

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

30 March, 2016

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

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

Councillors: A.Carter, Mrs.A.Chaves, Ms.C.Clement-Williams, M.Crowley, D.W.Davies, Mrs.R.Davies, Mrs.J.Dudley, M.Ellis, J.S.Evans, C.P.Golding, M.Harvey, H.N.James, M.L.James, A.Jenkins, R.G.Jones, S.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.Llewelyn, Mrs.K.Lloyd, Mrs.S.Miller, C.Morgan, J.D.Morgan, Ms.C.Morgans, Mrs.K.Pearson, D.M.Peters, L.M.Purcell, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, J.Rogers, A.Taylor, A.J.Taylor, A.H.Thomas, R.Thomas, J.Warman, D.Whitelock, Mrs.L.G.Williams, Mrs.A.Wingrave and A.N.Woolcock

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

Representatives of the Translation Service: Present

1. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present, with the exception of Cllr.A.Taylor, disclosed an interest in Agenda item 5 as it relates to Members' Remuneration and Expenses for 2016/17.

In addition the following Members made declarations of interest as follows:-

Councillor M.Harvey

Re: Min No 6 of the Policy and Resources Cabinet Board as it

relates to the CCTV Appraisal as he is employed by the South Wales Police.

Councillor D.Whitelock

Re: Min No 9 of the Economic and Community Regeneration Cabinet Board as it relates to the Cwmavon Community Engagement Centre as his wife is employed by the Centre.

2. **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS 2015/16**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the following meetings of Council be confirmed, subject to Paragraph 3 of Min No 4 of the Council meeting of 3 February, 2016, relating to the Home to School Transport Policy, being amended to read:-

“The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Policy had been consulted on, scrutinised and approved 2 years ago and a commitment had been given at that time to review the policy after 2 years had elapsed and that public consultation would be undertaken.”

Council	27 January 2016
Council	3 February 2016
Council	17 February 2016

3. **MAYOR - ELECT FOR 2016/17.**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs. Sheila Penry be nominated Mayor Elect for the Civic Year 2016/17.

4. **DEPUTY MAYOR - ELECT 2016/17**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs. Janice Dudley be nominated Deputy Mayor Elect for the Civic Year 2016/17.

5. **MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES 2016/17**

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the decisions of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) as to basic salary, senior salary and fees for Co-opted Members which will be implemented for the financial year 2016/17, be noted;
 2. That fees for Co-opted Members be payable for all meetings of Committees on which those Members serve together with any seminars, training events or briefings within the terms of the IRPW report;
 3. That the senior salaries be paid to those office holders identified in the Schedule of Councillors and Co-opted Members Remuneration for 2016/17 contained in Schedule 5 to this report;
 4. That Council confirms that the Level 1 payment band be applied to Executive Members and Committee Chairs;
 5. That Council confirms that the Level 2 payment band should continue to be applied for Civic Duties;
 6. That individual Members advise the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in writing of any variation to the Senior Salary amount they wish to be paid in 2016/17;
 7. That the revised Member ICT Scheme, as shown in Schedule 4 to the circulated report, be approved.

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

RESOLVED: that the following Executive Decisions of Cabinet and Cabinet Boards, be noted:-

Cabinet	13 January, 2016
Cabinet	2 February, 2016

Cabinet	10 February, 2016
Cabinet	24 February, 2016
Children, Young People and Education	14 January, 2016
Children, Young People and Education	10 February, 2016
Children, Young People and Education	11 February, 2016
Children, Young People and Education	9 March, 2016
Economic and Community Regeneration	19 January, 2016
Economic and Community Regeneration	19 January, 2016
Economic and Community Regeneration	29 th January, 2016
Economic and Community Regeneration	11 th March, 2016
Environment and Highways	28 January, 2016
Environment and Highways	3 March, 2016
Social Care, Health and Housing	21 January, 2016
Social Care, Health and Housing	18 February, 2016
Policy and Resources	7 January, 2016
Policy and Resources	18 February, 2016

7. **URGENT ITEM**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute No 8 below, the Chairperson agreed that it could be raised as today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason

As this is the first meeting following the announcement made by Tata Steel.

8. **TATA STEEL**

The Chief Executive made the following statement on behalf of the Council following the announcement made by Tata Steel:-

“The Council deeply regrets the decision of Tata’s main Board last evening not to endorse the proposed turnaround plan. On the other hand, it is a relatively positive development that the prospect of immediate total closure appears to have been averted.

The Council remains committed to working with all levels of government and others, including the trade unions and local business, to safeguard as many jobs as possible at the Port Talbot works and further afield as well as in the extensive supply chain and the wider economy.

The Council has already played a full part in the task force established by the Welsh Government following the announcement of job losses in January of this year and is in regular contact with the management at Tata in Port Talbot. We have, for example, been instrumental in developing detailed proposals for a proposed Enterprise Zone in Port Talbot.

The Council is aware of press reports this morning that amongst other options, a management/employee buy-out is being considered with government support, possibly including temporary nationalisation. We welcome that development and any alternative third party involvement that will preserve the future of steel making in Port Talbot and Wales.

However, time is of the essence. All the indications are that we don’t have much as it would appear that Tata is not prepared to carry on underwriting the business for a lengthy period. Government and other parties therefore need to move very quickly to put substance behind any realistic options for the future of the strip products division.

It is also imperative that the assets at Port Talbot and elsewhere in the UK are preserved and protected to ensure that any sale or buy out option has the best possible chance of success in what remains a difficult market.

Steel is a foundation industry of strategic importance to both the UK and Welsh economies. We therefore need specific proposals to come forward quickly with government support including a package of measures to alleviate the financial pressures on the sector. These have been well-documented – for example, uncompetitive energy costs. Short term, we need quick decisions to help companies in the supply chain and the sign off of the Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon is the most obvious case in point. Longer term, we need to progress greater economic resilience for the region as set out in the City Region’s City Deal proposal last month.

The consequences of failure for the area and the wider South Wales economy hardly need to be spelt out with the prospect of some 10,000 jobs now at risk – for every 1 job at Tata there are at least 3 in the supply chain and the wider economy. It is therefore imperative that all parties move on from rhetoric to specific and detailed analysis of the options available and what needs to be done to save steel making.

No stone must be left unturned and the Council stands ready to play its part. Time is short - tea and sympathy is not enough and blame games are equally unproductive.”

Members of Council supported the Chief Executive.

CHAIRPERSON