

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b><u>THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL</u></b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b><u>ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024</u></b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b><u>DEMOCRATIC &amp; COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER</u></b>

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PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C. SMITH (PRESIDING MEMBER, CHAIRING)

Councillors P. Baldwin  
S. Behr  
D. Bevan  
K. Chaplin  
M. Cross  
H. Cunningham  
M. Day  
D. Davies  
G. A. Davies  
S. Edmunds  
J. Gardner  
J. Hill  
W. Hodgins  
J. Holt  
G. Humphreys  
E. Jones  
R. Leadbeater  
J. C. Morgan  
J. P. Morgan  
L. Parsons  
D. Rowberry  
T. Smith  
G. Thomas  
J. Thomas  
S. Thomas  
H. Trollope  
J. Wilkins  
D. Wilkshire  
L. Winnett

D. Woods

AND: Interim Chief Executive  
Chief Officer Resources  
Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services  
Interim Corporate Director of Social Services  
Chief Officer Commercial & Customer  
Interim Head of School Improvement & Inclusion  
Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance  
Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships  
Head of Organisational Development  
Service Manger Performance & Democratic  
Press & Public Relations Officer  
Dave Rees - Unison

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
1.	<b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b>  It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.	
2.	<b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>  Apology for absence was received for Councillor J. Morgan, J.P.	
3.	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b>  The following declarations of interest were reported:  Councillor L. Winnett – Item No. 24 The Future of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd following the Transfer of Services (and employees) back to the Council  Councillor T. Smith - Item No. 24 The Future of Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd following the Transfer of Services (and employees) back to the Council	

	Councillor H. Cunningham – Item No. 25 Elected Member Maternity, Paternity, Newborn Adoption, Parental and Adoption Leave (Family Absence Policy)	
4.	<p><b><u>PRESIDING MEMBER’S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Congratulations</u></b></p> <p>Congratulations was expressed to Charlie Caswell from Tredegar who recently gained his Welsh Schools FA 16’s cap.</p> <p><b><u>Condolences</u></b></p> <p>It was reported that the former long serving Blaenau Gwent County Borough Councillor Brian Thomas had sadly passed away. Members expressed condolences and paid their respects with a minute’s silence.</p>	
5. – 15.	<p><b><u>DECISION BOOK – OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2023</u></b></p> <p>The Decision Book for the period October – December, 2023 was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the decisions be approved and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
16.	<p><b><u>MEMBERS QUESTIONS</u></b></p> <p>There were no questions submitted by Members.</p>	
17.	<p><b><u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u></b></p> <p>There were no questions submitted by members of the public.</p>	

18.

**COUNCIL MOTION – VIOLENCE AT WORK**

Consideration was given to the Motion submitted regarding violence at work.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED that the Motion be supported and the Council agreed to:

- Reaffirm its commitment to Social Partnership and to consult and work collaboratively with trades unions.
- Adopt Unison’s Violence at Work Charter.
- Encourage all schools to adopt the Charter.
- Encourage, Aneurin Leisure Trust to adopt the Charter.

19.

**MEMBERSHIPS REPORT**

**Advisory Panel for Local Authority Governors**

The following recommendations were made by the Panel on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 to appoint in principle:

**Abertillery Learning Community – Michael Lyn Davies**  
**The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community – Julie Sambrook**

To ratify the following additional appointment made at the panel meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023:

**Glyncod Primary School – Ms. Vikki Curtis**

It was, thereupon, unanimously,

RESOLVED that the above appointments be endorsed.

**People Scrutiny Committee – Co-opted Youth Forum Representative**

RESOLVED that the appointment of Miss Chloe Lines as the Co-opted Youth Forum Representative on the People

	Scrutiny Committee (appointment commenced on 21 <sup>st</sup> September, 2023) be ratified.	
20.	<p><b><u>TREASURY MANAGEMENT – QUARTER 1 2023/2024</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that Council accept the treasury management activity undertaken during the first 3 months of 2023/24 and do not make any amendments to the previously agreed Treasury strategies and performance indicators.</p>	
21.	<p><b><u>GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Data Protection and Governance Officer submitted on behalf of the Governance and Audit Committee.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the information within the report which was given by the Governance &amp; Audit Committee as assurance that appropriate oversight and monitoring was taking place and any shortfalls had appropriate controls in place to make the necessary improvements be accepted.</p>	
22.	<p><b><u>RECRUITMENT &amp; SELECTION POLICY</u></b></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that Council approve the Recruitment and Selection Policy for implementation.</p>	
<p>23.</p>	<p><b><u>PRESIDING MEMBER’S FUND – PROPOSALS FOR USE</u></b></p> <p>The report of the Presiding Member was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and a total of £6,594.23 from the Fund be allocated as follows:</p> <p>£1,200.00 Head for Arts / Llanhilleth Pumping Station Mural Project</p> <p>£540.84 St George’s Church, Tredegar / to support visit to Uganda to help children’s education</p> <p>£1,200.00 Deighton Primary School / Allotment Project</p> <p>£75.00 Local Places For Nature Project (Cwmcelyn) / to compliment Biodiversity works being undertaken</p> <p>£283.39 New Cwm Institute / Maintenance of Building</p> <p>£500.00 Tredegar Miners Memorial Group / Contribution for Memorial Gates</p> <p>£2,160.00 Community Interest Company Nantyglo* / establishment of garden / growing space around Attlee Road</p> <p>£75.00 Abertillery Branch of The Royal Welsh Regiment. – St David's Day Commemoration event</p> <p>£75.00 Llanhilleth Bowls Club - Widening participation initiative</p>	

	<p>£100.00 Zion Miners Chapel - Wildflower Garden Project</p> <p>£75.00 Aberbeeg Community Centre - Happi Cafe project</p> <p>£75.00 Swffryd Community Centre - Cost of living support</p> <p>£75.00 Brynithel Community Centre - Cost of living support</p> <p>£160.00 Briery Hill Allotments / General Maintenance</p> <p><i>*CIC not formally established currently, contribution to be released following formal incorporation</i></p>	
24.	<p><b><u>THE FUTURE OF SILENT VALLEY WASTE SERVICES LTD FOLLOWING THE TRANSFER OF SERVICES (AND EMPLOYEES) BACK TO THE COUNCIL</u></b></p> <p>Councillors L. Winnett and T. Smith declared an interest in this item.</p> <p>The report of the Chief Officer Resources was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Council endorse Option 1, namely that Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd be dissolved. This would result in the company being struck off the Companies Register.</p>	
25.	<p><b><u>ELECTED MEMBER MATERNITY, PATERNITY, NEWBORN ADOPTION, PARENTAL AND ADOPTION LEAVE (FAMILY ABSENCE POLICY)</u></b></p> <p>Councillor H. Cunningham declared an interest in this item.</p> <p>The report of the Service Manager Performance &amp; Democratic was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Council endorse Option 1, namely to approve and publish the Elected Member Maternity, Paternity, Newborn Adoption, Parental and Adoption Leave (Family Absence Policy) as set out in Appendix 1.</p>	
<p>26.</p>	<p><b><u>APPLICATION TO LEASE CLUB AND PREMISES AT EUGENE CROSS PARK, EBBW VALE</u></b></p> <p>The report of the Team Manager Estates &amp; Asset Management was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Council endorse Option 1, namely that the Council as Charitable Trustees decide that they are satisfied, having considered the surveyor's report, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 2, that the terms of the proposed disposition are the best that can reasonably be obtained for the Charity and agree the principle of the proposed lease of the area of land and buildings shown edged red on the plan attached at Appendix 1 for a term of thirty-five years subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ECPSL paying a one-off premium of £1.00.</li> <li>ii. Successfully obtaining the consent of the Charity Commission to the lease, which must be obtained prior to the lease being legally completed.</li> </ul>	
<p>----</p>	<p><b><u>EXEMPT ITEMS</u></b></p> <p>To receive and consider the following report which in the opinion of the proper officer was an exempt item taking into account consideration of the public interest test and that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting (the reason for the decision for the exemption was available on a schedule maintained by the proper officer).</p>	



29.

**FUTURE OCCUPATION OF ANVIL COURT,  
ABERTILLERY**

Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).

The report of the Corporate Director Regeneration & Community Services was submitted for consideration.

A Member proposed an alternative Option 3, as detailed in the report submitted to the Corporate & Performance Scrutiny Committee held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

The proposal was seconded.

Option 3 - Notify the Landlord of the Councils intention to bring the lease to an end on lease expiry by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Upon a vote being taken, it was

RESOLVED that the report which contained information relating to the financial/business affairs of persons other than the Authority be accepted and the Council endorse Option 2, namely that Anvil Court be vacated from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024, and left vacant until the lease expires on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2025; and the Landlord be notified of the Council's intension to bring the lease to an end on lease expiry by 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2025.

29.

**SHORTLISTING – CHIEF EXECUTIVE JNC CE**

Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 & 13, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).

Consideration was given to the report of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED that the report which related to staffing matters be accepted and the decisions contained therein be noted.