

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

7 November, 2018

The Mayor: **Councillor D.Keogh**

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

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

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

Representatives of the Translation Service: Present

1. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

It was with great sadness that the Mayor advised Council of the death of the father of Councillor S. Harris.

In addition Members were advised that former Councillor David Evans had also passed away. Mr Evans had been a

Councillor with the former Port Talbot Borough Council until 1996 and Mayor for 1982/83.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the following meeting of Council be confirmed:-

26 September, 2018

3. **STATEMENT BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE RE MINORITY ETHNIC ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE /GYPSY TRAVELLER FUNDING**

Council received a Statement by the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture on the Welsh Government's funding for the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service/Gypsy Traveller (MEAS/GT).

The Cabinet Member advised that during last years' budget setting process Welsh Government (WG) had excluded support for MEAS/GT as eligible expenditure under the Education Improvement Grant. The Authority had been advised that the grant had been transferred into the RSG. The WLGA had maintained that the sum was unaccounted for in the settlement, resulting in a £12m shortfall in funding for this group of pupils.

Following lobbying a sum of £7.5m had been made available during 2018/19 to 4 urban authorities, with a view to establishing a regional service. This to date had not been achieved. As a result, in May 2018 a further £1.2m was made available to the remaining 18 local authorities, resulting in £85.5k for Neath Port Talbot.

It was assumed that Neath Port Talbot would receive the same level of funding in 2019/20. As a result of the regional services not being progressed at this time, the Authority has no alternative but to reduce service provision in accordance with the grant available.

Approval had been received to reconfigure the service resulting in the provision of the services being at grant threshold only and the staff concerned being placed on the 'at risk' register.

The cessation or reduction of the Traveller Education Service and the MEAS provision will have a detrimental impact on the cohort of pupils, families, staff and communities, which ultimately could place increased pressures on the Authority's Inclusion Service, Social Services, Health and Education Welfare Officers, etc.

The Authority would continue to lobby Welsh Government and it was hoped that the regional service would be established.

4. **ELECTORAL REVIEW**

Council received the Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer in relation to the proposed changes to electoral divisions and ward boundaries for submission to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

Following an introduction by the Leader of Council, Members raised the following issues:

- That valley areas had a high level of deprivation and as a result would require increased representation not less;
- Concern was expressed that the identities of communities particularly in valley areas would be lost and called on Ministers not to disproportionately disadvantage such areas particularly while Local Government Reform was still a possibility;
- the Local Member generally agreed with the amalgamation of Lower Brynamman and Gwaun Cae Gurwen;
- the natural connection between Dyffryn Clydach and Coedffranc North was highlighted;
- that another way of strengthening the numbers in Trebanos should be explored other than joining with Pontardawe;
- there had been an increase in population in both Coedffranc West and Dyffryn Clydach and that the number of Members should therefore not be reduced;
- Dyffryn Clydach was an established community of its own while Bryncoch was part of the Blaenhonddan Community Council area;
- Although Cwmllynfell was recognised in its own right there was more of a connection with Ystalyfera than the Amman Valley;

- Glynneath and Cwmgwrach the proposed changes were not supported by the Local Member;
- Pelenna had its own Community Council whilst the report proposes to split the Ward and merge the areas with the Bryn and Cwmavon and Cimla Wards. It was suggested that the Pelenna Community Council wanted the Ward to be retained as a Ward in its own right, however, if change was necessary the Community Council preference was for the whole of the Ward to be amalgamated with Cimla;
- the Local Member expressed concern that the projected figures for Coed Darcy were incorrect;
- Concern was expressed that the Council was not consulting with community councils/residents – it was pointed out that this was not the Council's consultation exercise but a response from the Council to consultation being carried out by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales at an early stage of the review process;
- There was an inconsistency around the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, which had recognised the increased workload of councillors in its recent draft Annual Report, and the views expressed by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales which was proposing an increase in Councillor : elector ration.

Following the above comments the Leader of Council advised Council that to do nothing was not an option and that the number of residents in the valley areas was declining. Thirteen Councils in Wales had already gone through a similar exercise.

Prior to the vote on the following amendment taking place a recorded vote was requested and supported by one sixth of the Members present:-

'This Council appreciates the work undertaken by Officers to analyse the potential response to the Boundary Commission.

However, we are very concerned that

The boundary reviews are a distraction when the major issues of Local Government Reorganisation and Council budget cuts are unresolved.

The workload of Councillors has increased in the age of austerity

The current proposals will significantly disadvantage our valley areas at a time when Welsh Government and NPT CBC are developing valley strategies.

Some of the proposals would cut across communities or amalgamate wards that are not naturally part of the same settlements.

The Boundary Commission have erred in their assumption that the total number of wards in NPT should be reduced given growth areas.

We note that individual communities and members will also make representations to the commission relevant to their own areas during the consultation.

This Council will inform the Commission and the Minister that the basis of the review is flawed and that any formal consultation should be based on maintaining the current number of Councillors in NPT.

Members voting for the Amendment

Cllrs. S.Bamsey, H.C.Clarke, R.Davies, C.Edwards, J.Evans, W.F.Griffiths, J.Hale, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, H.Jones, J.Jones, S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, J.D.Morgan, D.M.Peters, R.Phillips, L.M.Purcell, A.J.Richards and C.Williams.

Members voting against the Amendment

Cllrs. A.R.Aubrey, D.Cawsey, C.Clement-Williams, S. ap Dayfdd, D.W.Davies, O.S.Davies, S.E.Freeguard, C.Galsworthy, M.Harvey, C.James, H.N.James, C.J.Jones, L.C.Jones, R.G.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, A.McGrath, J.Miller, S.Miller, R.Mizen, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry, M.Protheroe, S.M.Pursey, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, S.Renkes, S.H.Reynolds, A.J.Taylor, A.L.Thomas, J.Warman, D.Whitelock, R.W.Wood and A.N.Woolcock

Members Abstentions

Cllrs. S.Jones and D.Keogh

The motion fell and Members then voted on the substantive motion, as contained in the circulated report, as follows:-

Members voting for the Substantive Motion

Cllrs. A.R.Aubrey, D.Cawsey, C.Clement-Williams, S. ap Dayfdd, D.W.Davies, O.S.Davies, S.E.Freeguard, C.Galsworthy, M.Harvey, C.James, H.N.James, C.J.Jones, L.C.Jones, R.G.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, A.McGrath, J.Miller, S.Miller, R.Mizen, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry, M.Protheroe, S.M.Pursey, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, S.Renkes, S.H.Reynolds, A.J.Taylor, A.L.Thomas, J.Warman, D.Whitelock and R.W.Wood

Members voting against the Substantive Motion

Cllrs. S.Bamsey, H.C.Clark, R.Davies, C.Edwards, J.Evans, W.F.Griffiths, J.Hale, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, H.Jones, J.Jones, S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, J.D.Morgan, D.M.Peters, R.Phillips, L.M.Purcell, A.J.Richards and C.Williams.

Members Abstentions

Cllrs. S.Jones, D.Keogh and A.N.Woolcock

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive be authorised to immediately submit the preferred option, as contained in the circulated report, to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

5. **CHANGES TO COMMITTEES TO REFLECT THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED: 1. That, following changes to the overall political balance of the Council, the allocation of seats on the various Committees, as contained in Appendix 1 attached hereto, be approved;

2. That Council approves the following changes:-

Labour Group

Cllr.J.Warman and Cllr.H.N.James be removed from Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and replaced by Cllr.L.Jones;

Cllr.R.L.Taylor be removed from Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee and Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee and replaced by Cllr.H.N.James on that Sub Committee;

Cllr.A.N.Woolcock be removed from Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee;

Cllr.R.Wood be removed from Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee and the Community Safety and Public Protection Sub Committee and replaced on the Sub Committee by Cllr.D.Cawsey.

Independent Group

Cllr. S.Knoyle be added to the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee;

Cllr.J.Jones be added to the Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee;

Cllr.S.Knoyle be added to the Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee;

Cllr. J.Jones be added to the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee.

3. That, as a result of a request made by the Plaid Cymru Group, the following changes be approved:-

Plaid Cymru Group

Replace Cllr.J.Evans with Cllr N.T.Hunt on Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.

Replace Cllr.N.T.Hunt with Cllr.S.Bamsey on Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee and the Community Safety and Public Protection Sub-Committee.

4. Outside Bodies

City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee –
Cllrs.A.N.Woolcock, S.Freeguard and
A.Llewelyn

Cllr.R.L.Taylor be replaced on the Schools Admissions Forum by Cllr. R.Mizen and as a substitute on the Schools Standards Partnership by Cllr.D.Whitelock.

5. **Co opted Member**

That the Reverend Lynda Newman be confirmed as the Church in Wales co-opted Member on the Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee for a four year term.

6. **CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2018/19**

Council received the Report of the Head of Finance on Capital Programme Monitoring for 2018/19, which had been considered and commended to Council by Cabinet on 31 October, 2018.

RESOLVED: That the proposed budget for 2018/19 in the sum of £47.721m be approved and the position in relation to expenditure as at 30 September, 2018, be noted.

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

RESOLVED: That the undermentioned Minutes be noted:-

Cabinet	6 September 2018
Cabinet	12 September 2018
Cabinet	3 October 2018
Education, Skills and Leisure	20 September 2018
Education, Skills and Leisure	20 September 2018
Regeneration and Sustainable Development	14 September 2018

Streetscene and Engineering	7 September 2018
Social Care, Health and Wellbeing	13 September 2018
Social Care, Health and Wellbeing	11 October 2018

8. **NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER SECTION 10 OF PART 4 (RULES OF PROCEDURE) THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION, PROPOSED BY CLLR.S.AP DAFYDD AND SECONDED BY CLLR.N.J.HUNT**

Council considered the following Notice of Motion:-

‘This Council opposes any plans by the Welsh Government to close any M4 motorway junction within the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot and in particular Junction 41 and would inform the Welsh Government accordingly.

This Council believes that the previous experimental closure of Junction 41 was damaging economically and environmentally to Port Talbot, the surrounding area and the County Borough.

The Council calls upon the Welsh Government to work with the Council to explore methods of reducing our own carbon footprint through such projects as the FLEXIS collaboration.’

Members of Council expressed concern that the Welsh Government’s proposals to close Junction 41 of the M4 and to reduce the speed of traffic along the M4 would not only increase pollution levels in Port Talbot but would also cause access problems between Port Talbot and the valleys, including the Rhondda Valley. It was noted that the proposals were as a result of a theoretical piece of work carried out by Client Earth. Members suggested that the closure would also lead to vehicles being forced to use the A48. It was agreed that the proposals would adversely affect residents, those working in Port Talbot, those with businesses in the area and those wishing to shop in the area.

Members suggested that a case for electrification of the rail lines be put forward as this would reduce emissions. In addition the reduction in the support grant from Welsh Government had resulted in a

decrease in bus services. The purchasing of lower emission vehicles (electric) by the Authority was also discussed.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive write to Welsh Government outlining the Authority's concerns at its proposals in relation to the M4 motorway.

9. **NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER SECTION 10 OF PART 4 (RULES OF PROCEDURE) THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION, PROPOSED BY CLLR.S.KNOYLE AND SECONDED BY CLLR.S.K.HUNT AS FOLLOWS:-**

Council considered the following Notice of Motion:-

'Neath Port Talbot Council adds its support to the Lucy's Law National Campaign to ban and outlaw third party puppy farming.

This Council will add its name to the growing list of supporting organisations and Local Authorities across Wales and will proactively highlight the campaign to our residents across the County Borough of Neath and Port Talbot.

This Council requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the UK Government, and Welsh Government supporting the call for urgent action on this.'

RESOLVED: That the Council supports the above Notice of Motion and that the Leader of Council writes to the UK Government and Welsh Government supporting the call for urgent action on this.

CHAIRMAN

**SIZE OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND APPORTIONMENT OF SEATS TO THE POLITICAL GROUPS -
2018/2019 as at 1 NOVEMBER 2018**

COUNCIL COMMITTEES	TOTAL NO. OF SEATS 64	Labour (41)	Plaid Cymru (15)	Independe nt Democrats (8)
CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	16	10	4	2

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	13	8	3	2
EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	15† (+8)	9	3	3
LEISURE AND CULTURE SCRUTINY SUB- COMMITTEE	9	6	2	1
REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	12	7	3	2
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE	9	6	2	1
STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	12	8	3	1
PLANNING COMMITTEE	12	8	3	1

REGISTRATION AND LICENSING COMMITTEE ϕ	15	10	3	2
*LICENSING AND GAMBLING ACTS COMMITTEE ϕ	15	10	3	2
<i>*Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub Committee</i>	3	2	1	0
AUDIT COMMITTEE	12† (+1)	8	3	1
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE	12	8	3	1
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	12	8	3	1
SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE	9	6	2	1
TOTALS	176	114	41	21

* <i>APPEALS PANEL</i>	(5)	3	1	1
* <i>(Appeals Panel Substitutes)</i>	(20)	13	5	2
* <i>(STANDARDS COMMITTEE)</i>	(2)	2	-	-
* <i>(Standards Committee Substitute)</i>	(1)	1	-	-
STAFF COUNCIL	12	Cabinet Members	Opposition Leader or sub	Opposition Leader or sub

Notes: (1) † In context of voting co-optees - 4 voting Co-optees (with 4 non voting Co-optees) for the Scrutiny Committee; 1 voting Lay Member for the Audit Committee.
(2) φ Registration and Licensing / Licensing and Gambling Acts Committees – same Chair/Vice Chair and Committee Membership.
(3) # Comprises Chair & Vice Chair of the Committee plus one other Member on a rota/availability basis
(4) * 1989 Act does not apply. Separate substitute arrangements also.

