

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

Present

Councillor JR McCarthy – Chairperson

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
D Patel	RL Penhale-Thomas	AA Pucella	JC Radcliffe
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	CA Webster	DBF White
PJ White	A Williams	AJ Williams	HM Williams
RE Young			

Apologies for Absence

S Aspey, DG Owen, KJ Watts and JE Williams

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Michael Pitman	Business & Administrative Apprentice
Andrew Rees	Democratic Services Manager
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Kevin Stephens	Democratic Services Assistant
Kelly Watson	Head of Legal & Regulatory Services

313. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

314. TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR JR MCCARTHY

The Mayor informed Council of the engagements which he and his Consort had attended in the past month which included the opening of the newest phase of the safe routes to school from Croesty School to Coychurch. The Mayor and Consort visited Brynteg Lower school to hear the harrowing story of Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke. The Mayor also informed Council that he and the Consort had attended the retirement lunch for Dame Kate Thomas, who was retiring from her position of Lord Lieutenant.

He and the Consort had a further 3 engagements to attend and he thanked all Members and officers for their help in the Mayoral year.

315. TO ELECT THE MAYOR TO BE INVESTED AT THE CIVIC INAUGURATION CEREMONY ON 22 MAY 2019 AND THE MAYOR (ELECT) TO ANNOUNCE THEIR CONSORT / ESCORT

A motion was made which was duly seconded and carried unanimously, that Councillor SE Baldwin be appointed Mayor for 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That Councillor SE Baldwin be elected as Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Baldwin announced that his Consort for the ensuing year would be his partner Mr Craig Williams.

316. TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY MAYOR TO BE INVESTED AT THE CIVIC INAUGURATION CEREMONY ON 22 MAY 2019 AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S (ELECT) CONSORT / ESCORT

A motion was made which was duly seconded and carried unanimously, that Councillor KJ Watts be appointed Deputy Mayor for 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That Councillor KJ Watts be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor JE Williams was announced as the Consort to the Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

317. TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR

Councillor Baldwin announced that it was a great honour for him to be elected as Mayor for Bridgend County Borough Council and that he was looking forward to attending a wide variety of events during his year of office. He pay tribute to the outgoing Mayor and Consort for the way in which they had served the County Borough in their year in office.

318. TO ELECT THE LEADER OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

A motion was made which was duly seconded, that Councillor HJ David be elected as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council for 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That Councillor HJ David be elected Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year.

319. TO AGREE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE CABINET

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet for 2019/20 consists of the Leader, Deputy Leader and four Cabinet Members supporting portfolios.

320. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader thanked colleagues for his election as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council and he pledged once more give the role his full attention and focus. There would need to be a strong focus will be necessary over the next twelve months, with the tenth year of national austerity fast approaching, with the future remaining very challenging for local government, with the Council requiring to save a further £35m over the coming years, which will impact significantly upon local services and council tax rises.

He informed Council that local government and society are in a state of transition, with the uncertainty of Brexit, the Council now being part of a new health authority area,

facing increasing demands for greater regional collaboration, and seeing rapid changes in the roles that councils play in the lives of people living throughout the UK. He stated that the Council has not shied away from making difficult decisions during this period, nor had it lost sight of ensuring the continued safety and wellbeing of the most vulnerable residents despite having to provide services against an ongoing backdrop of increasingly limited resources and requiring an ethos of resilience.

The Council has over the last year recruited and appointed a new Chief Executive, a Director of Education and appointed a new Monitoring Officer, with Council growing its own and promoting from within the organisation. It therefore has the advantage of a new senior management team that has extensive experience of the organisation, and Cabinet will continue to work alongside them in order to meet future challenges head-on.

The Leader acknowledged the efforts of staff at all levels over the last nine years, who have been at the forefront of delivering council services and maintain high quality under some very difficult circumstances. Cutting over 400 posts from organisation has increased the demands placed on staff at all levels within the organisation, but it was reassuring that the authority has a skilled and dedicated workforce in place as it turns towards the year ahead.

The Leader stated that although the Council faces diminishing resources, it has always tried to balance this with innovation and investment in the future, and the Council can never lose sight of the need to invest in its communities, modernise and change services and invest in young people. The Council has opened a new Extra Care facility at Ynysawdre and a second facility preparing to open in Maesteg. Children's residential homes have been remodelled to provide a hub with a new short-term assessment unit featuring for the first time specialist therapeutic care and a new emergency unit, which has helped to avoid making out of county placements in secure accommodation.

The Council has teamed up with organisations such as health and South Wales Police to establish the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, helping to respond to safeguarding concerns in a coordinated, joined up and effective way. Elsewhere, the Council has agreed to support young people leaving care by making them exempt from having to pay any council tax until they are 25 years old, and are supporting grieving families by scrapping burial and cremation fees for children and young people who are under 18 years old.

The Council is continuing to revolutionise the way in which people can access council services, and have seen people doing business with the Council around the clock thanks to the launch of the new My Account online feature. The flagship 21st Century school modernisation programme has delivered significant success over the last year, and we have been delighted to open state of the art primary schools for Brynmenyn, Pencoed, Bettws and Calan Y Cymoedd. Over the next five years, Band B of the programme will see an investment of more than £65m in a further five new schools, including two Welsh medium primaries and a modern new special school. Investing in education will give young people the skills they need and the local economy the skills it needs to thrive.

There is a shortage of commercial space for small and micro businesses and the investment of £5.5m in the Enterprise Hub Programme to create 1,800 square metres of new business units at Brocastle, Village Farm Industrial Estate, and the Innovation Centre is the biggest ever expansion of business space for small businesses in the County Borough's History. A pipeline of projects are under development through the Cardiff Capital City Deal which is a 10 year long term programme, and as Chair of the Regional Transport Authority, the Leader was delighted to announce proposals for a new park-and-ride at Pyle rail station recently. The Graduate Support Scheme will see

the Council working with local employers to create opportunities with the likes of Sony in Pencoed and Rockwool in Heol Y Cyw, and with cutting-edge technological life science companies within the area employing highly-skilled specialists, we are seeking to capitalise on the world's first semi-conductor cluster project.

The Council is the only one in Wales to have an energy strategy and plan in place for reducing carbon emissions by 95%, leading not just Wales, but the UK. More significantly, the County Borough will have the UK's first and only largescale mine water energy scheme and the District Heat Network project in Bridgend. The Council is supporting a domestic energy efficiency initiative that will help households living in fuel poverty and are trialling the latest hybrid technologies in one of the UK's only living labs through the likes of the Freedom project in Brackla. He stated that the potential of this is huge considering that the City Deal's industrial and economic policy, Welsh Government and UK government identifies energy as a strategic and industrial priority. The kerbside recycling and waste collection service and the enthusiasm and efforts of residents, the Council is the second-highest performing authority in Wales and on track to smash the recycling target set by Welsh Government.

The Leader announced that the Council has invested millions in things like the replacement and resurfacing of roads and pavements throughout the county borough or the installation of more efficient streetlighting. Over the year to come, the Council will be investing millions more in initiatives that range from helping people to access and develop essential disabled facilities to ensuring that local bridges remain safe to use.

The Council has invested in new sea defences which have recently been completed at Porthcawl's town beach, and the new watersports centre which is nearing completion at Rest Bay. These represent another piece in the overall regeneration jigsaw for the town, and we have exciting plans under development that will soon deliver further improvements. Progress continues on plans for the re-development of Maesteg Town Hall to secure it for future generations as regional arts and cultural hub. The Council is committed to ensuring maximising the potential value of the Welsh Government's Valleys Task Force for the Llynfi, Ogmore and Garw. The Council has already seen investment in Garw Valley through the Valleys Regional Park Visitor gateway programme. This has all been achieved at a time when the Council has been forced to find multi-million pound savings in the face of ongoing austerity. The Council has had to fundamentally alter the way in which it provide essential frontline services, and through greater collaboration, partnership working and the use of innovations such as community asset transfers. He stated that the Council will need to continue to work in an engaging and inclusive way with other public sector partners, the third sector and private sector it faces.

The Leader informed Council that weighing people's expectations against the reality of what needs to be done can be a Councillor's singularly most frustrating experience. While this continues to be the case, it does not deflect or distract the Council from doing the right thing, and he believed this Council will continue to seek to provide the best possible outcomes under the circumstances. He stated that Members will continue to remain ambitious for the County Borough.

In his role as Leader, he is supported by Cabinet colleagues, and he acknowledged their contribution to the leadership of the authority and expressed his thanks for their ongoing and much-valued support. He stated that one of the positive hallmarks of this Council is the way that the Council can work across political parties and groups and achieve consensus. He thanked Councillors Clarke, Giffard, James and Penhale-Thomas for working together as Group Leaders. He stated that elected representatives owed that to the communities it represented.

The Leader concluded that the Council remained strong, stable and largely united and by working together to protect essential services for the most vulnerable, prioritising investment in the future, it can ensure that Bridgend County Borough Council can continue to meet the inevitable challenges that lay ahead.

321. THE LEADER TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

RESOLVED: That the Leader appointed the following Members to the Cabinet:-

Councillor HW Williams
Councillor D Patel
Councillor PJ White
Councillor CE Smith
Councillor RE Young

322. THE LEADER MAY ANNOUNCE THE DEPUTY LEADER OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FROM THOSE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE CABINET AND MAY ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF CABINET MEMBERS TO PORTFOLIOS

RESOLVED: That the Leader announced that the Deputy Leader for 2019/20 would be Councillor HM Williams, and that he would be responsible for Resources.

He added that the following Cabinet Members would be responsible for the undermentioned portfolios:-

Councillor D Patel – Wellbeing and Future Generations
Councillor PJ White – Social Services and Early Help
Councillor RE Young – Communities
Councillor CE Smith – Education and Regeneration

323. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which, was to propose a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council and Council Committees for the municipal year May 2019 – April 2020 for approval and to note the programme of meetings for the municipal year May 2020 – April 2021.

The Monitoring Officer announced one change to the programme of meetings for the year 2019-2020 that the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee be changed from 18 July 2019 to 17 July 2019.

A member requested that the timings of meetings of Council be reviewed and whether consideration could be given to holding some meetings of Council in the evening. The Monitoring Officer informed Council that the Democratic Services Committee would be considering elements of the Constitution in order to review the time period for the submission of Questions and Motions and also the timing of Council meetings with the outcome of the review being reported back to Council.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Approved the proposed programme of Council meetings for 2019/20 as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

- (2) Approved the proposed programme of meetings of Council Committees set out in Appendix 1 to this report, subject to the above change.
- (3) Noted the provisional programme of meetings of Council and Committees for 2020/21, set out in Appendix 2 to this report.
- (4) Noted the dates of Cabinet, Cabinet Committees and Cabinet's Joint Committee which are also set out in Appendix 1 to this report, for information purposes.

324. **APPOINTMENTS TO THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COUNCIL BODIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**

The Monitoring Officer sought approval for the appointment of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and such other Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and other bodies as the Council considers appropriate, to deal with matters which are neither reserved to full Council nor are executive functions.

The Monitoring Officer reported that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 made a number of requirements in relation to the Audit Committee's membership, including Lay Membership and the appointment of the Chairperson. The Chairperson under the Measure is required to be appointed by the Audit Committee at its first scheduled meeting which is scheduled for 13 June 2019. The lay member of the Committee, Ms J Williams was reappointed for a further term at the Annual Meeting of Council on 17th May 2017, and in accordance with the Measure, is allowed to serve a maximum of two terms on the Committee in this capacity.

The Monitoring Officer also reported on an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee to include the following function "*Receive a copy of a report concerning the incidents and near misses reported under the Corporate Risk Management Incident and Near Misses Reporting Procedure (Excluding Health and Safety)*".

The Monitoring Officer reported that the Standards Committee currently comprises seven members and there is currently a vacancy for a Town and Community Councillor and recommended that the membership remain the same as at present and that Part 3 of the Constitution in relation to the Standards Committee membership be amended accordingly.

The Monitoring Officer also reported that the Council currently has in place an Appointments Committee in order to interview and appoint JNC level staff, which includes designated positions such as the Chief Executive, Directors and Heads of Service. In order to accommodate all political Group Leaders on the Appointments Committee, it is proposed to increase the membership by 2 Members, namely the Group Leader of the Llynfi Independents and an additional seat to the Labour Group to maintain their appropriate level of representation on Committees overall.

The Monitoring Officer informed Council that the Measure also established procedures whereby Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs are nominated and appointed. The Measure requires that as a minimum the Chairpersons of these Committees be appointed based on the size and political balance of each of the groups that make up the Council. In line with the political composition of the Council, and the formula used under the Local Government Measure with regard to the allocation of Overview and Scrutiny Chairs, these should be allocated to the following political groups:

Political Group	Number of Chairs to be allocated
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Labour	1 Chairperson
Conservative	1 Chairperson
Independent Alliance	1 Chairperson
Llynfi Independents	0 Chairperson
Plaid Cymru	0 Chairperson

The Monitoring Officer informed Council that the Chairperson of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is unallocated and in accordance with the Measure, is to be appointed by the members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee from one of the Chairpersons of the Scrutiny Subject Committees but it cannot be the Chairperson representing the Executive group.

She stated that the current remit and functions of Committees and other bodies of the Council remain unchanged as detailed in Part 3 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Council Functions and that political balance is essential to determine the allocation of seats on Committees. She detailed the current committee structure and the existing membership of committees which will form the basis of any changes to the membership of the committees.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Appointed the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and such other Committees as the Council considers appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions;
- (2) Determined the size and terms of reference for those Committees as set out in **Appendix 1** of the report;
- (3) Determined the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules as set out in **Appendix 2** of the report;
- (4) Determined which political groups represented at Council are entitled to make which appointments of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons;
- (5) Received nominations and appointed Councillors to serve on each of the Committees, Panels and other bodies (as indicated);
 - Appeals Panel
 - Appointments Committee (Chairperson – The Leader)
 - Audit Committee
 - Democratic Services Committee
 - Development Control Committee
 - Licensing Committee
 - Licensing Act 2003 Committee
 - Town and Community Council Forum
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3
 - Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(6) Received nominations and appointed the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the following Committees, Panels and other bodies (as indicated) with it being noted that the Audit Committee at its first scheduled meeting will appoint a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:-

- Appeals Panel Chairperson – Councillor NA Burnett
- Appeals Panel Vice-Chairperson – Councillor PA Davies
- Democratic Services Committee – Councillor E Venables
- Development Control Committee Chairperson – Councillor G Thomas
- Development Control Committee Vice-Chairperson – Councillor RM Granville
- Licensing Committee & Licensing Act 2003 Committee Chairperson – Councillor DRW Lewis
- Licensing Committee & Licensing Act 2003 Committee Vice-Chairperson – Councillor PA Davies
- Town & Community Council Forum Chairperson – Councillor HJ David
- Town & Community Council Forum Vice-Chairperson – Councillor CE Smith

(7) Received nominations and appointed the Chairpersons to the following Overview and Scrutiny Committees:-

- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 – Councillor CA Webster
- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 – Councillor CA Green
- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 – Councillor JC Spanswick

(8) That the membership of the Standards Committee remain as at present in accordance with paragraph 4.3 of the report and that part 3 of the Constitution in relation to the Standards Committee membership be amended accordingly;

(9) Approved amendment of Part 3 of the Constitution in relation to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference in accordance with paragraph 4.2.3 of the report and the Appointments Committee in accordance with paragraph 4.4.2 of the report.

325. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND OTHER COMMITTEES

The Monitoring Officer sought approval to appoint Members to the South Wales Police and Crime Panel, Cardiff Capital Region City Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the following nominations to the bodies listed below:-

South Wales Police and Crime Panel – Councillor RE Young

Cardiff Capital Region City Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor JP Blundell

South East Wales Strategic Planning Group – Chairperson of the Development Control Committee

326. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES 2019/2020

The Monitoring Officer advised Council of the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of the level and range of remuneration the Authority must make available to its Members for the 2019/20 municipal year.

The Monitoring Officer summarised the determinations of the Panel in relation to the level of basic salary; senior salaries; Leader and Deputy Leader; Cabinet members; Chairs of Committees; the Leader of the largest opposition group; opposition group leaders; civic salaries and co-opted members. She stated that the draft Annual Report of the Panel had been the subject of consultation with all council in Wales and comments had been made by the Democratic Services Committee which resolved to write to the Panel whilst endorsing the determinations it would make, the IRP needs to bear in mind the budgetary pressures faced by local authorities when setting salary levels. It also urged restraint in the conclusions it made in determining pay awards as the Council needs to demonstrate to the public that it is mindful of budgetary constraints in the delivery of public services.

The Monitoring Officer informed Council that the introduction of these proposals will increase the cost of remuneration of Members by £268 per Elected Member which equates to £14,472.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) noted the determinations and recommendations contained within the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of the level and range of remuneration the Authority must pay its Members for the 2019/20 municipal year;
- (2) Approved:
 - the adoption of the relevant determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel contained within its 2019 report;
 - those posts (as shown in the revised Members' Schedule of Remuneration), who will receive a senior/civic salary;
 - the level of remuneration for the Senior and Civic Salaries (where appropriate);
 - the revised Members' Schedule of Remuneration at Appendix 2, and for it to become effective from 15 May 2019 (Annual Meeting of Council).

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 15 MAY 2019

- that the Members' Schedule of Remuneration be updated with any changes to Senior/Civic Salary positions subsequently made by Council during the 2019/20 municipal year.

The meeting closed at 15:45