

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 27 JULY 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	EP Foley	CA Green	M Gregory
EM Hughes	CJ James	RM James	PN John
B Jones	CL Jones	M Jones	RC Jones
DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	JR McCarthy	HE Morgan
LC Morgan	MEJ Nott OBE	AD Owen	D Patel
G Phillips	DR Pugh	CL Reeves	M Reeves
D Sage	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
Randal Hemingway	Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Andrew Jolley	Corporate Director Operational & Partnership Services
Elizabeth Jones	
GP Jones	
Susan Jones	Development Planning Manager
Deborah McMillan	Corporate Director Education & Family Support
Darren Mepham	Chief Executive
Mark Wilkinson	Group Manager - Learning Disability

652. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members:-

Councillor JC Spanswick
Councillor P James
Councillor GW Davies MBE
Councillor E Venables
Councillor CE Smith

653. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 7. and left the meeting whilst the report was being considered, due to them being Board Members of V2c who were the applicant in respect of this departure planning application:-

Councillor D Patel

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Councillor HM Williams
Councillor HJ Townsend

654. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of Council dated 6 July 2016, be approved as a true and accurate record.

655. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE:

Mayor

The Mayor announced that it was wonderful to welcome a small group of pupils from Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger to the Civic Offices before they broke up for the summer holidays. The children came prepared with some very well thought out questions and there ensued an interesting exchange. He hoped that they enjoyed the visit as much as both his Consort and he did, and the Mayor thanked Councillor Butcher for arranging this.

He also had a very entertaining evening courtesy of Pencoed Comprehensive School, the pupil's production of "Back to the 80's" was a joy and the Mayor stated the event almost had him dancing.

The Mayor also had the pleasure on Saturday of attending the opening of the British Isles Junior Ladies International Bowling Championship, which was being hosted by Bridgend Bowls Club. This was the first time that this event had been hosted by Bridgend, but hopefully not the last and it was nice also to see that the event was hosted on a nice summer's day.

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank Mr. Jeffrey Harris, Chief Executive of Castle Bingo and his staff for the donation of £2,000 which he presented to him a couple of weeks ago. This was is much appreciated and would go towards his fundraising for the year.

The Mayor confirmed, that Members will have received a list of the forthcoming charity events that have been scheduled for the coming months. Hopefully there will be something that will appeal to everyone and both he and his Consort would be delighted if they could join them on at least one occasion to raise funds for his chosen charities. The next event will be afternoon tea in the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl on the 21st August, and as always further details and tickets could be obtained from Mari Major.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader announced that the Council's popular School's Out programme was underway with a huge variety of activities and events taking place for different age groups. The summer schedule was truly action packed this year, as children aged between eight and 12 are being offered free places in Active 4 Life schemes which focus on fun, sports, games, arts and creative activities.

The Play Ranger programme was new for 2016, and features outdoor events that show children how to make rope swings, dens, water slides and more. It encouraged children

to put down their computer games, play outside and enjoy some traditional fun in the sun, all while learning about nature.

Elsewhere, Mini Play 4 Life sessions aimed at 2-7 year olds were helping youngsters develop their agility, balance and co-ordination skills, while the Active4Life programme catered for 8-12 year olds and focused on sports, traditional play and fun, healthy activities.

Many of these had been established in partnership with town and community councils, and Welsh language holiday activities were also available in partnership with Menter Bro Ogrwr and Urdd Gobaith Cymru. In addition, there were a whole range of additional activities offered by the likes of Flying Start, Communities First, the summer reading challenge at local libraries, Bryngarw Country Park, Halo Leisure and more, so if Members heard any children complaining that they were bored this summer, they could point them in the right direction.

The Deputy Leader was also pleased to inform Members that the planning application for a proposed new primary school at Pencoed had been submitted. This followed a public consultation exercise during which no objections were received. As Members may be aware, the current school operates on two different sites with some pupils taught in buildings on Penprysg Road, while other children were based at the old Heol Y Cyw primary school premises.

As part of the Council's ongoing school modernisation programme, there was a vision to bring all of the pupils together at a new state of the art facility located on part of the school playing fields further along Penprysg Road.

If approved and with appropriate funding in place from the Welsh Government, the new school would cater for 510 pupils aged 4-11 and feature a 70 place nursery as well as provision for pupils with special education needs. The current school buildings were built in the early 1900s for separate infant, junior and secondary provision, and their layout is preventing necessary adaptations from being made. It was also far from ideal that many of the children currently had to cross a busy main road to walk between classes, so he was really pleased that the Authority had reached a milestone in its efforts to provide a brand new facility for the pupils of Pencoed Primary.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities announced that many Members had reported that concerned residents have been contacting them following the recent tragic accident on the A48 in which sixteen year old Rhys Rubery lost his life.

Bridgend County Borough Council has issued a statement to confirm that the authority will be conducting an investigation of the A48 within the vicinity of the accident.

The various comments and concerns that it had received will be taken into account alongside issues such as pedestrian and cyclist movements along the route, speed limits, the current provision of crossing points and all other relevant factors.

As South Wales Police are still investigating the circumstances and actions surrounding this tragic accident, it is important not to speculate about what happened until all of the facts are fully known, but once investigations have concluded, the Council will be making recommendations based on their findings of these.

In the meantime, she was sure that she reflected the views of all Members when she confirmed that thoughts and sympathies were with Rhys' family and friends at this tragically sad time.

Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing, advised that Members would be aware that Bridgend County Borough Council is developing plans for two new Extra Care facilities, one in Maesteg and another at Ynysawdre, in partnership with Linc Cymru.

The schemes had been developed as part of ongoing plans to modernise residential care services, and would create a total of 45 new Extra Care units as an alternative to the three ageing care homes within Maesteg, Ynysawdre and Ogmores Vale.

Extra Care facilities are designed to offer tenants their own apartments fitted with all the equipment they need to live safely and independently. The residential facility will offer 24/7 on-site support alongside a range of community facilities. They also enabled couples to continue to live together within a supported environment after one partner's care or health needs change.

As part of the project to deliver these new facilities, the Council's Communications team was supporting the Housing Strategy department by making a short film which can be used to illustrate exactly what residents and their families can expect from Extra Care.

They recently visited a Linc Cymru facility in Newport called Glyn Anwen where they interviewed some of the residents about the difference that Extra Care has made to their lives, and filmed the sort of facilities and activities that an Extra Care home can offer.

The trip was extremely successful and the residents provided so much praise for Extra Care that the Communications team informed him that they had been spoilt for choice trying to select the best comments.

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing was looking forward to seeing the completed film and he hoped that it will help demonstrate what the Authority were trying to achieve for the benefit of local residents with its plans for Extra Care. In the meantime, work was continuing to closely with staff, service users and their families to ensure a smooth transition into the new facilities, and he would bring Members more news as this process developed as well as a short film production that staff had been involved in.

Cabinet Member Resources

The Cabinet Member Resources advised that all Members had received an electronic copy of an ICT survey which aims to identify how equipment is used and what improvements should be considered when providing future support.

These needed to be returned by last Monday, but to date only nine had been received.

It was important that this is completed, so hard copies had been left on the desks of any Member who had not yet already responded.

He asked Members if these could be completed and left on their desks, in order that Democratic Services Officers could collect them after the meeting

Members he added, would also be receiving further information soon on the latest round of safeguarding and child sexual exploitation awareness training.

This had been identified by Auditors as something that should be carried out annually by all Members, and further details regarding this would be provided in due course.

Finally, the Cabinet Member Resources advised Members that there will be pre-Council briefings on Tackling Poverty Programme Alignment on 7th September, and a Corporate Parenting update on 5th October.

Cabinet Member Equalities and Children's Social Services

The Cabinet Member Equalities and Children's Social Services, stated that she wished to make Members aware of a new campaign that has been launched to help keep children safe while using the internet. This was especially relevant in the wake of the launch of the new 'Pokemon Go' game which aims to get children up and out of the house by encouraging them to travel to specific locations to collect points and prizes using their mobile phones.

Called 'Get Safe Online', the campaign highlights that while 42 per cent of parents believe that their children are safe using the internet, almost half of all parents have no safeguards or parental controls in place to try and ensure this.

Children were so familiar and proficient with modern technology that it is sometimes difficult for parents to keep up with them. The Get Safe Online campaign offered free expert advice and simple steps that parents can follow, ranging from the basics of online safety to explaining what different types of social media are. This was a very worthwhile campaign and Members could find out more by visiting www.getsafeonline.org

She also highlighted the good work of the Girl's Network, which recently showcased how efforts to improve the health and well-being of local comprehensive-age girls can be adapted throughout the whole of Wales.

Set up by the Active Young People Department and with the support of IT services firm CGI, the network encouraged girls to take up sports, boost their self-esteem and skills and develop a healthy attitude that will benefit them as they grow into adults.

The Cabinet Member Equalities and Children's Social Services congratulated them on making this event a big success. The girls were keen to share their experiences, and she was impressed at the way they delivered presentations and acted as ambassadors not only for the initiative, but for the County Borough as a whole. She added that she was very proud of them.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive confirmed, that as in previous years, the Leader has chaired a panel of members to conduct his appraisal as Chief Executive and set him targets for the coming year. They had done this in the context of the revised Corporate Plan.

Clearly, as Head of Paid Service, he was ultimately accountable for the delivery of all of the Council's plans, but as before, the targets reflect the specific issues that Members were asking him to work on personally:

The Chief Executive added, that he had been set four strategic priorities.

The first was to oversee the development of the MTFs and delivery of the budget. This is in recognition of the difficulty in balancing the delivery of an ambitious Corporate Plan in the context of ever increasing financial challenge.

This was now a personal target for him, given that the Authority decided not to replace the Corporate Director of Resources when she left, and that alternatively, he would be responsible for this role with the support of the Section 151 Officer.

The second priority was to contribute to the development of the Cardiff Capital City Region Deal and ensuring that Bridgend County Borough's interests are protected and advanced.

This was clearly a long term initiative, and it draws on the skills and expertise of a number of people, not least being the Corporate Director of Communities and his teams. But at this stage, it is felt that his personal involvement as Chief Executive is still very important.

For the third priority, he had been asked to lead the development of the Bridgend Public Service Board. This was an important response to the Future Generations Act, and the Council had one chance to set it up so that it is effective.

The approach that being taken was to develop and build on very constructive relationships with others in senior leadership roles working in our area, such as the Health Board, Police, Fire Authority, Natural Resources Wales, amongst many more.

Finally, he had been asked to ensure the successful delivery of the Transformation Programme for the fourth priority. It had a fixed number of key transformation projects that are critical to reshaping the organisation, such as Adult and Children's Social Care, the Strategic Schools Review and the Digital Programme.

Again, he was clearly very reliant on the expertise and skill of the Directors and other Senior Managers, but overall success of this was something that he had been tasked with, as it was clearly integral to the MTFs and Corporate Plan that form the first of the four priorities.

These were the four strategic priorities that he would be focusing on. Of course, no performance management conversation would be complete without touching upon the issue of Sickness Absence he added, so as you would expect, the Panel also asked him to maintain focus on sickness absence while recognising that this is part of a wider responsibility in considering the wellbeing of staff

After all, headlines may focus on sickness absence but this often masks the fact that the vast majority of staff do far more than required by the letter of their contract, and he was very grateful for their efforts in this regard.

The contents of his announcements would be shared later today with staff through a message being placed on bridgenders.

Member's Announcement

Councillor M Thomas advised that on the 8 January 2015, following a meeting of the Development Control Committee, she made an unacceptable remark to Councillor HE Morgan. She confirmed that she wished to apologise to all concerned for this, and particularly to Councillor Morgan.

By way of reply, Councillor Morgan stated that her apology was noted.

656. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader advised that when the 2017 Urdd Eisteddfod takes place at Pencoed College, it is expected to draw more than 100,000 visitors into Bridgend County Borough for a celebration of literature, music and performing arts.

The Urdd generates wall-to-wall media coverage for a whole week, and benefits the local economy to the tune of more than £6m, with people staying in local accommodation, visiting other attractions in the area, shopping and using local transport.

He wished to make Members aware that all schools within their constituencies have been given an open invitation to attend the proclamation ceremony for the event. The ceremony will take place on Saturday 8 October and will feature a parade which will start at Bridgend College, proceed through the town centre and finish at Newbridge Fields.

To help celebrate the event, each school in Bridgend County Borough has been invited to attend, and to make and carry a banner with the name of the school on it.

The banners will then be used as part of a display during the week of the Eisteddfod, which will take place between 29 May and 3 June 2017.

Every school will receive a CD of the Eisteddfod 'Welcome' song so they can practice and learn it well in advance of the event.

He was aware that many Members also serve as governors, so he hoped that they would encourage their local schools to take part and offer their support.

The Leader was also certain that Members would join him in offering congratulations to Coychurch Crematorium Maesteg Welfare Park and Bryngarw Country Park for achieving Green Flag status.

Organised by Keep Wales Tidy and the Welsh Government, the Green Flag awards are intended to acknowledge areas of high-quality green space that play an important role in community life.

Sites are measured against criteria that include horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability and community involvement, and the flags are testament to the excellent efforts of staff and volunteers. He extended his thanks to them all.

657. SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report, that outlined her Social Services' Annual Report for 2015/16 for approval, and requested that Members note the judgements reached locally about social care services in Bridgend.

This was the seventh such Annual Report, and was based on the Authority's self-assessment of the performance and delivery of social services. The Report in its entirety was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report outlined certain background information, following which it confirmed, that the aim of the report was to provide the Council and people living in Bridgend County Borough with an overview of the standard of social care they were being provided. The report aimed to highlight the progress made during the year and to identify where improvements are needed during 2016/17.

The report was split into four parts, and these consisted of the Director's overview; the Head of Adult Social Care report, the Head of Safeguarding and Assessment report, and a Glossary of Terms.

In preparation of the report, two fundamental questions were considered, namely, are there effective arrangements in place to safeguard children and adults and to promote their welfare and voice as well as their independence and social inclusion, and could performance be sustained and improved.

The report confirmed that services were generally effective in meeting the needs of people who require the support of social care, and identified that the services were improving overall, although areas had been identified where improvement was required.

Paragraph 4.7 of the report, outlined feedback from the CSSIW on performance in the previous year, that included areas where there was good practice, as well as other areas where improvement was required, and the Annual Report for 2015/16 addressed these and confirmed what actions had been taken, or alternatively, were being progressed.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing referred to the remainder of the report, which clarified the priorities for improvement in 2016/17, that reflected the analysis of performance and attempted to address the increasingly challenging context, both financial and demographic, both in Adult Social Care and Safeguarding and Family Support.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing, then proceeded to give a power point Presentation, entitled Director of Social Services Annual Report 2015/16, followed by a short video involving a service user who was receiving one of the many services provided through the Social Services Department.

The Mayor then invited questions from Members on the Report and the accompanying Presentation.

A Member congratulated the Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing on the Annual Report, as it generally made for positive reading. However, he referred to page 36 of the report and sickness absence statistics and calculated that within 2015/16 the Department had incurred through its staff a total of 16,642 days sickness absence within this period. He also calculated, that based on an average salary of £23k, this would have resulted in the Authority losing around £1m and 35k due to such levels of absence. He referred to the report's Priorities, and suggested better controls of sickness absence should be added to these priorities.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing, advised that as Members would have noted earlier within the Chief Executives announcements, he had been tasked as part of his Staff Appraisal, to monitor sickness absence across the Authority, with a view to reducing this. She conceded that there was a high rate of sickness absence within the Social Services Department, and both herself and Managers within the Department had with assistance from the Human Resources Department, been looking at actively taking steps in an attempt to reduce this. Return to work interviews, as recently shared at a meeting of the Children and Young People O&SC, had also improved she added, particularly in terms of their thoroughness and through being less lenient with staff who had a poor sickness record including significant numbers of uncertified sickness absence. The monetary loss that the Member referred to was particularly high, given that front line staff who supported service users had to be replaced if they became absent from work. Sickness absence was also a regular item for discussion at meetings of CPA she further added.

A Member made reference within the report, to the 'Love to Walk' scheme, which was an Annual Programme that helped people overcome social isolation. However, the scheme excluded people who had dogs, which was denying individuals the opportunity to use the scheme, and in doing so, prohibited them from finding like-minded people. She had raised this matter with the appropriate Cabinet Member as she felt it could be deemed as a form of prejudice against dog owners.

She also referred to page 60 of the report, where there were new systems in place in order to ensure compliance with legislative requirements for completed assessments, including DoLS, within a period of 21 days. It appeared though that some of these assessments were taking far longer to complete and in some cases completion was not taking place for up to 5 months, resulting in these individuals having their liabilities denied for some considerable time.

In terms of the first point on the 'Love to Walk' scheme, the Corporate Director Communities advised that this was something that had been initiated by his Directorate, and he confirmed that he would look into the issue of dog owners not being able to use this scheme, and come back to the Member outside of the meeting. The walks were led by volunteers, and sometimes they weren't familiar with the animals which had led to problems with both the behaviour of the animal and the sometimes negative attitude of the dog owner, which had made other users of the scheme a little nervous or uneasy. Also, some of the walks proceeded across private land, and some landowners were not entirely happy about dogs perhaps fouling on their land and irresponsible owners not cleaning this up.

With regard to the second point made by the Member in respect of delays with completion of assessments, the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing advised that her Department were aware that the performance in this area needed to be significantly improved, and both she and her Officers working hard to improve the percentage of these completions within the statutory time period. Though this was no consolation, she added that a considerable number of other local authorities in Wales were having similar problems in this area of work.

A Member felt that the report reflected an improving picture, though the successful delivery of Social Services was dependent upon the delivery of certain packages. There was reference on page 33 of the report to the retention of Social Workers, and that during 2015/16 Bridgend had 20 newly qualified Social Workers. He asked the Officer if this fact meant that there were currently too many inexperienced Social Workers working within the Authority, at the cost of losing too many experienced Social Workers possibly to neighbouring authorities. If this was the case, he asked if there was any incentive for the more experienced Social Workers to be retained within the Authority.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing, advised that the recruitment and retention of Social Workers had previously been the subject of debate at the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, though the above was more of an issue in Children's Services rather than the Adult Social Care Department. It was fairly easy she confirmed for Social Workers to move on from one Authority to another due to the easy transport access via the M4 corridor. Steps were being taken however, to look at the development and support of the workforce in Children's Services and Adult Social Care, that included a project that had been put in place monitoring retention of staffing levels.

The Group Manager Safeguarding and Quality Assurance added that there was a Recruitment and Retention Board in place, that looked at amongst other things, the reasons why staff ie Social Workers were leaving the Authority. As part of this, a member of staff within Human Resources had been benchmarking salaries that were being paid for these posts within neighbouring authorities, and there was no significant

difference in the rate of pay from one Authority to another. Upon staff leaving undertaking exit interviews, the most common reason for these staff leaving the Authority was due to their specific individual family circumstances.

A Member referred to page 22 of the report, and the bullet point which confirmed that a Commissioning Plan for Independent Domiciliary Care was being developed, and that a new framework for this had been due to commence in April 2016. She asked if this had in fact now commenced.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing advised that this had commenced several months ago, and reports had been submitted to recent meetings of the Cabinet on how the Plan was progressing. She added that 13 new providers had been incorporated within the Framework, and 8 of these were currently active.

A Member referred to page 32 of the report and reference to workforce training, and she felt that it was positive to note that this training was in place. She asked the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing, what percentage of the overall workforce had received training in the specific line of work that comprised the role of their particular post. She also referred to page 46 of the report, and asked what became of assets when these were no longer being used by service users.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing, advised the Member that she would have to come back to her regarding the percentage of workforce being suitably trained in their specific area/role. She added that there was a Social Service Workforce Development Plan in place, that was partly funded by Welsh Government. This Plan highlighted areas of the workforce who required training including development training, and in what areas ie pertinent to their role. She added that between 600 – 700 staff had received compulsory training under the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, that included being trained on how to use a new Information System.

In terms of Assets, the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing advised that if a particular service had been developed within a facility, but there was now no longer a requirement to deliver it from that particular building, then any monies obtained from the sale or release of this, would be fed into the MTFs Corporate budget.

A Member advised that from an Overview and Scrutiny perspective, he would have liked to see the issue surrounding employees mental health as a key Priority going forward. He stated this, due to the fact that there had been a total of 4,000 days lost through sickness absenteeism due to stress related illnesses in the service last year. More support was required to support the workforce suffering from this illness, in order that length of absenteeism could possibly be reduced, and they could in turn, return to work after suffering from such an illness, sooner rather than later. Help could also be sought, independent of the Authority under the provisions of the new Act he added.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing confirmed that a re-modelling programme had been developed and was moving forward in terms of the management of mental health related illnesses. She added that the control and support mechanisms for this illness, which contributed significantly to high levels of absenteeism, could be incorporated into the Annual Report for next year.

The Leader concluded debate on this item, by thanking the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing for such a positive report and informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the Director of Social Services Annual Report for 2015/16.

658. DEPARTURE FROM DEVELOPMENT PLAN - PLANNING APPLICATION P/15/845/FUL

The Corporate Director Communities submitted a report, that advised that the Development Control Committee considered the above application P/15/845/FUL for the construction of 12 dwellings at Lansbury close, Maesteg on 7th July 2016.

The Development Planning Manager confirmed that the development comprised of 4 x 2 bed dwellings, 4 x 2 bed flats and 4 x 1 bed flats.

The above Committee, recommended that the application be referred to Council as a departure application to the Local Development Plan that it was not disposed to refuse.

She proceeded to explain, that the out-of-accord element related to a small strip of land at the site's southern edge, which is outside the settlement boundary, where countryside policies apply.

However, the site boundary extended to a logical and defensible limit, and allowing the proposal, would not compromise the integrity of policies to limit development in the countryside.

In addition added the Development Planning Manager, Development Control Committee Members also resolved to increase the contribution to children's play, based on a realistic assumption that 2 bedroom properties, including the 2 bedroom flats as part of this development, could generate children and as such should contribute to the improvement of local children's play facilities.

She finalised her submission, by recommending that Council approves the development, subject to certain Conditions and the applicant entering into a S106 agreement.

A Member referred to page 133 of the report and the site plan, and asked the Officer for clarification that the boundary of the application in question, did not straddle across the boundary of a property adjoining the application site.

The Development Planning Manager confirmed that she felt that this was not the case, but that she would further check this point.

RESOLVED: (1) That Council was minded not to refuse the Development and that the Corporate Director Communities be given plenary powers to issue a decision notice in respect of this proposal, once the applicant has entered into a S106 Agreement requiring the following:-

- i) Provide a financial contribution of £3,760 towards children's play provision
- ii) Secure two units as affordable housing.

(2) That such consent be subject to the Conditions contained in the report.

659. DEPARTURE FROM DEVELOPMENT PLAN - PLANNING APPLICATION P/16/309/FUL

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The Corporate Director Communities submitted a report, that advised that the Development Control Committee previously considered the retrospective application P/16/309/FUL for a steel portal framed extension to the side of an existing industrial unit at Unit 8 Heol Ty Gwyn Industrial Estate, Maesteg on 7th July 2016.

The Committee recommended that the application be referred to Council as a proposal that they were not disposed to refuse on the basis of it being a departure from the Local Development Plan.

The Development Planning Manager stated that the proposal represented such a departure, as the structure extended marginally beyond the settlement boundary and the employment allocation.

In visual and physical terms however, she added that the development occupies land that forms part of the industrial estate.

She concluded her submission, by advising that permitting the development will not compromise the integrity of protecting the surrounding countryside and recommended that Council approve the application.

RESOLVED

That Council was minded not to refuse the Development, and that the Corporate Director Communities be given plenary powers to issue a decision notice in respect of this proposal subject to the Conditions contained in his report.

660. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING

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

This report was detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report and expanded upon in the information report and its accompanying Appendix.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the content of the report.

661. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 4.45 pm