

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

27 November 2019

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

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

Officers in Attendance: S.Phillips, G.Nutt, A.Evans, A.Jarrett,
H.Jenkins, N.Pearce, C.Griffiths, C.Furlow-
Harris and A.Manchipp

Representative of the Wales Audit Office A.Lewis

Representatives of the Translation Service: Present

1. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was with deep regret that the Deputy Mayor advised Council that former Councillors Glyn Rawlings, representing the Glyncorrwg Ward, and Alan Carter, representing the Cimla Ward, had recently passed away.

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

The Deputy Mayor then welcomed Councillor Marcia Spooner to her first meeting of Council following her election representing the Rhos Ward.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following members made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Councillor S.Freeguard	Re the presentation by the Chief Fire Officer as she represents the Authority on the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority.
Councillor A.Llewelyn	Re the presentation by the Chief Fire Officer as he represents the Authority on the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority.
Councillor A.N.Woolcock	Re the presentation by the Chief Fire Officer as he represents the Authority on the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority.

3. **PRESENTATION BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the Chief Fire Officer, Chris Davies and the Area Manager, Peter Greenslade, of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, to their annual meeting with Council.

Council noted the current position in relation to Welsh Government's White Paper, and noted that the consultation had closed in February 2019. Welsh Government was at present analysing the responses received.

The Chief Fire Officer outlined the Fire Authority's current financial position, in particular it was noted that any future cuts would not be efficiency savings but would have a negative effect on service provision. Mr Davies outlined various options that would be considered during the 2020/21 budget round. Details of the pay claim for 2020-2021 were noted which could have a significant impact on budgets. In relation to the reserves currently held by the Fire

Authority, it was noted that this equated to 1.5% of the budget, which was below the 3% specified as good practice by CIPFA.

Members noted the incidents and operational challenges facing the Fire Authority going forward. Mr Davies advised that the remit of Home Safety Checks would be expanded to include Health and Wellbeing and that fire officers would then liaise with relevant officers of the authority should it be necessary.

Details of the responses to the Public Opinion Survey were noted, in particular the view that the service provided good value.

Following the above presentation Members raised the following:-

- Whether the Health Authority recompensed the Fire Authority for its work as co-responders. It was confirmed that there was a cost recovery agreement in place.
- Members questioned whether the existing peppercorn leases in place should be replaced with market rate leases? In response Mr Davies advised that the positions were reviewed annually.
- Members asked how much time was spent as co responders and were advised that it was around 16% of the ambulance red calls, which was manageable.
- Members asked at what point would the Neath Fire Station be under threat of being downgraded and were advised that both Neath and Port Talbot Fire Stations had been assessed with a view to replacing both fire stations with a new build fire station in Baglan, however this was not being progressed.
- Members were pleased that the Fire Authority offered accommodation for community use.
- The Fire Authority was thanked for its response to the recent flooding within the County Borough.

After being thanked by the Deputy Mayor, Mr Davies and Mr Greenslade withdrew from the meeting.

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF COUNCIL (CIVIC YEAR 2019/20)**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 9 October 2019, be confirmed as an accurate record.

5. **PRESENTATION BY THE WAO ON THE DRAFT ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed Alison Lewis, the Performance Audit Lead from the Wales Audit Office.

From the presentation members were pleased to note that the authority was not a high risk authority and had a good track record including innovation eg the Digital Strategy. In addition it was noted that the Auditor General felt that the authority was likely to comply with the Local Government Measure.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Alison Lewis for her presentation.

6. **DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Cabinet Member presented the above report, which was a retrospective look at the previous year. It was noted that following today's meeting the report would be published on the authority's website and sent to Welsh Government for information.

Following the above Members asked about the work of the area coordinators and whether there was sufficient capacity with the extension of their areas? The director reminded members that this referred to last year and that the workload had been managed across all areas of the county borough equally. Members were encouraged to liaise directly with their respective area coordinator.

The director was asked what work was being done to support carers and advised that the Carers' Strategy had been developed for this purpose and would be revised in the new year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

7. **NEATH PORT TALBOT YOUTH JUSTICE AND EARLY INTERVENTION ANNUAL PLAN 2019-20**

The Cabinet Member introduced the above report and advised Council that this was the service's first annual report since its disaggregation from the former Western Bay. Members were reminded that this was as a result of the adverse inspection report received by the Western Bay Joint service. Improvements had been made and staff morale had also improved. An inspection of the service would be undertaken early in 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Neath Port Talbot Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service Annual Plan for 2019/20, as contained in the circulated report, be approved.

8. **CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**

The Cabinet Member introduced the above report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the updated Contract Procedure Rules as contained in Appendix 1 to the circulated report and as adopted by Cabinet on the 30 October 2019, be noted;
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal Services to substitute the Contract Procedure Rules currently contained in the Constitution of Neath Port Talbot Council will the version included at Appendix 1.

9. **CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIPS IN COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

Council considered the above report, together with an addendum report, tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the following changes to committee memberships and outside body representation be approved:

- Councillor D.Lewis be replaced by Councillor S.Knoyle on the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee;
- Councillor A.McGrath be replaced by Councillor J.Warman on the Llewelyn Alms Houses;
- The vacancy on the Planning Committee be filled by Councillor M.Protheroe.

10. **STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF COUNCIL ON THE SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL**

Council received a statement from the Leader of Council on the Swansea Bay City Deal in line with the commitment given at the meeting on 24 April 2019. In particular Council was reminded of the new business case - Innovation and Low Carbon Growth.

Members noted the progress made in delivering the projects and that an additional strand in relation to transport was also being developed.

Members welcomed the Leader's update and hoped that the projects would be commence soon.

11. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF CABINET AND CABINET BOARDS**

RESOLVED: That the following be noted:

Cabinet	25 September 2019
Cabinet	2 October 2019
Education, Skills and Culture (Sp)	12 September 2019
Education, Skills and Culture	12 September 2019
Streetscene and Engineering	25 October 2019
Social Care, Health and Wellbeing	5 September 2019

12. **NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER SECTION 10 OF PART 4 (RULES OF PROCEDURE) THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR PADDISON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR LLEWELYN**

Members of Council received a Notice of Motion under Section 10 of Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) of the Council's Constitution, concerning the use of fireworks. The Motion was proposed by Councillor S.Paddison, seconded by Councillor A.Llewelyn, and endorsed by the Deputy Leader of the Independent Democrats Group.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That all public firework displays held on local authority land and/or which are subject to the consent of the local authority be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;
 2. That the authority actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks;
 3. That the authority write to the Welsh Government urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of fireworks displays;
 4. That the authority write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays;
 5. That the authority encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display.

13. **URGENT ITEMS**

As this was the last Council meeting Gareth Nutt would attend as Director of Environment, the Leader of Council thanked him for his contribution, work and dedication to the authority and wished him a long, healthy and prosperous retirement, which was supported by the Chief Executive and members of Council.

CHAIRPERSON