

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2017

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 3.00 PM

Present

Councillor PA Davies – Chairperson

S Aspey	SE Baldwin	TH Beedle	JPD Blundell
NA Burnett	MC Clarke	N Clarke	RJ Collins
HJ David	P Davies	SK Dendy	DK Edwards
J Gebbie	T Giffard	CA Green	DG Howells
A Hussain	RM James	B Jones	M Jones
MJ Kearn	DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	JR McCarthy
DG Owen	D Patel	RL Penhale-Thomas	AA Pucella
B Sedgebeer	RMI Shaw	CE Smith	SG Smith
JC Spanswick	RME Stirman	G Thomas	JH Tildesley MBE
SR Vidal	LM Walters	KJ Watts	CA Webster
PJ White	A Williams	AJ Williams	HM Williams
JE Williams	RE Young		

Apologies for Absence

RM Granville, JC Radcliffe, KL Rowlands, T Thomas, E Venables, MC Voisey and DBF White

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Nicola Echanis	Head of Education & Family Support
Randal Hemingway	Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Andrew Jolley	Corporate Director Operational & Partnership Services
Gary Jones	Head of Democratic Services
Satwant Pryce	Head of Regeneration and Planning
Andrew Rees	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Kelly Watson	Group Manager Legal & Democratic Services

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Councillor NA Burnett – Agenda item 9 – Notice of Motion, prejudicial interest as she owns a rental property which is rented to tourists. Councillor Burnett withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor B Jones – Agenda item 8 (a) – Question from Councillor S Dendy to the Deputy Leader, personal interest as his brother owns a property which is empty.

Councillor RME Stirman – Agenda item 9 – Notice of Motion, personal interest as a Bridgend Tourism Ambassador.

Councillor HJ Watts – Agenda item 9 – Notice of Motion, prejudicial interest as a close family member is involved in tourism within Porthcawl. Councillor Watts withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor HM Williams - Agenda item 9 – Notice of Motion, prejudicial interest as he had recently submitted a planning application to convert a property into a holiday cottage. Councillor Williams withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

77. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Council of 4 October 2017 be approved as a true and accurate record.

78. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

The Mayor

The Mayor announced that she had now begun to visit the winners of the Bridgend Business Forum Awards 2017. She stated that it had been a pleasure to pay a personal visit to the winners to congratulate them on their success and gain a better understanding of the types of businesses that operate in the county borough. She informed Council that she had met with some excellent, interesting and diverse people over the last few weeks that in different ways bring so much to the communities of the County Borough.

The Mayor also announced that she had the pleasure of attending the Wyndham Boys and Girls Club presentation evening last Friday. This wonderful charity has been providing facilities and activities for young people for over 80 years. She stated that it had been a joy to listen to the achievements of the young people and meet the volunteers who give so much of their time to this invaluable local organisation.

The Mayor informed Council that she was also very impressed by the facilities that are provided at STEER – the Enterprise Academy, when she had visited for their launch last week. She informed Council that currently within their 37 acre site they have a community café, workshops, residential bunkhouse, volunteer hub, sensory garden, Men's SHED, community allotments and woodlands for all to use. This is such a positive initiative and a great celebration of community spirit.

Finally, the Mayor announced that she had attended the Diwali festival in Cardiff last weekend and experienced at first-hand one of the many diverse cultures that are celebrated in Wales. Diwali is known as the Festival of Lights and it marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year. The festival represents the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. She informed Council that the children who took part in the music and dancing were a delight and their costumes were truly amazing. She stated that it had been a great privilege to have participated in this community celebration and share this experience with others.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader informed Council of some new recycling information through which would be of interest to Members. In quarter one 'waste flow' statistics had highlighted an increased 63.81% recycling rate compared to 75.33% last year, while in quarter two, the recycling rate has increased from 57.08% last year to 73.45%. He stated that quarter two is the first complete quarter since the implementation of the two-bag rule, and this demonstrated that the County Borough should be comfortably ahead of the statutory 64% target and very well positioned indeed for the future 70% target.

The Deputy Leader drew Members' attention to a forthcoming training and development session which had been arranged to provide more information on the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. The session will take place on 27 November 2017 at 4.00pm. He stated that details of other training topics and a schedule of pre-Council briefings could be found in the latest Bridgemembers newsletter.

He also informed Members that a Budget Consultation Workshop would be held on 9 November and he encouraged all Members to complete the online consultation.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities informed Council that he had two good news announcements to make. Firstly, Members will recall his announcement at the last meeting of Council with regard to the Caerau Minewater Heat Project. He further announced that the project has been recognised at the Energy Impact Awards. He stated that the project had beaten competition from 80 other UK initiatives to win third place at the awards, which are organised by fuel poverty charity National Energy Action in partnership with British Gas. The awards recognise best practice among organisations whose energy work will benefit local vulnerable people, and he was really pleased that the Council's efforts had been recognised with this award.

The Cabinet Member Communities reminded Members that the Council had previously been awarded a £2,500 grant for the project, which aims to create a heat network for local homes using water that has collected in old mine workings. He stated that test drilling has revealed that the void at the former Caerau Colliery site is full of water to a depth of 230 metres. This meant that the project has the potential to warm more than a thousand homes. The next step is for the British Geological Survey to test the temperature, chemistry and volume of water that is available. He informed Members that the study will continue until the end of January next year, and a public exhibition is planned for the Spring which will reveal findings from the investigations. He will update Members further with more information as this exciting project develops.

The Cabinet Member Communities informed Members of further good news in that the Wilderness Lake in Porthcawl has been selected as one of the UK's top 10 green spaces in this year's People's Choice Green Flag Awards. He stated that a record-breaking number of voters took part to decide the nation's favourite parks and open spaces this year, and together with Margam Park, the Wilderness Lake was one of only two green spaces in Wales to make an appearance in the nationwide awards. He informed members that originally part of an area known as the Wilderness Wetlands, the lake is adjacent to the village of Nottage, and was developed as part of the Porthcawl storm water flood prevention scheme in 1971. He stated that the scenic Wilderness site comprises a large lake, which is surrounded by woodland and grassed areas, and includes a children's play area and skate park. He informed Members that the 10 award winners are spread across England, Scotland and Wales, and include large and small sites, traditional parks to wild unusual spaces, run by councils, community groups and even university campuses. There were a record number of votes for the People's Choice Awards, which were more than double the number received last year which indicated how much people's favourite green spaces mean to them. He congratulated all the staff, who work so hard to maintain well-loved green spaces to such a high standard and also thanked the thousands who took the time to vote. He stated that parks matter, and this was further evidence of support for the efforts to protect and improve the Borough's wonderful green spaces for future generations.

Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help was delighted to announce the launch of a new project which invites older residents to reminisce and discuss their sporting memories which has kicked off across the county borough to help tackle loneliness and social isolation. He stated that the 'My Sporting Days' project will be delivered in partnership with Awen Cultural Trust, and encourages local people to share their enjoyment of sport to spark memories, conversations and new friendships during weekly sessions in Bryncethin, Ogmores Vale and Nantymoel. He stated that research has found that for people to age well it was essential that they not only stay physically active, but that they remain socially and mentally active too. This project will help to do that and further details can be found in the latest Bridgemembers newsletter issued to Members today.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help announced that he along with the Leader, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing and Head of Children's Social Care had recently the Young Carers event, which is an event to celebrate the work and achievements of young carers. He thanked the Group Manager Sports and Physical Activity for his contribution in making the event such a success.

Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations informed Council that the Shared Regulatory Service has received some very good news after its Animal Health and Welfare team were nominated at the 2017 RSPCA awards. She was delighted to confirm that they received a silver award for the stray dog service, and a bronze award for the animal licensing service.

She stated that the success did not stop there, as the Shared Regulatory Service was also presented with the coveted RSPCA Innovator award by Lesley Griffiths, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs.

This award recognised innovation in animal welfare improvements, and the winner is chosen by an independent panel of expert judges. The RSPCA recognised the Shared Regulatory Service for its development of pro-active engagement within the traveller community intended to educate, raise awareness, and improve the welfare conditions of dogs and horses. The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations felt sure that Members will agree that this is a very significant success for the shared service, and will want to join her in congratulating staff within the Shared Regulatory Service.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations also informed Members that Bridgend County Borough Council was successful in securing nearly £2m of Grant funding from the Welsh Government under the Innovative Housing Programme to invest in housing in the Bridgend County Borough area. This initiative is designed to increase the supply of affordable housing through the provision of innovative and alternative housing that addresses fuel poverty and carbon production issues and also assists local employment, skills and local industry via its construction. There are two schemes within Bridgend County Borough that have been successful, and will be developed by V2C. The first scheme is a Barnhaus project which will see the development of 4 low energy properties in Cornelly and the second provides 8 steel framed modular housing properties in Ynysawdre and Tondu, produced by Wernick, a locally based business in Kenfig. Further details on these schemes are available from the housing team.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations also announced that Members will note the recent positive press coverage on Wildmill, which is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the building of its first homes. She stated that when it was built, it was a ground breaking settlement, which used state of the art design to help residents feel both a sense of independence and community. V2C are currently carrying out a multi-million-pound improvement programme of the exterior of the homes and an exhibition is also

being planned as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations, which hopes to reignite the passion and pride within the estate. She requested Members to join her in offering their support to Councillors Burnett and Baldwin for their work in raising the profile of this disadvantaged community.

Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration informed Council that he was delighted to join the Vice-Chair of the Bridgend Business Forum to welcome the forum's 800th member company. He stated that the 800th membership of the Forum is a major milestone for the forum and is perhaps fitting that its newest member is a business which focuses on creativity and innovation. He informed Members that Frankly Materials Limited is located at Tondu Centre Enterprise and provides materials for special effects for film, television and theatre. The company has joined the forum at an exciting time as an executive group has been set up to help the organisation develop further.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration announced that 34 schools, colleges and training centres from all over Wales were recently recognised for their excellence by the regulator, Estyn and the Welsh Government. He stated that they had all achieved excellent ratings in areas which they were inspected in the academic year 2016-17. The awards were presented by Education Secretary, Kirsty Williams and Meilyr Rowlands, Chief Inspector of schools in Wales. The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration congratulated Bryntrion Comprehensive School and Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, which were the two schools from Bridgend chosen for this award.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration also announced that he was pleased to receive a letter from Matthew Hasler, a young entrepreneur at Maesteg Market on behalf of his fellow traders. Maesteg Market was nominated in the "farmers market of the year" category at the inaugural Welsh Independent Retail awards and last week the Market had won the award. He stated that this was fantastic news and a great way of promoting the market square which will be a focus of the regenerated town hall complex. He extended his congratulations to the market and he looked forward to it receiving further honours.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration announced that local historian Natalie Murphy was currently hosting a collection of old photographs of Bridgend at Carnegie House this week and urged Members to call in to view this fascinating display.

Monitoring Officer

The Monitoring Officer informed Council that he had been notified by the Conservative Group of their intention to replace Councillor T Giffard with Councillor C Webster as a member of the Development Control Committee.

79. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader informed Members that they may have seen the recent joint statement issued by Professor Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, and Vaughn Gething, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, about potential health board boundary changes. He stated that this confirmed that a formal 12-week consultation would soon be launched to gauge public opinions and thoughts on the principle of a boundary change. The consultation will include consideration of regulations made under the Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act 2014 to ensure that regional partnership boards and safeguarding boards reflect the proposed health board boundary change.

He stated that the proposals were originally revealed in July when a Welsh Government White Paper set out proposals to secure resilience and renewal in local government in Wales. This included specific proposals on partnership arrangements for Bridgend in order to retain the advantages of close partnership working between local government and health boards.

He informed members that Bridgend is in a unique position in Wales in that it works in partnership across two overlapping footprints. The Welsh Government proposal is that in future, health services within Bridgend's area should be delivered by Cwm Taf University Health Board instead of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board. This was to ensure clarity and consistency, and so that these arrangements are coherent within the broader local government reform programme.

The Leader also informed Council that the Welsh Government update emphasised that the proposed change would align Bridgend more firmly with its strategic partnership arrangements across many other local authority functions, including participation in the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. In their joint announcement, the cabinet secretaries acknowledged the valuable work undertaken by this council, ABMU and Cwm Taf University Health Boards in relation to the development of the proposal, and had recognised this Council's belief that clarity and understanding over the issue is necessary and in the best interests of the people it serves.

He stated that the Cabinet Secretaries recognise the significant work that has been undertaken as part of the South Wales Programme to determine the effective provision of certain emergency and hospital-based services across health boards in South Wales. The outcome of the South Wales Programme was a decision to retain Accident and Emergency Services at the Princess of Wales Hospital. He stated that the statement is clear and explicit that any health board boundary change as a result of this consultation will not re-open those decisions. He informed Council that details about when the consultation will begin have not yet been released, but were likely to be very soon this autumn and he would bring further details as soon as more information is received.

The Leader announced that he had previously given a commitment to keep Members informed of progress of the Valleys Taskforce, the draft statement 'Our Valleys. Our Future' was published at the beginning of the summer. He stated that very detailed evidence had been submitted for the inclusion of a 'North Bridgend Strategic Investment Hub' which would encompass all three Valleys the, Llynfi, Ogmore and Garw. He informed Council that Welsh Government officials have received this case very positively, and a final strategy document and Ministerial announcement are expected shortly. He stated that it was as yet unknown whether any additional resources will be invested by Welsh Government in delivering the Taskforce action plan.

The Leader announced that all Leaders from across South East Wales are continuing to meet on a regular basis to progress the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and working towards finalising a 5 year strategic business plan that can be brought back to all ten authorities for approval. He stated that the business plan will set out areas of focus agreed in the heads of term agreement with the UK government. It will not and cannot be a detailed document that sets out every single project that commits every single penny for every year of the City Deal. He stated that every City Deal project will have to progress through a rigorous and comprehensive 5 stage business case assessment process including, proposal, strategic, outline, full and sign off stage. The robust assurance framework includes consideration of projects by the Regional Economic partnership, the Regional Business Organisation, the Regional Skills and Employment Board and the Regional Transport Authority.

He informed Council that whilst the business plan may include a small number of strategic schemes that have been taken through the full assurance framework, and all the associated due diligence, it was more likely to give examples of the investments and projects that are envisaged at this stage. He stated that the challenge for all ten authorities is to balance the need to maintain a focus on high level strategic initiatives that will be real game changers for the region like the Metro and the world's first semi-conductor cluster and to make it clear how it relates to Bridgend's individual communities. He stated that all ten authorities will continue to work hard to maintain this balance and Bridgend has a strong voice and influence in the City Deal, with its Chief Executive serving as the Lead Chief Executive and that he chairs the Regional Transport Authority.

80. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM COORDINATED WORKING GROUP

The Group Manager Legal presented a report which sought to strengthen arrangements for democratic accountability and scrutiny of the school improvement function in the Central South Consortium.

She reported that the Consortium is accountable to its constituent local authorities through a Joint Committee comprising the relevant Cabinet Member from each Local Authority. Its performance is scrutinised on an annual basis by the relevant Scrutiny Committee in each Local Authority who examine the detail of the latest school performance results and business plan. She stated that Consortium officers have met regularly with the five Scrutiny Committee Chairs in the Central South Consortium, as a group, officers representing/working for the five local authorities had also attended.

The Group Manager Legal reported that part of the discussion had been around developing a 'regional' element to scrutiny work in addition to the current individual local authority scrutiny programmes. She stated that the group's discussion included consideration of the findings from a Cardiff Business School study on coordinated Scrutiny as well as the Erw model of coordinated scrutiny (which serves the west of Wales and Powys). The Erw model consists of the Chairs of Education Scrutiny in each of the Local Authorities (or a nominated person other than the Chair) and has been identified as an example of good practice by the Wales Audit Office. It was proposed to establish a formal working group to consider regional performance and share best practice and information. The working group would offer an element of coordinated scrutiny with a specific focus on regional working.

Members of the Council considered that the Working Group should consist of more than one elected Member from each local authority and that a request is made accordingly to the Central South Consortium.

RESOLVED: That the proposal to establish a Scrutiny working group to consider regional performance of the Central South Consortium and share best practice and information be approved with the exception that a request be made to the Central South Consortium that the Working Group should consist of more than one elected Member from each local authority.

81. HALF YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2017-18

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 Edition (the Code) to report as part of a mid-year review an overview of treasury

activities and also reported on the projected Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2017-18.

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported on the treasury position for 1 April to 30 September 2017 that the interest rate views incorporated in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2017-18, were based upon officers' views supported by a selection of City forecasts provided by Arlingclose. He informed Council that its primary objective for the management of its debt is to ensure its long term affordability and that the majority of its loans had been borrowed from the PWLB at long term fixed rates of interest. He informed Council that with short-term interest rates lower than long term rates, it was likely to be more cost effective in the short term to either borrow short term loans or use internal resources. He stated that short term and variable rate loans expose the Council to the risk of short term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the limit on the net exposure to variable interest rates as shown in the Treasury Management indicators. It was predicted that long term rates would rise in the coming years and any such short term savings would need to be balanced against the potential longer-term costs. He also informed Council that the last time the Council took long term borrowing was £5m from the PWLB in March 2012 and it was not expected that there would be a requirement for any new long term borrowing in 2017-18, however for cash-flow purposes £2 million short term borrowing was taken on 24 May 2017 and repaid on 5 June 2017.

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer also reported on the Investment Strategy and Outturn for 1 April to 30 September 2017. He stated that the Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, balancing the risk of incurring losses from defaults against receiving unsuitably low investment income. He also stated that favourable cash flows have provided positive cash balances for investments with the balance for investments at 30 September 2017, being £44.00m. He also summarised the £44.00m investments by credit ratings and the percentage outstanding.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Approved the Council's treasury management activities for the period 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017.

Approved the projected Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2017-18.

82. **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO THE CABINET**

Question from Councillor S Dendy to the Deputy Leader

From the 1 April 2017, local authorities have been able to charge a premium of up to 100% of the standard rate of Council Tax on long-term empty homes and second homes in their areas. Could the Deputy Leader please tell me if it has been considered by Cabinet at any point during their term/terms of office at the Authority?"

Response from the Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader wished to reassure Councillor Dendy that he and his Cabinet colleagues are giving this issue much thought and consideration.

He reminded Members that they would be aware that Labour councillors stood for election on a manifesto commitment to "Bring long term empty homes back into domestic use".

He stated that increasing council tax levied against empty homes could be one of many levers the Council could consider using.

He informed Council that Cabinet members together with Scrutiny Chairs recently received a housing solutions presentation by the Housing team which highlighted the many challenges to be overcome. The Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing have set up a taskforce of key officers from across the Authority, to consider additional actions to tackle these issues. To enable a one Council solution to this complex issue, a proposal to create a dedicated empty properties officer is being considered, to build on the good work we are undertaking and develop a fresh approach, which will be a combination of reward and enforcement.

Councillor Dendy asked a supplementary question whether there is a timescale for the task force to look at empty properties and the proposal to create a post to look at empty properties and whether it would also look at empty commercial properties and land banking. The Deputy Leader informed Council that the working group will be led by the Leader and would consider empty commercial sites. The Leader confirmed that the working group will consider commercial sites which would be looked at as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. He stated that there was a need to ensure that empty properties are brought back into use and he referred to the grants that are available for property owners to bring properties back into use. The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations referred to the properties which had been brought back into use in Nantymoel and Pontycymmer.

Councillor Baldwin asked whether a holistic approach would be adopted to tackle the problem of empty properties. The Leader confirmed that a holistic approach would be taken which was the reason why officers from all Departments of the Council would be represented on the working group and key partners would be engaged.

Councillor Walters questioned whether one officer would be sufficient to tackle the extent of empty properties that exist. The Leader stated that the impact of the role on the Department would be considered. He also stated that the role of the empty properties officer would also consider the support available to property owners and that legal powers would be used as a last resort.

Question from Councillor A Hussain to the Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

“Last year the ABMU Health Board said it was “doing everything possible” to deal with the increasing demand for its services during the winter period. This included opening more beds, holding more clinics and working closely with Social Services. Will the Cabinet Member inform Council what plans this Authority has in place to support the ABMU Health Board with managing and minimising the demand for its services, and in turn, reducing the implications for the residents of the County Borough which are likely to occur this winter?”

Response from the Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help informed Council of the winter resilience planning across Bridgend, in that the Health Board's Primary Care and Community Services maintain constant efforts to maintain flow through its services to ensure maximum capacity is made available daily, a significant part of which are integrated with Bridgend CBC social care and wellbeing services. He stated that this is one element of a whole system that underpins Secondary Healthcare performance across the region. The annual Flu campaign continues and the Public Health message

encouraging uptake has been important in our winter preparations, as is the “Choose Well” campaign. It serves as a reminder that all have a role to play in safeguarding hospitals through the Winter and every other time during the year, to ensure hospital services are available to those that require their specific intervention.

He stated that the specific Bridgend component to support the Winter planning and resilience, which has been enhanced since last Winter, is now embedded in usual service provision and includes:

- Domiciliary care/Home care as an embedded 7 day service
- The provision of Acute Care team (ACT) in the community providing rapid response and intervention to support patients in their own homes, including care homes. This is a core component of the “optimal model” for the integrated Community Resource Team (CRT) implemented through Western Bay. These services are consultant led and operate 7 days a week
- ACT Bridgend are offering more services to enable people to remain at home where it is appropriate to do so, such as Intra Venous therapies, sub cutaneous fluid therapy.
- ACT Bridgend have developed a referral pathway with the Care of the Elderly team in Princess Of Wales Hospital to facilitate earlier discharges by undertaking clinical reviews/ interventions in the community rather than keeping individuals in hospital. Requests include restarting medications, monitoring responses to treatments, reviewing blood tests to review of clinical condition in very frail patients. Before this pathway, these patients would have remained in hospital. This can facilitate improved bed availability.
- ‘In Reach Coordinators’ from the CRT will continue to work from the Princess of Wales site to offer and support earlier discharge from the Better@Home service until the Short Term Assessment Services can commence.
- Telecare continues to support people to remain in their own homes for longer periods with the support of 24/7 Mobile Response Team who will respond to pendant and sensor alerts. This can prevent the need to call for 999 emergency services, thereby supporting better outcomes for people who fall and ensuring ambulances are not used inappropriately.
- Implementation of the Directed enhanced service for Care Homes to support regular GP review to enable people to remain at their care home and prevent patient deterioration which could trigger an admission.
- An additional OT resource in Short Term Assessment and reablement service for people living with Dementia- Bridgeway; this will improve access and flow through the service.

Furthermore, from a preventative and awareness raising perspective:

- ACT Bridgend have met Welsh Ambulance Service Trust colleagues to update their knowledge on the interventions they are able to deliver and the referral pathways.
- ACT Bridgend have met GP’s updating them of services available, this is resulting in an increase in GP referrals to ACT, as an alternative to people presenting at hospital.
- ACT Bridgend, linking in with Anticipatory Care within the GP clusters to assist in the development and delivery of anticipatory care plans. Again, offering alternatives to presenting at hospital, where those plans are in place.

In addition:

- Roll out the ‘I Stumble’ training programme in care homes across the Local Authority, to avoid and reduce the number of falls and conveyances to hospital.

- Maximising the benefit of the Diarrhoea & Vomiting pathway developed between WAST and our community services at the end of last winter, to support prevention of un-necessary admissions to hospital.
- Increased community pharmacy capacity at weekends and bank holidays for medication dispensing. Primary Care has commissioned 8 pharmacies to open on a Sunday to provide greater access, while 122 pharmacies are open on a Saturday across ABMU Health Board.
- Maximise the benefit of the (IT) mobilisation programme for community staff by releasing staff capacity for clinical/ hands on patient care.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help stated that a number of these schemes/ plans may be targeted at providing increased support and capacity for our frailty services, where we can predict that there will be an increased call on our unscheduled care services over the winter months. He informed Members that they had been supplied with a copy of the Regional Winter Resilience Planning document that Western Bay partners have worked on under the leadership of ABMU HB.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help also referred to a FOI request from Age Concern and commented that the matter should have been raised directly so that it could have been addressed by the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing who undertook to look at the request.

Councillor Hussain asked a supplementary question requesting reassurance that older persons would receive an assessment and the right level of support in order to avoid bed blocking. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help gave that assurance and stated that the plan is a year round plan. He also stated that a lot of good work is undertaken to ensure there is care at home in order to avoid bed blocking. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed Council that the Directorate has a good relationship with the ABMU and that the Council performs well with DETOC with performance in the top quartile. She also informed Council that a carers event had recently been held where the views of carers had been sought to shape the future strategy.

Councillor Spanswick commented on the excellent facility at Bryn y Cae and asked whether there are plans to expand provision. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing confirmed there are plans to expand provision at Brackla. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help informed Council that the Council's work on reablement services has been recognised as an exemplar.

83. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR N CLARKE

Councillor N Clarke proposed the following Notice of Motion and informed Council of the supporting information which had been circulated to all Members in relation to Wales specific taxation.

“That Bridgend County Borough Council:-

Welcomes the measures which Welsh Government has taken to date in promoting tourism across Wales and the positive affect this has had on the County Borough's tourism industry.

Regrets the inclusion of a 'Tourism Tax' in the list of ideas being considered as the first tax Welsh Government will introduce under its new powers.

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Believes a tax on tourist accommodation could work against this council's tourism destination investment strategy targeted at increasing the volume and length of visitor stays across the County Borough.

Believes the proposals could undermine the business sector sustainability, investment and employment opportunities in the hospitality industry in tourism within the County Borough.

Believes there are other more viable and cost effective ways of supporting public funding challenges in the future as per attached analysis.

Makes representation to the Welsh Government that Bridgend County Borough Council strongly opposes the idea of a tax on Tourism for the reasons mentioned".

Councillor M Jones proposed the following amendment to the Notice of Motion which was duly seconded by Councillor JP Blundell.

"That representations be made to the Welsh Government that the Council be consulted fully on the proposals for a tax on tourism in order that it can have a better understanding on the implications it would have on the authority. Once the authority has been consulted it would have a better idea of whether to support the proposed tax on tourism".

Members of the Council debated the merits of both the Notice of Motion and amended Notice of Motion and then conducted an electronic vote to determine whether the amended Notice of Motion should be taken forward.

The result of the electronic vote was as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
23	16	1

Following debate by Members, a further electronic vote was conducted to confirm consensus on the amended Notice of Motion.

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
25	6	9

RESOLVED: That Council accepted the amended Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor M Jones "That representations be made to the Welsh Government that the Council be consulted fully on the proposals for a tax on tourism in order that it can have a better understanding on the implications it would have on the authority. Once the authority has been consulted it would have a better idea of whether to support the proposed tax on tourism".

84. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm