

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2014 AT 3.00PM

Present:

Councillor G Thomas - Mayor and Chairperson

S Apsey	M Gregory	H E Morgan	R Thomas
M W Butcher	E M Hughes	M E J Nott OBE	J H Tildesley MBE
N Clarke	R M James	A D Owen	H J Townsend
H J David	P John	D G Owen	E Venables
G Davies	B Jones	D R Pugh	K J Watts
P A Davies	C L Jones	C Reeves	C Westwood
G W Davies MBE	R C Jones	M Reeves	D B F White
E Dodd	M Jones	C E Smith	H M Williams
D K Edwards	D R W Lewis	J C Spanswick	R Williams
E P Foley	J E Lewis	G Thomas	M Winter
C A Green	J R McCarthy	M Thomas	R E Young

Officers:

D Mepham	- Chief Executive
D McMillan	- Corporate Director - Children
M Shephard	- Corporate Director - Communities
N Young	- Corporate Director - Resources and Section 151 Officer
S Cooper	- Corporate Director - Wellbeing
P A Jolley	- Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
K Watson	- Group Manager – Legal Services
G P Jones	- Head of Democratic Services (Electronic Support)
M A Galvin	- Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

429 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members for the reasons so stated:

Councillor C L Jones	- Childcare commitments
Councillor C J James	- Hospital
Councillor P James	- Family commitments
Councillor R D Jenkins	- Unwell
Councillor L C Morgan	- Hospital appointment
Councillor G Phillips	- Recuperating
Councillor C E Rees	- Work commitments
Councillor D Sage	- In hospital
Councillor P J White	- Hospital appointment
Councillor P John	- Unwell

430 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 12 November 2014 were approved as a true and accurate record.

431 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D B F White declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7 due to his wife being employed in the Business Support Section of the Wellbeing Directorate, which was presently being re-structured.

432 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that he was sure that all Members would like to join him in sending best wishes to Councillor Clive James, who has been through a very tough time recently with his health, and that our thoughts were with him and Councillor Pauline James.

He pointed out that one of the events that Councillor James enjoyed the most last year was the Mayor's Citizenship Awards, and he was pleased to say that nominations are now open for this year's event which will be held in March 2015. Further details could be found in the latest Bridgemembers newsletter which Members should have all received today, so he asked them to please think about any charity champions, outstanding volunteers or remarkable citizens who Members may like to put forward for an award.

The Mayor stated that the talent of local school children never failed to impress him, and he was delighted to attend the launch of a new anti-bullying calendar at Heronsbridge School recently. The calendar featured drawings that had been created by pupils from across the County Borough, and was an excellent way of helping to spread the message among children that we need to stamp out bullying.

The Mayor stated that the Christmas season was fast approaching, and that he was enjoying the pleasure of attending several festive events. The Nearly Christmas Dinner was an excellent charity event hosted by First Minister Carwyn Jones at the Heronston Hotel last week, and he was looking forward to his charity Carol Service at St Mary's Nolton Church in Bridgend on Wednesday, 17 December. No tickets are required for the service, which will start at 7.00pm and he hoped other Members and Officers could attend this.

The Mayor finally announced that if Members had also not made any plans for this Saturday afternoon, then they were welcome to join him in Adare Street in Bridgend town centre for the annual Elf-steddfod event. Little helpers of all ages were invited to be there at 1.00pm for another attempt at the world record for gathering the most elves in one place. Each participant will be given an elf hat, but are asked to please wear a green or red jumper if possible.

Finally, the Mayor thanked Members for their support and wished them all a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

433 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Cabinet Member - Communities

In the absence of the Cabinet Member – Communities the Cabinet Member – Strategic Change presented his announcements.

He confirmed that the Cabinet Member - Communities welcomed the Minister of Natural Resources, Carl Sargeant, to Maesteg on 21 November, to officially launch the Bridgend Nature Keepers Project. This was an innovative project attracting new visitors to the County Borough that uses poetry, oak sculpture and digital technology to encourage people to experience the natural environment in Bridgend County Borough. The seven foot tall oak Keepers are the guardians of the story of the land. Inspired by, and building on the successful four Keepers installed at Bryngarw Country Park, an additional ten Keepers have been installed in green spaces across the County for visitors to discover. The project was 100% grant funded with resources from Capital Region Tourism and Natural Resources Wales. To find out more Members could view the video on the Bridgendbites

website or download the 'Dare to Discover' app. both available on both Apple and Android platforms.

The Cabinet Member - Communities stated that on Tuesday the 25 November, an event was held at the Civic Offices not only to mark the annual White Ribbon Campaign but to celebrate the Council's success in achieving 'White Ribbon Town Status' accreditation.

The White Ribbon Campaign is unique, in that it is led by men who are working to end violence against women. An action plan was submitted to White Ribbon which was subsequently approved in September 2014 and Councillor Hailey Townsend collected the White Ribbon Corporate Supporter status certificate for Bridgend County Borough Council presented by Carl Sargent at The Sennedd.

South Wales Fire and rescue Service kindly offered to pay the bi annual fee for 2014-2016 and South Wales Police have also kindly agreed to fund the same for 2016-2018. Four ambassadors have been appointed, Councillor David White; Rhys Webb (Ospreys and Wales International Rugby player); Chief Fire Officer Hugh Jakeway and Lee Jukes (local radio personality).

Key partners in the campaign against domestic abuse received 'Supporter Status' in recognition of their partnership work with Bridgend County Borough Council. These were:-

- Bridgend Women's Aid
- Victim Support
- Hafan Cymru
- South Wales Police Service
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Youth Offender Service
- ABMU Bridgend Locality Health
- Probation Service
- Community Rehabilitation Company

(2) Cabinet Member - Children and Young People

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People congratulated Litchard Primary School on being one of the three best practice case studies highlighted by Estyn in a thematic report on numeracy in key stage 2 and 3. The case study has been published on the inspectorate's website. Estyn's recognition resulted in BBC Wales evening news programme.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People pointed out that another Bridgend school had been in the limelight of television, ITV Wales News were at Heronsbridge as the school was looking for public support to gain lottery funding for bike recycling scheme. The Heronsbridge Re-Cycles project, which sees run-down donated bikes restored and transformed by its older pupils, had been shortlisted for the ITV People's Millions Lottery Fund. The school was unsuccessful but the project continues to look for ways to secure funding to make it sustainable, it is a very exciting project that can offer vital employment skills and opportunities for young people with special educational needs that often struggle to gain work once they leave school.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People also congratulated Ysgol Bryn Castell pupil, Reggie Baldock, for winning the poem writing competition organised by the Central South Consortium. It was really pleasing that out of all the special schools in Bridgend, Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Merthyr Tydfil that a 'Bridgend boy' had written the best poem in the category. All winners of the competition were invited to Cardiff City stadium to receive their award from the Minister but Reggie was too shy so we will be celebrating his win in a different way.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People stated that schools are continuing to volunteer to sign up to the new cashless school catering system. Online payments are much more convenient for parents and carers, and another benefit is that it significantly reduces the amount of administration work required in schools as they will not need to handle as much cash and cheques. It went live in Maes yr Haul last month and Newton last week with Abercerdin, Tondu and Coety Primary starting in the New Year.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People also congratulated Oldcastle Primary School for its accreditation as the 1<sup>st</sup> Every Child Counts in school in Wales. An intervention for children who struggle with mathematics. Funding was provided via the PDG and through a Communities First Grant including one to one specialised teaching of four lowest achieving pupils in Year 2.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People informed Members that following the flood of the Early Years Unit, the fires at Tremains Primary and Cwm Garw, a lightning bolt hit Llangynwyd School last week. Luckily no one was hurt or injured. Whilst there was some damage to the roof, due to the prompt action of staff, council officers and the fire service the school had been kept open.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People informed Members that Brackla Primary School had ridden to the top of the league of schools that were promoting active and sustainable travel among pupils. They had become the first primary school in the County Borough to achieve the Silver Mark Award from Sustrans.

He advised that Brackla pupils regularly travel to school on two wheels, and enjoy taking part in the weekly 'Bike It' club sessions and Wheelie Wednesdays, where anyone who cycles or scoots to school is entered into a raffle to stand a chance of winning a prize. Skills sessions have also been held so that the pupils can pick up riding tips, safety advice and learn about bike and scooter maintenance.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People added that providing they can do so safely, travelling to school by bike, scooter or on foot is a great way for pupils to keep fit, helps the environment and also saves on petrol cost for parents. Making active travel part of a child's routine from a young age can help instil positive habits for the rest of their lives, and the pupils and teachers at Brackla Primary School deserve credit for setting an excellent example.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People confirmed that as Bryntirion School Governors would know, the former youth wing at Bryntirion Comprehensive which had become very tired and was underused, has been transformed into a bright new Sixth Form Study Centre which was also a multiple use. It was officially opened by the First Minister last month.

### (3) Cabinet Member - Strategic Change

The Cabinet Member - Strategic Change stated that congratulations were due to Council Officers and Bridgend FM for the success of this year's Bridgend Retail Awards. This was the second year that they have been held and more than 6,000 members of the public went on-line to vote for their top traders, which went to show just how much they value their local shops. There were ten categories in the awards with three businesses shortlisted in each one.

The Cabinet Member - Strategic Change informed Members that he had recently met with the Porthcawl over-50s Forum, SHOUT, and was shown a list of seven schemes that they

are currently involved with. These included a proposed Samptampa memorial on the Porthcawl Esplanade and an upgrade to street furniture at Station Hill. He believed that these schemes had great potential for adding value to local regeneration matters, so he would be working with the group as much as possible as they developed.

The Cabinet Member - Strategic Change stated that following permission from the Welsh Government to assess the feasibility of establishing a Business Improvement District in Bridgend town centre, he was pleased to confirm that Stage One of the scheme has been approved. Local traders would now vote on whether they want to establish such a district within the town centre, which would set up a system where businesses could each put money into a pot and then use the fund as they see fit for the benefit of local trade. A business plan was under development and a ballot would be held next June, these were interesting developments, and he would keep Members updated regarding progress.

The Cabinet Member - Strategic Change finally informed Members that Santa had been particularly busy in the County Borough recently. His arrival in Bridgend town centre and the switching-on of the Christmas lights was really well attended, and thanks were due to colleagues at Bridgend Town Council for their help and support in organising this popular event. In Porthcawl, Santa visited a Christmas market which featured a unique snow globe that kept the crowds entertained, and in Maesteg the switching on of the lights was accompanied by an ice rink in New Market Square. Again, thanks to the town councils for helping make Christmas in the County Borough really memorable this year he added.

#### 434 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chief Executive updated Members on two recent developments. Firstly, he confirmed that Estyn had just completed an inspection of BCBC Children's Services.

They were not due to provide any formal response to the Authority until the New Year, but in the meantime, the Council had received some very positive informal feedback from them, particularly around improvements in educational performance. This was of course highly promising and he would be in a position to provide more specific details in January. The Chief Executive thanked everyone who met with the Estyn Inspectors as part of this process, for example Councillors, Cabinet Members, Head Teachers, Governors and Council Officers, as well as thanking Council for their support. Hopefully he added, further positive news would be available very soon.

The Chief Executive informed Members that he had just heard that Bridgend County Borough Council had won an APSE award in the category of 'Most Improved Performer for Building Cleaning'. The awards were based on factors such as cost, quality and productivity form part of the APSE Performance Network, which covers all local councils to offer the largest voluntary data benchmarking service in the United Kingdom. In other words, the APSE awards recognise local government services that provide taxpayers with best value for money, something which is more important than ever in the current climate.

The Chief Executive was sure Members would agree that this was good news, and that he would be contacting staff to congratulate them for their success.

#### 435 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader announced that the Council had received some exiting news recently with confirmation that the Senior Open golf tournament was set to return to the County Borough. Following the successful staging of this highly prestigious event at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club earlier in the year, organisers had announced that they want to bring the tournament back to Porthcawl in the summer of 2017. The most recent event drew huge crowd and praise from visitors and players alike. This was excellent news and a welcome boost for trade and tourism. He understood that the Royal Porthcawl would also host the Amateur

Championship in 2016, so it was great to see the area developing such a reputation for top quality golfing action.

The Leader also announced that he was sure that Members would join him in congratulating Bettws resident Paul Jenkins and Pencoed Comprehensive pupil Rhys Jones for their success at this year's Wales Sport Awards, which took place earlier in the week. Paul received 'Coach to Disabled People of the Year' in recognition of his work as a wheelchair rugby coach, which has included helping the British team take gold at the Incivtus games. Meanwhile, Rhys won 'Young Volunteer of the Year' for his involvement with a 'learn to cycle' scheme at Pencoed Primary and contributions at Bridgend Athletics Club where he acts as an assistant coach for the junior section. He also mentioned that Rhys, who is 16, works with the Council's Active Young People team as part of their leadership and Five by Sixty programmes. Paul and Rhys thoroughly deserved this recognition for the inspirational work within the County Borough.

Finally, the Leader stated that he was delighted to inform Members that Coleg Cynunedol y Dderwen, out £39m 'gateway to the valleys' school, has won the title of Project of the Year in the recent CLAW Sustainability Awards. The awards were launched in 2006 to promote and reward excellence in the field of sustainable development among Welsh local authorities, and anyone who has had the pleasure of touring Y Dderwen will know that the school is second to none in that department. Featuring a mix of low and zero carbon technologies, the school's carbon neutral biomass boiler, a solar hot water system, rainwater harvesting facilities and use of excess energy generated by the adjacent Ynysawdre Sports Centre have already helped it to achieve a five star 'outstanding' rating from sustainable building specialists BREEAM as well as a UK BREEAM Education Award. This latest accolade was a further tribute to the project team and contractors who have delivered this truly impressive landmark school, and marks a significant achievement in the ongoing school modernisation programme, too. Well done to everyone who had played a part in its success. The Leader then formally presented the project team and contractors with the CLAW Sustainability Award.

436 TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION FOR THE EXECUTIVE

**Question from Councillor Cherie Jones to the Cabinet Member - Strategic Change.**

"A recent news report concerned a care home operator being fined £92,000 by HSE after a service user fell from a first floor window and died from the fall in 2010 at Brocastle Manor Care Home, Ewenny. The HSE investigation found the window restrictor use could be over-ridden. Hafod Care Association admitted a Health and Safety charge and also had to pay £100,000. Bridgend County Borough Council had contracts with Hafod Care Association for 2 services, Picton Court and Brocastle. Does this represent any risk to this Authority"?

**Response from the Cabinet Member - Strategic Change**

"This was a tragic accident that happened in 2010. Following the incident the Council held a multi-agency meeting to review the circumstances of the incident and Hafod Care gave assurances that the window restrictors had been updated. They subsequently provided written confirmation and verification that all the windows in their 15 Care Homes across Wales had been changed. The restrictors have been accepted by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate in Wales (CSSIW).

The Council holds contracts with Hafod who have two residential and nursing care homes in the Borough, one at Brocastle Manor, near Bridgend and the other at Picton Court, near Porthcawl.

Brocastle and Picton Court have modern facilities with each catering for up to around 80 individuals for residential, mental health and nursing care need.

Vacancies at Brocastle and Picton Court are filled quickly and the perception of the general population in Bridgend is that both services offer positive experiences for residents and demand for places is usually high.

#### Quality and Evaluation

Bridgend County Borough Council and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University have a joint contract for purchasing places with Hafod and this is due for renewal in March 2016. There is ongoing monitoring of this contract. Reviews by Social Workers and Nursing Assessors indicate that very good support is generally offered in the homes. As with all care settings, there are the odd low level issues at the home from time to time. Although in general the feedback is that both services offer good experiences for residents.

Earlier in the year, both Brocastle and Picton Court were visited by Members as part of the Council's ongoing rota visiting scheme. Members visiting had a very positive experience in the home with all comments being complimentary of the overall service offered. Examples of feedback from these visits were tabled at the meeting.

Officers from Adult Social Care's Contract Monitoring Team undertake announced and unannounced visit to observe the hands on support being offered or to respond to issues that may arise. Officers also visit to benchmark the services against the Council's Care Fees Quality Payment Scheme where feedback from staff, residents, their families and visiting officers collectively form the basis of a yearly score which gives an overall indication of how well support is offered in the homes. The exercise is currently ongoing for 2014/15 but indications from previous exercises indicate that, both services seem to score consistently above the overall average care home sector scores. From an adult safeguarding perspectives, both services have never been through the concerns process and although safeguarding concerns are occasionally raised, issues tend to be minor and isolated and do not form a wider pattern of poor quality or ongoing concern.

CSSIW have visited both homes this and felt that both services are well managed. Again they felt that issues did occasionally arise, although do not raise any significant concerns.

#### Summary

The Council's Adult Social Care Directorate has longstanding contracts with Brocastle Manor and Picton Court, and commissioners regularly spot purchase beds in both homes. From commissioners and other stakeholders view point it is felt that Hafod deliver above average support in both homes and those who review both services agree that there are no significant concerns in the homes.

He concluded by stating that Hafod were a well respected organisation and that the Council wanted to continue working closely with them and other like organisations in future as it continued transforming services."

#### **Supplementary question from Councillor Cherie Jones to the Cabinet Member – Strategic Change**

"The Member thanked the appropriate Cabinet Member for his comprehensive response. She was however, hoping for a corporate response across all care home establishments and not just the one operator. Her supplementary question therefore, was to ask whether this incident or the subsequent ruling by HSE, had caused review of all other similar

establishments within the Borough where we provide care facilities, including all service providers”?

**Further response from the Cabinet Member – Strategic Change**

“The Care and Social Services Inspectorate in Wales is responsible for the registration, regulation and inspection of Care Homes in Wales. As part of their standards, they take account of environmental factors.

The Local Authority monitors the Contract with the provider and this includes ensuring quality of care, as well as a number of other standards that we measure against. He added that all establishments across the sector whether these be in-house or commissioned, had appropriate window restrictors fitted.

Social Workers also monitored individual care plans he added.

As a result of the recent ruling, the Authority were writing to all providers within the Borough to draw their attention to the ruling and to request that they review what they currently have in place. There was also a providers Forum that met quarterly, and safeguarding was a standing agenda item. The recent ruling would also be raised at the next meeting.

The same will apply to the Council Owned Homes”

437 **DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES - SOCIAL SERVICES, EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION**

The Chief Executive submitted a report, that sought approval for the proposal to realign the responsibilities of the Corporate Director – Wellbeing and the Corporate Director – Children. Namely that the former would assume line management of the Safeguarding Children Teams, and therefore become the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing, and that the Corporate Director – Children would assume overall responsibility for the Council’s transformation programme, and therefore become Corporate Director – Education and Transformation.

The report gave some background information, and confirmed that the above proposals had been put forward in order to address two key corporate concerns, firstly to drive the Council’s Transformation Agenda which comprised of major projects, the success of which was critical to the delivery of the Council’s Corporate Plan and MTFS.

A Transformation team would be established to both lead on and ensure delivery of the Projects.

The second concern explained the Chief Executive was to ensure to address clarity and conformity over Social Care professional leadership and accountability, and to give greater emphasis as to the consideration of children and adults at risk more holistically speaking.

The report highlighted the main changes anticipated in terms of service delivery as a result of implementation of the proposals, which would come into effect from 1 January 2015.

**RESOLVED:** That Council agreed:

- (1) For the Corporate Director – Wellbeing to assume line management of the Safeguarding Children Teams and therefore become the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing.
- (2) For the Corporate Director – Children to assume overall responsibility for the Council’s Transformation Programme and



therefore become the Corporate Director – Education and Transformation.

- (3) For the Corporate Project Management team to move from the HR service to report directly to the Corporate Director – Education and Transformation.

438 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014 -15 TO 2024 - 25

The Corporate Director – Resources submitted a report, in order to obtain from Council for a revised Capital Programme for 2014-15 to 2024-25.

The report gave some background information, and the Corporate Director – Resources then advised of a number of changes to the Capital Programme since it was approved by Council in July 2014. These were itemised in paragraph 4.1, whilst the Capital Programme was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

She explained that the programme approved in July totalled £40.835m for 2014 -15. The position at the end of quarter 2 was £29.685m. The main reasons for the variance were highlighted in paragraph 4.2 of the report, including a number of new approvals that were sanctioned.

In terms of capital receipts, the Council had secured a total of £2.3m receipts during 2010-11 to 2013-14, and is anticipating securing £19.2m usable receipts between 2014-15 and 2017-18, £9.5m of which are ring-fenced for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.

The Corporate Director – Resources stated that in addition, the Council has committed to match funding of £11.135m of school capital receipts and £2m of general capital receipts to the school modernisation programme.

She explained that there had been changes to some schemes which require Council approval in order to adjust or include them in the proposed Capital programme

These schemes were:

Strategic Regeneration Funding for EU Schemes  
Maximising Space and Technology  
Llynfi Valley Development  
Provision of a Playground at Ffordd yr Eglwys, North Cornelly  
Nantymoel Community Facilities

The Corporate Director – Resources confirmed that a revised capital programme allowing for the proposed changes along with anticipated slippage from 2013-14, additional external funding approvals and changes to expenditure profiles was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

A Member noted from the Maximising Space and Technology scheme that a further £360k was required to address existing problems in the building which had emerged during the refurbishment, and to meet essential safety requirements on Level 1 that had been identified during the design phase.

He asked why these had not been accounted for in the original budget for the works.

The Corporate Director – Resources confirmed that primarily these were for further costs relating to the installation of electrical facilities on Level 4 that were needed to meet health and safety requirements, including further re-wiring works. Changes also needed to be

made to the design of the office so as to accommodate employees from Sunnyside offices which was being sold.

The tender price for the works had also come in higher than that which was originally budgeted for, due to other changes relating to the scope of the project, that included provision of alarms in interview rooms and special lighting equipment in rooms for employees who worked outside normal office hours. There had also been an extra cost for the harmonisation of 3 different card systems that were required.

**RESOLVED:** That Council approved the revisited Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

439 **INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to inform Council of the information reports which had been published since the last meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That Council acknowledged the publication of the documents listed in the report as follows:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date Published</u>
Welsh Government's White Paper Reforming Local Government – Expression of interest for merger with the Vale of Glamorgan Council	Chief Executive	4 December 2014
Urgent Delegated Decision report	Monitoring Officer	4 December 2014

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.