

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

28 September 2017

The Mayor: **Councillor D.Keogh**

The Deputy Mayor: **Councillor S.Jones**

Councillors: A.R.Aubrey, S.Bamsey, D.Cawsey,
H.C.Clarke, S.ApDafydd, O.S.Davies,
R.Davies, C.Edwards, J.Evans,
S.E.Freeguard, C.Galsworthy, W.F.Griffiths,
S.Harris, M.Harvey, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt,
C.James, H.N.James, C.J.Jones, D.Jones,
L.Jones, R.G.Jones, S.A.Knoyle, E.V.Latham,
A.Llewelyn, A.R.Lockyer, A.McGrath, R.Mizen,
J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry,
D.M.Peters, M.Protheroe, S.Pursey,
S.Rahaman, S.Renkes, S.H.Reynolds,
A.J.Richards, P.D.Richards, A.J.Taylor,
R.L.Taylor, A.L.Thomas, R.Thomas,
J.Warman, D.Whitelock, C.Williams,
A.Wingrave, R.W.Wood and A.N.Woolcock

Officers in Attendance: S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, G.Nutt, A.Evans,
D.Michael, K.Jones, R.George, C.Matthews
and A.Manchipp,

**Representatives of the Present
Translation Service:**

1. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

It was with great pleasure that the Mayor announced that a local company, Call of the Wild, based in Seven Sisters, had won a prestigious award at the Conference and Incentive Travel Awards in London for the best team building experience with Worcester Warriors Premiership Rugby team.

2. **MEMBER'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The following Member made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting:-

Councillor M.Harvey

re the report of the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing on the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Annual Plan 2017-2018 as he is employed by the South Wales Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner is mentioned in the Plan.

In addition the Chief Executive declared an interest in relation to the Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services on the Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales as it relates to the fees paid to Returning Officers.

3. **RESPONSE TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN RELATION TO ELECTIONS**

(The Chief Executive, S.Phillips, withdrew from the room during discussion of this item).

Members received the Report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services on the draft response to the Welsh Government's proposals on the Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales.

Members then raised the following points:-

- In relation to Q15 the proposal to agree a term of 5 years for local government election was seen as positive as it would give stability and avoid, as far as possible, a clash of elections in future years. Officers advised that it was not possible to guarantee that this would not happen in the future as snap general elections could be called at any time:
- In relation to Q38 Members felt it important that the Chief Executive should also be the Returning Officer in Local Authorities, although Members noted that the Chief Executive did not have strong views either way:

- Clarity was sought in relation to Q33 and Q36, wherein Members noted that there would be a conflict of interest for Officers standing in the political arena while still employed by the Local Authority as Officers, whether elected or not, as they would have expressed their political views during their election campaign:
- Members also noted that in addition to the proposed response, individual Members or Political Group could respond separately:
- It was noted that following the consultation period, Welsh Government would provide feedback in the form of either a report or White Paper. Welsh Government did not have the power to implement the proposals until after April:
- In relation to Q41-43 Members asked whether the proposed responses were incompatible with the Court of Human Rights and were advised that this was probably the case. There had been considerable discussion on this however the UK Government's view was to maintain the current position.

RESOLVED: that the Draft response to the Welsh Government consultation on Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales, as contained in Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be approved.

4. **WELLBEING OBJECTIVES AND THE CORPORATE PLAN**

The Leader of Council introduced the report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services on the final version of the Corporate Plan for 2017-2022. Members noted that the Plan had been prepared in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Plan outlines the programme of work for the Authority over the next 5 years.

Members then received a presentation on the Web based version of the Plan. The Plan itself was appended to the circulated report.

Council noted that the report had been considered and commended to Council, with amendments, by the Policy and Resources/Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet held on 27 September 2017. Members then thanked the Officers and respondents to the consultation, in the production of the Plan.

Members felt it important to involve local organisations and Community Councils in rolling out the Plan and to evidence the resultant improvements.

In relation to the Authority's other Plans it was necessary to ensure continuity around such things as land development and the provision of workshops etc. This was particularly the case in respect of the Local Development Plan (LDP), which was due for review in 2018. Members were asked to consider the LDP in light of the Corporate Plan, in particular identifying "candidate sites".

The work of the Valleys' Task and Finish Group would also have an impact. In relation to the references to the use of the Welsh Language, Members supported the aim of fulfilling the standards and to the increase in the number of Welsh speakers by 2050.

Members supported the document before them today and expressed their view that improving transport was key to improving jobs and employment.

The Leader of Council then summed up and asked Members to take today's Plan into account during the review of the LDP during 2018. In addition he referred to the work of the Valley's Task and Finish Group and asked Members to approach the review on a strategic level. He said that the Welsh Government was exploring the possibility of Local Authorities establishing their own bus companies to help address the issues of transport.

RESOLVED: That having given due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment attached to the circulated report:

1. The Plan set out at Appendix 1 and the supporting document set out at Appendix 2, be approved, subject to the amendments made at Cabinet held on 27 September 2017;
2. That the Leader of Council be given delegated authority to agree any changes to the Plan together with any other minor amendments that might be necessary prior to its publication.

5. **CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Council received the report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services in relation to changes to Committee Memberships together with the addendum report.

- RESOLVED:**
1. that the appointment of a Parent Governor Co Opted Member of the Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee be confirmed as Adam Amor, with a four year term:
 2. that Cllr Leanne Jones be replaced by Cllr Suzanne Paddison on the Policy and Resources/Cabinet Scrutiny Committee:
 3. that Cllr Dennis Keogh be replaced by Cllr Oliver Davies and Cllr Scott Jones be replaced by Cllr Robert Wood on the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee:
 4. that Cllr Dennis Keogh be replaced by Cllr Oliver Davies on the Community Safety and Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee:
 5. that Cllr Scott Jones be replaced by Cllr Steffan ap Dafydd on Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee and to appoint Cllr Ralph Thomas as Vice-Chair:
 6. that Cllr Dennis Keogh be replaced by Cllr Charlotte Galsworthy on the Planning Committee:
 7. that Cllr Dennis Keogh be replaced by Cllr Mike Harvey as Vice Chair of the Appeals Committee:
 8. that Cllr Dennis Keogh be replaced by Cllr Sharon Freeguard (Cllr Freeguard to be replaced as substitute by Cllr Robert Wood) on the Standards Committee:
 9. that Cllr Dennis Keogh be replaced by Cllr Robert Wood on the Industrial Communities Alliance:
 10. that Cllr Scott Jones be replaced by Cllr Angharad Aubrey on Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Community Health Council.

6. **WESTERN BAY YOUTH JUSTICE AND EARLY INTERVENTION ANNUAL PLAN 2017/2018**

Prior to consideration of the Report, the Leader of Council advised Members that the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing, Nick Jarman, would shortly be leaving the Authority. He wished to place on record his thanks for the work he had done in improving Childrens' Services resulting in their removal from "Special Measures", and in also modernising the services and realising substantial savings.

The Chief Executive, together with other Members of Council, also thanked Mr Jarman. Mr Jarman then responded.

Council then considered the report of the Director in relation to the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Annual Plan 2017/2018.

RESOLVED: That the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Annual Plan 2017/2018, as contained in the Appendix to the circulated report, be approved.

7. **URGENT ITEM**

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

Reason for Urgency:

Due to the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing leaving the Authority.

8. **STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Chief Executive advised Members that he would be submitting a report to the next meeting of Council on 18 October 2017, proposing that Aled Evans, the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning, be designated the interim Director of Social Services in line with the relevant legislation until such time as the vacant post is filled.

CHAIRPERSON