



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

COUNCIL

17 JANUARY 2024

NOTICES OF MOTION

**REPORT OF 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 A. J. Dennis, C. Preedy, 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, V. Dunn, E. L. Dunning, J. Edwards, J. A. Elliott, L. Ellis, S.

Emanuel, R. Evans, A. S. Fox, B. Harris, S. Hickman, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, W. Hughes, G. Jones, G. O. Jones, R. R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, M. Maohoub, C. Middle, A. Morgan, N. H. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, D. Parkin, S. Powderhill, 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.

A few months ago, it was announced that TATA Steel – a major employer in South Wales (in particular), and the U.K. Westminster Government had agreed a package of support to “secure the future of Welsh steel.”

Despite the overall package amounting to a headline-grabbing £1.25bn, the reality is that the package and transition ambitions have fallen well short and the announcement amounts to little more than a sticking plaster for the continued production of steel in Wales.

The investment only supports the transition from blast furnaces to Electric Arc Furnaces, which will mean that the site at nearby Port Talbot will no longer have the ability to produce primary steel as the quality and grade of production will not be up to the necessary standard due to the fact that Electric Arc Furnaces recycle scrap steel.

This short-sighted investment plan should instead have focussed and made provisions for a transition to the Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) method of production. DRI can be supported by the use of Natural Gas before opening up the possibility of Hydrogen-powered steel production, which is a more sustainable method of steel production and considerably more ambitious in terms of decarbonisation.

In addition, and most importantly, the investment package is also estimated to lead to 3,000 job losses, with the majority of those coming from the Port Talbot plant. There are RCT residents working at the steel works in Port Talbot and it is likely that a significant proportion of that number will be affected – either directly or indirectly.

Since the announcement, it has emerged that neither the Trade Unions nor the Welsh Government formed any part of these discussions, yet they are the very organisations who will have to pick up the pieces and provide support to those affected when these anticipated job losses occur.

This Council therefore notes:

- That the “investment package” for TATA Steel falls well short of what is required and does little to secure the future of the industry in Wales.
- That the U.K. Government’s bilateral dealings with TATA have no regard for the significant workforce impact that will form part of the expected job losses.
- That the transition to solely Electric Arc Furnace production will be a short-sighted move for British steel production capacity and is a considerable missed opportunity in terms of decarbonising a vital part of the British (and Welsh) economy.

This Council resolves to:

- Request that the Council Leader writes to the Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd that represent the communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf and ask that they jointly support the representations made by this Council to the relevant U.K. Government Minister(s) to express this Council's view that the investment package announced falls woefully short.
- Notes the findings of the “Wrong Deal for Steel” and supports the steps laid out by Industrial Communities Alliance.

4.3 S. Emanuel, S. Rees, L. Addiscott, M. D. Ashford, J. Barton, D. R. Bevan, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, G. Caple, J. Cook, A. Crimmings, R. Davis, S. J. Davies, 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, 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.

This Council condemns the utterly inadequate settlement for Wales announced by the UK Tory government in the Autumn Statement.

This settlement provides only £305 million extra for the Welsh Government over a two year period – and this means that the Welsh Government have around £160 million next year to meet all of the pressures in the NHS, local government and all of the other services it provides for the people of Wales.

To put this into perspective, RCT Council spends more than £258m on education alone. Pressures in just this Council are estimated at £35m and across local government in Wales at £432m, even after council tax rises.

The fact remains that this settlement will go nowhere near meeting the inflationary pressures faced by services in Wales. It is a raw deal for the people of Wales and shows how little the U.K. Tory Government cares about the people of Wales.

This Council therefore calls on the U.K. Tory Government to invest in public services - including health, education, and local government services, and to provide a fair settlement to the Welsh Government in order to ensure that services in Wales can be properly funded.

To this end, this Council resolves to request that the Leader of the Council writes to call upon Tory Government Ministers to announce additional investment in the Budget in March.

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 January 2024 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

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