



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, 14TH JUNE, 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**

TIME	ITEM	PAGE(S)
5 Minutes	ITEM 1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.	
5 Minutes	ITEM 2. MINUTES To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the hybrid Council meetings held on 29 th March 2023 (4pm & 5pm) and 10 th May 2023.	5 - 42
5 Minutes	ITEM 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS	
OPEN GOVERNMENT:		

10 Minutes	ITEM 4. STATEMENTS 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	ITEM 5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS To receive Members questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2. (N.B a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for questions on notice.)	43 - 50
	OFFICERS' REPORTS	
25 Minutes	ITEM 6. FLOOD RESILIENCE To receive a report and presentation from the Director, Frontline Services.	51 - 72
10 Minutes	ITEM 7. COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 To consider the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications.	73 - 86
10 Minutes	ITEM 8. NOTICES OF MOTION REPORTING MECHANISM To receive the report of the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications.	87 - 92
10 Minutes	ITEM 9. THE TRANSITION TO A SINGLE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD (PSB) FOR CWM TAF MORGANNWG - JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS To receive the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications.	93 - 112
10 Minutes	ITEM 10. ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023 To receive the Democratic Services Committee Annual Report 2022/2023.	113 - 128
45 Minutes	ITEM 11. NOTICE OF MOTION To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors S Trask and K Johnson: Loneliness and social isolation is an issue that makes a huge impact on the mental health of people of all ages, and has grown in prevalence significantly since the coronavirus pandemic. The Welsh Government set up a fund of £500,000 per year for three years to cover the whole of Wales, in order to help tackle the	

	<p>issue. The fund so far has only allocated £22,727 per year in the past 2 years for the entirety of Rhondda Cynon Taf, that equates to around 9p per person in RCT. RCTCBC has each year allocated this to small local groups via its Neighborhood Network Fund. We applaud the work of these small community groups but feel that the current funding level from the Welsh Government is woefully insufficient to have any widespread impact.</p> <p>The original 3 -year funding package expires after the financial year 2023/2024.</p> <p>We therefore move that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This council notes that loneliness and social isolation is damaging the mental health of many residents of RCT, and Welsh Government funding does not go far enough to make a real difference. • This council calls on the Leader of the council to write to Eluned Morgan MS to request the funding level is increased from this year onwards to a level sufficient to make real difference in the lives of RCT residents who benefit from the funding. 	
	<p>ITEM 12. URGENT BUSINESS</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

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 29 March 2023 at 4.00 pm

This meeting was live streamed, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present in the Council Chamber:-

Councillor G Hughes (Chair)

Councillor S Evans	Councillor B Stephens
Councillor L Addiscott	Councillor M Ashford
Councillor R Bevan	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor G Caple
Councillor J Cook	Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor R Davis	Councillor V Dunn
Councillor E L Dunning	Councillor J Edwards
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor L Ellis
Councillor S Emanuel	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor B Harris	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor K Johnson	Councillor G Jones
Councillor G O Jones	Councillor W Jones
Councillor R Lewis	Councillor W Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon	Councillor C Lises
Councillor C Middle	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor N H Morgan	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor W Owen	Councillor M Powell
Councillor S Rees	Councillor J Smith
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor L A Tomkinson
Councillor S Trask	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor G L Warren	Councillor K Webb
Councillor M Webber	Councillor R Yeo

The following Councillors were present online:-

Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor S J Davies
Councillor A J Ellis	Councillor D Evans
Councillor R Evans	Councillor P Evans
Councillor H Gronow	Councillor A Fox
Councillor W Hughes	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor K Morgan	Councillor M Maohoub
Councillor M Norris	Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor D Parkin
Councillor J Turner	Councillor A O Rogers
Councillor R Williams	Councillor G E Williams
	Councillor D Wood

Officers in attendance

Mr P Mee, Chief Executive

Mr B Davies, Group Director Finance, Digital Services & Frontline Services

Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services and Democratic Services

Apologies for absence

Councillor J Barton Councillor P Binning
Councillor A Dennis Councillor S Evans
Councillor S Hickman Councillor S Powderhill
Councillor C Preedy Councillor D Williams
Councillor T Williams

93 Declaration of Interest

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

County Borough Councillor S A Bradwick – "I am Chair of the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service and I have opened stations where the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust have been based."

County Borough Councillor C Middle – "As a reservist, I will potentially be working with WAST"

County Borough Councillor G Hopkins – "I am a member of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board"

Note: A declaration of interest was made later in the meeting as follows:

County Borough Councillor K Morgan – "I work for Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board"

94 Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust

The Presiding Officer introduced the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust representatives and advised Members that they will be covering items as indicated on the agenda.

The Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Mr Jason Killens introduced himself and his colleague Ms Estelle Hitchon, Director of Partnerships and Engagement. Through the aid of PowerPoint slides the Chief Executive presented an overview of key matters under the following headings:

- EMS Roster Review

-Senior Stakeholder Briefing

-Cwm Taf Morgannwg (including RCT)

- Executive Summary
- Demand Data & Forecasting
- Extensive Staff Engagement
- Impact on Staff
- Patient Safety

- Clinical Outcomes
- Clinical Benefits of CHARU
- Quality & Data Performance
- Emergency Medical Services
- Patient Safety Incidents
- Background
- Emergency Medical Services – Demand & Capacity Review
- Review Findings
- Re-Rostering
- CTM
- Looking to the Future

The Leader of the Council thanked the representatives of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust for their presentation and virtual attendance at the council meeting and he paid thanks to the service and its staff for their dedication during the pandemic.

The Leader raised a query relating to ringfencing and he referenced a period of time when RCT had the worst ambulance response times in the whole of Wales and when statistics proved that ambulances called to other areas outside the county borough to attend a call, would not return to RCT which meant that the county had a poor response. The Leader asked when did the ringfencing cease?

The Leader also commented on his recent conversations with ambulance staff during his visit to the picket lines, when concerns were raised by them in respect of swapping from the rapid response vehicles to the Charu vehicles and the types of calls they were handling. Staff welfare had also been discussed in respect of changes to the rotas and cases when ambulance staff are unable to leave their shifts on time, often having to wait many hours to be relieved from their duties. Despite staff commitment to patient safety, this was a concern for many.

The Leader sought clarification on the inability to meet the target for red calls and queried if the county borough is likely to have a safe and reliable ambulance service.

The Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust responded to issues raised and commented on the frustration at losing a third of the fleet to delays at the emergency department when patients, who are medically fit for discharge, are unable to leave hospital due to the lack of social care or other reasons within the control of the Health Board. He also acknowledged the consequences of staff not finishing shifts and taking breaks on time.

The Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust advised that there has been investment and the ambulance crews have increased by 400 over the last three to four years, however, 253 of those have 'rightsized' the structural gap with 100 staff who have been funded non-recurrently by Government in the last calendar year. He added that the red category of activity has doubled, and the loss of the fleet is the single biggest reason for the inability to respond to calls in the community and for staff not finishing shifts on time and taking breaks. He added that the levers of control rest elsewhere.

The Chief Executive commented that having a national ambulance service that hits the targets regularly for red calls and has reasonable response times for

other categories is some way off. He added that there are ambitious plans to change the service delivery model but there is also a need to dramatically change the way the service responds to activity, to provide more advice to senior clinicians and to be able to send a specialist clinician to patients in the community, quickly and on every occasion. In response to ringfencing the Chief Executive advised that there are challenges which prevent an ambulance driving past a patient who needs a response. He assured Members that ringfencing does not now happen.

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor K Morgan commented that the increase in the number of 'red categories' is of concern, and she asked if a definitive timescale can be provided as to when the Charu service will be fully resourced. The Leader of the Opposition raised a query in respect of the local authority role and whether it can assist with hospital pressures that are impacting the Ambulance Trust and whether WAST can be more involved with the discharge plan at local authority level.

The Chief Executive advised that half of the Charu service is operating with the remaining half requiring funding, and approximately 100 posts yet to be funded. He added that as a result of the roster changes, there are now between 30-40 more ambulances on duty every day at peak times, which equates to 170 ambulances being available which increases capacity. He advised that over the next 20 years, there will be an increase in red category activity in part due to the higher rate of elderly patients who will need more intervention from the emergency care profession. In view of this, he added that changes to the service delivery model are required, with the less serious and acute cases being dealt with in the community to release the pressure on the emergency departments. He also advised that there exist examples of good work in acute settings such as in Cardiff where there has been a focus to reduce the emergency department handover delays has delivered significant improvement which could be replicated across other sites.

In response to the earlier query in respect of working better with the local authorities, Ms Estelle Hitchon, Director of Partnership & Engagement advised that the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust is not currently a member of the Regional Partnership Board in Cwm Taf and not covered by the Social Services & Wellbeing Act which is the main vehicle for driving the integrated partnership approach. She added that Welsh Government is looking to amend this through a consultation which will consider additional organisations of which the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust is one. She considered this would offer an additional opportunity to work collaboratively with local authorities, and other Cwm Taf partners to break down some of the current organisational boundaries.

The Leader of the RCT Independent Group, Councillor M Powell commented on improved engagement should Members have had sight of the power point presentation in advance of the meeting. He queried the survivability and discharge figures for the County Borough and also asked if the model referenced in Cardiff has been shared with other Health Boards such as the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board?

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor S Trask asked whether the Charu Paramedics will create a further structural gap within the Service and what plans are in place for staff retention in view of frontline staff leaving the service altogether.

The Chief Executive responded that there has been some increase in staff

leaving the front-line service, principally to join other areas within the Health Service or to the Private sector which is due to the increased remuneration or due to the current workplace experience. In respect of the best practice, he confirmed that it has been identified and shared directly but is a matter for the Health Board to adopt. He concluded that current models are being considered to ascertain whether, in the absence of further funding, is it better to reduce the number of emergency ambulances for the additional charu cars or whether to maintain the current levels. He added that the latter could potentially create a gap elsewhere.

The Leader welcomed further engagement with the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust to discuss local authority collaboration and support. He added that RCT figures for delayed discharge are the best in Wales although the Leader identified some areas of concern such as ringfencing ambulances and the increase in red calls which warranted further discussion.

The Presiding Member thanked the representatives from the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust for their attendance and advised that any further questions can be passed on to them via the Council Business Unit.

This meeting closed at 5.00 pm

**Councillor G Hughes
Chair.**

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

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 29 March 2023 at 5.10 pm.

This meeting was live streamed, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present in the Council Chamber:-

Councillor G Hughes (Chair)

Councillor S Evans	Councillor B Stephens
Councillor L Addiscott	Councillor M Ashford
Councillor R Bevan	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor G Caple
Councillor J Cook	Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor S J Davies	Councillor R Davis
Councillor V Dunn	Councillor E L Dunning
Councillor J Edwards	Councillor J Elliott
Councillor L Ellis	Councillor S Emanuel
Councillor D Evans	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor B Harris	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor K Johnson	Councillor G Jones
Councillor G O Jones	Councillor W Jones
Councillor R Lewis	Councillor W Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon	Councillor C Lises
Councillor C Middle	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor N H Morgan	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor W Owen	Councillor M Powell
Councillor S Rees	Councillor J Smith
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor L A Tomkinson
Councillor S Trask	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor G L Warren	Councillor K Webb
Councillor M Webber	Councillor R Yeo

The following Councillors were present online:-

Councillor P Binning	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor A Dennis	Councillor A J Ellis
Councillor P Evans	Councillor R Evans
Councillor S Evans	Councillor A Fox
Councillor H Gronow	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor M Maohoub	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor M Norris
Councillor D Parkin	Councillor C Preedy
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor A O Rogers
Councillor J Turner	Councillor G E Williams
Councillor R Williams	Councillor T Williams
Councillor D Wood	

Officers in attendance

Mr P Mee, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Group Director Finance, Digital Services & Frontline Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services and Democratic Services

Apologies for absence

Councillor J Barton Councillor S Hickman
Councillor S Powderhill Councillor W Hughes
Councillor D Williams

96 Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors J Barton, S Hickman, W Hughes, S Powderhill and D Williams.

97 Declaration of Interest

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

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 2023/24 "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."

(Note: The following declarations were made later in the meeting (Minute No's 103, 104 and 106 refer)

Councillor K Johnson in relation to Agenda item 7 -Treasury Management Strategy – "I am an employee of Transport for Wales"

Councillor J Brencher in relation to Agenda Item 8 – Capital Strategy Report 2023/24 – " My son is a Director of Transport for Wales"

Councillor K Morgan in relation to Agenda Item 10 - Cwm Taf Well-Being Plan 2023-2028- "I work for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board"

98 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 8th March 2023 as an

accurate reflection of the meeting subject to it being noted that Councillor H Gronow was in attendance online.

99 **Announcements**

The following announcements were made:

The Leader of the Council, Councillor A Morgan OBE, donated a cheque for the sum of £2,107.17 raised from the Festival of Remembrance to the Royal British Legion. Mr Richards, Chairman of the Pontypridd Royal British Legion, who was present to accept the cheque and extend his thanks to Council for their support.

Councillor A Roberts MBE congratulated two sisters from the ward of Gilfach Goch, Esme Walters who won the World Cup in a teen dance competition while her sister Verity Walters won the world cup in the dance doubles competition. Councillor Roberts also announced that Tyler Williams has won two World Championships in Kickboxing.

The Leader of the Opposition, County Borough Councillor K Morgan paid tribute to the late former Councillor Rita Moses. She served as a Councillor on the Cynon Valley District Council between 1987-1991 and served as County Borough Councillor for RCT Council between 1995-2004 and again between 2008-2012. She was at the centre of many community groups and as governor for the local schools. In 2000 she was Chairwoman /Mayor of RCT Council with her husband at her side and was very proud of this appointment. Councillor Morgan spoke of her passion for her community and passed her condolences to Rita's family and friends at this difficult time.

100 **Members' Questions**

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication advised that questions 8 and 9 would fall due to the absence of the Members asking the questions:

1) Question from County Borough Councillor T. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“Will the Council Leader please provide an update on flood prevention schemes in Cwmaman?”

Response of Councillor A Morgan OBE:

The Leader responded by confirming that Phase 2 (Flood Walling to watercourse upstream of highway bridge) of the Flood Alleviation works at Cwmaman has progressed well in 2022/23 through the detailed design and development phase which is now complete. He added that in December 2022, the Council submitted a bid for approval in principle from the Welsh Government for the construction phase, with a budget of £415k on their major projects pipeline for 2023/24.

The Leader advised that if approved in principle by the Welsh Government, which is expected in early April, the drawdown of this grant will be subject to a

further detailed grant application using an update of the current project business case once the actual costs are known from a tender process. Subject to the detailed grant application for the construction phase being successful, it is envisaged that works will commence on site in Summer of 2023/24.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor T Williams:

“What is the Council doing to raise awareness of the flood risk measures?”

Response of Councillor A Morgan OBE:

The Leader commented that a report to Cabinet outlined and agreed funding for an additional member of staff within the flood risk management team with the responsibility of engaging with residents and raising awareness across the communities of RCT. He added that as RCT has the highest proportion of surface water flood risk, 25% of the total risk across Wales, the intention is that all the areas mapped out to receive flood risk schemes will be identified for engagement and raising awareness amongst both local residents and businesses.

Question from County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor B. Harris:

“Could the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund Grants scheme for the Third Sector?”

Response of Councillor B Harris:

Councillor B Harris advised that the window for applications opened on 1st February 2023 and closed a little early (24.02.23) rather than 28 February as anticipated as it was fully subscribed. Councillor Harris provided the following updates with regards to the subscriptions:

UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund RCTCBC Community Grant – Final round 1 data:

- 133 applications assessed
- 91 applications approved with the **full £675,000** revenue allocated
- 42 declined

Councillor Harris advised that all 91 invoices received have been processed for payment with monitoring, reporting for the 91 successful applications commences on 31 March 2023.

With regards to RCTCBC - Community Grant – Round 2, Councillor Harris commented that information events have already taken place on 17th and 20th March 2023 in relation to the Medium and Higher Level Awards with approximately 250 online attendees. Eligibility is as it was for round one, with

additional outputs and outcomes added for 2023-25.

Councillor Harris commented that the application window will open on 1st April 2023 and closes 5pm on 12th May 2023 with details posted online on Council's dedicated UK SPF grant webpages. The Capital allocation for 2023-24 is £162,500 and the Revenue allocation for 2023-24 is £1,125,000. He added that all applications, across all levels:

- Lower Level - Applications for between £1,000 and £14,999
- Medium Level - Applications for between £15,000 and £49,999
- Higher Level - Applications for between £50,000 and £200,000

These will be considered in a competitive field during the week commencing 22nd May 2023 with a further application window is planned for early 2024-2025.

There was no supplementary question

3) Question from County Borough Councillor C. Middle to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

"Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the Council's programme to improve outdoor play facilities for children?"

Response of Councillor A Crimmings:

Councillor Crimmings advised that there were 13 play area projects in the 2022-23 programme, 12 of which have been completed and the final one is due to start very soon. The Council also had additional funding to develop two MUGA's - one in Councillor Middle's ward of Pen-Y-Graig, and also at Maritime Road in the Graig. She added that both MUGA projects have started, with the Pen-Y-Graig facility being completed very shortly. Both MUGA's will also be colour coated and line marked in the Spring after the new tarmac has settled.

In conclusion Councillor Crimmings advised that going forward, the programme for 2023-24 has been agreed, and a further 2 MUGA's will be developed, along with 10 play area refurbishments.

There was no supplementary question

4) Question from County Borough Councillor D. Grehan to the Cabinet Member for Prosperity and Development, County Borough Councillor M. Norris:

"Yn dilyn y 'problemau' gyda'r system gosod cartrefi yn Nhonyrefail yn ddiweddar, a'r dioddefaint sydd wedi dod yn sgil y system, ac o ystyried anniddigrwydd o bob plaid gyda'r drefn, a fyddai'r Cyngor yn teimlo ei bod yn briodol i drefnu sesiwn ar gyfer yr holl aelodau i drafod y system a'r polisiau sy'n arwain y penderfyniadau gosod eiddo?"

"Following the 'problems' with the housing letting system in Tonyrefail recently, and considering dissatisfaction from all parties with the system, would the Council feel it was appropriate to organize a session for all members to discuss

the system and the policies that guide the decisions?”

Response of Councillor M Norris:

Councillor Norris responded to the question by advising that a report on the Allocations Policy to was taken to the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in January where Members had a very robust discussion and there was challenge from Members of all political Parties. He added that the report also identified areas for the forthcoming review of the Allocations Policy for consideration, and it was agreed by Members that a further Scrutiny opportunity would be available once the revised allocations policy is drafted.

Councillor Norris added that the Head of Democratic Services has recently advised the Community Services Scrutiny Committee that such training will be provided, including a specific focus on the Housing Allocation scheme. This will be open to all Members to attend and Councillor Norris added that he would be encouraging all Labour Group Members to attend.

There was no supplementary question

5) Question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“Could the Leader please make a statement on the recent Ty Pennant/Catherine Street Car Park in relation to the Council taking over its operation”

Response of Councillor A Morgan OBE:

Councillor Morgan advised that the Council officially took over the operation of Catherine Street car park from its reopening on Monday, March 20th In 2022, NCP decided to end its contract for the running of the car park at short notice. He added that since then, the Council has worked with Trivallis to re-open it for visitors to the town - they needed to undertake a thorough cleaning of the facility, along with other maintenance activity. The car park reopened on March 20 and the Leader added that parking prices will be significantly lower than previously charged by NCP with long-stay parking charges are £1 for up to four hours, £2 for longer, in line with the Council’s standard charging for long-stay facilities.

The Leader explained that new ticket machines have been installed in the car park, along with signage showing the updated tariffs with Council car park season tickets (parking permits) are able to be used at this facility which is popular for those working in the town centre.

There was no supplementary question

6) Question from County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

“Could the Cabinet Member please outline what investment is planned to improve Darran Park?”

Response of Councillor A Crimmings:

Councillor Crimmings advised that Darran Park has recently received a set of brand new changing facilities for the sports teams using the pitch through a £225,000 investment. She explained that in addition to the provision of the changing rooms, work has begun to secure a contractor to replace the current sand filled astro turf pitch with a brand new 3G pitch with shock pad to service local teams, and this scheme will be delivered through a further £375,000 investment. The pitch will be partly funded by a Welsh FA grant to top up the significant investment from RCT Council.

Councillor Crimmings added that it is envisaged that this work will commence in May 2023 with a completion date of August 2023. The Leisure, Sport and Parks department will liaise with the local teams and the community regarding the development once the contractor is appointed and a plan of construction is finalised.

There was no supplementary question

7) Question from County Borough Councillor L. A. Tomkinson to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:

“Will the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the rollout of free school meals in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”

Response of Councillor R Lewis:

Councillor Lewis confirmed that the school meal services have continued to operate despite issues with staff recruitment and difficulties with the food supply chain. He added that in 2022/23, over 1.6M primary meals and 1.2M secondary meals were served across schools in RCT. Kitchen improvements undertaken in 3 secondary schools and 2 special schools as part of the planned capital programme during 2022/23.

Councillor Lewis advised that the Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) rolled out to eligible learners in nursery and all learners in reception and year 1 in 2022/23, with daily average of 2,571 meals served. In 2022/23, over 200,000 UPFSM's were served across the county borough.

Councillor Lewis commented that Capital works were completed in 38 primary school kitchens in 2022/23 to facilitate the implementation of Universal Free School Meals . Works to be undertaken in a further 63 primary schools in 2023/24. Recently, the Welsh Government also announced £9m of funding to offer eligible pupils free school meals until the end of the May half term holiday, which Councillor Lewis was sure would be welcomed by many families with the cost of living continuing to have an impact on residents.

There was no supplementary question

(Note: As previously indicated questions 8 and 9 would fall due to the absence

of the Members asking the questions)

10) Question from County Borough Councillor R. Davis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan:

“Can the Leader outline how many businesses in RCT will benefit from the Business Rate Relief Scheme, including through the £500 Local Business Rate Reduction Scheme that the Council is providing?”

Response of Councillor A Morgan OBE:

Councillor Morgan advised that based on the number of successful applications received in 2022/23, it is evident that around 650 businesses will qualify for both the Retail Leisure and Hospitality Relief (which is 75% rates relief) as well as the local rate relief support of up to £500 per business premises. He acknowledged that as some businesses did not make an application for either of these relief schemes in 2022/23 the Council is encouraging all business owners to check their eligibility by visiting the Council’s webpages and reading the information provided with their rates bill.

Councillor Morgan added that it is also the case that some 4,700 businesses will receive rate relief through the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme.

There was no supplementary question

11) Question from County Borough Councillor S. Rees to the Cabinet Member for Development and Prosperity, County Borough Councillor M. A. Norris:

“How is this Council supporting businesses across the Cynon Valley and throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf?”

Response of Councillor M Norris:

Councillor Norris commented that as the Leader had already outlined some of the financial support available to businesses in the previous question, he would refrain from repeating that information.

Councillor Norris outlined a couple of notable schemes and developments that have either recently been completed or are ongoing in the Cynon Valley:

- 20 modern small business units have been completed in Robertstown and are already home to 10 tenants with further tenants coming to some of the remaining units shortly. Interest has been high in occupying these units.
- The redevelopment of Guto Square in Mountain Ash was completed last year and this concluded the Regeneration Framework for Mountain Ash. This scheme brought a number of improvements to the town centre area with additional parking and public realm enhancements.

- Developing a draft strategy for Aberdare Town Centre with the informal engagement phase has been completed and the feedback from this will inform the Draft Strategy.
- Continuing to utilise WG Transforming Towns Placemaking Grant money to create new and improve existing high street premises in key town centres.

Councillor Norris added that the redevelopment of the Black Lion in Aberdare is a good example of where this has been successful already and this funding is available for schemes in town centres across the Borough.

Councillor Norris advised that there is lots of redevelopment across the county borough, and the Council is also continuing to administer Enterprise Support funding through its own Enterprise Investment Fund and Town Centre Maintenance Grant to help lever in private investment and develop the local economy.

There was no Supplementary Question

101 The Council Work Programme 2022/23

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications advised that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council scheduled for the 24th May 2023 will now take place on the 10th May 2023 at 4pm. He added that the advantage of an earlier AGM allows for the cycle of council business to commence as quickly as possible. The Service Director commented that details of the AGM will be shared with the Group Leaders following discussion with the Presiding Officer.

102 STATE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH DEBATE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2 the Presiding Officer stated that he had allocated 45 minutes for the item and would invite the Leader to address Council following which the Leader would respond to Members' comments on his Annual Report.

The Leader advised that each year his annual summary is delivered to full Council outlining what the Council has achieved over the last year and sets out what it wants to achieve moving forward.

The Leader of the Council advised that last year's debate was framed in the context of pandemic recovery with the Council now encountering austerity mark 2 with the Cost-of-Living crisis presenting challenges for residents and communities, and for the Public Sector. He alluded to the budget pressures with increased demand particularly on social care, energy prices, inflation and pay pressures.

The Leader referred to the Council's ongoing priority of climate change as it continues to take action to achieve the aim of being a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030. He

commented that the Council is making good progress and it continues to purchase 100% of its electrical energy supply from UK-based renewable sources. He added that despite challenges, the Council is still seeing significant levels of investment as it deliver on the manifesto commitments.

The Leader paid credit and thanks to all Council staff who continue to deliver services on a daily basis.

COST OF LIVING

The Leader advised that the Council continues to support residents in need through the seven Community Resilience Hubs, which were established at the beginning of the pandemic with support from partners. Over 500 residents have been supported between 31st Jan 2022 and 1st Feb 2023. Also, there has been a significant referral increase of 62% relating to help with shopping and emergency food support and providing information in relation to money and benefit guidance. He added that the Council has also provided thousands of pounds of food vouchers supporting families in difficulty. The Council continues to support food banks and local food schemes with grants between £500 and £1,500 being made available, and 35 projects have been funded since April 2022. The Leader acknowledged that the four main Trussell foodbanks across the county borough have been supported with £70k cash funding & £10k bulk buying of stock via Council's procurement since April 2022.

The Leader advised that the Council has 80 verified Welcome Centres, plus Libraries, which have been established as 'warm hubs' to support individuals and to date, 56 Winter Hardship Fund applications have been approved with a total of £82,688 paid out.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The Leader commented that 2022 has been another challenging year with social care under immense pressure across the board. Despite this, the Council and its frontline staff have continued to care and support the thousands of people to the best possible standard. Some initiatives such as the award-winning Stay Well@Home services have seen RCT Council and Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board leading the way and has helped avoid in-patient admission or supported discharge with the focus and aim remains to promote independence and support residents to live in their own home for as long as possible.

The Leader advised that the Council provides 15,000 hours of care and support each week to over 1,300 families. In February, Cabinet agreed projected £60m capital investment in 4 new Extra Care and residential accommodation homes to continue to modernise residential care services and meet people's changing needs. Also retaining 5 Council care homes. Additionally, there has been £30m ongoing investment in the Extra Care housing development programme and currently three schemes provide 140 beds. The Leader outlined the benefits for the Extra Care housing for couples with differing needs.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Leader referred to this area which is also under immense pressure, and which has received 25,412 requests to respond to families' well-being needs in the last year. He highlighted the work and demand on the Resilient Families service which continues to deal with increasing demand, likewise the number engaging with YEPS continues to rise with a 410% increase in 2021-2022 compared to the previous year. The Leader advised that the Council has continued with its pledge to deliver the hub vehicles

which are proving popular with young people as a safe space to engage with those at most risk.

PLAY AREAS

The Leader advised that the Council continues its pledge to improve every play area with 13 play areas having been completed in 2022/23 despite the difficulties in recruiting contractors, with a further £200k allocated for 2 further MUGAs in the new financial year.

LEISURE

The Leader commented that the Council has continued to invest in Leisure Services, and he added that RCT has one of the best in-house leisure offers in Wales and has not outsourced its leisure facilities but has continued invest in facilities by listening to staff and responding to residents' needs. The Council has exceeded its pre-pandemic numbers with over 10,300 members. The Council has delivered its 14th 3G pitch which opened at Baglan Fields in October with the facility in Darran Park 3G to commence shortly. The Leader added that the Council has achieved its commitment to deliver a 3G facility within a 3-mile radius of every household in RCT.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Leader referred to the Council's Biodiversity/Peatlands and how it continues to increase the number of sites left for biodiversity (particularly communal land and bypasses where there are wildflowers).

The Leader outlined some specific schemes such as:

Energy Support

The Council has supported over 60 heating grants which were completed in 2023 so far with a further 200 applications received.

Innovative Schemes

Taff's Well Thermal Spring was completed in the autumn and is the only thermal spring in Wales and is one of only four in the UK. It is now successfully delivering low carbon heating to pavilion and Ffynnon Taf Primary.

Approval Has been provided to undertake more feasibility studies for potential hydro-electric schemes at Treforest Weir and Dare Valley Country Park.

The Council has committed to reducing its footprint since 2009 and has spent over £10.5m on energy conservation projects. This had led to savings of over £2.3m a year for schools, care homes, leisure centres and corporate buildings, and reduced emissions by almost 6,000 tonnes.

Transport

The Council introduced EV Charging Strategy and has rolled out infrastructure across its Council car parks with a further roll out phase going forward shortly with further regional and WG funding to implement a number of fast chargers enable local residents to operate electric vehicles.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Coal Tips, Flood Risk Management, Drainage/Flood Alleviation

The Leader referenced huge investment in flood resilience and repairs from storm damage with £20M invested in damage repair on bridges such as the White Bridge,

the Castle Inn Bridge with bids for further flood investment to upgrading culverts and ensuring as much resilience as possible. He added that the Tylorstown Tip Phase 2 and 3 Receptor Sites are at Planning stage for permanent use, while Phase 4 contract has been awarded and preparations are underway for work to start in Spring.

Capital Programme and Infrastructure

The Leader commented that the capital programme in RCT has been substantial at £172M, a record figure for the Council with a review of its reserves and underspends to draw in any additional funds.

Major Projects & Metro

The Leader referred to the Council's support of the Metro improvements, the A4119 project is underway with the contract awarded, and work is progressing well on-site toward a summer 2024 completion

Strategic Projects

The Leader advised that the former M&S and Dorothy Perkins/Burton's buildings in Pontypridd town have been acquired and funding from WG has been secured to carry out the demolition works. The Muni redevelopment is in the final stages of the detailed design work and discussions are underway with the preferred contractor to enable works to begin on site by the Summer. He commented that the YMCA is also nearing completion shortly.

EDUCATION

Inspections

The Leader advised that there have been 13 core inspections between March – December 2022 with 84.6% of schools requiring no follow-up inspection. Based on published reports, 1 school is in Special Measures and 1 school in Estyn monitoring. The Leader extended his thanks to all school-based staff for their efforts and their continuing support to all young people following the pandemic.

Exam Outcomes

The Leader highlighted the following outcomes:

Key stage 4 outcomes in 2022 showed improvement in comparison to pre-pandemic levels.

A*-C grades - improvement of 5.8 % points across Wales and 7.1 % points increase in RCT.

A*-A grades - increase of 6.7 % points in Wales, and a growth of 7.4 % points in RCT.

Key stage 5 picture for the highest grades, A*-A, is particularly positive across RCT with all schools performing better than 2019 and nearly half performing better than 2021. RCT average is significantly above that of 2019 and slightly below that of 2021.

The Leader commented that in relation to A*-C grades - nearly all schools performed better in 2022 compared to 2019 which demonstrates the improving picture and positive inspection process.

Sustainable Communities for Learning (21st Century Schools) and Other Projects

The Leader advised that the Band B programme is in excess of £272m. In addition, only on Friday last week funding worth £15m was approved by Welsh Government for a new school in Glyncoch which has been championed by the local Member. The Leader commented that the upgrades and investment in schools across the county

borough is evident and clear, with three new schools being built in the south of the county borough.

Each of the Group Leaders proposed questions to the Leader on the following to which the Leader responded.

Councillor K Morgan referred to another difficult past 12 months for the communities of RCT and commented on the council priorities to serve its communities and the importance of listening to the responses of public consultations. Councillor Morgan referred to the mature approach of the co-operative agreement with Plaid Cymru at the Senedd which has supported many of the challenges. She commented that for the Leader's debate it may have been useful to use the remaining Members Questions from the earlier agenda item as a way of widening the debate.

Each of the Group Leaders proposed questions to the Leader some of which are as follows:

The importance of reviewing leisure facilities, especially storage, for the residents of RCT– The Leader responded that the Council is committed to supporting grass roots sports with capital investment in areas such as 3G pitches across the county borough. He added that Cabinet has met with residents to listen and address issues and with significant investment improvements have been made to changing rooms and other sporting facilities.

RCT's two tier education system – The Leader commented that the issue is the take up and insufficient number of students seeking classes with few secondary schools meeting the criteria for 6th Form provision (80 or more pupils). He added that the Council has amalgamated and made the necessary rationalisation of courses across its schools to provide the necessary offer of A Levels subjects.

Traffic issues/congestion within Pontypridd – The Leader advised that the introduction of the Metro will bring 24 trains through Pontypridd every hour which will impact on transportation within the Pontypridd area. Also, the Leader confirmed that proposals concerning bus improvements/council office accommodation would be announced shortly.

Metro (connectivity for rail services along the Church Village Bypass corridor) – The Leader provided assurance that Regional and Welsh Government funding has been made available for the extensions to the Hirwaun and the Northeast Cardiff Metro lines. He added that a number of options are being discussed for the Northeast Cardiff Line as part of the Weltag.

Refuse Collection Update (Replacement of single use plastic recycling bags/smaller food waste bags) – The Leader confirmed that new food recycling bags will be rolled out shortly and when the current stock is used and he added that in the right locations across RCT, the reuse recycling bags will work well and are better for the environment (replacing the single use bags with 'reuse' bags)

The Presiding Officer opened up questions to all Members:

Unadopted Roads Programme £126K – The Leader confirmed that a report regarding the continuation of the unadopted roads programme had recently been considered by Cabinet. The council has an annual programme which is well received.

Local Member involvement in Meithrin accreditation events – The Leader assured Council that all local Members would be invited to any accreditation events/openings in dual Member wards, but he added that any individual concern should be directed to him for a response.

Sports Investment – The Leader advised that the Council has a strong commitment to invest in sport across the county borough for football and rugby such as the 3G pitches with funding secured with the FA for the facility in Darran Park and for changing rooms to compliment the 3G pitches. He added that the Council has a commitment to promote and establish schools of excellence for both Hocky and Netball.

Resilient Families – The Leader acknowledged the individual Member's praise for the Council's Resilient Families programme and the Social Services Members Hotline with which he concurred, and he assured the Member that his positive comments would be relayed.

Social Care Services (Disabled Facilities Grant) – The Leader advised that over £4m of investment (320 grants) has been awarded over the last year.

Changes to Waste Services – The Leader commented that according to National figures 80% of residents' rubbish should be recycled but added that the Council does have mechanisms in place to support families who may struggle with changes to the waste services . He added that the Council also offers a free, weekly nappy collection scheme and food waste scheme for residents and will shortly be rolling out a scheme to recycle residents' small electrical appliances such as irons or toasters from a designated drop off location. The Leader explained that most other local authorities will be moving to a three weekly or in some cases, a four-weekly collection.

Update on the budget pressures – The Leader advised that the current level of budget pressures is relentless with the Council's financial teams who ensure that all available external funding has been accessed. The Leader explained that the level of council tax was raised to 3.9% in view of the developing and additional social care pressures, and it was important to set a balanced budget. He added that discussions with Welsh Government will be ongoing to deliver free school meals in view of the rising food costs. He warned that the pressures will continue for some time and will be challenging to the local authority to tackle overspends.

Community Wardens – The Leader advised that the community wardens are working well within the communities across the county borough but reminded Council that they are not a replacement for South Wales Police officers but will work with them. He reminded Members that the Council will soon have 14 community wardens and 10 PCSO's on the ground working with the Police, tackling anti-social behaviour, issuing fines where appropriate for offences such as dog fouling but generally being a friendly face and a support in the community for residents.

Budget Reserves –The Leader proposed that a presentation would be arranged in the future for all Members to gain an understanding of the Council's reserves. He added that some of the Council's reserves will be used in the budget for the forthcoming year £9.1M, (£5M for energy reserve/£4.1M transitional reserve) £3m provided direct support for families with the cost-of-living payment, some support may be needed to support the third sector with its energy costs. The presentation will explain how the reserves are used, insurance funds, the general reserves fund, the transitional reserves, where the flexibilities are and how the capital programme is funded for

highways, unadopted roads etc.

The new Pontypridd 3-16 School – The Leader invited the Member to correspond with him directly on this issue to address any concerns and he advised that he would shortly be visiting the new site.

Accessibility/Mobility Issues (dropped kerbs)- The Leader advised that the Capital Programme has identified 50 footway schemes where dropped kerbs will be installed where it is needed. He added that £15K is available to address dropped kerbs in town centres and key locations such as GP Surgeries and community centres. Recently in Llanharan, match funding was provided with the community council to expedite this with discussion underway in Tonyrefail.

Pontypridd Town Regeneration – The Leader advised that further proposals would be announced in due course with regards to the regeneration in Pontypridd.

Unadopted Roads – The Leader confirmed that work on the unadopted roads programme was continuing (£300K) and in the Member's ward (Llwydcoed) work would be carried out.

The Presiding Officer thanked the Leader for his debate and responses to Members.

103 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services presented the annual report advising that the Treasury Management borrowing and investment activities are highly regulated and carried out in line with the relevant professional Codes of Practice. He added that carrying out a forward review of the Treasury Management strategy before the beginning of the new financial year is a specific requirement as is a formal mid-year review and a year-end backward review.

The Group Director advised that, as set out in the report, the Council has £297.6m of borrowing at an average interest rate of 3.07% with a borrowing requirement for next year of £19.6M to fund the now agreed capital programme and will supplement this by fixing in longer term debt if the economic environment and interest rate projections dictate and in line with advice from the Council's Treasury Management advisers and in line with the Council's under borrowed position, which the Council has continue to hold for a number of years and from which the council continues to be rewarded with a lower net capital financing cost.

The Group Director advised that in terms of the Council's investment strategy, the Council continues to lend to public sector and Government backed organisations only recognising the priority of security and liquidity over yield.

The Group Director referred Members to paragraph 16 for the Council's Treasury Management indicators and limits and the MRP Policy set out at section 17 which continues to write off the Council's supported borrowing on a straight-line basis over 40 years.

Following discussion of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy, 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.
2. Approve the updated Treasury Management Policy Statement (Appendix 1) and Treasury Management Clauses (Appendix 2).

(**Note:** Councillor K Johnson declared an interest (Minute No.97 refers) –“I am a employee of Transport for Wales”)

104 CAPITAL STRATEGY REPORT 2023/24

The Group Director of Finance, Digital & Frontline Services presented the annual statutory Capital Strategy Report 2023/24 which set out a high-level overview of how the capital expenditure, which was agreed at the last Council meeting, is financed, as set out at section 6 of the report. The Group Director added that it includes the Council’s capital financing requirements (CFR) which is the underlying need to borrow to fund the Council’s historic and current spending plans. As referenced previously, the Group Director advised that this shows a significantly under borrowed position in line with the advice of Treasury advisors.

The Group Director advised that both the Treasury Management Strategy and the Capital Strategy statement will be presented to the Governance & Audit Committee for specific review and scrutiny in line with the relevant codes of practice.

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

(**Note:** Councillor J Brencher declared a personal interest (Minute No. 97 refers) – “My son is a Director of Transport for Wales)

105 THE COUNCIL'S PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/24

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 2023/24 Pay Policy Statement. The Director referred Members to paragraphs 3.1 to 3.2 which set out the legal context for the need for the pay policy and paragraphs 4.1-4.9 which references the background to the pay policy, the need for Full Council approval and refers to the Pay Policy Statement at Appendix A to the report.

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

106 CWM TAF WELL-BEING PLAN 2023-2028

The Chief Executive presented his report which sought Council’s endorsement of the draft Well-being Plan 2023-2028 for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public

Services Board region. The Public Services Board is required to prepare and publish a local well-being plan which sets out the well-being objectives for the region and the steps it will take to meet those objectives. This is required every five years and the plan is based on the evidence gathered through a comprehensive well-being assessment which is described at section 6 of the report.

The Chief Executive provided details of the development of the plan which involved a comprehensive consultation process with stakeholders and communities and included consideration of the draft plan by the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 20th January 2023 as part of the consultation exercise and a final draft was considered by Cabinet on the 27th March 2023.

The Chief Executive advised that the plan has two main objectives, derived from the wellbeing assessment, the first concerns healthy local neighbourhoods and the second objective is sustainable and resilient local neighbourhoods. He added that the full plan, attached at Appendix A, is a high-level strategic plan with detailed delivery plans that will be developed over the coming months as the two Public Services Boards in the region are merged into a single Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board with a revised delivery structure.

The Chief Executive commented that the Council will reflect on these objectives as it develops its new Corporate Plan for 2024 onwards and he advised that subject to Council endorsing the plan, the next stages would include implementing the new governance arrangements for the new regional Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board, invest in the Board development with its new membership, develop more detailed delivery plan, arrangements around evaluation and outcome measures and ensure there is ongoing engagement and involvement with stakeholders and communities throughout.

Following a detailed discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-Being Plan as outlined within Appendix A of the report.

(**Note:** Councillor K Morgan declared an interest (Minute No.97 refers) –“I work for Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board”)

107 Notice of Motion

11A To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors D Grehan, A Rogers, K Morgan, S Evans, A Ellis, H Gronow, D Wood, P Evans:

This Council values issues raised in Notices of Motion whereby their main purpose is to influence positive outcomes that are in the wider public interest of our residents but are the responsibility of other organisations.

While the Council has a mechanism for reporting the outcomes of Notices of Motion, which refer the matter to another committee or officers, there is currently no reporting mechanism to inform members of progress of motion adopt representations being made on behalf of the Council.

There have been many examples of this Council resolving, cross party, that the Leader of the Council writes to Ministers at a Welsh and UK Level to make known our concerns on matters that affect our constituents, with no formal mechanism in place to report the progress or outcomes of such actions for the

public record.

Another example is our request that more families who are living in fuel poverty would benefit if the relevant Welsh Minister would widen the eligibility criteria of the NEST programme. In March of 2022 we resolved that the Leader of the Council write to the Social Housing Providers in the County to ask them if they would give additional time of at least 2 weeks following the funeral of a loved one to enable relatives to remove their possessions from their property. There are many other examples as the record will show. What we haven't had, as Full Council, is feedback on any of these matters to assess how effective they have been in achieving the desired outcomes.

This Council therefore resolves to:

Request that the Proper Officer presents a report for consideration by the Constitution Committee in advance of the Council Annual General Meeting, which considers options and mechanism for formally reporting the outcome and effect of the Council's representation made by members following the adoption.

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

11B To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors D Grehan, S Evans, K Morgan, A Rogers, A Ellis, H Gronow, D Wood, P Evans:

This Council acknowledges that child poverty levels in Rhondda Cynon Taf continue to rise, and are likely to worsen due to the cost of living crisis.

Council further acknowledges the link between child poverty and educational attainment.

Council believes that squeezed Local Government budget settlements are of concern, and risk impacting targeted interventions to tackle both child poverty and educational attainment.

Despite the Welsh Government previously setting targets to eradicate child poverty by 2020, child poverty in Rhondda Cynon Taf continues to increase with some electoral divisions continuously amongst the worse in the UK. Despite the best efforts of teaching staff in RCT there is a clear link between this poverty and educational attainment.

Mitigating the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis, hot on the heels of the covid pandemic and the devastating floods of 2020 across the county borough must now be a priority for the Council, and steps should be taken to address the well evidenced link between poverty and educational attainment. All learners must be given every possible opportunity to receive the excellent education that the Council is eager to deliver going forward.

In order to make early and effective progress on the scourge of increased poverty on our children, the Council resolves to:

- Continue to protect school budgets and ensure they are fully funded for the cost pressures they face and further ensure that children are able to catch up following the impact of the pandemic.

- Continue to work with the Welsh Government to deliver key poverty interventions as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement between Plaid Cymru and Welsh Labour which includes the roll-out of Universal Free School-Meals for all Primary School Pupils.

The Council further requests that a report is presented to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

- Which proposes options to develop a Child Poverty Strategy, to be implemented across all relevant services including education
- Ensure Children, Learners, Parents, Teaching Staff, Teaching Unions and relevant others, as well as appropriate Scrutiny Committees, are invited to participate in the development and scrutiny of the Child Poverty Strategy prior to adoption.

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 R Lewis, A Morgan OBE, 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. 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, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, M. Maohoub, C. Middle, N. H. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, D. Parkin, S. Powderhill, C. Preedy, S. Rees, A. Roberts MBE, 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.

The amended motion read:

This Council acknowledges that child poverty levels in Rhondda Cynon Taf continue to rise and are likely to worsen due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Council further acknowledges the link between child poverty and educational attainment.

Council believes that squeezed Local Government budget settlements are of concern, and risk impacting targeted interventions to tackle both child poverty and educational attainment.

Despite the Welsh Government previously setting targets to eradicate child poverty by 2020, child poverty in Rhondda Cynon Taf continues to increase with some electoral divisions continuously amongst the worse in the UK. Despite the best efforts of teaching staff in RCT there is a clear link between this poverty and educational attainment.

Mitigating the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis, hot on the heels of the covid pandemic and the devastating floods of 2020 across the county borough must now be a priority for the Council, and steps should be taken to address the well evidenced link between poverty and educational attainment. All learners must be given every possible opportunity to receive the excellent education that the Council is eager to deliver going forward.

In order to make early and effective progress on the scourge of increased poverty on our children, the Council resolves to:

-Note that in the Last 10 years - total schools' budget increased by 28% compared to overall budget increasing by 11%. Equated to an extra £25M provided to schools compared to other Council services

-Note that School budget for 23/24 is £187M (7.9% increase) from 22/23 compared to an increase of 6.6% in Welsh Government settlements for RCT.

-Note that published comparative data demonstrates that RCT's budgeted expenditure per pupil for 2022/23 at £6,867 is higher than the Wales average at £6,773.

-Continue to prioritise school budgets and ensure that children are able to catch up following the impact of the pandemic.

- Continue to work with the Welsh Government to deliver key poverty interventions as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement between Plaid Cymru and Welsh Labour which includes the roll-out of Universal Free School-Meals for all Primary School Pupils.

The Council further requests that a report is presented to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

- Which proposes options to develop a Child Poverty Strategy, to be implemented across all relevant services including education
- Ensure Children, Learners, Parents, Teaching Staff, Teaching Unions and relevant others, as well as appropriate Scrutiny Committees, are invited to participate in the development and scrutiny of the Child Poverty Strategy prior to adoption.

In accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 12.6, a vote was taken in respect of the amendment to the Notice of Motion, and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the amendment. Following further discussion in respect of the substantive motion, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the motion.

(Note: Councillor K Morgan wished to have it recorded as voting against the amended and substantive notice of motion)

This meeting closed at 8.00 pm

**Councillor G Hughes
Chair.**

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



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the Twenty Eighth Annual General hybrid meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 10 May 2023 at 4.00 pm.

This meeting was live streamed, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present in the Council Chamber:-

Councillor G Hughes (Chair)

Councillor S Evans	Councillor B Stephens
Councillor L Addiscott	Councillor M Ashford
Councillor P Binning	Councillor R Bevan
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor G Caple	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor J Cook
Councillor R Davis	Councillor S J Davies
Councillor V Dunn	Councillor A Dennis
Councillor J Edwards	Councillor E L Dunning
Councillor L Ellis	Councillor A J Ellis
Councillor D Evans	Councillor S Emanuel
Councillor R Evans	Councillor P Evans
Councillor H Gronow	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor S Hickman	Councillor B Harris
Councillor W Hughes	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor W Jones	Councillor G Jones
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor C Lises	Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor C Middle	Councillor M Maohoub
Councillor N H Morgan	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor W Owen	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor M Norris	Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor M Powell	Councillor G Stacey
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor S Trask
Councillor J Smith	Councillor G L Warren
Councillor L A Tomkinson	Councillor M Webber
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor R Williams
	Councillor D Wood

The following Councillors were present online:-

Councillor J Barton	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor Sera Evans	Councillor A S Fox
Councillor K Johnson	Councillor S Rees
Councillor A Rogers	Councillor D Parkin
Councillor J Turner	Councillor K Webb

Councillor D Williams Councillor R Yeo

Officers in attendance

Mr P Mee, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services and Democratic Services

Apologies for absence

Councillor J Elliott Councillor G O Jones
Councillor K Morgan Councillor S Powderhill
Councillor C Preedy Councillor G E Williams
Councillor T Williams

1 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

2 Election of the Presiding Member

RESOLVED – that County Borough Councillor G. Hughes be elected as Presiding Member for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

County Borough Councillor G. Hughes resumed the Chair following his appointment and addressed Council in his role as Presiding Member.

3 Elections & Appointments

To elect Two Deputy Presiding Members of the Council

RESOLVED – that County Borough Councillor Sheryl Evans be elected as the first Deputy Presiding Member for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – that County Borough Councillor Barry Stephens be elected as the second Deputy Presiding Member for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

To receive an address from the retiring Mayor of the Council 2022-2023.

The retiring Mayor, County Borough Councillor W Treeby, commented that the past year as Mayor had been a privilege for her. She thanked the residents, communities and officers who had supported her and her charities. Her key highlights of the year had been the engagement with the pupils from schools across RCT and meeting with the RCT Veterans.

Councillor Treeby advised that she had secured two grants to the value of £24k for both the Welsh Air Ambulance and the Stroke Society and she thanked everyone who had helped her achieve those. She wished the incoming Mayor well for the future.

In response Members paid tribute to the retiring Mayor for her efforts and hard work during her term of office.

To elect a Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2023-2024.

RESOLVED – to elect County Borough Councillor W Lewis as Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2023-2024.

The Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2023-2024 commented on the huge honour to serve as Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf. She paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Treeby for her hard work and commitment to the role. Councillor Lewis announced that during her term of office as Mayor for RCT, her consorts would be Mr Christopher Lewis and Dilys Jouvenat and her chosen charities would include the Brain Tumour Research, the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation, SANDS (Stillbirth and Neo Death Society) and Hope Rescue, as well as supporting the upcoming National Eisteddfod and Armed Forces.

Councillor Lewis looked forward to working closely with the incoming Deputy Mayor.

The Presiding Member and Group Leaders/Deputy Group Leader wished the incoming Mayor well for her forthcoming year.

To appoint a Deputy Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2023 – 2024.

RESOLVED – to elect County Borough Councillor D Owen-Jones as Deputy Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the Municipal Year 2023-2024.

The Deputy Mayor congratulated the new incoming Madam Mayor and for affording him the honour of being elected as Deputy Mayor for 2023-24.

Councillor Owen-Jones confirmed his consort as his daughter, Abbey Louise Owen-Jones.

To appoint a Leader of the Council.

RESOLVED – that County Borough Councillor A Morgan, OBE, be appointed Leader of the Council for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

County Borough Councillor A Morgan, OBE, extended his sincere thanks for his re-appointment as Leader of the Council. He advised that he has been Leader of RCT Council since 2014 and his reappointment means he has been the longest serving Leader of the County Borough. He acknowledged the honour of also being elected as Leader of the WLGA since 2019.

The Leader paid tribute to the Council staff who have worked tirelessly through many recent challenges to support the communities of RCT. He commented on the support he receives from the Labour Group in addition to that of senior officers who work hard to address any concerns raised and deliver the targeted investment that has been set alongside the Council's Corporate Plan. The

Leader hoped that the increased capital investment and projects across the communities of RCT would continue to make a difference to the residents and communities of RCT. He acknowledged the challenging times ahead but added that they would be tackled with the support of all Members, including cross party support. He commented on the efforts to keep the council tax rises as low as possible which has been achieved by the Council for seven out of the last nine years.

In conclusion, the Leader paid special tribute to his deputy Leader, Councillor M Webber, who has provided support to him throughout and he thanked all Members of the Council.

To confirm the appointment of the Leader of the largest opposition party, as the Leader of the Opposition.

RESOLVED to confirm the appointment of County Borough Councillor K Morgan as Leader of the Opposition.

The Group Leaders congratulated both the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition.

4 Executive Functions

RESOLVED to note the Cabinet and their individual designations, as follows:-

- County Borough Councillor A Morgan, OBE, Leader & Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Investment
- County Borough Councillor M. Webber, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business
- County Borough Councillor M. Norris, Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity
- County Borough Councillor R. Lewis, Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation & Welsh Language
- County Borough Councillor G. Caple, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care
- County Borough Councillor B. Harris, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Communities
- County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings, Cabinet Member for Environment, & Leisure
- County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon, Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Corporate Services

5 The Political Balance of the Council

Through his joint report with the Director of Legal Services, the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication, advised Members of the outcome of the

review of the Political Balance of the Authority for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

The Service Director highlighted the outcomes of the review undertaken and the available seats which require appointment by the respective political groups as set out in tables A and B of the appendix to the report. He advised that Section 5 seeks Council's determination of the allocation of the notices of motion for the new municipal year.

It was **RESOLVED** –

1. That the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies, as detailed in the Appendix to this report, be adopted;
2. That the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject to any subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees, being referred to Council; and
3. That the allocation of Notices of Motion for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year is as follows: -

Labour - 12
Plaid Cymru -5
RCT Independent Group - 2
Conservatives – 1

6 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2023-2024

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication presented his report which sought the appointment of the Council's Committees for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED to appoint the under-mentioned Committees for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year:

- a) Planning and Development Committee (x11 Members)
- b) Licensing Committee (x11 Members)
- c) Appointments Committee (x5 Members)
- d) Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee (x5 Members)
- e) Overview and Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- f) Education & Inclusion Services Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- g) Community Services Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)

- h) Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- i) Governance & Audit Committee (x6 Members)
- j) Democratic Services Committee (x17 Members)
- k) Standards Committee (x2 Members)
- l) Constitution Committee (x8 Members)
- m) Pension Fund Committee (x5 Members)
- n) Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee (x2 Members)

7 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS 2023-2024

In his report the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication sought consideration to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Council's Committees for the Municipal Year 2023-2024, and it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To appoint the following Members to the posts of Chairs and Vice-Chairs:
 - Planning and Development Committee
Chair – Councillor S Rees
Vice Chair – Councillor W Lewis
 - Licensing Committee
Chair – Councillor A S Fox
Vice Chair – Councillor G Stacey
 - Appointments Committee
Chair – Councillor S J Davies
Vice Chair – Councillor M Webber
 - Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee
Chair – Councillor R Williams
Vice Chair – Councillor L Addiscott
 - Pension Fund Committee
Chair – Councillor M Norris
Vice Chair – Councillor M Ashford
2. To appoint County Borough Councillor W Jones as Chair and County Borough Councillor M Webber as Vice Chair of the Democratic Services Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the 'Measure');
3. To agree that the responsibility for the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee be delegated to the Governance & Audit Committee as set out in the report;
4. That the appointment of Chair of the Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee be allocated to the Plaid Cymru Group;

5. That in accordance with the nominations received from the appropriate Political Groups, that the following Members be appointed as Chairs to the under-mentioned Scrutiny Committees together with the appointment of Vice-Chairs: --

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Overview & Scrutiny	J Edwards	B Stephens
Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity	C Middle	G Warren
Community Services	J Bonetto	R Davis
Education & Inclusion	Sera Evans	K Webb

6. To note the appointment of the Deputy Presiding Member, Councillor Sheryl Evans as the Vice-Chair to the Constitution Committee;
7. To note that following the transition to a single Public Services Board (PSB) for Cwm Taf Morgannwg, a report outlining the new scrutiny arrangements will be brought before Members in June which will reflect the revision of the Joint Scrutiny arrangements currently in place;
8. To note the following Chairs roles should be in receipt of a Senior Salary in line with the recommendations of the independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) Annual Report (Up to a maximum of 19 overall): and

Planning & Development Committee
Licensing Committee
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee
Community Services Scrutiny Committee
Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity
Appeals Committee
Democratic Services Committee
Pension Fund Committee

9. To note the need to publish and submit the schedule of remuneration for 2023-24 by 31 July 2023.

8 QUASI JUDICIAL BODIES/AD-HOC COMMITTEES 2023-2024

The Service Director Democratic Services presented his report in respect of appointing Members to the Quasi-Judicial Bodies/Ad Hoc Committees for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year subject to the political balance of the Council as set out at section three of the report.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the following:

1. The Local Education Authority Governors (Appointments) Committee (5 Members). (4 Labour, 1 Plaid Cymru):

County Borough Councillors R Lewis, G Stacey, J Brencher, S Hickman and

Sera Evans

2. Voluntary Early Retirement/Redundancy Panel (5 Members) (4 Labour, 1 Plaid Cymru):

County Borough Councillors M Webber, L Tomkinson, J Bonetto, G Jones and D Grehan.

3. Joint Consultative Committee (4 Members):

County Borough Councillors A Crimmings, R Lewis, A Morgan OBE and M Webber

9 OUTSIDE BODIES

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication presented his report to consider the appointment of Members to sit on Outside Bodies and Non-Executive Joint Committees. The Service Director referred Members to the vacancy on Trivallis following the resignation of Councillor B Stephens from the position:-

It was **RESOLVED** – that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following Outside bodies for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year

- a) Age Concern Cymru (Councillor G Caple)
- b) Consortium Local Authority Wales (C.L.A.W.) (Councillor C Leyshon)
- c) Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Committee (Councillor A Morgan, OBE)
- d) Edward Thomas Charity (Councillors R Lewis, R Williams, A S Fox and A Dennis)
- e) Joint Council for Wales (Councillors M Webber and C Leyshon)
- f) The Alliance (Councillors G Jones, E Dunning and D Parkin)
- g) Tower Site Liaison Committee (Councillors L Addiscott, S Emmanuel and A Rogers)
- h) Welsh Local Government Association (Councillors A Morgan, OBE, M Webber, C Leyshon, R Lewis and A Crimmings)
- i) Welsh Local Government Association Executive Board (Councillors A Morgan, OBE and M Webber)
- j) Business in Focus (Councillor M Norris)
- k) Trivallis (Councillor C Middle)

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the Councils representatives to the following non-executive Joint Committees:

- a) South Wales Fire & Rescue Authority (Councillors S Bradwick, A Roberts, G Holmes and G Williams)
- b) Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (Formerly known as Brecon Beacons National Park Authority) (NPA) (Councillor S Emmanuel)
- c) South Wales Police Crime Panel (Councillors B Harris and L Addiscott)

(Note: The following Members wished to have it recorded that they voted in favour of appointing Councillor A O Rogers as the representative to the Bannau

Brycheiniog National Park (Formerly known as Brecon Beacons National Park Authority) (NPA) : Councillors S Evans, D Grehan, A Ellis, P Evans, H Gronow, D Wood, K Johnson, S Trask, M Powell, C Lises, P Binning and D Evans)

10 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023-2024

Through his report, the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication sought the approval of the attached Calendar of Meetings for 2023 – 2024 set out at Appendix 1 for the Municipal Year and he referred to the element of flexibility that would be required going forward as the calendar is subject to change based on the demands of council business.

The Service Director referred to the results of the survey which was carried out in line with Section 6(2) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and are summarised at section four of the report. He added that in respect of the statutory requirement to survey Members in respect of the timings of meetings, the feedback is not binding and is, ultimately, a matter for the respective Chairs and in accordance with the demands of council business.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To agree the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2023-24, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report;
2. To note that this draft calendar is subject to change, based upon the demands of business over the coming municipal year. Any changes or additions will be undertaken in consultation with the appropriate committee chairs; and
3. To agree that with the exception of the Planning and Development Committee, meetings will not be convened during School holidays, subject to urgent business needs.

11 Annual Reports 2022/23

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication presented his report which provided Council with the Annual Reports of the Governance & Audit Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year for information with the opportunity for the Chairs to contribute to the business of the two committees for the municipal year.

Members received Mr Christopher Jones Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee and County Borough Councillor J Edwards, Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to present their respective reports for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of both the Governance & Audit Committee and Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

This meeting closed at 5.15 pm

**Councillor G Hughes
Chair.**

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

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

14 JUNE 2023

MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the order of questions in respect of the Members Questions on Notice, following the amendment to the process agreed at the [Council AGM 2019](#).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Receive the Questions and any supplementary questions proposed, as in accordance with the running order advised upon in 4.3 of the report, which should not exceed a 20-minute time period.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As agreed at the Council AGM on the 15th May, 2019, Members agreed to amend Council Procedure Rule 9.2 in respect of Members Questions on Notice. A further amendment was made to Council Procedure Rule 9.2 at the Council AGM on the 26th May 2021 in respect of supplementary questions following expiry of the 20 minute time duration. [Council AGM 2021](#)

4. MEMBERS QUESTION ON NOTICE

- 4.1 The closing date for receipt of Members Questions on Notice to the Council Business Unit for the Council meeting on the 14th June 2023 was 5pm on the 1st June 2023.
- 4.2 Thirty questions were received and put forward to the Council Ballot held on the 6th June 2023, to determine the running order of the questions at the Council Meeting.
- 4.3 The results of the ballot are outlined below, however since undertaking the ballot, the Proper Officer received notification from Councillor N. Morgan, advising that he would like to withdraw his question, which was drawn at 2. The revised order of questions is listed below:

Number	Corresponding Question
1	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. E. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>Ahead of the winter and the preparations for severe weather, will there be an opportunity for Members to have engagement and briefings on the preparations?</p>
2	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Cook B.E.M. to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“What support is available for food banks and similar local schemes in the coming year?”</p>
3	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Emanuel to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader please make a statement on capital investment in Rhondda Cynon Taf?”</p>
4	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Hughes to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Council Business, County Borough Councillor M. Webber:</p> <p>“Can the Deputy Leader provide an update on the Council’s apprenticeship and graduate programmes?”</p>
5	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Powderhill to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the works to improve Ynysangharad War Memorial Park?”</p>
6	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“In light of the funding shortfall facing councils across Wales for next year, please can the Leader provide an update on discussions with other Council Leaders and Welsh Government?”</p>
7	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. O. Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p>

	<p>“We have heard in recent months that the combined impacts of both Brexit and the war in Ukraine are having a profound effect on our construction industry. What does this mean for the Council and how can we mitigate these impacts?”</p>
8	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor A. J. Dennis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“What support and signposting services are available to residents in regards to the cost of living crisis?”</p>
9	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D.R. Bevan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Will the Leader update on the progress of the Tylorstown tip works?”</p>
10	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor A. Ellis to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R Lewis:</p> <p>“There is no access to Welsh medium pre-school nursery provision for the children of Ynysybwl and Glyncoch. What is the council doing to replace this service and promote Welsh language in the area?”</p>
11	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor L. Addiscott to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Following the wet winter we had, potholes have been an issue for councils across the country. Can the Leader therefore provide an update on the Council’s ongoing programme of investment in the County’s Highways network?”</p>
12	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor K. Morgan to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business, County Borough Councillor M Webber:</p> <p>The Welsh Government Protocol relating to appointments of councillors to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority states that “<i>priority should be given to selecting Councillors who have wards within the Park boundary, (in our case, Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos), and that selection of Councillors with electoral wards some distance away from the Park should be avoided where possible</i>”.</p>

	<p>“Will the Cabinet Member explain why the majority of RCT council chooses to ignore this protocol and to ignore what is best for the communities living in BBNP by nominating and appointing a councillor from outside of the park boundary as evidenced at the Council AGM in 2022 and again in 2023?”</p>
13	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor V. Dunn to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader provide Members with an update on the rollout of the Council’s Community Wardens team?”</p>
14	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor E. L. Dunning to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement on outreach work and detached youth service provision in Rhondda Cynon Taf, particularly in the Ystrad area?”</p>
15	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor M. Maohoub to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Council Leader provide an update on the implementation of the Real Living Wage and the Council’s progress on becoming an accredited Real Living Wage employer?”</p>
16	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor K. Johnson to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services County Borough Councillor C Leyshon:</p> <p>“Please can I have an update on EV charging installations throughout the county borough and how usage is being encouraged?”</p>
17	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Smith to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“Following the granting of planning approval, can the Cabinet Member outline the next steps for the development of a brand new school in Ferndale for YGG Llyn-Y-Forwyn?”</p>
18	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p>

	<p>“How is the Council working with and supporting local food banks through the effects of the Cost of Living crisis?”</p>
19	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Wood to the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, County Borough Councillor R Harris:</p> <p>“What is RCT doing to help mitigate anti-social behaviour in Pontypridd town?”</p>
20	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Williams to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services, County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon:</p> <p>“Would the Cabinet Member provide a further update on the progress of EV charging point rollouts in RCT?”</p>
21	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor T. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Could the Leader provide Councillors with an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund Community Fund?”</p>
22	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor C. Preedy to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member please give an update on the usage of the National Lido of Wales’ and any information on how long the summer season will be this year?”</p>
23	<p>Question from the County Borough Councillor M. Powell to the Leader of the Council County Borough Councillor A Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Could the Cabinet portfolio holder for highways say what measures or proposals the RCT Highways department are considering to alleviate the dire traffic congestion problems that the Pontypridd Town centre has been enduring for many, many years please?”</p>
24	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader make a statement on bus services in RCT and outline the latest position on providing support to providers?”</p>

25	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Parkin to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the progress of play area improvements across the County Borough?”</p>
26	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Will the Leader update on the commitment to fund 10 PCSOs in RCT?”</p>
27	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Would the Leader update on the progress of the Welsh Government funded walking and cycling route along the river through the Rhondda Fach?”</p>
28	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor C. Lises to the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, County Borough Councillor R Harris:</p> <p>“What plans does RCTCBC have for any form of memorial to those who lost their lives due to Covid 19 or are experiencing long Covid”.</p>
29	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader please give a roundup on the Winter Welcome Centre scheme in RCT and provide information on whether the scheme was successful in supporting residents?”</p>

4.4 At the Council meeting a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for Questions on Notice. Any questions that are not dealt with in this time limit shall fall. Any questions on notice not answered will need to be resubmitted to the Proper Officer for the next full Council meeting in accordance with these rules.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

5.1 The amendments to the Council Procedure Rule in respect of Members Questions was considered and agreed at the Council’s AGM 2019 and AGM 2021, following consultation with the Constitution Committee.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The amendment to the Council procedure rule taken forward at the Council AGM, allows the opportunity for more Members to ask a question at Council

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 9.1 The opportunity for Members to propose questions at Council meetings allows Members to receive information which potentially detail the Council priorities. It also embraces the Future Generations Act as all work and decisions taken by Council seek to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the County Borough.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Detailing the procedure for Members Questions on Notice assists in transparency for both Members and for public engagement.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

14 JUNE 2023

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION.**

Item: MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Background Papers

[Council AGM 2019.](#)

[Council AGM 2021](#)



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

COUNCIL

14th JUNE 2023

FLOOD RISK AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE FOLLOWING STORM DENNIS IMPACTS OF FEBRUARY 2020

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – FRONTLINE SERVICES, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (CLLR A MORGAN OBE)

Author: Roger Waters, Director – Frontline Services

1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- (i) Update members on the Council's actions to mitigate flood risk since Storm Dennis, together with an overview of works undertaken to replace and upgrade flood affected public infrastructure. This short report will be supported by a presentation to members.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Council notes the content of the report and the presentation.

3. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 To update members on the work that has been ongoing in response the devastation caused by Storm Dennis, including progress against the actions set out in the report of the Chief Executive to Cabinet on 18th December 2020. [Report.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

4. **BACKGROUND**

4.1 During February 2020, Wales was hit by four major storms:

- Storm Ciara – 8 – 9 February 2020;
- Storm Dennis – 15 – 17 February 2020;
- Unnamed Storm – 21 – 24 February 2020;
- Storm Jorge – 28 February – 1 March 2020.

- 4.2 The devastation caused by these storms, which combined to generate the wettest February on record, is unprecedented in RCT, with around 1500 residential and business premises suffering from fluvial and pluvial flooding.
- 4.3 The report to Cabinet, referred to above, followed a report to Council on 25 November 2020, which covered the reports published by Natural Resources Wales in response to the flood events. [Report.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 4.4 The Chief Executive's report set out eleven recommendations and progress against these recommendations is updated via the Council's quarterly Performance Reports. For ease of reference, an overview of progress more specific to Frontline Services is included at Appendix 1.
- 4.5 In addition, and in accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, RCT as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has produced Section 19 Reports on all applicable flood incidents. Further information is available online and these reports have been subject to the Council's Scrutiny processes. [Flood Investigation Reports | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](#)
- 4.6 The response to the physical impacts of the storms on our civil infrastructure has been wide ranging and substantial, but it is acknowledged that much more work is needed to reduce the risk of flooding and it is further acknowledged that it is not possible to eliminate the risk of flooding.
- 4.7 The scope of the response has extended across water courses, culverts, river walls, bridges, highway drainage, landslips, coal tips and highways reconstruction. Funding has been secured from a number of sources including directly by RCT.

The main external funding sources since Storm Dennis and up to the current financial year are as follows: -

- Replacing and Upgrading Damaged Infrastructure; Direct grant from Welsh Government related to Storm Dennis (£42.419M).
- Flood Risk Management Initiatives; Annual Small Scale and Large Flood Risk Management Grants (£14.343M)
- Upgrading Highways Drainage; Welsh Government Resilient Roads Grant (£4.750M).
- Coal Tip Safety; Welsh Government Annual Coal Tip Safety Grant (£8.707M to the end of 2022/23 with a further £11M anticipated this year)
- The external funding sources above are supported by the Council's own resources as match funding (£2.785M)

- 4.8 The total cost of addressing the physical impacts related to Storm Dennis addressed by external (WG) grant funding is therefore of the order of £84.004M. Whilst the specific Storm Dennis funding programme is concluding, the other programmes will continue year on year.

Appendices 2-4 set out specific detail related to each of the areas of programme expenditure and the associated infrastructure and works.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report outlines the programme of public infrastructure works arising directly and indirectly from Storm Dennis and the significant Welsh Government grant funding that has been secured to support these programmes.
- 5.2 Grants related to Flood Risk Management and Resilient Roads schemes are annual Wales-wide grants that involve bid processes that are subject to elements of RCT match funding. Annual Welsh Government grants are also awarded to meet the costs of our Tip Safety programme.
- 5.3 Works to Council buildings affected by flooding, support for businesses and residents, both physical and financial, are outside the scope of this report.

6. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1 The report updates Council on delivery programmes to address the physical impacts of Storm Dennis on public infrastructure and the mitigation of flood risk. The programmes are being delivered in compliance with prevailing legislation.

7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 8.1 There are no consultation implications aligned to this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The programmes highlighted in this report are being delivered in accordance with relevant prevailing legislation.

10. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 This investment programme supports the Council's Corporate Plan Priority 'Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play'.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 This report sets out the programmes of work undertaken to rectify the damage done by the unprecedented storm events of February 2020, together with the programmes being delivered by Flood Risk Management to mitigate the risks of future flood events.

- 11.2 The amount of work undertaken is amplified in the accompanying presentation to Council. The repair and upgrade works will conclude during the current financial year.
- 11.3 Due to our unique topography and geography, RCT has the highest risk of surface water flooding of all local authorities in Wales, so we recognise the programmes of work related to Flood Risk Management will need to continue to move forward at pace.
- 11.4 The work undertaken in repairing and upgrading public infrastructure, together with the ongoing FRM programmes have, and will continue, to reduce flood risk across the county borough. However, it must be emphasised that we cannot eliminate flood risk.
- 11.5 It is therefore imperative that other complimentary actions continue, as set out in Appendix 1, and wider measures to reduce the impacts of Climate Change continue to be prioritised.

Appendix 1; Progress on Recommendations Arising from the Report to Cabinet of 18 December 2020

At its meeting on 18 December 2020, Cabinet received a report comprising an overview of the Council's response to Storm Dennis. At this meeting, Cabinet agreed a series of recommendations to enhance the Council's short and long term responses to extreme weather events and which limit the impact of flooding on those communities most at risk. Since then, the Council's progress in implementing the recommendations has been considered by Cabinet as part of the Council's quarterly performance reports and scrutinised by Overview and Scrutiny Committees [Q3 for illustrative purposes](#). Progress and Risk Controls have also been reflected in the Council's Strategic Risk Register, [Q3 for illustrative purposes](#). These reports are separate to the standalone Flood Risk reports considered by Cabinet e.g. the review of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in [November 2022 and](#) by Overview and Scrutiny Committee which recently considered the Audit Wales national report 'A Picture of Flood Risk Management' [at its meeting in March 2023](#).

This focus by officers, elected Members and partners in Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales has enabled significant progress in delivering the plan emerging from the recommendations since 2020 which has been robustly monitored and scrutinised. High level progress on recommendations actioned by Frontline Services includes

- Putting in place a Strategic Flood Risk Board, chaired by the Council's Leader and comprising representatives from the Council, Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government. The Board provides the direction in the collaborative approach to meet the immediate and ongoing challenges associate with flood risk.
- Completing all [Section 19 Flood Investigation reports](#) pertaining to Storm Dennis. The flood investigation reports highlight high flood risk residential and industrial areas, information on the flooding/rainfall event, findings and recommended long term alleviation and mitigation actions.
- Putting in place a new Flood Support Team comprising of an Enforcement Officer and a Flood Risk Awareness and Support Officer to support landowners, residents and businesses in high-risk flood areas.
- Increasing the number of staff in our Pluvial Drainage Team, from 20 to 34.
- Completing 65 projects or major project stages in flood alleviation works between 2021 and 2023. The £10.33M investment in this work was funded by a combination of the Council, Welsh Government Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (WG F and CERM) grants and the Welsh Government Resilient Roads Fund.
- Achieving 'Approval in Principle' (AIP) of 15 major project stages for works in 2023/24, as a part of the [Welsh Government Flood and Coast Erosion Risk Management Programme](#). The value of these 15 project stages is £3.765M. AIP has also been approved for 13 Small Scale schemes totalling £1.151m. Resilient Roads Fund has been confirmed

at £0.9M and RCT funding at £0.75m. The total investment for 2023/24 is estimated at £6.566M.

- Completing 332 Flood Resilience Projects for residential properties in flood high risk areas between 2021/23.
- Putting in place an [Emergency Control Centre](#) (ECC) to support the coordination of timely, accurate information and data that informs critical strategic and operational decisions emerging from a monitoring network of 42 locations. Each location has either CCTV, telemetry sites, or both, installed which provide information on water levels of key culverts, outlets and other drainage systems. The equipment at the locations now includes 38 cameras, 31 telemetry sites and 7 rain gauges.
- Maintaining and optimising key infrastructure across the County Borough in the event of other extreme weather events. Work to maintain and further enhance current infrastructure is ongoing as part of service delivery arrangements.
- Including natural flood management arrangements within the Council's Climate Change Strategy '[Think Climate RCT](#)' agreed by Cabinet in June 2022.

All actions set out within the Plan in 2020 for Frontline services have now been completed and/or overtaken by events.

Increased resources are in place to help to tackle the expected extreme weather events in the short and longer term, the focus on technology and infrastructure to prevent and minimise the significant impact arising from flood events, stronger collaboration with partners to manage and mitigate the risks and the increased involvement of residents and communities whose voices have helped to shape our work and future plans.

Management, adaptation and mitigation of flood risk remains a priority for the Council. The response to extreme weather events will remain on the Council's Strategic Risk Register for 2023/24 and beyond.

Further, since the original plan was agreed by Cabinet in 2020, the Council has agreed its Climate Change Strategy '[Think Climate RCT](#)'. Among other things, this Strategy acknowledges the changes in weather that will impact on the environment and ecosystems within RCT and puts in place our commitments to minimise flood risk and put in place green infrastructure and nature based solutions that will increase flood defences and support the management and minimisation of flood risk.

As reported to [Cabinet in November 2022](#), the development of a revised Local Flood Risk Strategy and Action Plan is now in progress and be published to meet the revised Welsh Government deadline of March 2024. '[Think Climate RCT](#)' will be central to its development.

Appendix 2; Flood Risk Management Programme (including Major Schemes Pipeline, Small Schemes and Resilient Roads Schemes)

Scheme/Location	Activity/Work	Number of Schemes completed per Financial Year			
		2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022	2022 - 2023	2023- 2024
Flood Risk Management – Major Schemes	OBC/BJC/FBC & Works (15% Match Funding)	0	3	11	19
Small Scale Projects	Detailed Design & Construction project < £200k	15	19	15	13
Resilient Road Grant	Detailed Design & Construction related to Transport infrastructure resilience	34	11	9	11
Total		49	33	35	43*

*in progress.

Flood Risk Management - Major Schemes – WG Pipeline for Grant

Scheme	Location	Activity/Work (2022/23) BJC = Business Justification Case OBC – Outline Business Case FBC- Full Business Case	Current Status
Peat Bogs Restoration	Treherbert	BJC Development and Optioneering	Completion 23/24
Glenboi Pumping Station	Mountain Ash	FBC – Construction	Ongoing
Nant Gwawr (Phase 2)	Aberaman North	OBC Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Ongoing
Oakland Terrace	Cilfynydd	OBC Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Ongoing
Abertonllwyd Road	Treherbert	OBC Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Ongoing
Pentre FAS	Pentre	OBC Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Ongoing
Treorchy FAS - (Phase 2)	Treorchy	FBC - Detailed Design and Development	Commencing 23/24
Cwmaman Phase 2	Aberaman South	Full BJC - Construction	Commencing 23/24
Pentre FAS	Pentre	FBC - Detailed Design and Development	Commencing 23/24
Turberville Rd - Porth	Porth	Full BJC - Detailed Design and Development	Commencing 23/24
Maes y Ffynon FAS	Aberaman North	Full BJC - Detailed Design and Development	Commencing 23/24
Nant Gwawr (Phase 2)	Aberaman North	FBC - Detailed Design and Development	Commencing 23/24
Abertonllwyd Road	Treherbert	FBC - Detailed Design and Development	Commencing 23/24
Cwmbach Canal FAS	Cwmbach	OBC Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Commencing 23/24
Trehafod FAS	Trehafod	OBC Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Commencing 23/24
Cefn Pennar Road - FAS	Cwmbach	BJC - Preliminary Design & Development.	Commencing 23/24
Gwernifor And Kingscraft St - FAS	Mt Ash	Full BJC - Construction	Commencing 23/24
Tirfounder/Bro Teg Road - Phase 2	Cwmbach	Full BJC - Construction	Commencing 23/24
Arfyn Terr, Tylorstown - FAS	Tylorstown & Ynyshir	FBC - Detailed Design and Development	Commencing 23/24

Afon Cynon/Wellington St	Aberdare	OBC Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Completed 22/23
Afon Cyno/Wellington St	Aberdare	FBC - Detailed Design and Development	Completed 22/23
Upper Bronallt Terrace	Aberaman	FBC - Detailed Design and Development	Completed 22/23
Upper Bronallt Terrace	Aberaman	FBC - Construction	Completed 22/23
Treorchy FAS - (Phase 2)	Treorchy	OBC Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Completed 22/23
Treorchy FAS - (Phase 1)	Treorchy	FBC BJC - Construction	Completed 22/23
Cwmaman Phase 2	Aberaman South	OBC Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Completed 22/23
Cwmaman Phase 2	Aberaman South	FBC - Detailed Design and Development	Completed 22/23
Glenboi Pumping Station	Mountain Ash	FBC – Detailed Design and Development	Completed 22/23
Turberville Rd - Porth	Porth	BJC - Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Completed 22/23
Maes y Ffynon FAS	Aberaman North	BJC - Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Completed 22/23
Park Lane FAS	Trecynon	Full BJC - Detailed Design and Development	Completed 21/22
Park Lane FAS	Trecynon	Full BJC - Construction	Completed 21/22
Upper Rhondda Strategic Flood Risk Area	RCT	OBC Development– Preliminary Design & Development.	Completed 21/22

Small Scale Projects <£200k Individual Flood Alleviation Schemes (FAS)

Scheme	Location	Activity/Work	Current Status
Jones Street - Culvert Relining	Treorchy	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
Dyffryn Road	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
Telemetry	Various	Expansion of the Ordinary watercourse Telemetry across RCT	Commencing 23/24
Nant Cae Dudwg - Inlet Upgrade	Cilfynydd	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
Nant Y Fedw - Scour Repair	Abercynon	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
Baglan Street - Culvert Relining	Treorchy	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
Afryn Terrace	Ferndale	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
Heath Terrace (Central Inlet) – (Design Only)	Ynyshir	Detailed Design Phase	Commencing 23/24
Penrhys Rd	Ystrad	Detailed Design Phase	Commencing 23/24
Brook Street – Blaenrhondda	Treherbert	Detailed Design Phase	Commencing 23/24
Victor Street - Mt Ash	Mt ash	Detailed Design Phase	Commencing 23/24
Tynywaun - Relining	Treherbert	Detailed Design Phase	Commencing 23/24
Ynyshir Road	Tylorstown & Ynyshir	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
Bryn Ifor Inlet Upgrade	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Plantation Road	Abercynon	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Cardiff Road, Aberaman	Aberaman	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Campbell Terrace - Mt Ash	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Granville St -Allen sT mt ash	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Fernhill Abercwmboi	Fernhill	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Troed y Rhiw/Fforest Road- Inlet Upgrades	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Victor Street, kingscraft st Mt Ash - inlet	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21

Painters Row, treherbert - Inlet	Ynyswen	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Pentre (Volunteer st) FAS (Advanced Works - Pleasant Street)	Pentre	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Cwmbach – phase 2	Cwmbach	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Granville Terr – phase 2	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Nant y fedw	Abercynon	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
“Pretty Ponty”	Pontypridd	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Property Flood Resilience Program Phase 1	Various	Construction Phase	Completed 20/21
Pentre (Volunteer st) FAS (Advanced Works - Nant Y Pentre Inlet)	Pentre	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Allen St, Mt Ash	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Mt Ash A4059 Upper catchment scour	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Heath Terrace	Ynyshir	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Turberville Rd - Porth	Porth	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Tyn-Y-Wern	Tonyrefail	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Standard View	Ynyshir	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Nant Cae Dudwg	Cilfynydd	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Mostyn Street	Abercwmboi	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Cefn Pennar Road	Cwmbach	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Abercwmboi - Pit Cottages Inlet	Abercwmboi	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Cross street	Ynyshir	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Glan Ffrwd	Cymmer	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Royal oak	Cilfynydd	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Property Flood Resilience Program Phase 2	Various	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Trifounder Rd	Cwmbach	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Monitoring equipment	Varuous	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Nant Y Fedw	Abercynon	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22

Rhydyfelin	Rhydyfelin	Construction Phase	Completed 21/22
Jones Street - Culvert Relining	Treorchy	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 22/23
Dyffryn Road	Mt Ash	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 22/23
Kingcraft St,	Mt Ash	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 22/23
Telemetry	Various	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23
Bryn Tail Rd	Rhydyfelin	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23
Cae Felin Parc West	Hirwaun	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23
Baglan St	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23
Masefield Way	Rhydyfelin	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23
Tanycoed Tce	Aberaman South	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23
Cemetery Rd, Glynaff	Treforest	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23
Gwernifor St, Mt Ash	Mt Ash West	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 22/23
Nant Y Fedw	Abercynon	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23
Pentre - Structural Renovation/Relining	Pentre	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23
Brynhyfred Street	Ynyswen	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23
Quarry Road	Pontypridd	Construction Phase	Completed 22/23

Resilient Road Grant - Alleviate the effects of climate change (flooding) on transportation infrastructure

Scheme	Location	Activity/Work	Current Status
Maes y Ffynon /Cardiff Rd,	Aberdare	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Cwmbach Industrial Estate,	Cwmbach	Construction Phase	Completed 2021-22
Aberdare Bypass	Aberdare	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2020-21
Aberdare - Asda Roundabout	Aberdare	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2020-21
Bronallt Terrace - Phase 3	Abercwmboi	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Rhigos Road - Nant Cnapiau	Rhigos	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Rhigos Road - 2 x Culverts	Rhigos	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2020-21
Abercynon Road to A4059 New Road	Abercynon	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2020-21
A4059 - Abercynon - Mt Ash	Abercynon	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Bends Low Point (A4059)	Cwmbach	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Mt Ash Hall (A4059)	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Build Out, Mt Ash (A4059)	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Overflow Culvert (A4059)	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Cynon Valley Monitoring Stations	Various	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Nant y Ffrwd (A4059), Mt Ash	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Pipe Crossing, Mt Ash (A4059)	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21

Plantation Road, Abercynon	Abercynon	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Mount Street, Aberaman	Aberaman	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
A4233 Porth Relief Road, Porth	Porth	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Nant y Gwyddon Road, Llwynypia	Gelli	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Tonypandy Bypass A4058 Trealaw R/A- Dinas Rd	Tonypandy	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2020-21
Tonypandy Bypass A4058 Tonypandy R/A- Trealaw R/A	Tonypandy	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2020-21
Tonypandy Bypass A4058 Asda- Tonypandy R/About	Tonypandy	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Ynyshir Cycle Path	Ynyshir	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
A4119 bypass Ynysgrug roundabout Tonypandy to Coedely	Coed Ely	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Mynydd-Yr-Eos Penygraig	Penygraig	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Rhondda Valley Monitoring Stations	Various	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
A4058 - High Street Treorchy	Treorchy	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
A4058 - Pentre Pump Station Review	Pentre	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2020-21
Tudor Road, Ton Pentre	Ton Pentre	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Oxford St, Nantgarw - Highway Drain Collapse	Nantgarw	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Maindy Road, Ton Pentre	Ton Pentre	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Rhigos Mt Rd	Rhigos	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Bwlch Mt Rd	Maerdy	Construction Phase	Completed 2020-21
Aberdare - Asda Roundabout	Aberdare	Construction Phase	Completed 2021-22

Bwllfa Road, Cwmdare	Cwmdare	Construction Phase	Completed 2021-22
Monitoring Stations	Various	Construction Phase	Completed 2021-22
A4058 Pentre Road	Pentre	Construction Phase	Completed 2021-22
A4061 Abertonllwyd Street	Treherbert	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2021-22
B4278 Pontypridd Road	Pontypridd	Construction Phase	Completed 2021-22
B4278 Cemetery Road, Porth	Porth	Construction Phase	Completed 2021-22
A4093 Blackmill Road, Hendreforgan	Hendreforgan	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2021-22
B4278 Llwynhelyn Road	Porth	Construction Phase	Completed 2021-22
Margaret Street, Pontygwaith	Pontygwaith	Construction Phase	Completed 2021-22
Glenboi Mt Ash, Highway Drainage Improvements (ph1 and ph2)	Mt Ash	Construction Phase	Completed 2021-22
Rhigos Road - 2 x Culverts	Hirwaun	Construction Phase	Completed 2022-23
A4059 Abercynon - Mt Ash	Mt Ash East	Construction Phase	Completed 2022-23
A4061 Abertonllwyd Street	Treherbert	Construction Phase	Completed 2022-23
A4059 Aberdare Bypass (Harriet St to Penywaun)	Aberdare West	Construction Phase	Completed 2022-23
B4275 John Street	Aberaman South	Construction Phase	Completed 2022-23
A4061 Rhigos Mountain Road	Treherbert	Construction Phase	Completed 2022-23
Lewis Street	Aberaman North	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2022-23
Llanwonno Road	Ynysir	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2022-23
B4278 Gilfach Road	Tonyrefail West	Detailed Design Phase	Completed 2022-23

A4058 Tonypandy - Porth (RV5)	Trealaw/Porth	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
A4058 Tonypandy - Porth (RV4)	Trealaw/Porth	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
Lewis Street (New)	Aberaman North	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
St Luke's Road, Llwyncelyn (New)	Porth	Detailed Design Phase	Commencing 23/24
Mill Street (New)	Tonyrefail East	Detailed Design Phase	Commencing 23/24
Ynyshir Road (New)	Ynyshir	Detailed Design Phase	Commencing 23/24
Llanwonno Road (New)	Ynyshir	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
Llwyncelyn Industrial Estate (New)	Porth	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
Cymmer Road	Porth	Detailed Design Phase	Commencing 23/24
A4058 Trehafod (New)	Cymmer	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24
B4278 Gilfach Road (New)	Tonyrefail West	Construction Phase	Commencing 23/24

Appendix 3; Storm Dennis Infrastructure Repairs/Upgrading

Storm Dennis Schemes		Status	Works Year	23/24 Spend	Comments
Hopkinstown Wall Phase 1	Pontypridd	Complete		-	Complete
Sion St Wall	Pontypridd	Works stage	2022/23 2023/24	£7k	Works nearing completion. Following delay in Cadw approval, river window missed for final small section of repointing. To be completed early 2023 embargo
Berw Rd Wall	Pontypridd	Design	2023/24	£400k	Works delayed to 23/24 due to clash with Berw Road (Whitebridge) refurbishment. Works split into 3 zones of priority. Awaiting quotations – 09/06/2023
Tramway Culvert	Aberdare	Complete	2021/22	-	Complete
Afon Dar Culvert	Aberdare	Complete	2021/22	-	Complete
Ynysangharad Park Cable Stay	Pontypridd	Complete		-	Highly Commended in ICE awards
Blaencwm River Wall	Blaencwm	Works stage	Ph1 20/21 Ph2 21/22 Scour 22/23/24	-	Main works complete. Final section of scour to be completed 23/24
Penydarren Tramroad Bridge	Aberdare	Works stage	21/22/23/24	£700k	Planning and SMC applications submitted. Walters re-engaged for phase 2. Cadw approval in place for phase 2 scheme. Awaiting final costs from Walters and planning approval. Due to restart on site end of June 23.
Ynyshir Community Route	Ynyshir	Complete	2021/22		Complete
Footbridge on FP72	Ynysybwl	Complete	2022/23		Complete
Mill Farm Footbridge	Ynysybwl	Design	2022/23	£15k	Liaison with Welsh Water undertaking the work. No firm programme date but update received indicates design now moving forward with scheme due early 23/24 financial year.
Gelligaled Park Bridge	Ystrad	Works stage	2022/23/24	£450k	Scheme awarded to Centregreat. Emergency closure of bridge enacted 15/07/2022 following site visit identified collapsed wingwall section. Bridge reopened

					02/09/2022. Works restarted on site 15/05/2023
Nant Clydach Bridge	Ynysybwl	Complete	2022/23		Complete.
Gelli Culvert	Gelli	Design stage	2023/24	£360k	Quotations being received for repairs in 23/24
Pontypridd Rd Wall	Porth	Ph1 complete Ph 2 complete	Ph1 20/21 Ph2 22/23		Complete
Campbell Terrace Culvert	Mountain Ash	Design stage/Works Stage	Emergency repairs completed Ph2 - 23/24	£415k	Repair scheme being designed focusing mainly on headwall alterations to improve hydraulic performance Culvert barrel stonework repairs awarded to EDS, commencing on site ~ June pending OWC approvals
Maindy St	Ton Pentre	Commissioning	23/24	£1.25m	Scheme being designed by Redstart. Tender return date of 13/06/2023
Feeder Pipe Bridge	Abercynon	Design stage	23/24	£3.5m	Demolition 20/21, renewal 23/24, at design stage with SCAPE Framework.
Berw Rd Bridge	Pontypridd	Works stage/ Design stage	22/23 / 23/24	£2.8m	Phase 2 Works on site. Larger volumes of parent concrete repairs required causing delays. Latest programme indicates Phase 2 completion late 2023. Phase 3 scheme to be run in parallel to phase 3. CRL picking this up as CE to main scheme. Concrete repairs far in excess of those originally determined causing significant overall delays. All river works awarded to CRL and being mobilised.
Castle Inn Bridge	Treforest	Works stage	22/23/24	£4.3m	Planning and Listed Building Consent obtained. Contract awarded to Knights Brown. Works significantly delayed due to DCWW diversion and issues with temporary works design. Bridge will not be fully demolished in 22/23 but several aspects of scheme to be completed. FRAP approved for early start due to nature of works. Demolition commenced end of April 2023. Overall completion October 2023.
Tonypandy River Wall	Tonypandy	Works stage	23/24	£930k	Scheme awarded to Centregreat for summer 23 works. FRAP received and works on site

Nant Gelliwion Bridge	Pontypridd	Design stage	22/23/24	£700k	Design ongoing. Likely now on-site September 23. Tender return date of 09/06/2023
Tynybryn F/Bridge & Culvert	Tonyrefail	Ph1 Complete Ph2 Design stage	Ph1 20/21 Ph2 23/24	£3.3m	SCAPE framework scheme. Enabling works to start 1 st week of April. Main scheme design in final stages. Main works programmed to start June 2023. Updated estimate increases main works cost ~£350k.
Hopkinstown River Wall Phase 2	Pontypridd	Works stage	23/24	£240k	Scheme awarded to Hammonds for summer 23. Works started on site 15/05/2023.
Maerdy Mountain Landslip	Maerdy	Complete	21/22/23	£15k	Complete.
Gyfeillion Wall	Hopkinstown	Works stage	23/24	£110k	Scour repairs awarded – delayed due to Barry Sidings 3 RW. Updated scour survey following vegetation removal shows concerns over wall. Updated PI completed following veg removal which indicates less concerns than expected. Awarded, existing FRAP in place, works due to commence 12/06/2023
Mill Road Culvert	Ynysybwl	Design Stage	23/24	£300k	Very difficult to repair – ongoing review of procurement methods. Additional hydrology procured to prove repair method is appropriate. Scheme being compiled for completion in summer 23
Treferrig House Footbridge	Tonyrefail	Commissioning Stage	23/24	£170k	Scheme delayed due to landowner and stakeholder discussions. Plan now agreed by all parties. Works to take place summer 23
Maesy Ffynnon F/Bridge		Complete	22/23	£2k	Works complete
Pantybrad F/Bridge		Works stage	23/24	£35k	Works Awarded. Awaiting update quotation from Hammonds, works summer 23
Cross Street R/Wall	Ynysyhir	Works stage	22/23	£1500	Main works complete.
Various Scour Repairs	Various	Works/Design Stage	22/23/24	£300k	Abercynon Rec Wall – survey complete. Works in 23/24. Awarded to EDS Caroline Street – Awarded. Works complete

					Cwm Clydach Bridge – Awarded. Works complete Harcourt Terrace – Awarded. Works in 23/24 Miskin River Bridge – Awarded. Works complete Ty Mawr– Awarded. Works complete Manchester Place Culvert - Works complete Playing fields footbridge scour – awaiting quotes Bridge street scour – awaiting quotes
Gelli Park River Wall		Works stage	23/24	£750k	Scheme awarded to Centregreat for summer 23 works. FRAP in place. Works started 15/05/2023
Heol Y Graig Culvert	Rhigos	Design Stage	22/23/24	£250k	Clearance works complete. DCWW temporary truss being installed to protect asset prior to start date and during works themselves. OWC approval imminent for main relining works
Llanwonno Road Bridge	Tylorstown & Ynyshir	Works Stage	23/24	£70k	Scheme awarded. Works for summer 23
B4273 Ynysybwl River Wall Phase 2	Ynysybwl	Works Stage	23/24	£525k	Scheme awarded to DT Contracting. Pre-start meeting ~late May.
Brook Street River Wall	Porth	Commissioning	23/24	£30k	Debates with NRW as to needs for permanent FRAP for additional skin of blockwork to substandard
Cynon Trail River Wall	Mountain Ash	Works Stage	23/24	£3m	Works on site

Appendix 4; Coal Tip Safety Programme

Tip	Works Description
Tylorstown Landslip Remediation – RH01 Upper Llanwonno Tip	<p>Phase 1 Emergency Drainage Works 2020</p> <p>Phase 2 and 3 removal of landslip material from the river channel and valley floor to Receptor sites A and B 2021</p> <p>Phase 3a – repair to north slope below landslip. Drainage Channel reinstatement and infill to scour channels. Included contractor designed soil nailing and netting. 2022</p> <p>Phase 4 – Remediation of Upper Llanwonno Tip to increase stability factor of safety by removing approximately 150,000 cubic metres of spoil to a new receptor site and reprofiling the remaining spoil on the hillside. Main works commenced in April 2023 after planning permission was granted in October 2022 with completion due Winter 2023.</p> <p>Final stages – permanent uses for receptor sites A and B; setting up management group and long-term management for the hillside and use of receptor site C.</p>
RH77 Graig Ddu, Dinas	<p>Site investigation and installation of ground water monitoring instruments, site investigation and geotechnical reporting. Temporary drainage mitigation works and repairs to carriageway. Clearance of local landslip to Vicarage Road. Design ongoing for drainage improvements and ground stabilisation.</p>
RH87 Wattstown Standard Colliery	<p>Desk study and review of available information. Facilitated Coal Authority works to install erosion protection to slip surface.</p>
RH03 Wattstown National Tip	<p>Drainage maintenance and reinstatement, drainage by-pass installation, monitoring and telemetry installed – two RCT trials, liaised with Coal Authority and Welsh Government on other technology trials. Further design work for further drainage reinstatement and long-term management considerations ongoing.</p>
A, B C and D Tips Maintenance	<p>General maintenance and vegetation clearance to re-establish effective drainage infrastructure on a prioritised basis on several tips.</p> <p>Examples of work undertaken include:</p> <p>Flushing out drainage installation on TE03 Albion Colliery Tip</p> <p>Clearing drainage channels on several tips such as RH113 Lewis Merthyr, Trehafod</p> <p>Vegetation clearance on CV129</p> <p>Working on RH04/05 Tonypandy to restore eroded channels after unauthorised use by vehicles caused damage to drainage channels</p>

Tip	Works Description
Technology	<p>Use of an automated telemetry system at Graig Ddu Dinas tip have established data critical to the ongoing design of a stabilisation scheme</p> <p>Installation of tilt meters at RH03 Wattstown National</p> <p>Photogrammetry surveys of all C and D tips in 2020 with repeat surveys in 2023 to compare</p> <p>LIDAR surveys – using drones these surveys have obtained very useful information to be used in drainage reviews and stability analysis</p>
Inspections; Desk studies; Reviews of information; Ground Investigation	<p>Regular inspections are undertaken on all Category A, B, C and D tips and a defects sheet established to plan and prioritise works. A tip category review was undertaken in 2021. Desk studies and information reviews have been undertaken on a prioritised basis, this includes for tips such as RH72 at Ynyshir. This work is being used to compile a forward works programme of maintenance, investigations, analysis and monitoring. Ground Investigation has been completed on site at CV63 Cwmbach to enable further analysis of the site.</p>

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

14th June 2023

COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME: 2023-2024 MUNICIPAL YEAR

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present, for Members' comment and approval, a draft Work Programme on the proposed list of matters requiring consideration by Council for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note and comment on the draft Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
- 2.2 Subject to Members' comments, approve the Work Programme for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year (with appropriate amendments where necessary) and thereafter receive further updates from the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication as appropriate.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As agreed at the Council AGM on the 23rd May, 2018, a Council Committee Work programme should be provided for Members to assist them in forward planning and to advise other business functions of the Council
- 3.2 The Work Programme will also be made available in a central location on the Council website to improve transparency and public engagement.

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

- 4.1 The proposed Work Programme is a rolling work programme for the 2023-24 Municipal Year, which will be reported to Council at regular intervals to reflect additional updates and amendments.
- 4.2 In accordance with Rule 12.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Council's Constitution) the Work Programme will contain information in respect of the timetable for considering the budget

and any plans forming part of the policy framework and requiring Council approval.

- 4.3 During the period outlined, the Work Programme may be subject to further change to take into account any additional/deleted reports, including any new consultative documents or legislative initiatives from the Welsh Government, which require urgent attention. Such changes to business will be undertaken by the Head of Democratic Services in consultation with the Presiding Member. Where possible, Group Leaders will be informed of changes and additions throughout the Municipal Year.
- 4.4 The Work Programme will also assist Members if any items have been referred to a committee or service area for consideration / action and relevant updates are required by Council (e.g. Action required in respect of a Notice of Motion considered by Council).
- 4.5 A draft Work Programme is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for Members' comment.
- 4.6 Subject to agreement, a link to the agreed Council work programme will be added to every Council meeting agenda for Members' information, to inform Members of any amendments to the programme going forward.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 The Work Programme has been compiled by members of the Senior Leadership Team in discussion with the Presiding Member.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with Rule 12.1 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (found in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution).

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 9.1 The Council Work Programme encompasses all of the Council priorities as it references reports coming forward across the Directorates which may impact upon the Council's corporate priorities. It also embraces the Future Generations Act as all future decisions taken by Council seek to improve

the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the County Borough.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The development of a Council Work Programme for the 2023-24 Municipal Year will assist in transparency for both Members and for public engagement.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

14th June 2023

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

Item: COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME: 2023- 2024 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

Background Papers

- Rule 12.1 and 12.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Found in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.)
- [Council AGM – 23rd May, 2018.](#)

Council Work Programme. (APPENDIX 1)

Forward plan of proposed Council Business for the 2023/24 Municipal Year

Specific Period: -June 2023 – May 2024.

(Summary of proposed Key Decisions coming forward for Members' consideration.)

N.B – The work programme is subject to change to take account of any additional / deletion of reports, including any new consultative documents or legislative initiatives from the Welsh Government, which require urgent attention.

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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JUNE				14.06.23
Council Work Programme	To consider the Draft Council Work Programme for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Flood Resilience	To receive the report of the Director, Frontline Services	Director, Frontline Services	Open	
The Transition to a Single Public Services Board (PSB) For Cwm Taf Morgannwg- Joint Overview & Scrutiny Arrangements	To consider the proposals for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements Following the Transition to a Single Public Services Board (PSB) For Cwm Taf Morgannwg.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Notices of Motion Reporting Mechanism	To consider the report following the Notice of Motion to Full Council on the 29.03.23	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Constitution Committee
Democratic Services Committee Annual Report 2022/2023	To receive the Annual Report of the Democratic Services Committees for the Municipal Year 2022 / 2023.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Democratic Services Committee
JULY				12.07.23

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Annual Treasury Management Review 2022/23	To provide Members with information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council's Treasury Management activity during 2022/23; and the actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2022/23 	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	
Public Participation Strategy	To consider the Council's Public Participation Strategy	Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Open	A formal Consultation on the Strategy/Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Constitution Guide	To receive the Council's Constitution Guide	Director of Legal & Democratic Services;	Open	Constitution Committee
Local Development Plan (LDP) for Rhondda Cynon Taf -Update	Proposals to Approve an Amended Delivery Agreement for the Preparation of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Revised Local Development Plan	Director of Prosperity & Development	Open	

AUGUST – RECESS

SEPTEMBER

20.09.23

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Medium Term Financial Plan – Update	To provide Members with an update on the Medium-Term Financial Plan	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services	Open	Cabinet
Council Investment Priorities	To consider any potential investment opportunities	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	Cabinet
Multi Location Meeting Policy (MLM)	To consider the Council’s Multi Location Meeting Policy (MLM)		Open	Scrutiny Chairs & Vice Chairs/ Democratic Services Committee/Constitution Committee
Petitions Scheme	To consider the Council’s Petitions Scheme	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Constitution Committee

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OCTOBER

25.10.23

Council Tax Discounts	To receive the report providing Members with proposals in respect of Council Tax discounts	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.		
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NOVEMBER

29.11.23

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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Council Revenue Budget 2024/25 - Provisional Local Government Settlement	This report provides Members with information in respect of the 2023/2024 Provisional Local Government Settlement (Subject to timing of WG announcements on the Local Government Settlement)	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, is a consultee as part of the Council’s overall consultation arrangements.
Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund 2022/23 Statement of Accounts and External Audit Report	To consider the RCT Pension Fund Annual Accounts and the report of Audit Wales	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	Governance and Audit Committee
2023-24 Mid-Year Treasury Management Stewardship Report	To provide Members with information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council’s Treasury Management activity during the first 6 months of 2023-2024 and Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the same period. 	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	

JANUARY

17.01.24

Council Tax Reduction Scheme	The need to consider whether to revise or replace the Council existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and the requirement to adopt a scheme by 31 st January 2024.	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	
Welsh Church Act Annual Report and External Audit Report	To consider the statement of Accounts for the Welsh Church Act Fund for the financial year ended 31 st March 2023 and the report of Audit Wales.	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	Governance and Audit Committee

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
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FEBRUARY

07.02.24

Leaders Annual Debate	To receive & participate in the Leaders Annual Debate	Leader of the Council	Open	
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MARCH

06.03.24

Revenue Budget Strategy	To provide information to Members in respect of the Council's Revenue Budget, together with the level of Council Tax, for the year ending 31 st March 2025.	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	Overview & Scrutiny/ Cabinet
Council Tax Resolution	To provide Members with the details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31 st March 2025 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	Cabinet
Capital Programme	To set out the Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2024-25 to 2026-27, following confirmation of the local government settlement for 2024-25.	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	Cabinet
Treasury Management Strategy	To provide Members with information in respect of treasury Management Strategy, Incorporating Investment Strategy, Treasury Management indicators	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	Governance and Audit Committee

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
	and minimum revenue provision (&MRP Statement for 2024/25.)			
Capital Strategy Report 2024/25	To receive the Capital Strategy 2024/25 incorporating prudential indicators.	Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	Open	
The Council’s Pay Policy Statement	To provide Members with information in respect of the Council’s 2023-2024 Pay Policy Statement	Director of Human Resources Director of Legal Services	Open	
The Council’s Corporate Plan	To provide Members with the Council’s Corporate Plan.	Chief Executive	Open	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
APRIL				tbc
MAY				tbc
MISCELLANEOUS (the following items to be considered as and when appropriate / necessary during the Municipal Year)				
Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act	To receive updates on the proposals contained within the ‘Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act’	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication.	Open	Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
Changes to Committee Membership	To consider the changes to Committee Memberships as advised	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Updates to the Council's Constitution	To consider updates contained within the Council's Constitution	Director of Legal & Democratic Services	Open	
The Development of the Council's Corporate Plan	To consider the development of the Council's Corporate Plan	Chief Executive	Open	
Corporate Joint Committees (CJC's)	To receive an update in respect of the Corporate Joint Committees (CJC's)	Chief Executive/Director of Legal & Democratic Services Services/Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Community Review	To receive the Community Review	Director of Legal & Democratic Services	Open	
Town/Community Council Charter	To advise Members of the Town/Community Council Charter	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Invitation to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	To receive representatives from the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	Cwm Taf UHB	Open	
Freedom of the Borough	To award the Freedom of the Borough following endorsement of the FOB Working Group recommendations	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Freedom of the Borough Working Group.

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
Welsh Government Consultations	To consider the Council's response to relevant Welsh Government Consultations	Director of Legal & Democratic Services Services/Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Urgent Executive Decisions	To present, for Members' information an overview of the Urgent Decisions taken forward by the Cabinet Committee and the Urgent Key Officer Delegated Decisions taken forward outside of the Cabinet Committee	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	Cabinet
Public Questions & Presentations	To receive public questions & presentations	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Audit Wales Reports	To consider reports brought forward by Audit Wales	As applicable	Open	
Annual Reports	To consider reports brought forward for consideration by Full Council	Service Director Democratic Services & Communications	Open	
Notices of Motion	To consider Notices of Motions / Amendments to the Motion as received and in accordance with the Council Constitution. To receive updates in respect of Notices of Motion as appropriate.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	
Members Questions	To consider the Questions put to Members as received and in accordance with the Council Constitution	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	

Key Decision	Brief Outline	Responsible Officer	Open / Exempt Report	Consultation undertaken prior to Decision being made?
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	To provide Members with updates / information in respect of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.	Chief Executive		
Scrutiny Working Groups	To receive details of Scrutiny Working Group reviews undertaken.	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication		
Council Work Programme	To receive updates on the 2023-24 Council Work Programme	Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication	Open	

DRAFT



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

14 JUNE 2023

NOTICES OF MOTION REPORTING MECHANISM

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the opportunity to consider proposals for formally recording and reporting the outcome and effect of the Council's representation made by Members following the adoption and/or referral of a Notice of Motion (NOM).
- 1.2 This follows consideration of the proposed revisions by the Council's Constitution Committee on the 5th June 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Consider the content of the report; and
- 2.2 Note the support provided by the Council's Constitution Committee for the revised arrangements.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To strengthen the existing notice of motion reporting arrangements, to feedback to Council responses received to motions adopted by full Council.
- 3.2 To provide transparency by informing Members of the progress made following the adoption of a notice of motion through publication of 'information reports' on the Council agenda.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At Full Council on the [29th March 2023](#) the Plaid Cymru Group submitted a notice of motion, proposed by Councillor D Grehan and seconded by

Councillor A Rogers, calling for a specific reporting mechanism which would keep Members informed of progress following the adoption of notices of motions to Full Council.

- 4.2 The notice of motion made particular reference to the need for feedback in order to assess how effective the notices of motions are in achieving their desired outcomes. Some examples were provided where there had been little evidence of outcome and effect following the adoption and/or referral of a notice of motion.
- 4.3 The notice of motion was unanimously adopted, and Council resolved to:
“Request that the Proper Officer presents a report for consideration by the Constitution Committee in advance of the Council Annual General Meeting, which considers options and mechanism for formally reporting the outcome and effect of the Council's representation made by members following the adoption”.
- 4.4 It is now for Council to consider the proposals to establish a more formal mechanism of recording the outcome and progress of the adopted notices of motions and improving the current provision of recording the notices of motions to the Council website.

5. CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1 The Council already has arrangements for reporting the outcome of matters adopted by Council, following consideration of a motion, which are referred to a Council committee for consideration. In addition, all notices of motions are logged on the Council website immediately following a council meeting demonstrating whether they have been adopted or not. It records details such as the proposer and seconder, the date of the council meeting and is linked to the relevant Council meeting on the website.
- 5.2 Where a notice of motion has been referred to a scrutiny/other committee for consideration, this is also indicated on the [website](#) for Members to view.
- 5.3 In a report to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in [May 2019](#) it was proposed that in order to clarify the essence of the NOM, the proposer and seconder would be invited to attend the relevant meeting on the subject to provide clarity on its intentions and proposed outcomes.
- 5.4 This has since been adopted as good practice and has worked well ensuring the initial mover and seconder to the Council's notice of motion attend as key stakeholders/observers to assist the discussions and are able to bear witness to the outcomes of their NOM. Progress or resolution of the matter is reported to Council to publicly record completion of the matter from a democratic and governance perspective.
- 5.5 Previously, recommendations to arise as a result of consideration by Scrutiny have been reported back to Council so that the outcomes are demonstrated. Examples include consideration of the NOM by the former [Children & Young](#)

[People Scrutiny Committee](#) in relation to period poverty. As a result of this work, the Council adopted an approach in respect of the provision of sanitary products at schools. Also, the NOM in respect of voluntary [Snow Wardens](#) was taken forward by a scrutiny working group resulting in the 'Know Your Neighbour Campaign'.

- 5.6 Notwithstanding these examples, a more consistent approach has been requested by Council to ensure that all outcomes to arise as a result of a NOM from Full Council making formal representations be reported and recorded.

PROPOSALS

Council Website

- 5.7 Members may wish to consider improving the way that notices of motions are recorded by including an additional column within the current table on the council website which will act as a '**formal mechanism in place to report the progress or outcomes of such actions for the public record**'.
- 5.8 This may be in the form of a link to any responses received following a letter from the Leader of the Council to the Welsh or UK Government or the outcome of a Scrutiny review/working group recommendation to Cabinet/Full Council. Publication of the outcomes to the notices of motion through an additional column on the website would seek to strengthen the transparency and provide a clear record for all Members and residents.

Information Reports

- 5.9 In addition to the above it is proposed that all responses or outcomes following a formal representation, by for example the Leader of the Council to an outside organisation or government either at a Wales or UK level, be reported to Full Council in the form of information reports. These will appear on the agenda of Full Council when necessary and will allow all Members the opportunity to read and digest the information, track the progress of the NOM and importantly this will be formally recorded in the Council minutes.
- 5.10 The importance of evidencing the outcomes and actions of the notices of motions will respond to that recently adopted at Council on the 29th March 2023 and develop a formal process when taking forward notices of motions. This process will also take in the current practices when referrals are made from Council.
- 5.11 During the course of this municipal year Members may wish to consider further reviews to respond to the proposals set out in 2.1-2.3 of the report.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report and

no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed necessary for the purposes of this report. The proposal to introduce specific actions to record all outcomes following the adoption of a NOM would assist a more focussed approach and an opportunity for greater transparency.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 When adopting this motion, full Council determined to refer the matter for consideration by the Constitution Committee. The committee considered the recommendations of the Head of Democratic Services at a meeting held on the 5th June 2023, prior to consideration of any proposals presented to Council. Members supported the revisions proposed.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 This report advises Members of the proposal to strengthen the existing Notice of Motion [webpages](#) to formally record and publish the outcome and effect following the adoption and/or referral of a Notice of Motion and to adopt a more consistent approach when reporting outcomes from Scrutiny/other committees back to Full Council through the information report mechanism.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

COUNCIL

14 JUNE 2023

NOTICES OF MOTION REPORTING MECHANISM

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
COMMUNICATIONS**

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

14th JUNE 2023

**PROPOSALS FOR THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING THE TRANSITION TO A SINGLE PUBLIC
SERVICES BOARD (PSB) FOR CWM TAF MORGANNWG.**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER, CLLR
MORGAN OBE.**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider the proposed scrutiny arrangements for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board, following the transition to a single Public Services Board (PSB) for Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Agree to the creation of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising elected Members from Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend County Borough Councils to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board;
- 2.2 To endorse the Draft Terms of Reference of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Appendix 1, and to make any further comments as felt appropriate.
- 2.3 To determine the PSB Statutory members (non executive) and `invited participants` to serve as co-opted members on the Cwm Taf PSB JOSC as highlighted within section 6 of the report;
- 2.4 To agree that the Chair and Vice Chair arrangements, highlighted within section 7 of the report, be taken forward, commencing from the beginning of the 2023/24 Municipal Year.
- 2.5 To agree that the support and administrative arrangements, highlighted within section 8 of the report be provided by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, for a 2 year period, commencing from the beginning of the 2023/24 Municipal Year before a review of the arrangements is undertaken.

- 2.6 To agree that all Members of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB JOSC be provided with training to assist them in undertaking their new role.
- 2.7 Subject to agreement of the above recommendations, Council is requested to nominate a total of 5 Elected Members, 4 (Labour), 1 (Plaid Cymru) and 1 additional substitute member (Labour), as in accordance with the Council's political balance arrangements.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need to ensure effective scrutiny arrangements are in place to scrutinise the joint PSB, following its recent merger.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 gives a legally-binding common purpose to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of the 7 national well-being goals. The Well-being of Future Generations Act (the Act) puts a well-being duty on specified public bodies including local authorities, local health boards, fire and rescue services and Natural Resources Wales to act jointly via PSBs. PSBs are required to
- assess the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas (the Well-being Assessment)
 - use that assessment to set local well-being objectives (the Well-being Plan)
 - act together to meet those objectives
- 4.2 To reduce duplication and enable more effective joint working to improve well-being for people within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area, the two PSBs currently in place within the footprint (Cwm Taf and Bridgend) have taken forward a merger to create a new PSB for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area. This merger will enable the PSB to align with the health board footprint, as well as being co-terminus with the 'Mid Glamorgan' basic command unit of South Wales Police.
- 4.3 The Well-being of Future Generations Act provides for two or more PSBs to be able to merge and to collaborate if it would assist them in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals.
- 4.4 The Well-being Assessment was prepared to cover the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area and was done in close collaboration with the Regional Partnership Board in the development of their Population Needs Assessment.

- 4.5 Following on from the Assessment, the two PSBs have worked together this year to develop a single Well-being Plan for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region that was endorsed by Council on the 29th March, 2023.
- 4.6 During February, the two separate PSBs, Agreed to the formal transition to a single PSB to ensure the delivery of the well-being plan and objectives, and are currently operating as a shadow joint PSB whilst the Board works through its governance and operating arrangements.

5 SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS.

- 5.1 In order to ensure democratic accountability of the PSB, there is a statutory requirement set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 and associated statutory guidance for a designated Local Government Scrutiny Committee of the relevant authority to scrutinise the work of the PSB.
- 5.2 Both regions have established scrutiny arrangements in place in respect of scrutiny of their respective PSBs.
- 5.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council agreed to the creation of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising elected Members of both Authorities Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee (respectively) to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Public Services Board in 2016, and meets quarterly to scrutinise and challenge the work of Cwm Taf PSB.
- 5.4 The Membership of the Cwm Taf JOSCS equates to 5 County Borough Councillors from each Authority and also consists of 'co-opted' members representing the Local Health Board, Community Health Council and citizen representatives from the 2 local regions.
- 5.5 Bridgend Council have established a Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel. The membership of the PSB Panel is determined annually and incorporates six Overview and Scrutiny Members and counterpart representatives that sit on the Public Service Board.
- 5.6 Following the merger of the PSBs, it is important that the scrutiny arrangements mirror the same footprint to prevent duplication and ensure effective scrutiny arrangements are in place.

6 SCRUTINY GOING FORWARD.

- 6.1 It is proposed that a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee is established comprising of 5 Elected Members from each of the three Local Authorities' Overview and Scrutiny Committees designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 and based on the political balance of each of those Committees, as far as practical.
- 6.2 To assist with attendance and potential quorum issues, provision will be made for one substitute Member from each Local Authority to be provided. A substitution will be made available to allow an alternate Member to attend the JOSC when *one* of the core Members are not available. This will assist with any quorum issues but will not dilute the knowledge base of the overall Membership.
- 6.3 Good practice would suggest that Co-option of Members to the JOSC is taken forward, to allow the JOSC to mirror in part the PSB. It is important to highlight that the current membership of the Cwm Taf PSB has not yet been finalised in respect of invited attendees, therefore it is suggested that the statutory partners of PSBs are co-opted within the scrutiny arrangements, i.e. non executive representation from Cwm Taf Morgannwg Local Health Board, South Wales Fire and Rescue and National Resources Wales. As a form of recognised good practice and in line with the ambitions of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015 of 'public engagement and involvement' the citizen panel representations currently taken forward with the Cwm Taf JOSC PSB is continued for future arrangements.
- 6.4 It is suggested that the arrangements proposed above are reviewed at an appropriate point in time to ensure that the membership, where possible, reflects the single PSB membership, once confirmed in respect of invited attendees. In accordance with paragraph 8.3.3(1) of the Statutory Guidance of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011, the number of co-opted members on the JOSC should not exceed the number of elected Members.
- 6.5 A draft Terms of Reference for the merged Joint Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached as Appendix 1 of the report. It is proposed that once agreed the Terms of Reference are reviewed periodically to ensure they are 'Fit for Purpose'

7 CHAIRPERSON

- 7.1 The role of the Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee will play an important role in the success and outcomes of the Committee. It is suggested that the appointment of the Chairperson is taken forward on an annual basis, although for greater consistency of the leadership of the JOSC, it is proposed that there is no requirement for an annual

rotation of appointment between Authorities and a current Chair could be re-appointed.

- 7.2 It is suggested that the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair can not be from the same Authority. Due to legal requirements, a co-opted Member could not be considered for the role of Chair or Vice Chair.

8 SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS.

- 8.1 Following the agreement to establish the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee , Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council agreed to undertake the administrative arrangements on a joint basis and provide dedicated support and advisers for the JOSOC for a period of one year each, on a rotational basis respectively.

- 8.2 In 2019 a review was undertaken by senior officers from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council of the administrative arrangements of the Cwm Taf Public Service Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, where it was subsequently agreed that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council would continue the role as the Host Authority with periodic reviews of the Administrative arrangements when appropriate.

- 8.3 The agreed approach ensured that Members of the JOSOC would continue to work together with shared responsibility for improved outcomes with the most appropriate support and resources in place. This arrangement also complimented the secretariat support that was provided by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council to the Joint PSB.

- 8.4 Bridgend County Borough Council take forward the support arrangements for the Bridgend Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.

- 8.5 Due to the previous experience gained with support arrangements for Joint Overview and Scrutiny it is proposed that Rhondda Cynon Taf Council take forward the support arrangements for the newly merged Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is proposed that this arrangement is taken forward for a 2 year period, commencing from the beginning of the 2023/24 Municipal Year before a review of the arrangements is undertaken. This would allow for consistency of approach and support, whilst support officers from each of the Local Authorities would be involved in discussions and approaches going forward.

9 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1 Members appointed to the Committee will be provided with any necessary training requirements to fulfil their role as a Member of the

Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee as detailed in the Terms of Reference.

10 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- 10.1 The Committee will meet on a meeting frequency that will reflect the meeting arrangements of the PSB, where the scrutiny Committee will meet at least 2 weeks prior to a PSB meeting to allow for any potential pre-scrutiny to be undertaken. The meetings will be conducted on a hybrid arrangement and can be reviewed by the Committee as and when appropriate.

11 FUTURE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

- 11.1 A review of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region Community Safety Arrangements has recently been undertaken which recommended the establishment of a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board. Given that the footprints are the same and the Boards are intrinsically linked it would seem appropriate that consideration be given in the near future to the inclusion of this Board, once established, within the remit of the Joint Overview Scrutiny Committee. Similar consideration could also be given to the inclusion of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board and any future partnership mergers based on the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region.

12 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

13 CONSULTATION

- 13.1 The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference have been developed in discussions with the relevant senior officers from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Bridgend County Borough Council.

14 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 14.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report, although amendments to the Councils constitution will need to be taken forward as appropriate.

15 LINKS TO PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

- 15.1 The recommended approach set out supports the Public Service Board Wellbeing objectives by ensuring progress of the Joint Overview &

Scrutiny Committee is robustly scrutinised by the Committee, the public and others with a vested interest.

- 15.2 The proposed approach will also support the requirements set out in the 'Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015' which states:
- Effective involvement of people and communities in decisions that affect them is at the heart of improving well-being currently and in the future; and, It is vital to factor people's needs; ensuring engagement is meaningful and effective

16 CONCLUSION

- 16.1 The proposals outlined within the report will allow for the continued approach to scrutiny of the PSB, as the merger of the two PSBs move forward.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Background Papers

None.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: CWM TAF MORGANNWG PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Introduction

1. Statutory Provisions.

- a) The joint overview and scrutiny committee (JOSC) has been established in accordance with the following legislation:-
- The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (Sec 58 – Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees);
 - The Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013; and,
 - Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (Part 4, Chapter 1, Sec 35 - Overview and scrutiny committee of local authority)
- b) The conduct of the JOSC and the arrangements for joint scrutiny shall be subject to the legislative provisions in a) above, and any regulations or guidance made in accordance with the legislation; and in the event of any conflict between the Act and/or Regulations and any joint arrangements, the requirements of the legislation will prevail.

2. Name of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- a) The appointing Authorities are Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Bridgend County Borough Council and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.
- b) The title of the JOSC between the three Authorities shall be the “Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee” (*The JOSC for the purpose of this document*).

3. Purpose of the Joint Scrutiny Committee (JOSC)

- a) The overall aim of the JOSC is to scrutinise the overall effectiveness of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (the Board).
- b) The core statutory functions of the JOSC are:-
- To carry out functions in relation to the Board that are imposed on it by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, including in particular as a statutory consultee upon the:
 - PSB Well-being Assessment;
 - PSB Well-being Plan, and;
 - To receive an Annual Report detailing the progress made towards meeting local Well-being objectives in the Well-being Plan
 - To review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by Board;
 - To review or scrutinise the Board’s governance arrangements;
 - To make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;

- To consider matters relating to the Board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and
- c) In addition to these functions the JOSC's Lines of Inquiry can include (but not be limited to), the following:
- The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Assessment;
 - The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Plan;
 - The effectiveness of performance measurement arrangements;
 - The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the Public Services Board;
 - The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders; and,
 - The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities
- d) The remit of the JOSC includes only the activities of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board as a partnership and excludes scrutiny of individual partner organisations (see also para 5).
- e) Existing legislation excludes any matter which could be considered by an Authority's Crime and Disorder Committee (sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) from the work programmes of all other scrutiny committees, sub-committees and JOSCs.

4. Intended outcome(s) of the joint overview and scrutiny committee

- a) Ensuring that the JOSC achieves the following benefits:-
- **Effective challenge** is provided to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board and that it is achieving the desired aims.
 - **the focus is on outcomes for people not organisations:** shifting the perspective from inputs to delivering results;
 - **the JOSC acting as a unifying force:** helping partners address the complex needs of citizens across different political, organisational and geographical boundaries;
 - **Accountability:** clarifying different organisations' contributions to delivery;
 - **Efficiency:** maximise resources;
 - **Innovation:** identifying new insights and solutions.

5. Accountability Framework

- a) The parameters for the JOSC as defined within the Future Generations Act are as follows:
- The act allows for scrutiny of the PSB as a 'corporate body', not the individual partners comprising the PSB. Paragraph 180 of the Future Generations guidance states that; "**The committee can require any member of the**

board to give evidence, but only in respect of the exercise of joint functions conferred on them as a member of the board under this Act.”

This includes any person that has accepted an invitation to participate in the activity of the PSB. The JOSC will therefore scrutinise the work of the PSB and not the individual activities of PSB partners.

- Whilst the joint actions of the PSB will demonstrate the impact and outcomes achieved, the JOSC may choose to probe individual partners as to how they intend to exercise their well-being duty in line with the PSB’s wellbeing plan. Section 36 (1) (c) of the Act (in defining the PSB’s well-being duty) refers to; **“The taking of all reasonable steps by members of the board (in exercising their functions) to meet those objectives.”**
- Furthermore, the JOSC can exercise its existing power under S21 (2) (e) of the Local Government Act 2000 to; **“Make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive on matters which affect the authority’s area or the inhabitants of that area.”**

6. Elected Member Membership (Councillors)

- a) There will be an equal number of Elected Members from each appointing authority and no executive members may be on the committee.
- b) The JOSC will comprise fifteen Elected Members; that is five non-executive Elected Members from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, five non-executive Elected Members from Bridgend County Borough Council and five non-executive Elected Members from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.
- c) Each local authority will determine and nominate its Elected committee Members in accordance with its own arrangements from within each Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The term of office of the nominated Elected Members shall be a matter for each nominating local authority.
- d) The Membership will allow for **one** substitute Member to be made available to attend the JOSC when one of the core Members are not available. This nomination for a substitute member will be made in accordance with each Authorities own arrangements.

7. Quorum

- a) A quorum of one third of Elected Members of the JOSC will be required to enable a meeting to proceed.

8. Duration of the JOSC and procedures for withdrawal

- a) The duration of the JOSC will be until such time as there is written notification from the Chief Executive and the Leader of either of the three participating local authorities to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the other, advising of the decision to withdraw that Authority from the JOSC arrangements.

9. Co-opted Members

- a) The JOSC may invite additional members to serve on the JOSC as co-opted members subject to:-
- the appointment being approved by a majority of the members of the JOSC;
 - the person co-opted to serve on the JOSC is not entitled to vote at any meeting of the JOSC on any question which falls to be decided at that meeting;
 - the person not being an elected member of a local authority, whether that authority is one of the appointing authorities or otherwise;
 - the membership of a person co-opted to serve on the JOSC being withdrawn by a majority vote at any time by the JOSC or sub-committee; and,
 - the number of co-opted members on the JOSC not exceeding the number of elected members that sit on the JOSC.
- b) The JOSC may invite the PSB Statutory Members (non-executive) from the following organisations to serve as co-opted members on the JOSC :-
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
 - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
 - Natural Resources Wales
- and
- c) The JOSC may invite `invited participants` as defined in the Act¹ to serve as co-opted members on the JOSC. These “invited participants” will be invited to participate as and when required.
- d) The JOSC may appoint three “Independent Co-opted Members” by public advertisement to serve as co-opted members on the JOSC i.e. a resident from each of the three local authority areas.

10. Termination / suspension of membership of the JOSC

- a) If an Elected Member appointed to the JOSC ceases to be a member of the appointing authority, then that person also immediately ceases to be a member of the JOSC.
- b) If a person appointed as a member of a JOSC is suspended from being a member or a co-opted member of one of the appointing authorities, that person may not serve as a member of the JOSC for the duration of the suspension.
- c) If a co-opted member appointed to the JOSC ceases to be an employee of the organisation he/she was appointed from, then that person immediately ceases to be a member of the JOSC.

¹ Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 - Part 4, Chapter 1, Para 30.

- d) Each Statutory Co-opted Member term of office will be for a period of four years from date of appointment. The Statutory Co-opted Member may serve for two terms.
- e) Each Independent Co-opted Member term of office will be for a period of four years from date of appointment. The Independent Co-opted Member may serve for two terms.
- f) If an Independent Co-opted Member moves away from the local authority area he/she was appointed from, then that person immediately ceases to be a member of the JOSC.

11. Voting rights

- a) All Elected members may vote on any question that falls to be decided at that meeting
- b) Where there is an equality of votes at a meeting of a JOSC, the chair has a second or casting vote.
- c) A person co-opted to serve on the JOSC is not entitled to vote at any meeting of the JOSC on any question which falls to be decided at that meeting (also see Co-opted Members above).

12. Sub Committees of the JOSC

- a) The JOSC can establish sub-committees in order to operate in a more streamlined and flexible manner to undertake its statutory functions.
- b) Any sub-committees appointed by the JOSC will comprise at least six Elected Members, together with any co-opted members as agreed when establishing the sub-committee.
- c) A sub-committee is to comprise an equal number of Elected Members of each of the appointing authorities.
- d) Any report or recommendations made by a sub-committee of the JOSC is subject to approval by a resolution of the JOSC.
- e) Any sub-committee can only exercise the functions conferred upon it by the JOSC.

13. Political Balance

- a) Each appointing authority must ensure that, as far as practicable, the members of the JOSC reflect the political balance of each of the appointing authority.

14. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

- a) A JOSC must appoint a chair of the committee from within its Elected Member membership.

- b) A JOSC may appoint a vice-chair and this must be from within its Elected Member membership.
- c) The appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair is taken forward on an annual basis, although for greater consistency of the leadership of the JOSC, it is proposed that there is no requirement for an annual rotation of appointment between Authorities and a current Chair and Vice Chair could be re-appointed.
- d) The appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair cannot be from the same Authority. Due to legal requirements, a co-opted Member could not be considered for the role of Chair or Vice Chair.

15. Access to meetings and documentation etc.

- a) The JOSC is to be treated as a committee of a principal council for the purposes of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972(1) (access to meetings and documents of certain authorities, committees and sub-committees).

16. Resolving disagreements

- a) All members of the JOSC have a duty to act assertively and proactively to resolve disagreements.
- b) Initially, the JOSC will utilise a collaborative-style methodology to resolve any conflict(s) or disagreements. The collaboration style involves parties working together to resolve issues, with a 'win-win' attitude clearly focused on making a positive difference to the lives of people who live in the County Boroughs of Bridgend County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf. If necessary other ways of resolving disputes, such as mediation, will be used. Where mediation is used the parties must agree on the final, binding resolution.

17. Meetings of the JOSC

- a) Meetings will initially be held on a quarterly basis with a schedule of meeting dates circulated and agreed at the start of each Municipal year. Extra meetings may be called following the agreement of the Chair.

18. Work programme (Forward Plan)

- a) The JOSC should formulate a forward plan to identify what issues the JOSC intends to focus upon during the course of the year.
- b) The terms of reference of the JOSC are to be reviewed on an annual basis and to be incorporated into the Committee's Work Programme.
- c) The forward plan should provide a clear rationale as to the purpose of considering a particular topic, and to the methods by which it will be investigated.
- d) The JOSC must have regard to The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and guidance, which places a requirement to engage with the public.

- e) The forward plan will be published on all three Authorities' websites to allow interested groups and individuals to provide comment and offer their views.

19. Invitations to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board

- a) The JOSC shall review and scrutinise the performance of the PSB, and in exercising its powers, may require members of the PSB to attend a meeting of the JOSC. This includes any person that has accepted an invitation to participate in the activity of the PSB.
- b) The JOSC shall review and scrutinise the performance of the PSB, and in exercising its powers, may invite Officers and Cabinet Members to attend its meetings when appropriate.
- c) The JOSC may request invitees to give account for their activities and their performance on matters within the JOSC's remit, particularly relating to:-
- Any particular decision
 - The performance of partners in delivering shared objectives
- d) When the JOSC wishes to invite members of the PSB, officers, Cabinet Members or another individual to a meeting, it will:-
- Offer a minimum notice of 6 weeks' notice;
 - Clearly outline the reason and the likely areas for questioning;
 - Identify whether any paperwork is to be produced.
- e) Where individuals attend before the JOSC, the Chair shall ensure that they are treated with courtesy and respect. Following the meeting, attendees will be provided with feedback and clarification as to whether further information is required as part of the Scrutiny process.

20. Access to information rules

- a) Meetings of the JOSC will be subject to the same access to information rules as other public meetings of the councils.
- b) The Chair will adhere to the access to information rules of his/her respective Authority.

21. Rules of Procedure

- a) Members of the JOSC and the public must have regard for the Chair who will have the authority to determine on any rules of procedure during meetings of the JOSC.
- b) The Chair will adhere to the rules of procedure of his/her respective Authority.

22. Declarations of Interest

- a) All Elected Members shall observe the Code of Conduct in force for their respective Authorities, whilst co-opted members shall observe the Code of

Conduct of the Authority of the Chair of the JOSC at the time the co-opted member was appointed.

- b) Members of the JOSC must declare any interest during meetings of the JOSC (and withdraw from the meeting if necessary) in accordance with the paragraph above.

23. Confidentiality of Information

- a) In accordance with Members' respective Authority's Code of Conduct, members (Elected Members and Co-opted Members) of the JOSC must not disclose any information considered 'exempt' in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

24. Administrative arrangements

- a) Rhondda Cynon Taf Council take forward the support arrangements for the newly merged Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and this arrangement will be taken forward for a 2 year period, commencing from the beginning of the 2023/24 Municipal Year before a review of the arrangements is undertaken. The function includes:
- Arranging regular meetings of the JOSC - meetings are held within appropriate timescales following meetings of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board.
 - Preparing agendas and commissioning papers for meetings - Agendas and commissioning papers are prepared and distributed in a timely manner.
 - Inviting participants
 - Managing attendance
 - Provision of meeting venues
 - Minute taking
 - Preparing evidence for Scrutiny
- b) The terms of reference of the JOSC are to be reviewed on an annual basis and to be incorporated into the Committee's Work Programme.

25. JOSC meeting procedures (including sub-committees)

- a) Main agenda items will be identified at the previous meeting in line with the agreed work programme. At this point potential witnesses and broad themes should be considered.
- b) Prior to the meeting all JOSC Members should be engaged in raising and discussing possible questions by email. The JOSC Chair will facilitate this process.
- c) A pre-meeting for all JOSC Members will be held for 30 minutes immediately before each JOSC meeting. The purpose is to ensure that members are fully prepared for the JOSC meeting and that the questioning strategy is clear.

- d) During the meeting, the JOSC Chair will be responsible for ensuring that questioning is effective and that the JOSC achieves its objective.
- e) Those invited to attend for a particular agenda item shall not be expected to remain at the meeting.
- f) At the close of the meeting, witnesses will be asked to leave to enable JOSC Members to discuss their conclusions and any recommendations arising from the meeting. These conclusions and recommendations will be reported to the PSB and relevant Cabinet Member(s) in the form of a Chairs' Letter. This part of the meeting should review the effectiveness of the meeting and identify ways that future meetings could be improved

26. Responding to the JOSC recommendations

- a) The JOSC will agree outcomes of its meetings and detail the conclusions and any recommendations arising from a JOSC meeting.
- b) The JOSC may recommend amendments to a strategy or policy at their meeting which will be formally minuted. The Chair will formally make recommendations via a Chairs Letter to the PSB Members and will send a copy to the Future Generations Commissioner, the Welsh Ministers, and the Auditor General for Wales (see 27 below) following each meeting.
- c) Where recommendations have been made to the PSB and/or the Cabinet Member(s), a written response would be expected within one month, indicating whether the recommendation is to be accepted and what action (if any) will be taken in response.
- d) Where the JOSC makes a report or recommendations to any of the appointing authorities or their executives the JOSC:-
 - may publish the report or recommendations
 - may require the appointing authority or authorities, or the executive or executives—
 - to consider and respond to the report or recommendations indicating what (if any) steps it proposes, or they propose, to take; and
 - if the JOSC has published a report or recommendations, to publish the response.
 - Where the JOSC has provided a copy of the report or recommendations to a member of an appointing authority who has referred a matter to the JOSC or sub-committee, it must provide the member with a copy of the response.

27. Reports of the JOSC

- a) When making reports or recommendations to the PSB with respect to the board's functions or governance arrangements, the JOSC must send a copy of any report or recommendation to:-
 - the Welsh Ministers;

- the Future Generations Commissioner;
 - the Auditor General for Wales.
- b) Any reports or recommendations will be made on behalf of the JOSC, not the local authorities, and therefore there is no requirement for an executive or full council of the three Authorities to endorse the report. However it would be appropriate to share copies of reports with Executives of the participating local authorities in the interests of effective communication and good governance.

28. Evidence Gathering

- a) The JOSC is entitled to gather evidence in connection with any review or inquiry it undertakes as part of their agreed work plan.
- b) The JOSC shall adopt methods of gathering evidence to inform its deliberations. These include, but are not limited to, task and finish groups, holding enquiries, undertaking site visits, conducting public surveys, holding public meetings, commissioning research, hearing from witnesses and appointing advisors and assessors. The knowledge of Members is also a valuable source of evidence and should be considered as part of each inquiry.

29. Setting the agenda

- a) Individual agenda items, other than standing items, are to be determined in the first instance by the Work Programme which is to be established and agreed by the JOSC. The decision to consider additional items or defer planned items will be a matter for the discretion of the Chair.
- b) Any matter that is referred to the JOSC or a sub-committee by any member of the JOSC or a sub-committee will be included on the agenda for, and discussed at, a meeting of the JOSC or the relevant sub-committee. See “Reference of matters to joint overview and scrutiny committee, etc” below

30. Reference of matters to joint overview and scrutiny committee, etc

- a) Any member of the JOSC can refer to the committee any matter which is relevant to its functions.
- b) Any member of a sub-committee of the JOSC can refer to the committee any matter which is relevant to its functions.
- Any member of any of the appointing authorities can refer to the JOSC any local government matter which is relevant to the functions of the JSOC.
- c) Any referral as per above will be included on the agenda for, and discussed at, a meeting of that committee or sub-committee.
- d) Where the JOSC makes a report or recommendations in relation to a matter referred to it by that member, it must provide the member with a copy of the report or recommendations.

31. Public Engagement / Public Question Time

- a) Meetings of the JOSC and sub-committees are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session.
- b) All persons who live or work in the three local authority areas can bring to the attention of the committee their views on any matter under consideration by the committee; and the committee must take into account these views.
- c) The JOSC will seek to gather evidence from the public as an ongoing aspect of its work.
- d) Meetings of the JOSC will be open to the public to observe and an item for public questions will be included on each agenda if received.
 - A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by electronic mail to the Head of Democratic Services of the administrative Council no later than 10 days before the date of the meeting.
 - At any one meeting no person or organisation may submit more than one question and no more than one such question may be asked on behalf of one organisation.
 - A maximum of 15 minutes will be allowed at the meeting for public questions unless otherwise agreed at the meeting.
 - Each question must give the name and address of the questioner.
 - The Chair will invite the questioner to put the question to the meeting. If the questioner is unable to be present, the Chair will put the question and a written response will be provided to the questioner.
 - A questioner who has put a question in person may also put one supplementary question without notice to the meeting.
- e) Letters and agenda packs will be published via each Authority's agenda publications pages.

32. Training and Development

- a) Training will be provided to members of the JOSC as and when required / appropriate.

33. Expenses, Allowances and Salaries

- a) The JOSC will not be responsible for or pay any expenses or allowances.
- b) The remuneration of Chair of the JOSC (or a Sub-Committee of the JOSC) is prescribed by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales and is a matter for the constituent local authorities to decide whether such a post will be paid.

- c) All Elected Members and Co-opted Members will need to apply to their respective Authority or Organisation for any payment of expenses etc.

34. Meeting Venue / time

- a) The JOSC will decide on an annual basis how the meetings will be taken forward, whether through a mix of hybrid meetings supported by each of the Local Authorities, where provision is available or whether a proportion of the meetings are held on a purely virtual basis.
- b) Meeting times of the JOSC or any sub-committees will be agreed by the JOSC Elected Member membership. A survey of Members as to the most convenient date and time will be taken forward as well as consideration of the supporting Authorities arrangements.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

14 JUNE 2023

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022 / 2023

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Council with the Annual Report of the Democratic Services Committees for the Municipal Year 2022 / 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- 2.1 Note the Annual Report of the Democratic Services Committee attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need to provide Council with an update in respect of the work of the Committee during the Municipal Year.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Annual Report of the Democratic Services Committee, provides a summary of the role and work of the Committee undertaken during the last Municipal Year.
- 4.2. During its meeting on the [27th April, 2023](#), Members of the Democratic Services Committee approved the Annual Report and this is attached as Appendix 1.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 There is no consultation required for this report. Consultation on the report was undertaken at the Committee meeting referenced within 4.2 of the report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's constitution.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

9.1 The work of all Committees of the Council encompasses all of the Councils priorities and the provision of an Annual Report allows the Committee to highlight the work undertaken and items for future consideration in line with the corporate priorities.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The Annual reports outlines the work of the Committee in the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

Democratic Services Committee Annual Report 2022-2023



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

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Cllr W Jones

FOREWORD

Chair of the Democratic Services Committee

It was my privilege to take forward the role as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee through this important inaugural year for the Committee, following the Local Government Elections in May 2022. The election welcomed 35 new Members within the Council and the role of this Committee has been more important than ever, to ensure that we support all new and returning Members to undertake their role. The work and support of the Council Business Unit should not go unnoticed through the Member Induction Programme and beyond, with the support and advice, training and the provision of technology to assist members. This appreciation was clearly visible through the results of the Members Survey results and our thanks go to the Head of Democratic Services and the dedicated team who continue to go over and above to support all elected members.

As a committee we have welcomed the work undertaken to establish a suitable voting system for Members to take forward at Committee and appreciate the review of numerous options to try and take forward an option that works best for us as a Council as we proactively take forward hybrid meetings across the Committee structure. Linked with this is the importance of establishing a robust policy for hybrid meetings and the Committee provided positive challenge and comment on the draft Multi Location Meeting policy, which will now work its way through to Council for endorsement.

We have embraced a fresh forward-looking approach as a committee, being fortunate to build upon the strong foundations of the previous Committee and its former Chairs. We continue to champion areas previously progressed, in particular the diversity and equality agenda that the former Committee passionately highlighted through its working group arrangements, which has made a positive difference to the diversity of the Council.

As a new Committee Membership there are many areas and opportunities we have committed to take forward over the next

Municipal Year to ensure that each and every Member is given the best opportunity to deliver for their residents and will look to produce a robust work programme in the new municipal year to achieve this aim. In particular, we look forward to the review of the Member training program and its delivery following the successful Personal Development Review process that has been undertaken by the Head of Democratic Services and his senior colleagues.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank my Vice Chair, Councillor M Webber for her invaluable support and advice during my first year as Chair of the Committee and to each of the Members for their attendance, input and positive challenge brought to each and every meeting.

I would also like to place on record my thanks for continued corporate resources identified to support the improvements agendas being taken forward by the Democratic Services Team.

**County Borough Councillor W Jones
Chair.**

Members Of The Democratic Services Committee



Councillor W Jones
Chair



Councillor M Webber
Vice Chair



Councillor L Addiscott



Cllr J. Bonetto



Councillor S J Davies



Councillor A J Ellis



Councillor R Evans



Councillor P Evans



Councillor S Hickman



Councillor G Jones



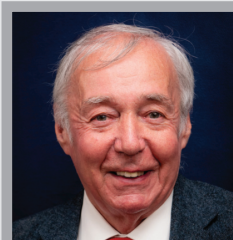
Councillor S Morgans



Councillor S Powderhill



Councillor C Preedy



Councillor B Stephens



Councillor S Trask



Councillor J Turner



Councillor K Webb

Member Induction Program and Training

The Member Induction Programme saw the most extensive programme of training to newly elected and returning Members, over and above the prescribed mandatory training requirements. During the course of the first municipal year, further general and bespoke sessions were delivered both externally and internally. In addition, Members were provided with a Member Induction Booklet and training literature and of course the provision of electronic devices such as laptops and mobile phones to assist them in undertaking their role and training.

The training sessions were undertaken both virtually and through the hybrid approach and at various times to accommodate Members with their personal and business commitments. Where Members were unable to attend, individual 1-1 sessions were arranged. The provision of training on a group-by-group basis was also positively received.

The Democratic Services Committee is responsible for the training and development opportunities provided to Members by the Council Business Unit. Therefore the Committee were keen to review the Members Survey to establish the feedback from Members in respect of the Induction programme to ascertain the relevance/length/content of the sessions and where, if any, improvements could be made for future induction training programmes. It was pleasing to note that overall, 87% of Members said they were satisfied with the delivery, timings and content of the training. It is appreciated that for a few Members the programme was difficult to accommodate and the Council Business Unit were appreciative of the feedback, to allow them to where possible refine the induction programme for the benefit of future Members.

Going forward, it is important to build on the training foundations of the Induction Programme to ensure Members are further equipped with the skills and further knowledge base to undertake their role and the Committee have supported the Personal Development Review Process undertaken by the Head of Democratic Services, providing Members with the opportunity to take forward private discussions to establish any additional training needs and also the opportunity to discuss general wellbeing, which as a Committee, we feel is just as important.

A report outlining the training programme going forward for the 2023/24 Municipal Year was considered by the Committee during its April meeting, with training to be taken forward on a number of different settings, through political group settings, Committee settings and one to one training and the Committee welcomed the refresher training to be provided following the Council Annual General Meeting. A specific training programme is already in place for Members of the Audit and Governance Committee and with many of our Committees, Members MUST undertake initial training before taking forward their place on a Committee Membership.

Members are reminded that any training requests can be brought forward either through requests by Committee's, individual requests direct to the Head of Democratic Services or through political group requests.

Resources

At its meeting in February the Committee were presented with the Head of Democratic Services statutorily required opinion in respect of the sufficiency of resources available to support Members in their role.

Members were provided with detailed information surrounding staffing levels, accommodation, training and digital support, all key areas for Members.

Through the report Members welcomed back 3 Members of staff from maternity leave, passed on their thanks and best wishes to one team member who had secured employment elsewhere and provided thanks to the Head of Democratic Services, The Council Business Unit and officers from within ICT for their continued support and assistance, with particular reference to the Member Induction programme. Members were advised how the good working practices of the Council Business Unit were recognised by other organisations, with the unit taking forward support to the Central South Consortium and taking forward the Joint Scrutiny arrangements for both the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cardiff City Deal Region Scrutiny Committee.

Members were made aware of the changes to the office accommodation setting within the Council Offices, and committee were supportive of the approach being taken, and the direction of travel being set by the Head of Democratic Services in terms of evolving the provision to respond to new virtual ways of working. Members were mindful that the Council were currently out of compliance with the current requirements of the Advance Level Charter in respect of Member meeting room requirements as a result, although Members welcome the involvement of the Head of Democratic Services in shaping the revised national Charter requirements currently being reviewed.

Members were supportive of the digital provisions that had been made available to Members and the Head of Democratic Services re-emphasised the importance of security of Member devices following recent phishing attacks on the Council, with particular aim to Elected Members, hence the importance that Members should use whenever possible Council devices to undertake Council business.

Hybrid / Webcasting

The Democratic Services Committee have been heavily involved in the implementation and roll out of the webcasting system since initial discussions in 2019 and it is pleasing to see so many of the Council's Committees being webcast and live streamed with Members choosing to attend meetings either via attendance at the Council Chamber or through the zoom platform. The webcasting infrastructure has assisted the Council in its proactive approach to hybrid meetings, with the facilities also being used by the WLGA to host its AGM and by the Public I User group, the Council's webcast provider.

The live streaming / webcasting of meetings is a further approach to engaging with the public, allowing members of the public to watch meetings as they happen from their own setting, rather than having to attend the Council Chamber, which has previously been recognised as a barrier for public participation. Other benefits achieved through webcasting include:

- A positive demonstration of accountability and transparency;
- Encouraging engagement and debate, by creating more opportunities for the public to access meetings;
- Accuracy of recording of meetings including recording of decisions, voting and attendance;
- The opportunity to raise the profile of the work of Councillors, and the discussions behind the decisions of Council and its committees.
- Assists in supporting our paper light approaches to meetings moving forward as some facilities in the Council chamber are currently inhibiting the role-out of a paper-light approach.

Hybrid Meetings conducted since Council AGM 2022 – April 2023

Committee Meeting	No of Meetings	All Views	Live Views	Archive Views	Times Shared
Council	12	2,739	411	2,328	26
Cabinet	13	3,396	288	3,108	3
Democratic Services	2	65	9	56	0
Scrutiny	18	988	106	882	10
Planning & Development	17	3,359	745	2,614	7

The Committee recognise that although the webcast views are healthy and are higher than any physical attendance by the public at meetings, still further needs to be done to increase public participation within democracy and the Committee welcome the Public Participation Strategy that the Council will be taking forward, as required by the Local Government & Elections Act (Wales) 2021.

The hybrid approach to meetings is well established within the Council and the Committee considered the Draft Multi Location Meeting Policy at its meeting in February, where Members constructively challenged the policy to ensure that it created a meeting environment that was suitable for all. Members recognised the importance to establishing the policy, including the conduct of Members through hybrid meetings and refining of meetings that would be held as Hybrid or purely virtual.

Going forward with the digital advancements available the Council Business Unit are reviewing the various virtual meeting platforms available to ensure value for money, security and professionalism of meetings.

Voting Arrangements

At its meeting in September, the Democratic Services Committee undertook a pilot of a digital voting arrangement through the Civica Modern.Gov system, a system utilised by the Council to access Committee papers.

Voting through the Modern.Gov in-app voting feature would support both physical attendance and remote attendance with simple, secure and transparent voting functionality through a paperless application. The application provides the opportunity for the Democratic Services team to Pre-submit votes and ad-hoc voting on agenda items for hybrid or virtual meetings. In addition, the app also manages attendance, the entire voting process, vote re-runs and casting votes, provide a suite of additional information, which is publicly accessible.

Utilising the Mod Gov App, Members' attendance will continue to be recorded alongside their respective profiles on the Council website with the addition of voting results which will be captured under their 'Voting Record'. This process will ensure accountability and transparency where voting has taken place and a clear record of Members' decisions.

Although Members were supportive of the voting app and taking forward a phased roll out approach (following thorough training provision), advancements have been made in the digital market with other hybrid voting arrangements being developed which the Head of Democratic Services is scoping to ensure that the Council take forward the most appropriate voting arrangement.

Timely Updates in respect of voting arrangements are to be provided to the Committee.

Members Portal

During the Member Induction process, Members were provided with training on the Members Portal, a web based portal which it was hoped would allow Members greater flexibility and access to undertake their Elected Member role. The system currently allows Members to submit questions to Council, completion of Declaration of Interest at Meetings and to submit a Call In. It is the intention that all training materials will be available on the Portal for Members future reference. The Portal is a developing system and it is proposed that it will, in time, provide statistical information, compiled from the Council's customer reporting system ('The CRM'). Information on reported matters, such as dog fouling or pot-holes, will be compiled on a ward by ward basis, alongside information on the resolution of these complaints. The portal will also provide information on the latest business of the council being considered and matters such as planning applications which relate to the respective Members electoral division.

The current status of the Portal was considered by the Democratic Services Committee during February and it was discussed how the Portal in its current form needed to be reviewed to ensure it provided the intended platform that was envisaged. Volunteer Members of the Committee have therefore taken forward the role as 'Member Portal Champions' and are working with Council Business Officers in respect of developments to the system and have already identified a number of advancements which would improve the users use of the system as well as amendments to the look and feel of the Portal, to make it more aesthetically pleasing. The submission of Member Expenses will shortly be made available on the system as well as key contacts, training materials and inclusion of a well-being section. The Member Portal Champions will take forward tests on the system following the developments prior to a further roll out to all Members. It will be the intention that the portal is reviewed on a regular basis by the Member Portal Champions to ensure it continues to be an important and useful aid to Members in undertaking their role, so that the Portal becomes the 'go to place' for all Members when wanting to access information / report problems and get involved in the democratic process.

Members Safety & Security

The Role of an Elected Member is integral to the running of the Council and as such an important role of an Elected Member is to keep in touch with their residents and communities, which includes communication via telephone, email, social media, virtual meetings and face to face contact with constituents, for example, by holding ward surgeries, making visits to people's homes, or when receiving people at their own homes.

It was therefore important that as a Committee, we reviewed the safety and security arrangements in place to ensure Members feel safe and secure in undertaking their role. Due to the new ways of virtual working and the use of digital devices, it isn't surprising that there has been an increase in the cyber attacks against the Council.

As a Council we have been subject to a large number of cyber phishing attacks and as Elected Members details are more easily sourced due to the nature of the role undertaken and the contact details available on public facing websites, Elected Members have been at the centre of some of these attacks. It is important that as Members, whenever possible, we limit use to trusted Council digital devices which allows access to emails, teams and Council systems to Members, whilst Members are safe in the knowledge that this access is trusted.

Members on Council provided devices are more protected from such attacks, and also cannot be impersonated as they are protected by the Council's cyber security technologies. For the reasons mentioned above, Members will now only able to access Council emails from a Council digital device. It is for this reason that all Members, by default, were provided with the provision of a mobile telephone from the local elections in May 2022.

Online abuse is also on the increase, as social media platforms are one of the main channels of communication. The social media training provided at the Member Induction programme was therefore of vital importance to help Members interact safely and confidently with constituents and residents of the County Borough. Members are reminded that access to such training can always be made available to help Members feel more confident in dealing with difficult and persistent messages.

A range of safety provisions available to Members were outlined at the Democratic Services Committee in April and it is important to recognise the effects on Members wellbeing, when a victim of any personal or cyber attack, which is discussed in the next section.

Members Wellbeing

The welfare and mental health of Members is crucially important and Members need to be aware of the support that is available to them if they wish to utilise through the Council's Occupational Health service.

Members are reminded of the support arrangements available to them, through informal and private discussions with the Head of Democratic Services, opportunities to utilise the Council's Occupational Health team and referral through the self referral Care First program

(<http://www.carefirst-lifestyle.co.uk>).

The Committee supported the return of the Coffee Catch Up session, an opportunity to allow all Members to come together in an informal environment to network and catch up in person, which is sometimes missed through the hybrid / virtual approach to meetings. Although the latest session was hampered by the adverse weather, it was lovely to see Members from all political parties coming together and the Council Business Unit, with the support of this Committee will look forward to taking forward more of these opportunities over the next Municipal Year.

Looking Ahead

As a Committee and through our Member Portal Champions we will continue to develop the Members Portal to ensure Members can easily access and obtain information, engage in the democratic process and report problems on behalf of constituents. This 'one stop shop' will hopefully assist Members going forward.

In addition to the above it important that we continue to monitor Member's training. For both returning and new Members, training provides many opportunities and helps Members become even more confident in their roles. It is appreciated that for New Members, the induction process involved lots of new and key information, so it is important that we continue to build on this knowledge base going forward. We need to make sure that we have done all that is possible to make any Member, newly elected or long standing, easier by providing them with the information and support necessary to equip them in undertaking the positive and rewarding role of a Councillor.

We will continue to strive to make improvements in the democratic process and a transparent voting system will help improve accountability. This combined with a focus on public participation in the democratic process will further improve and enhance the decision-making process within the Council. We will therefore monitor the implementation of the Public Participation Strategy as part of our on going work and the ongoing commitment to hybrid meeting arrangements, as outlined within the Councils Multi Location Meeting Policy.

Appendix - Terms of Reference for the Democratic Services Committee

- Carry out the local authority's function of designating the Head of Democratic Services;
- Keep under review the provision of staff, accommodation and other resources made available to the Head of Democratic Services, in order to ensure that it is adequate for the responsibilities of the post;
- Make reports to the full Council in relation to these matters;
- The Democratic Services Committee may require Members and officers of the Council to attend before it to answer questions such Members and Officers having a duty to comply with but are not obliged to answer any questions which they would be entitled to refuse to answer in court proceedings in England and Wales. The Democratic Services Committee may invite other persons to attend meetings of the Committee;
- The Democratic Services Committee must meet at least once in every calendar year.
- The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee must secure that meetings are held in accordance with the requirements set out in these terms of reference;
- The Democratic Services Committee must consider any report or recommendation sent to its Members any report prepared by the Head of Democratic Services under Section 9(1)(h) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 at a meeting held not more than three months after copies of the report are first sent to Members of the Committee;
- The Democratic Services Committee must as soon as practicable after it has prepared a report or made a recommendation under Section 11(1)(c) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 arrange for a copy of it to be sent to each Member of the Council who is not a Member of the Committee;
- The Democratic Services Committee will have overall responsibility for deciding what should be regarded as reasonable training and development opportunities as part of its function of providing support to Members to carry out their functions. In addition to the list set out below, the Democratic Services Committee may add some policy areas for which training is considered essential, such as planning or licensing:
 - Induction
 - Role and functions of the Executive, the Council and its Officers
 - Overview and Scrutiny
 - Information Technology
 - Code of Conduct
 - The role of a Councillor as a local Member
 - Public Engagement
 - Equality and Diversity training
- The agreed training and development opportunities will be contained within a published development strategy; The WLGA's Charter for Member Support and Development ("the Charter") will be used for guidance purposes in maintaining the award of the "Advanced Charter";
- The Democratic Services Committee will propose the appropriate level of funding to be made available for the purchase of external training, should there be the case that the reasonable training and development needs of the Council cannot be met in-house.