

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

15 March, 2017

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

The Deputy Mayor: **Councillor J.Dudley**

Councillors: C.Clement-Williams, A.P.H.Davies,
D.W.Davies, R.Davies, C.Edwards, I.B.James,
Mrs.L.H.James, M.L.James, R.James,
A.Jenkins, E.E.Jones, M.Jones, D.Jones,
R.G.Jones, D.Keogh, E.V.Latham, Mrs.K.Lloyd,
A.R.Lockyer, J.Miller, S.Miller, C.Morgan,
J.D.Morgan, Ms.C.Morgans, S.Paddison,
Mrs.K.Pearson, M.Protheroe, L.M.Purcell,
S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, J.Rogers,
A.J.Taylor, A.H.Thomas, A.L.Thomas,
J.Warman, D.Whitelock and A.N.Woolcock

Officers in Attendance: S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, A.Evans, G.Nutt,
N. Jarman, C.Millis, S.John, D.Michael,
Ms.C.Furlow, R.George, Mrs. N. Sparkes,
F Clay-Poole and Mrs.A.Manlipp

Representatives of the Translation Service: Present

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive declared his interest in the Report on the Welsh Government Consultation on the White Paper as it relates to the fees for the Local Government Elections Returning Officer.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the following meetings of Council be confirmed, subject to the following proposed

addition to the Minutes of 1 February 2017, Minute No 4, as it relates to the Budget:

" the Leader of the Opposition ,Cllr Purcell, tabled an amendment recommending that £1m be transferred from general reserves in order to protect the schools base budget, Pontardawe Arts Centre, Cefn Coed Museum and front line services. This was seconded by Cllr Llewelyn. The proposed amendment was defeated".

This addition was put to the vote and was defeated.

Council	25 January, 2017
Council	1 February, 2017
Council	1 March, 2017

3. **DECISION MAKING DURING THE PRE ELECTION PERIOD**

The Head of Legal Services gave a brief overview of the above report and advised Council of a typographical error on line 6 of the recommendation where it refers to 2012, which should read 2017.

RESOLVED: 1. that any matters which normally require determination by Cabinet or Cabinet Boards, or any other Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, and which in the view of the Chief Executive, or a Corporate Director or a Head of Service necessitates a decision to be taken during the period 3 May to 30 May, 2017, then such Officer (s) in respect of matters within their Service functions, shall have delegated power to take a decision and to authorise any action on the matters in question, subject the use of the Pro forma attached and subject also to the following :-

- a. any decisions taken must comply with normal reporting format, including compliance statement and reason for decision, except that implementation shall be with immediate effect without any call-in requirement;

- b. all decisions shall be reported back to Members;
- c. this delegation will not include any determination of planning applications which are normally determined by the Planning Committee, unless deemed urgent by the Head of Planning in the context of statutory timescales; nor will it include decisions on any planning matters deemed to be “controversial” in the view of the Head of Planning. Any planning applications dealt with under this delegation will be determined by the Head of Planning.
- d. in exercising the above delegated powers, Officers will be required to consult with three Members as follows:
 - (i) From 4 May to 17 May – the current Mayor or Deputy Mayor and two other Members from different Political Groups (including one from any Majority Group);
 - (ii) From 17 May to 31 May - the newly elected Leader or Deputy Leader (or in their absence the newly elected Mayor or Deputy Mayor) and two other Members from different Political Groups (including one from any Majority Group).

Subject in both cases to these groups being constituted.

- 2. that the Mayor or Deputy Mayor be authorised to be present at the opening of tenders during the period set out in (i) above and the Leader or Deputy Leader (or in their absence the Mayor or

Deputy Mayor) during the period set out in (ii) above.

4. **MEMBERS' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES SCHEME 2017/18**

- RESOLVED:**
1. That decisions of the IRPW as to basic salary, senior salary and fees for Co-opted Members to be implemented for the financial year 2017/18, be noted;
 2. That the 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 2017/18 as contained in Appendix 1 to the circulated report;
 4. That Council confirms that the Level 1 payment band be applied to Executive Members and Committee Chairs;
 5. That the Level 2 payment band 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 2017/18;
 7. That Option 1 be utilised in relation to the publication of the reimbursement of the costs of care.

5. **MEMBERS ICT SCHEME 2017/18**

- RESOLVED:** That the amendments to the Members ICT Scheme and Internet Usage Policy, as contained in the Appendix to the circulated report, be approved.

6. **WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION WHITE PAPER**

Member expressed concern that the proposals contained in the above consultation document did not clarify the proposals for Community Councils and would result in some of the services

currently being undertaken by Unitary Authorities being lost to the local communities. This would cause the Authority particular problems as there were no Community Councils in the Port Talbot area. Members therefore asked if this could be highlighted within the proposed response. It was noted that a Special meeting of the WLGA would be held shortly to submit a joint response.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of Council, to respond to the consultation on the Welsh Government's White Paper, in line with the comments on the various issues outlined in the circulated report, adding, subtracting or amending matters as Members see fit.

7. **WELLBEING ASSESSMENT (WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

Council received the report of the Public Services Board on the Wellbeing Assessment which had been prepared under Section 36 of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The difficulties associated with undertaking such an assessment in the absence of a definition of "wellbeing" was acknowledged.

RESOLVED: 1. That the draft Well-being Assessment prepared by the Public Services Board, as contained in the circulated report, be noted;

2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to feed back any comments that Members wish to make to the Public Services Board.

8. **WESTERN BAY POPULATION ASSESSMENT**

Council received the report of the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing on the Western Bay Population Assessment which had been carried out jointly with the Local Health Board under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

Members noted that the report had been commended to Council by the Social Care, Health and Housing Cabinet Board, subject to amendments to the Equality Impact Assessment.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Western Bay Population Assessment, as contained in the circulated report, be approved;
 2. That the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing be authorised to publish a link to the Population Assessment on the Council's website;
 3. That the City and County of Swansea be authorised to submit the Population Assessment to Welsh Ministers on behalf of the three local authorities and the Health Board in the Western Bay region.

9. **WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2017/20 (WESP)**

Council received the report of the Head of Participation in relation to the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017/20 (WESP).

Some Members felt that there was a lack of enthusiasm and vision in the Plan and that the Authority would not meet the deadline set by Welsh Government, of 1m Welsh speakers by 2050. Members accepted that this was the first time that new Welsh Schools were being provided in the County Borough, however there were no new provisions for primary, nursery or pre-school pupils. The Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning accepted that it would be difficult to achieve the target, but that it was hoped that with the provision of the second campus this may enthuse pupils to seek education through the medium of Welsh. Members felt that there was a need to increase the number of Welsh speaking teachers across Wales and that the document should be reviewed on an annual basis.

The relevant Cabinet Member advised Council that he had met recently with Menter Iaith, following the consultation period, and would meet again in October to discuss further. He stressed that the Welsh Government target of 1m Welsh speakers referred not just to the classroom but across all sectors of the community.

RESOLVED: That, having given due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment and the responses to the consultation and the impact assessments in relation to equality, risk, Welsh Language, legal and workforce, the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 (WESP) be approved, prior to submission to the Welsh Government, with an implementation date of the 1 April 2017.

10. **DRAFT CORPORATE OBJECTIVES 2017/18**

Council received the report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services on the Draft Addendum to the Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-19 containing Improvement and Well-being objectives for the period 1 April 2017-30 September 2017.

Following the presentation of the report, the Leader of Council summed up the work of the Authority over the last 5 years and thanked Members and Officers for their support in delivering many of the Council's objectives. These included improvements in children's services, school performance, the Strategic School Improvement Programme, work in supporting people affected by welfare benefit changes, modernisation of adult social services, regeneration and improvements in waste recycling, etc. The Leader also extended his thanks to partner agencies in the voluntary sector, community groups and Trade Unions.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Draft Addendum to the existing Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-19 be adopted;
2. That the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive to make any further changes necessary prior to final publication and which do not materially change the content of the Addendum.

11. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS OF CABINET AND CABINET BOARDS
2016/17 (FOR INFORMATION)**

RESOLVED: that the undermentioned minutes be noted:-

Cabinet	18 January, 2017
Cabinet	24 January, 2017
Cabinet	31 January, 2017
Cabinet	22 February, 2017
Policy and Resources	11 January, 2017
Policy and Resources	15 February, 2017
Children, Young People And Education	5 January, 2017
Children, Young People And Education (Special)	26 January, 2017
Children, Young People And Education	26 January, 2017
Social Care, Health and Housing	9 February, 2017
Economic and Community Regeneration	20 January, 2017

12. **URGENT ITEM**

With the permission of the Mayor the following item was raised as an urgent item.

Reason:

Due to the time element.

13. **CHILD CREMATION FEES**

The Chief Executive advised Members of Council that a report would shortly be taken to the Margam Joint Crematorium Committee regarding the introduction of free cremations for minors up to the age of 12 years.

14. **FINAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

As this was the last meeting of Council before the elections, the Mayor extended her thanks to all Members and Officers for their support during her year of Office.

In addition Members not standing for election in May also spoke and thanked Members, Officers and their respective families for their support during their time in Office.

Members also paid tribute to the Leader of Council, who would also be standing down in May, for his valuable contributions in making the Authority the success it is today.

CHAIRPERSON