

## COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

**Members Present:**

**14 October 2015**

**The Mayor:** Councillor A.P.H.Davies

**The Deputy Mayor:** Councillor Mrs.S.M.Penry

**Councillors:** H.M.Bebell, A.Carter, Mrs.A.Chaves, Ms.C.Clement-Williams, D.W.Davies, Mrs.R.Davies, M.Ellis, P.Greenaway, M.Harvey, S.K.Hunt, I.B.James, H.N.James, Mrs.L.H.James, M.L.James, A.Jenkins, E.E.Jones, M.Jones, Mrs.D.Jones, R.G.Jones, S.Jones, E.V.Latham, D.Lewis, A.Llewelyn, Mrs.K.Lloyd, A.R.Lockyer, J.Miller, Mrs.S.Miller, C.Morgan, J.D.Morgan, Ms.C.Morgans, Mrs.S.Paddison, Mrs.K.Pearson, D.M.Peters, R.Phillips, M.Protheroe, L.M.Purcell, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, J.Rogers, A.J.Siddley, A.Taylor, A.J.Taylor, A.H.Thomas, A.L.Thomas, J.Warman, D.Whitelock, I.D.Williams, Mrs.L.G.Williams, Mrs.A.Wingrave and A.N.Woolcock

**Officers in Attendance:** S.Phillips, A.Evans, G.Nutt, H.Jenkins, N. Jarman, Mrs.K.Jones, D.Michael, Mrs.S.Rees, R.George and Mrs.A.Manchipp

**Representatives of the Translation Service:** Present

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### 1. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

It was with great sadness that the Mayor announced the death of The Right Honourable The Lord Howe of Aberavon.

As a mark of respect, Council stood for a minute's silence.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:-

Councillor D.Lewis	The Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services re the Annual Report as his daughter is a Director of Grwp Gwalia.
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Councillor Mrs.K.Pearson	The Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services re the Annual Report and the Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel re its Annual Report as she is a Partner in Heddfan Properties which rent houses through the Authority's Housing Options
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3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the previous meeting of Council be confirmed, subject to the correction of the spelling of licence in Minute No. 6 contained therein :-

Council

2 September, 2015

4. **BUDGET GUIDELINES CHANGES 2015/16**

Council received the Report of the Corporate Directors' Group in relation to the Budget Guideline Changes for 2015/16, which had been commended to Council for approval by Cabinet at its meeting on 23 September, 2015.

**RESOLVED:** That the budget virements as contained in Paragraph 2.1 of the circulated report, be approved.

5. **CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR 2015/16**

Council received the Report of the Head of Financial Services in relation to the Capital Budget Monitoring for 2015/16, which had been commended to Council for approval by Cabinet at its meeting on 23 September, 2015.

- RESOLVED:**
- a. That the proposed budget as contained in Paragraph 5 of the circulated report, be approved;
  - b. That the position in relation to expenditure as at 30 June 2015, be noted.

6. **STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2015-19**

Council received the report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services re the Revised Strategic Equality Plan for 2015-19. Members then raised the following points:

- The low number of responses to the consultation was noted, however this was due in part to consultees, such as the Youth Council, Older Persons Forum and the BME Forum etc., being part of the process throughout;
- Members asked if there was perhaps a better way of undertaking consultation in order to increase the number of responses received. Members were advised that the Plan was also available on the Authority's consultation portal, however officers would ask the various Groups for suggestions as to how the consultation process could be improved with a view to increasing the number of responses received;
- In relation to the protected characteristics outlined in the circulated report, Members asked whether some were missing but were advised that the list was complete and that characteristics such as Welsh Language, class and income were not included in the Equality Act 2010;
- In addition Members asked whether reference to the WESP should also have been included within the report. Members were advised that this was covered by different legislation, the Strategic Equality Plan was required to focus on duties arising from the Equality Act 2010;
- In relation to the Welsh Language, Members noted that the Welsh Language Standards were on the agenda for discussion at the Policy and Resources Cabinet Board on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015;
- Members noted that the Authority's website was currently being updated to be fully bilingual, although there were issues where it interfaced with

outside bodies which would mean that some functions would be available in English only. Payments being an example of this.

Following the discussion, Councillor A.N.Woolcock, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, then summed up and commended the report to Council for adoption.

**RESOLVED:** That, having given due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment enclosed at Appendix 3 to the circulated report, and the consultation report attached at Appendix 2, thereto, the Strategic Equality Plan for 2015/19, be adopted.

7. **SECTION 85(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED:** That in view of the absence at the present time of Councillor C.M.Crowley from Council business, due to illness, approval be granted for his continued absence until further notice pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

8. **MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS**

**RESOLVED:** a. That changes to Memberships, be approved as follows:-

Schools Standards Partnership Group

Replace Councillor Mrs.D.Jones with Councillor H.N.James;

Schools Admissions Forum

Replace Councillor Mrs.D.Jones with Councillor H.N.James;

b. That the Authority withdraws its Membership (Councillors E.E.Jones and A.N.Woolcock and Mrs Karen Jones the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services) from the Swansea Bay Regional Equality Council with effect from the Equality Council's Annual Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015;

- c. That the following changes to the Membership of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Community Health Council be approved:-

Replace Councillor R.James with Councillor E.E.Jones;

Replace Councillor C.M.Crowley with Councillor A.Carter.

9. **ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15 (CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - 'RISING TO THE CHALLENGE')**

Council received the report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services in relation to the Draft Annual Report for 2014-15 entitled 'Rising to the Challenge', which was attached to the circulated report at Appendix 1.

Members commended the investment work being carried out in Town Centres together with the new Leisure Centre at Aberafan Beach.

In relation to the fixed exclusion of primary school children, Members asked what was provided during the 2 terms the pupils were excluded and were advised that there was small provision, although this would be strengthened.

Members also requested that the statistics around the foundation phase be provided for Members' information.

Members noted that Looked After Children had the support of the Youth Service and Route 16 in order to prevent them becoming a 'NEET' (Not in Employment Education of Training). This proved a challenge in some cases due to the complex nature of their individual needs.

Members asked for feedback on the new Welsh school consultation which recently ended, including the anticipated opening date. Officers advised that the Statutory Notice had been published resulting in 5 comments being received. These would be included in the report to be considered by Cabinet on 4 November 2015.

Member requested details of the assessments referred to in EDU/003, EDU/015a and EDU/004, and noted that these were teacher assessments. A pilot scheme had been undertaken in May 2015 to evaluate the assessments

carried out by teachers in order to have confidence in their continual assessments.

Members were pleased that to date there had been no compulsory redundancies, but were concerned that this would become increasingly more difficult year on year.

An update in relation to the Strategic School Improvement Programme was requested as it related to the Faith School wherein it was noted that the proposal to replace Saint Joseph's Comprehensive School with Dyffryn Comprehensive School in the current tranche was with Welsh Government for approval. A report would be presented to Members once confirmation had been received.

In relation to Improvement Objective 2, concern was expressed that the performance at Key Stage 2 and 3 was slipping. However, Officers responded that although pupil performance according to teacher assessment at Key Stage 2 and 3 had decreased in 2015, our performance at Key Stage 4 still compares favourably nationally. This is despite the fact that our free school meal profile, used by Welsh Government as a proxy indicator of performance, has increased to the second highest in Wales.

Officers welcomed Welsh Governments intention to introduce common verification of teacher assessment across Wales following the pilot that was run this year. This will increase confidence in these outcomes. It was noted that assessment should inform the next steps in the pupils' learning, therefore securing its accuracy and quality is of the utmost importance. Officers would be working with ERW to secure an improvement in the accuracy and quality of Key Stage 2 and 3 assessments.

Following discussions, the Deputy Leader, Councillor P.A.Rees, commended the report to Council for adoption.

**RESOLVED:** That the Draft Annual Report for 2014-15 entitled 'Rising to the Challenge', as contained at Appendix 1 to the circulated report, together with summary, be adopted and that the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services be given delegated authority to make any further changes necessary prior to its publication, that do not materially change the content thereof, in consultation with the Leader of Council and the Chief Executive.

10. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL 2014-15**

The Deputy Leader of Council introduced the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel on the work it had undertaken during the last 12 months, in accordance with its agreed Terms of Reference.

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel be noted including the proposed priorities for the next period.

11. **SAFEGUARDING**

**RESOLVED:** That the report of the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing in relation to Corporate Safeguarding be noted, together with the Report of the Auditor General for Wales on a Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils, as contained in Appendix 1 to the circulated report

12. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS OF THE CABINET AND CABINET BOARDS**

**RESOLVED:** That the following Executive Decisions of Cabinet and Cabinet Boards be noted:-

Cabinet	23 <sup>rd</sup> September, 2015
Cabinet	30 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015
Children, Young People and Education	4 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015
Children, Young People and Education	24 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015
Social Care, Health and Housing Policy and Resources	10 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015
Policy and Resources	3 <sup>rd</sup> September, 2015
Policy and Resources	21 <sup>st</sup> September, 2015
Economic and Community Regeneration	11 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015
Environment and Highways	17 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015

13. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** That pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

(At this point in the meeting all Officers withdrew from the meeting except Mr.S.Phillips, Mrs.S.Rees and Mrs.A.Manchipp).

14. **WORK FORCE ISSUES**

Council received the Private Report of the Chief Executive in relation to Workforce matters, which had been commended to Council by Cabinet at its meeting on 30 September, 2015.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr.N.Jarman's contract for services be extended by a further period up to 31 March 2018, with all other contractual terms remaining unchanged.

**CHAIRPERSON**