

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2017

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2017 AT 15:00

Present

Councillor PA Davies – Chairperson

S Aspey	SE Baldwin	TH Beedle	JPD Blundell
NA Burnett	MC Clarke	N Clarke	HJ David
P Davies	DK Edwards	J Gebbie	T Giffard
CA Green	A Hussain	M Jones	MJ Kearns
DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	JR McCarthy	D Patel
RL Penhale-Thomas	AA Pucella	JC Radcliffe	KL Rowlands
B Sedgebeer	RMI Shaw	CE Smith	JC Spanswick
RME Stirman	G Thomas	T Thomas	JH Tildesley MBE
E Venables	SR Vidal	MC Voisey	LM Walters
KJ Watts	CA Webster	DBF White	PJ White
A Williams	AJ Williams	HM Williams	JE Williams
RE Young			

Apologies for Absence

RJ Collins, SK Dendy, RM Granville, DG Howells, RM James, B Jones, DG Owen and SG Smith

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Randal Hemingway	Head of Finance & Section 151 Officer
Andrew Jolley	Corporate Director Operational & Partnership Services
Gary Jones	Head of Democratic Services
Darren Mepham	Chief Executive
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities

102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor DRW Lewis declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11., in that he was Chairperson of the Credit Union.

Councillor JE Lewis declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11., in that she was a member of the Credit Union.

103. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the amended Minutes (as tabled) of a meeting of Council dated 29 November 2017, be approved as a true and accurate record.

104. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

Mayor

The Mayor welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting.

She announced that earlier this month she/her Consort visited the Princess of Wales Hospital and surprised staff on all of the wards by handing out Santa sacks. The idea of the Santa sacks was the brainchild of two local veterans Tom and Alistair who asked local firms for donations of biscuits chocolates and goodies as an 'Act of Kindness' for the hospital staff. She added that they also returned to hand out a large number of toys donated by a toy firm from Yorkshire. She extended thanks to both veterans who had made this possible; the staff in POW who laid on tea, coffee and mince pies donated by local Tesco stores and to the toy firm who have promised to donate more toys in 2018.

She had attended several Carol Services including one in the Mansion House hosted by the Lord Mayor of Swansea. My own Carol Service for the Mayors Charities and St Johns Church in Cardiff helped to raise funds for the St Johns Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. The hospital performed 113,000 eye operations often in very difficult circumstances.

Numerous Christmas visits had also been made to all hostels, nursing homes and sheltered accommodation where she delivered boxes of biscuits to them all.

She had also participated in the Bridgend Armed Forces Forum which was chaired by the Armed Forces Champion Councillor Richard Young. The event was attended by a number of support organisations and service providers including The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association (SSAFA), the Royal British Legion, Veterans and representatives of housing associations. The Forum provided an opportunity for organisations here in Bridgend to come together and look at how the support of the Armed Forces Community can be improved. Future meetings of the Armed Forces Forum have been planned for next year to take forward the good work that has been started recently.

The Mayor advised that she had enjoyed meeting the Young people in Heronsbridge School who performed 'Beauty and the Beast'. It was very moving and the singing was a joy for everyone. She wished to thank all those who performed, and the Staff for all the hard work they had put in sometimes in very difficult circumstances.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader wished to remind Members that the festive recycling and waste arrangements will see collections taking place two days later than normal during Christmas week, and one day later than normal in the week after New Year. All collections will return to their normal schedule on Monday 8 January. He advised that the vast majority of festive waste can now be recycled. It was anticipated that the biggest non-recyclable items will probably be Christmas wrapping paper and polystyrene. Householders can either take excess waste to a community recycling centre, or put it out in a separate black bag. Community recycling centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, but will be open on all other days from 8:30am – 4:30pm. Real Christmas trees can be recycled at the community recycling centres in Tythegston, Brynmenyn and Maesteg, or to the council's Waterton Depot in Bridgend from 2 January every day apart from Sundays. People could find out more by visiting the council's recycling pages at W-W-W dot recycle for Bridgend dot Wales.

The Deputy Leader confirmed some further dates for Members diaries.

There will be a pre-council briefing on 31st January for the Implementation of Universal Credit, and another on 28 February on the Local Development Plan. Social media

training has also been scheduled for 9am on Tuesday 9th January, and the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission will provide a briefing at 4pm that same day where they will outline their work over the next few years.

Equalities and Diversity training has been scheduled for 9.30am on 29th January, and again at 4pm on 6th February. This will be delivered by Stonewall, and is intended to enable members to confidently deal with LGBT issues arising from constituents. Look out for more information about this in the New Year.

The Deputy Leader confirmed that a report went to Cabinet yesterday on Shaping Bridgend's Future. In respect of this, he wished to thank members of the public for their participation in the consultation process regarding this. There had been an increase in their input to this when compared with last year, and possibly BCBC were now the most successful Authority in Wales when it came to consultation on this and the MTFs.

Finally, the Deputy Leader paid tribute to Mr Randal Hemingway, Head of Finance and S151 Officer who was soon to leave the Authority for pastures new. He confirmed that he had an excellent relationship with Randal, who he had a considerable number of one to one meetings with over the last 18 months, in order to make very difficult decisions on the finances of the Authority. He considered him to be both a workaholic and a very valued member of the Corporate Management Team. The Deputy Leader wished him well for the future.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities announced, that following the tragic accident in which Rhys Rubery lost his life, he was aware that many members have contacted the Welsh Government to urge them to help fund safety improvements along the A48.

These improvements were identified as part of an independent report that the council arranged to have carried out.

While our first funding bid to the Welsh Government was not successful, they did agree to place us on a reserve list of schemes.

He stated that he was pleased to be able to inform members that their concerns have been listened to, and that the Welsh Government has provided us with money taken from underspends on other projects so that we can start making headway on our plans.

A total of £100,000 is being allocated within this current financial year. We are going to use it to commence the initial works for the scheme and are hopeful of Welsh Government continued support next year to complete this important road safety improvement.

He then confirmed that he would like to thank colleagues at Welsh Government for listening to the Council on this issue, and he also acknowledged the efforts of members of this Council, in this regard.

The Cabinet Member Communities was pleased that the County Borough hasn't seen the level of early winter snowfall that other parts of the country have experienced, but many of our valley communities have still been affected and the freezing cold temperatures are making driving conditions treacherous across the whole area.

As usual, our highways team have been working around the clock to keep the County Borough moving, and to ensure that drivers, roads and properties alike all remain safe from the worst of the winter weather.

With 490 miles of road located throughout the area, this was no small feat, especially when you consider that the crews' duties also include things like unblocking gullies to avoid flooding, repairing potholes and responding to a wide range of problems, many of them at times when the rest of us are tucked up in bed.

They make a major contribution to our local communities, and he was sure that members would wish to join him in thanking our highways staff for their efforts.

Finally he announced, work on the £3m replacement of the 'tarmac beach' in Porthcawl was gathering speed, and members can expect to see increased activity at the site over the coming weeks.

The existing beach has protected 260 seafront properties and businesses from flooding and coastal erosion since 1984, and in the New Year contractors Alun Griffiths will hold a public event at the Grand Pavilion where they will answer questions and demonstrate how the new replacement terraced beach will continue to do this important work.

There will be regular updates on the project, and people can keep an eye on latest developments by visiting the Community Dot Alun Griffiths Dot Co Dot UK website and searching for Porthcawl town beach under the 'projects' section.

Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help, advised that this year the BCBC Santa Appeal had again been organised by the Early Help Business Support team of the Education and Family Support Directorate. There had been a huge increase in the list of names of deserving children put forward this year, and in fact, we had received twice as many nominations as in previous years.

The appeal is hugely supported by Brynteg School, Bridge FM and Hafod Y Wennol hospital (RCT), but even with their fantastic efforts sadly the demand far outweighed the supply. He stated that the Social media route was then taken, and with the help of BCBC Marketing team, the Council received what could only be described as a phenomenal response from BCBC staff and residents of Bridgend.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help, confirmed that it was truly humbling to see all the presents that the Brynteg children unloaded yesterday together with all the sacks of donations from Bridge FM, Hafod Y Wennol and elsewhere. He wished to thank all of the staff who helped to identify the children initially, the children and staff of Brynteg for their amazing efforts and also to colleagues in his team and the wider teams who have helped with collation of the gifts. Obviously a huge thanks have to also go to all of the generous kind hearted people of Bridgend and BCBC staff who had purchased gifts for children less fortunate than themselves.

He added that support had also been received from a member of staff and a young person from the Youth Offending Service (YOS) who helped wrap and sort presents for the whole day.

It really was a team effort, and the Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help considered that this demonstrated the true meaning of Xmas.

Kind hearted residents, schools organisations and businesses had donated 100's of presents for disadvantaged children in Bridgend, so that they would not go without during the festive period.

This year, more than 300 underprivileged children would receive presents to open on Xmas Day thanks to volunteers such as those mentioned above, and businesses and residents alike.

Christmas was a time for giving, and who were more worthy of receiving a Xmas cheer than vulnerable children, particularly those in care who found this season extremely difficult.

As part of their annual 'Santa Appeal', Brynteg Comprehensive School raised an impressive £4,757.32 by organising an array of activities, such as selling sweets, sponsored walks, bake sales, a carolathon, and bag packing at Sainsbury's.

In total, pupils were able to purchase presents for 160 children and young people across the County Borough. In addition, they have donated £500 to Women's Refuge.

Once again, the Bridge FM's annual Xmas Toy Appeal received a phenomenal amount of donated presents, one hundred of which were dropped off to BCBC's Safeguarding team to allocate out to children in need.

Members of staff at Hafod y Wennol in the Vale of Glamorgan, an assessment and treatment unit for adults with learning disabilities, went the extra mile this Xmas by getting their friends and family on board to donate presents for children of all ages. Their generosity would see more than 70 children and young people receiving a Xmas gift bag filled with presents.

He then announced that he was delighted to see that WAG recently confirmed that it is to invest £68m in creating nineteen new community health and care centres across Wales.

Members would be pleased to know that Bridgend County Borough would be one of the areas to benefit from this significant investment, and talks were already underway that could see an all-new primary care centre established within the town centre, which would bring various NHS and community services together under one roof.

Described by Welsh Government as their single biggest targeted investment in primary and community care infrastructure, the provision of a new generation of integrated health and care centres forms a key part of the Taking Wales Forward agenda.

It was intended to establish a range of interlinked facilities that are much closer to the local community, and will require health boards, local authorities, housing associations and voluntary organisations to work together in close partnership.

The project was still at a very early stage, but will be subject to the agreement of successful business cases and confirmation that it can be constructed by 2021.

He hoped to bring Members more news on this exciting investment soon.

Staff in Childrens Social Care are proud to announce the completion of a new 52 week residential unit for children and young people with complex needs including a learning disability aged from eight to eighteen years; The new residential unit named Harwood House, the home name has been arrived at as it is the surname of the current caretaker whose home it used to be and who has worked at the school for over 30 years. Harwood House is based within the Heronsbridge school grounds and one of the admission criteria is that the young people attend Heronsbridge school.

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The unit was open for admission on the 16th November 2017 with the first young person moving in on that date, a second admission has recently been placed with a third placement being planned.

The formal opening of the home will take place on the 18th January 2018 within Heronsbridge school, and this had been a project that has been made possible due to positive working collaborations across the Councils various directorates.

Social work staff are delighted to report that the young people currently in situ are really happy with one social worker commenting that she "would have paid a million pounds to see that smile" when the child moved in and saw their bedroom.

The location and provision of this service will enable children young people and their families to remain close together being located in Bridgend County Borough as usually this type of service provision is further afield.

Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations confirmed that more than one hundred older people and people with disabilities attended the Bethlehem Life Centre in Cefn Cribwr recently for the 2017 'OlympAge Games'. Organised by the Prevention and Wellbeing department in partnership with Bridgend College and Sport Wales, the event saw teams from local community groups, care settings and day centres channelling their inner 'Mo Farahs' and competing in a range of special activities.

As well as being a lot of fun and offering a chance to make new friends, the games formed part of a wellbeing initiative designed to improve physical and mental wellbeing.

The participants were really proud to represent their communities. They enjoyed interacting and having fun with all the other groups, and several even remarked that they are already looking forward to the 2018 event. She wished to thank everyone who helped organise this impressive event.

Members may also want to let their constituents know that the Community Chest Grant Scheme is offering local groups and sports clubs the chance to apply for funding.

Run by Sport Wales via the Lottery Sports Fund for Wales and managed locally through Bridgend County Borough Council, the scheme welcomes approaches from 'grassroots' projects or initiatives which encourage people to be more physically active.

With a total of £29,000 still available, organisations can apply for grants of up to £1,500. Examples of how the fund has been used previously includes start-up costs, coach education, volunteer development, new equipment, training, initial facility and instructor hire and more.

Further funding is available for clubs promoting sports for women and girls, disability sports and social inclusion.

You can find out more about the scheme by visiting W-W-W Dot Sport Wales Dot Org Dot UK.

Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration announced that he was pleased last week when the Interim Director of Education and Family Support, asked him to provide a foreword to the First Edition Bridgend Schools termly newsletter. This newsletter

celebrates the outstanding work of our schools, and most of his announcements this month were taken from this newsletter.

Firstly, St Robert's Catholic School, Aberkenfig has become the first in Wales to achieve the SAPERE Silver School Award which has been presented in recognition of their commitment to the 'Philosophy for Children' approach. This in full was the Society for the Advancement of Philosophical Enquiry and Reflection in Education. Also known as P4C, this helps boost children's reasoning and higher-order thinking skills, and supports their self-esteem, motivation and communication.

Estyn has recognised Brackla Primary as an example of best practice for delivering learning through play. A new report has been published at the Estyn website alongside a short film, and the Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration, strongly recommended that members take a closer look.

Pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive raised an impressive £4,000 in just five days during this year's annual charity week celebrations which he felt was an incredible team effort. The money will be donated to various local charities and organisations.

Ysgol Cynwyd Sant and Bryntirion Comprehensive have been recognised with Excellence in Education awards at the recent Estyn awards, Cwmfelin Primary School has achieved Eco Platinum status, and Brynmenyn Primary has been working alongside schools from the Vale of Glamorgan on the 'Polly Nation' project which aims to make school grounds a natural habitat for bees and other pollinating insects.

Finally, following appearances at the Urdd Eisteddfod and on ITV's This Morning show, Croesty Primary's school choir has been chosen to perform at the London O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices 2018 Concert, where he was sure they will continue to impress all who hear them.

He extended his congratulations to them all for these very significant achievements.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive advised that he had two announcements to share with Council today. The first related to the objectives set for as Chief Executive and the second relates to some staff changes.

Chief Executive targets

All BCBC staff have a formal appraisal at least once a year. He confirmed that that included himself as Chief Executive, and he had recently met with the Member Appraisal Panel, who had set him a number of objectives over the coming months. He wanted to share with all Members what those objectives are, summarised as follows:-

1. Deliver corporate plan and MTFS
2. Review senior management pay structure (agreed at last meeting of Council) and review senior management structure as appropriate
3. Implement digital transformation and extend to maximise benefits
4. Continue to contribute to the leadership and development of the Cardiff City Deal ensuring that Bridgend's interests are protected.
5. Engage with Welsh Government individually and through national and regional fora to influence the emerging local government reform in Wales, and how this effects Bridgend.

6. Prepare for the migration of the Bridgend Locality from ABMU to Cwm Taf and, if agreed, oversee that change(s)
7. Commission a study or review of future demand for services to be placed upon the Authority for the next three to five year period
8. Ensure that the recommendations of the CSSIW inspection of children's social services be fully implemented.

Some of the above he added, would be cascaded onto Directors for incorporation into the various Business Plans maintained by the different Departments that comprise the Council.

Staff changes

He wished to inform Members, that Deborah McMillan, the Council's substantive Director of Education has been appointed to the role of Children's Commissioner for the island of Jersey. He was conscious that many members who joined the Council in May might not know this Officer. Deborah began a two year secondment to Welsh Government earlier this year and at that point Lindsay Harvey was recruited as interim Director for Education and Family Support.

It's a testament to Bridgend and to Mrs. McMillan that she was first invited to assist Welsh Government and now has moved on to become the Children's Commissioner, and he was sure Council would join him in wishing her well for the future.

This does mean that we as a Council we would need to move to appoint a permanent Director of Education and Family Support, and he was looking to pursue that in the New Year. We have been in discussion with Merthyr Tydfil Council about the prospect of sharing BCBC's Interim Director, with a view towards closer integration of the whole service and perhaps an eventual shared service in line with the direction established by Welsh Government. That too he felt was a testament to Bridgend, and in this case Lindsay Harvey, both of whom enjoy a strong reputation in education across the region and wider.

Clearly we will now be able to consider the proposal with Merthyr in a slightly different context, and he proposed further discussion with Cabinet and group Leaders in the new year, on how best to take that forward.

And finally, Members will be aware that today will be Randal Hemmingway's last appearance at the Council before he leaves BCBC to take up his new role with Carmarthenshire Council. When Randal joined BCBC he had not worked in a local authority before or been the S151 Officer in a Council. He felt Members would all agree that Randal had risen to both those challenges extremely well. He was grateful to him for that and for the commercial background and corporate and collegiate perspectives that he had brought to the role here.

The Chief Executive also introduced Members to Gill Lewis who is taking up a role with BCBC as interim Head of Finance and S151, as had previously been communicated to Members. Many Members would know Gill and will have worked with her before, but for new Members elected this year, Gill would be a new face. He was also grateful to her and to the WLGA for stepping in to provide temporary support, that would allow him to consider the permanent arrangements as per the objectives set for him in his appraisal.

105. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader reported that as Members may have seen that earlier this week, Welsh Government had announced their consultation on proposals for transferring healthcare services for people in the Bridgend County Borough area to Cwm Taf University Health Board instead of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

The Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services, Alun Davies AM, is intending to establish the County Borough in the South East Wales regional footprint for healthcare provision and social services, and complement existing economic and education partnerships.

Full details on the proposals are available at the Welsh Government website, and views were invited until the closing date of 7th March 2018.

The Leader was sure that Members will want to take a closer look, make their thoughts known, and encourage local residents to have their say.

The Leader advised that he reported to members at the last meeting about the possibility of developing a Logistics Hub here in Bridgend at Brocastle, for the construction of the third runway at Heathrow. We had dozens of local businesses that were very well placed to service such a Hub, and the Council were supporting the MP for Bridgend in organising an event in the Hew Year, at which we will showcase the successful businesses we had in the County Borough. When meeting with the First Secretary and the Secretary of State for Wales recently, the Leader had taken the opportunity to make a case for locating a Logistics Hub in Bridgend. The main purpose of the meeting with Damien Green MP and Alun Cairns MP, was to discuss the impact of Brexit on Wales. There was a united position from Leaders across South Wales, of all political parties, that when the shared prosperity fund is established, we need to maintain the level of investment currently being made in Wales through the European Union.

The Leader advised that we recently requested and held a meeting with Network Rail to discuss a Bridgend Transport Hub to improve access for bus services to Bridgend Railway Station. As members were aware, the Bridgend Rail station was poorly served by direct bus services, and this was largely due to the constrained road layout and access to the station. With funding from the European Union in place, we were ready to start work over a decade ago. This was scuppered at the last minute back in 2012 by Network Rail who had supported this, due to the land being required for electrification of the main line. At the meeting last week officials from Network Rail were very positive about our plans, upon which he assured he would keep Members posted.

Local Members would be aware, that work at long last was forging ahead at the former Margam opencast site.

The site had been a major concern for residents of Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr. As the original restoration scheme was not carried out by Celtic Energy and landowners Oak Generation, Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot Councils, have been working closely together with Natural Resources Wales and the Coal Authority.

The old industrial structures were being removed, landscaping work was taking place, and a new drainage system had been installed to ensure that water levels remain safe. Trees, shrubs and grass had all been planted, and with the void converted into a lake that measures 700m at its widest point, the site was destined to become a green open space, where nature could thrive.

In fact added the Leader, great crested newts, dormice and other rare species were already flourishing on site before the restoration works had begun. The Leader of Neath Port Talbot CBC, Councillor Gebbie and himself, together with Officers recently visited the site, and could see how wildlife had fought back and had already naturally re-colonised in many areas.

With many public rights of way set to be fully reinstated by the end of 2018, the local community was looking forward to seeing this former industrial area becoming a haven for wildlife which everyone could enjoy.

106. PORTHCAWL REGENERATION SCHEME

The S151 Officer and Corporate Director Communities submitted a report, the purpose of which was:

- a. To obtain approval from Council for a revised capital programme for 2017-18 to 2026-2027
- b. Advise Members that a report was submitted to Cabinet on 19th December 2017 which:
 - (i) Updated Cabinet on the Porthcawl Regeneration Scheme
 - (ii) advised that a proposal has been received from the Evans' families, to sell to the Council their leasehold interest in Phase 1 – land at Salt Lake Car Park;
 - (iii) presented the terms of this proposal, and set out the consequential impact on the remainder of the Porthcawl Regeneration Scheme;
 - (iv) advised Members of the 'due diligence' that has been undertaken to date, and the further measures which will be put in place to protect the public interest; recommended that the offer be accepted.

At its meeting on 19th December 2017, Cabinet authorised the Corporate Director - Communities, in consultation with the S151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to:

- (a) Acquire the Evans' families head lease and sub-lease interests in Salt Lake Car Park Porthcawl, at the price of £3,330,000 and terms set out in Appendix 1 of this report;
- (b) Vary the existing Owners Agreement dated 11th March 2011 between the Council and the Evans families, on the terms outlined in paragraph 4.11 of the report.

The report gave some background information, by confirming that in 2006, the owners of development land in Porthcawl agreed to work jointly, by bringing together the freehold and leasehold interests which overlay substantial land holdings within the town. The aim was to bring forward the land for sale, providing the owners with sale receipts to be split on a pre-agreed basis subject to minimum prices being achieved; and to deliver a clear planning context for disposal of sites for third party development.

In November 2007, the Porthcawl Regeneration Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) was adopted by the Council. This provided for new homes within the overall area plus major retail and leisure developments, community provision, new road systems, land set aside for health provision, and other areas of public amenity, including new sea defenses along Eastern Promenade and the Sandy Bay frontage.

The overall development area was divided into two phases of which:

- Phase One included Hillsborough car park, The Green and Salt Lake car park

- Phase Two comprised the Coney Beach Amusement Park and the former Sandy Bay caravan park.

The report then gave some information of the disposal history of the land, and that in 2014, following the failure of the sale of the site to Morrisons (and bids for sale of the site in 2010 to Tesco / Chelverton), various offers were made to acquire the Council's interest. These were turned down as there was no market exposure (in terms of securing best consideration) and the nature of the offer did not meet either the minimum price requirement or the regeneration objectives of the Council.

The Corporate Director Communities then added that in 2015 the parties agreed to review the development proposals in light of the large scale food retailers retreat from the market. A new Master Plan was commissioned to support the existing Supplementary Planning Guidance. However, the owners could not agree the final makeup of the overall development proposals.

In 2016 discussions on the Master Plan floundered, and the Evans' subsequently proposed that the Council consider purchasing their leasehold interest within Phase 1.

In terms of necessary expenditure, within the terms of the OA the Council agreed to fund "necessary expenditure" such as planning costs, in order to enable the development scheme to proceed. This was on the basis that it would be reimbursed from the capital receipts generated from land sales. No receipts have yet been generated. Within the terms of the Owners Agreement the Evans' are required to reimburse the Council on the 5th anniversary of the expenditure, commencing on the date of the Owners Agreement. No payment has yet been received on this and related commercial matters had also yet to be agreed.

The Corporate Director Communities then explained that paragraph 4.6 of the report onwards, detailed the pluses and minuses relating to the acquisition of the Evans' interest, and that their leasehold interest in the land had to be carefully considered, in that the Authority had to be sure that any deal it was pursuing was a 'value for money' option.

A preliminary valuation was undertaken by an independent Property Agent, in order to establish the price range within which the Council could consider acquisition, and from this, a provisional offer was made by the Council in September 2017, with a short expiry date, and terms had now been provisionally agreed to acquire the Evans' interest on the heads of terms detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The next part of the report outlined proposed variations to the Owners Agreement, and some changes to these were contained in paragraph 4.11 of the report, whilst paragraph 4.12 related to due diligence where the Corporate Director Communities explained that the Council had taken steps to enter into this thoroughly and comprehensively, in order to ensure that it was obtaining value for money.

The Corporate Director Communities then referred to paragraph 4.13 of the report and risks and associated issues to the proposal, adding that any commercial investment of this scale had an element of risk attached to it, though it was felt that the benefits for the further generation of Porthcawl outweighed these.

He finally concluded his submission, by sharing with Council the report's financial implications with regard to the proposal.

The Leader and Cabinet Members in turn commended the report, and the Leader added that this was a significant investment for the area of Porthcawl that would emanate from

a Capital Receipt. He added that there weren't too many other areas within the County Borough that had the capacity to fulfill what was proposed in this location at Porthcawl in terms of a development of this size and magnitude.

A Member raised some concerns regarding the cost of the Scheme in terms of the level of investment being committed to it, together with the fact that a considerable number of fringe costs regarding the works to be undertaken, had not been included in the report. He also queried the extent of what the Evans' would gain financially from the deal, and the economic prospects for growth, when compared to the substantial financial commitment that the Council were contributing towards the proposal. He felt also that the report was untimely given the current financial restraints, and at a time when BCBC were about to increase Council Tax rates throughout the County Borough. He also raised some concern regarding what constituents in other areas of the County Borough would think about this level of monies being contributed to invest in Porthcawl, particularly those residents who live in some of the more deprived areas of the Borough.

The Corporate Director Communities whilst recognising some of these concerns, advised that issues such as those raised by the Member had been fully considered, as well as specialist advice having been received from a Property Agent and 2 independent valuers appointed to consider and provide advice on the market value of the land. This opportunity also had to be taken now he added, as this would not be available in the future. He felt therefore overall, that the proposal was a very reasonable and proportionate investment opportunity, that the Council could not really refuse to ignore.

The Members of the area of Porthcawl, together with other Members welcomed the report, adding that the proposal would give the Council a unique opportunity also to generate employment for young people throughout the County Borough.

The Leader concluded debate on the item, by advising that if the recommendations of the report before Members were overturned, then this would result in the regeneration of the biggest brownfield site situate within the County Borough not being developed upon. He felt therefore that there was a compelling case for the local authority contributing to this investment.

Members then agreed to have an electronic vote on whether or not there should be a recorded vote undertaken on the recommendations of the report.

The result of this was as follows:-

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
44	1	1

Therefore, a recorded vote was then carried out on the recommendation of the report, the outcome of which was:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Cllr G Thomas Cllr JH Tildesley Cllr DBF White Cllr N Burnett Cllr P Davies Cllr J Gebbie Cllr R Granville Cllr S Baldwin	0	Cllr T Beedle Cllr DK Edwards Cllr R Penhale-Thomas Cllr E Venables 4

Cllr J Radcliffe
Cllr T Thomas
Cllr K Watts
Cllr A Williams
Cllr J Williams
Cllr R Shaw
Cllr B Sedgebeer
Cllr JP Blundell
Cllr M Jones
Cllr M Clarke
Cllr R Stirman
Cllr AJ Williams
Cllr A Pucella
Cllr L Walters
Cllr S Vidal
Cllr K Rowlands
Cllr A Hussain
Cllr JR McCarthy
Cllr M Kearn
Cllr D Lewis
Cllr JE Lewis
Cllr JC Spanswick
Cllr N Clarke
Cllr CA Green
Cllr S Aspey
Cllr C Webster
Cllr T Giffard
Cllr MC Voisey
Cllr PJ White
Cllr D Patel
Cllr HJ David
Cllr HM Williams
Cllr CE Smith
Cllr RE Young
Cllr P Davies

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The vote for the recommendation was therefore carried.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the revised Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

107. **AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which, was to seek approval for the amendment of the Constitution to enable the Authority to meet its requirements in respect of the provision of agenda and minutes in accordance with the Welsh Language Standards.

He explained that Standard 41 required to produce in welsh, agendas and minutes which relate to formal meetings of the Authority.

The Monitoring Officer went on to state, that by law local authorities had to make agendas, minutes and reports available to the public 3 clear working days prior to the meeting.

Under provisions of the Constitution, Councillors could ask questions of the Executive and propose Notice of Motions, and had to give five clear days' notice of this.

Due to the fact that the Authority sent their agenda and minutes to Cardiff for translation, approximately 5 clear working days was needed between sending these off and preparing these documents for Committee send out ie 3 clear working days in advance of the meeting.

In order to have sufficient time to arrange welsh translation for the inclusion of a question or Notice of Motion as specified above, in time for the inclusion of these on any Council agenda, it was proposed that the above timescale be extended to 10 clear working days prior to the meeting. This concluded the Monitoring Officer, would allow enough time to arrange translation of these prior to the publication of both the English and Welsh agenda, and enable the Authority to meet the requirements of its Welsh Language Standards and legislation ie under a provision of the Local Government Act 1972.

A Member felt that an extension of 5 working days to accommodate the above process was too long, and asked if this could be reduced to somewhere between 5 and 10 working days.

The Monitoring Officer replied that this may jeopardise Committee meetings going ahead, if the bilingual information was returned in insufficient time to meet the date the Welsh and English agendas/minutes were scheduled to be dispatched.

The Leader concluded debate on this item, by suggesting that the proposals of the report be agreed to, and that a progress report be submitted to Council in 6 months.

This was agreed by Council

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That Council approved the amendment of paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of Part 4 of the Constitution, as outlined in paragraph 4 of the report, to extend the timescales detailed therein, from 5 to 10 working days.
 - (2) That Members await a progress report in respect of the above in 6 months' time.

108. **ELECTED MEMBER ROLE DESCRIPTIONS**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, in order to present the Elected Member Role Descriptions for approval.

He explained that the individual Member Role Descriptions had been developed from the model role descriptions produced by the WLGA, but tailored to the requirements of the roles carried out by Councillors within BCBC, attached at Appendices 1 – 19 of the report.

Appendix 20 to the report then outlined details of generic guidance for Outside Body roles.

Paragraph 4.3 of the report, then contained details of the Charter requirement ie the WLGA Charter for Member Support and Development, and in table format, descriptors for the individual Members roles, and this also included information on Outside Bodies.

Paragraph 4.5.1 of the report, recommended that the approval and use of the Member Role Descriptions, meet the suggested timescales as suggested in this section of the report.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the Elected Member Role Descriptions attached as Appendices to the report.

109. **INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING**

RESOLVED: That the Information Reports included within the above report of the Monitoring Officer be noted.

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

1. Question to the Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration from Councillor Timothy Thomas

What are your plans for the growth and promotion of Welsh Medium Education in the County Borough and how will this authority contribute towards the Welsh Government target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050?

Response The full details of the local authority's ambitions in respect of Welsh language education within the Borough are contained within the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020.

The local authority has identified 11 targets to promote Welsh language provision over the next three years.

We will:

- develop a feasibility of Welsh-medium provision for the 21st Century School Modernisation Programme – informed by a learner demand survey and by the strategic review and childcare sufficiency audit;
- increase the recruitment of children to Welsh-medium schools by 5% over the next three years by presenting promotional materials from within the local authority and from Welsh Government that outline the benefits of being bilingual and by adding extra provision where there is sufficient demand;
- continue to develop and implement a strategy to increase the retention of children in Welsh-medium education in foundation phase and in key stage 2, to include the planned review of additional learning needs (ALN) support for the Welsh-medium sector;
- ensure that Welsh-medium provision is available to all children of pre-school age and above whose parents/carers wish them to receive their care/education through the medium of Welsh, and this within reasonable travelling distance from children's homes;
- ensure a developing continuum from Welsh-medium primary education through to Welsh-medium secondary education, so that pupils who begin their primary education through the medium of Welsh will progress to a Welsh-medium secondary school and progress accordingly into further and higher education and training;
- ensure that Welsh is taught as a first and/or second language on the timetable of all our schools, in accordance with the National Curriculum's statutory requirements, and that all pupils are given the opportunity to sit an externally accredited examination in Welsh at the end of key stage 4
- ensure that children and young people with additional learning needs receive linguistic equality of opportunity in terms of Welsh-medium education, in line with

- the SEN Code of Practice for Wales and the Council's Strategy for Educational Inclusion and the new ALN Reform Bill;
- ensure that all pupils attending a designated Welsh-medium school can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of key stage 2;
 - work in partnership with all schools to improve the standard of Welsh as a first and second language;
 - further develop teachers' knowledge and understanding of Welsh as a first and second language, and provide opportunities for pupils to improve their knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic ethos/characteristics of Wales via the Cwricwlwm Cymreig; and
 - promote the wider development of pupils' Welsh language skills through specific activities and projects, in association with a wide range of partners.

It is hoped that these ambitious plans will support the Welsh Government's target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Supplementary question by Councillor Tim Thomas

'With reference to the first paragraph of your response regarding the 21st Century School's Programme, what are your band B capital funding commitments for Welsh Medium education in the County Borough? Also given the significant house building in the Valleys Gateway area, can we expect any Band B capital funding in the area to alleviate pressures on existing Welsh medium schools?'

Response: The Interim Corporate Director for Education and Family Support referenced the need to increase Welsh-medium education provision in the County and specified the requirement, as identified in Bridgend's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to promote the Welsh language. The Leader welcomed the work being undertaken on Ysgol Cwm Garw under Band A of 21st Century Schools Programme.

Second supplementary question by Councillor Altaf Hussain

Thank you for letting us know about the 11 targets to promote Welsh language provision for the next 3 years. Will the Cabinet Member let us know about the other objectives or actions which should be included in order to improve the infrastructure that helps people to use Welsh?

Response: The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration noted that Bridgend's WESP provides a number of objectives to promote Welsh; in schools, with families and in the workplace. The Interim Corporate Director for Education and Family Support further explained that Welsh Government has identified several key actions to help people to use Welsh. He noted that BCBC will continue to work with Welsh Government to ensure our responsibility to promote the Welsh language is met.

2. Question by Councillor Altaf Hussain for the Cabinet Member Communities

Given the recent adverse weather conditions in the County Borough and the significant level of ongoing work within your portfolio i.e. potholes and street lighting etc. could the Cabinet Member for Communities advise me how this work has been prioritised. I am sure that this Council wishes to ensure that the risk of injury of our residents and the likelihood of road traffic accidents is minimised to prevent this Council incurring additional costs and supports the health and wellbeing of its residents.

Response: Our Highways Service is well versed with dealing with the weather conditions at this time of year.

We have an agreed winter maintenance plan (**copy in the Members room**) which outlines the way in which roads are prioritised for treatment with staff rota'd to manage the winter forecasting and gritting requirements of the Borough. They can also be deployed in the event of potential flooding incidents.

During periods of ice only events if calls are received off the main routes then an officer will attend to assess if spot treatment is required, and this will be prioritised alongside the ongoing precautionary salting i.e. when all primary routes have been completed and time allows attendance.

In the event of more adverse conditions such as snow, resources would be redeployed from routine maintenance to tackle that immediate issue. Generally these are short lived events and we can resume our normal maintenance functions.

In relation to highway defects the authority carry out regular inspections of the highway to check for defects. However, if any defect such as a pothole is reported to the Council through its call centre it will be initially assessed to ascertain whether an individual inspection is required to quantify the defect, then if appropriate to be scheduled for repair. In the instance of an emergency safety defect these would be given a 24hr response time and other repairs would be scheduled for action within 28 days if warranted.

For our street lighting during May, June and July we were averaging around 150 requests for service per month with an average response of 4 days to attend and undertake a repair (excluding signs and cable faults)

In November we had 296 requests for service with an average of 4.72 days response. Up to 12th Dec we had 535 tickets with an average response of those completed of 5.65 days.

Whilst our target response time for street lighting repairs is 5 days the winter months place additional pressure on this alongside provision and maintenance of Christmas decorations.

Supplementary question by Councillor Altaf Hussain

I thank the Cabinet Member for his response and earlier announcement in the Chamber. I remain concerned about the Member Referrals, which when submitted and sometimes marked for an urgent or immediate action by the Councillor is forwarded to the concerned department giving them 10 days to respond and it may take the department many more days, weeks or months to act. We have the recent example of Keir when the waste was left for days and days on our road sides. My question is who prioritises these Member Referrals? It should not be that we are creating unmanageable waiting lists as we have in NHS because we failed to prioritise the patient referrals.

Response: The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services advised that Member Referrals are received by the Member Services Section, and are then sent to the relevant Directorate for actioning within a 10

day period. In this time the Referral could be fully resolved and the Member would be advised of this accordingly. However, on occasions the Referral may need further investigating and input by a number of different Directorates and even bodies external to BCBC. This would therefore take longer and the Member would be advised of this accordingly. The Corporate Director Communities added that there is a methodology in place for processing Referrals, and prioritising these also. However, a large number of Referrals were referred to his Directorate and these, for example, could be for requests to remedy pot holes on a highway, or to increase the use of street lighting etc, in dimly lit areas. The problem was however, that his Directorate in particular had been the subject of recurring budget cuts over the last number of years, and there was insufficient resources to undertake a lot of work requested by constituents through their local Member, and therefore Referrals had to not only be prioritised, but also could often only be remedied in a relatively short space of time, if they were classed as urgent or a danger to the public. Other less important Referrals took a lot longer to resolve in order of priority. The Cabinet Member Communities concurred with what the Officers had said, and added that sometimes rather than to complete a Referral, it would save time if a local Member contacted the appropriate Officer in the relevant Directorate directly, or alternatively approached the relevant Cabinet Member (directly also).

111. NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Bridie Sedgebeer

NatWest Closures in Bridgend County

This Council expresses its great concern over the proposed closures of NatWest Bank Branches in Pencoed, Maesteg and Porthcawl.

The proposal to close these three branches in our County will be detrimental to the prosperity of our communities. Customers, particularly elderly residents, rely on being able to pop into their local branch to manage their money.

The provision of local, face-to-face banking facilities has been reduced significantly over the past few years and will leave Pencoed without a branch of any bank. Technological change is helping customers access banking services in different ways but banks must not ignore the needs of those customers who are unable to use/engage with these new ways.

This council requests that the Leader writes to NatWest, to ask it to reconsider its position on the closure of these three branches and to agree to take reasonable action to support residents, community groups and businesses to explore possible alternatives, including working with credit unions and neutral shared branches.

RESOLVED:

That Council supported the above Notice of Motion, subject to the following:-

1. That the Council also pursues through the appropriate avenues Mobile Banking
2. That MP's and AM's be lobbied to encourage further use of Credit Unions and Community Banking, through shared services.

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3. That the feasibility of further cash points be pursued in the location of the Valleys Gateway, and at locations regularly used by the general public, including those owned or run by the local authority. This could be taken up with LINC.

112. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 17:10