



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor K Gibbs (In the Chair)

Councillors J Amos, A Barry, C J Barry, R Braithwaite, B Carter, D Chaplin, M Colbran, C Davies, L Davies, E Galsworthy, D Hughes, D Isaac, S Jago, C T Jones, D Jones, H R Jones, G Lewis, L Mytton, K O'Neill, G Richards, D Roberts, D Sammon, T Skinner, W R Smith, G Thomas, I Thomas, J Thomas, S Thomas and C Tovey

Officers:

Gareth Chapman (Chief Executive), Carys Kennedy (Head of Legal and Governance Services - Monitoring Officer), Ellis Cooper (Deputy Chief Executive), Lisa Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), Cheryllee Evans (Chief Officer (Neighbourhood Services)), Sue Walker (Temporary Chief Education Officer), Steve Jones (Head of Finance), Alyn Owen (Chief Officer (Community Regeneration)), Jeremy Ashdown (H R Manager), Mark Thomas (Head of Corporate Services), Ceri Dinham (Communications, Consultation and Engagement Manager), Beth Melhuish (Corporate Communications Officer) and Mike Parry (Revenues Manager)

Mair Morgan (Democratic Services Officer) and Karen Vokes (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
560	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H Barrett, Councillor P Brown and Councillor T Rogers.
561	Declarations of Interest	Councillor E C Galsworthy Declared his Interest in Item 5 – Council Tax Base for 2018/19 as he is a Co-opted Member of Bedlinog Community Council.

		<p>Councillor S Jago Declared her Interest in Item 5 – Council Tax Base for 2018/19 as she is a Member of Bedlinog Community Council.</p> <p>Councillor A Barry Declared his Interest in Item 12 – Post 16 Home to School Transport as his Company deals with Home to School Transport.</p>
562	End the Public Sector Pay Pinch	<p>Notice of Motion</p> <p>The Leader of the Council Councillor K O'Neill referred the Council to the Motion – End the Public Sector Pay Pinch and it was</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>This Council supports GMB's campaign to end the Public Sector Pay Pinch and calls on the Government to commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An end to Public Sector Pay Cuts • Proper funding for Public Services • Restoration of independence for the Pay Review Bodies • A real Living Wage of at least £10 an hour for all Public Sector Workers
563	Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)	The Council approves as accurate (subject to any amendments) the Minutes of the following Meetings.
563a	Cabinet: 22.11.2017	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held 22 November 2017 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
563b	Audit: 16.10.2017	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Audit Committee held 16 October 2017 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
563c	Licensing Committee: 18.10.2017	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Licensing Committee held 18 October 2017 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
563d	SACRE: 24.10.2017	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the SACRE Meeting held 24 October 2017 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
563e	Scrutiny : Social Services: 7.11.2017	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Minutes of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee held 7 November 2017 be accepted as a correct record.</p>
563f	Planning, Regulatory and Licensing:	<p>Resolved that:</p>

	15.11.2017	The Minutes of the Planning, Regulatory and Licensing Committee held 15 November 2017 be accepted as a correct record.
564	Council Tax Base For 2018/19	<p>Councillor E C Galsworthy having Declared his Interest in this item left the Meeting for the consideration of this item.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Pursuant to this report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) and Council Tax (Prescribed class of Dwellings) (Wales) (Amendments) regulations 2004, the number calculated by the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council for 2018/19 shall be 18,098.08 (18,069.24 – 2017/18) and for the area covered by the Bedlinog Community Council for 2018/19 shall be 1,148.02 (1,127.21 – 2017/18).</p>
565	Revised Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22 - Update December 2017	<p>Councillor A Barry referred the Council to the 'Revised Medium Term Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2021/22 – Update December 2017' report and also gave details of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Pressures – Pay Award and Children Looked After • Final Settlement <p>Resolved that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The implications of the Provisional Local Government Settlement for 2018/19 outlined in Section 5 of the report and Appendices 1 to 3 be noted and accepted (b) The Cabinet recommended Corporate Additional Demands outlined in Section 6 of the report and Appendix 4 be approved (c) The Cabinet recommended Corporate Budget Reductions outlined in Section 7 of the report and Appendix 5 be approved (d) The Cabinet recommended Budget Reserve Re-profile outlined in Section 8 of the report be approved (e) The Service Budget Reduction Proposals indicated in Section 9 of the report be noted with further details provided to Council following completion of appropriate Business Cases (where relevant) (f) The Cabinet recommended Schools budget reduction requirement identified in Section 9 of the report be approved (g) All recommendations be subject to Employee, Public and Trade Unions engagement and consultation where appropriate and any recommendations received from Joint Audit / Scrutiny Committee
566	Trade Union Facilities	Councillor A Barry referred the Council to the 'Trade Union Facilities' report and advised that under Paragraph 5.7 the figure for GMB should read 960 and the Unison figure was unconfirmed.

		<p>A Member also sought clarification regarding the Trade Union (Wales) Bill or was it already an Act and the Chief Executive advised that he would check and clarify on this.</p> <p>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</p> <p>(a) Facilities in terms of full time representation be approved for the Council's largest two Trade Unions (UNISON and GMB) with effect from 1 January 2018 to 1 January 2020 for an initial two year period with a possible one year extension (subject to further approval form Full Council at that time)</p> <p>(b) The recommendations in the report regarding the Trade Union (Wales) Bill be noted</p>
567	Workplace Stress Policy	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Workplace Stress Policy be approved.</p>
568	Trago Mills Megastore – Creation of a Tourist Information Centre	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>(a) An allocation of £95,000 as a growth item of the next two financial years be approved</p> <p>(b) The Estates Department be instructed to discuss and secure Heads of Terms with Trago Mills</p> <p>(c) The recruitment of Tourist Information Centre (TIC) Officers that will be operational based on site at the TRAGO TIC be approved</p> <p>(d) The submission of a Visit Wales Tourist Investment Support Scheme (TISS) application to fund the kit-out of the TIC be approved</p>
569	Redistribution of Ffos-y-fran Grant Funds	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Up to £30,000 to be moved annually into the Ffos-y-Fran Intermediate Fund if there is a demand for this level of funding be approved.</p>
570	Cold Weather Plan	<p>Councillor G Thomas referred the Council to the 'Cold Weather Plan' report and the recommendations as contained within the report.</p> <p>A Member then moved the following amendment to the recommendations:</p> <p>'That the Cold Weather Plan for Rough Sleepers be amended to one day from three days'.</p> <p>A Vote was then taken by the Council on the amendment and the amendment fell.</p> <p>Another Member then proposed the following further additional recommendation:</p> <p>'Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Service and the Cabinet Portfolio Member to make a decision to reduce the number of days in an emergency.'</p>

		<p>Resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Consideration be given to the implications of rough sleeping and the role of the Council particularly during periods of severe weather (b) The proposed Cold Weather Plan be adopted with immediate effect (c) Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Service and the Cabinet Portfolio Member to make a decision to reduce the number of days in an emergency
571	Post 16 Home to School Transport	<p>Councillor A Barry having Declared his Interest in this item left the Meeting for the consideration of this item.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The start of a Public Consultation Exercise regarding Options for the provision of Post 16 Home to School Transport be approved.</p>

Exempt

Resolved that:

The public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph/s 14 and 15 under Part 4 of Schedule 12A Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

572	Customer Services Roles - Vacant Posts	<p>Resolved that:</p> <p>This item be deferred.</p>
573	To deal with any other urgent business or correspondence	<p>The Chief Executive updated the Council in relation to the Trade Union (Wales) Act.</p> <p>Councillor K O'Neill Leader of the Council then referred to the recent snowy weather conditions and the sterling job undertaken by the Councillors and the Highways and Council Departments.</p>
574	To receive communications from Her/His Worship the Mayor	<p>The Mayor then advised the Council of the following correspondence that had been received from Councillor E C Galsworthy Chair of the UK and Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities and the Council's Representative on the Nuclear Free Local Authorities:</p> <p><i>'It is my proud duty to inform you that on Sunday 10 December the International Campaign to abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the Nobel peace prize at a ceremony in Oslo.</i></p> <p><i>ICAN is a coalition of 468 organisations from 101 countries of which the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) is a member.</i></p>

As Merthyr Tydfil is a member of the NFLA we can be proud of our involvement and the part we have played in winning this award.

The NFLA secretary Sean Morris, who is a Local Government Officer based in Manchester was invited to take part in the ceremony in Oslo.

Sean's work in this field is a major contribution towards achieving this award.

We in Merthyr Tydfil can be proud of the part we have played in ICAN achieving the Nobel peace prize.'