



**CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**9.30 am WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - PORT TALBOT CIVIC CENTRE**

**Part 1**

1. Declarations of Interests
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (*Pages 5 - 12*)
3. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (cabinet reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
4. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet (Finance) Sub Committee agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet Finance Sub - Committee reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
5. Forward Work Programme 18/19 (*Pages 13 - 16*)
6. Urgent Items  
Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972
7. Access to Meetings  
To resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Regulation 4 (3) and (5) of Statutory Instrument 2001 No.2290 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

## **Part 2**

8. To select appropriate items from the Private Cabinet (Finance) Sub Committee agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet Finance Sub - Committee reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)

**S.Phillips**  
**Chief Executive**

**Civic Centre**  
**Port Talbot**

**Thursday, 6 September 2018**

### **Committee Membership:**

**Chairperson:**      **Councillor A.N.Woolcock**

**Vice**  
**Chairperson:**      **Councillor S.Rahaman**

**Councillors:**      M.Crowley, J.Evans, S.E.Freeguard, M.Harvey,  
S.K.Hunt, H.N.James, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller,  
J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry, L.M.Purcell,  
A.L.Thomas and J.Warman

### **Notes:**

- (1) *If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*
- (2) *If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.*
- (3) *For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised - though*

*Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.*

- (4) The relevant Cabinet Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/ Consultation purposes.*
- (5) Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet papers with them to the meeting.*

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## CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

**Members Present:**

**25 July 2018**

**Chairperson:** Councillor A.N.Woolcock

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor S.Rahaman

**Councillors:** M.Crowley, S.E.Freeguard, M.Harvey, H.N.James, A.Llewelyn, S.Miller, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry and L.M.Purcell

**Officers In Attendance** S.Phillips, A.Evans, A.Jarrett, K.Jones, C.Griffiths, D.Rees, M.Roberts, P.Hinder, T.Davies and C.Davies

**Cabinet Invitees:** Councillors C.Clement-Williams, D.W.Davies, D.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, A.J.Taylor and A.Wingrave

**Invited Members:** Councillors S. ap Dafydd and C.Galsworthy

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### 1. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

### 2. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

The Committee chose to scrutinise the following private item:

Cabinet Board Papers

#### 3.1 **Procurement of Waste Management Services**

Members received the joint private report of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Head of Streetcare and Head of Legal Services, in relation to the procurement of waste management services.

Members undertook comprehensive scrutiny of this item

The Scrutiny Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the Cabinet that the MREC be brought back under the direct control of the Council and be operated as a transfer station.

## **CHAIRPERSON**

## **CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)**

**Members Present:**

**1 August, 2018**

**Chairman:** Councillor A.N.Woolcock

**Vice Chairman:** Councillor S.Rahaman

**Councillors:** S.E.Freeguard, M.Harvey, H.N.James,  
J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry,  
L.M.Purcell and A.L.Thomas

**Officers In Attendance** A.Evans, G.Nutt, S.John, D.Rees, C.Griffiths,  
K.Jones and A.Manchipp

**Cabinet Invitees:** Councillors C.Clement-Williams, D.W.Davies,  
D.Jones, E.V.Latham, A.R.Lockyer, P.A.Rees,  
P.D.Richards, A.J.Taylor and A.Wingrave

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### 1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

The following Member made declarations of interest:-

Cllr.M.Harvey Re: Agenda Item No 12 of the  
Cabinet Agenda on the Revenue  
Budget Monitoring as it relates to  
CCTV as he is employed by South  
Wales Police.

Cllr.M.Harvey Re: Agenda Item No 5 of the  
Cabinet (Finance) Sub Committee  
on Miscellaneous Grant  
Applications as it refers to Skewen  
R.F.C. as he is a Season Ticket  
Holder.

2. **CLLR.A.THOMAS**

The Committee congratulated Cllr. Alex Thomas on recently being called to the bar.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Noted.

4. **TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY IN NEATH PORT TALBOT**

Committee considered the report of the Task and Finish Group on the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy in Neath Port Talbot. The Task and Finish Group also thanked the Officers for their contribution.

The Members of the Task and Finish Group stressed that none of the recommendations contained in the report would require additional funding.

Members asked that alternative ways of promoting the Welsh Language be considered going forward.

Following scrutiny, the Committee commended the report to Cabinet for approval, and requested that Cabinet commend the same to Council for adoption.

5. **CABINET AGENDA FOR PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

The Committee chose to scrutinise the following Cabinet items:

Cabinet Proposals

5.1 Treasury Management Monitoring 2018-2019

Committee noted that going forward the above report would be presented to Committee at the same time as both the Revenue and Capital Monitoring reports.

Members noted that the Authority had taken advantage of a dip in interest rates on long term borrowing and had borrowed £10m.



Following scrutiny the report was noted.

## 5.2 Capital Budget Monitoring 2018-2019

Committee received the above report and noted that the figures within the report fluctuated throughout the year due to grants received etc.

It was noted that the report was also monitored by the Capital Programme Steering Group.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet.

## 5.3 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2018-2019

Members expressed concern at the current projected overspend of £1.658m and were advised that work would continue throughout the remainder of the financial year to reduce the projected overspend. Directorate budgets were monitored closely on a monthly basis by management teams, which looked particularly at any projected overspends. Virements or reserve movements may be needed in some cases to off-set any projected overspends.

Members then raised the following:-

Children Residential Care – The average cost of a residential package was £190k. Members asked whether these packages could be provided in house and were advised that due to the complexity of the child's needs in these cases it would not be possible, although some Local Authorities were exploring the possibility.

The projected overspends in Social Services would be discussed by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on 2 August, however the impact of the decision by ABMu to cut the number of hospital beds would have a detrimental effect on the service provided as service users were sometimes already waiting for packages of care before hospital discharge. While the demand for care packages was increasing, Officers would be reviewing each care package to ensure that the correct level of support was being provided, this may increase or decrease, depending on each service user's

needs. Members asked that this be further discussed at the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

Concern was expressed at the £2.5m projected savings in relation to Domiciliary Care, which was at present showing £1.267m overspend. How would this impact on next year's budget?

It was noted that the Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee had responded to the ABMu's consultation on cutting the number of beds and that ABMu would be invited to a meeting of Council to further discuss its proposals.

Members asked why virements were being considered so early in the financial year and were advised that it was Officers' recommendation to deal with over/under spends at an early stage.

In relation to the projected overspends on recycling, Members were reminded that decisions had recently been taken on changes to the Waste Strategy to mitigate some of the costs. As part of these changes out of county waste would be looked at and operatives given the authority to check the contents of black bags etc. to ascertain whether these were from the County Borough.

Members asked if the £10m Pupil Development Grant was contained in the delegated budget and were advised that it was administered by Pembrokeshire County Council and was based on the previous year's class numbers. The grant was then passed to the Authority and passported directly to schools. It was agreed that a Strategy would be developed and that a report would be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committee. Challenge Advisors would also be involved in the process.

Following scrutiny the Committee were supportive of the proposals contained in the circulated report subject to:-

The review of Care Packages being discussed in relevant Scrutiny Committee;

A Strategy being developed on the Pupil Development Grant;  
AMBu being invited to attend Council to discuss its proposed bed closures.

6. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 18/19**

Members agreed to look in more depth at the amber budget areas.

7. **URGENT ITEMS**

Committee referred to the retirement of the Head of Finance, David Rees, and noted that this was the last meeting he would be attending. Committee thanked Mr Rees for the help and assistance he had provided to Members both during Committee meetings and outside of meetings and wished him a long and happy retirement.

**CHAIRMAN**

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**(DRAFT)**  
**Cabinet Scrutiny Committee**  
**Forward Work Programme 2018/19**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
23 May 2018		
7 June 2018		
27 June 2018		
18 July 2018		
1 August 2018		

12 September 2018		
3 October 2018		
24 October 2018		
31 October 2018		
21 November 2018		

5 December 2018		
16 January 2019		
23 January 2019		
13 February 2019		
20 February 2019		
6 March 2018		

27 March 2018		
17 April 2018		
8 May 2018		
29 May 2018		