

## COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

**Members Present:**

**23 September 2020**

**The Mayor:** Councillor S.Jones

**Councillors:** A.R.Aubrey, D.Cawsey, H.C.Clarke, C.Clement-Williams, M.Crowley, A.P.H.Davies, N.J.E.Davies, O.S.Davies, R.Davies, C.Edwards, S.E.Freeguard, W.F.Griffiths, J.Hale, M.Harvey, S.K.Hunt, J.Hurley, H.N.James, C.J.Jones, D.Jones, H.Jones, J.Jones, L.Jones, R.G.Jones, D.Keogh, E.V.Latham, A.Llewelyn, J.Miller, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Paddison, S.M.Penry, D.M.Peters, R.Phillips, M.Protheroe, L.M.Purcell, S.Pursey, S.Rahaman, P.A.Rees, S.Renkes, A.J.Richards, P.D.Richards, M.Spooner, A.J.Taylor, R.L.Taylor, D.Whitelock, A.Wingrave, R.W.Wood and A.N.Woolcock

**Officers in Attendance:** S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, A.Evans, A.Jarrett, N.Pearce, K.Jones, C.Furlow-Harris, M.Shaw, R.Headon, S.Curran, A.Manchipp, and J.Woodman-Ralph

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### 1. **Mayor's Announcements**

It was with deep regret that the Mayor advised Council of the recent death of former Councillor J.Dinham, who had represented the Aberavon Ward.

As a mark of respect Council observed a minute's silence.

### 2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Council (Civic Year 2020/21)**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 9 September 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record.

3. **Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 - commended to Council for approval**

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Equalities introduced the above report, which had been commended to Council by Cabinet held on 17 September 2020.

**RESOLVED:** That the Strategic Equality Plan, as contained as an appendix to the circulated report, be approved and that the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Equalities be given delegated authority to make such changes as may be needed to the Strategic Equality Plan prior to publication, provided that such changes do not materially alter the content of the document considered by Council.

4. **Changes to Committee Memberships and Outside Body Representatives**

**RESOLVED:** That the following Members fill the vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies:

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee - Councillor D.Keogh

Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee –  
Councillor R.Wood

Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee –  
Councillor C.Jones

Audit Committee – Councillor R.Taylor

Democratic Services Committee – Councillor  
A.J.Taylor

Corporate Parenting Panel – Councillor O.Davies

Schools Standards Partnership Group – Councillor  
M.Protheroe and Councillor O.Davies (sub)

Welsh Books Council – Councillor R.Mizen

5. **Urgent Item**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute Number 6 below, the Mayor agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an Urgent Item pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local government Act 1972.

**Reason:**

Due to the time element.

6. **COVID 19**

The Leader of Council gave members an update on the escalating number of Covid 19 cases in South Wales. It was noted that Neath Port Talbot was at the moment not one of the local authority areas of concern however with some neighbouring local authorities in local lockdown there was a high probability that this County Borough would also be affected. As a result staff may again be seconded to different areas of work for example the TTP service. Members were therefore asked to reinforce the safety precautions already in force and to also manage residents' expectations of the level of some non-essential/urgent services. It was important to stress that the UK was still in the response phase of the pandemic.

There were issues around the TTP service, in particular the time taken to get a test and also to obtain the results.

Members fully supported the need to manage residents' expectations going forward and to reinforce the safety precautions and restrictions in place.

7. **Retirement**

The Leader advised Members that this was the last meeting of Council that Mrs Annette Manchipp, Senior Democratic Services Officer, would attend due to her impending retirement. The Leader paid tribute to her and to her contribution to the democratic process, since 1984, in this and previous local authorities and wished her a long and happy retirement. This was supported by members. Mrs

Manchipp responded and wished the authority, members and officers well for the future.

**CHAIRPERSON**