

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

25 July, 2018

The Mayor: Councillor D.Keogh

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor S.Jones

Councillors: A.R.Aubrey, S.Bamsey, H.C.Clark, C.Clement-Williams, M.Crowley, S. ap Dafydd, A.P.H.Davies, D.W.Davies, O.S.Davies, R.Davies, M.Ellis, C.Galsworthy, W.F.Griffiths, S.Harris, M.Harvey, N.T.Hunt, C.James, H.N.James, C.J.Jones, D.Jones, L.Jones, S.A.Knoyle, E.V.Latham, A.Llewelyn, A.R.Lockyer, A.McGrath, J.Miller, S.Miller, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry, R.Phillips, L.M.Purcell, S.Pursey, P.A.Rees, S.Renkes, S.H.Reynolds, A.J.Richards, P.D.Richards, A.J.Taylor, R.L.Taylor, A.L.Thomas, D.Whitelock, C.Williams, A.Wingrave, R.W.Wood and A.N.Woolcock

Officers in Attendance: S.Phillips, G.Nutt, A.Evans, A.Jarrett, C.Griffiths, K.Jones, C.Furlow and A, Manchipp

Representatives of the Translation Service: Present

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Cllr.H.C.Clark	Re: Decision No 14 of the Decision Record of the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board of 22 June 2018 as it relates to Skewen RFC as her sons play for the Team.
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Cllr.M.Harvey

Re: Decision No 14 of the Decision Record of the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board of 22 June 2018 as it relates to Skewen RFC as he is a season ticketholder with the Club.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF COUNCIL:**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of Council held on 30 May 2018, be confirmed.

3. **STATEMENT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION ON THE MINIMUM UNIT PRICING POLICY**

Council noted the statement by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection in support of the Welsh Government's initiative to introduce a Minimum Unit Pricing Policy in an effort to reduce the harmful and hazardous levels of alcohol consumption. It was expected that the new legislation would come into effect in the summer of 2019. It was pleasing to noted that Welsh Government had recognised that there was a need for additional investment to accompany the new duties.

4. **CITY DEAL**

The Deputy Leader introduced the above report in relation to the Swansea Bay City Deal.

Members felt that the updated Agreement and Terms contained in the circulated report were more acceptable in relation to the finance and investment details and also clearly outlined the Authority's expectations from the Deal.

Members asked, as this would be a long process with the economic and political climate changing as a result of such things as Brexit, and the impact of such Strategies as the Valleys, whether there would be opportunity to review the Agreement and perhaps add different strands, such as transport? The Chief Executive advised that the consensus was to allow flexibility in view of changing climates as outlined above.

Members noted that the Authority would receive 20% of the finances available through the City Region which equated to the 20% of the population residing within the Authority's area. The figures presented in the report may fluctuate as a result of grants and the Authority would make efforts to supplement costs by way of additional grants from outside agencies.

Members expressed concern that none of the Authority's valley areas had railway access as this would be the catalyst for economic growth. Could the Valleys' Strategy Task Force take this on board?

The Deputy Leader advised Council that the existing transport infrastructure needed to be put on a better footing but he was supportive of ensuring rail connections across the region should also be part of the strategic thinking so that there was an integrated long term plan.

Members supported the proposals contained in the report and acknowledged that this had been previously scrutinised by the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Leader of Council be appointed as the Council's representative on the City Deal Joint Committee and Economic Strategy Board and he be given delegated authority to appoint a deputy to represent the Council in these forums as required.

5. **CITY DEAL SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

Council noted the Joint Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer and the Head of Legal Services, together with the addendum report in relation to the establishment of a Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Working Agreement.

Council noted that the proposal to establish a joint scrutiny committee would not stop local scrutiny also of the arrangements and, in particular, the joint scrutiny committee did not have a remit to scrutinise those projects which were solely to be delivered in the Neath Port Talbot area.

RESOLVED: 1. That the establishment of a Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Swansea Bay City Region

Joint Working Agreement, be approved, subject to the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Working Agreement being entered into by the other three local authorities;

2. That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to negotiate and agree a more detailed set of terms of reference for the Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Working Agreement with the other authorities and that such terms of reference be endorsed at the first meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Working Agreement;
3. That the following Members, as contained in the addendum report circulated at the meeting, be appointed as the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Working Agreement:-

Cllr. A.N.Woolcock

Cllr.S.Freeguard

Cllr.A.Llewelyn

6. **STATEMENT ON THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP ACTION PLAN ON THE VALLEYS'**

The Deputy Leader of Council made a Statement in relation to the progress of the Valleys' Task and Finish Group Action Plan. It was noted that the Task and Finish Group had presented its recommendations to Cabinet and that Cabinet would formally respond to the recommendations in the autumn 2018.

7. **MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS**

RESOLVED: That the following changes to Committee/Outside Body representation be approved:-

Replace Cllr A.McGrath with Cllr A.N.Woolcock on the Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee;

Cllrs S.Rahaman, D.Jones and D.W.Davies be appointed to the newly reconstituted BME Forum, which is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

8. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS OF CABINET AND CABINET BOARDS 2018/19**

RESOLVED: That the undermentioned Minutes be noted:-

Cabinet	23 May 2018
Education, Skills and Culture	3 May 2018
Education, Skills and Culture	14 June 2018
Social Care, Health and Wellbeing	7 June 2018
Social Care, Health and Wellbeing	5 July 2018
Regeneration and Sustainable Development	22 June 2018
Streetscene and Engineering	25 May 2018

CHAIRPERSON