

**COUNCIL**

**(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)**

**Members Present:**

**17 July 2019**

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

**The Deputy Mayor:**        **Councillor J.Warman**

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

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

**Translation:**                      Present

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1. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Mayor was pleased to announce that Derek Vaughan MEP and former Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council had been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for political and public service.

In addition the Mayor welcomed Councillor Jeremy Hurley to his first meeting of Council following his recent election. The

Leader of the Independent Group also welcomed Councillor Hurley and Councillor Lewis.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the following meetings of Council be confirmed as an accurate record:

24 April, 17 May and 22 May 2019.

3. **ENGAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES OF THE COUNCIL**

Council received the above report and noted, verbally, that the Democratic Services Committee had discussed the report, which was subject to approval by Council. The Democratic Services Committee supported the recommendations contained in today's report.

A number of points were raised by Members around the scope of the review including which buildings would be considered and providing Welsh translation. It was noted that these issues would be considered by the Democratic Services Committee as part of the scoping of the review.

**RESOLVED:** That the Democratic Services Committee be tasked with preparing advice for Council, by 31 March 2020, in respect of the following:

1. Options available to the Council to webcast some or all of the Council's meetings and the cost-benefits of each of the options considered;
2. Options available to the Council to increase public participation in the Council's democratic processes, including but not limited to ways in which digital technologies may assist the Council in this regard;

3. Proposals as to how the public can be involved in testing support for any of the options recommended;
4. Proposals as to how the set up and recurring costs associated with any options presented might be funded; and
5. An analysis of the risks and impacts of progressing/not progressing options considered.

4. **CREATION OF A JOINT APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL APPOINTMENT**

Council supported the establishment of a Joint Appointments Committee to deal with the appointment of a Programme Director, which was in line with the outcomes of the Independent Reviews undertaken on the Swansea Bay City Deal.

Members, however, proposed that, in addition to Councillor Mike Harvey being appointed as a non-executive member, provision be made for a substitute to be nominated by the Leader of Council.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That a Special Joint Appointment Committee be established to deal with the appointment of a Programme Director for the Swansea Bay City Deal Programme with the City and County of Swansea, Carmarthenshire County Council and Pembrokeshire County Council.
  2. That the Council appoints the Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (or his nominated Executive Member) to Joint Special Appointments Committee that is to be established by Carmarthenshire County Council for the purposes of appointing a Programme Director for the Swansea Bay City Deal programme.
  3. That Councillor Mike Harvey (or a nominated non-executive member, as

appointed by the Leader of Council) be appointed as the non-executive member to the Joint Special Appointments Committee that is to be established by Carmarthenshire County Council for the purposes of appointing a Programme Director for the Swansea Bay City Deal programme.

5. **CHANGES TO POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

**RESOLVED:** That the following be approved:

1. The proportional allocation of seats to each relevant committee as contained in Annex A to the circulated report;
2. The changes to the membership of committees as contained in Annex B to the circulated report;
3. The changes to the Outside Body representation also contained in Annex B. to the circulated report.

6. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS OF CABINET AND CABINET BOARDS 2019/20**

**RESOLVED:** That the following be noted:

Cabinet	17 April 2019
Cabinet	8 May 2019
Cabinet	22 May 2019
Cabinet	29 May 2019
Cabinet	19 June 2019
Education, Skills and Culture	11 April 2019
Education, Skills and Culture	6 June 2019
Streetscene and Engineering	24 May 2019
Social Care Health and Wellbeing	4 April 2019
Social Care Health and Wellbeing	2 May 2019
Regeneration and Sustainable Development	12 April 2019
Regeneration and Sustainable Development	7 May 2019

7. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Leader of Council made a brief statement in relation to the issues surrounding the closure of Godre'r Graig Primary School. A preliminary survey on the quarry above the school had indicated that there was a medium risk to the school. As a result the Leader of Council had taken the decision to immediately close the building and letters had been issued to all parents to the effect. Staff had also been briefed in relation to the risk.

The Leader confirmed that the pupils would not be attending the school in September and that a further survey had been commissioned, which would take six to nine months. It was noted that the initial survey related to the school only but that this would be extended to include the nearby houses.

He confirmed that contrary to the views of some of the public, this was not a 'back door' way of closing the school and that the welfare and safety of the children were paramount. Officers were looking at alternative accommodation for both pupils and staff in time for the autumn term. A meeting of the school governors had been held on 16 July and thereafter a public meeting was called.

The Authority's website now had a dedicated page on which the draft report and copies of the letters issued had been published. This would be kept up to date going forward.

In relation to the surrounding residential area, the Leader confirmed that communication would be maintained and once any further news had become available a further public meeting would be called.

## **CHAIRPERSON**