

# COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

**Members Present:**

**4<sup>th</sup> February, 2015**

**The Mayor:** Councillor H.N.James

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

**Councillors:** A.Carter, Mrs.A.Chaves, M.Crowley, D.W.Davies, Mrs.R.Davies, Mrs.J.Dudley, P.Greenaway, M.Harvey, S.K.Hunt, I.B.James, Mrs.L.H.James, M.L.James, A.Jenkins, E.E.Jones, Mrs.D.Jones, R.G.Jones, S.Jones, D.Keogh, E.V.Latham, A.Llewelyn, A.R.Lockyer, J.Miller, Mrs.S.Miller, Ms.C.Morgans, Mrs.S.Paddison, Mrs.K.Pearson, Mrs.S.M.Penry, M.Protheroe, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, J.Rogers, A.J.Taylor, A.Taylor, A.H.Thomas, D.Whitelock, I.D.Williams, Mrs.L.G.Williams, Mrs.A.Wingrave and A.N.Woolcock

**Officers in Attendance:** S.Phillips, A.Evans, N.Jarman, H.Jenkins, G.Nutt, D.Michael, Mrs.K.Jones, R.George, D.Rees, Mrs.J.Woodman-Ralph and Mrs.T.Davies

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

It was with great sadness that the Mayor announced the death of the mother of Councillor Linet Purcell, Mrs Enid Williams.

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

In addition, the Mayor was pleased to announce that the Leader of Council, Councillor A.H.Thomas had received an Honorary Doctorate from Swansea University. All Members joined in congratulating him.

## 2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS

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

Councillor Mrs R.Davies	Report of the Head of Financial Services re: Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18 - as she is a Governor at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.
Councillor M.Harvey	Report of the Corporate Directors' Group re: Budget 2015/16 – as he is employed by South Wales Police.
Councillor D.Keogh	Report of the Head of Financial Services re: Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18 – as he is a Member of the shadow Board of Governors at Ysgol Newydd Bae Baglan.
Councillor E.V.Latham	Report of the Head of Financial Services re: Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18 – as he is a Member of the shadow Board of Governors at Ysgol Newydd Bae Baglan.
Councillor A.Llewelyn	Report of the Head of Financial Services re: Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18 – as he is a parent and Governor at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.
Councillor A.Taylor	Report of the Head of Financial Services re: Capital Programme 2015/16 – 2017/18 – as he is a Member of the shadow Board of Governors at Ysgol Newydd Bae Baglan.
Councillor I.D.Williams	Report of the Corporate Directors' Group re: Budget 2015/16 – as his daughter is employed by NPT CVS.

## **Report of the Corporate Directors' Group**

### **3. BUDGET 2015/16**

Members of Council received a copy of the above report of the Corporate Directors' Group, which had been commended to Council by Cabinet held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015.

Members were pleased to note that the subsidy of up to £90,000 in respect of Cymmer swimming pool would be maintained until 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015, to allow time for a possible transfer of the pool to the community or a community group. Members noted the Equalities Impact Assessment (detailed within the circulated report).

Members felt that the revised Scrutiny arrangements had aided the discussions around the Budget 2015/16, and also felt that it was important that local residents had had the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Members noted that the Council Tax Setting Process for 2015/16 would be completed at the scheduled meeting of Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015. At this meeting Council will determine the total Council Tax for 2015/16 incorporating the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales and the relevant Community Council elements.

- RESOLVED:**
- (a) that the revised budget position and arrangements for 2014/15, as set out in the circulated report, be approved;
  - (b) that the Council's compliance with Welsh Government's requirement to protect schools funding, be noted;
  - (c) that the Council's compliance with Welsh Government's requirement in relation to Equality Impact Assessments in setting the Budget for 2015/16, be noted;
  - (d) that the Budget requirement for 2015/16, together with service plans for the delivery of these Budgets, as set out in the above circulated report, be approved;
  - (e) that the Budget/Forward Financial Plan savings, as outlined in Appendix 3 to the above circulated report, be approved;

- (f) that the Corporate Directors continue to progress the savings and improvement programme for the Authority;
- (g) that the delegation for setting Fees and Charges for Executive decisions be approved, subject to the criteria set out in the circulated report;
- (h) that the delegation for setting Fees and Charges for Non-Executive decisions be approved, subject to the criteria set out in the above circulated report;
- (i) that the Band D equivalent Council Tax for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council element only be confirmed at £1,368.40.

### **Report of the Head of Financial Services**

#### **4. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 - 2017/18**

Members of Council welcomed the circulated report and noted the large number of Capital works which had recently been completed within the Authority's area and also those which were ongoing, including the Briton Ferry Link Bridge; the improvements to Schools at Ysgol Newydd Bae Baglan and Ysgol Gyfun, Ystalyfera, as well as phase one of the redevelopment of Neath Town Centre.

- RESOLVED:**
- (a) that the Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18, as set out in Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be approved;
  - (b) that the Capital Programme be kept under review and updated over the year, as necessary.

### **Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

#### **5. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015/16**

Members discussed the Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, as detailed within the circulated report.

**RESOLVED:** that the Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment, Minimum Revenue Provision and Prudential Indicators, as set out in the circulated report, be approved.

**CHAIRMAN**