

## COUNCIL

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

**Members Present:**

**22 December 2021**

**The Mayor:** Councillor J.Warman

**The Deputy Mayor:** Councillor J.D.Morgan

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

**Officers in Attendance:** K.Jones, A.Jarrett, N.Pearce, C.Griffiths, H.Jones, A.Hinder, M.Shaw, S.Curran and J.Woodman-Ralph

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1. **Welcome and Roll Call**

The Mayor welcomed all present, and a roll call was taken.

2. **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor welcomed back Councillor Huw Jones, after a recent spell of ill health.

The Mayor was pleased to inform Council that Stella Orrin and Jake Dorgan had been successfully elected as Members of the Welsh Youth Parliament, representing Aberavon and Neath respectively.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on the 29 September 2021**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the 29 September 2021, be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. **Council Tax Support Scheme 2022 - 2023**

**RESOLVED:** That having given due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment screening, the following be agreed in relation to establishing a Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the 2022/23 financial year:

(a) The adoption of the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 as further amended by the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 and any subsequent amendments that may be required by legislation in relation to The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022.

(b) The approval of the retention of the existing discretionary elements in relation to the Prescribed Scheme:

(i) That no increase in the backdate period for all claimants be applied from the standard 3 months contained in the Prescribed Scheme.

(ii) That no increase in the extended reduction period for all claimants be applied from the standard 4 weeks currently contained within the Prescribed Scheme.

(iii) Apply a 100% disregard for War Disablement Pensions, War Widows Pensions and War Widower's Pensions for all claimants.

6. **Biodiversity Duty Plan (2020 - 2023)**

**RESOLVED:** That having due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment, the following be approved:

1. The Biodiversity Duty Plan (2020-2023) as presented at Appendix 1 to the circulated report.
2. The publication procedures as set out in the report.
3. That authorisation be given to the Head of Planning and Public Protection to make the necessary arrangements for the Council to become a signatory to the Edinburgh Declaration on Global Biodiversity.

7. **Neath Port Talbot Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2021 - 2036**

**RESOLVED:** That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment, the following be approved:

1. The Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Delivery Agreement, as presented in Appendix 2 to the circulated report, be agreed and formally submitted to Welsh

Government for approval.

2. The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) Scoping Report, as set out in Appendix 4 to the circulated report, be agreed.
3. The establishment and Heads of Terms of the Member Working Group, as set out in Appendix 5 to the circulated report, be agreed.

8. **Gambling Act 2005 - Review of Gambling Policy**

**RESOLVED:** Having taken into account the information included in the Integrated Impact Screening Assessment:

1. The revised Gambling Policy, set out in appendix 1 of the circulated report, be approved.
2. That a “no casino policy” be readopted.

9. **Creation of Neath Port Talbot Council Petition Scheme**

**RESOLVED:** That having due regard to the Integrated Impact Screening Assessment, the Neath Port Talbot Council Petition Scheme, detailed at Appendix 2 to the circulated report, be approved.

10. **Members' ICT Scheme and Internet Usage Policy**

**RESOLVED:** That having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Screening Assessment, the amended Members ICT Policy (including Internet Usage Policy) as detailed at Appendix 1, be approved.

11. **Director of Social Services, Health and Housing Annual Report 2020 - 2021**

**RESOLVED:** That the Director's Annual Report 2020-2021, for Social Services, be noted.

12. **Apportionment of Committee seats amongst Political Groups and Committee Membership**

**RESOLVED:** That the following changes to the allocation of seats on council committees to the political groups, be approved:

Labour Group:

Cllr R Taylor be removed as a member of the Planning Committee

Cllr S M Penry be removed as a member of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr R Taylor be appointed to the Registration and Licensing Committee and Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee (instead of Cllr C James)

Independent Group:

Cllr C James be appointed to the Planning Committee and Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.

13. **Dispensation for Absence**

This report was withdrawn from consideration at the meeting.

14. **Notice of Motion under Section 10 of Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) the Council's Constitution**

None were received.

15. **Questions from Members, with Notice, under Rule 9.2 of the Council's Procedure Rules**

None were received.

16. **Urgent Items**

None were received.

**CHAIRPERSON**