

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2024

Present

Councillor W J Kendall – Mayor/Chairperson

H T Bennett
JPD Blundell
HJ David
S Easterbrook
J Gebbie
S J Griffiths
RM James
MJ Kearn
J E Pratt
T Thomas
AJ Williams
R Williams

A R Berrow
E L P Caparros
C Davies
M J Evans
W R Goode
D T Harrison
P W Jenkins
M Lewis
R J Smith
G Walter
HM Williams
E D Winstanley

F D Bletsoe
N Clarke
C L C Davies
N Farr
RM Granville
M L Hughes
M R John
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
JC Spanswick
A Wathan
I Williams
G Haines

S J Bletsoe
RJ Collins
P Davies
P Ford
H Griffiths
D M Hughes
T Wood
RL Penhale-Thomas
I M Spiller
A Williams
MJ Williams

Officers:

Mark Galvin
Lindsay Harvey
Rachel Keepins
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Michael Pitman
Alex Rawlin
Mark Shephard
Kelly Watson

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Democratic Services Manager
Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director - Communities
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager
Chief Executive
Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services

Declarations of Interest

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1. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Jones and JH Tildesley
Date Decision Made	Not applicable

2. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	<p>The following declarations of interest were made:-</p> <p>Councillor H Bennett – personal interests in Agenda item 4., as an employer of BAVO and Agenda item 7., as a member of the Taskforce Working Group previously set up in relation to this matter.</p> <p>Councillor JP Blundell – personal interests in Agenda item 8., as a Local Authority Governor of a school mentioned in the report and Agenda item 7., as a member of the Taskforce Working Group previously set up in relation to this matter.</p> <p>Councillor E Winstanley – personal interests in Agenda item 7., as a member of the Taskforce Working Group previously set up in relation to this matter and Agenda item 9., as a School Governor and a employee at Awen Cultural Trust.</p> <p>Councillor M Evans – prejudicial interest in Agenda item 7., as a member of Pencoed Town Council and in light of her giving her observations on proposals relating to this item previously.</p> <p>Councillor R Williams – prejudicial interest in Agenda item 7., as a member of Pencoed Town Council who had also responded on the item in a previous consultation exercise.</p>
Date Decision Made	Not applicable

3. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of a meeting of Council dated 28 February 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.
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Date Decision Made	17 April 2024.

4. Presentation to Council by Representatives of BAVO

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Executive presented a report, that introduced representatives of BAVO to give a presentation on the work that they do.</p> <p>Ms. Kay Baker, Operations and Partnerships Manager introduced herself and her colleagues to the meeting.</p> <p>She highlighted the role of BAVO and outlined some key statistics of the organization for the last financial year.</p> <p>BAVO provided support and development in respect of the third sector, through providing a wide range of free information, advice and support services and by representing the views of the sector to government and policy makers.</p> <p>Ms. Baker advised that 482 organisations were members of BAVO and funding streams for BAVO were obtained from Welsh Government, BCBC and Bro Morgannwg Health Board, as well as certain other avenues of grant funding and earned income or service level agreements. The last financial year, BAVO supported 177 individuals and directly placed 68 individuals into placements.</p> <p>There had been 1,594 support enquiries spanning 284 organisations within the last 12 months and 134 volunteers had received relevant training. Grant funding had also been provided to key organisations through BAVO, with the aid of a Funding Portal.</p> <p>BAVO had also arranged a series of networks and forums, with the aim of establishing partnership working arrangements with organisations and 434 people had engaged in these within the above period.</p> <p>In terms of Community Navigation, BAVO had processed 477 referrals dealt with by the organisations Community Navigators.</p> <p>The presentation was concluded with Ms. Baker advising that BAVO had a user-friendly web site which detailed an interactive mapping system and links to key pages, for example, Community Development,</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cabinet Member – Housing, Planning and Regeneration• Chief Executive
Date Decision Made	No decision made.

6. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	Council received the Leader’s announcements (no decision made).
Date Decision Made	No decision made.

7. Town and Community Council Size Policy April 2024

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose of which, was to consider a Town and Community Council Size Policy, to assist with the review of town and community councils currently underway.</p> <p>The report Executive Summary was as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Terms of Reference for the review of town and community council arrangements, approved by Council on the 21st June 2023, noted that that there is not necessarily an ideal fixed size, but that a community council will need to be of a large enough size to make it viable as an administrative unit of local government and therefore able to support any future collaboration with the Council.• Following initial consultation, having a clear policy on the size of a community council would assist the drafting of proposals in liaison with the Member panel.• There is some evidence of democracy deficit in all of the community councils with less than 5,000 electors i.e. all but one ward were uncontested at the Local Elections in May 2022.• It is proposed to have an ideal minimum size of electorate for a community council to be in the region of 5,000 electors with an upper electorate limit in the region of 10,000 electors, and for town councils to have a minimum electorate in the region of 9,000 but with no maximum limit.• Existing community councils with smaller electorates may need to be abolished and merged with other community councils, but the intention will always be to maintain their identities within the new larger community council. This will be achieved, as far as it is practical to do so, by maintaining their boundaries as a ward in the new community council as well as considering, in exceptional
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circumstances, increasing the representation of the abolished community council on the new council.

- Community Councils with an electorate in excess of the maximum electorate may be abolished to create 2 new separate community councils, but this will be achieved without splitting existing wards i.e. maintaining the existing identity of individual wards from the original council.
- In setting the ratio of Councillors to electors, it is proposed to use the Aston Business School guidelines published in 1992 to provide a level of flexibility when determining the ratios.
- Once approved, the draft proposals for the new town and community council arrangements from May 2027 will go out for consultation. Following a period of analysis of representations received from the consultation, which will be shared with the Member panel, a report on the final proposals will be brought back to full Council.

Members made some observations on the report, including:-

1. The views of Town and Community Council's on the report's proposals need to be sought, as well as a similar report being submitted to a future meeting of the Council's Town & Community Council Forum;
2. Why did the Council choose the Aston model over the National Association of Local Councillors model (as the latter is arbitrary);
3. A Member supported the minimum limit in sizes for Community Council's, but did not support an upper size limit for these bodies, as referenced in the report;
4. Did the report's proposals take into account the provisions of the new Local Development Plan, when considering new residential developments proposed throughout areas of the County Borough;
5. When the next/final stages are pursued, precepts are re-looked at in Town/Community Council areas in conjunction with this;
6. Why are distinctions being made between Town and Community Council's given that some Community Councils can be larger than Town Council's in the same County Borough area;
7. It was important for smaller community areas to have their 'voice heard', and that this is not diluted by any future setting of lower limit proposals in some areas

In terms of point 3. above, members unanimously agreed that this be an amendment to the recommendation of the report.

RESOLVED:

That Council approved the Town and Community Council size policy set out in the report which will form the baseline for drafting the proposed Town and Community Council structure to go out for

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	consultation, without any maximum size levels for neither Town Councils nor Community Councils.
Date Decision Made	17 April 2024

8. School Modernisation Programme - Bryntirion Comprehensive School - Four classroom extension, Highway Works

Decision Made	<p>The joint report of the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support and the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change in relation to the above matter, sought Council approval to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• vire £141k of capital budgets detailed in this report for the purpose of active travel/highway improvements associated with the delivery of a four-classroom block at Bryntirion Comprehensive School; and• include a scheme for active travel/highway improvements in respect of Bryntirion Comprehensive School in the capital programme with a budget of £141k. <p>The report confirmed that Active travel/highway improvements have been conditioned as part of the planning consent in respect of a scheme for additional accommodation at Bryntirion Comprehensive School.</p> <p>A funding bid for these works was submitted to Welsh Government, however, the bid was unsuccessful. Consequently, the local authority will need to fund the works so that the building can be brought into beneficial use.</p> <p>Council approval is sought to vire School Modernisation budgets within the capital programme for this purpose and to include the active travel/highway improvements as a separate scheme in the capital programme.</p> <p>Members posed the undermentioned questions on the report:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Cabinet Member - Education sought assurance that all the 3 projects referred to in the report had now been completed and that there was therefore no further expenditure required to be
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	<p>committed to these projects. It was confirmed that this was the case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Member asked for a breakdown of the costs regarding professional fees incurred for the works and it was confirmed that this would be provided to the Member and other Members who wished to receive this, outside of the meeting.• The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support gave information upon the request of a Member on the breakdown of the works undertaken that amounted to £141k for Active Travel/Highway Improvements, which involved a number of dropped kerbs, tactile paving works and the provision of signage at a number of locations nearby Bryntirion Comprehensive School• A Member referred to paragraph 3.2 of the report, noting that active travel and highway improvements were a condition of planning. She asked if this had applied to all active travel and highway improvements in the past and would also do so with any future such school improvements and expansions works in the County Borough going forward. <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council approved the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The virement of £141k of capital budgets detailed in the report for the purpose of active travel /highway improvements associated with the delivery of the four-classroom block at Bryntirion Comprehensive School; and• The inclusion of a separate scheme for active travel/highway improvements in respect of Bryntirion Comprehensive School in the Capital Programme, with a budget of £141k.
Date Decision Made	17 April 2024

9. Corporate Plan Delivery Plan for 2024-2025

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory, HR and Corporate Policy submitted a report, in order to present a proposed one-year Corporate Plan Delivery Plan (CPDP) for 2024-25 for Council approval.</p> <p>By way of some background, the report confirmed that Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) currently has a high level, five-year Corporate Plan 2023-28. The Council took a new approach for 2023-24 and did not include commitments or performance indicators in the Corporate Plan. Instead, the Council developed a one-year delivery plan so it could be more agile and flexible to the changing operating environment.</p> <p>The Policy and Public Affairs manager advised that Council approved the Medium-Term Financial Strategy</p>
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	<p>May 2024.</p> <p>The updated DBS Policy was attached at Appendix 1 to the covering report.</p> <p>The DBS Policy had been updated to reflect that rechecks will only be undertaken every three years for employees governed by the Care Standards Act 2000.</p> <p>The revised Policy has been shared with Heads of Service, Corporate Safeguarding Board and the Trade Unions, the Officer advised.</p> <p>Council noted, that the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-25 to 2027-28 approved by Council on the 28 February 2024 included a budget reduction proposal of £30,000 to be achieved by amending the Disclosure and Barring Service Policy to only recheck every three years for employees governed by the Care Standards Act 2000, not for all employees who require a DBS (CEX10). The approval of the revised DBS Policy by Council will ensure the budget reduction proposal is achieved</p> <p>Members made some points on the report, that included the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the wording of paragraph 2.5 of the report needed amending to reflect that the Council has adopted a best practice rechecking policy for employees governed by the Care Standards Act 2000 every 3 years, as opposed to all employees as was detailed in the second part of that paragraph. <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council approved the revised DBS Policy attached at Appendix 1 of the report, with effect from 1 May 2024.</p>
Date Decision Made	17 April 2024

11. Information Report for Noting

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer - Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy, reported on the Information Report which had been published since the last meeting of Council.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council acknowledged the publication of the document listed in paragraph 3.1 of the report.</p>
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Date Decision Made	17 April 2024
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12. To receive the following Questions from:

Decision Made	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Councillor T Thomas to the Cabinet Member – Climate Change and the Environment (response circulated previously to members) Supplementary questions were asked by Councillor Thomas and Councillor P Davies.2. Councillor S Bletsoe to the Cabinet Member – Housing, Planning and Regeneration (response circulated previously to members). Supplementary questions were asked by Councillor S Bletsoe and Councillor M Williams.
Date Decision Made	No decision made

13. Notice of Motions Proposed by: 1) Councillor Alex Williams and 2) Councillor J Gebbie

Decision Made	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Alex Williams was withdrawn at the request of Councillor Williams, in order that the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Jane Gebbie could be debated in full.2. Councillor Gebbie, Deputy Leader gave a detailed submission of the reasons for her Notice of Motion entitled Protected Characteristics for Care Experienced People, shown at Agenda item 13 (2) on today's Agenda. She added that care experienced individuals were the most vulnerable people in society for a number of reasons, some of which were affected by their care experiences throughout their future lives. Following the Deputy leader's speech speech why she considered the Notice of Motion was so important and should be supported by Council, a Member supported the motion and recommended that it be forwarded on to all our care providers, particularly as when young people came out of a care environment they quite often found themselves having to be accommodated in Homeless shelters provided by accommodation providers, whether this be temporary accommodation or one of a more semi-permanent setting.
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