



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL**  
**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**  
**COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE SUMMONS**

C Hanagan  
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
The Pavilions  
Cambrian Park  
Clydach Vale CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: Julia Nicholls - Democratic Services (01443 424098)

**YOU ARE SUMMONED** to a hybrid meeting of **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 8TH MARCH, 2023** at **5.00 PM**.

It is the intention to live stream this meeting, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

**AGENDA**

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No's**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PAGE(S)</b>
5 Minutes	<b>ITEM 1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>  To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Members are requested to identify the item number and subject that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and</li><li>Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of prejudicial interest they <b>must</b> notify the Chairman when they leave.</li></ol>	
5 Minutes	<b>ITEM 2. MINUTES</b>  To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Council meetings held on 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2022 and the 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2023.	9 - 34
5 Minutes	<b>ITEM 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
	<b>OPEN GOVERNMENT:</b>	

10 Minutes	<b>ITEM 4. STATEMENTS</b>  In accordance with Open Government Council Meeting Procedure Rule 2, to receive any statements from the Leader of the Council and/or statements from Cabinet Portfolio Holders:	
20 Minutes	<b>ITEM 5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</b>  To receive Members questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.  ( <b>N.B</b> a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for questions on notice.)	35 - 42
	<b>COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME - FOR MEMBERS INFORMATION</b> <a href="#">Council Work Programme 2022-23</a>	
	<b>OFFICERS' REPORTS</b>	
10 Minutes	<b>ITEM 6. SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE (STV)</b>  To receive the joint report of the Director of Legal Services and the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications.	43 - 48
20 Minutes	<b>ITEM 7. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/24</b>  To receive the report of the Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	49 - 108
10 Minutes	<b>ITEM 8. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2023/24</b>  To receive the report of the Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	109 - 120
10 Minutes	<b>ITEM 9. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 - 2025/26</b>  To receive the report of the Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	121 - 140
45 Minutes	<b>ITEM 10. NOTICE OF MOTION</b>  <b>10A To consider the under-mentioned Notices of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors J. Edwards, L. A. Tomkinson, L. Addiscott, M. D. Ashford, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, G. Caple, J. Cook, A. Crimmings, S. J. Davies, R. Davis, A. J. Dennis, V. Dunn, E. L. Dunning, J. A. Elliott, L. Ellis, S. Emanuel, R. Evans, A. S. Fox, B. Harris, S. Hickman, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W. Hughes, G. Jones, G. O. Jones, R. R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, M. Maohoub, C. Middle, A. Morgan, N. H. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, D. Parkin, S. Powderhill, C. Preedy, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Smith, G. Stacey, W. Treeby, J. Turner, G. L. Warren, K. Webb, M. Webber, D. Williams, G. E. Williams, R. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo.</b>	

Climate change continues to be one of the most serious challenges facing communities here in Rhondda Cynon Taf, across Wales and the U.K., and across the world.

Recent years have seen serious and significant weather events occur more frequently and with more profound effects, as highlighted by the devastation caused locally by Storm Dennis in February 2020. Since then, we have seen an increasing number of Yellow, Amber and Red weather warnings issued by the Met Office.

Indeed, the forecaster has recently confirmed that 2022 was the U.K.'s hottest year on record, with an average temperature of over 10°C recorded for the first time. The attribution study also showed that what would have been around a 1-in-500 year annual temperature in a natural climate, where human climate influences are removed, is now likely every three to four years in the current climate. In addition to this, the Met Office forecasts are further suggesting that 2023 will be one of the Earth's hottest years on record.

In light of this evidence, there can be no doubt of the speed of change required to reduce carbon emissions to protect the planet, or the need for us all to work together more quickly to do so.

This Council has already shown a positive commitment to meet and contribute to global, national and local targets to reduce carbon.

In March 2018, the Council resolved to adopt a Notice of Motion committing to support the UK100 Clean Energy Commitment to transition towards being a fully environmentally Authority by 2050. This was shortly revised to a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030 in recognition of the pressing need to tackle the impacts of climate change urgently.

Over the last decade or so, the Council has already taken significant steps towards this target, and this work has accelerated over the last five years. As of 2019, the Council had cut its carbon emissions by almost 40% (12,725 tonnes) over the last five years. A recent Carbon Trust report highlighted (based on an accurate calculation at the time) that as a Council, RCT further reduced its overall NET carbon footprint by 29% in 2020/21, compared to data from 2019/20.

Measures to date include:

- Purchasing 100% of the Council's electrical energy supply from renewable energy sources.
- Spent over £9m since 2009 on energy conservation projects that have resulted in annual savings of just over £1.8m per year for schools, care homes, leisure centres and other Council-owned buildings.
- Installed 105 solar panel arrays across schools and corporate buildings – this generates around £120,000 in “cashback” every year for 20 years, in addition to saving

on energy costs.

- Completed a number of new, low-carbon, energy efficient school developments and improvements across the County.
- Installed 21 Hydrogen Fuel Cells in leisure centres, schools and offices, along with 8 biomass boilers in use.
- Delivered the innovative Taff's Well Thermal Spring project – the only one in Wales – and this is providing low-carbon heating for the new school extension block at Ffynnon Taf Primary School.
- Working with Housing Associations, the Welsh Government and other partners to put in place more low-carbon housing. The ARBED scheme in Penrhiwceiber helped 113 homes out of fuel poverty with a range of new energy efficient measures.
- Taking forward projects with tree planting and peatbog management across RCT. A £50,000 investment in tree planting was announced in March last year with 200 trees planted in each of the primary constituent areas of the County.
- Delivering a strategy for electric vehicle charging, in conjunction with trialing of EV taxis and buses.

This Council notes:

- The positive progress made by this Council in taking steps to reduce its carbon footprint.
- That more work is required to achieve these ambitions, in line with the Council's Tackling Climate Change Strategy – Think Climate RCT and the Welsh Government's vision of a Net Zero public sector by 2030.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To request for a report to be presented to the Council's Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee, outlining how the Council can reaffirm this commitment to achieving Net Zero in line with the statutory targets.

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**10B To consider the under-mentioned Notices of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors A. Roberts, J. Bonetto, L. Addiscott, M. D. Ashford, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, G. Caple, J. Cook, A. Crimmings, S. J. Davies, R. Davis, A. J. Dennis, V. Dunn, E. L. Dunning, J. Edwards, J. A. Elliott, L. Ellis, S. Emanuel, R. Evans, A. S. Fox, B. Harris, S. Hickman, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W.**

Hughes, G. Jones, G. O. Jones, R. R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, M. Maohoub, C. Middle, A. Morgan, N. H. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, D. Parkin, S. Powderhill, C. Preedy, S. Rees, J. Smith, G. Stacey, L. A. Tomkinson, W. Treeby, J. Turner, G. L. Warren, K. Webb, M. Webber, D. Williams, G. E. Williams, R. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo.

Despite Cost of Living support provided in the last year, Nine out of ten private renters in Wales say that the cost of living crisis is making it even harder to pay their rent (Shelter, 2022).

While the UK Government has committed to raising benefits in line with inflation, the 2022 Autumn Statement confirmed that the Government is set to freeze local housing allowance at current cash levels for the third year in a row. This will have an additional impact on benefit recipients in private rented accommodation, who face higher costs than those in social housing.

With respect to levers available to Welsh Government to support renters, this Motion notes that Welsh Government – as part of its cooperation agreement with Plaid Cymru in 2021 – is committed to a White Paper on rent affordability, preceded by a Green Paper. This will include proposals for a right to adequate housing, to establish the role a system of fair rents (rent control) could have in making the private rental market affordable for local people on local incomes, and new approaches to making homes affordable.

There are, of course, a wide range of factors that are affecting rent rises in the private rented sector (PRS) and household incomes at this time, and this Motion does not seek to address all of these.

This Motion does not seek to undermine the measures already being taken by Welsh Government to support PRS renters in Wales, with a series of new housing laws that came into effect from 1 December 2022 as part of the Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Act 2021.

Nor does this Motion seek to pre-empt Welsh Government Green/White Papers on proposals for additional measures such as a rent freeze, or what such additional measures might look like in practice. A Senedd debate on proposals for an emergency rent freeze and eviction moratorium in Wales took place as recently as October 2022. This followed the introduction of a temporary rent freeze in Scotland in September 2022 (set to end in March 2023). In the Senedd debate that took place, a number of risks associated with the Scottish policy were set out for Welsh Members in a briefing from the Homelessness Charity Crisis.

The risks outlined by 'Crisis' included:

1. An immediate flood of notices to quit and letters notifying of rent

	<p>increases.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. A wave of rent rises and/or evictions if the termination of a temporary rent freeze and eviction ban is not carefully managed.</li> <li>3. Challenges enforcing the proposed measures.</li> <li>4. Danger of residents being left in homes they can't afford with rent arrears accruing.</li> <li>5. A potentially negative impact on the supply of and access to private rented housing for those at the lowest end of the market.</li> <li>6. Depletion of supply of affordable housing available to people most at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.</li> <li>7. People on lower incomes being locked out of the private market altogether in the longer term.</li> <li>8. Creating the conditions for the emergence of a 'shadow' rental market acting outside of any regulatory regime.</li> </ol> <p>While the briefing provided by 'Crisis' asks for further clarification on how potential risks of an eviction moratorium and rent freeze might be addressed before such measures are adopted in Wales (the review of the Scottish policy and Green/White Papers in Wales should provide some of the clarity called for here), the same briefing supports the demands made in this Motion that "the most effective way of supporting people on low incomes to cover the cost of their rents is by the Westminster Government investing in Local Housing Allowance rates so they cover at least the bottom third of local rents. This is also the most targeted way to get support to those who need it most."</p> <p>This Motion calls on the Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, Councillor Andrew Morgan OBE, to make representations to Mel Stride MP, the Work and Pensions Secretary, and Michael Gove MP, the Housing Secretary, to work together to meet the following demands made by Shelter Cymru:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore housing benefit to cover at least the bottom 30% of local rents; and,</li> <li>• Scrap the benefits cap.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>ITEM 11. URGENT BUSINESS</b></p> <p>To consider any items which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.</p>	

**Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication**

**To: All Members of the Council**

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh