

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2015 AT 3.00 PM**

Present

Councillor RE Young – Mayor and Chairperson

S Aspey	HJ David	M Gregory	MEJ Nott OBE
JH Tildesley MBE	PJ White	E Dodd	N Clarke
G Davies	GW Davies MBE	PA Davies	DK Edwards
EP Foley	EM Hughes	CJ James	P James
RM James	M Jones	DRW Lewis	JE Lewis
JR McCarthy	HE Morgan	AD Owen	DG Owen
G Phillips	DR Pugh	CL Reeves	M Reeves
CE Smith	JC Spanswick	M Thomas	RL Thomas
HJ Townsend	KJ Watts	C Westwood	DBF White
HM Williams	R Williams	LC Morgan	N Farr

Officers:

Darren Mepham	Chief Executive
Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Deborah McMillan	Corporate Director - Education & Transformation
Andrew Jolley	Assistant Chief Executive Legal & Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
Randal Hemingway	Head of Finance & ICT
Laura Kinsey	Head of Safeguarding and Assessment
Satwant Pryce	Head of Regeneration and Planning
Gary Jones	Head of Democratic Services
Andrew Rees	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

538. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Councillor M Butcher – Personal commitment  
Councillor CA Green – Holiday  
Councillor R Jenkins – Hospital appointment  
Councillor P John - Holiday  
Councillor CL Jones – Holiday  
Councillor RC Jones – Other Council Business  
Councillor D Sage – Medical appointment  
Councillor G Thomas – Attending a funeral  
Councillor E Venables – Holiday  
Ness Young – Corporate Director Resources & Section 151 Officer - Holiday  
Mark Shephard – Holiday

**539. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Declarations of Interest were made in relation to agenda item 8 – Notice of Motion.

Councillor R Young – Personal interest as a member of the GMB Union.

Councillor DBF White – Prejudicial interest as a member and shop steward of the City and County of Swansea Unison Branch and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the Notice of Motion.

Councillor C Reeves – Personal interest as a member of the Public and Commercial Services Union.

Councillor RL Thomas – Personal interest as a member of the GMB Union.

Councillor JC Spanswick – Personal interest as a member of the GMB Union.

Councillor R Williams – Personal interest as a retired member of Unison.

Councillor H Townsend – Personal interest as a member of the GMB Union.

Councillor M Reeves – Personal interest as a life member of the Public and Commercial Services Union and a member of Unite the Union Westminster Branch.

Councillor M Gregory – Personal interest as a member of Unite the Union.

Councillor HJ David - Personal interest as a member of Unite the Union.

Councillor AD Owen – Personal interest as a member of the Fire Brigades Union.

Councillor M Jones - Personal interest as a member of the GMB Union.

Councillor JE Lewis - Personal interest as a retired member of Unison.

Councillor DK Edwards - Personal interest as a life member of Unite the Union.

Councillor CE Smith – Personal interest as a member of the University and College Union and a member of Unison.

Councillor N Farr – Prejudicial interest as a member of Unison.

Councillor G Phillips – Personal interest as a retired member of the University and College Union.

Councillor J McCarthy - Personal interest as a retired member of Unite the Union.

Councillor PJ White – Personal interest as a member of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Councillor PA Davies - Personal interest as a retired / life member of Unite the Union.

Councillor M Thomas - Personal interest as a retired member of Unite the Union.

Councillor G Davies - Personal interest as a retired member of the AMPS Union.

Councillor D Pugh - Personal interest as a retired member of Unison and the National Union of Mineworkers.

Councillor MEJ Nott - Personal interest as a retired member of the RMT Union.

Councillor HM Williams - Personal interest as a member of the National Farmers Union.

**540. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council of 7 October 2015 be accepted as a true and accurate record subject to the inclusion of the names of Councillor CJ James and Councillor P James in the list of apologies for absence in minute no. 526.

**541. PRESENTATION**

Council received a presentation by Mr Jon Rae Director of Resources of the WLGA on the Financial Outlook for Councils in Wales. He outlined to Council the real terms decreases in Welsh local government spend 2009-10 to 2015-16 compared with comparable decreases in expenditure in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. He also outlined the inexorable pressures on budgets up to 2019-20 on Education, Social Services, fixed budgets and other services; funding and spending projections and the budget shortfall implications for controllable budgets.

The Director of Resources of the WLGA informed Council of forthcoming key dates in the local government calendar which would see the announcement of the Local Government Paving Bill on 24 November 2015; the Chancellor's Spending Review on 25 November 2015, the Welsh Government Draft Budget on 8 December 2015; the Provisional Local Government Settlement on 9 December 2015, the Welsh Government Final Budget would be laid on 1 March 2016 with the final Local Government Settlement on 2 March 2016.

The Director of Resources of the WLGA also informed Council of the various options favoured by the political parties of the Assembly for the reform of local government. He also outlined some lessons learnt from local government in England. He referred to the findings of the Grant Thornton 20-20 Report on the future of Welsh local government whereby Councils need to be adaptive but are only able to act with a short-term view. The WLGA had proposed the introduction of 3 year financial settlements to assist planning and to de-hypothecate £915m of specific grants for councils to prioritise locally, saving up to £70m and the transfer of public health into local government would save £72m. The WLGA also advocated the end of protection of schools budgets and proposed investing in preventative services by creating a £400m Better Care Fund. It also advocated the integration of health and social care and to give local government access to the £22m plastic bags levy. The WLGA also proposed the ending of the £60 cap on domiciliary care costs and the creation of a new £20m fund to invest in service mergers and ADMs.

The Mayor on behalf of Members thanked Mr Rae for his informative presentation.

Members considered the need to look at economic regeneration and growth in order to create the right conditions for private sector investment by looking at practices in English local government. The Director of Resources of the WLGA stated there had been a change in focus by the Scottish Government in relation to creating conditions for economic regeneration and growth, whilst the finance system in English local was incentivised towards business. He stated that economic regeneration and growth could be strengthened by giving local authorities statutory powers for economic development.

Members also considered the need to increase collaboration across the public sector due to reductions being made to visible services. Concern was expressed at Councils' ability to provide services in the future leaving little option but to merge with each other.

542. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that he and the Mayoress had hosted the Stroke Club's coffee morning in Evergreen Hall recently and were happy to support the start of their 'Give a Hand' campaign which is up and running this half-term week. The campaign invites locals to take part in a range of fundraising activities, by only using their 'other' hand – the one they normally would not use. Further information was available online at [give.stroke.org.uk/giveahand](http://give.stroke.org.uk/giveahand). He stated that this was a fun campaign to raise awareness of a serious subject which affects so many by using the hand which you would not normally use, which puts into perspective challenges faced by stroke sufferers daily. The Mayor stated that the Stroke Association provide wonderful support for stroke survivors during rehabilitation, and he was personally delighted to 'Give a Hand' to support this initiative. The Mayor thanked Karyl Carter and her team for the amazing work they do, and he congratulated her once again for her award of the BEM in the last Mayoral year.

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Parlour had once again hosted official British Empire Medal presentations. Kate Thomas, Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, on

behalf of the Queen, awarded Town Councillor and Past Bridgend Borough Mayor, Doug John, his medal for services to the community in Pencoed and to Mrs Jean Schofield, her medal as Chair, of the Porthcawl Branch Kidney Research Unit for Wales Foundation for services to kidney research. He stated that it had been a wonderful afternoon and as Mayor was proud to offer use of the Parlour for such an auspicious occasion, and to be part of honouring these special Bridgend citizens.

The Mayor also announced that following the success of the recent Bridgend Business Awards a schedule was being drawn up to visit the local companies and he was looking forward to meeting winners and their teams during the next few months.

The Mayor announced that he and the Mayoress had attended Dixie Dean's annual Poppy Concert last week which was a very moving event and was honoured that he was asked to speak. He stated that those who had died and were wounded in conflicts from the First World War up to the present will be remembered on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November in Bridgend Town Centre to lay wreaths on behalf of Bridgend County Borough. He felt certain that many would also be gathering at local memorials to give their thanks too. He hoped that everyone would take a moment on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November to remember the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day together.

The Mayor also announced that he would be hosting a Charity Luncheon at The Great House, Laleston on Friday 30 October 2015. Tickets for the event were available from Councillor Marlene Thomas or Mari Major. Huw Irranca-Davies MP would be speaking and Janice Gregory AM has kindly offered to compere.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

##### **Deputy Leader**

The Deputy Leader announced that today marks a significant step in the third phase of our School Modernisation programme as the Council has taken delivery of the all new Coety Primary School, a £7.3m state of the art facility which has been constructed by Bouygues UK within the Parc Derwen housing development less than a mile away from the school's old location. The school had been funded through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme and Section 106 contributions; the new school is twice the size of its predecessor and will cater for more than 400 pupils, including nursery-age children. He stated that pupils will enter their new classrooms for the first time on Monday morning and see for themselves its fantastic new facilities, which have been designed to BREEAM Excellent standards to lead the way in terms of being sustainable and energy efficient. Plans are also in place to make the school's facilities available to the wider community and an official opening will take place soon. He thanked everyone who has helped to reach this important milestone, and he was confident that this superb new school will provide a first-class learning environment for many future generations of local children.

The Deputy Leader also announced that the Council recently learned that St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School came out of Estyn monitoring recently. This news follows a 2014 inspection report which found that most pupils at the school have made good progress, that provision for those with additional learning needs is good, and that many pupils use their literacy and numeracy skills effectively. The report found teaching to be of good quality throughout the school, with good standards of behaviour and provision for pupils' wellbeing, and also praised head teacher Jackie Phillips for having raised expectations to tackle underachievement. He congratulated teachers, staff, pupils and governors at the school for their hard work and efforts to deliver this extremely positive result.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities announces that he was extremely happy to confirm that work to ensure the Bridgend town centre A473 inner bypass bridge remains safe for drivers to use has been completed. He stated that this was a major project that had to be carried out in phases after structural surveys revealed the well-used town centre bridge was in need of urgent maintenance if it was to remain safe and durable for the future. The project was funded through the Welsh Government's LGBI highways improvement initiative, the work involved repairs to parapets and concrete supports, replacing the bridge bearings, installing additional drainage and providing improved street lighting, waterproofing and road surfacing, while keeping traffic moving through the town as freely as possible.

A great deal of the work took place below deck as well as on top of the bridge, and required several contraflow systems to be established plus a temporary closure of the junction with Merthyr Mawr Road. To minimise disruption, much of the work was timed to take place during the school summer holiday periods, and care was also taken to avoid carrying out work during key trading periods such as Christmas. As a result of the work, we have been able to ensure that the town centre inner bypass bridge remains safe for drivers to use in the years ahead. He thanked all officers who helped deliver this complex project as well as local residents for their patience and understanding.

Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing

The Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing announced that there are less than six months left to go before the new Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act comes into force in April 2016. The new Act is designed to give people more choice and control over what support they receive, so the council is already working with partners to prepare for the implications of the Act. People with learning disabilities will have more choice over what they do during day services provided at centres across the County Borough. The Council has been working with organisations such as DRIVE, Mirus, Trinity Care and Cartrefi Cymru to create high quality alternatives for those who want them. Some of these alternatives include musical workshops, arts and craft sessions, sports events, exercise and well-being activities, lunch clubs and much more. He stated that the Council plans to expand the range of opportunities available locally and give people with learning disabilities and other adults who may find these activities beneficial a chance to pursue particular interests within a supportive environment. Further updates will be forthcoming to ensure that people are aware of what opportunities are available within their communities; residents would be informed about what the new Act will mean for them over the next six months.

Cabinet Member Children's Social Services and Equalities

The Cabinet Member Children's Social Services and Equalities announced that this week marks a national awareness campaign in recognition of the sons and daughters of families who foster and who welcome other children into their homes. She stated that the Council is supporting Sons and Daughters week as it is not just adults who play an important role in fostering. Many foster carers have their own children who share their homes, toys, and above all, their parents with other young people in need of support, and they sometimes have to cope with difficult and challenging behaviour. Fostering has a huge impact on the whole household, and it was extremely important that sons and daughters are recognised and celebrated as they play a crucial role in helping foster children settle into a new home, as well as providing support for the most vulnerable children in the County Borough. Many people who may be interested in fostering express concerns about how it might affect their own children. To mark the week and help put their minds at ease, a series of videos have been made available on the Council's website featuring the children of local foster carers. The Cabinet Member Children's Social Services and Equalities strongly recommended that Members watch

them as they offer an excellent insight into the important roles that these children play in the fabric of the community.

#### Cabinet Member Resources

The Cabinet member Resources informed Members that a pre-Council presentation in November will be on the Local Transport Plan. He stated that numerous interesting requests for future topics for Pre-Council Briefings had been received, however if Members have any additional topics they would be considered and prioritised by the Democratic Services Committee at its meeting in November and requests for consideration should be directed to the Head of Democratic Services.

He also announced that details of the Members who have completed their annual reports for publication have been reported to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales as requested by the Minister for Public Services. Any outstanding reports can be submitted to Democratic Services for publication.

The Cabinet Member Resources announced that 11 Personal Development Reviews (PDRs) have been completed and received by the Head of Democratic Services to date. He stated that PDRs are carried out as part of a peer review process and to help assess any training opportunities that could be included in the Member Development Programme and he recommended that it would be beneficial for Members to engage in the process.

The Cabinet Member Resources also announced that the Democratic Services Committee would be considering the Draft Annual Report from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales at its meeting on 5 November 2015. The draft report proposes changes to the remuneration of elected members in 2016-17 which has been circulated to all Members for information by the Head of Democratic Services. He stated that any Members wishing to express their views as part of the consultation process should contact the Chairperson of the Democratic Services Committee or the Head of Democratic Services.

#### Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development announced that the Council has written to all town and community councils to inform them that on 1 November 2015 it intends to close public toilets identified during the recent consultation and review. Town and community councils have also informed them that if they so wish, they can take over the running of these facilities from this date under licence from the authority until such time as a full community asset transfer is in place. In the longer term, the Council is also continuing to discuss options for asset transferring closed toilet facilities across to town and community councils who may not currently be in a position to take them on. He stated that the Council would much rather be opening public toilets instead of closing them, but it had to be realistic about the financial situation it faced and the options that are available as a direct result of this.

The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development also announced that he was very happy to report that that Cornelly Community Council has agreed to take on the cleaning of the public toilets located at Kenfig National Nature Reserve, and that these facilities are going to remain open at this very popular visitor destination. He thanked the community council for working so closely with on this difficult issue as it offered a model for what can be achieved when it works in partnership together. He also stated that talks with other community councils are ongoing, and he hoped to bring further good news for very soon.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Council has a growing social media presence and it is actively working to develop this as an important way of interacting with local residents. The Council's Twitter page was launched in 2012 and has more than 6,000 followers, while the Facebook page went live in 2014 and currently has more than 3,500 'likes'. He stated that social media is becoming increasingly important as a means of enabling two-way communication between the Council and its stakeholders, and last year it tested the water with a live Twitter debate in which he made himself available to answer questions directly.

The Chief Executive informed Council that the exercise had just been repeated for 2015 and he was happy to report some significant developments. Firstly, the total number of views for the debate rose from just over 23,000 to more than 38,000, which was an overall increase of 63 per cent on last year. The number of people directly contacting by this means rose from 28 to 119, and the number of people that the Council was able to refer directly to information that they were seeking went up from 38 to 153.

He stated that the first Facebook debate also went very well and allowed more detailed responses to be provided. This attracted 10,211 views and 152 comments. He stated that this was not easy as people were not afraid of giving officers a hard time and stating exactly what they thought. However individuals were reached who may not otherwise interact with the Council and were able to encourage a large number of them to take part in the budget consultation.

The Chief Executive stated that a number of additional themes emerged during both of the debates such as regeneration, road safety outside schools, public toilet provision and suggestions for how the Council can save money in future. Overall, the debates attracted high levels of engagement, and there seemed to be positive sentiment among everyone who took part and an appetite for more engagement of this sort.

He stated that inroads were continuing to be made into social media and the Council's new YouTube channel would be promoted soon and he would bring further updates as this develops.

**543. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER**

The Leader announced that last weekend saw a particularly nasty accident occur in John Street, Porthcawl which he was sure Members were as much appalled at the incident as they were relieved that there were no fatalities. He stated that the response from the police, ambulance service and local businesses was absolutely first rate, and they all deserve a note of thanks for their prompt actions. The Council has made sure that appropriate support is in place while the police investigate the circumstances of the crash and he understood that they have already charged a 24 year old local man with offences ranging from theft and causing serious injury by dangerous driving to drink driving and driving without insurance. Meanwhile, thirteen people injured in the incident are continuing to receive treatment for lower-body injuries, and he wished them all a full recovery.

The Leader also announced that he had recently attended the opening of the Ty Richard Thomas facility, which is the official name given to the all-new joint vehicle maintenance building where council and police vehicles are being looked after as part of a unique new collaboration. He stated the facility is the first of its kind in Wales and is named after a police sergeant who was killed during World War One while fighting for the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Welsh Regiment. First Minister Carwyn Jones and Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael were in attendance and heard how the facility will handle up to 595 vehicles, including specialist plant and heavy duty equipment, while providing an excellent opportunity for the council and the police to save money, offer better value for taxpayers

and establish improved levels of fleet maintenance and customer service. It also demonstrates the Council's ongoing commitment towards meeting the Welsh Government's agenda for shared services. He stated the Council already has an excellent working relationship with South Wales Police, and he looked forward to seeing it improve even further as a result of this ambitious new initiative.

The Leader hoped that all Members are encouraging their constituents to take part in the Council's consultation over the new priorities and budget proposals. He stated there is still plenty of time as the consultation does not end until 22 November. Around 140,000 people live in the County Borough, and he wanted to ensure that everyone has the chance to have their say. Residents can make their voices heard and help shape Bridgend's future by visiting [www.bridgend.gov.uk/future](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/future) to complete an online survey and find out more about community consultation events. Everyone who completes the online survey will receive a free seven-day pass to a Halo leisure centre plus a chance to win a full year's free membership. Alternatively, they can call the Council on 01656 643664 to request a paper copy, or pick one up from their local library.

544. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION FOR THE LEADER/MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

**QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR E P FOLEY TO CABINET MEMBER REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

"At a time of drastic financial retrenchment, would the Cabinet Member for Economic Development consider the feasibility of developing BCBC as a not-for-profit energy supplier, working with solar panel engineering companies, for example, to produce green energy at a vast range of possible sites, including school buildings, surplus land, car parks and other council-owned premises.

Would the Cabinet Member also consider researching the success of Nottingham City Council in this regard, which has launched Robin Hood Energy, to save customers circa £200 each per year on gas and electricity bills, the first not-for-profit company of its kind since nationalisation in 1948. Similar energy initiatives include Cheshire East Council which has recently launched Fairer Power, in partnership with OVO Energy; and Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester City councils, whose plans for civic energy generation are well advanced, and which would be happy to advise BCBC on matters of detail."

**RESPONSE BY CABINET MEMBER REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO COUNCILLOR E P FOLEY**

**Historical Context**

Prior to the Second World War it was common practice for local corporations to deliver water, gas and electricity supplies to local residents through boards. These local boards created the energy infrastructure that was regionalised and eventually nationalised after 1945 that ultimately created the centralised energy distribution model that was privatised in the 1980s. Over the last decade several local authorities across the UK have begun to look at local generation and distribution and for widely different reasons e.g. social (address fuel poverty) or financial (generating new revenue streams).

**Options for Local Authorities wishing to become energy providers**

Across the UK many local authorities (Nottingham, Aberdeen and Southampton) are establishing energy service companies (ESCO), with a view to providing affordable energy solutions for residents and businesses as well as generating revenues which are to the benefit of local communities.



An ESCO is a commercial structure created to deliver a de-centralised energy service. The structure of the ESCO can take several different forms with some of the most widely used being:

1. ESCO created as an arm's length special purpose vehicle wholly owned or majority owned by the Council. The governance structure of this model would include individuals from the public, private and community sectors as well as elected members with the required skills and knowledge. Aberdeen Heat and Power Company Ltd is an example of this. An ESCO of this type does not have to preclude private sector involvement and commercial terms can still be offered to a private sector partner/s that may de-risk the project from a local authority perspective that does not have experience in this sector. The important element of this model is that the local authority retains majority influence over the ESCO.
2. ESCO created as an arm's length special purpose vehicle with the Council having less than 20% interest in it. The majority shareholding would sit with the private sector with the local authority still having an influence over the operation of the company but not to the extent of the previous example. The Southampton District Energy Scheme is an example of this with Southampton Council working in partnership with Corfely.
3. ESCO created as a wholly owned and operated private sector venture, which as a legal agreement with the Council regarding its purpose and objectives. An example of this is the Coventry "Heat-line" project which Coventry City Council awarded a 25 year contract to Corfely to build and operate its heat network scheme.

## **What is Bridgend CBC Doing?**

### **Smart System and Heat Programme**

BCBC has been involved with the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) and their Smart System and Heat (SSH) Programme since early 2013. The ETI are a public/private partnership that aims to develop innovative solutions to energy related problems, the SSH Programme is one element of ETI's work. The programme aims to work with local authorities across the UK to develop innovative smart solutions to generating and distributing heat at the local level. The programme required interested local authorities to complete a Pre-qualifying Questionnaire (June 2013) which ETI used to form the basis of its decision to draw up a shortlist of local authorities to move into the next phase of the project. Over 70 authorities from across the UK expressed an interest in the scheme with 11 being shortlisted for the next stage of the project.

ETI then engaged with the 11 prioritised authorities through a series of meetings and workshops to assess capacity, senior commitment, partner support, access to funding etc. and in June 2014 BCBC submitted a formal bid to be included in Phase 2 of the SSH Programme (Request for Proposal (RfP)) and in July 2014 senior representatives of BCBC attended an interview in Birmingham. The RfP and the interview were used by ETI to decide which 3 local authorities from the 11 would be selected as the demonstrator authorities for the SSH Programme. BCBC in partnership with Welsh Government was successfully selected as one of the 3 authorities along with Newcastle City Council and Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

The SSH Programme is divided into three phases, summarised as:

### **Phase 1 (2015 – 2016)**

Phase 1 is essentially about creating the foundations for the subsequent phases of the programme. This means:

**Using EnergyPath Networks:** EnergyPath Networks is the software model that will generate the Low Carbon Transition Plan for Bridgend County Borough. The plan will generate outputs on an area based approach and will

- Identify what the solution for an area looks like (energy demand assumptions and projections, heat solutions for different areas, retrofit solutions, heat networks etc.);
- Identify what the solution costs in terms of construction, operation and maintenance (employment of technology, network construction, retrofit costs and pricing to customer);
- Identify when the solution is to be implemented (based upon energy demand profiles, technology solutions etc.).

**Using EnergyPath Economics:** EnergyPath Economics is the software model that will generate the community benefits associated with the SSH programme. It will identify how many jobs will be created, what training opportunities will be created through the programme within Bridgend.

**Creation of a Low Carbon Transition Plan:** The Low Carbon Transition Plan will be an area based, strategic document which will detail and give options regarding how Bridgend County Borough can make the transition away from the current centralised energy distribution model to a future decentralised model.

### **Phase 2 Development (2016- 2018)**

The Phase 2 Development stage of the SSH Programme will build capacity locally to ensure that when the Phase 2 Delivery stage begins in 2018 the programme can develop smoothly with every element in place. The development phase will need to address:

**Supply Chain Development:** A supply chain will need to be created to deliver the demonstration phase of the project. The supply chain will ensure the community benefits identified through the EnergyPath Economics tool are delivered as well as maximising the economic benefits to Bridgend County Borough and Wales through job creation and training opportunities.

**Funding Bid Preparation:** Bids to the various funding sources needed to provide finance for Phase 2 will need to be prepared and submitted, with the finance packages in place to deliver the demonstration phase of the programme.

**Community Engagement:** Residents and the commercial sector will need to be engaged with and signed up to the SSH programme in order to deliver Phase 2 in 2018. This is arguably the key element of the whole of the transition phase.

**Creation of a Not-for-Profit Business Model:** The operation of the heat network will require the creation of a delivery vehicle. The delivery vehicle will operate, maintain and grow the heat network beyond the life of the SSH Programme and will necessitate creating an ESCO.

**Develop Technical Specifications for Chosen Demonstration Projects:** The demonstration projects will require detailed technical and financial specifications to be developed for both schemes which meet the needs of all participants in the scheme.

### **Procure Strategic Private Sector Partners**

## **Phase 2 Delivery Projects (2018 onwards)**

The schemes chosen as demonstration projects for the programme will be ratified by the EnergyPath evaluation process but at this stage two schemes have been proposed. These are:

### ***Bridgend Town***

**Aim:** Evaluate the value proposition required to realise a mixed commercial and domestic (2000 households) heat network into predominantly private housing, using a not-for-profit delivery vehicle. Deploy advanced home energy management systems, fabric retrofit where required and assess household feedback to the new heating solution. The project would also work with the investment sector to determine their requirements for similar schemes elsewhere in the UK.

### **Upper Llynfi Valley**

**Aim:** Assess the potential to use heat from local resources to improve energy security, reduce fuel poverty and address health inequalities. Develop a DHN based on local mine water resource to install a heat network into 300 properties, predominantly private tenure, with fabric retrofit required due to many of the properties being of solid wall construction. The project would test the large scale viability of geo-thermal heat sources and development of a credible financial investment model for export to the rest of the UK. The project will also gain an understanding on the implications on policy to use local resources to provide energy. Home energy management systems and demand management systems will be incorporated to assess household feedback/benefit.

## **Governance Structure for the SSH Programme**

The SSH Programme is of strategic importance to both the UK and Welsh Governments and a National Programme Delivery Board has been created to drive the project forward. The national board members are:

1. UK Government (Department for Energy and Climate Change, Department for Local Government and Communities and Department for Business and Innovation);
2. Welsh Government
3. Innovate UK
4. Energy Systems Catapult
5. Energy Technologies Institute
6. Hitachi
7. EDF
8. Bridgend County Borough Council
9. Greater Manchester Combined Authority
10. Newcastle City Council

The national board has been mirrored locally with the creation of a local steering board which is led by BCBC and attended by:

1. Welsh Government
2. Cardiff University
3. Swansea University
4. Western Power Distribution
5. Wales and West Utilities
6. Valleys to Coast
7. Wales and West Housing Association

### **Benefits of the SSH Programme and Alignment to BCBC Corporate Objectives**

- Job creation and new business opportunities locally within the demonstration areas but also huge potential with national roll-out.
- Skills and training development leading to a more highly skilled local work force that are advantageously placed to take advantage of new business opportunities across the region.
- The development of a new business model for energy generation and supply which creates new revenue streams for improving local services.
- Greater availability of affordable energy which will address fuel poverty and improve life expectancy.
- Development of a decentralised energy system utilising new energy sources and providing a greater degree of energy security for Bridgend communities.
- The creation of a decarbonised energy supply leading to a reduction in carbon emissions.
- Improved community cohesion through engagement and empowerment of residents and businesses.

The SSH Programme offers BCBC a unique opportunity to develop Bridgend as a centre of energy excellence in the UK through access to a network of expertise and know how that would be impossible to fund if BCBC were attempting to progress this agenda alone and access to funding sources that again would not necessarily be as available if BCBC were not part of the SSH Programme. The investment and benefits emanating from the programme offer BCBC the opportunity to develop the County Borough as a centre of the transition to a low carbon economy.

### **Funding**

Finance for the SSH Programme will come from a variety of sources (Europe, Government and the private sector) and a variety of forms (grants and loans). The main types are summarised below:

1. **UK Government:** BCBC has been working with DECC, ETI and the Energy Systems Catapult to prepare Cost Books for each of the proposed schemes which were fed into the Comprehensive Spending Review being carried out by the UK

Government. The aim is that up to a third of the funding required for the project will come from central government grant.

2. **European Funding:** BCBC has held several constructive discussions with WEFO and an Operation Logic Table has been submitted to WEFO to draw Structural Funds into the project. Trans-national sources of funding are also being looked at.
3. **Welsh Government:** The intention is that BCBC would access WG funding for the project from their established programmes such as Arbed, Smart Living and the Green Growth Wales scheme.
4. **Community Shares and Crowd Funding:** All three local authorities are being encouraged to look at this source of non-traditional finance as a means of raising capital but also gaining community buy-in for the schemes.
5. **Horizon 2020:** European funding that is open to innovation projects.
6. **Private Sector:** Private sector investment is expected to contribute up to a third of the total costs needed for the project.

Councillor Foley thanked the Cabinet Member and officers for their detailed reply. Councillor Foley requested an assurance that investment in a de-centralised energy service would not be at the expense of producing green energy. The Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development informed Council that this was very much part of the transformation agenda with the Council being selected alongside large cities such as Newcastle and Manchester to progress with the Smart System and Heat Programme. He also informed Council that he would place in the Members Lounge a document produced by APSE which provided details of Councils engaged in the district heating and energy market, hydroelectric schemes and retailing electricity with providers. He welcomed the scrutiny process being able to monitor the Council's progress being made with the Smart System and Heat Programme.

545. NOTICE OF MOTION (PROPOSED BY COUNCILLORS C REEVES AND J C SPANSWICK)

Council received the following Motion:

Council notes:

The Notice of Motion and the following information provided by the Members in support of their notice of motion in accordance with Part 4 Rules of Procedure of the Council's Constitution:

- The Trade Union Bill 2015 is intended to give effect to the commitments in the Conservative Party's manifesto for the 2015 General Election. During the Queen's Speech in May 2015 it was announced that the Government would introduce legislation to reform trade unions and to protect essential public services against strikes;
- One element of the Bill is the decision to give excessive new powers to the Certification Officer (CO), the government regulator for trade unions and employers' association;

- The Bill is expected to provide the CO the ability to investigate a trade union without reason. The CO is also expected to receive powers to obtain detailed administrative information on industrial disputes and political expenditure;
- The Bill is also expected to tighten rules on strike action by creating minimum turnout thresholds for strike ballots to lead to industrial action. In public services, at least 40 per cent of eligible union members would need to back a strike. This has been attacked by opponents of the Bill as effectively counting some abstentions as no votes;
- Diane Abbott, shadow International Development Secretary, has commented that “the Bill was an attack on the rights of working people across the UK”;
- The Members ask that this Council oppose the introduction of the Trade Union Bill 2015.

Council believes that:

- There are real concerns about the Trade Union Bill which is currently being proposed by the UK Government and which would affect this Council’s relationship with our trade unions and our workforce as a whole.

Council resolves to:

- Oppose the introduction of the Trade Union Bill 2015;
- Write to urge the Conservative Government to abandon this Bill and make a commitment to work in partnership with the Trade Union movement to achieve a fairer society.

Councillor Reeves in proposing the Motion stated that the Trade Union Movement is the largest voluntary group in the UK. The Bill requires any ballot on strike action to have a turnout of at least 50% and then a 50% majority in favour for it to be valid, for what are designated ‘important public services’ the rules would be even more draconian, 80% of those entitled to vote would have to vote for industrial action, however the request from unions for online voting has been rejected. Councillor Reeves stated that this was from a Government that was elected by a simple majority for each seat. She believed that the Bill is an attack on civil liberties, attacking the democratic right to protest, with Picketing supervisors and plans including social media having to be declared in advance. Employer would have to be informed 2 weeks in advance of any action to be taken, such as strike action, or even if a union intended to post anything on Facebook, or carry a loudhailer or banner. The proposed Trade Union Bill has been compared to ‘like something from a Franco-style dictatorship’ by a Tory MP. The bill also includes the withdrawal of checkoff, the payment of union subs from salary. She stated that the PCS union having to devote resources having to be used on Direct Debit campaigns instead of proper union work, protecting and promoting the rights of workers.

She stated that political funds were also under attack, with an opt-in rather than opt-out as is currently in place, which will attack the funding of political campaigns and political parties. Added to this is the threat of substantial fines of up to £20,000 at every stage.

The withdrawal of labour, the right to strike, is a basic human right, which any union considers to be a last resort, this bill is an attack on this basic right, it will pitch worker against worker by allowing agency workers to be brought in as strike-breakers. It attacks the rights of ordinary workers across the country and puts the interests of big business ahead of the employee. This is at a time when strike action is at an all-time low.

Councillor Reeves urged Council support the motion.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Spanswick stated that looking back over the past 5 years it had becoming increasingly worrying to see how pay and in-work benefits have been attacked by those in power, with people's attitudes being influenced by the press and thus making people less tolerant of one another. In the last parliament the Liberal Democrats supported the Conservatives' introduction of the bedroom tax, the abandoning of the Independent Living Fund for disabled people, the introduction of the £1,200 tribunal charges and an increase to two years before workers get employment protection. He stated that these are a few examples of people being worse off now than before the coalition government came to power in 2010.

Councillor Spanswick informed Council that the proposals the subject of the Motion were all-out attack on trade unions and workers' rights with the proposed Trade Union Bill. The Bill aims to stop trade unions from acting collectively and influencing political decision making. It will make it almost impossible to strike by placing unreasonable thresholds on ballots, which do not apply to the election of M.P.'s

He stated that the Bill proposed to cut facility time for workplace reps in the public sector and to remove 'check off' facilities whereby the union membership fee is deducted directly from an employees pay. There is a penalty or fine of £42,000 for having more than seven pickets or for not wearing an official armband on a picket line. This all amounted to an attack upon the only organisation able to protect workers in the workplace, and to stop them from funding the Labour Party. He stated that this was a blatant attempt to take away all opposition to the removal of rights of hard won trade unionists of the past century.

Councillor Spanswick stated that if implemented this new law would take away any incentive for the employer to reach agreements with their workforce or the unions that represent them, and gives employers powers such as the right to hire agency workers to replace workers who are on strike and was totally unacceptable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Councillor Spanswick stated that it was now time for trade unionists and the British public to open their eyes and to fight back on proposals which are an attack on living in a tolerant society. He requested that Council urge the Government to abandon this Bill and make a commitment to work in partnership with the Trade Union movement to achieve a fairer society.

Councillor R L Thomas informed Council that he was pleased to support the Motion and stated that the Bill placed great emphasis on unions securing large percentage turnouts to call strikes and the rejection by the Government of online voting for industrial action. He stated that the proposals represent an attack on workplace protestations which could lead to links being lost to workers and human rights. He wholeheartedly supported the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Watts in proposing an amendment stated that the Bill was about protecting essential public services against strikes and also about preventing the minority holding the majority of employees to ransom in calling industrial action thereby disrupting public services. He also stated that there are greater numbers of working people are not union members. He questioned how this Council's relationship with union would be affected.

Councillor Watts proposed an amendment that the first bullet point in the proposed resolution be deleted "Oppose the introduction of the Trade Union Bill 2015" and that this Council resolves to "Write to the Conservative Government to make a commitment to work in partnership with the Trade Union movement to achieve a fair society".

Councillor Clarke seconded the amendment.

**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2015**

A recorded Vote was taken at this point in the meeting, as a request had been made, which was duly seconded, to receive recorded votes on the Notice of Motion and the amendment to the Notice of Motion.

The recorded vote was as follows:

<b><u>FOR</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>	<b><u>Did Not Vote</u></b>
<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>
R Young			
CJ James			
M Thomas			
DK Edwards			
AD Owen			
R Williams			
JR McCarthy			
DBF White			
N Farr			
RM James			
DG Owen			
DR Pugh			
DRW Lewis			
JE Lewis			
P James			
EM Hughes			
G Phillips			
GW Davies MBE			
HE Morgan			
PA Davies			
EP Foley			
E Dodd			
S Aspey			
G Davies			
M Jones			
C Westwood			





**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2015**

HE Morgan  
PA Davies  
EP Foley  
E Dodd  
M Jones  
C Westwood  
M Reeves  
RL Thomas  
C Reeves  
JC Spanswick  
LC Morgan  
PJ White  
HJ Townsend  
HJ David  
MEJ Nott OBE  
M Gregory  
CE Smith  
HM Williams

**3**                      **29**                      **2**                      **0**

As a result of the vote the amendment to the Notice of Motion failed.

Councillor C Reeves was given the right of reply as the proposer of the Notice of Motion stating that employees taking industrial action is the ultimate sanction and that the culture of Trade Unions had changed a great deal from the past.

A vote was taken on the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor C Reeves and seconded by Councillor JC Spanswick.

The vote was as follows:

<b><u>FOR</u></b>	<b><u>Against</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>	<b><u>Did Not Vote</u></b>
<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>
R Young	G Davies	DG Owen	N Clarke
M Thomas	KJ Watts	S Aspey	
DK Edwards			
R Williams			
JR McCarthy			



The meeting closed at 5.10 pm