

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2023

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB /REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

|                   |               |              |             |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| S Aspey           | H T Bennett   | A R Berrow   | F D Bletsoe |
| S J Bletsoe       | JPD Blundell  | RJ Collins   | HJ David    |
| P Davies          | S Easterbrook | J Gebbie     | W R Goode   |
| RM Granville      | D T Harrison  | M L Hughes   | D M Hughes  |
| P W Jenkins       | M R John      | M Jones      | M Lewis     |
| RL Penhale-Thomas | J E Pratt     | JC Spanswick | I M Spiller |
| JH Tildesley MBE  | G Walter      | A Wathan     | A Williams  |
| AJ Williams       | HM Williams   | MJ Williams  | T Wood      |

Present Virtually

|            |                     |                |           |
|------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|
| N Clarke   | C Davies            | C L C Davies   | M J Evans |
| N Farr     | P Ford              | S J Griffiths  | RM James  |
| MJ Kearns  | J Llewellyn-Hopkins | R J Smith      | T Thomas  |
| I Williams | R Williams          | E D Winstanley |           |

Apologies for Absence

E L P Caparros, W J Kendall and E Richards

Officers:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Mark Galvin        | Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees  |
| Lindsay Harvey     | Corporate Director Education and Family Support  |
| Rachel Keepins     | Democratic Services Manager                      |
| Carys Lord         | Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change    |
| Claire Marchant    | Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing |
| Janine Nightingale | Corporate Director - Communities                 |

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Alex Rawlin  
Mark Shephard  
Kelly Watson

Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager  
Chief Executive  
Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services

**Declarations of Interest**

None

**189. To receive announcements from:**

|                    |   |
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| Decision Made      | Announcements were received from the following Cabinet Members and Chief Executive (No decisions required/made) :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Social Services and Health</li><li>• Cabinet Member – Education</li><li>• Cabinet Member – Climate Change and the Environment</li><li>• Cabinet Member – Community Safety and Wellbeing</li><li>• Cabinet Member – Finance, Resources and Legal</li></ul> |
| Date Decision Made | 22 November 2023  |

**190. To receive announcements by the Leader**

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| Decision Made      | Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made) |
| Date Decision Made | 22 November 2023   |

**191. Council Tax Base 2024-25**

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| Decision Made | The Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change, submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to |
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The report reminded Council that In line with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, section 3.2, all virements (both revenue and capital) above £500,000 shall require approval of the Council after taking into consideration the recommendations of Cabinet.

Members raised and acknowledged a number of points on the report including:-

- Concern being expressed regarding further monies being committed to the Maesteg Town Hall project from an allocation of capital funding committed to the Waterton Depot scheme, with the caveat regarding a level of understanding of the importance of progressing works to Maesteg Town Hall;
- That the extra virement committed to Maesteg Town Hall should be the subject of scrutiny, to ensure any lessons are learnt when financially committing to future similar Capital programme projects;
- Maesteg Town Hall has over time, been the subject of a number of iterations, however, the extent of the issue regarding dry rot in the structure of the building had only recently been identified. The works to remedy this were therefore extremely important, in order to fully preserve the building;
- Should the application for National Lottery Heritage funding be granted (in the absence of any external funding being available), then the extent of the further funding required would reduce the virement from £1.173m to £857k;
- The reason the request is being made to vire from the capital allocation for the Waterton depot scheme is that at present the project has not been progressed and the financial values for delivery were unknown. An update report on this scheme would therefore be brought to Cabinet and/or Council once the position was fully known.

Members unanimously agreed that a vote should take place on the report's recommendations, the result of which was as follows:-

| For (the recommendations) | Against | Abstentions |
|---------------------------|---------|-------------|
| 35                        | 3       | 9           |

**RESOLVED:** (1) That Council approved a virement within the Capital Programme of £1,173,530 from the Waterton Depot scheme to the Maesteg Town Hall Scheme. This approval was subject to the recommendations of Cabinet following the report being taken to Cabinet on 21 November 2023.

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|                    | (2) That Council further noted, that should external capital funding be secured this virement will be amended down to £857,439. |
| Date Decision Made | 22 November 2023  |

**193. Corporate Self-Assessment 2022/23**

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| Decision Made | <p>The Policy and Public Affairs Manager submitted a report, in order to provide Members with an update on the Council's second corporate self-assessment report and judgements, and to seek approval for the draft report in Appendix 1 (to the covering report).</p> <p>The report outlined the process and findings of the Council's self-assessment for 2022/23. The approach was more embedded in regular quarterly reporting than in the previous year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The main differences from last year's final report were :-<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Challenge sessions took place earlier;</li><li>o Case studies were included;</li><li>o More comprehensive coverage of consultation and engagement through the year was further included;</li><li>o Annual performance data would be published alongside and to support the self-assessment;</li><li>o Planned consultation is more comprehensive.</li></ul></li><li>• The self-assessment judgements were :-<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Wellbeing Objective One – Good</li><li>o Wellbeing Objective Two – Adequate</li><li>o Wellbeing Objective Three – Good</li><li>o Use of resources – Adequate</li><li>o Governance – Good</li></ul></li></ul> <p>The Policy and Public Affairs Manager stated that changes have been made the Corporate Self-Assessment, in order to reflect public responses during the formal consultation period.</p> <p>Members made a number of points on the report, examples of which included:-</p> |
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|                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were pleased following the works at the Cosy Corner development further proceeding after these had previously been deferred through no fault of the local authority;</li> <li>• Members questioned if the balance between developing a short and accessible report and being comprehensive about the Council’s performance in the last year was correct? To ensure this was the case moving forward, a performance summary would be published alongside the document in future;</li> <li>• Council appreciated the use of case studies in the report, as these reflected areas where BCBC has developed best practise and how this has in turn, positively impacted on people’s lives;</li> <li>• It was felt that methods of consultation and engagement could be improved upon as there had been a fairly low number of comments or representations received in relation to the Corporate Self-Assessment. It was agreed that this could be improved upon and that ways to achieve this would be pursued following discussions with the WLGA and Audit Wales and also benchmarking other Authorities in order to look to achieve this.</li> </ul> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u>    That Council endorsed the Corporate Self-Assessment report 2022-23 at Appendix 1 to the covering report.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 22 November 2023   |

**194. Multi-Location Meetings Policy Review**

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| Decision Made | <p>The Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy presented a report the purpose of which, was to provide full Council with proposed amendments to the Multi-Location Meetings Policy for approval as part of a policy review.</p> <p>In considering the report the following issues were raised:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To look at in due course levels of attendance by Members in person at hybrid Committee meetings, in light of dwindling numbers through more attending remotely in recent months;</li> <li>• Consideration should be given for Members who are attending meetings remotely, to be able to turn their cameras off for short times during the meeting (perhaps for medical reasons). It was felt that requests for this should be discussed with the meeting Chairperson in advance of that particular Committee;</li> <li>• It was stressed that cameras of Members attending remotely needed to be kept on for the full</li> </ul> |
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**196. To receive the following Questions from:**

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| Decision Made      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Councillor S Bletsoe to the Cabinet Member – Education (response circulated previously to members)<br/>Supplementary questions were asked by Councillor S Bletsoe and Councillor Alex Williams</li><li>2. Councillor T Thomas to the Cabinet Member – Education (response circulated previously to members)<br/>Supplementary questions were asked by Councillor T Thomas and Councillor M Hughes</li><li>3. Councillor M Williams to the Cabinet Member – Climate Change and the Environment<br/>No supplementary questions were asked on this question.</li></ol> |
| Date Decision Made | 22 November 2023   |

**197. Urgent Items**

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| Decision Made      | None             |
| Date Decision Made | 22 November 2023 |

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)