

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

12 July 2023

The Mayor: Councillor C.Williams

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor M.Crowley

Councillors: D.Keogh, S.M.Penry, R.Davies, M.Harvey, S.K.Hunt, R.G.Jones, S.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.Llewelyn, S.Paddison, D.M.Peters, J.Hale, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, D.Whitelock, H.C.Clarke, O.S.Davies, C.Galsworthy, W.F.Griffiths, S.Harris, R.Mizen, S.Purse, S.Renkes, S.H.Reynolds, A.J.Richards, R.W.Wood, J.Hurley, S.E.Freeguard, S.Rahaman, H.Davies, A.Lodwig, C.Lewis, T.Bowen, C.Jordan, J.Jones, N.Jenkins, P.Rogers, J.Henton, N.Goldup-John, H.Davies, S.Thomas, L.Williams and C.Phillips

Officers in Attendance: K.Jones, A.Jarrett, N.Daniel, C.Griffiths, H.Jones, C.Owen, S.Rees, H.Lervy, M.Shaw, C.Furlow-Harris, R.Headon and S.Curran

Representatives of the Translation Service: Present

1. **Mayor's Announcements**

It was with great sadness that the Mayor informed Council of the death of the previous Clerk to Onllwyn Community Council, Lynn Parfitt. Lynn was one of the longest serving Clerks to Council in the County Borough and was also a serving Community Councillor on Seven Sisters Community Council. Council stood for a minutes silence.

The Mayor also welcomed Noelwyn Daniel, the new Director of Strategy and Corporate Services, to his first meeting of Council.

2. **Leader's Announcements**

The Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council gave Council an update on Local Bus Funding. Further updates would be provided to Members over the coming weeks, as the Council works to achieve greater certainty for all of those who depend on these vital local services.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Council**

The minutes of 26 April 2023, were approved as a true and accurate record.

5. **Public Question Time.**

No public questions were received.

6. **Changes to Committee Membership**

RESOLVED:

The following amendments to Council Committees be agreed:

- That Cllr Jeff Jones be removed as member of the Education, Skills and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
- That Cllr Phil Rogers be appointed as member of the Education Skills and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
- That Cllr Chris James be removed as the Vice Chair of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
- That Cllr Carl Jordan be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.
- That Cllr Chris James be removed as the Vice Chair of the Cabinet Scrutiny (Policy and Resources) Sub Committee

- That Cllr Carl Jordan be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Cabinet Scrutiny (Policy and Resources) Sub Committee
- That Cllr Chris James be removed as Chair of the Planning Committee
- That Cllr Jeff Jones be appointed as Chair of the Planning Committee
- That Cllr Tim Bowen be appointed as Vice Chair of the Planning Committee
- That Cllr Phil Rogers be appointed as a member of the Planning Committee.

The following amendments to Member Champions be agreed:

- That Cllr Chris James be removed as an Armed Forces Champion
- That Cllr Tim Bowen be named as an Armed Forces Champion.

7. **Freeport Chief Executive Appointment**

It was anticipated that the recruitment activity would commence in September 2023, with advertising and search. The selection process would commence in October, with an appointment anticipated in November / December. If the successful candidate had a 3 month notice period, they should then be ready to commence in post in February 2024, by which time it was anticipated the Celtic Freeport Company would already be established.

Officers confirmed that Celtic Freeport would be the employer of the Celtic Freeport Chief Executive, as contained within the circulated report.

RESOLVED: It be agreed that:

- (a) Council approves the establishment of the Chief Executive – Celtic Freeport post and authorises the Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot Council to agree the final job description and salary and initiate recruitment to the post.

(b) Council delegates the decision making for this appointment to representatives of the Freeport Project Board established pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding dated 9th June 2023, comprising representatives of Neath Port Talbot Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Associated British Ports and Milford Haven Port Authority.

(c) Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot Council to participate and vote in any recruitment panel convened for the appointment of the Chief Executive – Celtic Freeport.

8. **Welsh Language Promotion Strategy**

RESOLVED: That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment, it be agreed that Council adopt the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2023-2028, as detailed in the circulated report.

9. **Digital Data and Technology Strategy**

RESOLVED: That the Digital, Data and Technology Strategy, for the period 2023-28 (as detailed in the circulated report), be adopted by Council, subject to annual review.

10. **Notice of Motion under Section 10 of Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) the Council's Constitution**

No Notice of Motions were received.

11. **Questions from Members, with Notice, under Rule 9.2 of the Council's Procedure Rules**

No questions were received.

12. **Urgent Items**

No urgent items were received.

CHAIRPERSON