

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

17 February, 2016

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

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

Councillors: Mrs P.Bebell, Mrs.A.Chaves, Ms.C.Clement-Williams, D.W.Davies, Mrs.R.Davies, Mrs.J.Dudley, M. Harvey, H.N.James, Mrs.L.H.James, M.L.James, A.Jenkins, E.E.Jones, Mrs.D.Jones, R.G.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.Llewelyn, A.R.Lockyer, Mrs. S. Miller, J.Miller, C.Morgan, Mrs.S.Paddison, Mrs.K.Pearson, L.M.Purcell, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, A.Taylor, A.J.Taylor, A.H.Thomas, A.L.Thomas, R.Thomas, J.Warman, D.Whitelock, Mrs.L.G.Williams and A.N.Woolcock

Officers in Attendance: S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, N. Jarman, A.Evans, G.Nutt, D.Michael , D.G. Griffiths Mrs. S. Rees, Mrs.K.Jones, Mrs. D.Hopkins, Mrs. J. Smith, R. George and Miss.G. Cirillo

Representative of the WLGA Mr. J.Lloyd

Representatives of the Translation Service: Present

1. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

It was with great sadness that the Mayor announced the recent death of the mother of Councillor Steve Hunt.

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

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chief Executive, Mr. S. Phillips made the following declarations of direct pecuniary interest on behalf of himself, Chief Officers and Heads of Service (in their absence) at the commencement of the meeting in respect of Agenda Item 3 - Report of the Independent Advisor re: Chief Officers ER/VR/CR Scheme as it related to their rates of pay :-

Mr. S. Phillips	As he is the Chief Executive for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Mr. H. Jenkins	As he is the Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Mr. G. Nutt	As he is the Director of the Environment
Mr. A. Evans	As he is the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning
Mr. N. Jarman	As he is the Director of Social Services Health and Housing
Mr. D. Michael	As he is Head of Legal Services
Mrs. K. Jones	As he is Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services
Mr. D.W. Griffiths	As he is the Head of Engineering and Transport
Mrs. S. Rees	As she is Head of Human Resources

(The Chief Executive withdrew from the meeting at this point.)

3. **CHIEF OFFICERS' ER/VR/CR SCHEME**

Mr.J.Lloyd, Workforce Adviser from the Welsh Local Government Association gave Members an overview of five proposed options for an ER/VR/CR/Scheme for the Chief Executive and Chief Officers as set out in the circulated report. Mr. Lloyd reminded Members that

each Authority had the flexibility to set its own scheme based on its requirements and circumstances.

Members' attention was drawn to the UK Government's published draft Public Sector Exit Payment Regulations 2016 which would impose a cap of £95,000 on exit payments for public sector workers, and also to the position regarding Recovery Provisions, as detailed within the circulated report.

Members raised concerns about whether there would be any job losses or compulsory redundancies and in response to this it was confirmed that it was the Council's Policy to prevent compulsory redundancies from arising, however where unavoidable, the process to be followed for Chief Officers would be in line with the JNC for Chief Executives of Local Authorities Conditions of Service (for the Chief Executive) and the JNC for Chief Officers of Local Authorities Conditions of Service (for Chief Officers and Heads of Service).

In respect of Early Retirement, Members' attention was drawn to the provision which would be applicable in cases of early retirement as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That Option 1, as detailed within the circulated report, for a revised ER,VR,CR, Scheme for the Chief Executive and Chief Officers, be approved;
2. That the provision for Early Retirement, as set out in the circulated report, be approved;
3. That the provision for Compulsory Redundancies (including that should the statutory redundancy weekly amount change, then that will automatically be applied), as set out in the circulated report, be approved.

The Chief Executive, Chief Officers and relevant Heads of Service returned to the meeting at this point.

4. **ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY 2015-2020**

Council received a detailed overview of the Draft Road Safety Strategy 2015-2020 which outlined the Council's statutory responsibility under the Road Traffic Act 1988 whilst evaluating current statistical performance against set Welsh Government targets.

The Strategy contained information for Members which included detailed Casualty and Collision Data showing reductions in the total number of people seriously injured or killed set against Welsh Government Targets and also set against Local Targets for Neath Port Talbot. It was noted that Neath Port Talbot had introduced its own 40% reduction target for "All Casualties" to run simultaneously with the Welsh Government Targets for the Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI), Motorcyclists and Young Driver Casualties, enabling the Council to maintain progress towards casualty reduction by the year 2020.

Members questions included how the Strategy would support or target Older Drivers, Cyclists, Young Drivers and School Children. In response to this Officers referred to the objectives as set out in the Draft Strategy which confirmed that raising awareness for all groups would be key to road users. This included the promotion and delivery of training for the target groups and speed/casualty reduction programmes.

Officers confirmed that there would be further work undertaken to identify suitable routes for travel for example cycling/walking routes, and further measures could be brought forward in future years as part of the Active Travel Bill and through the use of Local Transport Funding.

Members also raised their concerns about budget constraints and the potential lack of Road Safety Grants in the future which would impact on the reduction of speed signs across the County Borough. In response to this the Director of the Environment confirmed that although resources were limited due to the financial pressures, addressing speed issues was factored into the Council's Forward Financial Plan.

Members commended the Draft Strategy before them and

thanked Officers for their work in producing it.

RESOVLED: That Council adopt the Road Safety Strategy 2015-2020, as set out in Appendix 1 to the circulated report.

5. **WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 - CREATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD**

The Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services, updated Members of the need to establish a Public Services Board from 1 April 2016 and to put in place arrangements to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board. Upon creation of the Public Services Board, the existing Local Service Board would become redundant. Members noted that the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 placed a number of new duties upon the Council and this would affect some changes to the way the Council would undertake corporate planning, community planning and partnership arrangements.

Members were advised that the Public Services Board would have responsibility for preparing and publishing an assessment of well-being in its area, a local Well Being Plan and reporting on progress made upon the implementation of the plan alongside other key tasks, as detailed within the circulated report.

Members raised their concerns regarding the fact that previous funding provided by Welsh Government to support the Local Service Board would cease on 31 March 2016, and that the funding for the Public Services Board would be significantly less thus placing the Authority in a challenging position.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the duty placed on the Council, the Fire and Rescue Authority, Natural Resources Wales and the AMBU Health Board to establish a Public Services Board from the 1 April 2016 and that the Council's representation on the Board, as defined in the Act, was to be the Leader and Chief Executive or their nominated substitutes, be noted;
 2. That the scrutiny of the Public

Services Board be vested in the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee with powers as set out in paragraph 5 of the circulated report;

3. That the dissolution of the Local Service Board on creation of the Public Services Board be supported, subject to suitable arrangements being agreed with the Public Services Board to ensure progress was sustained on matters arising from the existing Single Integrated Plan until such time as the Wellbeing Plan supercedes the existing Single Integrated Plan;
4. That the Head of Legal Services be given authority to amend the Council's Constitution to take account of the proposed role of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and the function of full Council in approving the Plan.

6. **NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER SECTION 10 OF PART 4 (RULES OF PROCEDURE) OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION, PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR S.HUNT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR M.ELLIS**

Members were advised that Cllr. Steve Hunt was unable to attend today's meeting due to a family bereavement and had subsequently withdrawn his Notice of Motion from consideration at today's meeting.

7. **CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS**

The Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services highlighted to Members changes to Membership Arrangements as detailed within the circulated report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following Membership changes be approved:

Social Care, Health and Housing
Scrutiny Committee

Replace Councillor J.Warman with
Councillor C.Morgan

NPT Homes

Replace Councillor E.V.Latham with
Councillor Mrs C.Clement Williams

Schools Standards Partnership Group

Replace Councillor Mrs K.Lloyd with
Councillor Mrs D.Jones

Community Health Council

Replace Councillor Mrs.M.A.Lewis with
Councillor Mrs.S.Paddision

2. That the following replacement
Parent Governor Voting Co Opted
Members on the Children, Young
People and Education Scrutiny
Committee be approved:-

Helen Dale
Donna Vaughan

3. That the following replacement Faith
School Voting Co Opted Member on
the Children and Young People and
Education Scrutiny Committee be
approved:-

Maria Cattick

CHAIRPERSON