

**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2019**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 15:00**

Present

Councillor JR McCarthy – Chairperson

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

Apologies for Absence

JC Radcliffe

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Deborah Exton	Group Manager - Finance
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Gill Lewis	Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Michael Pitman	Business & Administrative Apprentice
Andrew Rees	Democratic Services Manager
Mark Shephard	Interim Chief Executive
Kelly Watson	Head of Legal & Regulatory Services
Mary Williams	Chief Accountant

276. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Councillor E Venables declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 10 – Council tax: Council Tax Discretionary Discount on Empty Properties and Second Homes as she has an empty property which is subject to probate. Councillor Venables withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor L Walters declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 10 – Council tax: Council Tax Discretionary Discount on Empty Properties and Second Homes as she is currently selling an empty property which is subject to probate. Councillor Walters withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

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Councillor C Webster declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-20 to 2022-23 as her son is in receipt of school transport to a specialist school out of county.

Councillor B Jones declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 – Council tax: Council tax Discretionary Discount on Empty Properties and Second Homes as his brother has an empty property.

Councillor G Thomas declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 10 – Council tax: Council Tax Discretionary Discount on Empty Properties and Second Homes as he has been a left a share in a property which is empty which is subject to probate. Councillor Thomas withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

### 277. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Council of 23 January 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record.

### 278. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

#### Mayor

The Mayor informed Council of the engagements which he and his Consort had attended in the past month which included a charity concert in aid of young carers held at the Sony Theatre, Bridgend, a thanksgiving service marking 30 years since the inception of the Sandville Self Help Trust, the annual Winter Olympage Games and the presentation of certificates at the Military Preparation College awards. In addition, the Mayor and Consort had also attended the Porthcawl School production of the show 'Oliver', the Holocaust service in Cardiff, building excellence awards, Citizenship awards judging, the Launch of the Welsh veterans awards Cardiff, Reading café at Bryntirion infants and the Employment Bridgend Launch.

#### Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader informed Council of the progress being made to create a new community facility at the Nantymoel Boys and Girls Club, which involved the creation of a charitable trust, with the facility being launched officially later this week. The facility will provide a permanent base for the community policing team and will also act as the Ogmore Heritage Centre and a visitor attraction to link Bryngarw Country Park via the new Ogmore Heritage Trail. Bike hire facilities would also be provided at Bryngarw and voice-app information displays along the trail. He stated that the site of the former Berwyn Centre would also be the location for new public artwork and community seating.

#### Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities informed Council that Porthcawl residents are being invited to attend a drop-in information session where they can help influence the next phase of work on the town's flood defenses. Participants will be able to ask questions and offer feedback on the proposals, which support Bridgend County Borough Council's wider regeneration plans for the town. The drop-in information session will take place at the Grand Pavilion on Thursday 28 February between 1pm - 7pm.

He also informed Council that the annual Local Authority Building Control Building Excellence Awards were marked recently to highlight excellent examples of safe, sustainable, innovative high-quality development within the County Borough. He stated

that the Building Control team carry out 7,000 inspections every year and the winners will now go forward to the South Wales regional awards to be held in April.

He hoped Members will welcome the Smart Energy Plan which was approved by Cabinet yesterday. He stated that the County Borough will be one of only three areas chosen by the UK Government to pioneer low carbon energy schemes with it being estimated that up to £7.4bn could swell the local economy by 2050. Projects under development include a Bridgend heat network connecting homes and public buildings, and the Caerau Minewater scheme which involves using underground water as a heat source to warm homes in the Llynfi Valley. The Council is the first local authority in Wales to develop such an energy strategy and is intended to act as a catalyst for Bridgend County Borough to grow into a low carbon innovation zone and work has been undertaken with the Energy Systems Catapult to trial a type of advanced home energy management control, and this could become a common household feature over the next decade.

#### Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help announced the recent death of Cefn Cribwr Mr Clive Richards who had recently attended the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting meeting to discuss his experiences as a long-term foster carer for the authority. A letter of condolence would be sent to the family of Mr Richards on behalf of the Council.

He also informed Members of the work which has taken place to establish dementia-friendly communities where people are more understanding, tolerant and supportive of the condition. He was delighted to inform Members that six teenagers from Archbishop McGrath in Brackla had taken the initiative to lead a drive to make their community more accommodating for people living with dementia, completing specialist training, resulting in them becoming recognised as Dementia Champions by the Alzheimer's Society. The students are putting this training to good use by raising awareness among their classmates, local businesses and residents. They had held a local information session and have partnered with the East Integrated Community Network Team, which comprises of staff from the council and ABMU, to hold further sessions and help spread awareness. He was delighted to hear young people getting involved in the Dementia Friendly initiative and hoped that Members will show them their support when they visit the Council in March to help mark World Social Work day.

#### Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations was delighted with the results of recent public consultation over proposals for establishing a learning resource centre at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd for pupils with autistic spectrum disorders. Consultation was overwhelmingly in favour of developing a facility for pupils with ASD, with Estyn commenting that the proposals demonstrate a clear rationale. This will be the first Welsh medium primary in the County Borough to feature such a facility and with one already established at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, pupils will be able to transition seamlessly while continuing to receive their education in the language of their choice. She commented that for children with ASD, this is going to be of huge support and will help ease the stress of such change.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations announced that arrangements are underway for the implementation of the Welsh Government's new Childcare Offer scheme in Bridgend County Borough. Designed to provide financial support towards childcare costs for working parents, the scheme is going to offer thirty hours a week of funded childcare and early education for up to forty-eight weeks of the year. It will be

available to eligible working parents from the term after a child's third birthday until the September following their fourth birthday. As children can start school from three-years-old in the County Borough, the biggest benefit of the scheme will be that the offer also extends to childcare during nine weeks of school holidays. The start date for the scheme will be announced very soon, Members will receive a further update once final details have been confirmed.

#### Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration updated Members on the latest developments with the Watersports Centre in Rest Bay, construction of the centre well underway, and the processing of all submissions received from prospective tenants of the new café bistro, which is based upstairs, and the ice cream kiosk downstairs have been completed, with preferred bids identified. He would keep Members informed of developments.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration congratulated budding documentary film makers from Ysgol Bryn Castell who have been working alongside Film Cymru to create a short piece of work about democracy, and are now in the running for a national award. He stated that their efforts will receive a prestigious screening at the Leicester Square Odeon in London next month where they have been nominated for 'Best Documentary' at the 'Into Film' awards. Their film follows a group of young people who outline changes that they intend to make in their lives and follows them as they visit the Council offices to discuss how they can achieve this with Councillors and MPs, and includes a musical interlude.

He announced that Members will be aware that Estyn are due to carry out an inspection of how Bridgend County Borough Council supports schools and the delivery of education. Their officials are at the Council this week for the preliminary inspection, and will be returning in March to carry out a full inspection. He commented that education remains one of the main priorities of this Council, and it is proud of the way in which local schools are supported. Members would receive further details regarding the inspection as soon as the findings are known.

#### Interim Chief Executive

The Interim Chief Executive announced that the Auditor General had advised that it would be very difficult to plan ahead in the event of a no deal Brexit and accordingly he had established a Project Board to consider those risks.

#### 279. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader reported that he had recently attended the launch of the Employability Bridgend project which is designed to help people overcome obstacles that may otherwise prevent them from developing new skills and find work. He stated that the benefits of helping people get back into work are many and varied, and within the family unit, breaking the cycle of unemployment sets a positive example to children and helps provide role models that are essential for their successful development. It also decreases the reliance upon public services as households become economically stronger. A Pop-Up Business School event will be held next month, to help people to find out more about setting up their own business. He urged Members to contact the Employability Bridgend team should they wish to learn more about the initiative.

The Leader informed Council that he had previously updated Members about how the Council is supporting Bridgend Ford and that he had met with managers, staff and trade unions at the plant. He was due to return to meet with them again very soon and he

would provide Members with a further update as soon as this has taken place. He hoped that the plant is successful in its bid to build the new Ineos Automotive four-by-four, but if the worst happens, schemes such as Employability Bridgend are standing ready to help affected workers.

The Leader informed Members that the Council is also continuing to engage with ABMU regarding Maesteg Hospital, and he was pleased to see that the decision regarding day services has been deferred so that the new health authority, Cwm Taf University Health Board, will ultimately make a decision on how this will be provided in future. The Council would be working closely with them on proposals for enhancing the hospital's future role.

280. CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2022 REVIEWED FOR 2019-20

The Interim Chief Executive sought approval of the Corporate Plan 2018-22.

He reported that the Council has a duty to set well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and to set improvement objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. He stated that the current Corporate Plan covering 2018-22 sets out three corporate well-being objectives and has been reviewed for 2019-20. In reviewing the Plan, the Council has further developed its well-being objectives and these priorities, once approved, will be the Council's well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and improvement objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

The Interim Chief Executive reported that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2019 had considered the revised draft plan and made a series of constructive comments for amendment and inclusion. The comments had been considered and wherever feasible, appropriate amendments had been made to the draft Plan. Cabinet on 12 February 2019 considered the Corporate Plan 2018-2022 revised for 2019-20. The Plan will be reviewed annually taking into account changing circumstances and progress made against the well-being objectives to ensure that the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are met. Once approved, the Plan will replace the current Corporate Plan and will be supported by the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Directorate business plans and service plans.

The Leader placed on record his thanks to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee which had been very thorough in its scrutiny of the Corporate Plan and had contributed to the revised Plan. He stated that within the Plan there is a commitment to develop a water sports centre in Porthcawl to enhance it as tourist destination; the redevelopment of Maesteg Town Hall into an arts and cultural hub, the development of low carbon heat schemes, the rationalisation of the estate, driving forward the digitalisation transformation programme and the continued investment in the Band B School Modernisation Programme.

A Member of Council questioned the absence of footfall figures for the town centre in Maesteg. The Leader commented that footfall was not measured in Maesteg at present and officers would provide information to Members as to the feasibility of measuring footfall. The Interim Chief Executive informed Council that there are no means to accurately count footfall in Maesteg town centre due to the absence of cameras, however the cost of installing cameras could be explored.

RESOLVED: That Council approved and adopted the Corporate Plan 2018-22, reviewed for 2019-20.

281. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019-20 TO 2022-23

The joint report of the Interim Chief Executive and Interim Section 151 Officer was presented on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-20 to 2022-23, which included a financial forecast for 2019-23, a detailed revenue budget for 2019-20 and a Capital Programme for 2018-19 to 2028-29.

The Interim Section 151 Officer reported that MTFS has been significantly guided by the Council's priorities and while there had been year-on-year reductions in Aggregate External Finance (AEF) has necessitated significant budget reductions across service areas. The Council still plays a very significant role in the local economy, responsible for annual gross expenditure of around £400M and is the largest employer in the County Borough. The Interim Section 151 Officer informed Council that the Corporate Plan is being presented to Council for approval alongside the MTFS 2019-23. The two documents were aligned to each other, enabling explicit links to be made between the Council's priorities and the resources directed to support them.

The Interim Section 151 Officer reported that the MTFS outlines the principles and detailed assumptions which drive the Council's budget and spending decisions, the financial context in which the Council is operating and to mitigate any financial risks and pressures going forward, at the same time taking advantage of any opportunities that may arise.

The Interim Section 151 Officer provided Cabinet with a Corporate Financial Overview and commented that the Council's gross budget will be around £420m while the net revenue budget is planned for 2019-20 is £270.809m. She set out the Strategic Financial Context and informed Council that the MTFS is set within the context of UK economic and public expenditure plans, Welsh Government priorities and legislative programme. Following the announcement of the provisional local government settlement in October 2018, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Welsh Government will receive an extra £550m over the next three years, with the Welsh Government being able to decide how to spend this allocation. The then First Minister confirmed a package of additional funding proposals for local government, which would be incorporated in the final budget. The Council received its final settlement from the Welsh Government in December 2018, which for this Council resulted in a reduction of 0.1% in Aggregate External Finance or £258k. This was offset by new responsibilities with the true impact for the Council estimated to be a reduction of £1.182m or -0.61% compared to 2018-19, the real position for this Council would be reduction of -1.07% or £2.07m.

The Interim Section 151 Officer reported that 2019-20 final Revenue Budget includes a Council tax increase of 5.4% in the draft MTFS which was reported to Cabinet in November 2018, which was deemed necessary to fund the significant pressures facing the Council, particularly significant pay, price and pensions pressures.

The Interim Section 151 Officer reported on a comparison of budget against projected outturn as 31 December 2018, with the overall projected position being an under spend of £5.312m, comprising a £592,000 net under spend on Directorates and a £6.642m net under spend on corporate budgets, offset by net new earmarked reserves of £1.922m. She stated that this position was better than anticipated due to the recent award of one-off grants from Welsh Government towards costs associated with supporting sustainable social services, and towards teachers' pay for 2018-19. Bridgend's share of the grants was £620,528 for social services and £718,701 for teachers' pay. Without these the net under spend would have been £3.973 million. She also stated that the MTFS is reviewed regularly and amended as additional information becomes available, with the detail for future years being developed over the period of the strategy.

The Interim Section 151 Officer informed Council of the outcome of the consultation on the budget entitled, 'Shaping Bridgend's Future 2018' which received 5,288 interactions. Within this there were 2,677 survey completions, demonstrating a 44% increase on last year. She also thanked the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel in assisting facilitating the budget planning process and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees which resulted in a series of recommendations being made by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration by Cabinet.

The Interim Section 151 Officer reported on the budget reduction scenarios and that the most likely scenario was a potential net budget reduction of £35.181m over the course of the MTFS. She also highlighted the current progress on identifying budget reduction proposals. A number of proposals for 2020-21 onwards will require further information and analysis and are not sufficiently well developed to be included at this point in time.

The Interim Section 151 Officer informed Council of the net budget requirement to fulfill its functions, financed from the Welsh Government settlement and Council Tax income, which would require an increase in Council Tax of 5.40%. The Interim Section 151 Officer also informed Council of the pressures of pay, prices and demographics, with there being an estimated increase of 43% in the employer contribution rates for teachers' pensions, which would result in a full year cost of around £3.5m. Price inflation has been allocated to service budgets and includes contractual increases in food costs, social care provision and other commitments.

The Interim Section 151 Officer reported that following a better than anticipated settlement in 2018-19, school budgets were protected from the proposed 1% annual efficiency target, but given the forecast pressure on Council budgets for future years. However following the additional funding announced by the First Minister in November 2018, and the subsequent improved final settlement, along with the outcome of the public consultation and Scrutiny Committees' recommendations, school budgets have again been protected from the 1% efficiency reduction in 2019-20.

The Interim Section 151 Officer reported on the budget pressures which total £2.191m, which represent unavoidable pressures and contractual changes. Budget reduction proposals of £7.621m had been identified from service and corporate budgets to achieve a balanced budget. Fees and charges would be increased by at least Consumer Price Index (at the prevailing rate, currently 2.1%) plus 1%.

The Interim Section 151 Officer informed Cabinet of the position of the Council's Reserves, the forecast movement to 31 March 2019 on Earmarked Reserves would be an overall reduction of £10.925m. A further review would be undertaken at the end of the current financial year, with the forecast movement in reserves for 2019-20 being £7.891m.

The Interim Section 151 Officer reported on the Capital Programme and Capital Financing Strategy for 2018-19 to 2028-29, which has been developed in line with the MTFS principles and the proposed Capital Strategy and reflects the Welsh Government capital settlement for 2019-20. Capital funding of £7.665m, of which £3.938m is provided through un-hypothecated supported borrowing and the remainder of £3.727m as general capital grant. This includes the 2019/20 share (£30m) of the additional £100m of general capital funding announced by the Welsh Government in the provisional settlement. The Council has already received £2.215m as its share of the £50m allocation for 2018-19. The Interim Section 151 Officer outlined the proposed allocations of capital funding. She also informed Council that the intervention rate for the funding of Band B of the School Modernisation Programme under the Mutual

Investment Model had increased from 75% to 80% and a further report would be presented to Council on the funding of Band B schools.

The Deputy Leader in commending the MTFs stated that finance is the lifeline to keep the organisation alive and stated that the proposals within the MTFs had been consulted on more widely than ever. He commented that there is a requirement to fund a 43% increase in teachers' pension contributions with the authority continuing to lobby the UK Government in order that the Treasury fund this increase. He thanked the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel for its work in the budget planning process. He stated that in order to fund additional budget pressures and to cover a funding shortfall of £7.62m, it was necessary to increase Council tax by 5.4%.

The Leader thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for providing a number of recommendations on the budget and to the cross-party Budget Research and Evaluation Panel for its non-partisan and constructive engagement which had helped the shaped the budget. He stated that of the £4.6m increase in Council Tax, it was proposed to spend £4.5 on schools. He also stated that all 22 local authorities in Wales are faced with increasing Council Tax in order to front line services.

A Member of Council expressed concern that £4.6m of savings are rated as either high or medium risk, with £1.9m, 25% being high risk with plans not fully developed and £2.7m, 35% being medium risk with plans in development but doubt around delivery, resulting in £4.6m savings, 60% which are deemed to be a risk. The Member commented that the Council is already forecasting that £7.9 m will be needed from general reserves to fund the Council in the next financial year and if the savings are not delivered the worst case scenario is that the Council will need to draw £12.5m from reserves leaving £24.2m, leaving potentially, only 2 years of reserves left. The Member further commented that this will be a difficult situation when trying to find further savings. However, in the corporate world it would not be acceptable to have a plan where 25% of savings are high risk and 35% medium, with 10% high risk and 20% medium risk being more acceptable. The Member considered that the Council does not have a balanced budget. The Leader commented that the Council is in a similar to last year, but it was projecting to have an under spend this year as was the case in the previous year. He stated that the use of Reserves would be on Capital Reserves and there would be no draw down on General Reserves. He informed Council that the process of planning for next year's budget would commence immediately and that it would be ensured that risks are managed. The Interim Section 151 Officer informed Council that to have 25% high risks was not an ideal position, however the risk in relation to MREC could potentially change quickly. She commented that the Council has a good track record of delivering savings

A Member of Council commented that the reduction in nursery provision is under consideration with budget reductions of £817k in 2020/21 and £584k in 2021/22 and questioned when consultations will start on this so that in the next year, those proposals will be green and low risk. The Leader commented that the Council is in dialogue with the Welsh Government on the continuation of nursery education and consultation will take place on nursery education.

It was moved and seconded that a recorded vote be taken on the proposals contained in the report, 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:-

For (recorded vote)	Against	Abstain
49	3	0

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

For	Against	Abstain
32	11	10

<b>To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy (Motion)</b>	
Councillor Sean Aspey	Abstain
Councillor Stuart Baldwin	For
Councillor Tom Beedle	Abstain
Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell	For
Councillor Nicole Burnett	For
Councillor Mike Clarke	Abstain
Councillor Norah Clarke	Abstain
Councillor Richard Collins	For
Councillor Huw David	For
Councillor Paul Davies	For
Councillor Pam Davies	For
Councillor Sorrel Dendy	Against
Councillor Keith Edwards	Abstain
Councillor Jane Gebbie	For
Councillor Tom Giffard	Against
Councillor Richard Granville	For
Councillor Cheryl Green	For
Councillor Gareth Howells	For
Councillor Altaf Hussain	Abstain
Councillor Malcolm James	For
Councillor Brian Jones	Abstain
Councillor Martyn Jones	For
Councillor Mike Kearns	For
Councillor David Lewis	For
Councillor Janice Lewis	For
Councillor John McCarthy	For
Councillor David Owen	Against
Councillor Dhanisha Patel	For
Councillor Ross Penhale-Thomas	Abstain
Councillor Aniel Pucella	Against
Councillor Kay Rowlands	Against
Councillor Bridie Sedgebeer	For
Councillor Rod Shaw	For
Councillor Charles Smith	For
Councillor Stephen Smith	For
Councillor John Spanswick	For
Councillor Roz Stirman	Against

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Councillor Gary Thomas	For
Councillor Tim Thomas	Abstain
Councillor Jefferson Tildesley MBE	For
Councillor Elaine Venables	Against
Councillor Sadie Vidal	Against
Councillor Matthew Voisey	Against
Councillor Lyn Walters	Against
Councillor Ken Watts	For
Councillor Carolyn Webster	Against
Councillor David White	For
Councillor Philip White	For
Councillor Alex Williams	For
Councillor Amanda Williams	Abstain
Councillor Hywel Williams	For
Councillor Julia Williams	For
Councillor Richard Young	For
<b>Carried</b>	

**RESOLVED:** That Council approved the MTFS 2019-20 to 2022-23 including the 2019-20 revenue budget and the Capital Programme 2018-19 to 2028-29 and in particular approved the following specific elements:

- The MTFS 2019-20 to 2022-23;
- The Net Budget Requirement of £270,808,634 in 2019-20;
- A Band D Council Tax for Bridgend County Borough Council of £2,470.87 for 2019-20;
- The 2019-20 budgets as allocated in accordance with Table 9 in paragraph 3.3 of the MTFS;
- The Capital Programme 2018-19 to 2028-29, attached at Appendix G of the MTFS.

**282. COUNCIL TAX 2019-20**

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported on the Council Tax requirement for the County Borough together with the requirements of the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales and Town / Community Councils.

She outlined how the Council proposed to spend the Net Revenue Budget for 2019-20 of £270.809m which it had approved at this meeting of Council. The amount to be funded from Council Tax is £79,001,854m, which equated to a Council Tax of £1,470.87 on a Band D property, an increase of 5.4%. The net budget would also be funded by Revenue Support Grant of £145,354,407 and Non Domestic Rates of £46,452,373.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that the Police & Crime Commissioner had notified the Council that their precept for the financial year ending 31 March 2020 will rise to £13,831,719 which equates to a Council Tax of £257.52 on a Band property, resulting in an increase of 10.28%. She stated that the increase is in line with a recent Home Office announcement which doubled the precept flexibility for locally accountable Police and Crime Commissioners by giving Police and Crime Commissioners the freedom to ask for an additional £2 a month in 2019-20, and to increase their Band D precept by £24 in 2019-20 without the need to call a local referendum.

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The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported on the Council Tax requirement per Town and Community Council.

A Member of Council questioned the way in which the Council's representative on the Police & Crime Commissioner's Panel had voted. The Cabinet Member Communities informed Council that he had voted against the increase of 10.28% as he could not accept the high level of increase and the policy of the Home Office which was behind that increase. He stated that the police had experienced year on year cuts to its budget and there was no recognition given by the Home Office that South Wales Police should receive an uplift for policing a capital city, unlike the case for the police forces which police the capital cities of Edinburgh and Belfast.

It was moved and seconded that a recorded vote be taken on the proposals contained in the report, 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:-

For (recorded vote)	Against	Abstain
39	8	1

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

For	Against	Abstain
40	9	1

<b>To approve the Council Tax 2019-20 (Motion)</b>	
Councillor Sean Aspey	For
Councillor Stuart Baldwin	For
Councillor Tom Beedle	For
Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell	For
Councillor Nicole Burnett	For
Councillor Mike Clarke	Against
Councillor Norah Clarke	No vote recorded
Councillor Richard Collins	For
Councillor Huw David	For
Councillor Paul Davies	For
Councillor Pam Davies	For
Councillor Sorrel Dendy	Abstain
Councillor Keith Edwards	For
Councillor Jane Gebbie	For
Councillor Tom Giffard	Against
Councillor Richard Granville	For
Councillor Cheryl Green	For
Councillor Gareth Howells	For
Councillor Altaf Hussain	Against
Councillor Malcolm James	For
Councillor Brian Jones	No vote recorded
Councillor Martyn Jones	For
Councillor Mike Kearns	For
Councillor David Lewis	For

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Councillor Janice Lewis	For
Councillor John McCarthy	For
Councillor David Owen	For
Councillor Dhanisha Patel	For
Councillor Ross Penhale-Thomas	For
Councillor Aniel Pucella	Against
Councillor Kay Rowlands	Against
Councillor Bridie Sedgebeer	For
Councillor Rod Shaw	For
Councillor Charles Smith	For
Councillor Stephen Smith	For
Councillor John Spanswick	For
Councillor Roz Stirman	No vote recorded
Councillor Gary Thomas	For
Councillor Tim Thomas	For
Councillor Jefferson Tildesley MBE	For
Councillor Elaine Venables	For
Councillor Sadie Vidal	Against
Councillor Matthew Voisey	Against
Councillor Lyn Walters	Against
Councillor Ken Watts	For
Councillor Carolyn Webster	Against
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 Band D Council Tax for Bridgend County Borough Council of £1,470.87, and
- The Council charges for Band D properties for 2019-20 for each of the community areas as outlined in Table 6 of the report.

**283. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL STRATEGIES 2019-20 ONWARDS**

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer sought approval of the Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20, which includes the Treasury Management Indicators, the Capital Strategy 2019-20 to 2028-29, which includes the Prudential Indicators and the amended Financial Procedure Rules for incorporation into the Constitution.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that the revised Prudential Code placed a new requirement on local authorities to determine a Capital Strategy, to be approved by Council, which demonstrates that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability. As a result of changes to the Codes, the Capital Strategy will contain the Prudential Indicators

and the Treasury Management Strategy will only contain the Treasury Management Indicators.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that the Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20 confirms the Council's compliance with the Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice, which requires that formal and comprehensive objectives, policies and practices, strategies and reporting arrangements are in place for the effective management and control of treasury management activities, and that the effective management and control of risk are the prime objectives of these activities.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that the Capital Plans highlight that the Loans CFR, which is the Council's need to borrow to fund capital expenditure, is increasing year on year due to additional prudential borrowing together with the reduction of internal borrowing opportunities from usable reserves, with new borrowing being £29m. She stated that one of the objectives is to achieve a balance between risk and return.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer that within the Capital Strategy the Council is planning capital expenditure of £36.157m in 2019-20 and she detailed how the Council planned to finance this expenditure. She also highlighted how there will be increased revenue pressure on the capital financing budgets over the MTFS period, with a projected over spend of £595m in 2021-22. The Group Manager Chief Accountant advised that this would be the worst case scenario, with unsupported borrowing being used for future schemes, but the authority would look to bring that down. The Council will endeavour to minimise the revenue pressure by maximising alternative capital resources such as earmarked reserves and capital receipts.

**RESOLVED:** That Council approved:

- the Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20 including the Treasury Management Indicators 2019-20 to 2021-22;
- the Capital Strategy 2019-20 including the Prudential Indicators 2019-20 to 2021-22;
- the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2019-20 and;
- the amendments to the Financial Procedure Rules for incorporation into the Constitution.

284. **COUNCIL TAX: COUNCIL TAX DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNT ON EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SECOND HOMES**

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported on a proposal to amend the level of discretionary discount available on Council Tax empty properties and second homes with effect from 1 April 2019.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer informed Council that local authorities were given discretionary powers by the Local Government Act 2003 to reduce or remove the 50% Council Tax discount on unoccupied and substantially unfurnished Council tax chargeable dwellings after the initial 6 month exemption period had expired, known as Class C properties. She stated that this Council has previously awarded a 50% discount to the properties which might fall into this category. Only 10 of the 22 local authorities in Wales still award a 50% discount after the initial 6 month exemption period.

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The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer highlighted the categories where the Council awards a 50% discount to Council Tax properties which remain empty. She outlined a proposal to remove the discretionary power to award a discount and charge 100% of the Council Tax in the categories outlined from 1 April 2019, for the financial year 2019-20 onwards, which would in turn discourage owners of empty properties to allow them to remain empty and fall into disrepair. She stated that a notice of this change will be required to be publicised within 21 days of the decision.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- Agreed the continuation of no Council Tax discount on second homes except where the reduction is granted in respect of a job related dwelling;
- Approved a new level of 100% Council tax payable for all categories mentioned in the report at 4.1 which have been empty for more than 6 months;
- Delegated authority to the Revenues Manager to implement the changes.

285. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 16:37