

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

16 October 2024

The Mayor: Councillor M.Crowley

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor W.Carpenter

Councillors: A.R.Aubrey, T.Bowen, C.Clement-Williams, A.Dacey, O.S.Davies, R.Davies, S.E.Freeguard, C.Galsworthy, N.Goldup-John, W.F.Griffiths, J.Hale, M.Harvey, L.Heard, J.Henton, S.K.Hunt, J.Hurley, C.James, N.Jenkins, J.Jones, L.Jones, S.Jones, C.Jordan, S.A.Knoyle, E.V.Latham, C.Lewis, A.Lodwig, K.Morris, D.M.Peters, C.Phillips, S.Pursesey, P.A.Rees, S.Renkes, A.J.Richards, P.D.Richards, P.Rogers, D.Whitelock, C.Williams, L.Williams, R.W.Wood and B.Woolford

Officers in Attendance: S.Curran, N.Daniel, C.Furlow-Harris, C.Griffiths, H.Jones, K.Jones, N.Pearce, M.Shaw, A.Thomas, A.Thomas and J.Woodman-Ralph

Representatives of the Translation Service: Present

1. **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Leader's Announcements**

There were none.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of Council be approved as an accurate record.

5. **Public Question Time.**

There were none.

6. **Update to Constitution to reflect Joint Working Arrangements**

Council received the report, requesting to update the Constitution of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council in respect of joint working arrangements and to agree and identify the Joint Committees in place by Neath Port Talbot Council following the recent approval of the Celtic Freeport Joint Working Agreement.

RESOLVED: that members approve the Joint Working Arrangements document enclosed at Appendix 1 of the report and the Joint Committee Agreements that will be operated by the Council pursuant to powers under sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, sections 19 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2000 and all other enabling powers and that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to amend the constitution to incorporate the updated Appendix1.

7. **Committee Membership Changes**

RESOLVED: that the following changes to Council Committee membership be agreed:

- That Cllr Sharon Freeguard be removed as a member of the Registration and Licensing Committee and the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee.
- That Cllr Lauren Heard be appointed as a member of the Registration and Licensing Committee and the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee

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

None received.

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

Councillor Robert Wood asked the following question to Council:

“How many Tata Steel employees have we interviewed for council jobs and then gone on to employ, since the offer of a guaranteed interview was made to Tata Staff, affected by the blast furnace closures at Port Talbot Steelworks.”

Cllr Simon Knoyle, Cabinet Member for Finance Performance and Social Justice responded:

“In support of employees of Tata Steel who are at risk of redundancy, or have been made redundant in 2024, Neath Port Talbot Council is offering a guaranteed interview for jobs across the Council. Applicants must meet the essential criteria for the post to qualify for this. If an applicant is or is going to be affected by the job losses at Tata Steel then we welcome an applications from them. Applicants just need to make it known on the application form that they are currently at risk of redundancy or have been made redundant.

To date, as a result of this, 9 former Tata employees have successfully secured employment with the council. We do not have records of how many have applied and been interviewed. I would also advise members that the Council is leading the delivery of the Board’s funded employability programme which seeks to match people seeking work with jobs available in the economy. A team to deliver this service has been in place since 1st September 2024. Should members be interested in a fuller briefing on the overall work we are doing to support people at risk of redundancy we would be happy to provide that briefing.”

Cllr Wood followed on by asking what more should and could be done to improve outcomes for ex Tata interviewees.

A general update was given on the ongoing work of the Transition Board, and the opening of the ‘Hub’ in the Aberafan Shopping Centre and the Leader committed to bringing a detailed update on the work of the Transition Board to Council in due course.

10. **Urgent Items**

The Leader informed members that it was the current Chief Executive, Mrs Karen Jones' last meeting of Council before her retirement in November.

He paid tribute to Karen's career history and the impact she has had on the Council. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the council, staff and communities of Neath Port Talbot for her work and commitment and wished her well in her retirement.

Members joined and paid tribute, personally and professionally to Karen.

Karen thanked Council and spoke about her career and time at the Council, and the tributes concluded in a round of applause to Karen.

CHAIRPERSON