



MINUTES OF MEETING

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 17TH APRIL, 2024

PRESENT: Councillors M Colbran (Chair)
J Thomas (Vice-Chair)

Councillors A Barry, B Carter, E Galsworthy, K Gibbs, D Hughes, D Isaac, J Jenkins, C Jones, C T Jones, D Jones, M Jones, P Layton, G Lewis, L Mytton, G Richards, D Roberts, D Sammon, J Scriven, W R Smith, M Symonds, G Thomas, I Thomas, S Thomas, C Tovey and A Williams-Price

Officers:

E Cooper (Chief Executive), C Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), A Owen (Deputy Chief Executive), L Hull (Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer), L Curtis Jones (Director of Social Services), S Walker (Director of Education), J Jones (Director of Neighbourhood Services), C Dinham (Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), H Brown (Head of HR and Organisational Improvement), A Taylor (Head of Democratic Services), A Stephens (Cabinet Policy Officer), J Llewellyn (Head of Childrens Services), S Lewis-Abbott (Housing and Supporting People Manager), A Mogford (Policy and Improvement Officer), S Price (Benefits), Z Thomas (European & External Funding Support Officer), D Cross (Group Leader Development Control), C Watkins (Planning Officer (Policy)), C Morris (Highways & Engineering), S Nicholls (21 Century Schools), K Cooper (Housing), V Robst (Corporate Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), B Lee-Burrowes (Corporate Communications) and K Roberts (Corporate Communications)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer), E Galeozzie (Democratic Services Officer) and O Moore (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
885	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Davies, Councillor L Davies and Councillor L Minett-Vokes.
886	Declarations of Interest	<p>Councillor C Jones Declared a Personal Interest in Item 16 – Residential Policies.</p> <p>Councillor K Gibbs Declared a Personal and Prejudicial Interest in Item 7 – Deferred Payment Arrangement Policy.</p>
887	Foster Carers Fortnight	<p>The Mayor welcomed Joanne Llewellyn Head of Children's Services to the Meeting.</p> <p>Councillor J Jenkins then gave an introduction in relation to Foster Carers Fortnight.</p> <p>Joanne Llewellyn then gave details to the Council of the Foster Carers Fortnight that was taking place between 13 – 26 May 2024.</p> <p>The Mayor then thanked Joanne Llewellyn for the Presentation.</p>
888	Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)	The Council approves as accurate (subject to any amendments) the Minutes of the following Meetings:
888a	Full Council: 20/03/2024	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held 20 March 2024 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
888b	Cabinet: 20/03/2024	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held 20 March 2024 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
888c	Licensing Committee: 27/03/2024	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Licensing Committee held 27 March 2024 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
889	Statement of Wellbeing and Corporate Wellbeing Plan 2023-2028 'Acting Today for a Better Tomorrow'	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The 'Statement of Well-being' and 'Corporate Wellbeing Plan – Acting Today for a Better Tomorrow' documents be approved.</p>
890	Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Medium - Term Financial Plan for 2024/25 – 2026/27 included at Appendix 1 be approved.</p>
891	Deferred Payment Arrangement Policy	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Councillor K Gibbs having Declared his Interest in this item</p>

		<p>left the Meeting for the consideration of this item.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Deferred Payment Arrangement Policy as required by the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) be approved.</p>
892	Funding of Election Expenses	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The proposal to delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer (in conjunction with the Chief Executive) to utilise Council resources to ensure the successful delivery of Elections, recognising that the costs will be reimbursed by the relevant Government be approved.</p>
893	Flexible Working Policy	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The changes to the Flexible Working Policy detailed at Paragraph 3.3 of the report be approved.</p>
894	Redeployment Policy	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The changes to the Redeployment Policy at paragraph 3.3 of the report be approved.</p>
895	Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) be approved.</p>
896	Wellbeing Merthyr Update	<p>Councillor M Symonds led the Council through the 'Wellbeing Merthyr Update' report and moved the recommendations detailed at Paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the report.</p> <p>Councillor M Symonds then referred to Paragraph 4.6 of the report and advised that it should read :</p> <p>'The Council is continuing to work with an alternative leisure service provider (who cannot be named <i>at this point due to no contract being entered into</i>) to potentially take over provision of leisure services that fall under the current contract'.</p> <p>Councillor B Carter then proposed a further recommendation that:</p> <p><i>2.4 A Special Council to be scheduled with immediate effect if the situation with Aberfan and Merthyr Vale Leisure Centre demands it, be approved.</i></p> <p>The Monitoring Officer then gave advice on the proposed additional recommendation.</p> <p>Councillor M Symonds then advised that she was happy to accept the additional recommendation.</p> <p>Questions were then raised on the report together with</p>

		<p>Members making comments on the report.</p> <p>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Work towards a managed return of the existing contract and assets by the Council in collaboration with Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust (MTLT) by 30 April be noted (b) The continuation of discussions with Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust (MTLT) relating to Aberfan and Merthyr Vale Community Centre be noted (c) Officers bring an update report to Full Council in June 2024 be approved (d) A Special Council to be scheduled with immediate effect if the situation with Aberfan and Merthyr Vale Leisure Centre demands it, be approved.
897	RARS Strategy Progress Update on Key Commitments	<p>Resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The progress to date be noted (b) The updates to the Raising Aspirations, Raising Standards Strategy 2021-2026 be approved (c) The actions in Section 6 of the report be approved.
898	Corporate Parenting Strategy	<p>Resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Agreement to commit to being Corporate Parents for Children Looked After and Care Leavers in Merthyr Tydfil be approved (b) The Portfolio Member attendance at Corporate Parenting Board be approved (c) The Terms of Reference for Corporate Parenting Board be approved (d) The Corporate Parenting Strategy be approved (e) The Corporate Parenting Action Plan be approved
899	Care Experience	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The proposal to treat a care leaver in the same way as a Statutory Protected Characteristic be discussed with a report being brought back to Council with final recommendations be approved.</p>
900	Residential Policies	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Councillor C Jones having Declared her Interest in this item left the Meeting for the consideration of this item.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Policies as outlined in Section 4 of the report to be implemented in April 2024 be approved.</p>
901	Petitions Received by the Authority	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The report for Information be received.</p>
902	To deal with any other	<p>The Mayor advised that there was no other business or</p>

	urgent business or correspondence	correspondence deemed urgent.
903	To receive communications from Their Worship the Mayor	No Communications were received from Their Worship the Mayor.
904	Exempt	Resolved that: The public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under Part 4 of Schedule 12A of Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.
905	Ffos-y-Fran	Resolved that: The recommendations as outlined in Paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the report be approved.
906	Merthyr Tydfil College - Sustainable Technology Centre Expansion Project	Resolved that: The recommendations as outlined in Paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the report be approved.
907	Goetre Primary School - New Build Project	Resolved that: The recommendation as outlined in Paragraphs 2.1 of the report be approved.