

## COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

**Members Present:**

**19 December, 2018**

**The Mayor:** Councillor D.Keogh

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

**Councillors:** S.Bamsey, D.Cawsey, H.C.Clarke, C.Clement-Williams, S. ap Dafydd, N.J.E.Davies, O.S.Davies, R.Davies, C.Edwards, S.E.Freeguard, W.F.Griffiths, J.Hale, S.Harris, M.Harvey, N.T.Hunt, S.K.Hunt, C.James, H.N.James, D.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, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry, D.M.Peters, S.Purseley, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, S.Renkes, S.H.Reynolds, A.J.Richards, P.D.Richards, A.J.Taylor, R.L.Taylor, J.Warman, D.Whitelock, A.Wingrave, R.W.Wood and A.N.Woolcock

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

**Representatives of the Translation Service:** Present

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

It was with great sadness that the Mayor advised Council of the death of the mother in law of Councillor Paddison.

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

## 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Member made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting:-

Councillor M.Harvey	In relation to the Report of the Head of Legal Services on the Gambling Act 2005 Policy as it mentions the South Wales Police throughout the report, as he is employed by them.
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## 3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF COUNCIL:**

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

7 November, 2018

## 4. **VALLEY'S TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Leader of Council introduced the Report of the Corporate Directors' Group in relation to the above. It was noted that the report had been considered by Cabinet at a Special Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018, where the following had been agreed.

1. That Cabinet endorse the response, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the circulated report and the analysis, particularly in relation to growth poles;
2. That the Chief Executive enter into partnership with the Bevan Foundation and confirms this Council's support for their proposed work, as contained in Appendix 3 of the circulated report, to build economic development in the valley communities of South Wales, and to make a contribution of up to £10,000 to the work.

Members were pleased that the Bevan Foundation was involved in the process and agreed that the link with the Authority's other Plans, such as the LDP, and Welsh Government's Valley's Strategy was important.

Transport was again raised as the main reason for lack of employment within valley areas and it was hoped that the probable deregulation of public transport would help alleviate this.

Council noted however that the same criteria for the retention or closure of Council facilities was applied to both valley and urban areas within the County Borough.

**RESOLVED:** That the report, together with the verbal update, be noted.

## 5. **DIGITAL STRATEGY**

The Deputy Leader introduced the above report on the proposed Digital Strategy for the Authority entitled Smart and Connected, which had been considered by the Special Meeting of Cabinet held on 17 December 2018, and commended to Council for adoption.

Members raised the possibility that the introduction of the Strategy would result in implications for the workforce and asked that this be kept to a minimum, where possible.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Digital Strategy, entitled Smart and Connected, as contained in the circulated report and commended to Council by the Special Cabinet held on 17 December 2018, be adopted;
2. That the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Digital Officer be authorised to take the steps necessary within approved budget guidelines to develop and implement a delivery programme to realise the objectives set out in the Strategy.

## 6. **SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL: STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF COUNCIL**

The Leader of Council made a Statement in relation to the current position of the Swansea Bay City Deal and the recent announcements in relation to the Delta Lakes Project which was a scheme being led by Carmarthenshire County Council in partnership with Hywel Dda and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Boards and Swansea University.

In particular the recent suspensions of individuals at Swansea University and the announcement of reviews to be undertaken by both the UK Government and the Welsh Government. In addition it was noted that Carmarthenshire County Council had invited the Wales Audit Office to review the project.

The matter was discussed by the City Deal Joint Committee on 14 December where assurances had been sought around the governance arrangements for not only the Delta Lakes Project but also more generally. The Joint Committee had withdrawn its earlier approval of the project, at least on a temporary basis. The Joint Committee would also undertake a review, which would include all 11 projects (although only the Delta Lakes Project was a cause of concern).

Members noted that the Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee had also written to the Chair of the Joint Committee expressing concern and had requested assurances.

Council noted that the Chief Executive had made three specific requests namely:-

That the review is completed as quickly as possible, but no later than the middle of February 2019;

That the outcome is published with no redactions;

That the review identify specific recommendations for remedying any identified defects in the governance arrangements.

The Leader of Council gave Members assurances that all projects would continue to be the subject of rigorous scrutiny and confirmed that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council had made no commitments on any projects and that nothing had been signed with third parties. In addition, no business cases for individual projects had yet been submitted to the Joint Committee, Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Board. This would continue to be the case.

In relation to costs already incurred by the Authority, other than Officer time, £20,287.50 had been spent on external support in addition to the contribution to the central running costs.

The Leader concluded that a further statement, or report by the Chief Executive, would follow as soon as practicably possible. Consultation would also be carried out with the opposition Leaders.

The Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee, Councillor A.N.Woolcock, also made a Statement thanking the Leader for updating Members on the current position. He advised Council that following the press coverage of the issues around the Delta Lakes Project he had written to the Chair of the Joint Committee seeking assurances about the possible impact on the remit of the Joint Scrutiny Committee. The Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee advised that he would be calling an extraordinary meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee early in the New Year and would be requesting that the Chair of the Joint Committee and the Lead Chief Executive attend to appraise Members of the current position.

The Chair of the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee, Councillor S.K.Hunt, supported the sentiment of the Leader of Council and the Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee and invited both the Leader of Council and the Chief Executive to address the Scrutiny Committee once an outcome is known.

The Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group and Member of the Joint Scrutiny Committee, Councillor A.Llewelyn, also supported the above and asked that a copy of the Leader's Statement be circulated to all Members. He agreed that there was high potential for benefit from the City Deal, however robust governance and accountability was a necessity.

## **7. MEMBERS' APOLOGIES AT MEETINGS POLICY**

**RESOLVED:** That the proposed Members' Apologies Policy, as commended to Council by the Democratic Services Committee, be adopted.

## **8. CHANGES TO NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

**RESOLVED:** That the proposed changes to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Constitution, commended to Council by the Democratic Services Committee, be approved.

9. **APPOINTMENT OF PROPER OFFICER**

**RESOLVED:** That Michael Edward Shaw be designated a Proper Officer for the Council and that he be entitled to exercise the powers delegated to the role in The Constitution of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

10. **GAMBLING ACT 2005 POLICY**

**RESOLVED:** That the revised Gambling Policy, set out at Appendix 1 of the circulated report, together with the 'No Casino Policy', be re-adopted.

11. **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS OF CABINET AND CABINET BOARDS 2081/19**

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

Cabinet	24 October 2018
Cabinet	31 October 2018
Cabinet	7 November 2018
Cabinet	21 November 2018
Education, Skills and Leisure (Special)	18 October 2018
Education, Skills and Leisure	18 October 2018
Education, Skills and Leisure	29 November 2018
Regeneration and Sustainable Development	26 October 2018
Regeneration and Sustainable Development	7 December 2018

Streetscene and Engineering 19 October 2018

Streetscene and Engineering 30 November 2018

Social Care, Health and Wellbeing 8 November 2018

## **CHAIRPERSON**