

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2017

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 3.00 PM

Present

Councillor PA Davies – Chairperson

S Aspey	SE Baldwin	TH Beedle	JPD Blundell
NA Burnett	RJ Collins	HJ David	P Davies
DK Edwards	J Gebbie	T Giffard	RM Granville
CA Green	DG Howells	RM James	M Jones
MJ Kearns	DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	JR McCarthy
DG Owen	D Patel	RL Penhale-Thomas	A Pucella
JC Radcliffe	KL Rowlands	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	DBF White	AJ Williams
HM Williams	JE Williams	RE Young	

Apologies for Absence

MC Clarke, N Clarke, SK Dendy, A Hussain, B Jones, T Thomas, E Venables, MC Voisey, PJ White and A Williams

Officers:

Jackie Davies	Head of Adult Social Care
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Randal Hemingway	Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Gary Jones	Head of Democratic Services
Laura Kinsey	Head of Children's Social Care
Darren Mepham	Chief Executive
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities
Kelly Watson	Group Manager Legal & Democratic Services

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:-

Councillor K Rowlands – Agenda Item 15, personal interest as she is employed by a Member of Parliament

Councillor DBF White – Agenda Item 16, a prejudicial interest as an employee of Swansea City Council. Councillor White left the meeting whilst this item was considered.

Councillor JC Spanswick – Agenda item 16, a prejudicial interest as an employee of Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC. Councillor Spanswick left the meeting whilst this item was considered.

Councillor JE Lewis – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a retired Member of Unison

Councillor G Thomas – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a member of a trade union.

Councillor M Jones – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a member of GMB

Councillor CA Green, Agenda Item 16, prejudicial interest as a close family Member works for BCBC. Councillor Green left the meeting whilst this item was considered.

Councillor B Sedgebeer – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a member of GMB

Councillor RE Young – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a retired member of GMB

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Councillor N Burnett – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a member of GMB
Councillor HJ David – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a member of Unite
Councillor J McCarthy – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a member of Unite
Councillor G Howells – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a member of GMB
Councillor T Beedle – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a Honorary Life member of Unison
Councillor CE Smith – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a member of Unison
Councillor C Webster – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as members of her family are employed by the public sector
Councillor RM Granville – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a member of GMB
Councillor J Gebbie – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as she works for a local authority and is a member of Unison
Councillor J Radcliffe – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as he is employed by the National Assembly for Wales
Councillor P Davies – Agenda Item 16, personal interest as a retired member of Unite
Councillor RM James Agenda item 16 as his wife works for the public sector

In terms of some general advice on Agenda Item 16, the Legal Officer informed those present that a personal interest should be declared if anyone present was a member of a Trade Union, or a prejudicial interest if someone worked for a local authority or a Trade Union. She added however, that it was the decision of Members themselves whether they wished to follow this advice.

The following Officers declared an interest in Agenda Item 16, and left the meeting whilst this item was being discussed:-

D Mepham
L Kinsey
J Davies
M Shephard
R Hemingway
L Harvey

50. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of Council dated 26 July 2017, be approved as a true and accurate record.

51. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

The Mayor

The Mayor announced that she had the great pleasure recently of meeting with a wonderful lady, Warrant Officer First Class, Barbara McGregor. Barbara is celebrating 40 years of active service in the Royal Navy, making her the Navy's longest serving female. It was lovely to meet her and her family and listen to stories of her long and varied career. Barbara is currently the Regional Development Manager for Wales and Western England and recently as part of the Wrens centenary celebrations, organised a fundraising 100 mile walk. The walk was mapped out to engage with local groups and personalities en route and was a huge success. She advised that she looked forward to working with Barbara in the future as part of the Armed Forces Community Covenant and congratulated her on her 40 years in the above service.

The Mayor announced that as some of those present may be aware, she had worked for the South Glamorgan Ambulance Service for many years, and therefore, it was an honour to visit the Hazardous Area Response Team – HART in Bryncethin. HART

which is part of the Welsh Ambulance Service, provides clinical care in hostile environments like industrial accidents and natural disasters, as well as chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear and terrorist incidents. The team are highly trained professionals whose work takes them into hazardous and often distressing situations. They therefore had her complete support and admiration and she had been grateful to be able to convey her thanks to them in person.

On the subject of our emergency services, the Mayor advised that she had recently paid visits to a number of local police and fire stations to look at the work that they do. She wished to thank both services for taking time out of their normal working day to show her around. It had been great to have the opportunity to meet the staff and see "behind the scenes" she added.

On a more sombre note, the Mayor was sure that those present were all aware of the recent sad and sudden passing of Councillor Janice Dudley, the Mayor of Neath Port Talbot. The Mayor had the pleasure of meeting Janice during her short time as Mayor, and attended her funeral last Friday to convey the respects of the Council. On behalf of Council, she confirmed that thoughts be extended to her family at this difficult time, and the Mayor therefore asked that a minutes silence be given in her honour.

All those present stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect to Councillor Dudley.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader advised that together with Swansea City Council, BCBC have signed a 15 year contract with the new Agrivert plant at Stormy Down so that our food waste will be recycled locally in future. The plant will handle around 18,000 tonnes every year to generate both electricity and organic fertiliser, which will also be used on 3,000 acres of nearby farm land. The scheme is being supported with Welsh Government funding and will help the Council to achieve ambitious Wales-wide recycling targets. Working with Swansea has been a very cost-effective partnership, and he was sure that Members will welcome this environmentally-friendly, local method of recycling the County Borough's food waste.

The Deputy Leader wished to mention a couple of forthcoming member development events. There will be a session on Scrutiny Questioning Skills on the 11 and 21 September. These are being provided by the WLGGA and it was recommended that Members attend.

Of particular importance was the final session that has been organised for the Introduction to Local Government and the Code of Conduct on 12 September. This is for Members who have not yet been to one of the sessions, and the Deputy Leader stressed that attendance was expected. Safeguarding sessions, also mandatory, were up and coming on 19 and 25 September he added.

A Risk Management session on 19 September will primarily be of interest to Audit Committee Members, but all Councillors were welcome to take part. Dementia Awareness training will also take place on 27 September, and again on 26 October.

The Deputy Mayor asked Members to note that the visit from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales is on 22 September. Members have been advised via email of relevant timings, but if they wanted to discuss any issues with the above body, then they needed to contact Member Services by 8 September.

Any Member wishing to attend a regional induction in Swansea on 10 November should speak to the Head of Democratic Services by 8 November.

The Deputy Leader thanked residents for their recycling efforts, and patience during the first 3 months of the County's new recycling and waste arrangements.

Since June residents had been recycling more than ever, with an increase in the amount of plastics, paper, food waste, cardboard and other recyclable materials being put out at the kerbside.

Compared to 2016, there was a 55% increase in the amount recycled from homes over the first two weeks of the new recycling arrangements.

The Deputy Leader wished to thank residents for the way they had embraced recycling since the new arrangements began this summer.

Obviously, there had been well-documented teething problems with missed collections in some areas and delays on recycling container deliveries, but the Council had worked hard with Kier to improve the situation, and would continue to do so.

There had been an overwhelming number of requests from residents who were keen to recycle food waste but don't already have the caddies they need, and these were being delivered as soon as possible.

When combined, ie kerbside and recycling collected at Community Recycling Centres, the latest recorded stat for BCBC's overall recycling rate, April to June 2017, this stood at 63.7%, meaning that the Council was well on track with achieving the ambitious recycling targets that had been set by Welsh Government, with new targets of 64% being set for 2019-20.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities advised that Members may have seen the announcement by Welsh Government yesterday concerning our ageing sea defences at the town beach in Porthcawl. The defences have been protecting the seafront area from flooding and coastal erosion since 1984, but are urgently in need of refurbishment if they are to be capable of continuing to do so.

Now the town is set to benefit from a £3m investment after Welsh Government agreed to provide 75 per cent of the cost for the work.

This is excellent news for the area. The so-called 'tarmac beach' will be replaced with a visually pleasing new terraced design and a sandy-coloured flat surface which will enable it to continue to protect the town centre and seafront area for many years to come.

This ambitious, year-long project will need to take account of issues such as unpredictable weather patterns and changing maritime conditions, but he was sure that the end results will be more than worth the effort.

Once the contract for the work has been finalised, the Cabinet Member Communities advised that he would provide further details including information about the various community benefits that the work will deliver.

He then drew Members' attention towards the local 'ambassador' scheme that has been developed by the Reach Rural Development Team and Bridgend Tourism Association.

This initiative sees local volunteers helping to raise the profile of the area by meeting or greeting visitors, writing blogs, taking part in local events and more.

New recruits are always welcome, and potential ambassadors will need to volunteer some of their own time and have an interest in learning more about the area's culture, wildlife, history, arts and cuisine.

This scheme may be of interest to Members constituents as it was lots of fun and a great way of socialising and making new friends.

Those interested could find out more by emailing ambassadors@bridgendtourism.co.uk

Cabinet Member Regeneration and Education

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Education advised that the new school and college terms start this week and he wished to acknowledge the hard work of our pupils, teachers, governors and staff following the recent A Level and GCSE results. This year's A Levels demonstrated further strong performance, and various success stories had been heard from schools all across the County Borough. It was also the first time that the new-style GCSE examinations had been in place, so he wished to especially congratulate all pupils for their hard work and achievements.

In Bridgend, the Rhiw multi-storey parking initiative that offered the first two hours for free was now in effect. It has been made possible by Welsh Government funding and will be available until the end of March next year. If the free parking is seen to have had a positive effect on the town centre, we will have to see whether the Welsh Government is able to provide a further allocation for the free parking scheme to continue in 2018-19. The free car parking will be particularly useful for anyone visiting the town centre Roots festival on 16 September. This was the second time that the festival has been held, and it will again fill the streets of the town centre with live music, entertainment, food and free activities. The last festival was very successful, so he hoped Members would help spread the word about this popular event.

The Jennings Building was now fully up and running, and recently received its official opening from Carwyn Jones AM alongside representatives of the Council, ABA Holdings, Finance Wales, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Cadw. This was part of a network of regeneration that could proceed without any complications regarding land ownership problems. The new businesses that have located there are proving to be exceedingly popular, but the Cabinet Member Regeneration and Education was particularly interested to see the first-floor units where people can both live and work on site, and in the process support other trade in the area. He confirmed that all the effort has been well worthwhile, and he urged those present to visit the Jennings Building, although they may have to wait for a seat, as it was proving to be extremely popular.

Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations advised Members that she had two announcements. The first was to advise Members that the Council's Fostering Team had launched a new recruitment drive by the to coincide with the start of the autumn school term, and also encourage Members to support the recruitment drive by making their constituents aware of the campaign.

The fostering team are appealing for 'empty nesters' and people whose own children have grown up and left home to come forward.

To be considered as a foster carer, a person needed to be 21 or over, have a spare room, good communication skills, be ready for the challenge and most importantly care about children.

Those who had an interest did not have to be married or own their own home, and there was also no gender, faith or sexual orientation requirement.

Courses, training and support were all provided, and more information was available at the 'empty nesters' page on the Bridgend Foster Care website.

her second announcement was to advise Members that they may also want to give local residents a heads-up that a wave of scam telephone calls are being made across the region and could soon reach as far as the County Borough.

The scams generally ask residents to provide personal information so that a Council Tax refund can be made to them, and try to pressure householders with tight deadlines and threats of legal consequences. A number of complaints had been received and the Shared Regulatory Service was currently investigating these.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations, stated that residents should be reminded to never give out bank details or any personal information over the telephone, and if in doubt, to contact the Council for verification and report suspected scam calls, by phoning the Citizen's Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506.

52. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader advised that the Council amongst others, were expecting more details soon about the proposal by the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Finance regarding the Health Board that will serve the communities of Bridgend. The Council had been busy over the summer preparing the ground for any potential change. The Leaders of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, himself and Cabinet Members had met with the Chair of the Health Board and we were all clear that although we will plan for the future we will also continue to work closely together on our joint and integrated services. Also, himself, the Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help, the Chief Executive, appropriate Director and BCBC's Heads of Service had also met with the Chair and Chief Executive of Cwm Taf Health Board. Cwm Taf were very keen to talk about practical ways to develop a very close partnership with Bridgend. The Leader asked about their initial thoughts about the Princess of Wales Hospital, and the Chief Executive without hesitation confirmed their commitment to the A&E unit at the Hospital, and in fact said they would consider ways to increase the specialist services offered there.

Back in July, the Leader advised that he had informed Members of a meeting held with the Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language Minister, Alun Davies AM, to ensure that Bridgend County Borough benefits from the 'Our Valleys, Our Future' proposals, and he had promised to bring back to Members further details regarding this.

He was therefore pleased to report that a Valleys Taskforce event will be held at Maesteg Town Hall tomorrow evening between 6pm - 7.30pm, and people will be able to find out more about the plans to create thousands of new jobs and get an extra 7,000 people into work by 2021.

A number of Council initiatives were also exhibiting at the event, including the Upper Llynfi Valley Heat Energy project, the transformation of Maesteg Town Hall and the Bridges into Work 2 programme. This was a significant event and he hoped that Members would offer their full support as we continued to make the case for a strategic hub for investment in the Bridgend Valleys.

Alun Michael, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, this week announced his intention to appoint Matt Jukes as the new Chief Constable of South Wales Police from 1st January 2018. This followed the announcement by the current Chief Constable, Peter Vaughan QPM, of his intention to retire at the end of December.

As part of a comprehensive appointment process, the Leader was invited together with Council Leaders and Chief Executives from across South Wales to be a member of one of no less than four separate expert panels that interviewed Matt Jukes who was the current Deputy Chief Constable at South Wales Police. The feedback from the panels and the final interview panel was unanimous in supporting his appointment the Leader added.

The decision was subject to scrutiny by the Police and Crime Panel for South Wales, where the Authority were represented by Councillor RE Young, and this body would meet on Friday to consider the Commissioner's decision and whether to endorse it or not.

The fifth Bridgend Business Forum Awards will take place on 29th September at the Coed-Y-Mwstwr advised the Leader. There were 19 finalists across eight categories this year, including start-up business of the year, service business of the year and entrepreneur of the year. This event was growing bigger and stronger every year, and more details regarding this could be found on the Bridgend Business Forum website.

Finally, he advised that the Council were committed to helping people back into work, and as well as initiatives like Bridges Into Work and holding 75 job club sessions every week, the Council will be working Job Centre Plus to present this year's jobs and information event. This will take place at Bridgend Life Centre, also known as the Recreation Centre on Thursday, 14 September, and will feature a wide range of local organisations, businesses and training providers. There would be around 50 stands there, all of which will seek to help local people discover new career, training and employment opportunities.

The Leader was sure that Members would wish to share news about this very useful event with their constituents.

Chief Executive

The Council wished to bring Members up to speed on how the current electoral canvass is going.

The first phase of the process closed with the initial registration deadline expiring last month, and we are now into the next phase of the canvass.

As of this morning, a total of 45,000 registrations out of a potential 63,000 had been received.

The Electoral Division were focusing current efforts on reminding the 18,000 eligible householders who have yet to respond about the importance of being included on the electoral register.

Reminder letters featuring a new response deadline have been issued.

The Authority were also carrying out publicity activities to promote the canvass, highlighting the fact that being on the electoral register does more than enable people to

vote have their say, for example, it also helps with things like obtaining credit or applying for things like mobile phone contracts, mortgages or passports.

A particular emphasis was being placed on how easy it is for people to register, as well as the various ways in which they can do this.

From 20 September, canvassers will be knocking on people's doors as part of the final phase of the canvas. They'll be targeting the remaining households that haven't responded to either the original communication or the reminder.

The final register is set to be published on 1 December, so the very last chance for people to make sure that they are included is 20 November.

The Chief Executive stated that Members may wish to make a note of that deadline so they can advise any constituents who approach them about this issue.

53. SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

The Head of Adult Social Care presented a report, that requested Council's approval of the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2016/17, following the Presentation on this topic having been considered by Council at its July meeting.

This was the eighth Annual Report of the Director of Social Services and was based on the Authority's self-assessment of the performance and delivery of social services. The report was attached to the covering report at Appendix 1.

She explained that from October 2016, the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) changed how they inspected Children's and Adult Social Services. Following the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, CSSIW had developed a new framework which would ensure that authorities are inspected using the wellbeing outcomes of the Act. This placed an emphasis on hearing the views and voices of people and their carers who required care and support.

The Head of Adult Social Care advised that there were hyperlinks throughout the Annual Report that supported the information obtained within it, as well as providing a glossary of terms.

Paragraph 4.4 confirmed that the guidance for the report included a template, as well as setting out the sections in relation to the national quality standards for wellbeing, as referred to in this part of the report.

She added that the report demonstrated that services were generally effective in meeting the needs of people who require the support of social care. The report identified that services were improving overall, although areas had been identified where improvement was required and these were identified in the priorities for 2017/18.

As part of the CSSIW annual review of performance for 2016/17, quarterly review meetings were held with the Director of Social Services and herself and the Head of Children's Social Care. CSSIW had also visited several service areas, joined specific meetings and completed short reviews on adult safeguarding and carers plus, a significant inspection of Children's Services. The outcome was set out in the CSSIW Annual Performance Letter attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Head of Adult Social Care further added that on 20 July 2017, Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 received a report on the inspection of Children's Services and associated action plan. As part of the inspection, which took place in January/February

2017, the Inspectors looked closely at the quality of outcomes achieved for children in need of help, care and support or protection. The findings showed that Bridgend is working hard to implement the Act and had achieved a lot during a time of significant change. They also reported that some of the practice they had seen varied and that more needs to be done in the areas of decision making, risk assessment, quality assurance and multi-agency engagement.

The remainder of the report confirmed the Head of Adult Social Care, outlined the whole service and more specific Priorities for Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care for 2017/18. These reflected the analysis of performance, as well as trying to address the increasingly challenging context: financial, demographic and level of need.

A Member referred to page 62 of the letter and asked if there was evidence to yet suggest that new processes and restructuring of the workforce, had led to an improvement in terms of foster care support for individuals in transition from children to adults.

The Leader advised that a Transition Team had been introduced, to allow for services to be provided in a more cohesive way than previous for children going into adulthood, and this included team working involving staff from both these areas, with children and families of individuals receiving care.

The Head of Children's Social Care advised that the Transition Service Model referred to above had been agreed by Overview and Scrutiny, where as the Leader had confirmed, cross directorate working would be pursued to improve the transition proposals from adolescence into adulthood. The main thrust of the work would commence in the autumn she added.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the Director of Social Services Annual Report for 2016/17.

54. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2016-17

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 'Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice' (the Code) to report an overview of treasury activities from the preceding financial year, and also to report on the actual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for the above period.

The report gave some background information, following which it covered the following areas for the year 2016/17

- The Council's treasury position
- Treasury Risk Management
- External Context
- Borrowing Strategy and Outturn
- Investment Strategy and Outturn
- Performance Management
- Review of the Treasury Management Strategy
- Reporting Arrangements
- Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer then gave a resume of the current position regarding each of these, for the benefit of Members.

With regard to long term borrowing, he advised Council that there was no change to that of previous, whilst the amount of £10m for a number of short term loans, were all paid off a month after the loan was borrowed.

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer advised that the Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code required the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators. Details in Appendix A to the report, included estimated indicators for 2016-17 as detailed in the Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) 2016-17 previously approved by Council, the revised projection (where applicable) as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy 2017-18 approved by Council on March 2017, and the actual indicators for 2016-17.

A Member asked the Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer, if he could confirm as to what exposure of risk the Council faced through borrowing and give an explanation on the rates returned.

The Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer advised that borrowing initiatives were prioritised above yield, and that favourable cash flows had provided positive cash balances for investment, and as reflected in paragraph 4.5.5 of the report, the balance on investments as at March 2017 was £33.75m made up of £4m long term investments, £26.50m short term investments and £3.25m in Cash and Cash Equivalents. The Table in paragraph 4.5.6 of the report summarised the credit risk exposure of the Council's £33.75m investments at March 2017 by credit rating, (based on the lowest long term rating) maturity profile (remaining duration from 31 March 2017) and counterparty type.

He added that due to there being a lot of diversity in the type of borrowing and investments the Council were involved in, overall there was a positive credit rating with a low level of risk associated with any of the Council's borrowing initiatives.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Approved the Treasury Management activities for 2016-17.
- (2) Further approved the actual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2016-17.

55. **ACHIEVING THE WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WLGA) CHARTER FOR MEMBER SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT**

The Democratic Services Committee submitted a report to Council, requesting that it considers proposals for the Authority to achieve the WLGA Charter for Member Support and Development.

The report gave some background information on what the Charter was, and that it aimed to provide a broad framework for local planning, self-assessment, action and review together with networking and comparison amongst authorities, and the sharing of good and innovative practice. Its wide adoption had raised the overall amount and standard of support given to Members in Wales.

The report highlighted that there were 2 levels of award, with the first level (Standard) normally requiring to be achieved before progressing to the next level (Advanced).

The Charter was awarded for a period of 3 years, after which an Authority was able to relinquish, maintain or improve its charter status, whilst there was no requirement to wait the full 3 year period between achieving the Standard Charter award before progressing to the Advanced Charter Level.

The Group Manager Legal Services advised Council, that there were a number of factors which needed to be considered when determining the most suitable option for the Authority to undertake in respect of the WLGA Charter for Member Support and Development, and details of these were shown in paragraph(s) 4 of the report.

In terms of meeting the requirements, she explained that the full criteria for the achievement of the WLGA Charter for Member Support and Development at Standard and Advanced level, was shown at Appendix 1 to the report. Paragraph 4.5.2 of the report detailed in table format, the initial assessment of the implications of achieving the Charter at Standard level.

Paragraph 4.6 of the report then outlined the cost of achieving the WLGA Charter, whilst paragraph 4.7 advised of the timescales involved for this.

The Group Manager Legal Services then gave some Options available to Members to consider going forward, prior to advising of the financial implications of any options that may be pursued in respect of the Charter.

A Member was of the opinion that it was important to ensure that all components shown in paragraph 4.5.2 of the report (in the Table) were showing either Green or Amber in the Traffic Light Status, as opposed to Red.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Noted the content of the report and the recommendation of the Democratic Services Committee, as set out in paragraph 4.7.2 of the report.
- (2) Approved application for the Welsh Local Government Charter for Member Support and Development (Standard Level) in 2018, and remain at that level (Option 2).

56. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services presented a report, the purpose of which, was to present Council with a review of work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during the period September 2016 – September 2017.

Paragraph 3.1 of the report, gave a resume of the Scrutiny Function, and advised that Overview and Scrutiny Committees in BCBC overseen the decision making of the Cabinet Members, and supported the work of both Cabinet and Council. This led to reports and recommendations which advised Cabinet and the Council as a whole, on its policies, budget and service delivery.

The Group Manager Legal Services referred to paragraph 4.2 of the report headed Outcomes and Achievements, the sub-paragraphs of which gave information on progress made for the above period.

She then added that Scrutiny Officers had undertaken an assessment of the function using the Characteristics of Good Scrutiny, to determine its performance during 2016-17. This Assessment was attached at Appendix A to the report.

The remainder of the report gave some supplementary information in respect of Webcasting of meetings and Scrutiny Review and Development.

The financial implications of the report confirmed that the cost of webcasting, translation of webpages, the Scrutiny survey and any future development needs, would be met from within existing budgets.

A Member pointed out that the Overview and Scrutiny process was very well regarded in Bridgend, and he welcomed a more cross-cutting approach than previous, as was proposed in the report.

He was also pleased to note from paragraph 4.4.6 of the report, the areas that had been identified for future development in 2017-18, particularly the issue regarding increased public engagement going forward.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the report.

57. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - BUDGET RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PANEL**

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services submitted a report, so as to provide details of the proposed Scrutiny Budget Consultation Process under the new Scrutiny Committee structure.

The report also advised, that in considering the challenges associated with continued budget reductions, Members of the 2013/14 BREP recognised the need for a 'whole Council' response to be adopted in managing anticipated cuts to services against a backdrop of increasing demand, public sector reform and the challenging financial outlook.

The 2013/14 Panel therefore recommended that a Standing BREP be established to engage members on budget proposals as well as to enable members to feed in community intelligence gained from their representative role and to engage in shaping future service provision. This recommendation was endorsed by both the Corporate Resources and Improvement Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet as part of the 2013/14 draft budget consultation process.

Previously it has been agreed that each Scrutiny Committee would nominate two Members to sit on the Standing BREP.

Under the new Scrutiny Committee structure the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) has the overall responsibility for budget monitoring throughout the year. As such it is proposed that it continues this role and appoints BREP with such Members of the COSC as it agrees to sit on the Panel.

The purpose of the Panel would be as was reflected in paragraph 3.1 of the report, with minor amendments to points b) and c) to reflect the recent changes to the Scrutiny structure and the upcoming financial year:-

- b) Achieve a detailed overview and assessment of the budget proposals where the expertise and knowledge of each Committee contributes to a Corporate understanding and appreciation of the draft budget proposals;
- c) Assist the Council to develop a budget for the forthcoming year that aims to meet the needs of the communities of Bridgend County Borough;

Each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC) would continue to receive an individual set of Directorate Budget proposals to scrutinise in December, as has previously been the case. The comments and recommendations from each Committee

would then be consolidated along with the BREP's comments into one report which would be presented to Cabinet.

As with all Research and Evaluation Panels it was proposed that the Chair of BREP be appointed at the first meeting of the Panel. Council has not allocated a senior salary to the Chairperson of BREP and therefore no additional remuneration will be made for this role.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the process for the Scrutiny Budget Consultation Process under the new Committee structure as detailed in section 4 of the report.

58. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S APPRAISAL PANEL

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report in order to approve the appointments to a Panel responsible for the appraisal and performance review of the Chief Executive.

This Panel had been established in the last term of office in May 2010, and in view of the recent local government Elections, there was now a requirement to re-introduce such a Panel.

The report confirmed that a provisional date for a meeting of the Panel had been convened for 10 October 2017 at 10.00am.

The Leader welcomed the report, which reflected BCBC's 'One Council' approach to the way in which it approached and conducted his business.

RESOLVED: That Council:

(1) Appointed a Panel responsible for the appraisal and performance review of the Chief Executive, comprising of:-

- The Leader
- The Deputy Leader
- A Labour Group member (Cllr M Jones)
- Leader of Conservative Group/nominated representative
- Leader of Independent Alliance Group/nominated representative
- Leader of Plaid Cymru Group/nominated representative
- Leader of Llynfi Independent Group/nominated representative

(2) Noted that a provisional date for a meeting of the Panel had been established as 10 October 2017 at 10.00am

59. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to inform Council of any Information Reports for Noting since its last ordinary meeting, as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the content of the report.

60. DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

The Chief Executive presented a report (on behalf of the Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services), the purpose of which, was to seek agreement from Council, to make a change to the existing Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Policy in relation to DBS checks for elected Members, to ensure that the public can have trust and confidence in their elected Members.

He advised Council, that under the current DBS Policy, elected members were not subject to a DBS check.

Paragraph 4.2 detailed the different types of criminal records checks, with the eligibility criteria for these, set out immediately below them. These were as follows:-

- a) Basic Disclosure
- b) Standard Check
- c) Enhanced Check
- d) Enhanced Check with check of Barred Lists

The Chief Executive proposed that all elected Members were the subject of a Basic Disclosure, in order to demonstrate to the public that they can have trust and confidence in their elected representatives.

In addition to this and with reference to paragraph 3.3 of the report, it was also proposed that Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Chairs, in line with their responsibilities to “discharge functions” relating to the social care of vulnerable people and children, are subject to an Enhanced Check, in order to reflect the important role they play in scrutinising services that are delivered in relation to safeguarding and education functions.

The Chief Executive concluded his submission, by referring to the report’s financial implications should the proposals be agreed upon.

A Member asked if consideration had been given to Enhanced Checks being considered for those Members who undertook Rota Visiting of Care establishments etc.

The Chief Executive replied that this could be looked at in the future, and similarly too for those Members who were also School Governors.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Approved the amendment of the Council’s DBS Policy to reflect the proposals outlined in paragraph 4.3 and 4.4 of the report
- (2) Seeks individual consent from all Members to undertake DBS checks
- (3) Approved that if consent is received, it arranges for DBS checks for elected Members, in line with proposals contained in paragraph 4.3 and 4.4 of the report.

61. **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR WELLBEING AND FUTURE GENERATIONS & RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER**

“What communication have Cabinet Members had with BCBC officers, Halo and Awen with regard to the provision of disabled access to the facilities and services they provide”?

Response from the Cabinet Member Wellbeing & Future Generations to Councillor C Webster

Whilst I welcome the time taken to submit this question, I must admit I consider it to be a broad question, and thus am not entirely clear what the specific concern is nor what information is being sort. I would like to take this opportunity to remind members that I am more than willing to meet with you regarding queries or concerns you have, at any time, so please don't feel the need to have to wait until a monthly meeting to resolve any concerns.

I have set out an initial response to the question, which is based on my interpretation of the question.

“What communications have Cabinet Members had” the phrasing of this appears to be a freedom of information request and if this is the case, members should note that there is an alternative route for this question.

Turning to the “provision of disabled access to the facilities and services” provided by (i) BCBC, (ii) Halo Leisure and (iii) Awen Cultural Trust, I have interpreted this to relate to individuals described as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 and set out below some information regarding the services that the three providers offer and have specifically tried to focus on the communication methods Cabinet Members are involved in.

(i) BCBC

The main interaction between Cabinet Members and BCBC Offices regarding access to facilities and services has been via the Equalities Cabinet Committee meeting and the development of the Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 and it's supporting Action Plan. These plans were produced following an extensive consultation and engagement exercise in 2016 involving many disability groups, including Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People, Bridgend Visually Impaired Society, Bridgend Deaf Club, People First Bridgend and Stroke Association. The Strategic Equality Plan contains a specific objective to support people with a protected characteristic, including people with disabilities, to access leisure and cultural services, including those operated on our behalf by Halo Leisure and the Awen Cultural Trust. To support this, Cabinet Members and BCBC Officers have worked with both organisations to develop a plan that will progressively improve opportunities and activities for people with disabilities. Updated plans were presented at the Equalities Cabinet Committee meeting earlier this month, and are available for on the BCBC website.

In addition to this, BCBC offers the Community Chest grants programme, which focusses on tackling inequalities and supports projects that benefit disabled people. A network of “In-Sport” inclusive sports clubs has been developed linked to the Disability Sport Development programme. Disability Inclusion Training (DIT) has been delivered to clubs and leisure providers to better integrate people with disabilities. The “Calls 4 Action” programme has enabled groups of people with varied disabilities to establish clubs and associations. Children and young people with disabilities do have regular access to After School Play Club and school holiday “Discovery Day” programmes, supported by Disabled Children's Team.

(ii) Halo Leisure

The Healthy Living Partnership Advisory Board which regularly evaluates progress and performance contains Cabinet Members, as well as, the relevant Chair of Scrutiny and representatives from Public Health Wales and Sport Wales. The Advisory Board is in

place to review the reporting of Halo Leisure including levels of participation and focus on targeted population groups. There is also an annual service development planning process that is jointly developed between BCBC and Halo Leisure.

Halo Leisure is using both traditional and digital forms of marketing approaches to improve communication with disabled people. In particular, they are continuing to develop their use of social media and web based information whilst recognising those who are digitally excluded. Key opportunities have been promoted via the Dewis national database. The "Piece of the Action" website also features a suite of inclusive case studies that profile locally available opportunities.

Halo Leisure is currently supporting a range of initiatives for people with disabilities. It is working on the "Ageing Well Plan for Bridgend" and have develop services and activities, to help to make Bridgend an age-friendly county. For example, a dementia friendly swimming project is being developed and supports the disability swimming group called "Bridgend Sharks".

Halo Leisure reports, that in addition to casual visits by disabled people, 600 disabled people commit to regular usage through membership.

The 'Level Water' partnership with Halo Leisure supports free 'Learn to Swim' opportunities for children with disabilities.

The national exercise referral scheme supports people dealing with Parkinson's disease, as well as those with pulmonary rehabilitation needs and age-acquired chronic conditions. Halo Leisure has supported free access to swimming for armed forces veterans as part of a Welsh Government initiative. The 'Later Life' programme has supported physical activity and exercise in day care, residential care and community settings including the Olympage Games. A successful initiative linking stroke survivors to indoor bowling activities has also commenced.

(iii) Awen Cultural Trust

With regard to the Awen Cultural Trust ("Trust") partnership, members will note that decision making regarding the performance and direction of the trust is taken by the Trustees, as it is an independent organisation with charitable status. There are two council representatives on the trustee board, neither of whom are Cabinet Members. That said the Trust presents an annual service plan to full Council for approval, which outlines and demonstrates progress against the 5 year commissioning outcomes set by BCBC. The annual performance of both Halo Leisure and Trust are reported to Scrutiny and highlight the impact services are having and how service development plans can respond to local needs and priorities.

There have been a number of ways in which the Trust delivers services and facilities for disabled people for example, the B leaf and Wood B projects, which are work-based horticultural and carpentry projects for adults with disabilities. The library and arts services offer a range of activities to help those with disability enjoy the cultural offer. Examples include: Bounce and Rhyme sessions led with sign language, Booklink service to housebound customers, BoomBox access to audio downloads for those with limited manual dexterity, and a fully inclusive youth theatre. The benchmarking of the Trust's current performance of libraries, shows that Bridgend is in the top quartile in a number of important areas. The analysis showed customer satisfaction is at 97% overall across approximately 450,000 visits and issuing over 450,000 items of stock. Providing information and effective communication e.g. easy read formats will be developed through the period of the Partnership.

Supplementary Question from Councillor C Webster

As a parent of a disabled child, what has been highlighted in the response is that there are plenty of activities available for these individuals, but a lack of changing facilities in order for the disabled to be equipped to fully access such facilities. For example, not all disabled people require access to a larger toilet or bar. Many require a changing bed or hoist etc. Having these facilities in place, opens up improved accessibility to swimming pools, libraries, theatre and shopping. This was essential not just for disabled people, but also for their carer's. There were 2 such changing facilities available in Porthcawl and one also in Sarn Services. She asked the Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations and the remaining members of Cabinet, to 'open more doors' for the most marginalised and vulnerable in Bridgend.

Response from the Cabinet Member Wellbeing & Future Generations to Councillor C Webster

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations agreed that a lot of good work had taken place at facilities provided by or on behalf of the Council, and that organisations such as Halo had put facilities in place at their Leisure buildings, such as disabled toilets and showering facilities in order to meet required standards for disabled people. She added however, that she would look to take any necessary steps available to increase and re-modify these in the future, where necessary and where required. There were different types and categories of disabilities, and the local authority would similarly work with Social Enterprises and other arms of the Authority who provide services on the Council's behalf to ensure that specific facilities to cater for the disabled are provided where needed.

62. **NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR DBF WHITE**

Councillor DBF White made the following Notice of Motion to which he give an introductory speech, as to why he had proposed this. This Notice of Motion was duly seconded. He also asked that a Recorded Vote be taken on the Notice of Motion:-

"This Council, requests that the Leader write to the Secretaries of State and the relevant Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary outlining our concerns over the decision made by the UK Government not to proceed with full electrification of the South West Wales line between Cardiff and Swansea; and to call on the UK Secretary of State for Transport, to immediately reverse this decision.

This Council unequivocally condemns the announcement on the day that the UK Parliament went into summer recess without consultation not to proceed with electrification of the rail line to Swansea. This decision will have a significant long term economic and environmental consequences for Bridgend. It is a betrayal of the people of Bridgend. This Council restates that it believes that Bridgend requires modern regional transport infrastructure investment to ensure the future prosperity of the region.

We note with dismay that since the announcement not to proceed with electrification to Swansea, that the UK Government has stated its support for a £30bn Cross rail 2 project. This demonstrates the London centric thinking of the UK Government.

We also note the UK Government has announced that it is to ban petrol and diesel vehicles in the UK from 2040. We believe this ban should extend to locomotives and that diesel trains should also be banned, and renewable energy schemes should be progressed as a matter of urgency, so that the electric vehicles of the future are powered by clean renewable energy."

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Councillor Watts whilst agreeing with the sentiment of this Notice of Motion, felt that it should be reworded as follows, and therefore moved an amendment to the original Motion which was also duly seconded:-

“This Council requests that the Leader write to the Secretary of State for Wales and the Secretary of State for Transport along with the relevant Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary outlining our concerns over the decision made by the UK Government not to proceed with the full electrification of the South Wales West line between Cardiff and Swansea and to call on both Secretaries of State to reverse their decision immediately.

This Council believes that Bridgend requires modern regional transport infrastructure investment to ensure the future prosperity of the region and condemns the announcement, without consultation, not to proceed with the electrification of the rail link to Swansea, as this decision will have significant long term economical and environmental consequences for the people of Bridgend for whom it is seen as a betrayal.”

Following comments made by a number of Members on both Notice of Motions, and after some due consideration, Councillor Watts advised that he wished to withdraw his amendment as detailed above in favour of Councillor White’s Notice of Motion. However, this was not supported by the seconder, and therefore the motion to amend remained to be determined.

Following advice from the Legal Officer, an electronic vote was conducted on whether or not a Recorded Vote should be taken on the amended Notice of Motion, the result of which was as follows:-

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
40	0	1

Therefore, Council agreed that a recorded vote be taken on the amended Notice of Motion, the result of which was as follows:-

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Cllr T Giffard	Cllr G Thomas	Cllr T Beedle
Cllr L Walters	Cllr J Tildesley	Cllr K Edwards
Cllr C Webster	Cllr DBF White	Cllr R Penhale-Thomas
Cllr S Vidal	Cllr N Burnett	Cllr K Watts
4	Cllr R Collins	4
	Cllr P Davies	
	Cllr J Gebbie	
	Cllr R Granville	
	Cllr S Baldwin	
	Cllr J Radcliffe	
	Cllr RM James	
	Cllr J Williams	
	Cllr R Shaw	
	Cllr G Howells	
	Cllr B Sedgebeer	
	Cllr JP Blundell	
	Cllr M Jones	
	Cllr R Stirman	
	Cllr AJ Williams	
	Cllr D Owen	
	Cllr J McCarthy	
	Cllr M Kearns	

Cllr D Lewis
Cllr JE Lewis
Cllr JC Spanswick
Cllr CA Green
Cllr D Patel
Cllr HJ David
Cllr HM Williams
Cllr R Young
Cllr PA Davies

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The amendment to the original Notice of Motion therefore did not carry.

Council then had an electronic vote in order to decide whether a Recorded Vote should be taken on Cllr White's original Notice of Motion, the result of which was as follows:-

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
36	0	0

A Recorded Vote was then taken on the Notice of Motion, the result of which was as follows:-

<u>Against</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Cllr T Giffard	Cllr G Thomas	Cllr C Walters
Cllr A Pucella	Cllr J Tildesley	Cllr K Watts
Cllr C Webster	Cllr DBF White	
Cllr S Vidal	Cllr N Burnett	
5	Cllr R Collins	
	Cllr P Davies	2
	Cllr J Gebbie	
	Cllr R Granville	
	Cllr S Baldwin	
	Cllr J Radcliffe	
	Cllr RM James	
	Cllr J Williams	
	Cllr R Shaw	
	Cllr G Howells	
	Cllr B Sedgebeer	
	Cllr JP Blundell	
	Cllr M Jones	
	Cllr R Stirman	
	Cllr AJ Williams	
	Cllr D Owen	
	Cllr J McCarthy	
	Cllr T Beedle	
	Cllr D Lewis	
	Cllr JE Lewis	
	Cllr JC Spanswick	
	Cllr CA Green	
	Cllr D Patel	
	Cllr HJ David	
	Cllr HM Williams	
	Cllr R Young	
	Cllr K Edwards	
	Cllr R Penhale-Thomas	

Cllr CE Smith
Cllr PA Davies
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RESOLVED: That Council agreed to accept the Notice of Motion made by Councillor DBF White, as detailed in Agenda Item 15.

63. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR DG HOWELLS

Councillor DG Howells made the following Notice of Motion, to which he gave an introductory speech, as to why he had proposed this. He asked if a Recorded Vote could be taken on this Notice of Motion.

Councillor T Giffard advised Members that he did not support the Notice of Motion, and that this should not be considered until after the UK's Autumn Budget.

An Electronic Vote was then taken to decide as to whether or not a Recorded Vote should be taken on this Notice of Motion, the result of which was as follows:-

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
32	2	0

Therefore, Council agreed that a recorded vote be taken on the Notice of Motion, the result of which was as follows:-

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cllr G Thomas	Cllr A Pucella
Cllr N Burnett	Cllr T Giffard
Cllr R Collins	Cllr L Walters
Cllr R Granville	Cllr C Webster
Cllr S Baldwin	Cllr S Vidal
Cllr J Radcliffe	Cllr K Rowlands
Cllr T Beedle	Cllr K Watts
Cllr K Edwards	
Cllr R Penhale-Thomas	7
Cllr J Williams	
Cllr R Shaw	
Cllr G Howells	
Cllr B Sedgebeer	
Cllr JP Blundell	
Cllr M Jones	
Cllr R Stirman	
Cllr AJ Williams	
Cllr D Owen	
Cllr J McCarthy	
Cllr M Kearns	
Cllr D Lewis	
Cllr JE Lewis	
Cllr D Patel	
Cllr HJ David	
Cllr HM Williams	
Cllr CE Smith	
Cllr R Young	

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Cllr RM James
Cllr PA Davies
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RESOLVED: That Council agreed to accept the Notice of Motion made by Councillor DG Howells, as detailed in Agenda Item 16.

64. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 4.55 pm