



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 30 June 2021 at 5.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

Councillor S Trask	Councillor R Williams
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor M Powell
Councillor H Boggis	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor R Bevan
Councillor A Calvert	Councillor T Williams
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor D Williams
Councillor G Davies	Councillor S Pickering
Councillor L De Vet	Councillor S Rees
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor S Evans
Councillor S Evans	Councillor S. Rees-Owen
Councillor M Forey	Councillor A Fox
Councillor M Norris	Councillor E Webster
Councillor M Webber	Councillor M Griffiths
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor M Weaver
Councillor G Holmes	Councillor L Walker
Councillor G Hopkins	Councillor P Howe
Councillor K Morgan	Councillor R Yeo
Councillor J James	Councillor P Jarman
Councillor R Turner	Councillor G Thomas
Councillor A Morgan	Councillor M Adams
Councillor J Rosser	Councillor G Stacey
Councillor R Lewis	Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor S Powell
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor S Belzak	Councillor E Stephens
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor G Jones
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor W Jones
Councillor L Jones	Councillor L Hooper
Councillor J Harries	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor E George	Councillor H Fychan
Councillor J Davies	Councillor J Cullwick
Councillor A Cox	Councillor A Chapman
Councillor E Griffiths	Councillor G Caple
Councillor J Edwards	

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources

25 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors M Fidler Jones, K Jones, A Davies-Jones, M Tegg, W Owen and J Williams.

26 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations were made pertaining to the agenda:

County Borough Councillor P Jarman declared a personal item- "Dispensation to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2020-21 Budget process in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition"

Agenda Item 11B (Notice of Motion):

County Borough Councillor G Jones declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon - "I am in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor E George declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My husband is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor R D Bevan declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "I am in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor R Williams declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My Father is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor G Hughes declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My Grandfather is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor J Harries declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My Grandfather is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor R Yeo declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My Stepfather is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

County Borough Councillor J Edwards declared the following personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting when the item was voted upon- "My Grandfather is in receipt of a Miner's Pension"

In his absence, the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication relayed the wishes of County Borough Councillor M Fidler Jones who wished to withdraw his support for the Notice of Motion set out at Agenda item 11B.

27 Tributes to the Late Councillor Clayton Willis

The following Members of the Council paid tributes to the late Councillor Clayton Willis:

- County Borough Councillor G Stacey led the tributes to his friend and colleague former Councillor Clayton Willis and shared memories of their time together. Councillor Stacey thanked the Mayor and others who attended the funeral.
- The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan paid tribute to former Councillor C Willis who had represented the Tynant ward since 2004. The Leader acknowledged his 25 years' service from 1996, a Community Councillor and Cabinet Member since 2008.
- On behalf of the Plaid Cymru Group, the Leader of the Opposition, County Borough Councillor P Jarman paid tribute to former Councillor Clayton Willis and passed on her condolences to former Councillor C Willis's family.
- County Borough Councillor M Powell paid tribute to the late Councillor C Willis and extended his commiserations on behalf of the RCT Independent Group
- County Borough Councillor J James, as a bordering ward member and on behalf of the Conservative Group, paid his tribute to the late County Borough Councillor C Willis.
- County Borough Councillor R Yeo paid his tribute to his friend and former mentor former County Borough Councillor C Willis.

28 Announcements

- The Leader of the Opposition, County Borough Councillor P Jarman as Chair of Governors at Mountain Ash Comprehensive School congratulated a former pupil of the school, Brad Williams who had received the prestigious global Diana Award for his contribution to social action journalism. He was nominated by Mr David Church, Head of Religious Studies. Brad Williams has volunteered with GTFM and has recently been accepted to study for his master's degree in the Cardiff School of Journalism. Councillor Jarman requested that a letter be sent from the Mayor of RCT to acknowledge his achievement.
- County Borough Councillor A Crimmings, Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services acknowledged the success of the Welsh Football Team in the Euros and gave special mention to their Manager Mr Rob Paige who is from the Rhondda.
- County Borough Councillor L Hooper paid tribute to the school staff, the community and parents of Gwauncelyn Primary School in Tonteg for raising £3,000 to replace the tools and equipment which were stolen from the School. He acknowledged their efforts and community spirit to raise the funds within 72 hours following the incident.

- County Borough Councillor J James (and with fellow Councillor S Trask) presented a petition on behalf of residents in Llantwit Fardre to install a pedestrian crossing at Crown Hill in Llantwit Fardre
- County Borough Councillor J James (and with fellow Councillor S Trask) presented a petition on behalf of residents in Llantwit Fardre to install a pedestrian crossing at Crown Hill in Llanwit Fardre
- County Borough Councillor S Bradwick congratulated a young girl in his ward, Sofia Barnes who is 8 years old, who has turned old milk cartons into dispensers for dog poo bags and placed them in and around the ward to tackle dog fouling in the area. Councillor S Bradwick requested that a letter be sent from the Mayor of RCT to acknowledge her enthusiasm and achievement and that Sofia is invited to the Mayor's Parlour, when appropriate.

29 Council Procedure Rule 15.1

The Deputy Leader moved the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 15.1 which states that a matter would be decided by a simple majority of those Members voting and present in the room at the time the question was put in order to facilitate the smooth running of the virtual meeting.

Following consideration of the matter it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Council Procedure Rule 15.1

Based on the numbers of Members logged into the virtual Council meeting at that time, the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications advised of the numbers of Elected Members present by Group:-

Labour – 42
 Plaid – 13
 Conservative – 3
 RCT Independent Group – 4
 Unallocated - 1

30 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the following virtual Council meetings as an accurate reflection:

1. 10th March 2021
2. 26th May 2021 (Annual General Meeting of the Council)
3. 26th May 2021 (Extraordinary Council Meeting)

(Subject to it being noted that unless requested by the Conservative Group, any future abstentions will not be recorded)

31 Statements

- The Deputy Leader announced that the Council had again celebrated success at the Apprenticeship Awards Cymru 2021 at the virtual online ceremony held on the 17th June 2021. Three of the Council's apprentices were shortlisted for awards, the Foundation Apprentice of the Year,

Brittany Mason, who won the category, Apprentice of the Year, Owen Lloyd who was a finalist and Tomorrow's Talent, Sophie Williams who was a winner in the category.

The Council was also named Macro Employer of the Year, the second time it has won the award. The Council was praised for its support of the apprentices during the Pandemic to continue their studies and how they were deployed to support essential community services such as working with the NHS on Coronavirus shielding data and distributing food parcels. Thanks were extended to the Apprenticeship cohort and to the Council's Human Resources staff

The Deputy Leader concluded by advising that the WLGA that they would like to work with the Council on its successful scheme.

- Councillor D R Bevan advised that Lloyds Bank has announced the imminent closure of its branch in Church Village in September without prior consultation with its customers. The Bank has cited a number of reasons for the closure such as online banking, low numbers of customers using the Bank's facility and as such they are making provision for the services to be transferred to the Pontypridd Branch or to the local Post Office. Councillor Bevan confirmed that the Council has appealed to Lloyds Bank to reconsider its position in the knowledge that older customers will have difficulty in attending Banks further afield and an update would be provided in due course.

32 Members' Questions

Question from County Borough Councillor G. Caple to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Can the Council Leader give an update on the progress of the Porth Interchange scheme?”

The Leader responded that the Council's Project Team have continued to make progress with the Porth Transport Hub. The site will see a bus and rail interchange created at the existing station and the development will also include electric vehicle charging points and further enhancements to the local Active Travel network.

The development site is already completely cleared and prepared for construction works and the Council recently received planning permission and completed detailed design on the proposal for the Transport Hub. This has been reviewed and agreed by the Council's key delivery partner, Transport for Wales and the tender period for the construction of the development has recently ended.

The Leader advised that the Council is now in advanced discussions with its preferred contractor to award the contract in advance of beginning construction works. Over £5.3m has been allocated to the scheme as part of the CCR City

Deal's Wider Investment Fund and to support future funding arrangements, a bid has been submitted to the UK Government Levelling Up Fund; putting forward the Porth Transport Hub as a key candidate project for funding.

In conclusion, the Leader commented that he had recently met with Robert Jenrick, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on a visit to Treorchy who was very positive and interested in the proposals.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor G Caple:

“Can the Leader expand on the investment in Porth as part of the Town Centre Strategy?”

In response, the Leader advised that the Transport Hub is key to the Porth Town Centre Strategy, recognising the key strategic role it plays as the junction of Fach and Fawr, and providing a better transport experience for both bus and rail passengers.

The Leader highlighted a series of other investment projects which are currently being implemented in Porth, as planned in the Porth Town Centre Strategy:

- The adjacent Park and Ride facility is undergoing expansion, complementing the benefits of the Transport Hub by increasing parking spaces and adding charging facilities for electric vehicles.
- The Council's Town Centre Maintenance Grant has successfully supported a number of businesses in improving their shop frontages in order to raise the town's image, whilst free Wi-Fi was made available to visitors and traders in September last year.
- The Council is currently working to utilise Welsh Government Place Making grant in Porth to assist with bringing vacant properties back into use in the Town Centre.
- Porth Plaza has been developed to house an extensive range of resilience and support functions to the community, including the library, the One4All service and employment advice and support.
- Plans continue to develop in order to accommodate extra care housing provision.

Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Can the Leader please provide an update on the work to progress the Section 19 reports into the flooding of February 2019?”

The Leader confirmed that following the RCT-wide public engagement exercise in January 2021 and the huge response from the public, reports are being

drafted which take into consideration both the physical and technical investigations whilst cross-referencing with information provided by the public through a door-knocking exercise, taking statements and receiving videos and photos from residents

The Leader advised that the Council is working with partners such as Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on how reports can be processed in the future as there are 19 reports under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act to complete, which require a large amount of officer time and consultation, but announced that the Council will be publishing the first Section 19 report in early July 2021.

This will be together with an overview report which will also contain the areas of flood investigations to follow.

It is the intention to publish the balance of the reports on a regular basis over the forthcoming months until each report has been published. Some of these reports will require detailed consultation with other Risk Management Authorities so we cannot be specific on the publishing order of the reports.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor W Lewis:

“Can the Leader provide an overview of the investment in flood-related projects since Storm Dennis?”

The Leader outlined the investment that has been spent over the last 5 years with grant funding and a pipeline of works agreed in principle with Welsh Government.

This has included substantial investment in the Rhondda, with Pentre in particular seeing a number of schemes progressed, whilst schemes have also recently been announced in Ynyshir and Porth.

Question from County Borough Councillor R. Yeo to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services and the Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins:

“Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement on visiting arrangements at care homes across the County?”

County Borough Councillor G Hopkins advised that Welsh Government updated its most recent guidance on visits to care homes with effect from 24th May 2021 - the expectation is now that risk assessed visits, including indoor visits, except in the event of an active outbreak, will be supported.

With restrictions on overall visitor numbers lifted, up to two people can now visit a resident indoors at the same time – they no longer need to be designated visitors. The guidance has also been amended to highlight the importance of

people's rights to privacy during visits, and of care home providers being more flexible when setting visiting times along with clarifying that visits may take place in resident's own rooms, if a designated visiting room is not available.

Councillor Hopkins added that being able to see relatives and friends is important to care home residents and their families, and the Council and commissioned care home providers are doing everything they can to ensure indoor visits are as safe as possible. Before visiting, relatives and friends must contact the relevant home to find out what arrangements are in place. He advised of the need to ensure that visits are implemented in a way that meets all requirements of the revised guidance from Welsh Government.

Councillor Hopkins advised that before visiting, relatives and friends must contact the home first and must undertake a lateral flow test for Covid-19 before being allowed to enter. Results are returned within 30 minutes.

Face coverings must be worn when entering the home, and visitors must follow all rules on social distancing, hand hygiene and PPE should be worn where there is likely to be more significant close contact with the resident, and particularly when there is an increased infection risk.

Councillor Hopkins stated that relatives and friends must refrain from visiting if they are symptomatic, have tested positive or are awaiting a test result, or are a close contact of a positive case of Covid-19. Everyone should follow Welsh Government's self-isolation guidance. In the event of an outbreak in a care home, the home should immediately stop visiting arrangements (except in exceptional circumstances such as end of life – and for essential care givers) to protect vulnerable residents, staff and visitors.

In conclusion, Councillor Hopkins assured Members that staff are doing all they can to keep residents and their own loved ones safe, so it's important that the public work with them to minimise risks.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor R Yeo:

“If it becomes apparent that Boosters make a difference, how do we make sure our care homes are prioritised?”

Councillor Hopkins advised that the Welsh Government's Vaccination Strategy continues to make excellent progress and it is important to follow the same sensible approach as in phase 1 and 2. He added that he anticipated a similar approach to Phase 3 about how we maintain immunity to keep people protected by following scientific advice.

Question from County Borough Councillor G. Thomas to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Will the Leader please update on whether there are any planned programmes to address the ongoing flooding issue on Rhigos Road?”

The Leader responded that a number of issues have been tackled on Rhigos Road and the Council's Engineering Departments have been developing proposals for alleviating the repeat flooding in the area of Rhigos Road.

The development of the proposals is at an advanced stage, however, the proximity of multiple BT services in the vicinity of the works is currently affecting the program so further works will be carried out within the next 2-3 weeks with BT to allow the main works to commence, but the intentions are to commence on site Autumn 2021.

The Leader advised that the Council applied to the Welsh Government's Resilient Road Fund for 2021/22 and were successful in securing a grant for 90% of the project costs.

The Leader concluded his response and stated that the storms of February 2020 were 1 in 100-year storm event and since that time there has been a 20% increase in all new investments since Storm Callum.

Question from County Borough Councillor S Trask to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

“Would the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services make a statement on the Council's biodiversity strategy as a part of its green agenda?”

Councillor A Crimmings advised that although she would take the opportunity to provide a detailed answer for the benefit of all Members, she was aware that many had received queries over recent weeks.

The Council's Biodiversity Duty process has identified priorities for biodiversity action and improvement through delivery of the Council's functions. For example, the objective of reducing the impacts of climate change and the establishment of the Climate Change Steering Committee has seen the development of a Nature's Assets approach, where priority biodiversity action also provides practical and long-term action to help tackle climate change.

In early 2020, Cabinet Members approved the Wildflower Grass Management Policy, which is now used to identify wildflower areas on road verges, parks, cemeteries, countryside sites and schools. Wildflower areas are left to flower in the summer and the grass is then “cut and collected” in the autumn. This form of “hay-meadow” management provides the ideal conditions for native wildflowers.

By changing management, soil nutrient levels are reduced, and the native wildflowers thrive, which provides important feeding and connecting habitat for pollinating insects, which consequently helps to reduce long-term impacts of climate change on local biodiversity. The tussocky nature of wildflower

grasslands can also help absorb and slow down surface water run-off and the reduced frequency of cutting can also reduce soil compaction and improve soil absorption.

Therefore, wildflower management also improves vegetation structure and soil health, and can help reduce the climate change impacts on native wildlife and from increased rainfall events.

There is currently an online consultation called 'Let's Talk RCT – Wildflowers' which is inviting local residents to nominate areas which they feel could be managed using the 'hay cut' method and which provides useful information in terms of what steps they can take to help support native wildflowers and insects in their own gardens. This campaign follows on the previous campaigns for electric vehicles and forms part of the wider Climate Change conversation that the Council is currently seeking to have with its residents.

Other Natural Asset solutions also include the potential to restore the carbon storage of peatbogs, and the Council is working in partnership with neighbouring Neath Port Talbot Council to restore over 540 hectares of historic landscape between the two Counties. This will help to both conserve the biodiverse-rich and stunning landscapes and also deliver natural flood attenuation and grass fire prevention, using natural tree regeneration to increase woodland areas, and increasing tree planting within the urban environment.

Councillor Crimmings concluded that the principle of working with nature to generate solutions which improve conditions for biodiversity and people through providing resilience to climate change is an example of how strategic biodiversity delivery is being integrated with other priority Council actions. She thanked staff who are leading the way with this piece of work.

33 COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME: 2021-2022 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications presented an update regarding the Council Work Programme advising that any amendments and updates would be brought before Council on a regular basis. The Service Director advised that following consultation with the Leader of the Council and Opposition Leaders, the Medium-Term Financial report would be presented to Full Council at a later date.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the draft Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
2. To approve the Work Programme for the 2021-2022 Municipal Year (with appropriate amendments where necessary) and thereafter receive further updates from the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication as appropriate.

34 REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY

BOROUGH OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF BY THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES AND WELSH MINISTERS

Members considered the final recommendations report which contained all of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission's recommendations for the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf which included any changes to the existing arrangements a description of the change, the representations it has received, the reasons for any change and a map of the proposals.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to note the final recommendations as set out in the report.

35 ACCESS & ENGAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN DEMOCRACY

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication presented a position statement in respect of the introduction arrangements to enable the broadcasting of committee meetings and the ability to operate through a hybrid approach. The Service Director advised that as previously reported the arrangements are in line with the requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act which places a duty on principal councils to put in place arrangements for the broadcast of council meetings.

The Service Director confirmed that on the 15th April 2021 the Council signed off the webcasting equipment with the intention of adopting the same incremental approach as was utilised for the roll-out of virtual meetings during the summer of 2020.

The Service Director acknowledged the constructive comments of the Group Leaders and Members of the Democratic Services Committee all of whom support the phased approach through which all Members will learn and refine the processes as they progress.

It was confirmed that lateral flow tests will be available for a maximum of twenty-six Members and Officers who wish to attend the Council Chamber in person which will enforce a strong public health message.

Following consideration of the report with Group Leaders reiterating their support for the positive demonstration of accountability and transparency and adoption of the webcasting provision on an incremental basis, it was **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) Note the development of the provision of webcasting with Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, in line with the requirements of the Local Government & Elections Wales Act, 2021.
- (ii) Note the development of webcasting to further assist with the promotion of public engagement and transparency of decision making by the Council;
- (iii) Note the decision of the Democratic Services Committee in respect of the meetings that are proposed to remain as virtual meetings and those that will be facilitated through a future hybrid approach, subject to the caveats outlined within the report

- (iv) Note the meetings that will be webcast and live streamed through the Council website and the roll out of such meetings.
- (v) Note the move to the Modern.Gov system to publish information to the Council website, including Member attendance details.
- (vi) Note the funding received via the Digital Democracy Fund to further support the developments needed to be taken forward with webcasting within the Council Headquarters.

36 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a), the Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication presented an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee during the period January – May 2021.

Following consideration of the report and discussion in respect of the acquisition of land to the North West of Harriet Street, Trecynon, being the former Mayhew Chicken Factory, Trecynon, Aberdare, RCT it was **RESOLVED** to note the information contained within the report.

37 Notices of Motion

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M Powell, L Walker, W Owen, K Jones, W Jones and P Howe was received:

"This Council recognises:

- that persistent littering has a detrimental effect on communities within Rhondda Cynon Taff. It makes the area unattractive for visitors and does not serve to instil any sense of pride in residents.
- the need to educate people in order to change their habits if we are to be successful in cleaning up our local environment and in order to do so we need a campaign slogan which will capture people's attention.

This Council notes:

- the success of campaigns such as the 'Check Your Balls' campaign to promote awareness of testicular cancer.
- the campaigns in other areas such as Swansea
<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/59211/Dont-be-a-tosser-this-Bank-Holiday-weekend>
- that there have been numerous anti-litter campaigns set up across the UK which include the 'Don't be a Tosser' tag line since the idea was proposed to and turned down by this Council in 2009.

- that times have changed a great deal in the past 12 years and sayings that some may have found unacceptable then would not be considered in the same way now.

This Council therefore resolves:

- to ask the Cabinet and relevant officers to give full consideration to introducing a 'Don't Be a Tosser' campaign as part of its anti-littering stance."

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** not to adopt the Notice of Motion.

(**Note:** County Borough Councillors P Jarman and W Lewis wished to have it recorded that they voted not to adopt the Notice of Motion).

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Members **RESOLVED** – that in view of the Secorder of the Notice of Motion, County Borough Councillor R Williams having declared a personal and prejudicial interest and taking no part in the meeting that Council Procedure Rule 10.6 be suspended in order that the under-mentioned Notice of Motion could be considered.

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors: G. Caple, R. Williams, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L. De- Vet, J. Edwards, J. Elliott, S. Evans, G. Jones, M. Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S. Pickering, S. Powell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G. Stacey, M. Tegg, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R. K. Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams and R. Yeo was received:

On April 29th, 2021, the Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Select Committee published its report on the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme, which examined the historical injustice of mineworkers being deprived of their rightful pension entitlements.

As Members may recall, this Council supported a Notice of Motion supporting the UK Miners Pension Association Justice and Fair Play Campaign in 2017 and called for a renegotiation of the 50:50 sharing arrangement of any surplus between the former mineworkers and the U.K. Government. Despite calling for a Parliamentary Debate, the issue was made subject of a Select Committee inquiry.

Now, the recently published BEIS report found that this surplus award arrangement should be reviewed and replaced with a fairer system which sees the recipients of the pension given a "more realistic percentage of any surplus."

Indeed, the report acknowledges a number of significant issues with the outcome of the 1994 negotiations, including the failure of the Government to carry out due diligence and the absence of actuarial advice. This has resulted in the Westminster Government receiving over £4bn from the arrangement with a further £1.9bn expected to follow. This substantial profit has come without the

U.K. Government paying a single penny in to the scheme.

The search for a revised arrangement should be pursued urgently, and this Council supports the recommended model proposed in the BEIS report which includes the following details:

- The U.K. Government would only be entitled to a share of surpluses if the Scheme falls into deficit and the Government has to provide funds. This would then be an entitlement to 50% of future surpluses up to the total value of the provided funds to bridge any shortfall.
- The Westminster Government should also relinquish its entitlement to the Investment Reserve and transfer the £1.2bn fund to former miners in order to provide an immediate cash uplift.

This Council therefore resolves for the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to convey this Council's support for the recommendations of the BEIS report and to urge the Westminster Government to replace the unjust arrangement with a fair settlement that is based on actuarial advice and places the best interests of pension recipients at its heart.

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion.

(Note: The following members of the Labour Group wished to have their names recorded as voting in favour of the Notice of Motion:

Cllr Mark Adams
Cllr Jill Bonetto
Cllr Steve Bradwick
Cllr Jayne Brencher
Cllr Anita Calvert
Cllr Gareth Caple
Cllr Ann Crimmings
Cllr Jeffrey Elliott
Cllr Sheryl Evans
Cllr Mike Forey
Cllr Adam Fox
Cllr Geraint Hopkins
Cllr Rhys Lewis
Cllr Wendy Lewis
Cllr Tina Leyshon
Cllr Andrew Morgan
Cllr Susan Morgans
Cllr Mark Norris
Cllr Dan Owen-Jones
Cllr Sue Pickering
Cllr Steve Powderhill
Cllr Stephen Powell
Cllr Sharon Rees
Cllr Joy Rosser
Cllr Graham Stacey
Cllr Margaret Tegg
Cllr Graham Thomas
Cllr Wendy Treeby
Cllr Maureen Webber

Cllr Doug Williams
Cllr Tina Williams
Cllr Richard Yeo

The following Members of the Plaid Cymru Group wished to have their names recorded as voting in favour of the Notice of Motion:

Cllr Alun Cox
Cllr Danny Grehan
Cllr Eleri Griffiths
Cllr Pauline Jarman
Cllr Lorraine Jones
Cllr Elyn Stephens
Cllr Maureen Weaver
Cllr Emyr Webster

The following Members of the RCT Independent Group wished to have their names recorded as voting in favour of the Notice of Motion:

Cllr Phil Howe
Cllr Will Jones
Cllr Lyndon Walker

This meeting closed at 7.40 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**