

## COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

**Members Present:**

**26 September, 2018**

**The Mayor:** Councillor D.Keogh

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

**Councillors:** A.R.Aubrey, C.Clement-Williams, M.Crowley, S. ap Dafydd, A.P.H.Davies, D.W.Davies, O.S.Davies, R.Davies, C.Edwards, M.Ellis, S.E.Freeguard, C.Galsworthy, W.F.Griffiths, J.Hale, M.Harvey, N.T.Hunt, C.James, H.N.James, C.J.Jones, J.Jones, S.A.Knoyle, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, A.McGrath, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, D.M.Peters, R.Phillips, M.Protheroe, L.M.Purcell, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, S.H.Reynolds, P.D.Richards, A.J.Taylor, J.Warman, D.Whitelock, C.Williams, A.Wingrave, R.W.Wood and A.N.Woolcock

**Officers in Attendance:** S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, G.Nutt, M.Roberts, C.Millis, A.Thomas, K.Warren, C.Griffiths, N.Chappel, C.Matthews, A.Turner, C.Furlow, A.Manchipp and T.Davies

**Representative of the Wales Audit Office** C.Davies

**Representatives of the Translation Service:** Present

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

It was with great sadness that the Mayor announced the death of the mother of Councillor Suzanne Paddison.

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

The Mayor then welcomed the newly elected Member for the Gwynfi Ward, Councillor Jane Jones, to her first meeting of Council.

On behalf of the Leader of the Independent Group, Councillor S. Knoyle welcomed both Councillor Jane Jones and Councillor Scott Jones to the Independent Group.

## 2. **MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor M.Harvey	In relation to:- The Gambling Act 2005 – Review of the Gambling Policy, The Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2017/18, The Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Annual Plan 2018-19, As they refer to the South Wales Police as he is employed by them.
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## 3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the following meetings of Council be confirmed:-

28 June, 2018

25 July, 2018

## 4. **NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER SECTION 10 OF PART 4 (RULES OF PROCEDURE) THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION, PROPOSED BY COUNCILOR R.DAVIES AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR N.J.HUNT AS FOLLOWS:-**

Council considered the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor R.Davies and seconded by Councillor N.J.Hunt:-

‘This Council agrees to follow the example of 7 other Councils in Wales to recycle nappies instead of sending them to landfill or incinerate.’

Some Members spoke in favour of the motion, wherein it was noted that between 5-10% of landfill was nappies and that the indiscriminate dumping of nappies caused the public great concern.

The Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Engineering reminded Members that the recycling of disposable nappies had been discussed several times during the reviews of the Authority's Waste Strategy in 2017 and 2018. Officers had costed the start-up costs associated with the proposal which was in the region of £500k, which included the purchase of bespoke vehicles and labour costs. It had been agreed that, in these times of austerity, this was unaffordable. A further proposal had been considered in relation to incentivising the public to participate in a reusable nappy scheme, however this too was not supported. Members noted that nappies included the issue of adult incontinence pads.

Officers advised that there was a private company in the region which recycled the nappies into fibre board. Unfortunately there was at present no market for the additional fibre board. An in-depth Impact Assessment would be required to ascertain the environmental impact of current incineration via MREC against the alternative production of fibre board. In relation to achieving the 64% recycling target set by Welsh Government, the recycling of nappies represented a potential additional 1.5% on the current position. The fine associated with not achieving the Welsh Government's target by 1.5% was favourable when compared to the costs of setting up and running the scheme. The Deputy Leader indicated that should Members wish this to be considered in the future then it could be discussed when the next budget round is commenced.

Members were reminded that the Authority did provide a weekly hygiene collection service.

It was suggested that the Motion be either withdrawn or amended to support the recycling of nappies, in principle, and that Officers be requested to investigate different options which might be adopted in the future when it was affordable. Clarity was therefore sought on the Motion.

Following the above discussion Councillor R.Davies and Councillor N.J.Hunt withdrew their Notice of Motion.

5. **STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY LEADER ON THE ELECTORAL REVIEW**

Council received a Statement from the Deputy Leader on the Electoral Review wherein it was noted that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales had extended its consultation deadline to 9 November 2018. A report on the proposed response would be reported to Council on 7 November 2018.

6. **STATEMENT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION ON SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

Council received a Statement from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Protection advising Council that a joint meeting of the Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Public Services Boards had recently taken place in relation to substance misuse which had agreed that the situation warranted a heightened level of response. To this end a joint task force had been set up to identify actions that would seek to address the problems being experienced across the 2 Local Authority areas.

An All Member Seminar would shortly be arranged to update Members on the work being undertaken and also to receive from Members details of any local issues. A report would also be submitted to the Community Safety and Public Protection Sub Committee to enable scrutiny of the work going forward.

7. **WALES AUDIT OFFICE - ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2017-2018 NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council welcomed Colin Davies from the Wales Audit Office to present the Annual Improvement Report 2017-2018. The report gave a summary of the work undertaken over the last year by regulators such as the WAO and ESTYN. He also highlighted the review of scrutiny arrangements carried out by the WAO, the positive report received from ESTYN and the Annual Audit Letter which was also positive.

Members then raised the following points:-

- In relation to the Authority's scrutiny function Members felt that this was still being developed as it was a process not an event.
- The Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture was asked to comment on the phrase which was again within the

report 'performance in primary schools does not compare well with that of similar authorities'. The Cabinet Member responded that there were visible and tangible improvements however the issue remained that teacher assessments were carried out differently across Wales.

- In relation to the comment that the 'Council should strengthen the arrangements for engaging the public in scrutiny', Members asked whether Community Councils could assist and what other arrangements could the WAO suggest. Mr Davies responded that perhaps taking meetings into communities or increased advertising could be used. Items contained on the Forward Work Programmes were not generally of interest to the public.

Officers then outlined the second part of the report which gave details of the actions already taken by the Authority.

After being thanked by the Mayor Mr Davies withdrew from the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

8. **ANNUAL REPORT - PART 2 (CORPORATE PLAN 2017-22)  
PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018**

Council received the Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer which had been considered by Cabinet on 12 September 2018 and commended to Council for approval.

The Deputy Leader outlined the progress made on the 3 Wellbeing Objectives and noted that three quarters of the actions highlighted were on course.

Following the presentation the Deputy Leader was asked whether he thought the Plan to lack ambition but advised that, in the current climate with reduced financial and human resources he felt that the Plan was realistic.

**RESOLVED:** That the above Report be approved and that the Leader of Council be given delegated authority to make such changes as may be necessary to the Annual Report (Part Two) prior to publication, provided that such changes do not materially alter the content of the document considered by Council.

9. **GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVIEW OF GAMBLING POLICY**

Council received the Report of the Head of Legal Services on the Gambling Act 2005, which contained the draft revised Gambling Policy. Subject to Council approval this Draft document would be issued for a 6 week consultation period and thereafter reported back to Council for adoption.

Members were urged by the relevant Chairperson to take part in the consultation and in particular to support the maintaining of the non-casino policy.

Members were concerned that given the percentage of low income or non-working families in the County Borough and the fact that 17 of the Authority's electoral divisions were in the top 10% of the deprived areas in Wales, the possible addiction to gambling was a serious issue. In particular Members mentioned the gambling machine in betting offices, over which the Local Authority had no control.

**RESOLVED:** That the Draft Gambling Policy, contained as an Appendix to the circulated report, be approved for consultation purposes.

10. **DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES' ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Health introduced the Director of Social Services Annual Report for 2017/18. The Report highlighted the achievements for 2017/18 and the priorities going forward for 2018/19.

Members noted that the Report had already been considered at the relevant Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Board.

**RESOLVED:** That the Director of Social Services Annual Report for 2017/18, be noted.

11. **WESTERN BAY YOUTH JUSTICE AND EARLY INTERVENTION ANNUAL PLAN 2018-19**

Council received an introduction to the Report by the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services wherein it was noted that the report had been commended to Council for approval by the relevant Cabinet Board held on 13 September 2018.

Members were advised that the production of the Plan was a statutory duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. In relation to the timing of the Report, Members noted that due to the logistics of collating the information it had not been possible to present the Report to the Cabinet Board earlier.

**RESOLVED:** That the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Annual Plan 2018-19, as contained in the circulated Report, be approved.

12. **ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2017/18**

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the above Report.

**RESOLVED:** That the above Report be noted.

13. **WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY**

The Deputy Leader introduced the above Report and thanked Officers, Members of the Task and Finish Group together with Mentre Iaithe Castel Nedd for the work put into producing the Strategy and the accompanying Action Plan. The Strategy had been subject to a 4 week consultation period prior to it being presented to Cabinet. It was noted that there were no financial implications associated with the implementation of the Strategy.

Members were pleased to note that there had been a rise in the number of Welsh speakers in the County Borough since 2008.

Some Members were disappointed at the low number of staff who were Welsh speakers.

**RESOLVED:** That the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for 2018-2023, as contained in the circulated Report, be adopted.

14. **CHANGES TO POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITIES AND RESULTANT AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

The above Report was withdrawn from consideration at today's meeting of Council.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the undermentioned Minutes be noted:-

Cabinet	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Cabinet	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Cabinet	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Cabinet	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2018
Education, Skills and Leisure	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Education, Skills and Leisure	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Social Care, Health and Wellbeing	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2018
Regeneration and Sustainable Development	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018
Streetscene and Engineering	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018

**CHAIRPERSON**