

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday 18th October 2017 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor M.Tegg – Mayor

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	E.George	S.M.Powell
S Belzak	D.Grehan	S.Rees
D.R.Bevan	M.Griffiths	S.Rees-Owen
H.Boggis	J.Harries	A.Roberts
J.Bonetto	G.Holmes	J.Rosser
S.A.Bradwick	L.Hooper	G.Stacey
J.Brencher	G.E.Hopkins	E.S.Stephens
A.Calvert	P.Howe	W.Treeby
A.Chapman	G.W.Hughes	L.G.Walker
A.G.Cox	J.James	M.O.Weaver
A.Crimmings	P.Jarman	M.Webber
J.L.Cullwick	G.Jones	E.Webster
G.R.Davies	L.Jones	G.D.G.Williams
J.R.Davies	W.Jones	D.H.Williams
A.Davies-Jones	W.Lewis	J.Williams
M.Diamond	C.Leyshon	C.J.Willis
J.Elliott	D.Macey	R.Yeo
S.Evans	A.Morgan	
S.M.Evans-Fear	S.Morgans	
M.Fidler Jones	M.A.Norris	
M.Forey	D.Owen-Jones	
A.S.Fox	M.J.Powell	
H.Fychan		

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Bradshaw – Chief Executive
Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services
Mr.C.B.Jones – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.C.Hanagan – Director, Cabinet & Public Relations

53 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors G.Caple, L.De Vet, K.L.Jones, R.Lewis, K.Morgan, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill R.W.Smith, G.Thomas, R.K.Turner and T.Williams.

54 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest pertaining to the agenda at this point in the meeting.

55 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (1) County Borough Councillor G. Holmes, Chair of Llantrisant War Memorial Committee, advised fellow Members of the recent dedication service at Llantrisant War Memorial, for those that had paid the ultimate sacrifice. Councillor Holmes thanked the Leader, the Deputy Leader and Councillor A. Crimmings for the support received with the event. He also requested that his thanks be passed onto the staff involved in organising the event and advised Council of the positive comments that he had received from those in attendance, including the Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan.
- (2) The Deputy Leader, County Borough Councillor M. Webber, thanked Councillor Holmes for his comments and spoke positively about the dedication service that she attended at Llantrisant War Memorial.

The Deputy Leader advised Members of the recent fundraising taken forward by the Labour Group in respect of the 'Giving to Pink' fundraising group, advising that this was set up by Clare Smart a former breast cancer patient at Royal Glamorgan, whose fundraising target was £250,000. The Deputy Leader continued by advising that she had presented Ms. Smart with a cheque for a total of £5,170 and thanked all Labour Members for the magnificent total achieved, which was for such a worthy cause.

The Deputy Leader also announced that she was privileged to attend the Imperial War Museum in London to receive, on behalf of the Council, the Gold Award for the Council's recognition of its support for the Armed Forces. The Deputy Leader advised that the Council was the only Council in Wales to secure such a prestigious award for its commitment to its serving and veteran armed forces community.

- (3) County Borough Councillor L. Walker raised concerns in respect of the translation headsets used in the Council Chamber and was advised that the equipment was sanitized after every meeting.
- (4) County Borough Councillor S. E. Fear drew Members' attention to the achievement of Mr. J Fish, a co-opted Member on the Council's Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, who had recently Climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for Tenovus Cancer Care and wished to congratulate Mr. Fish for his recent endeavors.

- (5) The Leader of the Council wished Lloyd Macey (resident of RCT and son of County Borough Councillor D. Macey) continued success on the X Factor TV Show.

56 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 20th September, 2017 subject to an amendment to Minute No.47 (a) to read:

‘Specifically looking at town centres, we have already abolished car parking charges in many of our towns. For example, in Tonypany, the abolition of parking charges has seen the benefit of increased footfall in the town. Furthermore, we have engaged and discussed with traders to outline our proposals for further boosting footfall and trade in Tonypany through improvements to shop frontages, as well as reviewing the current pedestrianisation of the town. We will not rest until we get it right’.

and Minute 51 to acknowledge that Councillor E. Stephens and Councillor G. Davies had provided written submissions at the meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee on the 31st August 2017 and had thanked the group for the work that had been carried out.

57 **MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS**

- (a) **From County Borough Councillor P.Jarman to the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams)**

“What are the most pressing issues affecting scrutiny and governance in this Council?”

Response from Councillor Adams

Councillor Adams referred to the positive endorsements received from the Wales Audit Office earlier this year in respect of its governance arrangements which commended Council processes, including recent improvements made to strengthening decision making and scrutiny arrangements. He added that a number of recommendations were made in respect of scrutiny and engagement with the public which are currently being progressed by officers.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Jarman

Councillor Jarman quoted Rule 1.c of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules in respect of the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee “..consider and report on mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of service delivery options” and suggested for consideration a different mechanism for public engagement through a ‘petition’s committee’, commenting that this would be a mechanism for public engagement with scrutiny under the above mentioned Procedure Rules and asked Councillor Adams whether he would commit to using such a mechanism in the future?”

Response from Councillor Adams

Councillor Adams advised that currently there were no arrangements in place to take this forward but this was something that could be considered and would report back to Councillor Jarman in due course.

(b) From County Borough Councillor L.Jones to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A. Morgan)

“Is it possible, unregistered, unadopted roads in bad repair could be made good by the Council, to allow, protect and improve the residents access in the vicinity of that road?”

Response from Councillor A. Morgan

The Member was advised that the Council has powers to conduct works, rather than a duty and Councillor Morgan provided examples of such works undertaken across the County Borough, where unadopted roads were brought up to standard, explaining that contributions were received from residents to fund the works along with the Council.

Supplementary Question from Councillor L. Jones

Councillor Jones referred to a road ‘Gas Lane’, which was previously fronted by Council property, which has fallen into disrepair. The Member advised of the number of residents that utilise the road to gain access to the local church for community purposes, local Nursing home and clinic, and further advised of the problems residents were having accessing these facilities due to the state of repair of the road and also advised of the poor parking arrangements which also contributed to the problems experienced. The Member asked whether works could be carried out on the road to bring it to a suitable standard advising that some repair works had been undertaken the day before the Council elections.

Response from Councillor Morgan

The Leader advised that if all roads across the County Borough were to be adopted it would cost the Council in excess of £20-30million. He again referred to the discretionary powers the Council have under Section 230(7) of the Highways Act 1980, which state if the unadopted road proves to be a danger to the public urgent repairs could be taken forward. He also again advised of the enforced charge to residents to fund the works carried out, commenting that it was a catch 22 situation for the County Borough given the huge cost in respect of this area.

(c) From County Borough Councillor A. Chapman to the Leader of the Council (County Borough Councillor A. Morgan)

“Will the Leader make a statement on the Council’s policy relating to the clearance of back lanes throughout the County?”

Response from Councillor Morgan

The Leader advised that the Council did not have a firm policy in relation to clearance of back lanes and spoke of the work of the Council’s Green teams over the years, who responded to requests received, although he added that the Council were not able to respond to every area.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Chapman

Councillor Chapman referred to the clearing of lanes in the Cynon Valley and queried if this was on a ward by ward basis or if there was a pilot scheme across the County Borough?

Response from Councillor Morgan

The Leader advised that this was not just a Cynon Valley initiative and spoke of the work that he had done in his own ward, through bidding for funding through 'tidy town' grant funding schemes. He advised that work was done on a more adhoc basis and was not scheduled, although wards with most issues were targeted. He advised Councillor Chapman to refer any matters to officers for them to consider further.

(d) From County Borough Councillor H.Fychan to the Leader of the Council or the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing (County Borough Councillors A.Morgan and D.R.Bevan respectively)

"With planning permission now granted for the Taff Vale site redevelopment, can the Leader/Cabinet Member update us on what will happen next and how residents of Pontypridd will be engaged in the process?"

(N.B Before a response was provided to the question, the Legal officer advised that as a point of order under Council Procedure Rule 9.2 a question could only be put to one Member and that the Cabinet Member with the relevant portfolio would answer Councillor Fychan's question, namely Councillor Bevan).

Response from Councillor Bevan

Councillor Bevan referred to the report that was presented to Cabinet and Scrutiny on the 28th September 2017 in respect of the Taff Vale redevelopment, and advised the Councillor to refer to the detailed report available on line which would address the Members question.

Supplementary Question from H.Fychan

Councillor Fychan referred to the interview of the Leader in the Pontypridd Observer on the 21st September 2017 in respect of the redevelopment, and the potential footfall into Pontypridd of 1000 people every day. The Member referred to the parking problems within the Town Centre and sought assurance on the specific steps that would be taken to combat this problem and that Ynysangharad Park would not be looked at as a solution to the problem.

Response from Councillor Bevan

Councillor Bevan advised that additional parking would be available through the redevelopment, commenting that 1238 spaces would be available within the Town Centre, with the majority of parking being available as 'long stay' spaces, which would be on a reduced rate charge. Only one car park would consist of short stay. The Cabinet Member commented on the developments with the Metro Scheme going forward and bus services, which he hoped would alleviate the problems and the Member's concerns.

(e) From County Borough Councillor S. Rees to the Cabinet Member for Adult & Children's Community Services (County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins)

"How is the Council seeking to meet the expectations of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014?"

Response from Councillor Hopkins

The Cabinet Member advised that the Social Services and Wellbeing Act had been discussed on many occasions, and rightly so, because social services

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represent such a significant proportion of the responsibilities the Council has towards the citizens of Rhondda Cynon Taf. He referred to the overarching principles and legislative requirements which are driving significant transformation in the way social services are delivered in Wales.

Members were referred to the Director of Social Services' Annual Report and Councillor Hopkins addressed how the report links the delivery of information, advice and services to the promotion of the wellbeing of those people who the Council support.

He also advised of the many positives contained within the referenced report and that the performance of Social Services in RCT continues to improve. Members were advised there were still areas that needed further improvement and compared to other Councils, RCT is still supporting more adults in institutional settings rather than in their own home and there was still a comparatively larger number of Children who are 'looked after' by the Council rather than living with their families. The Cabinet Member concluded by adding that working with partners to strengthen community based support services to address these issues were the Council's key priority.

Supplementary Question from Councillor S. Rees

In considering the aims of the Act can you elaborate on how the Council intends to address the care issues presented by an ever increasing elderly population?

Response from Councillor Hopkins

Councillor Hopkins commented that the prognosis for future care needs is well documented and has been a question of national importance for some years, adding that it was incumbent upon the Council to make the transformation necessary to bring ourselves in line with the needs of the modern population and indeed of future generations and now was the time to do this.

He continued by advising of the intention to deliver more personalised and integrated services across Social Care and Health that promote choice, control and independence, with more people supported to live longer in their own homes. This will include delivering the Stay Well @ Home Service which provides an integrated response with partner agencies to reduce the total number of citizens who experience a delayed transfer of care from hospital.

The Cabinet Member continued by advising of the desire to reduce the demand for institutional care and the need for long term care in the community by commissioning a wider range of accommodation options that support independence, which is central to proposals which were sent by the Cabinet to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for pre-scrutiny in relation to investing around £50m in Extra Care facilities across the County Borough in the next four to five years.

Developing and deploying the Wales Community Care Information Service ('WCCIS') to provide more accurate up to date information to create and sustain a unified approach for people in need of care and support was also mentioned.

Engagement with communities and third sector organisations to work increasingly in partnership to deliver community hubs that can offer information advice and assistance to people in their area; links to the wider network of community based activities and facilities; offer community based solutions to meet some of the low level support needs of the people living in the area.

Councillor Hopkins concluded his response by advising that the Council would continue to build on the success of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub to

ensure that Children and Young People and Adults are protected from abuse and neglect.

58 **STATE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH DEBATE**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2 the Mayor stated that she would invite the Leader to address Council following which the Leader would respond to Members' comments on his Annual Report.

The Leader opened his address by stating that this was an opportunity to showcase some of the things that the Council has achieved over the last 12 months and the areas that he would like to bring forward for consideration in respect of investment projects, transformation projects and commented on the need to still ensure sustainability as the Council are still in austerity measures, referencing the Local Government settlement and the potential further savings that would need to be made.

Highways - The Leader began by referring Members to the position in respect of Highways Investment and infrastructure, commenting on the important maintenance that had been undertaken on the A and B roads across the Authority and the significant funding in this area, in line with the Labour manifesto commitments. The Leader advised that since 2008, the capital expenditure was three times the annual investment on the roads across the County Borough.

In respect of infrastructure, key areas had been developed in respect of transport and the Leader spoke of the importance of the ongoing work in relation to the Cross Valley Link Road. Members were made aware of the importance of Welsh Government funding received through partnerships, which assisted in delivery of such projects. The recent contributions from developers in relation to works on the Matalan Roundabout off the A4119 were highlighted and the Leader spoke of the significant improvements the works had achieved, which linked to the wider improvements to the strategic A4119 commuter route. The Leader continued to advise of the heavy investment in respect of carriage ways and roads across the County Borough, with £500k investment into footpaths. The Leader advised that by the end of the financial year 862 carriage ways would have been improved upon since 2011/12, adding that this constituted 250 miles in total.

Town Centres – Members were reminded that car parking charges had been reduced across areas of the County Borough with the introduction of free parking in Council owned car parks in Mountain Ash, Porth and Tonypany. The small business rate relief scheme was highlighted as well as the pilot Town Centre Maintenance Grant scheme in the Mountain Ash and Tonypany areas, with the Leader advising that this had been introduced following consultation with local traders. The Leader then provided Members with details in respect of the pilot. The Leader also advised of the potential investment going forward in respect of Tonypany Town centre, following consultation with the local resident and traders, in respect of pedestrianisation and advised that a formal consultation would commence shortly with potential developments coming forward by April 2018.

Members were also advised of the developments taken forward in respect of wifi and its availability in town centres, the feedback from traders and the potential hotspot areas with potential implications if available 24/7. The Leader added that further work needed to be taken forward in this area.

The developments with Taff Vale Redevelopment were highlighted to Members by the Leader, with Members being advised of the usage of the buildings going forward including; office accommodation arrangements for Transport for Wales, the

South Wales Metro provider and potentially other bodies such as Network Rail and the City Deal team; usage for the building in respect of food outlets, One 4 All Centre, a central library and a sports centre were also highlighted by the Leader. The Leader commented on the positives of the redevelopment for the County Borough in respect of job opportunities and transport links.

Education & Employment – The Leader commenced by advising that no other Local Authority had invested as much as this Council in respect of schools commenting on the standard of facilities available for future generations. The Leader proceeded to advise that £170m had been invested to date by the Cabinet, through the 21st Century Schools Band A programme and spoke of the recent opening of Y Pant School and the positive comments received from the pupils, teachers, parents and the first minister who was in attendance at the opening. The Leader advised that further investment was intended in respect of Tonypany, Tonyrefail, Porth and Cwmaman schools in the future, with £160m being available for the next band of investment through the 21st Century Schools programme.

The Welsh Government pilot in respect of 30hrs free childcare was referenced by the Leader, and he advised that this was currently rolled out across four areas across the County Borough and that the intention was for this to be rolled out across Wales in the future. Members were advised that 112 families had signed up to take advantage of the scheme.

In respect of employment the Leader spoke positively about the work undertaken in this area and thanked the Council's HR department for all the work undertaken. The Leader spoke of the success yet again with the graduate scheme, the care to leave scheme and the apprenticeships and success of the recent Job Fair with over 1000 people in attendance.

Leisure – The Leader advised Members that the Council had heavily invested in Leisure Centres across the County Borough, commenting that once again the Cabinet had listened to the feedback from service users, resulting in increased usage from 7,000 – 10,000 people. The Leader commented on the positives this had for residents of the County Borough in respect of health and wellbeing. The Leader also referenced a recent report to Cabinet in respect of the opportunities for further funding to leisure centres, which was currently out to consultation.

Play Areas- The Leader concluded his statement by advising that 80 play areas had been renewed, through a £2.4m investment and further continued investment was planned for play areas across the County Borough.

The Leader then responded to a number of questions /comments from Members, such as:-

- Public Engagement through Social Media ;
- Housing crisis and lack of affordable housing not meeting current targets- the Leader referred to a review of the LDP and resulting cost implications, the potential of SDP's on an advisory basis and advised that meetings were being taken forward with WG in relation to this point. He also advised that work was being undertaken in respect of Council owned land developments and added that he was looking to address the problems via a 5year land supply plan;
- Investment in Roads and Repairs – the Leader advised that after Christmas work would be undertaken to prioritise streets and roads in disrepair;
- Patient release from hospital – the Leader advised of the pilot work being conducted in this area with the Director of Social Services, with Social workers being based at the

Royal Glamorgan hospital and the positive outcomes seen to date although stressed that this was also an issue for the Health Service. Members were advised of further potential collaborative working with Prince Charles hospital.

- Further schemes planned for the A4119 commuter route – The Leader advised of the plans intended to be taken forward referencing Stinkpot Hill, modification of traffic

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lights, bus routes and filter lanes and advised Members of a report coming forward to Cabinet in respect of investment opportunities to address traffic concerns.

- Equipment within schools – The Leader advised that the equipment within schools was the responsibility of the School and Governing Body although advised that all new schools were equipped with new equipment unless the school decided this was not necessary.
- Porth Town Centre / Town Centre Regenerations works – The Member was advised that the pilot projects currently being undertaken would be rolled out across each of the town centres if deemed successful. The Leader took the opportunity to advise of the Christmas events that would take place within each of the 8 principal Town Centres across the County Borough.
- Investment on the Mountain Roads including recent works to Maerdy Road following a landslide– The Leader advised that £3.5m had been invested on improving the Council's mountain roads which was essential, especially over the winter period with the effects on the road surfaces due to inclement weather.
- Practical support given to Town Centre business within Tonypany- The Leader advised of the work of the Community Regeneration Officers and developments taken forward.
- Upgrading of play area equipment - The Leader advised that there was a list of play areas proposed for further investment over the financial year and thanked partners for also supporting renewal of play areas through funding.
- Issues with transport links from the North of the County Borough – The Leader commented that the problem had been recognised and added that the Metro would play an important part in potentially reducing the traffic problems and also spoke of the role of arriva trains in providing sufficient number of carriages on their train journeys to accommodate passenger numbers. The Leader advised of the recent Park & Ride report considered by Cabinet and the investment being taken forward to try to alleviate traffic congestion on the roads.
- Provision of Bus Services – The Leader referred to the need for re-regulation of powers in respect of bus services as the Council has no say in respect of commercial services, commenting on the potential costs with subsidising low demand bus services.
- Ynysangharad Park – The Leader reiterated previous statements that there were no intentions of the Cabinet to utilise Ynysangharad Park as a car park.
- Pontypridd Town Centre Youth annoyance – The Leader spoke of the work being undertaken with the 3rd sector to create facilities for young people to utilise and advised of the developments with the YMCA. The Leader added that if there was genuine youth annoyance then this would need to be referred to the community liaison officer / Police.
- Treherbert Park / Redevelopment - The Leader advised that this was a Brownfield site and advised that no plans from the local community had come forward for the area. The Leader added that all vacant land sites were under review.
- Highway Investment – The Leader referenced the proactive work in relation to the Mountain Ash Cross Valley Link Road to ensure that this was developed and continued to advise of the investment and works taken forward on the A4119 and the Llanharan Bypass scheme adding that that the funding intention for the latter scheme was £4.5m from the Authority and £12m from CIL development.

59 **CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY FOR SOUTH WALES**

In accordance with Minute No2(2.2) of the Annual Meeting of Council held on the 17th May 2017 the Director, Legal & Democratic Services advised Members that he had received notification from the Labour Group of a change to its

membership of the Combined Fire Authority for South Wales and it was **RESOLVED** – that County Borough Councillor J. Harries replace County Borough Councillor G. Stacey on the Combined Fire Authority for South Wales.

60

URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN FORWARD

The Secretary to the Cabinet presented his report for Members' attention, advising of the urgent Executive decisions taken forward during the period March – September, 2017. Subject to amendment to the typographical errors in Section 3.1 of the report, (namely Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a) rather than 17.2(b) to be referenced) and the numbering within paragraph 6 to run consecutively, Members **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report for information purposes.

61

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M.Griffiths, G.E.Hopkins, L.M.Adams, J.Bonetto, S.Bradwick, A.Morgan and M.Webber was received was received by the Proper Officer in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1(b):-

“This Council deplores the decision made by the UK Conservative Government to cancel the electrification of the railway line from Cardiff to Swansea.

Electrification of this line would have created access to train technologies in South Wales equal to that being created in parts of the South of England. It would have allowed the potential for an increase in the number of trains stopping at Llanharan and Pontyclun stations – something for which our communities have repeatedly called.

This Council recognises the economic potential of the areas around Pontyclun and Llanharan; and is committed to supporting their development through investment in better transport links. We regret the blinkered and backward step now taken by the UK Government, which is indicative of its low regard for the communities of South Wales.”

Following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** – to adopt the Notice of Motion.

(**N.B** Both the Labour and Plaid Cymru Members in attendance requested that it be recorded they voted in support of the Motion).

62

NOTICE OF MOTION

(Prior to consideration of the following Notice of Motion, the Director of Legal & Democratic Services advised that the following Member's names had been omitted from the Notice of Motion on the Council agenda, and apologised to the Members concerned, namely County Borough Councillors M. Weaver and K. Morgan.

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors P. Jarman, G.Davies, H.Fychan, D Grehan, S Rees-Owen, E.Webster D.Macey, J.Williams, A.Cox, S.Evans-Fear, A.Chapman L.Jones, E.Stephens W.Jones, J.Davies and J.Cullwick, M.Weaver & K.Morgan was received was by the Proper Officer in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1(b):-

“That this Council undertakes an options appraisal with the Welsh Government on the transportation options to service and improve links to the Rhondda Fach, The Council's LDP has protected a corridor of interest for the provision of the

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Rhondda Fach relief road extension, whilst the Welsh Government has promised, under an arrangement with Plaid Cymru, to consider extending the Metro into that community. Now is the time for these proposals to be firmed up following consultation with the communities of Rhondda Fach, especially Maerdy and Ferndale”

At the meeting, the Mayor announced that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.1 the following amendment to the Notice of Motion had been received from County Borough Councillors J. Harries and S. Morgans:-

“That this Council continues to undertake appraisal of the transportation options to service and improve links to the Rhondda Fach as part of regional transport planning. The Council's LDP has protected a corridor of interest for the provision of the Rhondda Fach relief road extension, whilst the Welsh Government has promised, under an arrangement with Plaid Cymru, to explore extending the Metro into that community. Now is the time for these proposals to be firmed up following consultation with the communities of Rhondda Fach, especially Maerdy and Ferndale.

This Council will continue to work with Welsh Government colleagues to deliver the South Wales Metro and wider transportation improvements for the Rhondda Fach & Fawr.”

Following a lengthy discussion on this matter and following a vote in favour of the Amendment to the Notice of Motion which became the Substantive Motion, it was **RESOLVED** – to adopt the Notice of Motion as reproduced below:-

“That this Council continues to undertake appraisal of the transportation options to service and improve links to the Rhondda Fach as part of regional transport planning. The Council's LDP has protected a corridor of interest for the provision of the Rhondda Fach relief road extension, whilst the Welsh Government has promised, under an arrangement with Plaid Cymru, to explore extending the Metro into that community. Now is the time for these proposals to be firmed up following consultation with the communities of Rhondda Fach, especially Maerdy and Ferndale.

This Council will continue to work with Welsh Government colleagues to deliver the South Wales Metro and wider transportation improvements for the Rhondda Fach & Fawr.”

63 **COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8 (DURATION OF MEETING)**

At this point in the proceedings it was **RESOLVED** to continue the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow consideration of the remaining agenda items and continuation of Council business.

URGENT BUSINESS – REPORT OF THE GOUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES.

The Mayor informed Members that by reason of special circumstances, i.e. the need to advise Members of the provisional Local Government Settlement, the report of the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services would be considered at this meeting in accordance with the provision of section 100B4(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

64 **THE COUNCILS 2018/19 REVENUE BUDGET – THE PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT**

(N.B prior to consideration of this item, Councillor P. Jarman made the following declaration of Interest: 'As the Standards Committee have not yet met to grant my dispensation in respect of the Council's budget setting process and as the report is for information purposes only I will speak but not vote on the item'.)

The Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services referred Members to his report and accompanying PowerPoint presentation which detailed the implications of the provisional Local Government Settlement 2018/2019 for the Council. Members were advised that the provisional reported settlement for Rhondda Cynon Taf, showed a decrease of -0.2% which is above the average of -0.5%, advising that settlement figures across the twenty two local authorities in Wales range from at best +0.2% to at worst -1.0%.

The Group Director continued to advise of the preliminary assessment of the service implications following the provisional settlement announcement. He advised that following financial projections, in light of the better settlement (taking into consideration savings coming forward and after applying the efficiency target in full), the remaining budget gap would total £3.834M. The Group Director continued by advising Members that in order to close the remaining budget gap, further savings proposals would be required and all opportunities to deliver even greater levels of efficiency must be maximised.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. To note the Provisional 2018/2019 Local Government Settlement, announced by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government on the 10th October 2017.
2. To note that the Final 2018/2019 Local Government Settlement is expected during December 2017.
3. To note that the general budget strategy consultation will commence during November, the details of which will be considered by Cabinet on the 26th October 2017.

65 **URGENT NOTICE OF MOTION**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5.1, the following Notice of Motion standing in the names of Councillors A.Morgan, M.Webber, L.M.Adams, R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A.Calvert, G. Caple, A.Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L. De Vet, J. Elliott, S.Evans, M Fidler Jones, M.Forey, A.S.Fox, E.George, M.Griffiths, J. Harries, G.Holmes, G.Hopkins, G.Hughes, G.Jones, R.Lewis, W.Lewis, C.Leyshon, S.Morgans, M.A. Norris, D.Owen-Jones, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, S.Powell, S.Rees, (Mrs.)A.Roberts, J.Rosser, R.Smith, G.Stacey, M.Tegg, G.Thomas, W. Treeby, R.K.Turner, D.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo was considered. The reason for the urgency being that following the announcement of the provisional local government settlement this would be the Council's only opportunity to make these representations, as the Chancellor would have already announced the Autumn Statement by the date of the next Council meeting.

"This Council calls upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to end the UK Government's policy of austerity in his Budget, due to be presented to Parliament

These minutes are subject to approval at the next appropriate Council meeting on the 22nd November.

This Council believes that after seven years of austerity, 'enough is enough' and the public sector across the UK can no longer endure the significant year-on-year reductions in funding. Wales' funding has reduced by 7% in real terms since 2010, equating to a staggering £1.2bn

It is time for the UK Government to recognise the value of public services by delivering the funding levels required to meet rising demand for services.

This Council agrees to:

- Campaign over the coming weeks to communicate the need for an end to austerity.
- Continue to be open about the scale of the financial challenges that the Council faces in the short and medium term if austerity is not ended, and the damage this could do to our local communities and services
- Requests that the Leader of the Council writes to Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary State for Wales to request an end to austerity and fair funding for the public sector across the UK."

During the discussions the Leader asked that it be put on record that in respect of the Council Tax setting going forward, he would not go above a 3% rise in Council Tax rates, as is being considered by other local authorities. Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion.

(N.B Both the Labour and Plaid Cymru Members in attendance asked that it be recorded that they voted in support of the Motion.)

66 **ANNOUNCEMENT**

County Borough Councillor S. Rees-Owen advised Members of the recent organised event that she attended with a local resident Kim Howells, who had recently been awarded a Bafta Cymru. Councillor Rees-Owen enquired whether a letter acknowledging the achievements of Ms. Howells could be sent on behalf of the Council, to which Members agreed.

**M.TEGG
MAYOR**

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

These minutes are subject to approval at the next appropriate Council meeting

The Revenue Budget 2018/19 – Provisional Settlement Update

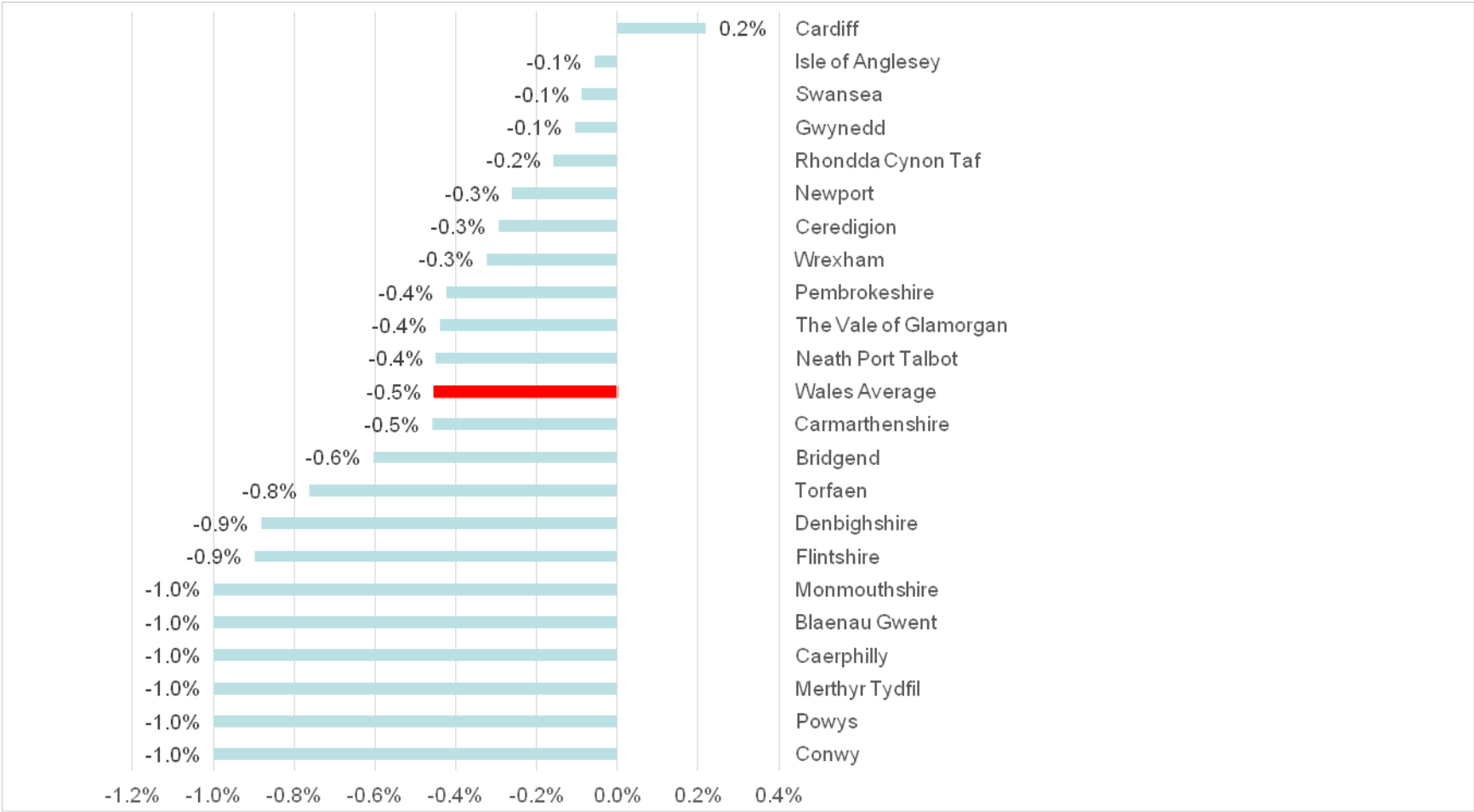
Council Update
18th October 2017



Provisional Settlement Details

- Average reported decrease across Wales -0.5% (after transfers, but not new responsibilities) for 2018/19
- Reported decrease for Rhondda Cynon Taf -0.2%
- Floor protection at -1.0% (cost £1.8M from outside settlement)
- Various 'Transfers in' to settlement:
 - Waste element of the Single Revenue Grant, £35m
 - Welsh Independent Living Grant, £27m
 - Social Care Workforce Grant, £19m
 - Looked after Children, £7.4m
 - Carers' Respite, £3m
 - Social Care for Prisoners, 0.4m
- New responsibilities added – Homelessness (£6M)
- An indicative all Wales -1.5% for 2019/20
- Specific grant details to be confirmed (details due 24/10)
- Capital funding slight decrease of 0.16% in 2018/19

Provisional Settlement Details



Preliminary Assessment

- Settlement better than anticipated and modelled within the MTFP
 - Original assumption was -2%. Actual provisional means:
 - Additional RSG resource benefit +£6.142M
 - Change in base assumptions +£0.922M
- Initial budget gap reduced from £18.458M (July 2017 MTFP Update) to £11.394M
- After savings secured to date and efficiency targets applied, gap is **£3.834M**
- Ongoing work in respect of expenditure and income critical as budget strategy is developed

Development Of An Equitable Budget Strategy

- Key principles applied to maintain our focus on robust financial management
- Considerations will include:
 - Financial stability
 - Efficient and effective services
 - Appropriate funding for corporate commitments, schools and services
 - Protect key services and jobs wherever possible
 - Review all areas

Delivering the Corporate Plan – The Way Ahead

- Deliver services differently into the future and as a consequence, focus on:
 - Digitalisation
 - Commercialisation
 - Early Intervention and Prevention
 - Independence
 - Efficient and Effective Organisation

Consultation

- To start November and proposed to include:
 - The use of an online budget simulator
 - Town Centre roadshow events
 - A young persons consultation event
 - Consultation with OPAG
 - Use of Social Media to promote and capture feedback
 - Community Engagement
- Report due into Cabinet due shortly

Budget Timetable

- 10th October 2017 – Provisional settlement figures released by the Welsh Government
- 22nd November – Central Government Autumn statement
- December 2017– Final figures expected from the Welsh Government
- October to February – options for next year's budget to be considered, including consultation process to be undertaken
- Feb / March 2018 – Council sets budget and Council Tax levels for 2018/19