



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

COUNCIL

29 NOVEMBER 2023

NOTICES OF MOTION

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
AND THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 Council is asked to consider the Notices of Motion (NOM) as set out below for which the necessary notice has been provided and make an appropriate recommendation in accordance with Rule 10.1 of the Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Consider the Notices of Motion as outlined in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 and make an appropriate recommendation; and

2.2 Request that the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication makes the necessary arrangements to record the NOM and provide any updates through the publication of 'information reports' on the Council agenda, as formerly agreed.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

3.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

4. NOTICES OF MOTION

4.1 To consider the under-mentioned Notices of Motion which have been submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.1 and received by the Proper Officer, standing in the names of County Borough Councillors:

4.2 R. Williams, S. Emanuel, L. Addiscott, M. D. Ashford, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, G. Caple, J. Cook, A. Crimmings, S. J. Davies, R. Davis, A. J. Dennis, V. Dunn, E. L. Dunning, J. Edwards, J. A. Elliott, L. Ellis, R. Evans, A. S. Fox, B. Harris, S. Hickman, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W. Hughes, G. Jones, G. O. Jones, R. R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, M. Maohoub, C. Middle, A. Morgan, N. H. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, D. Parkin, S. Powderhill, C. Preedy, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Smith, G. Stacey, L. A. Tomkinson, W. Treeby, J. Turner, G. L. Warren, K. Webb, M. Webber, D. Williams, G. E. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo.

After weeks of speculation, the Prime Minister has finally confirmed that the Northern leg of HS2 between Manchester and Birmingham will now not be constructed.

The announcement, which has seemingly been the worst-kept secret in politics, follows on from the scrapping of both the Eastern leg between Birmingham and Leeds, and the east-west high speed line between Leeds and Manchester in 2021.

The original designation of HS2 as an England and Wales project was shocking in and of itself with the nearest high-speed rail project situated almost 70 miles away from the Welsh border, and the justification for the classification was that passengers in North Wales would allegedly benefit from the interchange planned for Crewe.

Over the past decade, the inequalities of the Barnett Consequential and the decisions of the Conservative Westminster Government has seen Wales be deprived of nearly half-a-billion pounds of transport investment (based on like-for-like rail funding per-head of the population compared to other parts of the U.K.).

With the HS2 project being scrapped and “billions of pounds now saved” it is absolutely fair and just that Wales benefits from its fair share of investment.

The announcement that £1bn would be allocated to electrifying the North Wales mainline is nothing more than a finger in the air figure and, according to the Welsh Government, will take at least 10 years.

The Prime Minister has already stated that every region outside of London will receive the same or more government investment than they would have done under HS2, and with quicker results.

This commitment must apply to Wales and be delivered on a scale that reflects the needs of Wales in seeking to address the underfunding of rail transport over the last decade, and allows for other important transport projects across Wales to be funded as well.

This Council therefore notes:

- That the cancellation of HS2 provides an opportunity for Wales to receive a fair share of funding for rail transport infrastructure projects.

- That the Barnett formula requires urgent review to prevent future occurrences of projects being wrongly classified to circumvent funding being provided to the devolved nations.
- That the Westminster Government must now make good on its commitment to provide equitable funding arrangements to “every region outside of London” with the money “saved” from HS2.

This Council resolves:

- To request that the Council Leader writes to the Prime Minister, the Transport Secretary, Secretary of State for Wales, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to convey this Motion.
- To request that the WLGA make representations as an “all-Wales voice” to outline the case that Wales must receive a fair and proportionate amount of funding from the cancellation of HS2.

4.3 W Lewis, R. Davis, L. Addiscott, M. D. Ashford, J. Barton D. R. Bevan, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, G. Caple, J. Cook, A. Crimmings, S. J. Davies, A. J. Dennis, V. Dunn, E. L. Dunning, J. Edwards, J. A. Elliott, L. Ellis, S. Emanuel, R. Evans, A. S. Fox, B. Harris, S. Hickman, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W. Hughes, G. Jones, G. O. Jones, R. R. Lewis, C. Leyshon, M. Maohoub, C. Middle, A. Morgan, N. H. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, D. Parkin, S. Powderhill, C. Preedy, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Smith, G. Stacey, L. A. Tomkinson, W. Treeby, J. Turner, G. L. Warren, K. Webb, M. Webber, D. Williams, G. E. Williams, R. Williams, T. Williams, R. Yeo.

The Council notes that the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman has made a finding of maladministration by the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of failings in the way it communicated changes to the State Pension age to women born in the 1950s.

The Council also notes that the Ombudsman is intending to send provisional Stage 2 and Stage 3 Reports covering the injustice caused by the maladministration and remedies to the 500 or so women whose cases reached the Ombudsman before he stopped accepting complaints. They, and the DWP, will be invited to comment by an expected deadline of 21st December. These comments will be considered by the Ombudsman who hopes to issue a final report sometime in the new year. It will then be put before Parliament.

The Council supports the actions of the Women Against State Pension Injustice (WASPI) Campaign to secure justice for the 3.8 million women affected, including the 12,800 who live in the Rhondda, Cynon & Taff constituencies.

The Council notes that the Prime Minister has said that the Government will respond appropriately to any recommendations, and calls upon the Government to commit to the full, fair, and fast implementation of appropriate compensation.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

6.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Constitution

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report and no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed necessary for the purposes of this report as it relates to a procedural matter under the Council's Constitution.

7.2 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution which sets out the framework for the decision-making roles and responsibilities.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 This report presents for Members' consideration the Notices of Motion submitted to Council for the period November 2023 for which the necessary notice has been given.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

COUNCIL

29 NOVEMBER 2023

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

