



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 16 December 2020 at 5.00 pm

County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance:-

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

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

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Ms G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr N Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services
Mr P Griffiths, Service Director Performance & Improvement

67 Apologies

An apology of absence was declared by County Borough Councillors S Belzak, J R Davies, A Davies-Jones, Sera Evans, M Fidler Jones, E Griffiths, J Harries, L Hooper, K Jones, K Morgan, S Pickering, M Tegg, R K Turner, G Williams and C Willis.

68 Declaration of Interest

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

Agenda Item 2 - CWM TAF MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

- County Borough Councillor G Caple – “My son is a doctor and works in Bridgend and for Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board”
- County Borough Councillor G Caple – “I am a member of the Community Health Council”
- County Borough Councillor Sheryl Evans – “I work for the CTMHB”
- County Borough Councillor M Forey – “I am a former Elected Member representative on the Health Board”
- County Borough Councillor P Jarman – “I am a former member of the RCT LHB”
- County Borough Councillor R Yeo – “My wife works for Cwm Taf UHB in Prince Charles Hospital”
- County Borough Councillor R Lewis – “I have a close relative who works for the CTMUHB”
- County Borough Councillor G R Davies – “I was a contractor for the Health Board up until 2 years ago. I am now retired”
- County Borough Councillor S Morgans – “My daughter is a nurse at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital”
- County Borough Councillor G Jones – “I am a member of the Community Health Council”
- County Borough Councillor M Powell – “My father is in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital where he contracted Coronavirus”

Agenda item 8 - WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

- County Borough Councillor R. Bevan – “I have Cabinet responsibility for the Church Acts Grants Scheme”
- County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings – “I am on the Nos Galan Committee which has previously applied for funding.”
- County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings – “I am trustee of Friend of Aberdare Park, Aberdare”
- County Borough Councillor R. Lewis – “I am the Vice-President of Abercynon Male Choir (Côr Meibion Abercynon).”

- County Borough Councillor M Norris – “I am on the board of a community group that has received money from the Church Act”
- County Borough Councillor G. R. Davies – “I am the Secretary of Blaencwm Church which has previously received funding and member of the Rhondda Tennis Club Committee.”
- County Borough Councillor J. Edwards – “In my employment capacity, I signpost/support 3rd Sector community groups to access the funding”
- County Borough Councillor S Powell- “I am trustee of Llantrisant Guildhall”
- County Borough Councillor E Stephens – “I work for the Department of Work and Pensions”
- County Borough Councillor S Rees – “I am trustee of Friends of Aberdare Park, Aberdare”
- County Borough Councillor G Jones – “I am a trustee of the Friends of Aberdare Park, Aberdare” and “I am Chair of Trecynon Free Library & Institute which have both received funding from the Church Act”

CWM TAF MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

The Chair of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board, Mr Marcus Longley thanked Rhondda Cynon Taf Council for its support and partnership working during these difficult and challenging times. He outlined the overarching topics which would be presented at the meeting with input from Mr Paul Mears (Chief Executive), Nick Lyons (Deputy CEO / Medical Director) Alan Lawrie (Chief Operating Officer) and Greg Dix (Director of Nursing).

The Chair provided a summary of what has taken place over the last 12 months such as the publication of Joint Review into Quality Governance (November 2019) which set out a significant agenda and the response to Targeted Intervention (Quality and Governance) and Special Measures (Maternity Services). He advised that the new operating model has overhauled the entire organisation and the way it is managed and includes significant devolution of responsibility to the three localities which ensures the health board operates cohesively. The Chair paid tribute to the health board staff for their incredible response to Covid-19 and the challenges it has brought. In conclusion, the Chair introduced Mr Paul Mears who was appointed as the new Chief Executive in September 2020 and who along with his colleagues provided an update through the aid of a Power Point Presentation against the following key headings :-

- Key Headlines- Looking forward to the Next 12 months
- Covid-19
- The Ambition of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board
- Integrated Winter Plans
- Primary Care
- Maternity Services-Oversight
- Next Steps
- Update on A&E at Royal Glamorgan Hospital
- Moving Forward

Following the presentation, the Leader, County Borough Councillor A Morgan stated that there had been regular updates from the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board to Full Council most recently from Mr Mick Giannasi, Chair of the Independent Maternity Services Oversight Panel, who had delivered positive news of some recommendations to be implemented.

Opportunity was provided to the Group Leaders to ask questions of the Health Board representatives: -

Councillor P Jarman (Plaid Cymru Group)

Councillor Jarman thanked all the health staff in the hospitals looking after very sick patients at the moment and added that she was pleased to read a tweet from Mr Mears that day acknowledging the importance of being honest with and keeping patients and families informed. Councillor Jarman relayed the experience of an individual who had passed away on the 5th December 2020 after contracting Covid 19 in hospital having originally been admitted to Cwm Taf Morgannwg as a cancer patient, Councillor Jarman stated that Aneurin Bevan had recently apologised to a family whose relative had caught Covid whilst in hospital and asked whether Cwm Taf would do the same and improve on the communication arrangements to ensure that patients not being treated for conditions other than Covid are not lost.

Cllr Jarman welcomed the progress on the Maternity Services and publication of the report in January 2021. In conclusion, Councillor Jarman expressed concern and hoped that the Government's decision to allow people to gather at Christmas would not put an even greater strain on the NHS in January. Councillor Jarman stressed that she would lend her name to all and every effort being made by the Government of Wales to invest in the Health Service.

Councillor M Powell – (RCT Independent Group)

Councillor Powell also extended his thanks to NHS staff all across the country at the moment.

Councillor Powell asked the following questions: -

How many families were affected by the issues within the maternity provision at CTMHB as they were not provided with the appropriate services?

Councillor Powell asked whether following news that the A&E Service would remain at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, was there any lasting impact from the Wales Spatial Plan which was instigated in 2004 which initially proposed that A&E and Maternity Services were being moved to the Princess of Wales Hospital?

Will the Dewi Sant Hospital open as a Minor Injuries Units based on the model of the existing two units?

How many patients were moved from the Cwm Taf Bro Morgannwg hospitals into care homes. The FOI response stated there were 309 individuals moved into care homes but only 104 were tested prior to discharge for Covid-19 with 24 positive cases, which means a 9th of those patients tested positive for Coronavirus. Is that practice continuing?

Councillor Powell also relayed his own personal account and experience of his father being admitted to the Seren Ward at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital where he contracted the Coronavirus in the Seren Ward in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital and asked whether the hospital has an end of life policy?

Councillor J James (Conservative Group)

Councillor James extended his best wishes to Councillor Powell after hearing his family member's circumstances and illness.

Councillor James asked the following questions:

Concern with the long-term impact of Covid particularly with residents delaying seeking medical attention for non Covid related illnesses.

Councillor James asked how successful the new 111 service has been?

Planned expansion in Talbot Green and Llanharan and how the Health Board engages with the Council Planning procedures?

How will the County Borough facilitate the vaccine roll out in terms of storage and administering?

The Chief Executive of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board responded to a number of queries raised by the Group Leaders such as communication with patients and families which is critical. Mr Mears explained now more than ever it is essential to keep residents and patients informed and apologised for the experience relayed by Councillor Jarman earlier. Mr Mears advised that he is keen to create a more open and honest relationship with patients and residents and have good proactive communication with families and hear directly from them and this is a priority for the Health Board going forward.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Dewi Sant Hospital would be developed into a health park and modelled on the Keir Hardy site which currently accommodates speech and language therapists, audiology, GP Services, outpatients' services and offers a space for community groups so that it forma a

hub within the community.

With regards to the South Wales Plan, the Chief Executive advised that services have moved on since that model was developed many years ago and both health services and communities have changed. He added that staff will continue to collaborate with their colleagues in Aneurin Bevan and Cardiff and Vale Health Board as some services still require that partnership working.

The Director of Nursing, Mr Greg Dix was saddened to hear Councillor Powell's experience with regards to the Seren Ward and confirmed that the end of life visiting policy does apply to the Seren Ward. Mr Dix also responded to the query regarding the stillbirth and neo natal category and advised that the first 25 clinical reviews included maternal admissions to intensive care which has since been widely reported and added that the next categories are still under review by the independent reviewers. He offered assurance that when the details of the actions in relation to care delivery are finalised and published, they will be shared.

The Chief Executive, Mr Mears, responded to Councillor James' questions regarding the impact of covid on elective services and in doing so emphasised the importance of patients presenting themselves to their GP practices. He advised that the Health Board is still providing elective surgery and diagnostics for cancer and stressed the importance of sending a clear message to residents and the community about seeking medical attention despite the current challenges. Equally, he reported that services for the longer-term effects of long covid are being developed by the Health Board's Director of Therapies.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that the 111 service is a relatively new service but stressed the importance of being able to access this channel represents an alternative to attending the A&E service.

The Director of Primary Care, Mr Alan Lawrie also responded to the query regarding the new 111 Service and he assured Members that lots of work has been invested in the system but he would raise the response times directly with the organisation who are leading on the initiative. He agreed that it is important for the Health Board to engage with the Planning process and the Health Board has worked in conjunction with Planning colleagues in the Council recently looking at where the housing developments are located in Llanharan, Talbot Green and into the Pontypridd area and progress around that particular work would be reported back in a few months.

The Leader thanked the Health Board for attending and anticipated that a further invitation would be extended to the Board in a few months' time. He urged Members to send any outstanding questions directly to the Health Board.

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Announcements

- County Borough Councillor M Webber advised Members that an invite had already been extended to UBI Lab Network RCT to a future meeting of Full Council to provide an update on progress.
- County Borough Councillor L Walker took the opportunity to congratulate Mr David Jenkins, the Head Teacher from Ysgol Ty Coch for receiving the accolade of Head Teacher of the Year. Councillor Walker also

advised that Ysgol Ty Coch had been put forward for the Times Education Supplement for the second consecutive year and took the opportunity to thank Mr Jenkins, the staff and the school for all of their fantastic achievements.

- County Borough Councillor P Jarman paid tribute to the work and achievements of Mr D Church, Mountain Ash Comprehensive School who won the prestigious award of 'Pupils Award for Best Teacher'. Councillor Jarman spoke of the inspirational teacher that Mr Church was for both past and present pupils.
- Councillor Jarman also took the opportunity to congratulate the achievement of Lily Maund, a year 5 pupil from Caegarw Primary School in winning the poster competition to promote the need to continue to adhere to the Covid 19 regulations. Members were advised that the poster campaign would be used across RCT to help keep people safe and the Member thanked Lily for her thoughtfulness and added that all should follow her advice.
- County Borough Councillor J Rosser also highlighted the achievements of Mr D Jenkins and Mr D Church at the Professional Teaching Awards Cymru. The Member spoke of the challenging year for all school communities, adding that it was never more important than now for head teachers to be recognised and again congratulated the individuals with their awards.
- Councillor W Jones spoke of the reopening of St Albans Bridge in Tynewydd advising that the bridge was a lifeline to many residents. The Member paid thanks to the Council for the financial investment in this area. He also commented upon the local contractors who delivered upon the project on time, even during the Covid pandemic. The Member concluded his comments by paying tribute to the community involvement in the consultation period and the community opening event that took place which was Covid restrictions compliant.
- County Borough Councillor G Davies celebrated the reopening of the St Albans Bridge in Tynewydd after the recent flooding events and 9 months of Covid. He praised the contractor Alan Griffiths for keeping the community advised throughout the project and for keeping to the deadline, despite Covid. Councillor Davies thanked the Council for the £2m financial investment, the community, and the contractor for an excellent project.

71 Council Procedure Rule 15.1

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

order to facilitate the smooth running of the virtual meeting.

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

72 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 21st October 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

73 Members' Questions

From County Borough Councillor P Jarman to the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor G Hopkins:

“Please will you make a statement on how the Council supported Direct Payment for disabled adults and their carers during the Pandemic”

“Councillor Hopkins responded by advising that Direct Payments provide residents with the opportunity to have more choice and independence of their own care and support needs and the Council’s role is to help support people should they wish to choose that option. Adult Services have continued to work with their clients to assess their needs and to establish whether Direct Payments continue to meet their needs. Welfare and support calls have been carried out by DEWIS, the Council and the personal assistants to mitigate risks particularly to those who’s services have changed during the Pandemic and worked with individuals to ensure Direct Payments are used in a suitable way to prioritise tasks such as shopping and the collection of prescriptions. The Council has also worked with DEWIS with PPE to assistants in their role as key workers”.

Supplementary question from Councillor P Jarman:

“Councillor Jarman spoke on behalf of a resident who employs a personal assistant under the Direct Payment scheme to care for her severely disabled daughter. She advised that the support she received to access PPE and testing for the personal assistant she employs was, during the lockdown, not sufficiently sympathetic or coordinated and was very fragmented and deficient. She did want to thank DEWIS and Council staff who she dealt with for their advice and assistance within the framework they had to work to.

Councillor Jarman asked for confirmation that the Council has, since the latest fire break, been able to persuade CTMHB to extend the routine testing that is available to those personal assistants who work in care homes that it is also available to those staff who provide the most personal care in people’s own homes under the Direct Payment scheme.”

Response form Councillor G Hopkins:

“Councillor Hopkins expressed his concern regarding the case and asked Councillor Jarman to forward the details to him so that he may provide a response to include the wider issues”

From County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J. Rosser:

“Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the developments to increase the capacity of Welsh Medium Education?”

“Councillor Rosser advised that through the WESP the Council continues to support the WG’s ambition of 1million welsh speakers across Wales by 2050. Improving facilities in welsh medium settings through council investment and WG grant funding forms the key part of this with almost £4m of funding from WG’s Welsh Medium Capital Grant which has enabled new or improved childcare or Cylch Meithrin at a range of school sites to include YGG Ynyswen, YGG Evan James and YGG Aberdar. This will help to strengthen early exposure to welsh medium provision and transition to those school settings. This approach has been complimented by significant investment in school facilities via Bands A and B of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme e.g. £1.5m investment in YGG Tonyrefail and YGG Llwynycelyn to increase capacity and improve facilities at both. £4.5m has been secured from Band B allocation of the programme to build a new extension and childcare provision at YGG Aberdar. Consultation on a new £12m extension at YG Rhydywaun School has been undertaken with plans submitted for approval by the end of the year.

Councillor Rosser advised that Penderyn Community Primary School becomes a Welsh Medium School from September 2021 and plans are being finalised for an extension at Dolau Primary with a Housing Developer which will create an additional capacity for 500 pupils plus a Nursery. In conclusion, Councillor Rosser confirmed that plans have been announced to consult on a new school at YGG Llyn Y Forwen.”

Supplementary question from Councillor S Morgans:

“Councillor Morgans welcomed the announcement for the new school and asked for an update on the processes and next steps for the plans”

Response form Councillor J Rosser:

“Councillor Rosser advised that officers are in the process of assessing site options to commence the consultation process early in the new year and recognise that the current facilities are no longer fit for purpose and the proposals to be consulted upon will ensure that pupils will have access to a modern state of the art, educational environment. Councillor Rosser added that within the plans it is hoped to create additional welsh medium capacity in the Rhondda Fach area and community facilities and the consultation will provide the opportunity for everyone to comment and it will inform the cabinet decision making”

From County Borough Councillor E George to the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion Services, County Borough Councillor J Rosser:

“Can the Cabinet Member please outline what support is in place for children in receipt of Free School Meals?”

Response form Councillor J Rosser:

“Councillor Rosser advised that the Welsh Labour Government has confirmed that £11m has been made available to ensure that FSM provision will be made available for every school holiday up to and including the Easter holidays in

2021. Funding will also be available for all FSM pupils who are self-isolating from the 9th November. Bacs payments will be made retrospectively and on a weekly basis to all those pupils who are shielding or self-isolating and are made known to the council via their school. These arrangements will be in place until Friday, 18th December and will be reviewed thereafter. A payment for the Christmas closure in line with Welsh Labour Government's commitment on or around the 21st December 2020. Learners will be identified from their attendance codes which will be routinely checked."

No supplementary question was put to the Cabinet Member.

From County Borough Councillor M Forey to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan:

"How is the council intending to support recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in the future?"

Response from Councillor A Morgan:

"The Leader advised that there has been a whole raft of Covid grants available from Welsh Government, most of which have been delivered through the local authorities. The council has supported approximately 6,000 businesses with £60m of financial support and advice, the Enterprise Support Programme, Town Centre Maintenance grant and property improvement grants have been included. Some businesses have used them as match funding pots to apply for other grants. The Leader added that the schemes have awarded over £300,000 of business support which has been matched through the private sector so a total of £600,000 of investment has been made available. The Council is about to make further NNDR payments to businesses such as those in the Hospitality sector and has been extended to supply chains that have also been affected.

The Economic Resilience Fund is available through Business Wales and applications will open after Christmas and the Council will be making every effort to encourage local businesses to apply. The overall package for the current round of restrictions is estimated to be around £340m to support fragile businesses

Locally, Council's officers have been out to advise businesses regarding grants or other financial packages and have reduced or removed the car parking charges in Pontypridd and Aberdare as residents are using the town centres to shop."

Supplementary question from Councillor M Forey:

"Councillor Forey asked what impact a further lockdown would have on the economy as well as the impact of additional risk of Brexit?"

Response from Councillor A Morgan:

"The Leader of the Council and as Leader of the WLGA, Councillor Morgan advised that in the event of a further lockdown and a no deal Brexit the emergency centre at WG is being stepped up from the 28th December and Operation Yellow Hammer is looking at the food supply to ensure that the local authority care homes and schools will be provided for in the event of disruption. The Leader stated that he met with Business Wales recently to discuss a no deal Brexit as it is difficult to plan for anything other than a no deal Brexit. He advised

that the Council's Finance teams are busy with the allocation of business grants and ensuring the correct advice is available to them and discussions are ongoing about further packages of support.

In conclusion, the Leader thanked the Regeneration team who contact as many businesses as possible to update them regarding the grants available to them by using their contacts through business forums, volunteer groups, town centre groups to encourage applications before the deadlines."

From County Borough Councillor G Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Enterprise Development and Housing, County Borough Councillor D R Bevan:

"Can you provide an update on the ZipWorld Development in terms of progress and if a planned opening date is known?"

Response from Councillor R Bevan:

"Councillor Bevan advised that work is underway to deliver the Zipworld attraction and there has been a significant social media coverage and attention. The attraction will be called 'Phoenix' and will be the fastest seated zipline in the world. Councillor Bevan informed Council that a number of other works are underway to renovate some of the old colliery buildings to use as visitor reception and catering facilities. A Planning application will be forthcoming for a coaster cart attraction, the first of its kind in Europe. The estimated opening date is the end of March 2021 subject to Covid restrictions"

No supplementary question was put to the Cabinet Member.

From County Borough Councillor Sheryl Evans to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Heritage Services, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

"Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the latest recycling figures for RCT?"

"Councillor Crimmings advised that both the flooding and Covid pandemic have impacted on the Council's recycling figures. Material was damaged in the floods which was unable to be recycled and there was a complete closure of the CRC's across the Borough during the first lock down. With more residents now working from home Councillor Crimmings reported an increase in the residual waste but an uplift in the food waste figures with the figures standing at 70.05% in the 2nd quarter which is on a par with the figures for the same period last year and mean that RCT is well placed to achieve its 2024/25 targets of 70%."

No supplementary question was put to the Cabinet Member.

74 Statement

The Leader of the Council announced that this would be the last Council meeting for Mr Gio Isingrini, the Group Director of Children & Community Services due to his pending retirement from the Local Authority. The Leader paid tribute to Mr Isingrini and thanked him for his support to staff and the Senior Management Team and acknowledged his hard work and long hours he had committed to the post particularly throughout the pandemic. He commented that Gio would be a

hard act to follow and advised that Mr Paul Mee would be taking up post in the New Year.

The Leader also provided an update in relation to the flood repairs and schemes as follows:-

Emergency Repairs

26 listed
6 in development
1 on site
19 completed

Flood Risk Management Major Schemes

11 identified
10 in development
1 on site

Flood Risk Management Small Schemes (under £150,000 threshold)

23 identified
14 in development
4 on site
5 completed

Flood Risk Management small schemes advanced Preparation

8 in development

Resilient Roads Funding

18 schemes
14 in development
2 on site
2 completed

The Leader summarised the total figures as follows and gave assurance that there is a significant amount of work being undertaken despite the restrictions in place and even during any future lock down, contractors will continue to work with staff: -

86 schemes identified
52 in development
8 on site
26 completed

The Leader of the Plaid Cymru Group also thanked Mr Isingrini for his support he has given to both herself and to the Plaid Cymru Group and Councillor Jarman stated that he was a true professional and a very hands-on officer.

Mr Gio Isingrini thanked Council for its good wishes and the opportunity to work for the local authority and he acknowledged his worthy successor, Mr Paul Mee.

75 Council Work Programme 2020/21

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented an update regarding the Council Work Programme and advised that the Council

Revenue Budget-Provisional Local Government Settlement would be reported to the subsequent Council meeting in January 2021. The Leader's Annual Debate would take place at the February Council meeting and in conclusion, the Service Director pointed out that there is a pre-Council provisional training session on Gypsy, Roma and Travellers training for Members in January.

76 UPDATE IN RESPECT OF THE CORONAVIRUS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services provided an update in respect of Coronavirus in Rhondda Cynon Taf through the means of a Power Point presentation under the following headings :-

- Case rates by region
- Case rates by Local Authority
- Trends in 7-day Cumulative Covid Incidence Rate Per 100,000 in RCT 15th September – 9th December 2020
- Trend in Day Covid Test Positivity Rates in RCT
- LSOA Covid Heat Map
- Built up Area Covid Heat Map
- Covid Local Area Surveillance
- Contract Tracing
- Whole Area Testing – Lower Cynon

Following the presentation, the Leader advised that the First Minister had outlined that further restrictions would be in place on the 24th December and the whole Nation would go into Tier 4 from Christmas Day. With the situation changing quickly the Leader stated that a review of the Council Services would be undertaken over the Christmas period to support key frontline services such as recycling and refuse services and discussions with HR to ensure staffing levels are bolstered in key areas such as Track and Trace programme. The Leader confirmed that over 300 staff are currently working on the Track and Trace programme which can generate up to 9,000 contacts in a single week across the Cwm Taf area. The service operates on a 7 day a week basis and evenings.

The mass testing pilot that was originally targeted in the lower Cynon area has been successfully extended with the support of the council staff that are primarily involved in the coordination of the testing. The Leader advised that the mass testing scheme was likely to identify between 700-800 individuals positive cases and with the track and trace programme in place to follow up contacts the programme was having an impact on the number of cases and of benefit.

The Leader confirmed that daily discussions were being held between all 22 Local Authorities and Ministers and advised that the vast majority of non-essential council services will close, public venues will close, public toilets in Pontypridd and Aberdare will remain open and public transport will operate for

commuters. The vast majority of council services will also close but frontline services such as social care, children's services, meals on wheels and recycling services will remain in operation. The Leader stressed the importance of Members relaying key messages to residents about limiting the contact with others.

In conclusion the Leader expressed his gratitude to the staff, particularly school staff looking after school children of key workers.

Councillor P Jarman (Plaid Cymru Group)

Councillor Jarman wished to extend her gratitude to all council staff delivering all the services, in particular school staff and the council and health board staff who set up the testing arrangements in Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, from 486 children that were tested only one pupil had a positive result.

Councillor Jarman sought clarification on the source of the text messages from the pilot scheme as she had received one from Merthyr which was misleading.

Is there a correlation that if there is a positive result from the lateral flow test scheme and the follow-on PCR tests will also show positive?

Councillor Jarman extended the support of the Plaid Cymru Group to the Leader in his decision to close the non-essential council services to support the frontline services to keep residents and staff safe from the virus.

Councillor M Powell – (RCT Independent Group)

Councillor Powell concurred with Councillor Jarman with her support for the Leader and his Cabinet in his decisions at the present time such as the closure of non-essential council services.

Councillor Powell acknowledged the hard work of staff working on the mass testing programme and the majority of residents who are complying with the restrictions. Councillor Powell suggested that instructions on an A4 side of paper clearly setting out what residents can and can't do under the current restrictions would be useful.

Councillor Powell referred to the maps shown to Council earlier and stated that they do not show a realistic picture of the location of the positive cases. He urged the Health Board to produce maps which show the true picture.

Councillor J James –(Conservative Group)

Councillor James reiterated the messages of thanks to be extended to council staff for their hard work under challenging circumstances.

Councillor James referred to the devolved Governments taking separate routes and whether this is the reason for the higher rates of infection of Covid-19 in Wales. He questioned what is the reason for this, is it simply individuals not adhering to the restrictions when all other Nation's results seem to be coming down?

The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services addressed the questions and assured Councillor Jarman that the text messages from

Merthyr are legitimate and are part of the evaluation process of the pilot and confirmed that he had since requested that in future they reflect the correct location to avoid any confusion. The Director advised that the lateral flow device test is a highly specific test and identifies Covid-19 but it is not as sensitive as the PCR test hence the request for a second confirmatory PCR test. To date in Merthyr and Cynon those that come for the PCR test after a having positive lateral flow test also receive a positive PCR test which will form part of the evaluation and confirm how effective the approach of the pilot scheme is.

The Director advised that the interpretation of the maps needs to be approached with some caution and those positive cases in hospital will be recorded as their place of residence. He confirmed that there is an increase in community acquired infections being admitted into hospital but the distinction between community and the hospital acquired infections is becoming less significant. The numbers show the cases within the last 7 days and those hospital acquired infections will be low and unlikely to affect the ranking on the maps.

In terms of the higher rates of infection across Cwm Taf, the Director advised that the wide range of reasons include socio economic, age, demography, underlying health conditions but the driver of the infection rate is community transmission through social contact, workplace, household and in hospitality.

The Leader clarified the hospital transmission rates across the county borough and advised that just under 3.5% of all covid cases were hospital acquired cases. He also provided further clarification on the lateral flow device test and PCR tests.

77 Welsh Church Act Fund Annual Report 2019/2020

In his report, the Director of Finance and Digital Services sought the approval of Members of the Statement of Accounts for the Welsh Church Act Fund for the financial year ended 31st March, 2020; and it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve and note the Welsh Church Act Fund Annual Report and Financial Statements for the financial year 2019/2020 (attached at Appendix 1 of the report);
2. To approve and note the Letter of Representation relating to the Welsh Church Act Fund (attached as Appendix 2 of the report); and
3. To note the External Auditor report (attached as Appendix 3 of the report).

(N.B At this juncture in the meeting County Borough Councillor A Morgan declared the following personal interest "I am a member of the Nos Galan Committee and Darran Las Environmental Group")

78 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Human Resources referred Members to his report which sought Council's ratification of the decision of the Appointments Committee, regarding the appointment to the post of Director of Public Health, Protection & Community

Services.

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the recommendation of the Appointments Committee that Mrs. Louise Davies be appointed to the post of Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services w.e.f. 1st January 2021.

79 Notices of Motion

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

On 1st May 2020, the U.K. Government initially cut the tax on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to 0% in order to “relieve the burden of VAT on the price of purchasing PPE used for protection from coronavirus by frontline workers.” However, last month, the Treasury confirmed that protective equipment purchased by businesses and the general public would be once again subject to the 20% sales tax from November following the 6-month exemption period.

The re-introduction of the full 20% sales tax would have a significant effect on many private sector businesses and, of course, ordinary consumers and members of the public at a time when many are not only continuing to struggle with the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, but will also be turning their thoughts towards the Christmas period, which in itself can be a time of financial hardship for families across the U.K. It is estimated that the reintroduction of the tax could cost families as much as £100 over six months.

This Council therefore calls on the UK Government to extend the waiver in VAT afforded to Personal Protective Equipment to ensure that private sector businesses and residents are not financially penalised in taking the sensible and advised steps to minimise their risk of contracting or passing on COVID-19.

This Council asks that the Leader writes to the UK Government asking they urgently extend the VAT exemption on PPE.

Following discussion's, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion.

- **(N.B.** All Labour Members in attendance at this juncture in the meeting wished for their names to be recorded in favour of the motion, namely County Borough Councillors G. Hughes, L. M. Adams, G. Caple, D. R. Bevan, H Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J Brencher, A Calvert, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, J. Edwards, J Elliott, S. Evans, M. Forey,

A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, G. Holmes, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S Pickering, S. Powell, S. Rees, J. Rosser, G Stacey, G Thomas, W Treeby, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams and R. Yeo

- County Borough Councillor J. James abstained from voting on the matter)

B) The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors M. Griffiths, T. Williams, 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. Edwards, J Elliott, S. Evans, M Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, J. Harries 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. Powell, S. Powderhill, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G Stacey, M Tegg, G Thomas, W Treeby, R K Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo was received:

The effects of inequality and poverty on life chances are multi-faceted and well documented, with the impact of the global pandemic not only exposing the financial hardships that families across the country and beyond face, but also exacerbating the significant strain placed on our economy through mass job losses and the collapse of many businesses.

The need to provide a safety net has never been more urgent, and it is little wonder to see calls continuing to grow for the introduction of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) scheme. UBI would see everyone being paid a fixed sum by the Government to cover basic costs, regardless of whether they are rich or poor, or working or unemployed. It is clear that the current benefits scheme is broken, with millions suffering undue hardship through the inherent problems with the Universal Credit system, and the implementation of a universal benefit scheme would not only reduce poverty and inequality, but would also provide a more robust system of financial security to those families experiencing financial hardships.

The work of the UBI Lab Network in developing proposals for test pilots has been instrumental in driving forward this agenda and, in October of this year, a majority of Members of the Senedd from across a number of political parties supported a Motion tabled by Jack Sargeant MS calling on the Welsh Government to implement a UBI trial in Wales and to lobby the U.K. Government for funding to extend this across Wales. During the debate, the Welsh Government's Finance Minister & Trefnydd highlighted that rolling out a Universal Basic Income scheme set at the living wage across Wales could cost around £35bn a year – a sum that is twice the size of the Welsh Government's budget. It is clear that any such future pilot would require significant financial support from the Westminster Government.

As the implementation of a trial falls outside the scope of the statutory powers of the Local Authority, this Council therefore resolves for the Leader of the Council to write to the First Minister to express this Council's interest in forming part of any pilot scheme introduced for Universal Basic Income.

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

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This Council resolves to continue to work with UBI Lab Wales Network in the development of proposals for a pilot in the County and further resolves that we invite UBI Lab Network RCT to a future meeting of Full Council to inform Members of progress in their campaign of promoting UBI locally and nationally.

As the implementation of a trial falls outside the scope of the statutory powers of the Local Authority, this Council therefore resolves for the Leader of the Council to write to the First Minister and all Party Leaders represented at the Senedd, to express this Council's interest in forming part of any pilot scheme introduced for Universal Basic Income.

In recognition that the primary onus of responsibility for the overall funding of UBI rests with the UK Government, this Council further resolves to send a copy of this motion to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to the Leaders of all of the Parties that are represented in the

UK Parliament.

Following a discussion on this matter and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 12.7 the mover of the substantive motion moved an alteration to the substantive Motion to include that the Leader of the Council also write to "the representative Minister from the UK Government"

The altered substantive Motion therefore read:

The effects of inequality and poverty on life chances are multi-faceted and well documented, with the impact of the global pandemic not only exposing the financial hardships that families across the country and beyond face, but also exacerbating the significant strain placed on our economy through mass job losses and the collapse of many businesses.

The need to provide a safety net has never been more urgent, and it is little wonder to see calls continuing to grow for the introduction of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) scheme. UBI would see everyone being paid a fixed sum by the Government to cover basic costs, regardless of whether they are rich or poor, or working or unemployed. It is clear that the current benefits scheme is broken, with millions suffering undue hardship through the inherent problems with the Universal Credit system, and the implementation of a universal benefit scheme would not only reduce poverty and inequality, but would also provide a more robust system of financial security to those families experiencing financial hardships.

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As the implementation of a trial falls outside the scope of the statutory powers of the Local Authority, this Council therefore resolves for the Leader of the Council to write to the First Minister and the representative Minister from the UK government to express this Council's interest in forming part of any pilot scheme introduced for Universal Basic Income.

In light of the proposed alteration to the substantive Notice of Motion County Borough Councillor P Jarman resolved to withdraw the amendment submitted by the Plaid Cymru group.

Following discussions on the altered substantive Notice of motion, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the altered substantive Notice of Motion in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure 12.7.

N.B

- (During the discussion Members **RESOLVED** to continue the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, to allow consideration of the remaining agenda items and continuation of Council business.
- At this juncture in the meeting County Borough Councillor E Stephens declared the following personal interest and abstained from voting on the matter: "I work for the DWP who operate Universal Credit"
- County Borough Councillor J James wished to have his vote recorded that he voted against the Notice of Motion.)

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

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council continues to stand against all forms of racism and discrimination and is committed to working with partner organisations to combat such abhorrent beliefs and actions.

One such form of racism and discrimination that has seen a rise in recent years is antisemitism, and this has been evidenced in the U.K., the United States of America, and indeed many other European countries. In 2019, the Community Security Trust found an 82% increase in online hate crimes and a 25% increase in antisemitic violence.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) defines antisemitism as the following: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.

Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews

controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.

Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.

Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).

Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.

Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.

Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.

Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.

Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

This Council therefore resolves to formally adopt the above (IHRA) definition of antisemitism and all of its examples in full and without qualification, and pledges to combat this pernicious form of racism wherever it manifests itself, no matter where, how or when.

Following discussion's, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion.

N.B

- All Plaid Cymru Members in attendance at this juncture in the meeting wished for their names to be recorded in favour of the motion, namely Councillors P Jarman, E Webster, H Fychan, G Davies, A Chapman, L Jones, E Stephens, S Rees Owen, M Weaver, J Williams, A Cox, D Grehan, E Griffiths and J Cullwick.

This meeting closed at 8.05 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**