

COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

14 February 2020

The Mayor: **Councillor S.Jones**

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

Councillors: A.R.Aubrey, S.Bamsey, D.Cawsey, H.C.Clarke,
C.Clement-Williams, M.Crowley, S.apDafydd,
A.P.H.Davies, O.S.Davies, R.Davies,
C.Edwards, S.E.Freeguard, C.Galsworthy,
W.F.Griffiths, J.Hale, S.Harris, S.K.Hunt,
J.Hurley, C.James, 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, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan,
S.Paddison, D.M.Peters, R.Phillips,
M.Protheroe, L.M.Purcell, S.Pursey, P.A.Rees,
S.Renkes, S.H.Reynolds, A.J.Richards,
P.D.Richards, A.J.Taylor, R.L.Taylor,
D.Whitelock, C.Williams, R.W.Wood and
A.N.Woolcock

Officers in Attendance: S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, A.Evans, C.Griffiths,
C.Morris, A.Bradshaw, C.Furlow-Harris and
A.Manchipp

Representatives of the Translation Service: Present

1. Mayor's Announcements

It was with great sadness that the Mayor advised Council that former Councillor Stan Mason, who represented the Margam Ward, and the sister of Councillor Sheila Penry and had passed away.

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

The Mayor was pleased to announce that Mrs. Louise Fleet JP would succeed D Byron Lewis as HM Lord Lieutenant of West Glamorgan with effect from the 16 March 2020.

2. Electoral Review: Neath Port Talbot

Members considered the above report and noted that the implications arising from reducing the election age had not been factored into the proposals neither had the increase in the number of electorates as a result of the influx of students.

Some Members felt that the proposals disproportionately affected valley communities by reducing member representation and adversely affecting valley identities. Consideration had not been given to the affects that the proposals would have on the residents.

Some Members were unhappy with the recommendations contained in the circulated report in particular:

- The proposed alignment of the Pelenna and the Bryn and Cwmavon wards.
- The proposed amalgamation of the Glynneath and Blaengwrach wards.
- The proposed amalgamation of the Pontardawe and the Trebanos wards.
- The proposal for the Aberafan ward.

An addendum had been circulated, prior to the meeting, outlining the concerns of the Plaid Cymru Group and proposing an amendment to the recommendations contained in the Joint Report.

Members were reminded that the consultation document had been issued by the Boundary Commission and that levels of deprivation, crime, etc. could not be taken into account. The proposals were based on population numbers.

The amendment contained in the addendum was put to the meeting. This fell and the substantive recommendation as contained in the Joint Report was considered.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive be authorised to submit a response to the Boundary Commission based on

the officer assessment contained in the circulated report.

3. **Local Government and Election (Wales) Bill**

- RESOLVED:**
1. That Welsh Government's proposals to reform and strengthen local government and to improve electoral arrangements, as set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill, be noted.
 2. That following consideration of the evidence presented by the Welsh Local Government Association to the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee, the position, as set out in Appendix 1 to the circulated report, be endorsed.
 3. That the Chief Executive be authorised to formally respond to the proposals on behalf of this Council through the Welsh Local Government Association.

4. **Changes to the Political Proportionality and Membership of Cabinet, Committees and Outside Bodies**

- RESOLVED:** That the following, as contained in the appendices to the circulated report, be approved;
- The proportional allocation of seats to the political groups as contained in Annex A.
 - A reduction in the size of the Cabinet from ten Cabinet members to nine Cabinet members;
 - The proposed political portfolios of the nine Cabinet members as set out in Annex B;
 - The appointment of Cllr E V Latham as Deputy Leader of Council and the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Engineering.
 - The changes to the membership of committees as contained in Annex C;
 - The Council's representation on outside bodies as contained in Annex D.

5. **Changes to Executive Governance Arrangements in Principal Councils - Welsh Government Consultation Document**

RESOLVED: That the consultation document – “Changes to Executive Governance Arrangements in Principal Councils” as contained in the circulated report be noted together with the consultation deadline of 27 February 2020.

6. **Democratic Services Committee Annual Report**

Council received a presentation, from the Chairperson, on the work undertaken by the Democratic Services Committee during 2018/19.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Democratic Services Committee for 2018/19, be noted.

CHAIRPERSON