



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 7 February 2024 at 5.00 pm.

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

County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present:-

Councillor G Hughes (Chair)

Councillor S Evans	Councillor B Stephens
Councillor L Addiscott	Councillor M Ashford
Councillor J Barton	Councillor R Bevan
Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor G Caple
Councillor J Cook	Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor S J Davies	Councillor R Davis
Councillor A Dennis	Councillor V Dunn
Councillor J Elliott	Councillor A J Ellis
Councillor L Ellis	Councillor S Emanuel
Councillor D Evans	Councillor A Fox
Councillor D Grehan	Councillor H Gronow
Councillor B Harris	Councillor S Hickman
Councillor G Holmes	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor W Hughes	Councillor K Johnson
Councillor G Jones	Councillor G O Jones
Councillor W Jones	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor C Lises	Councillor M Maohoub
Councillor C Middle	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor N H Morgan	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor W Owen	Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor M Norris	Councillor D Parkin
Councillor M Powell	Councillor C Preedy
Councillor S Rees	Councillor A Roberts
Councillor A O Rogers	Councillor J Smith
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor L A Tomkinson
Councillor S Trask	Councillor W Treeby
Councillor J Turner	Councillor G L Warren
Councillor K Webb	Councillor M Webber
Councillor D Williams	Councillor R Williams
Councillor T Williams	Councillor D Wood
Councillor R Yeo	

Officers in attendance

Mr P Mee, Chief Executive

Mr B Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director of Finance, Digital and Frontline Services

Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources

Mr S Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services and Democratic Services

Ms K Beirne, Director Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

Apologies for absence

Councillor P Binning	Councillor E L Dunning
Councillor J Edwards	Councillor P Evans
Councillor S Evans	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor S Powderhill	

91 Declaration of Interest

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

Agenda item 2 – Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

- i. County Borough Councillor A Morgan, OBE - Personal " Appointed by the Council to sit on the CCRCD Cabinet."
- ii. County Borough Councillor R Bevan – Personal - Appointed by the Council as the Scrutiny Member on the CCRCD Joint Scrutiny Committee and I was elected as the Vice Chair of the Committee for this Municipal Year".
- iii. County Borough Councillor J Turner – Personal - Appointed by the Council as the Reserve Scrutiny Member on the CCRCD Joint Scrutiny Committee.
- iv. County Borough Councillor W Owen – Personal – I am a Business Owner

Agenda Item 7 – Notice of Motion

- v. County Borough Councillor S Bradwick – Personal – I provide financial support to families and to animal rescue centres within Ukraine.

92 CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL

Through the aid of a Powerpoint presentation the Director of the Cardiff Capital Regional City Deal (CCRCD) provided Members with an update on the work of the CCRCD, and its wider priorities and impact to date As part of the presentation Members were also provided with an overview of the transition to a Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) and the wider governance arrangements.

As part of the presentation Members were provided with details of the regional challenges and the plans in place to address such challenges, the role of the CCRCD and funding as well as the achievements witnessed to date.

The Director continued by providing detail of the CCR activity delivered within Rhondda Cynon Taf, referencing infrastructures such as Metro Plus and Port Transport Hub, the Discovery Gateways as well as Cluster development opportunities. Further detail of the successful Zip World model was provided to Members, before the Director reflected on the next steps for the County

Borough.

The presentation concluded by outlining the move to a Corporate Joint Committee and the benefits of a regional approach for RCT and the next steps involved for such an approach.

The Leader commented on the large amount of work conducted by CCRD, reflecting on previous concerns that the partnership would only benefit Cardiff and took the opportunity to highlight the numerous projects delivered upon within RCT County Borough, referencing the 'Evergreen Fund', 'Zip World', Housing Investment and both Regional transport and strategic development funds. The Leader commented on the opportunities of Long Term Investment through the CCRCD and the employment opportunities provided.

The Leader referenced the move to Corporate Joint Committees confirming that more joint working would be needed and going forward all Authorities would be represented on the Boards and Panels within.

On behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, County Borough Councillor D Grehan spoke of the hope highlighted within the presentation and the realisation and fruition of this hope in the future. The Member commented on the 'jargon' terminology within the presentation and also spoke of concerns in relation to any potential impact on individual Local Development Plans of each of the Authorities in relation to the developments being taken forward by the CCRCD.

The Director responded by advising of the funding opportunities being delivered within the Authority to assist in building its resilience and hope, highlighting the 'recycled fund' opportunities. The Director confirmed that the work of the CCRCD would not interfere or encroach on individual Authorities LDPs but was an opportunity to stitch local plans together, through close working relationship with Council Officers.

County Borough Councillor Powell spoke positively of the presentation and the opportunities highlighted within.

The Councils Joint Scrutiny Committee Member, County Borough Councillor R Bevan commented on the infrastructure and regional planning opportunities to which the Director responded advising of the building blocks for providing an excellent Welsh economy.

One Member queried the upskilling and fast tracking opportunities available, specifically addressing electric vehicle motor technicians. The Director confirmed that currently there were not the skill sets available in the quantum needed and an appraisal across the board was being undertaken. Details of opportunities of boot camps being delivered across colleges was provided as an example of the upskilling and training platforms being provided to address such issues.

A further question was posed in relation to the reduction in rate relief for businesses and whether this would deter investment in businesses and therefore be detrimental to investment in CCRDC. The Director responded by commenting on the package of measures that needed to be agreed with Welsh Government in respect of retention and pooling of business rates to help encourage investment and further commented on the different ways of looking at business rates to release the tax investment.

The Presiding Member concluded by commenting on the significant progress and investment across RCT and the further opportunities to work in collaboration and regionally in the future.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the content of the presentation.

93 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 17th January 2024 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

94 Announcements

There were no announcements provided at the meeting.

95 Statements

There were no statements provided at the meeting.

96 Members' Questions

1. Question from County Borough Councillor Sheryl Evans to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE

“ Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the recent awarding of Welsh Government funding under the Resilient Roads and Local Transport Fund?”

Response of Councillor A. Morgan OBE

The Leader commented on the success of the Council in acquiring significant sums of funding over recent years, with almost £10m secured through the Resilient Roads Grant alone over the last four years. It was advised that such funding had allowed a number of targeted flood resilience road schemes to be carried out to remedy some of the drainage issues that affect stretches of the highways network throughout the main arterial routes of the County.

Details of the funding secured were provided were Members were advised of the receipt of £1m from the Resilient Roads Fund for 2023/24 which is supporting the development of 13 projects to alleviate the effects of flooding and climate change to the transportation network. In addition, the Council also secured £400k from the Welsh Government's Local Transport Fund. £200k of this funding was allocated for bus priority enhancements, this includes bus stop improvement works, bus shelters and raised kerbs on the Aberdare and Pontypridd local routes. The Leader concluded by advising of the £200k funding which was allocated for utilisation on further feasibility works for the Cynon Gateway North and Llantrisant Link Road schemes as a result of the Welsh Government's Road Review report in 2023.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor Sheryl Evans:

“Can you confirm the schemes that have been delivered in the Aberaman ward (North and South).”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan, OBE:

The Leader advised of the projects that had been delivered within the Aberaman Ward (including historical boundaries) over the last 4 years, which totalled 6 individual schemes (as listed below):

- Lewis Street – Design Stage – Highway drainage Upgrade
- Jones Street – Construction – Highway Drainage Upgrade
- Bronallt Terrace Phase 3 – Construction Highway Culvert Upgrade
- Glenboi – Construction – Highway drainage upgrade works
- Maes Y Ffynon/Cardiff Road – Highway Culvert Upgrade
- A4059 – Aberdare – Asda R/A – Construction – Upgrade Highway drainage and overland flow measures.

2. The Presiding Member advised that due to apologies being received from County Borough Councillor J Edwards, the second question listed had fallen.

3. Question from County Borough Councillor S Rees to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE

“Can the Leader provide an update on the progress on the delivery of the Labour Group’s manifesto commitments?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan, OBE

The Leader referenced the Labour Groups 20 core commitments to the residents of RCT in advance of the local elections in 2022 and commented on the progress made so far, with a number of these commitments already delivered, and those not delivered remaining very much in progress.

Members were advised that in respect of the commitment to fund 10 PCSOs and 10 Community Wardens, this pledge had been completed with 14 Wardens and 10 PCSOs in place. The Leader continued by advising that the 2 teams were working well together to improve community safety in key areas across communities.

It was highlighted that the Council were continuing to deliver more brand-new English & Welsh schools across the County Borough, with 3 projects completed in the last financial year and a further 7 were ongoing this year.

With regards to transport infrastructure schemes, the Leader advised of the ongoing investment, with good progress continuing on the dualling of the A4119. The Leader highlighted that discussions were ongoing with Welsh Government over other schemes following the Roads Review.

In respect of Town Centres, Council were informed of the Investment to regenerate town centres and support businesses, with a continued range of support measures such as the Maintenance Grant. The Leader highlighted a

number of regeneration schemes being taken forward within the town centres.

Details of how the Council were working towards becoming a Net Zero Council were provided, through improved recycling and the development of solar farms. The Leader added that good progress continues to be made with reducing the Council's Carbon footprint with a further reduction in CO2 emissions during the past year. Planning permission had recently been obtained for the Coed Ely Solar Farm and contractors would commence works later this year.

The Leader continued by commenting on the success of the Graduate and Apprentice scheme with over 150 Graduate and Apprentice opportunities over the 5 year term.

Further details were provided in respect of the commitments to maintain and enhance the Enforcement Team to take action against dog fouling/fly tipping, as well as the building of further extra care facilities & developing refurbishment programmes for existing residential homes.

The Leader concluded his response by listing the positive work undertaken with active travel rates, armed forces covenant and play investment, concluding that by the end of the 5 year term all commitments would be delivered upon.

Due to technical difficulties no supplementary question was posed.

- 4. County Borough Councillor D Owen Jones to ask his question to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:**

"Can the Leader provide an update on the progress of the A4119 dualling"

Response of County Borough Councillor A Morgan, OBE:

The Leader commented on the good progress of the scheme although welcomed its completion. He advised that the scheme was now over 70% complete and was currently in week 78 of a total of 106 weeks.

In respect of progress, Members were advised that at the Southbound carriageway drainage work had taken place including fencing and vehicle restraint works. Traffic was now travelling on the new section of road to a point just south of Welsh water works site.

It was further advised that traffic management switch had been completed at the southern end of the road works during December and access to Common Sidings (scrap yard) had been constructed.

In respect of the North of the Carriageway, traffic was now travelling north on new section of road with drainage works progressing near to the existing stone retaining wall. The Leader also advised that the active travel route had been progressed up to the fire station roundabout.

To conclude his response the Leader provided details of the current works on site which included details surrounding drainage, culverts, bridge works and landscaping.

Supplementary question from County Borough Councillor D Owen - Jones:

“Whereby access and egress from Active Travel to the public bridge have been answered this afternoon, I must give congratulations on a job well done on completion and opening of Tyn-Y-Bryn footbridge nearby, when will the contractors be vacating this location.”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Morgan, OBE:

The Leader advised that he needed to check on this matter as the footbridge was due for completion on Friday, January 26th. He advised that he was aware of some snagging and landscaping that needed addressing and suggested that the contractors may be onsite for a few more weeks to deal with the peripheral landscaping but would find out the exact date the contractors would be demobilising from site.

5. Question from County Borough Councillor A. Rogers to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

“Can the relevant Cabinet Member share how this Council has invested in recreational activity for young residents in the Hirwaun, Penderyn and Rhigos ward please?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure thanked the Member for the question and added that improving and investing in community facilities to promote and encourage recreational activities for the young people of the County Borough continues to be a key Council priority.

The Member continued by advising that with specific reference to Hirwaun, Penderyn, and Rhigos, recreational activities provided by the Sport Development Teams included Dodgeball taster sessions, Sport Wales Resource Pack, “explore the outdoors” sessions which had been attended by over 200 attendees and the hosting of Young Ambassadors conferences. Members were also advised that pupils have attended the Sport Teams virtual activity classes, an 8-week balance bike programme which was delivered across schools. In addition the team had also provided support for grant applications to Hirwaun FC and RFC.

In respect of investment, the Cabinet Member informed that the Parks Team had invested in a large number of recreational facilities over the past few years, totalling:

Hirwaun a total of Total £152,109, which included investment in new dugouts, new roof on changing rooms, drainage works, spectator stand demolish, resurfacing of tennis courts.

In respect of Rhigos a total of £86,169 had been invested which included investment into issues such as sand band drainage and changing room refurbishment.

The Cabinet Member proceeded by advising of the additional financial and

operational support provided by the Council to Rhigos Sports Village.

To conclude the response, the Cabinet Member highlighted the investment and maintenance into children's play areas with further funding allocations coming forward in the forth coming year.

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor A Rogers:

"We know residents appreciate the investment, but a concern is that without lighting in some of these areas, including the football field, residents cannot make full use of the investment that would benefit their health and wellbeing. At what stage in the process were local Members consulted on proposed investment in their wards to ensure proposed investment is fully benefitted from?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:

The Cabinet Member referenced the consultation undertaken with local Members in respect of the Tennis court, Muga and Hirwaun welfare. The Cabinet member added that as part of the process local members should be consulted upon and apologised if this wasn't the case and asked the Member to advise her where such consultation hadn't taken place.

6. Question from County Borough Councillor A. Ellis to the Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity, County Borough Councillor M. Norris:

"Can the Cabinet Member confirm if the Lady Windsor site in Ynysybwl has been identified for development within the draft LDP please".

Response from County Borough Councillor Norris:

The Cabinet Member commented on the January Council meeting, where it was resolved to approve the Revised Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy for statutory public and stakeholder consultation.

It was advised that at a strategic level, the Revised LDP Preferred Strategy would seek to address the needs of RCT by proposing levels of development growth and where this should be spatially distributed across the County Borough. It was advised that this consultation is due to commence shortly.

The Cabinet Member advised that he was unable at this stage to comment on the proposed status of the former Lady Windsor site, or indeed any specific sites. It was added however, that any sites that had been put forward for further consideration in the next stages of the Revised LDP process, would be included in what is known as a Candidate Sites Register.

It was advised that at the point of consultation, the register would just indicate the result of initial assessments on the sites in terms of their high-level capability of accommodating development and not specifically identify or allocate sites for development at this stage.

There was no supplementary question due to the lapse of the allotted time (The Presiding Members assured Members that the clock was stopped during periods of technical difficulties).

97 Council Work Programme 2023-2024

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication advised that following reflection on the Council Business listed for the March Council meeting, the invitation to Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board had been rescheduled to the April meeting, to allow appropriate consideration of the item.

In conclusion, the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication confirmed that there would be an induction opportunity for all Members to attend and view the new facilities at Llys Cadwyn in Pontypridd. With regards to hybrid meetings, these would be undertaken on an incremental basis with a view to the next Council meeting in March being held as a hybrid meeting.

98 Notice of Motion

To consider the under-mentioned Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors S. Emanuel, R. Williams, 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.

On 24th February 2022, Russian forces that had massed along the border with Ukraine launched a full-scale invasion, marking the biggest attack on a European country since the Second World War.

The invasion, justified by Vladimir Putin as an attempt to “de-Nazify” Ukraine, has seen millions displaced and hundreds of thousands injured or killed – either in combat or through the devastating air strikes on civilian areas.

As innocent Ukrainian people were forced to flee their homes, Wales and RCT (along with many other countries) welcomed those seeking refuge with open arms and supported them as they tried to adjust to their new lives.

Now, with the War in Ukraine marking its second anniversary and the conflict still raging as Ukraine fights to retain its sovereignty, this Council therefore:

- Condemns the continued aggression of the Russian invaders.
- Reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine and its people.
- Commends the efforts of those residents of RCT who welcomed those fleeing the conflict into their homes and also to those who provided support to others who have sought sanctuary.

In accordance with the Council’s Rules of Procedure 12.7, the mover of the motion moved an alteration to the Motion to include additional text as set out underlined below:

*inclusion of the wording, **false premise**” and noting the typographical error of may to ‘many’.*

The altered motion would then read:

On 24th February 2022, Russian forces that had massed along the border with Ukraine launched a full-scale invasion, marking the biggest attack on a European country since the Second World War.

The invasion, justified by Vladimir Putin, on a false premise, as an attempt to “de-Nazify” Ukraine, has seen millions displaced and hundreds of thousands injured or killed – either in combat or through the devastating air strikes on civilian areas.

As innocent Ukrainian people were forced to flee their homes, Wales and RCT (along with many other countries) welcomed those seeking refuge with open arms and supported them as they tried to adjust to their new lives.

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The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the alteration as moved by the Proposer which became the substantive Motion as set out above.

At the meeting the Chair announced that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.1 an amendment to the Notice of Motion had been received from Councillors A O Rogers, A Ellis, K Morgan, Sera Evans, D Grehan, D Wood, H Gronow, P Evans, which was subsequently withdrawn by the Members following the alteration to the original motion by the proposer.

Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Notice of Motion.

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

This meeting closed at 6.35 pm

**Councillor G Hughes
Chair.**