



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 24 October 2018 at 5.00 pm at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park. Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS - COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr C Hanagan, Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services
Mr C Jones, Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr C Lee, Group Director Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources

60 APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received from County Borough Councillors G Holmes, S Rees, S Rees-Owen, E Webster, M Weaver, D Grehan and R Turner.

61 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declaration of interest was made pertaining to the following agenda item:

- Agenda Item 5(b) – Members questions - County Borough Councillor S Belzak declared the following personal interest in respect of agenda item 2 - " I am on the Governing Body of YGG Pontsionnorton & Cilfynydd Primary but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

62 ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Mayor congratulated Councillor Tegg for raising £16,400 for her four Charities (Friends of Animals, Guide Dogs Cymru, Alzheimer's Society Cymru and Y Bwthyn) during her term of office as Mayor during 2017 / 18.
2. The Mayor Announced that Councillor Webber was currently selling A4 sized calendars to help raise money for the charity "Friends of the Animals Wales".
3. County Borough Councillor J Harries advised Members that today was World Polio day and spoke of the work of the Rotary International along with other partners who have been working to rid the world of the terrible disease. The Councillor continued by advising that there was still no cure to the polio disease, however preventative medication was available that could immunise children for life. He advised that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation were subsequently tripling the rotaries contributions. He added that every £1 the Rotary contributes 5 children were immunised against. The Councillor concluded by advising Members that crocus pin badges were available for Members to purchase to support the positive work in this area.
4. County Borough Councillor A Chapman congratulated, Mr Alex Pugsley, (a teacher from Treorchy Primary School) on being selected as a 'Get Set Champion' by the Olympics Get Set Programme in the lead up to the 2020 Olympics. The Councillor advised that this made Treorchy Primary School a 'Get Set Beacon' - one of only forty five Beacons in the UK and one of only

two in Wales. She continued by explaining that the Schools aim was to get more people, more active, more often by increasing opportunities for pupils, families and the wider communities to participate in physical activities and events, to benefit their health, well-being and lifestyles. It was noted that Mr Pugsley and Mrs L Reynolds (Head of Treorchy Primary) would be invited to the Parlour for an official acknowledgement of his success.

5. County Borough Councillor S Bradwick took the opportunity to update Members on two items:
 - As Deputy Chair of South Wales Fire Rescue Service (SWFRS), Councillor Bradwick attended the UKRO Championship at Cardiff Bay where over 600 Firefighters took part, culminating in 70 plus teams in total from around the UK. Councillor Bradwick was pleased to announce that SWFRS won the championship as best overall extrication team and best team in the competition and were led by Andrew Morgan who was station commander at Aberdare. Members were also advised of a number of other awards in which SWFRS were successful in and also acknowledged the work of London Fire Brigade following the Grenfell events over a 12 month ago.
 - Councillor Bradwick Congratulated Mr Thomas Matthews from the Cynon valley, who proudly represented Team Great Britain at the world championship in Slovenia. Members were advised that Mr Matthews successfully secured a bronze award in the Wheelchair Table Tennis and was hoping to qualify for the GB Para Olympic team for Tokyo in 2020. It was noted that Mr Matthews would be invited to the Parlour for an official acknowledgement of his success.
6. County Borough Councillor J Brencher commented upon the '[Know your Lemons](#)' Campaign, a breast cancer campaign initiated and taken forward by a former young teacher from Pontypridd High School – Dawn Wilson. Councillor Brencher advised that the campaign which was working with Tenovus was helping to raise awareness across all platforms in respect of breast cancer and the Member asked everyone to get involved in the awareness raising campaign. Councillor Brencher also advised of the PONT organisation based within Rhondda Cynon Taf which were currently supporting landslide victims in Uganda. Councillor Brencher advised of the work done to-date by the charity with the efforts to evacuate school children from a school building. The Member advised that there was a just giving page and the Mayor advised that details of the [Just Giving page](#) would be circulated to Members.
7. County Borough Councillor L Jones handed a petition to the Mayor in respect of a protest against the planned closure of Nantgwyddon Amenity Site

8. County Borough Councillor D Williams provided Members with an update on the positive work taken forward by the CRY charity (Cardiac Risk in the Young) with around 200 local young people being screened by the charity, which was only possible due to the donation made by Cllr Williams during his term of office as Mayor in 2012-13. Members were advised that the money donated allowed for two days screening at Cardiff Met and going forward Cardiff Met would be the adopted Cardiac Screening Hub.

63 MINUTES

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 19th September, 2018 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

64 STATEMENTS

Statement from the Leader of the Council in respect of Storm Callum:-

The Leader placed on record his thanks to the staff who worked effortlessly during the recent bad weather experienced on the 12th and 13th of October, 2018. The Leader informed Members that current figures indicate that 90 properties experienced flood damage. He commended the work of all staff that worked from highways to drainage, emergency planning and call centre staff, who worked tremendously hard to help alleviate the problems.

The Leader continued by advising that at the top of the Valley in Hirwaun 7 inches of rain fell in 48hours. In Cwmaman 4 inches fell and Cilfynydd 3 inches. He added that these were very high amounts of rainfall in such a short period of time. He continued by noting that it was pleasing to see that all flood defence schemes that are in places across the Authority worked, with no flooding experienced in these areas. The top of the Rhondda and Mid Cynon however received exceptional flooding. The Leader continued to advise that the Council were now working with officers and welsh water to look at long term solutions to the problems that were experienced. Planning prior to the storm had taken place with extra staff brought in beforehand and the delivery of two and half thousand sandbags which was still not enough. The Leader concluded his statement again reiterating his thanks to all the staff involved for their work over the 48 – 72 hour period.

Statement from County Borough Councillor G Hopkins Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language:

The Cabinet Member advised Members that the Staywell@Home, a service run between the Council and the Health Authority to prevent unnecessary administration to hospital and to prevent bed blocking had won a NHS Wales award overall and was highly commend in the Social Care Awards.

65 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. From County Borough Councillor M. Griffiths to the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (County Borough Councillor J. Rosser)

“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on examination results in RCT this year?”

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser

The Cabinet Member commenced her response by advising that although poverty and deprivation were not excuses for underperformance, they do influence educational outcomes. RCT has the 3rd highest number of pupils eligible for FSMs and based on this, you would expect RCT to be 20th in the comparative indicators, adding that the Council’s performance should be judged on the value added over and above what is expected.

The Cabinet Member continued her response by providing detailed narrative on the following examination results:

- **Foundation Phase** - Data suggests that Foundation Phase Indicators dipped by 5.65% in RCT during 2017/18 (1.35% below the Welsh average). Decline in performance was also evident across Wales on all 5 performance measures. Likely that this dip is attributable to changes in the expectations for outcomes in the Foundation Phase
- **KS2** - Data suggests that the performance of primary schools during 2017/18 deteriorated by less than *1% point* across the majority of subject areas, although Core Subject Indicator outcomes are at the 2nd highest level since 2013. RCT pupils performed just above the Welsh average for the percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in Welsh (first language).
- **KS3** - Secondary schools made good progress during 17/18 on 3 out of 5 key performance measures, and a further one outcome measure remained relatively stable. The performance on most Key Stage 3 indicators was just below the Welsh average, with the exception of outcomes in English, which was 0.2% above the all Wales average.
- **KS4** - Substantial changes to the KS4 in 2017 and how individual pupil and school performance is assessed in Wales, N. Ireland and England. Three countries previously been aligned and education standards had been set and maintained by one regulator. Now three separate regulators for the GCSEs across the 3 countries and qualifications are developed to meet the requirements of each regulator, which are awarded independently of each other. The grades awarded within a subject will no longer be benchmarked across each country.

The Cabinet Member advised that Improved outcomes were evident on Level 1, Level 2 and Level 2+ measures during 2017/18. Level 1 outcomes were above CSC average, but Level 2 and 2+ outcomes were below. The Cabinet Member concluded her response by advising that final examination information on each of the 17 secondary schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf would be presented to Cabinet and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on receipt of the final verified data in December 2018.

County Borough Councillor M Griffiths had no supplementary question to the Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning.

2. From Councillor S Belzak to the Leader of the Council- Cllr A Morgan:-

“In what way is the generation of extra road traffic, which is a likely consequence of the “Proposals to improve education in the Greater Pontypridd area,” approved by Cabinet for public consultation on 3rd October, compatible with the COP 21 Paris Climate Accord of 2015 or the report of the widely-publicised Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change (IPCC) published on 8th October 2018?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan

The Leader of the Council advised that the proposal put forward would reduce the Carbon footprint and was in accordance with Welsh Government Guidance in respect of Climate Change. The proposal in respect of the standard of the school building going forward and the facilities available would in fact improve the wellbeing of the children. The Leader added that in respect of transport there was no evidence that the proposal would add to the volume of traffic already witnessed with either a positive effect or nil detriment. He continued by adding that due to the location of the proposed schools and the close proximity of public transport it was hoped that public transport would be taken forward as the preferred mode of transport and therefore potentially reducing the traffic flow.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor S Belzak:

“Given the very considerable body of evidence in the peer-reviewed scientific literature (arising out of transnational studies) as to the adverse health outcomes for people spending a considerable portion of their day (regardless of rush hours) adjacent to freeways, motorways and dual carriageways, will the Leader now commit to my suggestion at Cabinet on 3rd October of

an independent investigation by a public health expert into the long term health implications for students and staff of moving Cilfynydd Primary School from its present location to a site immediately adjacent to the traffic-intense A470?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

The Leader explained that he was happy to take forward the suggestion with officers, although added that the proposal taken forward at Cabinet meant the school would be in the same proximity of the A470 as the current school building, albeit it the current building may be a little closer. The Leader reference the air quality zones on the A470 which was taken forward at peak times of the day during high volumes of traffic which did not align with school hours. The Leader again added that he could discuss the matter with officers although referred to his answer at the Cabinet meeting that an environmental impact study is always undertaken for new school buildings and that a building would not be taken forward if it was deemed to have any health implications associated to it.

3. From Councillor L Walker to Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing – Cllr R Bevan:

“Can we have an update on the present situation Regarding Pontypridd Y.M.C.A, and its proposed £6 million development in Pontypridd”

Response from County Borough Councillor R Bevan:

Before providing detail of the development Councillor Bevan corrected Councillor Walker by advising that the current Project budget for the development was £4.1m. He continued by adding that Pontypridd YMCA would be a striking new facility opposite the Taff Vale redevelopment which would further contribute to the regeneration of Pontypridd town centre with state of the art facilities for the community to use including a new nursery; space for community businesses and community uses including performance space and community skills development. He advised that the redevelopment was being led by Pontypridd YMCA - support and funding from Welsh Government, Arts Council for Wales, the Council and several charitable trusts.

The Cabinet Member informed Members that Initial works on site have been completed, including the demolition of the annex building opposite the Municipal Buildings and internal stripping out of parts of the building in advance of construction. Planning approval has been granted and a procurement exercise is under way to appoint a contractor to undertake the construction works phase of the project. A Project Board has been established to monitor progress on the Pontypridd YMCA project, led by

Pontypridd YMCA - Council officers and Arts Council for Wales representatives are only on the Board in an advisory capacity. The Cabinet member concluded by informing Members that volunteers have also come together to paint the hoarding surrounding the site, making it more visually intriguing, and also as a signal that progress is being made.

Supplementary question by County Borough Councillor L Walker:

I'm glad to hear the development is costing less than £6million, to which I am grateful. I have received queries from a constituent as to whether there will be any gym facilities available within the development at YMCA?

Response from County Borough Councillor R Bevan:

We are currently out to tender so difficult for me to comment but I can reassure you that gym facilities will be available within the Taff Vale development which your constituents will be able to have use of.

4. From Councillor Lorraine Jones to the Cabinet Member , Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services - Councillor A Crimmings:

"Please will you make a statement on the future of Nant y Gwyddon Amenity Site?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

The Cabinet Member, Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services commented on the continual monitoring undertaken at the site due to the high volume and frequency of break-ins, which has led to the reduction of the types of materials that the site will accept. The Cabinet Member continued by advising that the Councils 6 other sites accept a considerably higher range of materials, and staff members are often redirecting customers to either Dinas or Treherbert. It was added that unfortunately, it was not possible to develop the Gelli site any further due to the topography of the land surrounding it and the Cabinet Member spoke of a recent indication from NRW that they would be asking the Authority to undertake works to the site to comply with permit requirements which would almost certainly incur a cost for the Authority. The Cabinet Member concluded by adding that the Council are continuing discussions, but this combined with the continued break-ins, could make this site unviable in the future and the closure of the site is therefore considered as an option, albeit a very last resort.

Supplementary question by Councillor L Jones:

“ A handful of residents at a recent PACT meeting have queried what is happening at the site and you have quoted what was said by Mr Nigel Wheeler practically word for word. The site is heavily used, with people having to queue to get to use the site and some residents end up having to go to Gelli instead due to the volume. So closure is a potential option then?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

The Cabinet Member reiterated that closure was a potential option that the Council would be looking into.

5. From County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning (County Borough Councillor J. Rosser)

“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on Education Investment?”

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

The Cabinet Member commented that this was a great question to be picked due to the large areas of investment taken forward by the Council with Band A schools totalling £160m investment and £160m in Band B funding for 21st Century Schools programme, adding that the total funding package would constitute the biggest investment in all of Wales.

The Cabinet Member continued by advising of the new facilities available across the County Borough, including most recently, the £85m investment in Rhondda and Tonyrefail, the £24.1m Y Pant Comprehensive School, and the almost £50m Aberdare Community School. In respect of Band B investment Members were reminded that the Pontypridd proposal was currently out to consultation. The Cabinet Member added that the Capital Programme allocations totalled £27.079m over the last 4 financial years. Members were advised that additionally, the current financial year saw the Council invest £2m in the education budget - doubling the commitment made previously. The Cabinet Member concluded her response by referencing a quote that was made at a recent conference “if we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s, we rob them of tomorrow” adding that the investment provided was no more than the children of today deserved, giving them the best outcomes possible in life.

Supplementary question by County Borough Councillor W Lewis

“I’ve received positive comments from parents in respect of the Nantgwyn School following the investment taken forward. Can you tell me how the investments relate to Welsh Medium Schools within the County Borough?”

Response from County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

Councillor Rosser explained that overall spend for the last ten years in Welsh Medium Schools was of the sum of £12m with further investment in schools planned for Band B to assist Welsh Government with their 2050 target to promote and grow the Welsh Language. The Cabinet Member referenced the recent funding agreed by Cabinet in respect of £23.9m for more 21st Century Schools in Cynon Valley, with consultation being taken forward. The Cabinet Member added that these proposals would see investment such as £10.2m for YG Rhydywaun and £3.3m YGG Aberdar to allow new extensions for both schools by 2022.

WORK PROGRAMME

66 WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services provided Members with a brief update in respect of the Council Work Programme. Members were advised that the Leaders Annual Debate would be taken forward in November and also a presentation from the RAF following the freedom of the Borough celebrations earlier in the year. Other items coming forward for the work programme included a report on political balance and safeguarding training with the work programme being amended accordingly to reflect the changes.

JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

67 REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services referred Members to the report which provided feedback from the stakeholder engagement initiated by Council in respect of the review of the Council’s electoral arrangements being conducted by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (the ‘Boundary Commission’) and also looked to consider whether or not to submit a Council proposal to the Boundary Commission as part of its initial phase of consultation relating to the review.

The Director reminded Members of the previous consideration by the Council to the review in both the July and September meetings and the by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and advised of the further feedback

received from the public consultation that was undertaken, as previously agreed by Council. Members were also advised of the timetable of events with an agreed submission date for the Councils response to the Boundary Commission of the 26th October, 2018.

Going forward it was proposed that the Council submit a Council proposal to the Boundary Commission as part of its initial consultation relating to the review of the Council's electoral arrangements and if unanimous member agreement was not achieved in respect of the proposals set out in the report, areas of no agreement, or majority agreement would be highlighted to the Boundary Commission to inform their future deliberations. The Director advised that if Members wished to add a further option to any of the proposals outlined within the report during the meeting this would also be recorded and put forward to the Boundary Commission.

Following lengthy discussions in respect of the item the following was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the feedback received as part of the stakeholder engagement initiated by Council in respect of the proposals outlined in Appendix A of the report that relate to the review of the Councils electoral arrangements by the Boundary Commission
2. To submit the following proposals to the Boundary Commission to inform their future deliberations:

	Electoral Ward	Proposal	Council Agreement
a)	Abercynon	Retain as two Member Ward	Unanimous
b)	Aberdare East	Retain as two Member Ward	Unanimous
c)	Aberdare West/Llwydcoed	Retain as three Member Ward	Unanimous
d)	Church Village	Increase to two Member Ward (realign boundary with Tonteg Ward)	Unanimous
e)	Cilfynydd	Retain as one Member Ward	Unanimous
f)	Cwmbach	Increase to two Member Ward	Unanimous
g)	Cwm Clydach	Retain as one Member Ward	Unanimous

h)	Gilfach Goch	Retain as one Member Ward	Unanimous
i)	Glyncoch	Retain as one Member Ward	Unanimous
j)	Llantwit Fardre	Retain as two Member Ward	Unanimous
k)	Pen-Y-Graig	Retain as two Member Ward	Unanimous
l)	Pen-Y-Waun	Retain as one Member Ward	Unanimous
m)	Penrhiwceiber	Retain as two Member Ward	Unanimous
n)	Pontypridd Town	Retain as one Member Ward	Unanimous
o)	Porth	Retain as two Member Ward	Unanimous
p)	Taffs Well	Retain as one Member Ward	Unanimous
q)	Tonteg	Reduce to one Member Ward (from two) (realign boundary with Church Village Ward)	Unanimous
r)	Tonypandy	Retain as one Member Ward	Unanimous
s)	Tonyrefail East	Retain as two Member Ward	Unanimous
t)	Treforest	Retain as one Member Ward	Unanimous
u)	Treherbert	Retain as two Member Ward	Unanimous
v)	Ynysybwl	Increase to two Member Ward	Unanimous
w)	Aberaman North and Aberaman South	Option 1: Merge both wards to create a single three Member ward. Member Representation Consequence: Loss of 1	Option 1: Majority decision

		<p>Member</p> <p>Option 2: Splitting Aberaman North and Aberaman South Wards into 3 single member wards in line with the Boundary Commission's preference for single member wards</p> <p>Member Representation Consequence: Loss of 1 Member</p>	
x)	Mountain Ash East and Mountain Ash West	<p>Option 1: Merge the two wards to create a two Member ward covering the whole area currently represented by the two existing wards.</p> <p>Member Representation Consequence: Loss of 1 Member</p> <p>Option 2: Keep existing arrangement of the two Member Mountain Ash West ward (-32% rising to -33%) and the single Member Mountain Ash East ward (-6% falling to 0%)</p> <p>Member Representation Consequence: None</p>	Option 1: Majority decision
y)	Llwyn-Y-Pia and Trealaw	<p>Option 1: Merge existing Electoral Wards of Llwyn-Y-Pia & Trealaw to create a single two Member ward.</p> <p>Member Representation Consequence: None</p>	Option 2: Majority decision

		<p>Option 2: Adjust the ward boundaries of Llwyn-Y-Pia and Trealaw, and also Llwyn-Y-Pia and Ystrad. Member Representation Consequence: None</p>	
z)	Pentre	<p>Option 1: Retain the existing two Member ward. Member Representation Consequence: No change</p> <p>Option 2: Existing Pentre Ward be split into two single Member wards that represent the communities of Ton Pentre and Pentre. Member Representation Consequence: No change</p>	Option 2: Majority decision
aa)	Ystrad	<p>Option 1: Retain current two Member Ward arrangement. Member Representation Consequence: No change.</p> <p>Option 2: Existing Ystrad Ward be split into two single Member wards that represent the communities of Ystrad and Gelli. Member Representation Consequence: No change</p>	Option 1: Majority decision
bb)	Ferndale and Maerdy	<p>Option 1: Merge the Ferndale and Maerdy Electoral wards to create one, two Member ward. Member Representation Consequence: Loss of one Member</p>	Option 1: Majority decision

		<p>Option 2: Leave existing arrangements in Maerdy and Ynyshir and merge Ferndale and Tylorstown together (Moved by Cllr Macey)</p>	
cc)	Tylorstown and Ynyshir	<p>Option1: Merge the electoral divisions to create a two Member ward that encompasses the electoral territory of both of the current wards. Consequence: Loss of one Member.</p> <p>Option 2: Leave existing arrangements in Maerdy and Ynyshir and merge Ferndale and Tylorstown together (Moved by Cllr Macey)</p>	Option 1: Majority decision
dd)	Treorchy	<p>Option 1: Reduce to two Member Ward (from three)</p> <p>Option 2: Retain as a 3 Member ward (Moved by Cllr Chapman)</p>	Option 1: Majority decision
ee)	Beddau and Tyn-Y-Nant	<p>Option 1: Merge Beddau and Tyn-Y-Nant Wards to create a two Member ward. Member Representation Consequence: None</p> <p>Option 2: Merge Beddau and Tyn-Y-Nant Wards to create a three Member ward.</p>	Option 1: Majority decision

		Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member	
ff)	Brynna and Llanharan	<p>Option 1: Merge the wards to create one three Member ward. Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member.</p> <p>Option 2: Create three individual, single Member wards. Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member</p>	Option 2: Majority decision
gg)	Cymmer	<p>Option 1: Retain existing two Member ward with the current boundaries. Member Representation Consequence: None</p> <p>Option 2: Retain existing ward, although the Rhondda ward element of Trehafod would be transferred to Cymmer, encompassing approximately an extra 251 electors. Member Representation Consequence: None</p>	Option 2: Majority decision
hh)	Graig and Rhondda	<p>Option 1: Merge the electoral divisions of Graig and Rhondda Wards to create a single two Member ward. Member Representation</p>	Option 3: Majority decision

		<p>Consequence: Loss of One Member.</p> <p>Option 2: Retain existing arrangement of one single Member ward (Graig) and one two Member ward (Rhondda). Member Representation Consequence: None</p> <p>Option 3: Extend the Graig boundaries to encompass a section of Maes-Y-Coed, which is currently situated in the Rhondda ward. In addition to the proposed transfer of Trehafod, this solution would also include 450 electors being brought under the extended Graig ward. Member Representation Consequence: Loss of one Member</p>	
ii)	Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green	<p>Option 1: Merge the electoral divisions of Llantrisant Town and Talbot Green. Member Representation Consequence: None.</p> <p>Option 2: With the new estate development adjacent to Laneley hall bring this into Talbot Green and also bring in Ynysmaerdy (Moved by Cllr James)</p>	Option 1: Majority decision
jj)	Trallwng	Option 1: Retain as one	Option 1:

		<p>Member Ward</p> <p>Option 2: Multi Member Ward of Trallwng and Cilfynydd taking forward small part of Glyntaff (Moved by Cllr Powell)</p>	<p>Majority decision</p>
kk)	Tonyrefail West	<p>Option 1: Increase the number of Members to two. Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member.</p> <p>Option 2: The Communities of Penrhiwfer and Edmundstown do not identify themselves with Tonyrefail West. Merge Penrhiwfer with Pen-y-Graig and Edmundstown with Cymmer (Moved by Cllr A Davies-Jones)</p>	<p>Option 1: Majority decision</p>
ll)	Llanharry and Pont-y-Clun	<p>Option 1: Transfer the community of Tyla-Garw and allocate an additional representative to Pont-y-Clun to create a three-Member ward. Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member</p> <p>Option 2: Adopt the same arrangement as Option 1, although the area be divided into three separate single Member wards. Member Representation Consequence: Addition of one Member</p>	<p>Option 2: Majority decision</p>

mm)	Hawthorn and Rhydfelen Central/Ilan	Option 1: To create an additional single Member Ward. Member Representation Consequence: Additional single Member Electoral Ward (Upper Rhydfelen/Glyntaf area)	Option 1: Majority decision
nn)	Hirwaun	Option 1: Retain the existing arrangement (single Member ward). Member Representation Consequence: No change	Option 1: Majority decision
oo)	Rhigos	Option 1: Retain the current single Member ward. Member Representation Consequence: No change	Option 1: Majority decision

3. To Note the Timetable outlined in paragraph 5 of the report in respect of the process for conducting the remainder of the review by the Boundary Commission.

REPORTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES

68 COUNCIL'S REVENUE BUDGET - PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services referred Members to his report which provided Members with information in respect of the 2019/2020 Provisional Local Government Settlement, and initial comments on its likely implications for the delivery of Council services, following publication of the details on the 9th October, 2018.

The Group Director provided Members with the headline data from the settlement advising that the provisional reported settlement for Rhondda Cynon Taf, shows an increase of +0.3% which is above the average of -0.3%. Settlement figures across the twenty two local

authorities in Wales range from at best +0.4% to at worst -1.0%. Member were advised that the provisional settlement included partial funding for the Teachers pay awards agreement and the increase in Free School Meals, however details of specific grants had yet to be announced. Members were advised that although the Provisional Settlement was better than modelled in the most recent Medium Term Financial Plan, it still presented the Council with a significant challenge in terms of preparing a balanced budget for 2019/20, with Members being advised that the potential funding gap going forward would be £5.920M. The Group Director took the opportunity to advise Members of the work needed to be undertaken to develop an equitable budget strategy for 2019/20.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the Provisional 2019/2020 Local Government Settlement, announced by the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services on the 9th October 2018.
2. To note that the Final 2019/2020 Local Government Settlement is expected during December 2018.
3. To note that the general budget strategy consultation, will commence on the 5th November 2018.

(N.B prior to consideration of this item, Councillor P. Jarman made the following declaration of Interest: 'I have dispensation granted by the Standards Committee to speak and vote on all matters relating to the 2018/19 budget process. As this report relates to the budget for 2019/20 I will refrain from commenting on any financial issues for this budget to safeguard myself.)

69 COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT

Through his report the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline services provided Members with the opportunity to review the level of Council Tax discount for prescribed classes of dwellings within the County Borough and to review, amend or reaffirm the level prescribed.

Members were referred to section 3 of the report which outlined the requirements of the Council in respect of the Council Tax discount provision, with the Group Director advising that the Council has discretion to award up to 50% discount in respect of two prescribed classes of dwellings (usually described as second homes and holiday homes), i.e. Class A and Class B.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To agree the continuation of no Council Tax discount in respect of Class A, B and C properties.
2. That a review of the empty properties strategy is taken forward by the relevant scrutiny committee following a 12month implementation period of the strategy with its findings reported back to Cabinet.

70 COUNCIL INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

The Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services presented the report of the Cabinet which set out the position with regard to one-off resources which had become available following a review of Council earmarked reserves post completion of the audit process of the Council's 2017/18 Statement of Accounts. The report also provided the opportunity for the Council to further invest in its Investment Priority areas, aligned to the Corporate Plan, 2016 – 2020.

The Group Director advised that the level and use of earmark reserves was constantly reviewed as part of the Council's robust financial management arrangements and referred Members to section 4.3 of the report which outlined the extent to which any amounts could be released. Section 5.4 of the report also provided narrative about potential areas for future investment with £23.550M of investment which could be fully funded through a combination of the release of one off earmarked reserves plus prudential borrowing funded from reduced costs of insurance claims.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED:**

1. To release from reserves the funding (one-off) realised as a consequence of the review of earmarked reserves, as detailed at paragraph 4.1 to 4.3 of the report;
2. To undertake prudential borrowing as set out at paragraph 4.4 to 4.7 of the report; and
3. That the funding released is used to fund the investment priorities as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report which will then be incorporated into the Council's three year Capital Programme and / or Revenue Budget as appropriate.

(**N.B** prior to consideration of this item, Councillor P. Jarman made the following declaration of Interest: 'I have dispensation granted by the Standards Committee to speak and vote on all matters relating to the 2018/19 budget process.)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES

71 CHIEF OFFICER VER AND REDUNDANCY PACKAGES

Following a recommendation from the Council's Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) Panel the Director of Human Resources advised Members of the one Chief Officer severance package (as detailed in the report) in accordance with the Council's approved 2018/19 Pay Policy statement.

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

1. To approve the Chief Officer severance package (as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report) and as recommended by the Council's VER Panel on the 17th October, 2018, in accordance with the Council's approved 2018/19 Pay Policy statement.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

72 UPDATE ON THE SNOW WARDEN NOM

Members were presented with the report and recommendations of the Scrutiny working group by the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services, following the Notice of Motion presented at the September Council meeting in respect of Snow Wardens.

The Director advised of the creation of a working group to look into the proposal of voluntary snow wardens within the County Borough and the need to expedite the groups consideration, due to the subject matter. The Director advised Members of the discussions taken forward at the Cabinet meeting on the 18th October where Members agreed to the recommendations put forward by the working group subject to some minor amendments which the Director advised upon.

County Borough Councillor S Bradwick, as Chair of the working group commented positively upon the work undertaken by Members and the recommendations to be taken forward.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the work of the Scrutiny Working Group as set out in Appendix A of the report.
2. To note the decision taken by Cabinet on the 18th October, following Cabinet's consideration of the Working Group's recommendations, as set out below:
 - a) To endorse the recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group

as outlined below, subject to some minor amendments:-

- i. That the dedicated number for Elected Members is utilised to provide Members with support and advice for all Elected Members during periods of inclement weather;
 - ii. That a targeted campaign is undertaken to promote community self help (Communities coming together to help each other on a voluntary basis during times of extreme weather) and to encourage residents to become 'good neighbours';
 - iii. That appropriate, practical guidance and good practice in relation to community action in severe weather is shared with the residents of RCT via the Council website (GOV UK -Guidance on Community Action in Severe Weather); and
 - iv. That further work is undertaken in respect of the public liability aspect of insurance for voluntary work undertaken in a safe manner.
- b) That the Mini Snow Ploughs are brought on site before the October Council meeting for all Members to view.

73 AUDIT COMMITTEE - VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENT

The Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services provided Members with details of the recent decision taken forward by the Council's Audit Committee at its meeting on the 17th September, 2018 and also provided background on previous Audit Committee meetings in respect of the appointment of a Vice Chair to the committee for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** that the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Council's Audit Committee for the Municipal year 2018/2019 be presented back to the Audit Committee at its meeting on the 5th November, 2018.

74 CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with Minute No.10 of the Council meeting held on the 23rd May, 2018, the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services advised Members that he had received notification from the Labour Group of a change to its membership for the Audit Committee.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note that County Borough Councillor D.Owen-Jones is to be nominated in place of County Borough Councillor S. Pickering on the Audit Committee.

75 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.2(a), the Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic reported on an urgent decision that was taken forward through a key delegated decision on the 29th August, 2018 in respect of 'New Charges for Aberdare Athletics Track' and it was **RESOLVED** – to note the information contained within the report.

76 NOTICE OF MOTION

- a) The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors P.Jarman, E.Stephens, L.Jones G.Davies, S.Rees Owen, M.Weaver, K.Morgan, J.Williams, A.Cox D.Macey J.Davies, J.Cullwick H.Fychan,E.Webster, A.Chapman,S.M. Evans and .D.Grehan .

“We should all play our part in supporting our local economy and SMEs who make up the majority of it. In an effort to better support our local food production companies, this Council will create a food produce register. The register will list all local food and drink producers in the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf with the aim of encouraging and promoting an increase in the marketing and consumption of local produce, thereby supporting the local economy.”

“Subject to the principle of the motion being accepted by Full Council , the matter then be referred to the Finance and Performance Committee to advance the setting up of the register.”

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** to refer the Notice of Motion to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

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

“With Mental Health Awareness Day falling on October 10th, this Council lends its support to the Samaritans Working with Compassion campaign - designed to increase awareness and

promote compassion in the workplace.

“The Council notes the link between suicide rates and socioeconomic deprivation and resolves to raise awareness and improve understanding of the support available to individuals experiencing emotional distress.

“This Council also reaffirms its support to the Welsh Government’s Talk to Me 2 Campaign to ensure that the necessary provisions are in place to prevent instances of suicide, where possible.”

“As a part of this, the Council will ask the relevant Scrutiny Committee (Health and Wellbeing) to consider the most effective means of undertaking an internal awareness raising campaign to promote the support available to employees, and also the most appropriate method for increasing awareness and understanding amongst residents of the County Borough.”

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** to refer the Notice of Motion to the Health & Well Being Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

This meeting closed at 8.30 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**