointment of JNC officers.

It was questioned whether the Committee membership should be expanded to take account of representation from all political groups of the Authority and moved an amendment to this effect, which was duly seconded.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the size of the Committee recommended had been deemed appropriate and to allow for representation from all political groups would mean the Committee being too large, as well as them not being properly politically balanced, which as all Members were aware, was a legislative requirement.

It was agreed by Council therefore to conduct an electronic vote on the above amendment, which duly fell.

The Leader emphasised the importance of making an appointment to the post at the earliest opportunity, and therefore he recommended a further amendment that Step 4 of the process which was a presentation by short-listed candidates to Council, be amended to the presentations instead being made to a special meeting of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The reason for this was that there was no Council meeting convened for August and that an appointment was required within the immediate future.

This second amendment was seconded.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People emphasised the importance attached to the role of the post, and stressed the importance in processing an appointment to the post quickly as the main focus of the post was the welfare of the young people of the County Borough.

A further electronic vote was taken on the second amendment affecting Step 4 of the Appointment Process, with it agreed that all other aspects of the process remain as detailed in the report.

Following vote this amendment was supported by a majority of those present.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That Council confirms the appointment to Committee and the other arrangements for the recruitment and selection of the Head of Safeguarding and Family Support as outlined in the report, with it noted that Step 4 of the process would now involve candidate presentations to a special meeting of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as opposed to full Council.

(2) That following receipt of Political Group nominations the Committee be established as follows:-

Leader or Deputy Leader (Chairperson)  
Cabinet Member - Children and Young People  
Councillor D K Edwards (Labour)  
Councillor C A Green (Liberal Democrat)  
Councillor J H Tildesley (Independent Annibynwr)  
Councillor K H Watts (Conservative)

- (3) That should any Member of the Appointments Committee be unable to attend every stage of the Appointments process, approval be given for a replacement Member to sit in their place on the proviso that they then participate in all stages of the process.

365 INFORMATION REPORTS AND MINUTES FOR NOTING

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report which informed Council of any information reports and minutes of other Council Bodies for noting published since its last ordinary meeting.

It was noted that no information reports had been published since the first meeting of Council, whilst details of the minutes of other Council bodies were shown in Paragraph 4.2 of the report.

RESOLVED: That Council acknowledges and notes the publication of the above documents.

366 COUNTY BOROUGH DEBATE - COLLABORATION

The Leader suggested that this item be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of Council.

RESOLVED: That the County Borough debate on Collaboration be deferred to the meeting of Council scheduled for 14 July 2010.

The meeting closed at 17.05pm.