



MINUTES OF MEETING

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 2021

PRESENT: Councillors H Barrett (Chair)
M Colbran (Vice-Chair)

Councillors A Barry, C J Barry, B Carter, D Chaplin, C Davies, J Davies, L Davies, E Galsworthy, K Gibbs, D Hughes, S Jago, C T Jones, D Jones, H R Jones, M Jones, G Lewis, L Mytton, G Richards, D Roberts, T Rogers, D Sammon, W R Smith, J Thomas, G Thomas, I Thomas, S Thomas and C Tovey

Officers:

C Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), S Jones (Head of Finance), L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), S Walker (Chief Education Officer), J Jones (Chief Officer Neighbourhood Services), A Owen (Interim Deputy Chief Executive), F Donnelly (H R Manager), C Dinham (Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), A Stephens (Cabinet Policy Officer), S Lewis-Abbott (Housing and Supporting People Manager), C Long (Economic Development & Strategic Tourism Manager), M Price (Revenue Officer), S Stephens (Housing) and L Edwards (HR)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
506	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Isaac and Councillor T Skinner. Councillor J Amos was unable to attend the Meeting due to technical issues.

507	Declarations of Interest	<p>Councillor D Hughes Declared his Interest in Item 6 – Non – Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief in Wales – 2021-22 as he is involved with a Business in receipt of one of the grants.</p> <p>Councillor D Sammon Declared his Interest in Item 6 – Non – Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief in Wales – 2021-22 as he is on the Board of Merthyr Leisure Trust and they have received support.</p> <p>Councillor D Jones Declared his Interest in Item 6 – Non – Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief in Wales – 2021-22 as his business receives relief.</p> <p>Councillor C Tovey Declared his Interest in Item 6 – Non – Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief in Wales – 2021-22 as he has a business that has rate relief.</p> <p>Councillor G Thomas Declared his Interest in Item 6 – Non – Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief in Wales – 2021-22 as he is in receipt of a grant and small business relief.</p> <p>Councillor C Davies Declared his Interest in Item 6 – Non – Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief in Wales – 2021-22 as he is the responsible person for a Third Sector Organisation who have had a non domestic grant.</p> <p>Councillor M Colbran Declared his Interest in Item 6 – Non – Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief in Wales – 2021-22 as he has a shop that is in receipt of a grant</p> <p>Councillor S Jago Declared her Interest in Item 6 – Non – Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief in Wales – 2021-22 as she sits on the Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council</p>
508	Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)	Council approves as accurate (subject to any amendments) the Minutes of the following Meetings:
508a	Full Council: 24/02/2021	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 24 February 2021 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
508b	Full Council: 03/03/2021	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 3 March 2021 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
508c	Cabinet: 24/02/2021	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held 24 February 2021 be accepted as a correct record</p>

508d	Cabinet: 03/03/2021	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held 3 March 2021 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
508e	Standards Committee: 29/01/2021	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Standards Committee held 29 January 2021 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
508f	Licensing Committee: 17/02/2021	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Licensing Committee held 17 February 2021 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
508g	Audit: 22/02/2021	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Audit Committee held 22 February 2021 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
508h	Scrutiny : Regeneration and Public Protection: 23/02/2021	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Regeneration and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee held 23 February 2021 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
509	Pay Policy Statement 2021-2022	<p>Resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The Pay Policy 2021-2022 to be implemented from 1 April 2021 be approved (b) Delegated authority be given to the Head of Human Resources for any future amendments to this statement in consultation with the Portfolio Member be approved
510	Council Tax Discounts for Long Term Unoccupied Properties	<p>Councillor A Barry referred the Council to the 'Council Tax Discounts for Long Term Unoccupied Properties' report and advised of the following amendments to the report:</p> <p>Paragraph 1.1 – The Council is required to make an annual determination as to the level of discounts applicable to both Long Term Unoccupied and Unfurnished properties and Unoccupied Furnished Properties within its area</p> <p>Paragraph 2.2 – The determination to apply no premium in the 2022/2023 financial year in respect of Long Term Unoccupied Properties and Unfurnished Properties and Unoccupied and Furnished Dwellings be approved. (This position to be reviewed in 2022 in relation to financial year 2023/24).</p> <p>Questions were then raised on the report and were responded to by the appropriate Officers.</p> <p>Technical issues were then experienced by a number of Councillors and the Monitoring Officer advised that those Councillors who had missed part of the debate would not be able to vote on the recommendations.</p>

		<p>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</p> <p>(a) The determination to continue the level of 0% discount effective from 1 April 2021 for all Class C Long Term Unoccupied Properties as defined in Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended be approved (See Appendix B of the report)</p> <p>(b) The determination to apply no premium in the 2022/2023 financial year in respect of Long Term Unoccupied Properties and Unfurnished Properties and Unoccupied and Furnished Dwellings be approved. (This position to be reviewed in 2022 in relation to financial year 2023/24).</p>
511	Non-Domestic Rates - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief in Wales - 2021-22	<p>Councillor M Colbran, Councillor C Davies, Councillor D Hughes, Councillor D Jones, Councillor S Jago, Councillor D Sammon, Councillor G Thomas and Councillor C Tovey having Declared their Interest in this item left the Meeting for the consideration of this item.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>(a) The implementation of the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme in accordance with the rules described in this report be approved</p> <p>(b) It having been agreed that it is reasonable for the Council to make this decision having regard to the interests of persons liable to pay Council Tax set by the Council, the application of Sections 47(1)(a) and S47(3) (discretionary relief) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as regards the hereditaments described above in accordance with the rules described in relation to those hereditaments be approved.</p>
512	Suitable Temporary Accommodation for Homeless Clients	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>(a) The Officer recommendation for the Council to enter into another contract with D2PropCo or another private sector provider of accommodation (where appropriate) for an initial period of at least two years to increase its use of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) from two to three plus be approved</p> <p>(b) The specification that each unit of accommodation shall not have more than five bedrooms and hence five homeless clients accommodated at any one time be approved</p> <p>(c) The provision that Officers shall decide upon the location of such units, in consultation with the Public Protection Unit (PPU) of South Wales Police and in consultation with Local Members to ensure locations are safe and appropriate be approved</p> <p>(d) The Housing Solutions Team objective of increasing its use of HMO's for temporary accommodation to help meet the Council's Statutory Duty be approved.</p>

513	Annual Equality Report 2019/20	Resolved that: The report for Information be received.
514	To deal with any other urgent business or correspondence	The Mayor advised that there was no business deemed urgent.
515	To receive communications from Her/His Worship the Mayor	No Communications were received from His Worship the Mayor.