

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2016 AT 3.00 PM

Present

Councillor RD Jenkins – Chairperson

S Aspey	M Butcher	N Clarke	HJ David
G Davies	PA Davies	E Dodd	DK Edwards
N Farr	CA Green	M Gregory	EM Hughes
CJ James	RM James	PN John	B Jones
CL Jones	M Jones	RC Jones	JR McCarthy
HE Morgan	LC Morgan	MEJ Nott OBE	AD Owen
DG Owen	D Patel	G Phillips	CL Reeves
M Reeves	CE Smith	JC Spanswick	G Thomas
M Thomas	RL Thomas	JH Tildesley MBE	HJ Townsend
KJ Watts	C Westwood	PJ White	HM Williams
R Williams	M Winter	RE Young	

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Andrew Jolley	Corporate Director Operational & Partnership Services
Gary Jones	Head of Democratic Services
Deborah McMillan	Corporate Director Education & Family Support
Darren Mephram	Chief Executive
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities

662. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members and Officer:-

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members/Officer:-

Councillor JE Lewis
Councillor D Lewis
Councillor P James
Councillor D Sage
Councillor E Venables
Councillor EP Foley
Councillor GW Davies MBE
Councillor D Pugh
Councillor DBF White
R Hemingway

663. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Patel declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 8, in that she was a Trustee of Y Dderwen Community Enterprise, a Trust established to run the facilities at

Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen. Councillor Patel left the meeting whilst this item was being considered.

664. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of Council dated 27 July 2016 be approved as a true and accurate record.

665. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

The Mayor

The Mayor stated that as we head towards shorter days and darker evenings he hoped that all those present had a good and restful summer.

One of the privileges that he enjoyed as part of his Mayoral year was to be invited to attend any Royal visits that take place within the County Borough. In the last couple of weeks he and his Consort, had the pleasure of meeting Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester during her visit to the Sandville Self Help Centre. It was wonderful to visit the centre and witness all the great work that was being done there, and heartening to see how much time the Duchess spent with all the children, ensuring that it was a special day they would never forget.

They also had the pleasure of meeting his Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex on his visit to Parc Prison. The Earl was visiting the prison as part of the celebration of the diamond anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, and he presented certificates to young fathers who have taken part in a unique project which brings together prisoners and their families, and promotes positive family engagement. It was encouraging to learn what a transformative effect this project has had on so many families.

Another privilege that he enjoyed as Mayor, was visiting some of BCB's local businesses to see what they do and meet their workforce. Therefore, along with Ieuan Sherwood, the Council's Natural Resources Manager, he was recently taken on an interesting and informative tour of Rockwool in Pencoed. He planned to continue these visits to other businesses over the coming weeks.

Fundraising for his charities continued announced the Mayor, and the next event would be a concert in Brynteg Comprehensive School on Wednesday 12th October. The event will include local youth choirs and a guest artist. Tickets were £6.00 each and as always can be obtained via Mari Major.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader advised that Bryntirion Infant School recently achieved the National Quality Award from the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes.

This prestigious award is assessed across seven different topics which cover food and fitness, mental and emotional health and wellbeing, personal development and relationships, substance use and misuse, the environment, safety and hygiene. Inspectors have praised the school for the way in which it fully involves pupils in each of these topics, and provided valuable feedback that will help the school maintain and develop their excellent approach.

He was sure Members would join him in offering congratulations to pupils, teachers, governors and staff at Bryntirion Infant School.

The Deputy Leader had been delighted to see some of the best GCSE and A-Level results that Bridgend County Borough has ever had over the summer. GCSE students achieving at least five A* - C grades in both English (or Welsh First Language) and Mathematics increased to 61.1 per cent, which is a 2.3 per cent rise on last year's results, while 98.3 per cent of A-Level students bucked the national trend and passed their exams, 76.6 per cent of which achieved grades of A* to C, which was again an increase on last year. This was a fantastic result and one which demonstrated the ongoing importance of BCBC's school modernisation programme, and he extended his thanks to all concerned.

Estyn praised two local primary schools for best practice recently. St Mary's RC Primary was singled out for its innovative teaching techniques which are designed to develop thinking and memory skills.

One of the Welsh Government's curriculum 'pioneer' schools, St Mary's has been working with the University of Exeter since 2012 and contributes to its research in the field of cognitive development. Estyn has commented that the work has the potential to have a significant impact on standards, that a common language of learning has been employed, that pupils completing Key Stage Two are mature and sophisticated learners, and that the school's monitoring processes indicate that pupils' rate of progress as they move through the school is transformational.

On entry to the Foundation Phase, 17% of pupils have low levels of English and only 76% at expected levels in literacy and numeracy. By the end of Key Stage Two, 98% achieved at least the expected levels.

Meanwhile, Brackla Primary School had been praised for using family engagement to drive up standards in literacy and numeracy. The school holds family workshops focusing on the teaching of reading and mental calculations, and has forged links with Bridgend College to offer free basic and advanced literacy and numeracy classes for parents. Estyn has commented that family engagement is now a fully embedded whole-school strategy, and has helped break down barriers to learning with improvements in school attendance as well as performance.

This is pioneering stuff, and I'm sure that members will congratulate the hard work and innovation that is taking place at both schools.

Finally, the Deputy Leader reminded Members that around 3,000 children and adults representing local schools, colleges and clubs will be taking part in a 'proclamation procession' through Bridgend town centre this Saturday. This will mark the official countdown to the Urdd National Eisteddfod which is being held in the County Borough next summer.

The colourful parade will start at 11:30am and will feature marching brass and samba bands, circus performers and more. It will move from Bridgend College through the town to Newbridge Fields, where there will be lots of entertainment, activities and stalls for people to enjoy up until about 2:30pm.

The Urdd National Eisteddfod will offer a unique opportunity to showcase our heritage, our future, and the amazing talents of our young people, and is expected to attract up to 100,000 visitors in total, so he was sure Members would give this important event their support.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities announced that the Council was working alongside traders within Bridgend town centre and South Wales Police on a new initiative that was designed to combat anti-social and criminal behaviour.

Called the Database and Intranet for Safer Communities, or DISC for short, this online system provides pubs, clubs and shops with a way of identifying shoplifters, vandals and other offenders by means of a rogue's gallery that they can securely access.

This could be used to alert other businesses of any issues that may be taking place, enable businesses to share missing person alerts or news of any upcoming events in the town centre, keep everyone updated on latest criminal tactics or report incidents of suspicious behaviour, the use of fake IDs, graffiti, vandalism and more.

Nearly 40 businesses have signed up to the initiative, which can be accessed either through a computer or via a smartphone 'app'.

This initiative had already proven to be effective in reducing crime at other town centres in areas such as Cardiff, Newport, Barry and Merthyr, and could also be used to share missing person alerts and news of any upcoming events in the town centre.

The Cabinet Member was sure that Members would agree, that this is a very welcome addition which will make Bridgend town centre even safer for traders and shoppers alike. It was also an excellent use of modern technology, and would greatly assist the work of the Police in preventing crime.

Funding was in place to introduce this in Maesteg and Porthcawl over the next few months, and she hoped that this would prove to be a big success.

Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing advised Members at the last meeting of Council, that as part of plans for establishing new Extra Care facilities in Maesteg and at Ynysawdre, an open day was due to be held.

This took place recently at the Heronston Hotel and he was happy to report that it was a big success.

The event was well-attended and included 21 families as well as a number of carers who were there to represent 12 of our existing residents.

They were able to view a short film made especially for the event by the Council's Communications and Adult Social Care teams which explained what Extra Care is and why we want to establish two new homes. It also gave residents of existing homes run in Newport by Linc Cymru a chance to describe their own experiences of Extra Care.

There were a number of positive comments at the end of the event. One attendee stated that they found the proposals "very interesting". The layout of the buildings appeared to provide for companionship and independence with integration into the community. He confirmed that he looked forward to seeing this venture in operation. Another person commented that "I was very impressed with the new Extra Care facilities, and think it will benefit residents in the future with a lot more independence and privacy."

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The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing was sure that Members with long memories will know that this was a far cry from the reaction to the first time Extra Care was introduced in the County Borough at Troed Y Ton, and was a sure sign of how this modern way of caring has been accepted and acknowledged as the future of care in the County Borough.

He was looking forward to seeing the plans for the new Extra Care facilities develop, and would bring Members some further news in the not too distant future.

Cabinet Member Children's Social Services and Equalities

The Cabinet Member Children's Social Services and Equalities confirmed that next Monday will be World Mental Health Day, and this would be marked by Mental Health Matters Wales in Bridgend County Borough in two different ways.

Firstly, Carnegie Hall will host an exhibition of words and imagery on 8 October. Called 'Living with Mental Illness', this will raise awareness of the everyday issues faced by people affected by mental health.

MHM Wales were also holding two events for World Mental Health Day, one on the 8 October 2016 and another on the 10 October 2016.

Secondly, Mental Health Matters Wales will be based at the Civic Offices on 10 October with an information stand based within the customer services centre. They'll be raising awareness and offering expert advice and support to staff and visitors to the Council

The Cabinet Member Children's Social Services and Equalities was sure that Members would show their support for both of these events.

Cabinet Member Resources

The Cabinet Member Resources advised Members that as part of BCBC's efforts to mark this year's Local Democracy Week, two free events were being organised, designed to inform people on what it means to be a County Borough Councillor, how different Council departments function and more besides.

The response had for these evenings had been excellent, and almost a hundred people have registered for the two sessions. They were intended to be suitable for people with no political experience as well as members of parties or independent candidates.

When the Council held a similar event in 2011, he had been reliably informed that around 10 of the attendees went on to become Councillors and are still here with us today, including Cabinet Member Councillor Reeves.

The sessions will be held here in the Council Chamber at 6pm on 11 and 12 October, and he was sure they would offer an excellent way of enhancing people's understanding of local democracy in the Bridgend County Borough.

Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development advised that work was underway at the Jennings Building in Porthcawl on an eight-month project that is creating jobs, delivering new waterfront facilities and bringing the prominent Grade II listed building back into public use.

Workers from Wales-based developers ABA Holdings have started transforming the Jennings Building and Customs House the Council granted a long-term lease on the property.

The ground floor will offer several new commercial units including a 5,000 sq ft theatre-style kitchen restaurant and bar complete with a full-height atrium, and the upper level will feature 13 'live-work' units complete with loft bedrooms that will enable occupants to live and work on site.

All 13 of the live-work units have already been taken up, and the businesses that will occupy the restaurant and other commercial units will be announced as soon as negotiations are complete.

More than 30 jobs will be created during the construction phase of the project, and when complete, a further 50 positions will be established throughout the revamped premises.

ABA Holdings have demonstrated a strong track record when it comes to redeveloping listed and historic buildings, especially with their work on the Grade II Pump House in Barry, or the redevelopment at St Fagans' National History Museum.

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development had every confidence that the new-look Jennings Building and Customs House was going to be a first-class facility within Porthcawl's harbour quarter, and will serve in the future as a major focal point for visitors, tourists and residents alike.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive announced that almost 180 representatives of the local business community gathered recently for the 2016 Bridgend Business Forum Awards. This was the fourth time that the awards have been staged and he was happy to report that it was a major success.

The Bridgend Business of the Year award was presented to The Food Shed, an enterprise that offers a meal delivery service across Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot. They helped support healthy and independent living and have developed a partnership with HMI Parc Prison to provide training, qualifications and work experience to prisoners to help them with employment opportunities on release, so this was a well-deserved award.

Among the other awards was a new category called The Patron's Commendation Award which was presented to long-standing local business Spectrum Technologies by the Patron of the Bridgend Business Forum, Carwyn Jones AM.

The awards demonstrated what a rich and diverse range of businesses we have here in the County Borough, both older organisations and newer enterprises, and he congratulated everyone who helped to organise the event.

The Chief Executive also drew Members' attention to several important consultations that are due to close between now and December.

They include the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, the Household Waste additional allowance scheme, the Bridgend Town Centre access survey, a Childcare sufficiency assessment and Understanding demand for Welsh medium education.

In addition the Authority would be opening its budget consultation on line today and in libraries, following up in a few days time with a children's version of the survey to ensure

the Council picked up younger residents. This was all in addition to the citizens panel, public meetings and on line discussions.

More details are featured in the edition of BridgeMembers which Members will have received before today's meeting.

He hoped that Members would encourage their constituents to take part in these consultations so they can have their say.

Local Government Secretary Mark Drakeford outlined his vision for the future of local government at the Senedd yesterday, with a clear move towards service delivery on a regional and partnership basis.

Two potential models were currently being looked at, one that is based around city regions and which covers strategic transport, land-use planning and economic development, and another that is aligned to health boards for services such as educational improvement, social services and public protection.

That of course still didn't address a fundamental issue for Bridgend, as these footprints are mutually exclusive for us. More problematic is that our successful and well established education collaboration and our public protection collaboration are consistent with the city region footprint whilst the social care collaboration is not.

This does cause confusion and uncertainty for staff and BCBC's partners, and he was aware that Cabinet were intending to highlight these points with both the minister and the WLGA.

Notwithstanding that, the thrust towards regional collaboration is entirely consistent with what BCBC had been doing and proposes to continue to do, in order to deliver the best possible outcomes for its citizens.

Monitoring Officer

The Monitoring Officer announced that with the consent of the Chairperson of the Committee, it was proposed to amend future dates/times of meetings of the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as follows:-

Present Date:

8 November 2016 - 10.00am
21 February 2017 – 10.00am
21 March 2017 – 10.00am

Proposed Revised Date:

15 November 2016 – 2.00pm
7 February 2017 – 2.00pm
13 March 2017 – 2.00pm

He added that the meeting scheduled for 14 December 2016 at 10.00am would remain unaltered

666. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader announced that as colleagues were aware, he was stepping down as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, and therefore, this would be the last time that he addressed them in this role.

Having led the Council for over eight years, he believed that he had reached the point where he had achieved all that he could.

The Leader stated that he started work as a fifteen year old teenager, and that he was already almost ten years past the official retirement age now. So with his 74th birthday up and coming, he felt that it was now time to enjoy whatever retirement he may have left.

He had been touched by the sheer number of messages that he had received from colleagues, well-wishers, Welsh Government ministers, fellow Leaders at other authorities and from the many partner organisations that we worked with.

He stated that he had been truly honoured to have led this authority during one of the most difficult periods in local government history.

When the Government's austerity measures were announced and the full extent of the local government funding shortfalls started to make themselves known, in many ways BCBC was already well prepared.

Other authorities were suddenly faced with having to close down libraries and leisure centres, but thanks to some prudent and forward-thinking by management, the Authority were able to attract fresh investment to transform its sports and swimming centres because we had already formed partnerships with the likes of Halo, etc.

The Leader advised that this approach of effective partnership and collaboration would be increasingly central to how the Council operated in future, especially if the proposals outlined by Local Government Secretary Mark Drakeford came into fruition.

None of this is to say that BCBC did not face having to make difficult decisions of course, but Bridgend had certainly been progressive in its adoption of a lot of practices which are now becoming more commonly accepted elsewhere.

This attitude was going to become increasingly important as greater emphasis is placed on collaboration with other authorities and organisations. As an Authority, we had to show how we can work together, and the Leader believed that initiatives such as the established Regulatory Services Partnership or the ongoing City Deal demonstrate how this can be achieved as much as our work in setting something up like the Awen Cultural Trust did.

When he considered what else the Council has achieved over the years, there are any number of things that he was proud of, such as the introduction of Extra Care into the area, the striking work that has given a fresh lease of life to Porthcawl Marina or Maesteg's outdoor market, our recognition of the local armed forces community and much, much more he added.

Notwithstanding the above, the Leader confirmed that perhaps he was most proud of BCBC's incredibly successful school modernisation programme, the highlight of which was seeing the old school that he himself attended become a new, multi-million pound modern facility.

When he was a pupil there, it was heated by open fires, and until its relaunch the children were being taught in the very same classrooms that he himself had once sat in.

When someone considered the age of the buildings that we had been replacing and modernising, we were giving local children the best possible environments for them to have a fighting chance at a prosperous and successful life. He felt that the school modernisation programme forms the backbone on which the future fortunes of the County Borough will be built.

Whatever the future holds for local government, the Leader had every confidence that the Council will meet the challenge head-on with trademark fortitude and determination.

The Leader added that he would not be standing as a ward member in May next year, as he wanted to focus on his family commitments and repay them for the understanding that they had shown him, whether it had been during his role as Leader or as a Councillor, Magistrate, member of the South Wales Police Authority, board member of ABMU, presiding officer of the WLGA or the WLGA's spokesman on Social Services.

He had reason to be grateful for the continued patience and understanding of his family and friends on many occasions, but there were also a number of colleagues whose support could not be undervalued.

During his time as Leader, he had been ably backed and advised by his Cabinet members past and present, with previous members including Mike Gregory, Lyn Morgan and John Spanswick, as well as fellow Councillors and Council officers, and he wished to acknowledge their dedication and expertise.

Councillor David and Councillor Sage had both fulfilled the role of Deputy Leader during his time in office, and he wanted to thank them for their advice, support and loyalty.

The Leader also thanked opposition Leaders Green and Tildesley for the robust way in which they had conducted their roles. Whilst they may not share all of the same political ideals, they were united in that we want to do, ie what is best for the people of Bridgend County Borough.

The Leader also thanked the Chief Executive and other colleagues that formed the Corporate Management Board, for their unwavering guidance and professionalism. He also made a special mention to Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services, and Ruth Ronan, Mark Galvin, Andrew Rees and everyone in the Democratic Services team, including Karen Williams, and formerly Sarah Coward and Brenda Stone who made sure that he turned up for meetings and appointments on time. Finally, he thanked Liam Ronan and Bob Phillips in the Communications team for all their hard work.

Working in any capacity within local government was never easy advised the Leader, but he believed that Councils continue to form an essential part of society, and it is perhaps a sign of how integral they are that the full extent of the contribution they make towards the lives of people throughout the community often goes unnoticed.

Serving as Leader had been a tremendous experience, and he could not have done it without a great deal of support for which he was truly thankful.

He concluded his submission by saying that it had truly been an honour to represent and fight for the best interests of the area in which he had lived all his life, including as a local authority Leader and a Ward Member for Sarn.

The Leader stated that he would always be grateful for this.

The Mayor responded by stating that he would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to Councillor Mel Nott. As those present were aware, this would be Councillor Nott's last meeting as Leader of the Council, and he was sure that Members would agree, that he had done an exemplary job in leading the authority for the past eight years. Councillor Nott had through his hard work and dedication, steered the authority through some difficult financial times, and he was sure that on both a professional and personal level this had not always been easy. He had also during his tenure as Leader been a fantastic advocate and ambassador for Bridgend, and had worked tirelessly to ensure that BCBC

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was an authority that is respected throughout Wales for its constant innovation and improvement. On behalf of Council therefore, he thanked Councillor Nott for all his years of leadership and wished him all the best for the future.

The Chief Executive added that he just wanted to say a few comments on behalf of the Officers here today and throughout the Council. The Senior Management team had recently met together privately as a Corporate Management Board to more personally convey their best wishes to Councillor Nott due to him standing down as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council.

He wished to personally reiterate however, that the Leader had commanded the respect of both himself, the Management team, staff throughout the organisation, BCBC's partners within the County, and further afield.

To instil and maintain that respect for such an extended period of time was truly a testament not so much to the title of Leader, but to him as a person, the way that he had fulfilled his role as Leader, and the tone that he had set for this organisation. On behalf of the Officers the Chief Executive wished both Councillor Nott and his wife Yvonne, their sincere best wishes.

Further expressions of gratitude were given in respect of Councillor Nott, due to the excellent role he had provided as Leader of the Authority, from in turn, the Deputy Leader; Cabinet Members; Leader of the Independent Anibynwr Group; Leader of the Independent Alliance Group; Chairperson of the Labour Group; and the Chief Whip (of the Labour Group).

667. TO APPOINT A NEW LEADER OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

It was moved and duly seconded, that Councillor HJ David be nominated Leader of the Council. As there were no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor HJ David be appointed Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council.

The newly elected Leader confirmed that he was very humbled and grateful for the support of Members in his appointment, and that he would be speaking in greater detail regarding this at a future meeting. He added that there was no greater privilege or responsibility in local democracy to take the lead on striving to improve a County Borough's communities, and to that end, he pledged that he would give his utmost and work with each and every Member of the Authority, in order to not just maintain but to secure further improvements for Bridgend's citizens and businesses in the future.

668. ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose of which, was to present the Council's Annual Report 2015-16, which consisted of Appendices A and Appendix B of the report, for Council to consider and approve.

He advised that the report concentrated upon performance for the previous financial year against the Council's former priorities, with a view to focusing on making improvements. He added that the Annual Report concentrated in the main on the Council's financial performance as well as performance outcomes and indicators.

The Chief Executive wished Members to note, that the Performance Indicators were just that, ie indicators as opposed to being information that was finite.

He pointed out that there were 58 Commitments contained within the Annual Report and that 76% of these had been fully completed. A further 20% had marginally missed being completed, with only 2 of the 58 not being fulfilled.

He added that the Annual Report also evaluated the Council's performance against 41 national indicators, this area showed an improving picture when compared to the previous year ie 2014-15. This made for positive reading, in that it reflected that the Council last year were the second most improved local authority in Wales.

The Chief Executive added that the documents attached to the report were important, as they provided citizens and stakeholders with detailed information about the Council's performance against its planned improvement priorities and outcomes for citizens.

He concluded his submission, by confirming that once approved, the Annual Report would be published on the Council's website and shared with stakeholders. It would also be translated into Welsh. Hard copies of the Report would also be made available to the public in Council's libraries, with a separate summary of this being prepared to highlight key points in the Council's performance.

A Member referred to page 23 of the Report and the bottom paragraph of the final column on this page, and asked if the new routes and upgrading of existing routes referred to as part of the Footpath network, were footpaths that could be accessed by the public and Ramblers etc.

The Corporate Director Communities advised that this was the case.

The Member also noted that the document referred to would be made available bilingually and asked how much this would cost to do so. She also asked how much it would cost, as an estimate, to produce reports for all Committees bilingually, should this eventually transpire

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services responded by stating that the Annual Report had not as yet been translated. However, as the Chief Executive had earlier confirmed, this would be undertaken at an approximate cost of £986, though this cost did not include advertisement and web site translation costs. He did not know the answer to the Members second part of the question, though he added that he would endeavor to get an estimate of this, albeit based upon previous Committee send out costs.

A Member referred to page 56 of the report, and the performance indicator relating to the percentage of citizens surveyed who said that their individual access requirements are met when contacting the Council. She stated that she was unclear how the targets identified were set and attained, due to the fact that actual targets for this P.I. were 63% in both 2013-14 and 2014-15, though the target for 2015-16 was 60% with an actual that was achieved being 61%. She did not understand the rationale behind higher targets being set for years that preceded the current year, as she thought that if targets had been met in previous years, if anything, they would be set higher for the following year.

The Chief Executive replied by stating that he was unsure about targets set in previous years, but that a lot of P.I.'s were about seeing what was achievable and what was stretchable. Targets were set in different areas of the Directorate by the appropriate Director based on what was achievable, and these were then challenged by the Corporate Performance team. He felt that it was feasible for P.I. targets to change in the

same area from year to year, given restraints that a reduced workforce faced etc year on year, under the Council's MTFS.

A Member referred to page 46 of the report, and noted that the percentage of total lengths of rights of way which are easy to use by members of the public were decreasing and were off target with a steady decline.

The Corporate Director Communities advised that this was an example of a recognition whereby there were other more public facing services (and P.I.'s) needed to be met and that these were more of a priority than rights of way, for example highway maintenance and grass cutting. Targets were set in terms of P.I.'s, based on what was achievable in light of the Directorates year on year reduced resources, and set in order of importance and priority.

A Member noted from the report, that the Authority were very low on an all Wales basis when it came to processing in a timely and proficient manner, Disabled Facilities Grants.

The Chief Executive advised that this P.I. covered more than just one Directorate and that it also covered the period from the first initial point of contact with the customer, until the actual date the grant was signed off. He felt that this P.I. needed to be examined further for future years with a view to modifying it or breaking it down, so that performance in respect of this was more under the control and ownership of the Council per se, rather than certain other external factors.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the Annual Report 2015-16 (attached at Appendix A and Appendix B to the report).

669. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016-17 TO 2025-26**

The Chief Executive submitted a report in order to obtain approval from Council for a revised capital programme for 2016-17 to 2025-26.

By way of background information, he reminded Members that in March 2016, Council approved a capital programme for 2015-16 to 2025-26 of £163.774m, as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). This was amended through reports to Cabinet and Council in May and July 2016, to reflect funding changes to some schemes, slippage from 2015-16, additional external approvals and new capital investment requirements identified. The latest capital programme as approved by Council, was attached to the report at Appendix 1 for Members information.

The Chief Executive confirmed that reports to Cabinet and Council in May, highlighted that Officers were working with the Welsh Government on updating the project costs and funding profiles for individual schemes in the 21st Century Schools Programme. Where changes had been identified following rigorous feasibility work, revised Strategic Outline Programmes (SOPs) had been submitted to Welsh Government for approval for additional funding to meet the increased costs. However, as stated in the May reports, this also required the Council to provide additional matched funding to enable the schemes to be completed. Approval was provided for additional funding for Mynydd Cynffig Primary school in July 2016, and a report was presented to Cabinet in September outlining a virement of £1.2 million from the 21st Century Schools scheme to provide for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) to the Garw Valley South scheme. There was one further scheme within Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme, where the total scheme envelope had increased from the current profile in the capital programme, and further detail on this scheme was contained in the report. In addition, there were a number of other schemes which required amendment or

consolidation within the capital programme, and these were also detailed in the report (as shown below). The Chief Executive gave an explanation as to the reasons why this had been deemed necessary:-

Schemes

- Pencoed Primary School
- Garw Valley South Primary School
- Multi-Purpose Hub at Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen (CCYD)
- Community Route between Pencoed and Heol y Cyw
- Land at Aberfield Playing Fields

A Member referred to paragraph 4.5 of the report and the Community Route between Pencoed and Heol y Cyw, and asked Officers for an explanation where the Section 106 monies so referred to originated from, as the route was currently being used by large wood chip lorries going to/coming from Heol y Cyw (Rockwool site). He specifically asked if the road improvement scheme was in any way linked to this.

The Corporate Director Communities confirmed that a report on this issue had been presented to a meeting of Cabinet in September 2016, and he explained that the original agreement related to a specific element of the community route introduced in 2008, and that the Section 106 Agreement in respect of this had been previously agreed with Rockwool.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the revised Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

670. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2015-16

The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose of which, was to comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy 'Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice' (the Code) to report an overview of treasury activities for the preceding financial year. The item also reported on the actual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2015-16.

He confirmed that the Council's Treasury Management activities were regulated by the Local Government Act 2003 which provides the powers to borrow and invest as well as providing controls and limits on this activity. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, develops the controls and powers within the Act. This requires the Council to undertake any borrowing activity with regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and to operate the overall treasury function with regard to the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Annual Report covered the following areas for the period 2015-16:-

- The Council's treasury position
- Treasury Risk Management
- Borrowing Strategy & Outturn
- Investment Strategy & Outturn
- Performance Measurement
- Review of the Treasury Management Strategy
- Reporting Arrangements

- Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators

Paragraph 4.1.1 then detailed in tabular form, the treasury position for 2015-16. The figures shown in this table and throughout the report were based on the actual amounts borrowed and invested, and so may differ from those in the Statement of Accounts which included accrued interest or were stated at fair value in different instances.

The Chief Executive then gave a breakdown and explanation of the information detailed in the above mentioned table, along the lines as was detailed in paragraphs 4.1.3 to 4.1.5. He informed Members, that the Council's Treasury Management function had been reviewed by the Council's External Auditors, Wales Audit Office, during their 2015-16 annual audit, and no adjustments relating to treasury management had been identified. Furthermore he added, Internal Audit had carried out their own audit of this area of work, and as a result, they had given an opinion of substantial assurance in respect of the Treasury Management function.

The Chief Executive then gave a resume of the subsequent sections of the report which related to:-

1. Treasury Risk Management;
2. Borrowing Strategy and Outturn 2015-16;
3. Investment Strategy and Outturn 2015-16;
4. Performance Management 2015-16;
5. Review of the Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16; and
6. Reporting Arrangements 2015-16

He then advised Council that the Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code, required the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators. Details were shown in Appendix A of the estimated indicators for 2015-16, as detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16 approved by Council on 25 February 2015, the revised projection (where applicable) as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy 2016-17 approved by Council on 10 March 2016, and the actual indicators for 2015-16. The Chief Executive added, that during the financial year 2015-16, the Council operated within the treasury limits and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Approved the Treasury Management activities for 2015-16.

Approved the actual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2015-16.

671. **INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to inform Members of any information reports presented for noting since the last ordinary meeting.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the report, and in particular, the information report detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the covering report.

672. **URGENT ITEMS**

None

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm