

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 28 MARCH 2018 AT 15:00**

Present

Councillor PA Davies – Chairperson

S Aspey	SE Baldwin	TH Beedle	JPD Blundell
NA Burnett	MC Clarke	N Clarke	RJ Collins
HJ David	P Davies	SK Dendy	DK Edwards
J Gebbie	RM Granville	CA Green	A Hussain
RM James	M Jones	MJ Kearn	DRW Lewis
JR McCarthy	DG Owen	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
MC Voisey	LM Walters	CA Webster	DBF White
PJ White	A Williams	AJ Williams	HM Williams
JE Williams	RE Young		

Apologies for Absence

T Giffard, DG Howells, B Jones, JE Lewis, SG Smith, SR Vidal and KJ Watts

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Jackie Davies	Head of Adult Social Care
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Gary Jones	Head of Democratic Services
Sarah Kingsbury	Head of Human Resources, Organisation and Development and Customer Services
Gill Lewis	Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Helen Pembridge	Team Leader - Neighbourhood Services
Andrew Rees	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities
Kelly Watson	Group Manager Legal & Democratic Services

139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Councillor JC Spanswick declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 12 – Pay Policy Statement 2018-19 as members of his family are employed by the authority and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor DBF White declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 12 – Pay Policy Statement 2018-19 as his wife is employed by the authority and left the meeting during consideration of this item. Councillor White also declared a personal interest in this item as his daughter is employed by the authority.

Councillor PJ White declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 12 – Pay Policy Statement 2018-19 as his sister is employed by the authority and left the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Corporate Director Social Services & Wellbeing, Corporate Director Communities, Interim Corporate Director Education & Family Support, Interim Head of Finance, Group Manager Legal and Team Leader – Neighbourhood Services declared an interest in agenda item 12 – Pay Policy Statement 2018-19 and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

140. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Council of 28 February 2018 be approved as a true and accurate record.

141. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

Mayor

The Mayor informed Council of the engagements which she had attended in the past month which included a tour of Heronsbridge School, attending the Building Excellence Awards and 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of 3 residents in the County Borough. The Mayor had also visited Cefn Cribwr Primary School and had attended a dinner party for Civic Heads hosted by the Lord Mayor of Swansea. The Mayor was also pleased to have presented awards to individuals and groups at the Annual Citizenship Awards and had also attended the Palm Sunday Service of Remembrance at Margam Crematorium. The Mayor also attended an event organised by the Citizens Advice Bureau along with the Leader, Cabinet Members and Huw Irranca Davies AM.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader informed Council of the revised arrangements for recycling and waste collections over the forthcoming Easter weekend. He also advised Members of some of the outcomes from the recent Democratic Services Committee meeting, in that there would be a review of the Member referral system. He also drew Members' attention of the requirement for them to complete E-learning modules by 1 June and of the forthcoming Development Control Committee training; Member Development sessions and pre-Council briefings.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities announced that he had attended the recent Building Excellence Awards organised by the Building Control Team. He also informed Members that the Council would shortly be recruiting to a number of positions for School Crossing Patrols for which it had vacancies.

Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help announced that the Council had recently marked World Social Work Day by inviting people to find out more about the role social workers play within the community. A display was also set up in the foyer of the Civic Offices and he shared some of the lines from a poem which had been written anonymously by a social worker.

Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations informed Council that she was pleased to see Gemma Hartnoll receive a Mayor Citizenship Award for her WINGS

Cymru initiative, which had to the trial of offering menstrual products across 14 schools in the County Borough.

Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration announced that the Council had teamed up with the CF31 BID group to ensure free car parking would continue at the Rhiw which would again be reviewed in January 2019. He also shared with Members the recent achievements of Leanne Rees Sheppard of Tremains Primary School on reaching the finals of School Chef of the Year 2018 and Porthcawl and Bryntirion Comprehensive Schools where more than 100 sixth form pupils had made donations to the Welsh Blood Service. He informed Members that Litchard Primary school had received a 'good' rating across the board from Estyn in each of the five key inspection areas. He also announced that Heronsbridge School had been awarded a gold accreditation from the Investors in People scheme.

Chief Executive

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing announced on behalf of the Chief Executive the preparations being made by the Council for the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations which will come into force on 25 May 2018. The GDPR will replace the Data Protection Act to take account advances in technology and oversee how organisations will process personal information in future. She informed Members that Council policies are being updated to take account of breach notification procedures, fair processing policies, data protection updates, subject access and more.

Monitoring Officer

The Group Manager Legal reminded Members of the need for them to complete and formally declare any Related Party Transactions by 13 April 2018 for the financial year 2017-18.

142. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader informed Council that the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government is seeking views on local government reorganisation. The Green Paper sets out a proposal to reduce Councils from 22 in number to 10, with Bridgend, RCT and Merthyr Tydfil being combined into a single authority. He informed Members that at the same time, the Council was awaiting a decision on changes to health board boundaries, which would see Bridgend County Borough moving from ABMU to Cwm Taf.

He also informed Members that the Council had been thanked by the WLGA for its participation in the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. He stated that the WLGA had asked how many further refugees the Council anticipates being able to resettle in the forthcoming financial year and for the remainder of the resettlement programme which extends to 2020. The Leader had responded to the WLGA by stating that further resettlement will be subject to the availability of housing and school capacity. He had also clarified to the WLGA that the Council envisaged being able to accommodate a further five families during the remainder of the programme but could not confirm the exact number of refugees as this would be dependent on family sizes.

143. PROPOSED HEALTH BOARD BOUNDARY CHANGE

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing introduced Allison Williams, Chief Executive and Professor Marcus Longley, Chair of Cwm Taf University Health Board to address Council on the proposed Health Board Boundary Change.

The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf explained to Council that she had been in post for the past 7 years. She stated that Bridgend had benefitted hugely from being a part of the ABMU and had been at the cutting edge in providing services to the communities it serves. She informed Council that she had been grateful for the early discussions held with the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing in advance of a decision being made by the Cabinet Secretary on the proposed Health Board boundary change.

The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf informed Council that Cwm Taf had led on mental health services to older people and dementia care. She stated that Cwm Taf did not want to de-stabilise services and any changes to clinical services would be the subject of consultation. She assured Members that there were significant benefits in patients continuing to receive treatment from the hospitals they currently receive that treatment. She stated that Cwm Taf is taking a lead in an imaging academy, training radiologists of the future and would be opening a new facility in Pencoed at the end of April.

A member of Council questioned whether Cwm Taf would have a commitment to sustaining Maesteg Community Hospital. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf reassured Council that during her tenure, Cwm Taf had built 2 community hospitals and had developed 2 community health parks and she gave a commitment to community health services continuing.

A member of Council asked whether residents where possible, would receive services from Morriston Hospital or UHW in Cardiff dependent on where they live in addition to services being provided by the Princess of Wales, Royal Glamorgan and Prince Charles Hospitals. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf stated that patients requiring tertiary care services would go to either Morriston Hospital or UHW. She envisaged the three hospitals of the Princess of Wales, Royal Glamorgan and Prince Charles working together, all are of similar size and have challenges, but there would be flexibility in terms of staffing those hospitals following a change in the health board boundary. She stated that there are particular strengths and specialisms in the Princess of Wales and Royal Glamorgan Hospitals which would benefit the wider population region. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf informed Council that a change in health board boundary would also give rise to different opportunities.

The Leader informed Council that he had recently met with the Leader of RCT Council who was confident that a decision would shortly be reached by the Cabinet Secretary on the proposed change to the health board boundary. There would then be a need to shape a plan jointly for the revised health board.

The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf assured Members that this is the only potential change to health board boundaries under consideration and is not linked to the recent announcement by the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government on local government reorganisation.

A member of Council commented that a seamless transition was required on the potential change to the health boundary and asked whether a communications plan will be put in place. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf commented that it was critically important for public confidence and staff morale, many of whom live in the communities that Cwm Taf serves, that a communications plan is put in place as the changes will impact over 3 local authorities. She stated that a number of work streams will be put in place covering workforce, governance, finance and communication. She informed Council that if this is done well, it would not be noticed by the community; however the community will notice the benefits of the changes.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed Council that initial discussions had been held with Cwm Taf on mapping out priorities and it was of importance that the Council is part of that transition.

The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf informed Council that a joint scoping exercise is being undertaken but this could only proceed so far until a decision has been made by the Cabinet Secretary.

A member of Council commented that patients want to be treated locally and concern was expressed that patients may have to travel to Merthyr Tydfil for an appointment which is some way from Bridgend. The Chief Executive informed Council that there would have to be a proven clinical need for a patient to travel from Bridgend to Merthyr Tydfil or vice versa and there would have to be a good reason for that change. Treatment would be best delivered closer to home where there would be natural patient flows. There is a natural patient flow between Bridgend and the Royal Glamorgan, whereas there was no natural patient flow between Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil. She stated that a new technical facility was being developed which would change the way services to people who have had strokes are delivered. The Chief Executive of Cwm Taf informed Council that services were not being targeted to be moved and any such decision would have to be the subject of consultation.

A member of Council asked whether the Cabinet Secretary had a reason for the merger proposals. The Leader informed Council that the proposed health boundary change formed part of the discussion on public services reform and that most of the Council's collaborations were based on an easterly footprint, whereas the only collaboration it had to the west was in relation to health. He stated that he would write to the Cabinet Secretary requesting that he make a decision on the proposal as quickly as possible.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help thanked the Chief Executive for attending Council and understanding the concerns of Members.

The Chair of Cwm Taf Health Board thanked Members for the opportunity of discussing the proposed health board boundary change and commented that the views of Members would be fed back to the Health Board. He informed Members that there is logic to the proposals and a common approach and he looked forward to the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead.

144. COUNCIL TAX CARE LEAVER DISCOUNT

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer sought approval of proposed criteria for applying a Care Leaver's Discount.

She stated that a 2015 report by the Children's Society suggested that care leavers are a particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt and it was found that when care leavers move into independent accommodation and begin to manage their own budget for the first time, they find it challenging, particularly if they fall behind with their council tax. A number of recommendations have been made by the Children's Society, including making care leavers eligible for council tax discount.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that the Council has the power to reduce liability for council tax in relation to individual cases or class(es) of cases that it may determine. She stated that there was currently no specific exemption class for care leavers in Council Tax legislation and the only way to achieve an exemption for care leavers is to grant a discretionary discount under the legislation.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported on a proposal to apply a discount to all care leavers living in Bridgend County Borough up to the age of 25 as defined by the definition of a care leaver in the Children (Care Leavers) Act 2000 and that it should apply from 1 April 2018.

The Deputy Leader in commending the proposal stated that it was a relatively small commitment for the authority to make, but the impact on care leavers would be huge.

The Leader in responding to a question from a member of Council as to how the proposal would fit in with the corporate priority of helping people to be more self-reliant, stated that care leavers face significant barriers and find it challenging to manage their own budget for the first time.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- (1) approved the proposed criteria for applying a Care Leaver Discount as indicated in Appendix A of the report with it applying to care leavers up to the age of 25;
- (2) delegated authority to the Chief Finance officer to make decisions on valid applications which meet the criteria in Appendix A of the report.

145. **CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL - JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT BUSINESS PLAN**

The Corporate Director Communities presented the draft Joint Working Agreement Business Plan (JWA) which had been recommended by the Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet and sought its adoption as the formal "JWA Business Plan".

The Corporate Director Communities explained that the JWA Business Plan would address the updated Affordability Envelope, the methodology for agreeing the nature, scope and prioritisation of projects to be developed for the overall benefit of the Cardiff Capital Region, the methodology and responsibility for any external audits and performance monitoring and revenue and capital monitoring reports to be prepared by the Joint Committee and the frequency of those reports. He stated that the JWA draft Business Plan would now be referred to as the CCR Strategic Business Plan for the Wider Investment Fund to reflect its status and focus.

The Corporate Director Communities outlined the strategic context and spatial priorities of the draft JWA Business Plan and identified the emerging opportunities within the life of the plan. He explained that the agreement with the UK Government and Welsh Government provided £1.2 billion of which £734m was allocated to the Metro with the balance of £495m being made available as the Wider Investment Fund. The Regional Cabinet had stated that the high level aims of the Wider Investment Fund were the creation of 25,000 new jobs and £4bn of private sector investment. The first investment had been made in the Compound Semi-conductor Project, providing a loan of £38.5m with the potential to generate 2,000 jobs and over £380m of private sector investment. He explained that following this initial investment, Regional Cabinet had agreed in principle to support the Metro Central Project, Regional Housing Investment Fund, Digital Strategy and Skills for the Future schemes.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that the Council's contribution to the CCRD is £11.328m (9.4% of the overall Local Authority Partnership capital funding requirement) and that a recurrent budget pressure of £598,000 was included within the MTFs in 2017-18 to fund the Council's contribution. This was based on the funding profile at that time. She explained that due to a change in funding profile,

the Council was required to make a payment of £2,299,950 before the end of the 2017-18 financial year. This would reduce later years payments and require the expenditure and funding within the capital programme to be re-profiled but within the same overall programme envelope. The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer informed Council that in order to ensure there is no impact on capital funding availability it was proposed that the balance of funding required over and above the available £598,000 budget (£1,701,950) be met from under spends within other council wide budgets, which would require a virement from this budget to the Communities Directorate budget from where the payment will be made and a re-profiling of expenditure and funding for the scheme within the capital programme.

Councillor Andrew Morgan, Chair of the Cardiff City Capital Region City Deal addressed Council and expressed his thanks to the Leader and Chief Executive of Bridgend County Borough Council who along with Councillor Peter Fox, the Leader of Monmouthshire County Council and he had played a leading role in the development of the City Deal. He stated that all 10 local authorities in the Regional Cabinet are equal partners and have equal votes in making investment decisions. He informed Council that following the first investment made in the Compound Semi-conductor Project, it was on course to delivering 2,500 highly skilled jobs. The adjacent factory had also been secured, to generate £420m of private sector investment as a result of the loan of £38.5m made by City Deal. He informed Council that the Housing Investment Fund would see brownfield sites being tackled and will drive opportunities for apprenticeships and graduates.

A member of Council questioned the impact the proposed virement would have on the Communities Directorate budget. The Leader confirmed that there would be no impact on the Communities Directorate with the proposed virement of budget.

A member of Council questioned how would the Housing Investment Fund help small businesses and builders and support Bridgend based employers as it was believed that it would favour volume house builders. The Leader stated that Bridgend would benefit from the Skills for the Future and the Housing Investment Fund would be targeted towards smaller builders. In addition, the County Borough would benefit from the Digital Strategy and better transport links that would be derived from the Metro Central Project. He informed Council that approximately 7,000 people leave Bridgend to travel to Cardiff each day with people being employed across the region. He stated that no one could say for certain what benefits City Deal would bring to Bridgend.

A member of Council commented that one of the biggest barriers to economic prosperity across the region is the traffic congestion on the M4 around Newport and questioned when the motorway would be upgraded to alleviate that congestion. The Chair of the Cardiff City Capital Region City Deal commented that he is supportive of the black route and each time he had met business leaders they had requested that the issue of traffic congestion around Newport be addressed. He stated that it made it more difficult the region when connectivity issues exist and there was a need for a decision to be made on the preferred route around Newport without delay.

A member of Council questioned how City deal would be funded by the local authorities given the proposals for local reorganisation. The Chair of the Cardiff City Capital Region City Deal stated that RCT Council had set aside funding in order to generate a surplus which would not have an impact on the Council's budget. He stated that each of the 10 local authorities are committed to City Deal and this would be the ninth Council to vote on proposals for the Joint Working Agreement Business Plan. The Councils which had voted previously had done so unanimously. He stated that he had been given assurances that local government reorganisation would not be a barrier which would compromise City Deal. The Leader commented that this Council had budgeted for City

Deal in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and is affordable and that funding of £375m would be levered from the UK Government across the region.

A member of Council questioned the risk to the MTFS of using the under spend and how will affordability be addressed. The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer stated that the strategy is to fund internally where possible and that the proposal is a change in profiling which will reduce costs on revenue and borrowing and is a prudent use of resources.

A member of Council commented that it appeared that the proposal before Council would favour Cardiff who would derive a greater return on their investment and that the benefits of City Deal would only be realised in Cardiff. Concern was also expressed at the proposed use of £1,701,950 and its impact on under spends. The Leader commented that only project had been approved to date, being the Semi-conductor Project in Newport which is the subject of a loan and not a grant. He stated that the Metro hub will benefit the region as a whole and other programmes in City Deal would benefit Bridgend. He also stated that the Housing Investment Fund would benefit valley communities and all communities would benefit from digital skills and better connectivity. The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reassured Members that there would be no impact on budgets and that under spends would be considered. The Corporate Director Communities stated that the investment in City Deal would not be concentrated in Cardiff but scattered across the region. The Leader informed Council that the funding by the UK Government for the Metro project is match funded by the Welsh Government. He stated that the local authorities had direct influence on the other projects. He also stated that there in excess of 20 City Deals in the UK and that 2 successive UK Governments have honoured each City Deal and had signed up to sequels to City Deals and there was a need to ensure that this region benefitted from investment. He informed Council that all projects will have to go through the framework and be able to demonstrate that they deliver extra private sector investment.

Concern was expressed by at the decision not to electrify the railway line west of Cardiff and the lack of a half hourly rail service to Maesteg, whereas Cardiff was getting a new transport hub and questioned the benefits to Bridgend. The Deputy Leader commented that IQE, the Semi-conductor manufacturer is working with Bridgend College to ensure the right courses are delivered in to support those highly skilled jobs and to equip future generations. The Cabinet Member Communities commented that the upgrade to the valley line will benefit Bridgend and that the City Deal project will last for 30 years.

A member expressed concern that many valley communities have empty properties and that additional housing will worsen the problem, concern was also expressed that Bridgend would not derive benefits from City Deal. The Corporate Director Communities informed Council that there is a longlist of capital schemes awaiting to go through the framework. He stated that City Deal was about prosperity for the region and not confined to boundaries.

Concern was expressed at the financial management of City Deal and that the local authorities were being held hostage by having to make further investment. The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer informed Council the local authorities were still working to the same financial envelope and that the proposed internal funding from under spends was the most prudent.

It was moved and seconded that a recorded vote be taken on the proposals contained in the Joint Working Agreement Business Plan; but firstly, an electronic vote was required to see that there was a consensus of Members for this.

Therefore an electronic vote was taken, the result of which was as follows:-



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For (recorded vote)	Against	Abstain
38	7	0

As the vote for a recorded vote was carried, this was then undertaken, the result of which was as follows:-

For	Against	Abstain
37	7	3

<b>City Deal (Resolution)</b>	
The Committee considered the information contained within the report and a recorded vote was requested as follows:	
Councillor Sean Aspey	For
Councillor Stuart Baldwin	For
Councillor Tom Beedle	Against
Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell	For
Councillor Nicole Burnett	For
Councillor Mike Clarke	For
Councillor Norah Clarke	For
Councillor Richard Collins	For
Councillor Huw David	For
Councillor Paul Davies	For
Councillor Pam Davies	For
Councillor Sorrel Dendy	Abstain
Councillor Keith Edwards	Against
Councillor Jane Gebbie	For
Councillor Richard Granville	For
Councillor Cheryl Green	For
Councillor Altaf Hussain	For
Councillor Malcolm James	Against
Councillor Martyn Jones	For
Councillor Mike Kearns	For
Councillor David Lewis	For
Councillor John McCarthy	For
Councillor David Owen	For
Councillor Dhanisha Patel	For
Councillor Ross Penhale-Thomas	Against
Councillor Aniel Pucella	Abstain
Councillor James Radcliffe	Against
Councillor Kay Rowlands	For
Councillor Bridie Sedgebeer	For
Councillor Rod Shaw	For
Councillor Charles Smith	For
Councillor John Spanswick	For
Councillor Roz Stirman	Against
Councillor Gary Thomas	For
Councillor Tim Thomas	Against
Councillor Jefferson Tildesley MBE	For
Councillor Elaine Venables	Abstain
Councillor Matthew Voisey	For

Councillor Lyn Walters	For
Councillor Carolyn Webster	For
Councillor David White	For
Councillor Philip White	For
Councillor Alex Williams	For
Councillor Amanda Williams	For
Councillor Hywel Williams	For
Councillor Julia Williams	For
Councillor Richard Young	For
<b>Carried</b>	

**RESOLVED:** That Council approved

- a) The JWA Business Plan attached as Appendix A.
- b) The budget virement of £1,701,950 from underspends on other council wide budgets to the Communities Directorate to enable the payment to be made in full from revenue budgets in 2017-18, and that the scheme be re-profiled accordingly within the capital programme.

146. **PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD WELL-BEING PLAN**

The Leader invited Andrew Davies, Chair of the Public Services Board to present for approval its Wellbeing Plan.

The Chair of the Public Services Board informed Council that the Board has developed four wellbeing objectives using information received from partners and receiving feedback from citizens, namely;

- Best Start in Life;
- Support Communities in Bridgend to be Safe and Cohesive;
- Reduce Social and Economic Inequalities
- Healthy Choices in a Healthy Environment

The draft Wellbeing Plan has been the subject of public consultation, with 329 responses received. Feedback had been provided by the Welsh Government as part of the consultation which identified one significant issue, in that the plan needed to be more explicit on how the proposed steps will maximise the contribution to the national wellbeing goals. The Future Generations Commissioner had provided detailed feedback which stressed the importance of demonstrating how the PSB has considered each of the five of working in relation to each objective. The Commissioner had also provided advice on how the PSB might take steps to meet the objectives including links to research and other studies. In addition to this, the Commissioner's office has stated they will be looking at how the objectives of individual public bodies can contribute to the delivery of the wellbeing plan.

The Chair of the Public Services Board informed Council that each of the statutory members of the PSB must formally agree the Wellbeing Plan, which must be published by 4 May 2018. He paid tribute to the authority and the Chief Executive and staff for the way in which it operates the PSB. He stated that while the Plan is constrained by legislation, he commented on the importance of the PSB being subject to scrutiny.

The Leader thanked the Chair of the Public Services Board for his personal commitment to the PSB and placed on record his thanks to Mr Davies as Chair of the ABMU Health Board.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan.

147. REVIEW OF ELECTED MEMBER ANNUAL REPORTS PROCESS

The Group Manager Legal reported on the recommendations of the Democratic services Committee to update the Annual reports for Elected Members and the associated reporting process. She also sought approval of the process to be used for Elected Member Annual Reports and requested Council to note the designation of training for Annual Reports as recommended for all Members.

The Group Manager Legal reported that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 to make arrangements for all Elected Members to make and publish an Annual Report about their activities. She stated that the Democratic Services Committee at its meeting on 17 January 2018 was informed of the revised process for Annual Reports, which reflected changes to the Elected Member information currently available on the Council's website, the implementation of the Welsh Language Standards and minimise the resources to create, administer and publish Annual Reports in English and Welsh.

A member of Council questioned whether there is a review process in place to ensure the translation of the Annual report returned by the translator is accurate and unbiased. The Group Manager Legal informed Council that there is a framework in place and translators have to be accredited before they can be admitted to the framework by the National Procurement Service.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) approved the revision to the Annual Report process and the proposed schedule of publication for Annual Reports for 2017/18;
- (2) noted that the Democratic Services Committee has designated the training for Elected Members as "recommended for all Members".

148. REVIEW OF THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEW (PDR) PROCESS

The Group Manager Legal reported on the recommendation of the Democratic Services Committee regarding proposals for the Personal Development Review (PDR) process to be made available for all Elected Members. She highlighted the key elements of the PDR process as identified in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. The previous PDR process had been the subject to review to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

The Group Manager Legal reported that 3 PDR interview template options had previously been considered and with the Personal Development Review Document being considered by Council in 2013 as the most appropriate for use. All 3 template forms had been reviewed for re-consideration for future use in the PDR process. She highlighted the process to be undertaken to introduce PDRs and in order to facilitate its successful implementation, training sessions will be provided.

The Group Manager Legal highlighted the process for the identification of reviewers and the timescales to meet the deadlines for the submission of the WLGA Charter, the approval of the PDR process, its implementation and the successful completion of PDRs for the Senior Salary Holders.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- (1) approved the implementation of the Personal Development Review document as the vehicle for progressing the PDR process in Bridgend County Borough Council;
- (2) approved the proposed activities and timescale shown;
- (3) noted that the Democratic Services Committee has designated the training for Personal Development Reviews as “recommended for all Members”.

149. **PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018/19**

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development reported that the Localism Act 2011 requires local authorities to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement and she submitted the updated Pay Policy Statement for Council’s consideration for the year 2018/19.

She advised that the Pay Policy Statement is fully compliant with the Localism Act 2011. Negotiations are in progress on a two year deal with NJC employees, but have not been concluded. She stated that the current Redundancy and Redeployment policy is attached to the Pay Policy Statement as required. She further advised that once the pay negotiations had concluded, the Pay Policy Statement would be updated and re-presented to Council.

The Leader informed Council that this would be the last meeting of Council to be attended by Sarah Kingsbury, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development prior to her retirement. He placed on record his thanks to Ms Kingsbury for providing strong leadership in her role.

**RESOLVED:** That Council approved the updated Pay Policy Statement.

150. **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FROM: COUNCILLOR A HUSSAIN, COUNCILLOR T THOMAS AND COUNCILLOR M VOISEY**

**Question to the Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration from Councillor A Hussain**

South Wales Police have called for better mental health education in schools after a rise in young people being detained under the Mental Health Act and this has been supported by the Mind Cymru and they want that schools should do more to raise awareness of mental health issues and step in to help those who are having problems sooner.

Can the Cabinet Member for Education let the Council know how he is addressing this important issue?

**Response:**

There are a number of services provided by directly BCBC which seek to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children. Most of these resources are concentrated at the Tier 1 level but some are Tier 2 services. They would include:

**Tier 1**

- School-based interventions (eg nurture provision, personal and social education, Achievement For All, Thrive and ELSA)
- Social work interventions (eg attachment theory, cognitive behavioural theory and direct work with children)
- School nursing support

- Pastoral care in schools
- Anti-bullying work in schools and with the Early Help Team
- Flying Start - additional health visitor support
- Language and play, number and play and Welcomm speech and language support sessions
- Parenting support
- Young carers support

**Tier 2**

- There is one (part-time) specialist CAMHS social worker based in the Early Help Team
- There is one (part-time) specialist play therapist within the Early Help Team
- School-based counsellors
- Community-based counsellors
- B2P (Building to Progress) educational provision for children with mental health issues

In addition to these centrally-based services, the schools use a wide range of approaches and practices which aim to support the emotional and mental wellbeing of our children.

Services for children at more acute levels are provided by ABMU.

Councillor Hussain asked a supplementary question as to when will Wellbeing Officers be introduced to schools. The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support stated that there are a number of initiatives in place and that some schools already have Wellbeing Officers in place.

**Question to the Leader from Councillor Tim Thomas**

This question was withdrawn by Councillor Thomas.

**Question to the Cabinet Member Communities from Councillor MC Voisey**

Can the Cabinet member please advise how many Homes of multiple occupation (HMO's) of all sizes, there are in the county of Bridgend, and their distribution by ward?"

**Response:**

The main function of SPG is to provide clarity on a particular policy or strategy of the development plan. There is no specific policy in the Bridgend LDP relating to HMOs and the plan makes no commitment to produce HMO SPG unlike for example Open Spaces or Design. The production of SPG is very resource intensive and involves public consultation, the open spaces SPG for example has been in production for some time and a decision to embark a new SPG cannot be taken lightly.

Also, an SPG which will apply across the County Borough may not necessarily restrict development and in some cases may even provide justification for a proposal particularly if we set criteria for assessment. In other words if a proposed HMO complies with the SPG then the presumption could be that planning permission should be allowed. It could even inadvertently 'direct' HMO development to town centre areas where there are likely to be larger properties and relaxed car parking policies. At present any such application is determined on its own merit.

We have had 5 applications for HMOs and 7 enforcement complaints across the County Borough over the last 3 years, which would not suggest that there is a particular issue

with this type of development in the wider area however, you may be aware that recent changes to the Use Classes Order has now brought smaller HMOs under planning control and this could result in more applications in the future. I appreciate your concerns about a proliferation of HMOs in particular ward and that this could potentially change the character of the area over time. This is something that we could look at as part of the development plan review (whichever form it takes), but this will need to be informed by evidence and the local housing needs assessment will also provide further information on future demands for housing supply in Bridgend.

In the meantime any proposal will be subject to normal planning assessment also taking into account concerns about concentrations of particular uses in a small area. There may also be other controls imposed under other licensing or consenting regimes, which may be relevant.

A list of Licensed HMOs which Shared Regulatory Services is required to maintain, and also figures relating to Non Licensable HMOs per area within the Borough was submitted. This list has been produced having regard to historical data that was obtained from service requests to the department and also a street survey that was completed in 2015/16 to identify potential HMOs.

Councillor Voisey asked a supplementary question as to what action is taken by the authority to ensure the safety of residents where the properties they are living in are unregistered and unknown HMOs and the work undertaken with partner agencies. The Team Leader Neighbourhood Services stated that Shared Regulatory Services will act on complaints received from tenants, Council tax, Building Control, Planning Department and the Fire Service in relation to properties which are unlicensed. Shared Regulatory Services is currently preparing a prosecution against the owner of an unlicensed property, who had failed to submit an application for a licence. The Team Leader Neighbourhood Services informed Council that the majority of HMOs in the County Borough do not meet the criteria for Mandatory Licensing (that they are of 3 or more storeys and have 5 or more occupants, and therefore do not require licensing. There is however other legislation, such as the Management Regulations which they are required to meet. She stated that Shared Regulatory Services are planning on doing a targeted mailing exercise to raise awareness and enforcement to ensure owners meet the requirements of both the Housing Act and Rent Smart Wales.

151. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ALTAF HUSSAIN

The Notice of Motion was withdrawn by Councillor Hussain.

152. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING

The Group Manager Legal presented a report, the purpose of which was to inform Council of the Information Report which had been published since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That Council acknowledged publication of the document listed in the report:-

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Published</u>
Related party Transactions 2017-18 & Statements of Accounts	22 March 2018

153. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

154. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as they contain exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12, 14 and 16 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above to consider the following items in private, with the public excluded from the meeting, as it was considered that in all the circumstances relating to the item, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

155. APPROVAL OF EXEMPT MINUTES

156. REDUNDANCY AND EARLY RETIREMENT COSTS IN EXCESS OF £100,000

The meeting closed at 18:04