



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 9 March 2022 at 4.00 pm.

**County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-**

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

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

**Officers in attendance**

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

## **130 Welcome & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the hybrid meeting of the Council and apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors A-Davies Jones, L De Vet, H Fychan , G Hughes, D Grehan, G Hopkins, J James, M Fidler Jones, K Jones and S Rees-Owen.

The following Councillors and officers were present in the Council Chamber: County Borough Councillors A Morgan, M Webber, R Bevan, A Crimmings, G Caple, W Lewis, C Leyshon, M Norris, S Bradwick, J Harries, G Thomas, G Jones, M Powell, L Walker, E Stephens.

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive, Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services, Mr A Wilkins, Director Legal Services Mr C Hanagan, Service Director Democratic Services & Communications, Mr R Evans, Director Human Resources and Mr S Gale Director of Prosperity & Development.

## **131 Declaration of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations were made pertaining to the agenda and declarations in relation to agenda items 12 and 19 were declared later in the meeting (Minute 142 refers):

### **Agenda items 11-15**

Cllr P Jarman

Personal - "Dispensation to speak and vote on all matters for the duration and adoption of the 2021-22 Budget process in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition"

Cllr M Powell

Personal – "I've been granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak and vote on all matters relating to the present and proposed budget for 2022-23, for all of those items that would reflect a budget adjustment and my wife is an employee of the Local Authority"

### **Agenda item 17B-Notice of Motion**

Cllr A Fox

Personal –"A family member works for a housing association operational in RCT".

Cllr W Lewis

Personal – "I work for a Housing Association."

Agenda item 16- Sustainable Communities for Learning (Formerly 21st Century Schools) Capital Programme - New Welsh Medium Primary School in Rhydyfelin

Cllr A Forey

Personal – “My daughter is employed by the local authority in education.”

Cllr M Webber

Personal – “I am a Governor on the school mentioned in the report.”

Cllr M Powell

Personal – “I am a governor of Coedpenmaen Primary School, Trallwn Infants School and Hawthorn High School”.

### **Agenda Item 10 Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2022-2037**

Cllr W Lewis

Personal – “The Housing Association I work for is mentioned in the report.”.

Cllr S Powell

**Agenda Item 7 - Members question 6** – “My wife is employed at Tonysguboriau Primary School, I am also a Governor there and it is in my ward”.

### **Agenda item 12 – Council Tax Resolution**

Head of Democratic Services – “We will record a blanket personal declaration for those Members who are Members of a Town or Community Council”

Cllr G Thomas – Personal – “I am a Member of the South Wales Police & Crime Panel.”

Cllr R Lewis – Personal – “I am a Member of the South Wales Police & Crime Panel.”

Cllr M Powell – Personal – “I am a Member of Pontypridd Town council.”

Cllr S Belzak – Personal – “I am a Member of Pontypridd Town council.”

### **Agenda Item 19 FUNDING ARRANGEMENT FOR TRANSPORT (RAIL) INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS**

Cllr J Brencher – Personal – “My son is a Director of Transport for Wales”.

Mr A Wilkins– Director, Legal Services on behalf of all Council Officers present in relation to Agenda Item 9 - **The Council's Pay Policy Statement 2022/23**

“The Pay Policy statement for the Council has no effect on existing terms and conditions applying to individual employees and simply sets out the Council’s approach to previously adopted policies, therefore Officers will remain in the meeting whilst the item is presented by the Director of Human Resources and during subsequent discussion.”

## 132 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the hybrid meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

## 133 Announcements

The following announcements were made:

The Service Director of Democratic Services received the following petitions:

- Councillor J Williams – On behalf of residents regarding permit parking in Grawen Street, Porth
  - Councillor A Cox – Calling on the Council to use its powers and legislation to bring back empty properties into use such as the Porth Hotel (310 signatures)
  - Councillor E Webster -Parking & Traffic in Treorchy
  - Councillor J Davies -On behalf of residents of Tylacelyn Road, Penygraig regarding traffic calming measures.
  - Councillor M Powell –On behalf of the Pontypridd residents regarding a skatepark.
- 
- County Borough Councillor T Williams announced the sad passing of Mr Brian Fear and referenced his charity work and his selfless nature and passed her condolences to his family.
  - County Borough Councillor P Jarman also wished to pay her condolences to Mr Fear’s family and friends as she recounted his significant football achievements.

## 134 Invasion of Ukraine

In providing the opportunity for Members to consider practical support from the communities and businesses of Rhondda Cynon Taf to the citizens of Ukraine, the Leader provided an update on what Local Government in Wales would be doing to support the efforts. He advised that there had been little information to date coming directly from Central Government to Local Authorities.

The Leader commented that the community response had been huge, and many millions raised to date, with many collections organised locally but he advised that getting goods and supplies to the residents of the Ukraine was becoming increasingly difficult. He hoped that communities would be able to support in other ways once the repatriation of Ukraine residents had become clearer.

The Leader called on cross-party support for the following motion:

“This Council places on record its solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine.

This Council pledges to do all it can to support Ukrainian citizens who have been forced to flee their own country, as a result of the Russian invasion, by participating in all initiatives led by the Welsh and UK Government to provide refuge. This includes committing to participate in the UK Government’s ‘sponsorship programme’, which is seeking to enable public sector organisations to provide long-term practical support for Ukrainian refugees.

We are committed to welcoming Ukrainian families, both with and without UK family ties, and to enable them to access support from individuals, businesses, charities and community groups, on their arrival here in Wales and Rhondda Cynon Taf Council.

This Council commits to prioritising and targeting the support of all Council services toward any Ukrainians seeking to make Rhondda Cynon Taf their home.”

Council resolved to support the afore-mentioned motion. A query was raised regarding the potential for the Council to make a corporate donation to the cause for the citizens of Ukraine which would represent the will and generosity of the residents of RCT.

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the matter of the donation to Officers, in discussion with Group Leaders, to agree and finalise the arrangement subject to the Council having the powers and vires to do so.

### **135 Acknowledgement & Thanks**

The Group Leaders paid their acknowledgements and thanks to those Members who are not standing for re-election in the Local Government Elections on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 as follows:

Labour Group: County Borough Councillors M Forey, J Rosser, G Thomas, R Turner, L M Adams, M Griffiths, L De Vet, M Tegg (already resigned), E George, J Harries, M Fidler Jones, S Powell, A Davies-Jones, A Calvert and S Pickering.

Plaid Cymru Group : County Borough Councillor G R Davies, E Griffiths, M Weaver, J Cullwick, H Fychan MS, E Stephens and A Chapman.

Conservative Group: County Borough Councillor J James MS

### **136 Statements**

The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan made a statement in respect of the significant package of investment from Welsh Government in response to the cost-of-living crisis. He advised that the detail is currently being finalised and a report to Cabinet would be presented over the next few weeks. Members were informed that the package is being branded the ‘Council Tax rebate’ using Council Tax bands A-D as a way of qualifying means, with the overall package to RCT being in the region of £15/16 million which will

be paid to residents as soon as possible.

**137 Members' Questions**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication advised that question 5 will fall due to the absence of County Borough Councillor S Pickering

**Question from County Borough Councillor G. Holmes to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services, County Borough Councillor G. Caple:**

“Could the Cabinet Member please make a statement on delayed discharges from hospital and outline what work the Council is undertaking to assist with this?”

**Response of County Borough Councillor Caple:**

Councillor Caple responded by advising that Adult Social Services continues to facilitate discharges from A&E through its Stay Well at Home Service, on average 10 per week, together with ward discharges it is the single point of access and the complex hospital discharge team, on average 23 patients per week. He added that regular meetings are held with the Health Board to explore more effective discharge processes and examine individual case reviews. In order to support business continuity Adult Social Services has mobilised its workforce in order to provide support critical support.

Councillor Caple advised that an in-reach system of community-based staff has been implemented to expediate the discharge of patients, those who are in a position to leave but are waiting further assessments or support that may be provided in the community ensuring people are safe and well cared for at home. Albeit a complex process, all the skills and disciplines such as therapists, hospital discharge co-ordinators, occupational therapists, mobile responders are being utilised to ensure this system is as swift and effective as possible.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor G Holmes:**

“If it were not for the proactive, ‘can-do’ approach taken by this council and local government in general, the problem of delayed transfers would be significantly greater for our health colleagues and further exacerbate capacity challenges faced by our health services, including the ambulance services, if it were not for our support?”

**Response of County Borough Councillor Caple:**

Councillor Caple agreed with Councillor Holmes comments and sentiments and advised that the Council would continue to explore different models of service provision and continue to work with partners, particularly the NHS in leading the transformation of services by using prevention and intervention measures. This

may lead to some services being transferred to local government where they may best lie. In the meantime, the Council will continue to work to support an increasing number of people with more complex needs at home, in the community through the additional operating hours of the Stay Well at Home service and also to support the avoidable hospital conveyance and admissions cases.

Councillor Caple wished to recognise and express deep appreciation of the hard work and dedication of the teams within adult social services and other council services such as housing as well as the independent sector providers who have worked under extreme and sustained pressure for a considerable amount of time. Councillor Caple thanked them for going the extra mile to support the NHS.

In conclusion, Councillor Caple commented that across Wales, pressures on A&E departments and hospital services continues to increase with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board implementing their business continuity process for 3 days in recent weeks due to the increased attendance at A&E leading to some ambulances being delayed at the acute sites. There is currently a 2-week reset period as directed by WG with daily ward rounds, daily meetings and discharge helps are being ably supported by Adult Social Services staff who will continue to work with the Health Board to ensure the safe and timely discharge of patients from hospital to the community.

**Question from County Borough Councillor R. Yeo to the Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto:**

“How is the Council progressing investment into Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive, and a new sixth form centre of excellence?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:**

Councillor Bonetto responded that work to redevelop the centre is progressing well and the £16.15M investment will see the creation of a new 6<sup>th</sup> Form, teaching block and gymnasium with modern and accessible facilities which will complement the recently completed works to the 3G sports area and athletics track. Learner capacity will increase to 1.600 including 400 6<sup>th</sup> Form learner places.

Councillor Bonetto added that the planning application will be reviewed by the Planning Committee at the end of the month which, if approved the works will commence July 2022 with completion of the building and sports facilities by July 2023 and completion of the external works completed by December 2023.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor R Yeo:**

“How will opportunities for community use be maximised?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:**

Councillor Bonetto advised that the additional new facilities will be available for community use. Officers of the Council are engaged with the contractor, school staff and school governors to progress the scheme and council staff are in consultation with the contractor to maximise the community benefits to provide opportunities for volunteering and work experience.

**Question from County Borough Councillor J. Barton to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

“What action can the Council take to improve road safety and reduce speeding traffic in local communities?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

The Leader advised that the local authority has the power to introduce speed control measures such as road humps and crossings but all speeding offences are a matter for the Police or that of the ‘Go Safe’ partnership who install temporary and/or permanent cameras and have responsibility for their enforcement. The local Authority can bid for funding to upgrade existing cameras, but the location of the cameras is determined by ‘Go Safe’.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor J Barton:**

“With regards to the proposed 20mph default speed limit which Welsh Government is introducing in residential areas and around school locations, what is the cost and what are the timescales for it to be implemented?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

**Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Corporate & Digital Services, County Borough Councillor M Norris:**

“Will the Cabinet provide an update on the roll-out of wi-fi across the key town centres of Rhondda Cynon Taf”

The Leader advised that the work is due to commence in the coming year and Welsh Government has allocated RCT over £1M to do the work. There is much work to determine what is and what isn’t within the 20mph zones and there will be a significant amount of signage to be changed or introduced.

**Response of Councillor M Norris:**

Councillor Norris advised that providing free access for Wi-Fi in the town centres has been a boost to them and should further encourage residents and businesses to shop locally. The initial pilot enabled the first roll out of free wi-fi in



Aberdare followed by a further six town centres and followed by Pontypridd and Tonypany.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor W Lewis:**

“Can you provide some feedback from the businesses and global traders on the success of the roll out?”

**Response of Councillor M Norris:**

Councillor Norris advised that it is one of the many positive investments within the town centres to encourage local spend and offering further information and services to the county borough with visitors able to see the wide variety of businesses available before they visit the town centres. Traders recognise the potential for this investment in technology and footfall has generally improved in the town centres because of the roll out. Councillor Norris added that traders and businesses were grateful for the council support and advised how important it is to help town centres to become more agile and be more digitally focused to support change and the investment demonstrates once again that the council is doing all it can to support its local high streets for the benefit for whole of the community.

**Question from County Borough Councillor S M Powell to the Cabinet Member for Education & Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:**

“How is this Council progressing plans for a new primary school for the pupils of Tonysguboriau?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor J Bonetto:**

Councillor Bonetto responded that the council has commenced the funding process for a new 300 place Primary School to replace the current school buildings with a brand-new state of the art, net zero carbon, 21<sup>st</sup> Century building on the existing school site. She advised that proposals are in the early stages with a business case to secure a mutual investment model, funding via Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning (formerly 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme) having recently been submitted to Welsh Government. Subject to funding and planning approval it is hoped to deliver the new school building by 2025.

**No Supplementary**

**Question from County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:**

“Can the Leader of the Council provide an update on the progress of flood alleviation scheme bids for the forthcoming year please?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

“Councillor Morgan spoke of the huge amount of work which has been carried out to date since Storm Dennis in terms of upgrading culverts. The Leader explained there are two different types of funding sources, through new bids for upgrading the existing infrastructure, through resilient roads of through the flood risk management team submitting bids with over £40M having been secured in the last two years with further bids submitted in the year ahead in the region of between £67M. The other funding is from WG for the recovery and damage from Storm Dennis, replacing river walls within the Council’s ownership, repairing damage to highways and bridges. He added that the outcome of the bids will be known shortly.

The Leader advised of the recent bids such as flood risk management (£7M), bids for resilient roads (£1-1.5M) and the flood recovery works (£16-18M) for larger works.

**Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor S Bradwick:**

“Please can you provide an update on the funding for the future for coal tips?”

**Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:**

The Leader confirmed that the council has spent in excess of £7M tackling coal tips, Tylorstown in particular with the fourth phase commencing shortly subject to planning permission. Stabilisation work has been carried out on Wattstown tip with funding from Welsh Government. There are a number of other sites where the council has installed monitoring equipment, tried and tested equipment and new technology, in other areas ground testing work is being carried out to test whether they need to be regraded. The Leader expected that there would be further work on how to tackle tips in the future with the need of millions of pounds of investment to support this work through Welsh Government as the UK Government is not prepared to support this work.

**138 The Council Work Programme 2021/22**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications confirmed that subject to business needs, this would be the last scheduled Council meeting concluding on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022. He advised that the next Council meeting would be the Council’s Annual General Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**139 Appointment of additional Lay Members onto the Governance & Audit Committee**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications presented his report to advise Council of the recent appointment of Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee, to ensure compliance with the legislative requirement set out in the Local Government & Elections Wales Act 2021 that at

least one third of the Governance & Audit Committee consist of Lay Members

The Service Director advised that the Council's Appointments Committee had been unanimous in its decision to appoint Mr Melvyn Jehu and Mr Julius Roszkowski. Through his report the Service Director sought Council's ratification of the Committee's decision and that the Lay Members be appointed for a term of office until the next ordinary Local Government Elections (currently scheduled for May 2027).

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the arrangements as set out in the report, relating to the appointment of new Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee for a term of office commencing from the beginning of the 2022-2023 Municipal Year until the next ordinary Local Government Elections; and
2. Ratify the decision of the Appointments Committee in respect of the appointment of Lay Members to the Governance & Audit Committee as Mr Melvyn Jehu and Mr Julius Roszkowski.

#### **140 The Council's Pay Policy Statement 2022/23**

In accordance with Section 38(1) of the Localism Act, 2011, the Director, Human Resources provided Members with information in respect of the Council's 2022/23 Pay Policy Statement.

Following discussion, the Director of Human Resources responded to a query relating to the Council's regrading process for staff. He advised that appropriate discussions had taken place with the Trade Unions and they had been advised to utilise the agreed Regrading Policy and undertake a review of the job descriptions for those concerned

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Pay Policy Statement as attached at Appendix A of the report.

#### **141 Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2022-2037**

The Director of Prosperity & Development presented his report with the purpose of updating Members on the progress of the Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2020-2030. The Director advised that as the Council has been unable to meet the previously agreed formal Delivery Agreement, he sought the necessary statutory Council approval to cease the preparation of the current Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2020 – 2030 and begin the preparation of a new RLDP for the plan period 2022 - 2037.

The Director referred Members to table one in the report which summarised the new RLDP timetable and advised that details of the revisions had been reported to Cabinet and to the cross party RLDP Members Steering Group.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the cessation of the preparation of the Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2020 – 2030.

2. Approve the proposal to begin a new RLDP with an amended and extended Plan period of 2022 – 2037.
3. Approve the Delivery Agreement (DA), that sets out the Community Involvement Scheme and Timetable for the preparation of the proposed new RLDP 2022 – 2037. This is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.
4. Approve that officers seek necessary Welsh Government agreement to formally start the preparation of the RLDP 2022 – 2037 in accordance with the Delivery Agreement.

## 142 Revenue Budget Strategy 2022/23

The Director of Finance and Digital Services presented the report which provided information on the final local government settlement for 2022/23 and set out the recommendations of the Cabinet with regard to the Council's Revenue Budget and the level of Council Tax for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The Director of Finance and Digital Services advised that two phases of consultation had been undertaken with the second phase focussing on the proposed budget strategy itself. The consultation was held between the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022 until the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Feedback from the second phase consultation process, together with that from the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee, School Budget Forum and the Joint Consultative Committee is attached to the report.

The Director of Finance and Digital Services advised that the final local government settlement was received on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 which saw an increase in funding for the Council of 8.4%, the detail of which has been presented to Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022. He confirmed the remaining budget gap of £229,000, the detail is reported at section 7 within the report.

The Director of Finance and Digital Services outlined the budget strategy proposals and referred Members to table 1 at section 10 of the report which summarised the implications including the proposed reduction in the level of Council Tax increase and the delivery of efficiencies. The remaining budget gap of £963,000 can be offset by an allocation from the already replenished transition funding reserve of £4.6M, resulting in a balanced budget for next year of £566.792M.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the written statement from the Minister for Finance and Local Government (Rebecca Evans MS) and the table on the 2022/23 Final local government settlement, reproduced at Appendix 1;
2. Note the implications for the Council and the remaining budget gap as set out at section 5;
3. Agree a Council Tax increase for 2022/23 of 1.00%;
4. Agree the uplift to the aggregate Schools Budget as detailed at section 8;

5. Agree the budget strategy proposals as set out at paragraphs 10.3(a) to 10.3(i);
6. Agree the use of the 'Medium Term Financial Planning & Service Transformation Reserve' as transition funding, totalling £0.963M for 2022/23;
7. Approve Tables 3 and 4 in Section 13 of the report as the basis of allocating resources to the Individual Schools Budget (ISB), to other Council Services, and to meet its corporate financing requirements; and
8. Agree the Council's overall budget for 2022/23 at £566.792M, in order to pass the necessary statutory resolutions to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by the statutory deadline of the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### 143 Council Tax Resolution 2022/23

The Director advised that following agreement of the County Borough Council's revenue budget for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and the increase of Council Tax at 1.00% this report sets out the necessary formal resolution to set the level of next year's Council Tax, including the levels of precepts from the Community Councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.

He reported to full Council on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves held, set out at paragraph 9 of the report. In doing so, he restated the non-continuation of the Welsh Government hardship fund and noted the Council already includes £0.5M contribution to general fund reserves in the base budget in order to replenish levels to the minimum level of £10M over the medium term.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Note the level of the precept from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales;
2. Note the level of the Community Council Precepts, as detailed in Appendix 1;
3. Pass the formal Council Tax resolutions for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, as contained in Appendix 2; and
4. Note my comments upon robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves as detailed at paragraph 9.2.

**(Note:** During discussions, the following declarations of personal interests were made:

County Borough Councillor G Thomas – "I am a member of the South Wales Police & Crime Panel"

County Borough Councillor R Lewis - "I am a member of the South Wales

Police & Crime Panel”

County Borough Councillor M Powell – “ I am a member of Pontypridd Town Council”

County Borough Councillor S Belzak – “I am a member of Pontypridd Town Council”

(The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications advised of a blanket declaration of personal interest for all members of Town and Community Councils would be recorded).

**(Note:** County Borough Councillors L Hooper, S Trask and S Belzak wished to have it recorded as having voted against the recommendations)

#### **144 Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2024/25**

The Director of Finance & Digital Services set out the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2024/25, following receipt of the final local government settlement for 2022/23.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Note the detail of the final 2022/23 local government settlement for capital expenditure, reproduced at Appendix 1;
2. Agree to the proposed reallocation of existing resources, and allocation of new resources as detailed in paragraph 5;
3. Agree to allocate the funding identified in the report to the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 6.2;
4. Agree the proposed 'core' three-year programme detailed at Appendix 2;
5. Agree the proposed total three-year Capital Programme, detailed at Appendices 3 (a) to (e), which includes the following non-core capital funding:
  - Prudential borrowing to support Sustainable Communities for Learning Schemes (formerly 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools) and Highways Improvements schemes;
  - Capital grants for specific schemes;
  - Third party contributions;
  - Additional Council resources previously allocated to support existing schemes and Corporate Plan investment priorities; and
  - The investment priorities detailed in paragraph 6.2.

**(Note:** The Members of the RCT Independent Group present wished to have their names recorded as having voted against the matter:

County Borough Councillors M Powell, L Walker, P Howe, W Jones and W Owen. County Borough Councillor S Belzak also wished to have his name recorded as having voted against the matter).

#### **145 Treasury Management Strategy**

The Director of Finance & Digital Services presented his report with the purpose of setting out the Council's:-

- Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23;
- Investment Strategy for 2022/23;
- Treasury Indicators for 2021/22 (actuals to date) and 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25; and
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement.

The Director of Finance & Digital Services responded to a query regarding the Council's Treasury Management and investment activities and links to Russia. He advised that its borrowing is from the PWLB (the UK Government) and its investments are with UK Government backed organisations and the debt management office. He further advised that a statement on the Pension Fund website sets out the pension fund position which mirrors the position of all Wales Pension funds (which was also reported to the Pension Fund Committee).

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy, Treasury Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement as set out in the report; and
2. Approve the updated Treasury Management Clauses (Appendix 1).

#### **146 Capital Strategy Report 2022/23**

Members were presented with the report of the Director of Finance & Digital Services which set out a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of Council services along with an overview of the associated risk, its management and the implications for future financial sustainability.

The Director advised that both this and the Council's Treasury Management report would be presented to the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Capital Strategy report incorporating the Prudential Indicators.

#### **147 Sustainable Communities for Learning (Formerly 21st Century Schools) Capital Programme - New Welsh Medium Primary School In Rhydyfelin**

In his report the Director of Finance & Digital Services set out his report which sought Council's approval:

- For a capital investment of £14.183M for a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin;
- To finance the project through the Welsh Government's (WG) Sustainable Communities for learning (formerly 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools) Band B capital grant and to fund the Council's contribution from borrowing using its powers under the Prudential Code.

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Agree to the inclusion in the capital programme of a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin at a total cost of £14.183M; and
2. Agree that the net capital cost to the Council of £4.964M is funded through borrowing, using the Council's powers under the Prudential Code, with the annual revenue cost of £0.195M being included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

## **148 Notice of Motion**

**17A** To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors: W. Lewis, S. Evans, L. M. Adams, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, L. De- Vet, J. Edwards, J. Elliott, A. Fox, M Griffiths, G. Jones, M. Fidler Jones, M. Forey, E. George, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W. Lewis, R. 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, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R. K. Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, R. Williams, T. Williams R. Yeo:

This Council notes that when the UK Government negotiated its exit from the European Union, a commitment was given to matching the level of funding provided to local areas from the European Union and accepted the assurances by UK Ministers, that Wales would not lose "a single penny" of EU funding as a result of this process.

A recent cross-party Commons' Treasury Committee found in a report on October's Autumn Budget and Spending Review, that the Shared Prosperity Fund will be worth 40% less a year than the EU funding schemes it will replace. The report also expressed its surprise that the "size of the Fund is being reduced to such an extent".

In context, the EU Structural Fund programme was worth £2.5bn a year and Wales received a disproportionate share of this funding at around £400m a year, or four times the UK average on a per-person basis. In November, the Welsh Government highlighted that the £46m Wales would receive through the Community Renewal Fund – the 'precursor' to the Shared Prosperity Fund - fell short of that promised amount of funding and that anything less than £375m in new funding per year from the UK Government would be a failure to honour that commitment.

Furthermore, the inordinate delay in getting the UKSPF programme up and running has left vulnerable individuals at risk of long-term unemployment at risk because of the cuts and delays.

This Council therefore:

- Recognises the vital contributions that EU Structural Funding delivered to the West Wales and the Valleys region in particular.
- Calls on the U.K. Government to make good on its promise to replace European Union funding in full.



And resolves to:

- Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister to convey this Council's view and request that the disparity in funding under the Shared Prosperity Fund be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- Request our local Members of the Senedd & Members of Parliament to support this Council's calls to address this disparity in funding.
- Request that the Council communicates the response of the Prime Minister to this Council representations.

At the meeting the Chair announced that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.1 the following amendment to the Notice of Motion had been received from County Borough Councillors P. Jarman, A. Cox, J. Williams, H. Fychan, E. Griffiths, E. Webster, S. Evans, A. Chapman, M. Weaver, S. Rees-Owen, L. Jones, E. Stephens, J. Davies, J. Cullwick, G. Davies, K. Morgan, D. Grehan:

The amended motion read:

This Council notes that when the UK Government negotiated its exit from the European Union, a commitment was given to matching the level of funding provided to local areas from the European Union and accepted the assurances by UK Ministers, that Wales would not lose "a single penny" of EU funding as a result of this process.

A recent cross-party Commons' Treasury Committee found in a report on October's Autumn Budget and Spending Review, that the Shared Prosperity Fund will be worth 40% less a year than the EU funding schemes it will replace. The report also expressed its surprise that the "size of the Fund is being reduced to such an extent".

In context, the EU Structural Fund programme was worth £2.5bn a year and Wales received a disproportionate share of this funding at around £400m a year, or four times the UK average on a per-person basis. In November, the Welsh Government highlighted that the £46m Wales would receive through the Community Renewal Fund – the 'precursor' to the Shared Prosperity Fund - fell short of that promised amount of funding and that anything less than £375m in new funding per year from the UK Government would be a failure to honour that commitment.

Furthermore, the inordinate delay in getting the UKSPF programme up and running has left vulnerable individuals at risk of long-term unemployment at risk because of the cuts and delays.

This Council therefore:

- Recognises the vital contributions that EU Structural Funding delivered to the West Wales and the Valleys region in particular.
- Calls on the U.K. Government to make good on its promise to replace European Union funding in full.

And resolves to:

- Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister to convey this Council's view:  
(1) That the disparity in funding under the Shared Prosperity Fund be addressed as a matter of urgency.  
(2) That the UK Government in any event, should repatriate the authority to invest such funds to the democratically elected Welsh Government.
- Request our local Members of the Senedd & Members of Parliament to support this Council's calls to address this disparity in funding.
- Request that the Council communicates the response of the Prime Minister to this Council representations.

Following a discussion on this matter, the vote was taken in respect of the amendment to the Notice of Motion and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the amendment, which then became the substantive motion, as set out above, to which Members **RESOLVED** to adopt.

(**Note:** The Conservative Group wished to have it recorded as voting against the amended and substantive notice of motion)

#### **149 Council Procedure Rule 8**

It was **RESOLVED** to continue the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow consideration of the remaining agenda items and continuation of Council business.

#### **150 Notice of Motion**

**17B** To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors: R. Williams, A. Fox, L. M. Adams, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L. De- Vet, J. Edwards, J. Elliott, S. Evans, M. Griffiths, G. Jones, M. Fidler Jones, M. Forey, E. George, J. Harries, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W. Lewis, R. 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, G. Thomas, W. Treeby, R. K. Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo:

Losing a loved one can be one of the most traumatic and emotionally stressful experiences for an individual, in addition to the potential added burden of having to deal with their affairs.

The last two years in particular have brought unprecedented further challenges to families and friends who have lost loved ones, with public health restrictions being placed on funerals and family gatherings at various times as the country tackled the coronavirus pandemic.

For families and friends of those who have passed away whilst living in rented accommodation, the challenges can, sadly, be even greater, with some housing associations only allowing one week for the deceased's possessions to be

cleared from the property.

It is, however, within the discretionary powers of housing associations to extend this timeframe, and this would undoubtedly reduce the stress and upset for the family or friends of the deceased tenant.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Request that the Leader of the Council writes to local Housing Associations in Rhondda Cynon Taf to ask them to consider using their discretionary powers to give families additional time of, at least 2 weeks following the funeral of their relatives, to clear belongings from a premises where an occupant has recently passed away.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the notice of motion.

**(Note:** County Borough Councillor J Brencher declared a declaration of personal interest – “ My son is Director for Transport for Wales”)

**151 TO CONSIDER PASSING THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**152 Funding Arrangement for Transport (Rail) Infrastructure Works**

The Director of Finance & Digital Services provided Members with an overview of his report which contained exempt information.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to :

1. Agree to the principles of the financing arrangement and the acceptance of the offer of funding as set out in the report (subject to conclusion of the issues as set out at para 4.10);
2. Authorise officers to progress, negotiate and conclude the necessary further legal agreements ensuring that the Council's position is fully safeguarded; and
3. Note and agree that the Council's Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators are updated to reflect the arrangement.

**(Note:** County Borough Councillors L Hooper and S Trask wished to have their names recorded as having voted against the above recommendations).

**This meeting closed at 8pm**

**Cllr S Powderhill  
Chairman.**