

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL 2018

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL 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	T Giffard	CA Green	DG Howells
A Hussain	B Jones	M Jones	MJ Kearn
DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	JR McCarthy	DG Owen
D Patel	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	LM Walters	KJ Watts
CA Webster	DBF White	PJ White	A Williams
AJ Williams	HM Williams	JE Williams	RE Young

Apologies for Absence

RM James, RL Penhale-Thomas, SG Smith and MC Voisey

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Andrew Jolley	Corporate Director Operational & Partnership Services
Gary Jones	Head of Democratic Services
Susan Jones	Development Planning Manager
Gill Lewis	Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Jonathan Parsons	Group Manager Development
Andrew Rees	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities
Kevin Stephens	Democratic Services Assistant
Kelly Watson	Group Manager Legal & Democratic Services

156. MINUTES' SILENCE

The Mayor referred with sadness to the recent death of former Councillor Colin Teesdale who was a former Mayor of the County Borough, Cabinet Member and also a former of Maesteg Town Council. The Mayor requested Members observe a minutes' silence.

All present stood in silence in tribute.

157. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Councillor DG Owen declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 – Nantymoel Workmen's Institute as a Trustee of the Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club and Community Centre and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor JC Spanswick declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 – Nantymoel Workmen’s Institute as a family member is a Trustee of the Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Group Manager Legal declared an interest in agenda item 16 – Appointment of Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

158. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

159. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

Mayor

The Mayor informed Council of the engagements which she had attended in the past month which included opening the annual Book Fayre in the Westward Centre, Cefn Glas in conjunction with the Lions which had raised £180,000 for local charities. The Mayor had also attended events to mark the Centenary of the RAF within the County Borough, in Swansea and in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Mayor was also pleased to have visited residents, Mr and Mrs Thomas who were celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary. The Mayor and Consort attended a social evening in the Heronston in aid of her charities, 2 further events are to be held to support her chosen Charities with a Tom Jones Tribute evening on 17 April at the Hi Tide and the Gala on 28 April taking place at the Heronston.

The Mayor also announced that she had opened the Veterans ‘call in’ for Veterans and families held in the Zone. She thanked the ladies in the Zone and the franchise holder of Subway for providing the catering and Mr Gareth Evans and the veterans who belong to a charity called ‘stepping out’ which is a charity for the forces for organising everything. She also thanked Madeleine Moon MP and members of the Cabinet for their presence at the event.

The Mayor announced that she had attended the Senedd to celebrate the Centenary of the St Johns Ambulance. She had also visited the Westward Centre for a celebration of the ‘Young at Heart’ and wished this Group well for the future. The Mayor was asked by the Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan Dame Kate Thomas if she could think of a person who deserved to go to the forthcoming Royal Wedding and of the worthy recipients she had recommended the Hodge family from Bettws who were nominated by Councillor Martin Jones. She stated that the family had lost their son two years ago through Leukaemia and had had raised over £20,000 for Cancer.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader informed Members that nearly 10,000 households had signed up to the absorbent hygiene products collection since it was launched in June 2017. So far, 662 tonnes have been diverted from going to landfill, and sent to the pioneering Nappicycle plant in Ammanford instead who produce recyclable materials. He requested Members’ assistance in reminding their constituents of a scheme whereby parents of young children can take advantage of a discount deal on re-usable ‘real nappies’.

He also announced that new rates of pay had been agreed for all NJC employees effective from 1 April 2018 and the increase will be paid from May 2018. He stated that

the minimum wage will therefore reach £9 per hour by 1 April 2019, which is in line with the Chancellor's wish that the national minimum wage should be £9 an hour by 2020.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities informed Members that the large tulip tree located directly opposite the Civic Offices following an assessment is diseased and must be felled in the interests of safety. Its removal would be undertaken at the same time as the current cycle path works and new trees have been planted adjacent to the site of the tulip tree as part of that project.

He announced that the Welsh Government had informed that the funding bid to carry out a full range of road safety improvements along the A48 between the Broadlands and Waterton roundabouts has been successful.

This follows some preparatory work which was carried out along the 5km route late last year. The proposed improvements range from new pedestrian refuges at key points along the route, resurfaced footpaths and extended footway links to new signage, new road markings, and undergrowth clearance work. A new 50mph speed limit could also be proposed between the Ewenny and Broadlands roundabouts instead of the current 60mph limit.

Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help informed Members that the new transitional fostering scheme is about to begin and is intended to provide short-term specialist placements of up to 24 weeks that help children and young people who have a variety of complex needs and challenging behaviours. The overall aim of the scheme is to move the young person on into a successful, long-term arrangement that aligns with their needs and ambitions and he sought Members help in publicising the initiative.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help also updated Members as to the progress with the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH). He stated that the first phase had begun earlier this month when 12 members of staff from South Wales Police, Children's Services, Early Help and ABMU moved into the Ravens Court offices. They will be joined by further colleagues in the coming months until their numbers grow to almost 90 in total.

He also announced that following a question received from Councillor Alex Williams and in light of the recent Victoria Derbyshire television programme, the number of looked after children was 375 at present of these 266 were identified as being part of a sibling group. There were 103 sibling groups which comprised of between 2 and 6 children. The statement that *'58% of children currently in care in Bridgend have been split from their siblings'* has been derived from the number of sibling groups (not individual children) who were not all placed together. It comprised of 60 sibling groups (there were 103 in the total population of 388).

If the requestor had based the calculation on individual children rather than 'households/groups' the figure would have been 43%. This comprised of 115 individuals (there were 266 children with siblings in the total looked after population of 388). He stated that when this was analysed further it was notable that of the 115 individuals, 72 had been 'separated' by the local authority immediately or shortly after all becoming looked after at the same time. These 72 children represent 18.5% of the total looked after children population. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help informed Members that the Council would always follow best practice and seek to keep a sibling group together wherever possible as the first priority. There are some cases, however, where it was assessed that children will benefit from living separately. He stated that

Bridgend Foster Care make every effort to keep sibling groups together and are in a fortunate position to have some extended fostering families i.e. families that consist of several households providing foster placements. One family where the 3 adult siblings are all approved as fostering households and now one of their own children providing a fostering household, with another being assessed. This has recently enabled a large sibling group of 6 children being placed within this fostering family network and improving the sibling contact and opportunities to spend time together.

Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations informed Members that all current users of the Brynmenyn hostel have moved into alternative accommodation while urgent repairs are carried out on the building. The work is being carried out after the building showed signs of damage caused by subsidence. The hostel plays an important role in sheltering people who have been made homeless, and enables them to access other services that are designed to help them get back on their feet and find permanent accommodation. It also ensures that the Council does not have to use bed and breakfast accommodation to temporarily house families with children.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations announced that that a 'Step Out For Stroke' event is being arranged for next month, which is likely to include stroke awareness and 'know your blood pressure' awareness-raising sessions.

Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration informed Members that the mobile camera car which is capable of targeting unsafe or illegal parking outside schools is about to start patrolling. He stated that the car features automatic number plate recognition technology and is focused entirely on increasing road safety outside local schools, and helping to keep children safe. He also informed Members that a 'No Pass, No Travel' scheme is currently being trialled on school buses travelling to and from Brynteg Comprehensive as transport contractors have reported large numbers of non-eligible children attempting to use free school transport. As a result, a number of services have become severely over-crowded, which had led to safety concerns and behavioural issues on some routes. Once the trial is over, the results will be analysed before a decision is taken to roll the scheme out across other secondary schools.

He also announced that planning for the Festival of Learning 2018 is well underway, and Members should soon be receiving an events pack and invitation to take part. Schools are working closely with officers to develop a range of workshops and activities for both the symposium and learner's day, and a workshop programme has been issued to schools outlining how they can participate and benefit from the events.

Chief Executive

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing announced on behalf of the Chief Executive of the launch of the Council's new website and My Account. Residents were being encouraged to view the new website and to register for My Account and those who live in the County Borough can log in to link to their council tax account, make online payments, set up and manage direct debits and help the Council save money by opting for eBilling.

160. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader reported that he had requested a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport requesting an increase in the frequency of rail services to

Maesteg. He had also met with Network Rail to seek the removal of the level crossing at Pencoed.

He, along with the Cabinet Member Communities and officers had met colleagues in the Vale of Glamorgan Council to discuss the improved links between Junction 34 of the M4 motorway and the A48 which are under consideration. He stated that officers of this Council are looking into areas for improvement such as at Sarn Junction 36.

The Leader referred to the recent arson attack at the playground in Heol Las, Cornelly, the cost of the damage and structural condition was being assessed and as such the playground continues to be unavailable. He thanked the Fire Service for their prompt response to the incident, and he was sure that colleagues in South Wales Police will be pleased to hear from anyone who may have further information that will support their investigation, and which can be reported by calling the 101 number and quoting reference number 1800 1300 11.

The Leader was delighted to see the local community playing a central role in naming the new Extra Care developments currently underway in Maesteg and Ynysawdre. The extra care facility being developed in Maesteg will add a total of 45 apartments to the ongoing initiative and has been named 'Ty Llwynderw' by resident Barry Walters in recognition of the former Lywnderw secondary modern school. Ty Llwynderw will be located on 'Cae'r Ysgol' which translates as 'School Field'. He announced that the Ynysawdre scheme which is being constructed on the site of the former Archbishop McGrath School on land that is next to both Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen and the new Brynmenyn Primary School, will offer 25 Extra Care apartments, 15 residential care rooms and a range of communal facilities and has been named Ty Ynysawdre by residents Sally Hallett and Ann Szopa. The new road on which the development will sit, has been named by resident Jayne Taylor as 'Lôn Derw' or 'Oak Lane'.

161. NANTYMOEL WORKMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Corporate Director Communities sought the approval of Members in their capacity as Trustees of the Charity, the Nantymoel Workmen's Institute, to close and wind up the existing charity and to exercise their statutory powers under sections 267-274 of the Charities Act 2011 to transfer all of the charity's assets to a charitable incorporated organisation established with substantially similar charitable objectives, the Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club and Community Centre.

He reported that following the closure of the Berwyn Centre in 2012, the consent of the Charity Commission had been sought for the proposed demolition of the building, who had advised that its demolition would cause other long term issues which would need to be addressed in due course. He stated that the Berwyn Centre was held in trust by the Council, with each of its elected members acting as a trustee of the charity responsible for it, namely the Nantymoel Workmen's Institute. Following the demolition of the Centre, the Council would no longer be able to fulfil the charitable purpose of the Institute and the Charity Commission set out a range of options for consideration. He stated that the preferred option which emerged was the land on which the Berwyn Centre was sited (not the wider piece of land that surrounded the centre) and the funds held by the existing charity be transferred to another local charity with substantially similar charitable objectives. To that end the Council supported the establishment of a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club and Community Centre, which was established with charitable purposes substantially similar to all of the purposes of the Nantymoel Workmen's Institute.

The Corporate Director Communities reported that work had gone on locally for a number of years to develop a business plan and proposal to spend the capital sum of

£200,000 that was allocated in the Capital Programme when the Berwyn Centre closed, towards the development of alternative or enhanced community facilities in Nantymoel. He stated that Cabinet approval was given in November 2017 to the release of the capital allocation to Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club based on a plan to extend and improve the existing facilities to accommodate additional community use. It was highlighted to Cabinet at that time that the community group had requested that the Council follow the necessary process to release the sum of money held in trust, in order to supplement the £200,000 of allocated capital funding. Cabinet was informed at that time that the sum of money held was approximately £46,000 and the current value of the fund is £49,274.69.

He reported that further advice was sought from the Charity Commission on the process of transferring the assets of the existing charity based on this preferred option. A public meeting for the purpose of seeking local public opinion on the dissolution of the existing charity, Nantymoel Workmen's Institute, and the transfer of all of the charity's assets to a charitable incorporated organisation established with substantially similar objectives, the Nantymoel Boys and Girls and Club and Community Centre was held on 28 March 2018. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Leader which set out what was proposed in full and allowed local residents the opportunity to pose any questions or concerns that they had. The resulting ballot resulted in unanimous support for the proposal.

The Corporate Director Communities reported that the proposal to dissolve the existing charity and transfer its assets will result in a sum of £49,274.69 being transferred to Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club and Community Centre, subject to formal Charity Commission approval. In addition the area of land that the Berwyn Centre previously occupied before its demolition will be transferred to the above charitable incorporated organisation. The objectives of the charity will prevent it from being sold for commercial gain.

The Deputy Leader in commending the proposal hoped that all Members would be similarly supportive.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That Council approved the proposal to dissolve the existing charity, the Nantymoel Workmen's Institute, and pass a transfer power resolution in exercise of their statutory powers under sections 267-274 of the Charities Act 2011 to transfer all of the charity's assets to a local Charitable Incorporated Organisation established with charitable purposes substantially similar to all of its charitable purposes, the Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club and Community Centre.
 - (2) That Council approved that the Charity Commission are formally approached to complete the process of dissolving the existing charity and transferring all of its assets as set out above.

162. **DEPARTURE PLANNING APPLICATION P/17/1083/FUL**

The Group Manager Development reported that the Development Control Committee at its meeting on 15 March 2018 considered planning application P/17/1083/FUL as a departure from the Local Development Plan. She stated that the Committee resolved not to refuse planning permission and the application referred to Council requesting that it approve the application subject to conditions.

The Group Manager Development reported that the application is for an extension to the existing grid substation at Bridgend Grid Substation, off Great Western Avenue, Bridgend. He stated that the proposed extension to the west of the existing substation

will provide space to erect a building which provides the opportunity to upgrade the existing substation by transforming the incoming voltage for distribution to the local network and providing power to the wider Bridgend area. He informed Council that the existing infrastructure was in need of upgrading and modernisation. The application site is located within the Primary Key Settlement of Bridgend, as defined by the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan (LDP) and is within the Regeneration and Mixed Use Development Site – Coity Road Sidings, Bridgend as defined by Policy PLA3 of the Local Development Plan. The site is allocated for regeneration and mixed use schemes which includes 140 residential units (COM1(4)) an employment function (REG1(3) already developed) and a Park and Ride facility to serve Wildmill Train Station (PLA7(21)).

The Group Manager Development reported that the site offers opportunities for development to take place over the plan period to help meet the visions and objectives of the Local Development Plan and the allocation will result in the provision of comprehensive residential, employment and commercial development, whilst providing new transportation, community, education and recreation facilities to serve the community.

RESOLVED: That Council is minded not to refuse the development the Corporate Director Communities be given delegated authority to issue a decision notice in respect of this proposal subject to the conditions contained in the report of the Corporate Director Communities.

163. **BRIDGEND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) - DRAFT REVIEW REPORT**

The Group Manager Development sought approval to undertake targeted consultation on the draft Bridgend LDP Review. He stated that draft Review Report sets out the proposed extent of likely changes to the existing LDP (2006-2021) and seeks to confirm the revision procedure to be followed in preparing a replacement LDP. He informed Council that it was proposed that the Replacement LDP will cover a plan period up to 2033, which is the end of a 15 year plan period that will commence in 2018.

He reported that the LDP was adopted by Council on 18 September 2013 and sets out the Council's objectives for the development and use of land in Bridgend County Borough over the 15 year plan period 2006 to 2021, and its policies to implement them. He stated that an up to date LDP is an essential part of a plan-led planning system in Wales. In order to ensure that there is a regular and comprehensive assessment of whether plans remain up to date, the Council is statutorily required to undertake a full review of the adopted LDP at intervals not longer than every 4 years from the date of adoption. As such, a full review of the adopted LDP was triggered in September 2017. Since its adoption, the LDP has been reviewed on an annual basis with the publication of 3 Annual Monitoring Reports.

The Group Manager Development reported that any revision to an LDP must be preceded by a Review Report to determine the appropriate procedural route and key issues to be considered when taking the LDP forward. He stated that the Review Report also considers whether the process of producing a replacement LDP should be undertaken on an individual basis or jointly with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities. He highlighted the main findings of the draft Review Report in terms of Contextual Changes; Assessment of likely changes required to the current LDP; Review of the Evidence Base and LDP Review Options.

A member of Council questioned what mechanisms would be in place for Members to be actively involved in the consultation on the LDP. The Development Planning Manager

stated that Topic Groups will be set up and local Members and members of Town and Community Councils will be invited to participate in this process at the review stage.

A member of Council referred to the decision of Council to pursue its own plan and questioned whether joint working would take place with neighboring authorities such as RCT Council, in view of proposals for a large scale housing development within RCT which is in close proximity to its boundary with Bridgend. The Group Manager Development confirmed there are joint working arrangements with neighbouring local authorities especially when planning applications raise cross boundary issues. He stated that RCT Council's LDP would expire at around the same time as this Council's LDP. He also stated that the impact of the proposed large scale development on Bridgend will be looked at by officers.

A member of Council asked whether the affordable housing policy could be reviewed. A member of Council referred to town centre vacancy rates and asked whether consideration could be given to Pencoed being included in line with the other towns in the County Borough. The Development Planning Manager commented that the affordable housing policy and town centre vacancy rates would need to be looked at in depth in the context of the new LDP.

A member of Council referred to the need for officers to have regard to the impact new housing developments will have on meeting the demand for school places. The Development Planning Manager confirmed that officers from the Education Department will be part of the Working Group and the impact of housing development on education and other Council services will be looked at.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That Council approved the draft Review Report for the purposes of targeted consultation.
 - (2) That Council authorised the Group Manager Development, Communities Directorate to undertake consultation on the draft Review Report.
 - (3) That Council gave delegated authority to the Group Manager Development, Communities Directorate to make any factual corrections or minor amendments to the draft Review Report as considered necessary.

164. **BRIDGEND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) REVISION - DRAFT DELIVERY AGREEMENT**

The Group Manager Development sought approval to undertake targeted consultation on the Bridgend Replacement LDP draft Delivery Agreement. He stated that draft document sets out how and when the local community and other stakeholders can contribute to the preparation of the Replacement Plan and a timetable for its preparation. He informed Council that it was proposed that the Replacement LDP will cover a plan period up to 2033, which is the end of a 15 year plan period that will commence in 2018.

He reported that the draft Delivery Agreement consists of 2 parts, namely a timetable for preparation of the Replacement LDP, and a Community Involvement Scheme. He presented a timetable which sets out the key dates including statutory consultation periods for each of the different stages of Plan preparation and publication. It also included key stages for the Sustainability Appraisal, which is an iterative process undertaken as an integral part of the Plan preparation process.

He reported that the Community Involvement Scheme outlines the Local Planning Authority's principles of community engagement, its approach in relation to who, how and when it intends to engage with the community and stakeholders; how it will respond to representations and how these representations will inform later stages of plan preparation. Following consultation on the draft Delivery Agreement it was proposed to report the final Delivery Agreement back to Council for approval. The consultation on the draft Delivery Agreement will take place alongside consultation on the draft Review Report and it was proposed to submit both documents to the Welsh Government before the end of June.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That Council approved the draft Delivery Agreement for the purposes of targeted consultation.
 - (2) That Council authorised the Group Manager Development, Communities Directorate to undertake consultation on the draft Delivery Agreement.
 - (3) That Council gave delegated authority to the Group Manager Development, Communities Directorate to make any factual corrections or minor amendments to the draft Delivery Agreement as considered necessary.

165. ANNUAL REPORT INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES 2018/19

The Group Manager Legal reported on the draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of the level of remuneration the Authority must make available to its Members for the 2018/19 municipal year.

Representatives of the Panel had carried out visits to all principal Councils in 2017 to discuss the remuneration framework and how it was implemented in each council. The Panel had made 52 proposed determinations in its 2018/19 Annual Report.

The Local Authorities (Allowances for Members) (Wales) Regulations 2007 provided for the establishment of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

The Panel determined there would be an increase of £200 per annum in the Basic Salary for elected members, the salary for elected members of principal councils for 2018/19 would be £13,600. The Panel had not changed its previous decisions in respect of the senior salaries paid to Senior Salary Post holders and is inclusive of the Basic Salary increase. The Salary for the Leader and Deputy Leader has been based on the population of the County Borough (100,000 – 200,000), with the Leader receiving £48,300 and the Deputy Leader receiving £33,800. The Panel has removed the differing levels of payment to Cabinet members and all are now entitled to receive a senior salary of £29,300. The Panel has also removed the differing levels of payment to Committee Chairpersons and all Chairs will be paid a salary of £22,300 and has re-iterated that it is a matter for individual authorities to determine which chairs are paid. The Group Manager Legal stated that Council at its Annual Meeting in May 2017 determined that the following Committee Chairpersons be remunerated:

Appeals Panel
Audit Committee
Development Control Committee
Licensing/Licensing Act 2003 Committee
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL 2018

An Independent Member chairs the Standards Committee and receives £256 for a meeting lasting over 4 hours or £128 for a meeting under 4 Hours

The following Committees are chaired by members who were already in receipt of a Senior/Civic salary and therefore did not receive any further remuneration

- Council
- Appointments Committee
- Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Town & Community Council Forum
- Right of Way Sub-Committee
- The Democratic Services Committee Chairperson is not currently remunerated

The Group Manager Legal reported that the Panel previously determined that Council must make a senior salary of £22,300 available to the leader of the largest opposition group who represents at least 10% (6 Members) of the Council before qualifying for a senior salary. The Council currently makes a senior salary available to the leader of the Independent Alliance group. A senior salary of £17,300 is also available to any another group leader who represented at least 10% (6 Members) of the Council. The Council currently makes a senior salary available to the leader of the Conservative group. The Panel has prescribed that Bridgend could not remunerate more than 18 Senior Salaries posts and its Annual Meeting in May 2017 determined that only 15 Senior salary posts would be remunerated.

The Group Manager Legal reported that the Panel determined that civic salaries could be paid and that the level of remuneration should be decided by Councils after taking into account the anticipated workloads and responsibilities of the roles.

<u>Level</u>	<u>Mayor</u>	<u>Deputy Mayor</u>
Level 1	£24,300	£18,300
Level 2	£21,800	£16,300
Level 3	£19,300	£14,300

The current Mayor and Deputy Mayor received Level 2 Civic Salaries and Council for the 2017-18 municipal year.

The Group Manager Legal reported on the Panel's determinations in respect of supporting the work of local authority elected members. Determination 17 made by the Panel enables all Councillors in the Authority to join the Local Government Pension Scheme if they so wished. The Panel determined that an Elected Member was entitled to retain a basic salary when taking family absence under The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 irrespective of the attendance record immediately preceding the commencement of the family absence. When a senior salary holder was eligible for family absence, he/she would continue to receive the salary for the duration of the absence. It was then a matter for the Authority to decide whether or not to make a substitute appointment. The Elected Member substituting for a senior salary holder taking family absence would be eligible to be paid a senior salary, if the Authority so decided.

The Group Manager Legal reported that Cabinet had appointed Councillors CE Smith and DBF White to the South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, any Leader or Cabinet Member appointed to the FRA would not receive any additional salary from the FRA. The FRA was responsible for remunerating its representatives and publishing the details of any payments that they made.

The Group Manager Legal reported that the authority currently has the following Co-optees with voting rights:

- Chair of the Standards Committee
- 3 Independent Members of Standards Committee
- 2 Town and Community Council Co-optees on the Standards Committee
- 5 Registered representatives (Church and School Governors)
- 1 Lay-person appointed to the Audit Committee

All authorities provided for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month. Reimbursement would only be made on production of receipts from the carer.

The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 were very specific relating to entitlement and only available for Elected Members of principal councils. Absence for reasons of ill-health was not included. Instances had been raised with the Panel of senior salary holders on long term sickness and the perceived unfairness in comparison with the arrangements for family absence. In consequence, councils were faced with the dilemma of:

- Operating without the individual member but still paying him/her the senior salary.
- Replacing the member who therefore loses the senior salary (but retains the basic salary).

The Panel determined that there would be no change to the mileage rates for which members were entitled to claim.

Although Council was unable to change the prescribed level of remuneration determined by the Panel, individual members were permitted to independently and voluntarily forego all or any element of remuneration to which they were entitled by writing to the Authority's Proper Officer.

The current budget set for 2018/19 for the remuneration of elected members was £1,104,140.

RESOLVED: That Council approved:

- the adoption of the relevant determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel contained within its February 2018 Annual Report as shown at Appendix 1.
- those posts (as shown in the revised Members' Schedule of Remuneration at Appendix 2), who will receive a senior/civic salary.
- the level of remuneration for the Civic Salaries.
- the revised Members' Schedule of Remuneration at Appendix 2, and for it to become effective from 16 May 2018 (Annual Meeting of Council).

that the Members' Schedule of Remuneration be automatically updated with any changes to Senior/Civic Salary positions subsequently made by Council during the 2018/19 municipal year.

166. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE FROM:

Question to the Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help from Councillor Altaf Hussain

"Can the Cabinet Member for Social Services tell the Council how many community care assessments for residential rehabilitation have been undertaken in the last three years within BCBC and how many resulted in placements in residential rehabilitation centres and which ones?"

Response:

The Community Resource Team (CRT) is the amalgamation of Intermediate Care Services in Bridgend into a single service; one of these services being Residential Reablement. Referrals to CRT are made through a single point of contact, the Common Access Point, which is staffed by experienced call handlers and a Multi-Disciplinary Triage team who screen the referrals to identify the most appropriate CRT response and the priority of response. This streamlines the process of referral ensuring interventions are delivered by the most appropriate service element, therefore avoiding duplication of referrals. As referrals are not made for an explicit element of the CRT we are unable to provide the specific data requested. The following data shows the numbers of referrals to the CRT for the last three years.

2015 – 2601 CRT Referrals and Re-referrals

2016 – 2404 CRT Referrals and Re-referrals

2017 – 2542 CRT Referrals and Re-referrals

The small decline in referral rates is largely due to the fact that we have been working on referral pathways and ensuring they are all routed through the Common Access point. This has helped us to reduce any duplication, i.e. Referrals to a number of services and wait for the first to respond.

The Bryn y Cae Reablement Unit is suitable for individuals who, for short periods of time, are likely to need more intensive support with activities of daily living than it would be possible to provide at home. The Unit is able to accommodate a total of 6 people at any one time and the usual length of stay is up to 6 weeks but there is flexibility around this depending on an individual's progress. The Reablement Unit is situated in a dedicated wing of the Bryn y Cae Residential Care Home, Brackla, Bridgend.

In the table below, the number of new placements commenced in Bryn Y Cae Residential Reablement unit is provided for the last 3 years together with the occupancy rates.

Year	Number of new placements commenced	% Occupancy
2015	43	76%
2016	44	83%
2017	45	82%

There are a few factors that affect occupancy rates:

- these beds are ring fenced for hospital discharge means that we are relying on one source of referral
- we may have beds available but we may not receive referrals
- referrals may come through but are then actioned by taking the person to their own home, instead, to undertake the Reablement

- the referral may be inappropriate as the person may be too ill, not have goals or may have cognitive issues making Reablement inappropriate.

Councillor Hussain informed Council that he would ask the Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help a supplementary question in writing.

Question to the Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration from Councillor R Stirman

“Bearing in mind Government plans to prohibit the sale of diesel and petrol powered cars in the near future, does the Council plan to implement a strategy for the introduction of electric charging points throughout the County? If so, when will this policy be introduced? Will this also become a consideration in future LDP development? Additionally, what provision will be made for the anticipated increase in demand for the supply of electricity within BCBC?”

Response

Thank you for your question concerning the introduction of electric charging points. Clearly this is an important consideration and increasingly as electric vehicles become more prominent over future years, demand for the provision of charging points in accessible places or at home will increase, albeit currently the Council has had very few approaches concerning this matter.

With regard to planning, emerging national planning policy (PPW 10) suggests that new developments will be required to provide electric vehicle charging points – this will eventually fall under Building Regulations.

It would not therefore be appropriate therefore to duplicate national policy in LDPs.

This policy will however, only apply to new development but the Council could consider aspirational policies in a future LDP to encourage the provision of a charging infrastructure within Bridgend, you will note that the LDP is currently being reviewed. This does not necessarily ensure that it will be delivered as we could only seek S106 contributions to facilitate a particular development and charging points would likely fail to be considered as an ‘infrastructure project’ in terms of the CIL regulations. Nevertheless it may help future funding applications if there was a supporting policy in the development plan in much the same way as highway improvements are indicated in the current plan. We will need to look carefully at this issue as part of the evidence base.

At the moment it is debatable as to whether a charging point is actually ‘development’ in other words if the Council were to decide to provide points in its own car parks [it is planned to install a few charging points in the Rhiw multi story car park as a trial] then it is possible that planning permission would not be required (some supermarket chains are also considering providing charging points in some of their car parks and charging points already exist at Sarn Services). This is of course a corporate matter for the Council to consider but it may not be possible to secure directly under the planning system and may require a funding commitment. Welsh Government may introduce changes to legislation in the near future to clarify this issue. There are a significant number of grants available to provide charging points in the right circumstances and right locations and the approach many other Authorities have taken is to rely on a combination of private sector provision and then strategically placed public sector provided chargers. Additionally from research it seems that where Local Authorities permit the provision of EV chargers in residential streets, a process is set out whereby the homeowner is normally responsible for bearing the costs. However, it also seems

this can create other difficulties around accessing the particular charger unless a space is reserved as others may choose to park in that location. It is obvious therefore that there are many considerations that would need to be explored fully to develop a credible and workable strategy.

Whilst it is also possible to look to market demand to provide the infrastructure – after all we never had development plan policies requiring petrol stations, we need to be mindful of what form this could take. For example a national company is currently seeking views on potential EV charging points that they are willing to provide, although this will also incorporate advertisements, in other words we could end up with more adverts with charging points attached, which will have their own visual and highway safety implications.

This would need to be the subject of a wider planning/regeneration/highways discussion as there is some certainty that electric vehicle usage is likely to increase over the next decade.

In summary the LDP has a part to play but we cannot rely on it to fully deliver the infrastructure, charging points may lie outside the scope of planning control and there is potential for new and innovative ways for the private sector to respond to demand. The continuity of electricity supply and demand is of course a matter for the electricity industry and the grid companies.

All of these matters will need to be fully explored and understood in order to develop a credible and meaningful strategy. It will be a matter for discussion with Cabinet to determine where this currently fits in the relative priorities of the Council and therefore how quickly this should be prioritised.

Councillor Stirman asked a supplementary question as to what will happen in the short term where residents who had purchased electric cars, trail leads across pavements. The Cabinet Member Communities stated that there were no clear guidelines as yet in relation to charging points and who fund their installation when not on residents' homes. He commented that the UK Government should look to the motor industry and retailers to ascertain plans for the future installation of charging points.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Member Communities write to the supermarkets based locally requesting that they consider installation charging points for electric vehicles and to ascertain their strategy for installing charging points.

167. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY THE PLAID CYMRU GROUP

Councillor T Thomas proposed the following Notice of Motion on behalf of the Plaid Cymru Group.

Plastic Free Bridgend County

Council acknowledges

The concerns of the wider community over the amount of plastic waste pollution and its adverse effect upon wildlife and our coastline

Council proposes

As part of our responsibilities towards global sustainability under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, we support Bridgend County becoming a 'plastic free authority.'

Council highlights

We will work towards this in the following ways:

1. We will review our own organisation and replace single use plastic items, encouraging the replacement of single use plastic items such as plastic straws, plastic coffee cups with biodegradable items.
2. We will contact County Borough businesses to encourage them to replace single use plastic items, reduce un-necessary packaging and apply principles of sustainability within their everyday businesses.
3. We promote 'Plastic free Bridgend' through social media and other appropriate marketing and communications methods.
4. We will continue to support community initiatives to 'Keep Bridgend Tidy', including our beaches, parks and streets, and promote alternatives to throwing away materials, in keeping with principles of the circular economy and waste hierarchy.
5. We will promote fair trade policies and a shop local scheme.
6. We will write to the Welsh Government Ministers asking them consider what measures, including guidance and legislation, can be introduced to reduce plastic waste across Wales, in keeping with the principles previously outlined.

Council believes

The effectiveness of the proposed policy should be monitored at least annually to highlight progress for members as part of the scrutiny process.

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor A Williams.

The Cabinet Member Communities expressed some sympathy with the principles of the Notice of Motion as the Council supports the Welsh Government's target of zero waste and the promotion of plastic free and the keep Bridgend tidy initiative. He stated that the Council already does a great deal within the spirit of the Notice of Motion and requested the withdrawal of the Notice of Motion and instead send the matter to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee so that the Council can identify what it is doing and where the gaps are from which the Council can identify the next steps.

Councillor T Thomas withdrew the Notice of Motion.

The Leader informed Council that he and the Corporate Director Communities had met the Minister for Communities who had confirmed that the Council had made significant strides with its recycling targets. The Leader stated that he had asked the Minister what his plans are to influence retailers in reducing the use of plastic packaging and he confirmed to Council that he would seek those assurances from the Minister in writing.

RESOLVED: That the original Notice of Motion be withdrawn and that and instead send the matter to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee so that the Council can identify what it is doing and where the gaps are from which the Council can identify the next steps.

168. URGENT ITEMS

The Mayor agreed to the following item being considered as an urgent item of business in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules to allow for the approval of Prudential Borrowing and for the inclusion of the schemes in the Capital Programme forthwith and in order to take forward the delivery of the Enterprise Hubs Development Programme without delay.

169. ENTERPRISE HUBS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Corporate Director Communities reported on an update on the development of the Enterprise Hub Development Programme and sought agreement to the prudential borrowing of £878,957 for the delivery of two separate schemes within the overall programme at the Bridgend Science Park of £544,182 and Brocastle of £334,775 and sought approval for these schemes to be included within the capital programme. This represented the largest single programme of business property development undertaken by the Council.

The Corporate Director Communities reported that approval had previously been given by Cabinet for the submission by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council of a bid to WEFO for a regional Enterprise Hub Development Programme. Since that time, WEFO had advised that each of the partners could take forward their projects separately.

He reported that there were no start up units currently available from the Council or Business in Focus and both have waiting lists as was the case with the Sony Incubation Units at Pencoed. He stated that the Enterprise Hub Development Programme proposed to support the refurbishment and creation of business premises at Bridgend Science Park, Village Farm Industrial Estate and Brocastle.

A member of Council asked for details of the numbers of businesses on the waiting lists for start up units, their cash flow forecasts and for details of occupancy rates. The member of Council also commented there were a number of units which could not be let and lessons needed to be learnt so that the units had flexibility. The Corporate Director Communities stated that he would provide members with the detail requested in relation to the start up units.

RESOLVED: That Council approved prudential borrowing of £878,957 with the assigned borrowing values of Enterprise Hub Development (Bridgend Science Park and Village Farm Industrial Estate) (£544,182) and Enterprise Hub Development (Brocastle) (£334,775) which, subject to approval of the Section 151 Officer, Corporate Director, Operational and Partnership Services, and WEFO will enable the Corporate Director, Communities to take forward the delivery of the Enterprise Hubs Development Programme. Council also approved the inclusion of these schemes within the capital programme for delivery once all funding sources have been approved.

170. 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, 13, 14, 15 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

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public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

171. APPROVAL OF EXEMPT MINUTES
172. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MONITORING OFFICER
173. APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL AND MONITORING OFFICER

The meeting closed at 16:50