

COUNTY COUNCIL

Wednesday, 16 May 2018

PRESENT: Councillor H.I. Jones (Chair)

Councillors:

F. Akhtar, S.M. Allen, L.R. Bowen, K.V. Broom, C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, D.M. Cundy, S.A. Curry, C.A. Davies, T.A.J. Davies, G. Davies, H.L. Davies, I.W. Davies, J.A. Davies, S.L. Davies, W.R.A. Davies, E. Dole, J.S. Edmunds, P.M. Edwards, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, R.E. Evans, W.T. Evans, A.L. Fox, S.J.G. Gilasbey, C.J. Harris, P. Hughes-Griffiths, J.K. Howell, P.M. Hughes, A. James, J.D. James, R. James, D.M. Jenkins, J.P. Jenkins, G.H. John, C. Jones, B.W. Jones, D. Jones, G.R. Jones, T.J. Jones, A. Lenny, M.J.A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, K. Madge, S. Matthews, A.S.J. McPherson, E. Morgan, D. Nicholas, B.D.J. Phillips, J.S. Phillips, D. Price, J.G. Prosser, B.A.L. Roberts, E.M.J.G. Schiavone, H.B. Shepardson, B. Thomas, D. Thomas, E.G. Thomas, G.B. Thomas, G. Thomas, J. Tremlett, A.Vaughan Owen, D.T. Williams, D.E. Williams and J.E. Williams

The following Officers were in attendance:

M. James, Chief Executive
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services
Mrs R. Mullen, Director of Environment
W. Walters, Director of Regeneration & Policy
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen 11.00 am - 12.00 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Davies, D.C. Evans, D. Harries, T. Higgins, A. James, A.G. Morgan (morning session), A. Speake, L.M. Stephens and G.B. Thomas (afternoon session).

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. PERSONAL MATTERS / OUTGOING CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Retiring Chair, Councillor Irfon Jones, welcomed distinguished guests, Councillors, staff and friends to the meeting.

Councillor Jones reflected on his year in office and expressed his gratitude to the Chief Executive for his advice and professional guidance, and to Directors and staff of the authority who had supported the work of the Chair, including the Democratic Services Unit, his driver Jeff Jones, and in particular Eira Evans for her professional and personal support, arranging his events and making sure that everything always ran smoothly.

He thanked his Vice Chairman, Councillor Mansel Charles, and Councillor Charles's Consort, Mrs. Bethan Charles-Davies, for their support and company during his term of office and wished Councillor Charles well in his year of office. He also thanked his Chaplain Rev Canon Aled Williams for his spiritual support and guidance throughout the year.

Councillor Jones expressed his sincere gratitude for all the support he and his consort had received throughout what he personally considered to be a very successful year in which he had travelled the length and breadth of Carmarthenshire meeting centenarians, teenagers, award winners, musicians, artists and royalty.

Finally he paid tribute to his wife and consort Jean, who had been at his side and guided him for the last 12 months and thanked her formally for her continued love and support. He considered that it had been an honour and a privilege to serve as the Council's Chair and thanked all for giving him the opportunity.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor H.I. Jones and seconded by Councillor C. Campbell and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor M. Charles be elected Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

Councillor M. Charles made his declaration of acceptance of office and was invested by the retiring Chair with the Chain of Office.

Councillor M. Charles expressed his gratitude to all Councillors for their support in appointing him as Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council. He advised that he hoped he would emulate the high standard of Chairmanship provided by his predecessors. Councillor Charles paid tribute to the retiring Chair, Councillor H.I. Jones and presented the Retiring Chair with a portrait and photographic album tracing some of the events attended during his year of office, together with a Past Chair's Commemorative Pendant.

The retiring Chair's consort Mrs Jean Jones thereupon presented Mrs Bethan Charles-Davies with her Chain of Office and Mrs Bethan Charles-Davies presented Mrs Jean Jones with a Past Chair's Consort's Commemorative Pendant.

TRIBUTES

Tributes were also paid to the Retiring Chair for the excellent service he had given to the Council by the Leaders of the Plaid Cymru, Independent and Labour Groups. Particular reference was made to Cllr Jones's excellent chairmanship of Council meetings. The Chief Executive also paid tribute on behalf of the Authority's staff to the retiring Chair who had fulfilled his role with great professionalism and had been very active and supportive of the work of the Council.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

It was moved by Councillor R. James, seconded by Councillor J. Tremlett and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor K. Madge be elected Vice-Chair of Carmarthenshire County Council for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

Councillor K. Madge made his declaration of acceptance of office and was invested by the Chair with the Chain of Office.

The Chair congratulated the Vice Chair and his Consort on their appointments.

The Vice-Chair's consort Mrs Catrin Madge was presented with a Chain of Office by the Chair's consort Mrs. Bethan Charles-Davies.

6. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by the Vice Chair and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the remainder of the business on the agenda should stand adjourned until 1.30 p.m. that day.

7. RECONVENED MEETING

The Council reconvened in the Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen at 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor J.M. Charles (Chair)

Councillors:

F. Akhtar, S.M. Allen, L.R. Bowen, K.V. Broom, C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, D.M. Cundy, S.A. Curry, C.A. Davies, T.A.J. Davies, G. Davies, H.L. Davies, I.W. Davies, J.A. Davies, S.L. Davies, W.R.A. Davies, E. Dole, J.S. Edmunds, P.M. Edwards, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, R.E. Evans, W.T. Evans, A.L. Fox, S.J.G. Gilasbey, C.J. Harris, P. Hughes-Griffiths, J.K. Howell, P.M. Hughes, A. James, J.D. James, R. James, D.M. Jenkins, J.P. Jenkins, G.H. John, C. Jones, B.W. Jones, D. Jones, G.R. Jones, T.J. Jones, A. Lenny, M.J.A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, K. Madge, S. Matthews, A.S.J. McPherson, E. Morgan, D. Nicholas, B.D.J. Phillips, J.S. Phillips, D. Price, J.G. Prosser, B.A.L. Roberts, E.M.J.G. Schiavone, H.B. Shepardson, B. Thomas, D. Thomas, E.G. Thomas, G.B. Thomas, G. Thomas, J. Tremlett, A.Vaughan Owen, D.T. Williams, D.E. Williams and J.E. Williams.

The following Officers were in attendance:

M. James, Chief Executive

C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services

J. Morgan, Director of Community Services

G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services

Mrs R. Mullen, Director of Environment

W. Walters, Director of Regeneration & Policy

L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law

P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)

M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen 1.30 pm - 2.50 pm

8. APOLOGIES

A further apology for absence was received from Councillor S.L. Davies.

9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

The Leader presented his Annual Report 2017-2018, copies of which were made available at the meeting, which looked back upon the achievements of the Council over the past 12 months.

This was the Leader's third Annual Report but his first since the 2017 elections which had seen a change in the balance of power within the council. He reflected upon the fact that this time last year he had welcomed 29 new faces to the benches of the council chamber which represented over a third of the total number of councillors. Whilst, over the last year there had been many training sessions and induction seminars, it was hoped that the new members had a much better understanding of the ways of local government and were better equipped to take crucial decisions over the remaining four years of this council. He expressed the hope that this council would have a lifespan beyond the four years left of this current term.

Referring to the recurring theme of austerity the Leader commented that financial efficiencies had been sought in every aspect of the council's work and he was full of admiration for the staff of the council for coming up with a whole host of innovative money saving ideas. However, services had been pared to the bone and it was now becoming virtually impossible to continue protecting front line services. It was hoped that the impending retirement of the First Minister would lead to a change in emphasis and that local government would be protected from further cuts. Nevertheless although it had been a difficult time much had happened in Carmarthenshire over the last 12 months that made it possible to feel very positive about the future.

The Leader referred to the aims of the TIC Programme to think differently, behave differently and through that also act differently. To date it had helped to identify and achieve some £12m worth of savings in terms of actual money and saving costs. Many improvements were happening across the Authority in parallel with the TIC Programme and last year, with a desire to acknowledge and reward that, the TIC Awards ceremony had been launched July. Five inspired projects had been placed on the shortlist and the overall winner had been the Housing Options Team for the way in which it had improved its systems for giving a wide range of advice to the people who need housing. TIC had also supported a key corporate initiative for digital transformation encompassing the 'changing channel' programmes in order to expand the way in which residents could interact with services by creating an account and managing services online. A key initiative with regard to flexible working had also been launched that would make better use of the authority's offices and technology allowing staff more flexibility in working and providing services. To help schools to make savings in order to safeguard the attainment of pupils and education a specific TIC post for schools had been created and a programme of work was being put in place which identified the possible savings that schools could, and were, making. TIC had consulted with all staff and elected members to identify time wasting and some 17 improvement areas had been identified which were being worked through at present.

The Leader reminded Council that this time last year the Prime Minister had signed the £1.3bn Swansea Bay City Deal. The Deal, thanks to a combination of funds from the UK Government, the Welsh Government, the public sector and the private sector, would boost the regional economy by £1.8bn and create up to 10,000 high-quality jobs over the next 15 years. Over the last 12 months, considerable progress had been made behind the scenes. This included the £200m Life Science and Well-being Village set for Delta Lakes in Llanelli, and the 'Yr Egin' creative digital cluster development at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's campus in Carmarthen. The Executive Board was determined to ensure that Carmarthenshire took full advantage of the opportunities that would be created through the Swansea Bay City Deal.

The Executive Board had, in its 5 Year Plan outlined almost 100 priority projects, schemes or services which it hoped to deliver over the next five years. The Plan, launched in January, identified key areas of investment and improvement that would be driven forward during the remaining term of this council, in addition to running the council's day to day services. They included – in terms of the environment – plans to establish Carmarthenshire as the Cycling Capital of Wales, improving road infrastructure and public transport, reducing the council's carbon footprint, supporting sustainable farming initiatives and improving the county's recycling rates. In education, there were plans to deliver a further £129 million Modernising Education Programme investment, make best use of school facilities to support community activities, engage with more young people and move schools along the Welsh language continuum. In social care and housing, the Board intended to develop a homelessness strategy, meet its commitment to developing 1,000 affordable homes with emphasis on bringing empty properties back into use and build new, strengthening Welsh language provision within social care settings, provide more support for carers and reduce loneliness and isolation in vulnerable and older people. Planned investment in the county's leisure provision included development of new and existing facilities, including leisure centres, Burry Port Harbour and Pembrey Country Park. The regeneration of Carmarthenshire was a key feature. Transformation strategies were focusing on improving Llanelli, Ammanford and Carmarthen town centres, the county's coastline, key growth zones such as Cross Hands and importantly, the regeneration of rural areas. Although local government was facing an uncertain time due to severe cuts in public spending, the council continued to provide hundreds of services, on a day to day basis, to residents and visitors to Carmarthenshire.

The Executive Board, had identified a number of key projects and programmes that it would seek to achieve over the next four years. By delivering these projects and programmes the Board believed it could contribute towards making Carmarthenshire the best place to live, work and visit. The ambitious plan sought to continuously improve economic, environmental, social and cultural wellbeing in the county to ensure that residents, communities, organisations and businesses were supported and enabled to develop and thrive for the benefit of our county. Detailed reports and recommendations on specific projects and programmes would be presented through the council's democratic processes over the course of the next four years. The Leader commented that he was fortunate to have an extremely capable and talented group of people who made up the Executive Board who all brought their individual strengths to the table but were at their best when they worked collectively. He paid tribute to the Authority's staff led by the Chief Executive, Mark James CBE. In his closing remarks he paid tribute to the

hard work and endeavour of the thousands of people employed by the Authority. He had made an effort to meet as many of members of staff as possible over the last 12 months and had been overwhelmed by their sheer enthusiasm and commitment to make Carmarthenshire the best county in Wales and thanked them all.

The Leader of the Labour Group thanked the Leader of the Council for his report. He congratulated the Council on what had been accomplished and referred to the contribution of the previous administration in those achievements.

Councillor Jane Tremlett, speaking on behalf of the Independent Group, stated that the Leader's report encapsulated all the excellent work being undertaken by the Authority.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Leader's Annual report, as circulated at the meeting, be noted.

10. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Council considered the composition of Regulatory, Scrutiny, Other Committees and Panels and the membership of those committees. The Leaders of the Political Groups confirmed that there were no additional membership changes.

It was duly moved and seconded and

RESOLVED that the composition and membership of Regulatory, Scrutiny, Other Committees and Panels for the 2018/19 Municipal Year, as detailed within the report be approved.

11. ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS FOR THE COMMITTEES / PANELS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Council, in accordance with Corporate Procedure Rule CPR 17.6 considered nominations which had been received for the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

It was duly moved and seconded and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following appointments to Chairs and Vice Chairs of Regulatory, Scrutiny, Other Committees and Panels be made for the 2018/19 Municipal Year:-

<u>COMMITTEE / PANEL</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	<u>VICE CHAIR</u>
Community Scrutiny Committee	Councillor S.L. Davies	Councillor G.B. Thomas
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee	Councillor D. Price	Councillor E.G. Thomas
Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee	Councillor J.D. James	Councillor A. Davies
Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee	Councillor A.G. Morgan	Councillor J. K. Howell
Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee	Councillor G. Thomas	Councillor I.W. Davies
Appeals Committee	Councillor J.K. Howell	Councillor S.M. Allen
Appointments Committee A - Directors	Councillor E. Dole	Councillor L.M. Stephens
Appointments Committee B - Heads of Service	Councillor L.M. Stephens	Councillor E. Dole
Democratic Services Committee	Councillor S. Curry	Councillor W.T. Evans
Planning Committee	Councillor A. Lenny	Councillor H.I. Jones
Licensing Committee	Councillor E.G. Thomas	Councillor D.E. Williams
Member Appointments Committee	Councillor A.D.T. Speake	Councillor W.R.A. Davies
Housing Review Panel	Councillor G.B. Thomas	Councillor I.W. Davies
Dyfed Pension Fund Committee	Councillor D.E. Williams	Not required

12. COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Council considered a report which advised that constitutionally it had responsibility for adopting a Scheme of Members' Allowances but that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) prescribed the amounts to be paid with a view to providing a consistent national framework for councillor remuneration. Council had considered changes for 2018/19 at its meeting held on 18th April, 2018. A copy of the Allowances Scheme adopted by Council for 2018/19 amended for implementation for the 2018/19 municipal year was attached to the report for consideration.

The report also contained additional amendments to reflect the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Working Group at its meetings held on 12th February, 2018 and 20th April 2018.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 12.1 to amend Part 4.1 of the constitution to clarify that a proposer and seconder are required for Motions on Notice and to allow Motions on Notice to be submitted electronically. (CPR 12.1);
- 12.2 to adopt the Councillors' and Co-opted Members' Salaries and Allowances Scheme for 2018/19, (Part 6.1) subject to the following inclusions:-
- a) attendance by the Chair of Council, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chair at meetings of the Executive Board (Section 4.5 – Approved duties);
 - b) attendance by a Councillor at meetings or events to which the Councillor has been formally appointed or nominated by the Council in a Champion or Ambassador role e.g. Armed Forces Champion, Disability Ambassador etc (Section 4.5 – Approved duties);
 - c) Member Champion/Ambassador role description (Appendix D);
- 12.3 to approve any necessary membership changes to the Constitution arising from decisions made earlier in the meeting;
- 12.4 that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make any minor amendments, correct typographical or drafting errors and ensure all cross-references within the Constitution are correct and that these be reported to the Constitutional Review Working Group as and when necessary;
- 12.5 that subject to 12.1 – 12.4 above, the Council Constitution be adopted for 2018/19.

13. COUNCIL ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERSHIP

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- 13.1 to note that the Labour Group has nominated Councillor Deryk Cundy to replace Councillor Jeff Edmunds on the Constitutional Review Working Group;
- 13.2 to note that the Labour Group has nominated Councillor Rob James to replace Councillor Jeff Edmunds on the Pay Policy Advisory Panel.

CHAIR

DATE