

COUNTY COUNCIL

Thursday, 22 October 2020

PRESENT: Councillor I.W. Davies (Chair)

Councillors:

S.M. Allen, L.R. Bowen, K.V. Broom, C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, D.M. Cundy, S.A. Curry, W.R.A. Davies, T.A.J. Davies, G. Davies, H.L. Davies, J.A. Davies, E. Dole, J.S. Edmunds, P.M. Edwards, D.C. Evans, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, W.T. Evans, A.L. Fox, S.J.G. Gilasbey, P. Hughes-Griffiths, A.D. Harries, T.M. Higgins, J.K. Howell, 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, A. Lenny, M.J.A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, K. Madge, S. Matthews, A.S.J. McPherson, E. Morgan, A.G. Morgan, S. Najmi, D. Nicholas, B.D.J. Phillips, J.S. Phillips, D. Price, J.G. Prosser, H.B. Shepardson, A.D.T. Speake, L.M. Stephens, B. Thomas, D. Thomas, E.G. Thomas, G.B. Thomas, G. Thomas, J. Tremlett, D.T. Williams and J.E. Williams

The following Officers were in attendance:

J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services
G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
R. Mullen, Director of Environment
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance)
W. Walters, Chief Executive
L. Jenkins, Executive Board Support Officer
E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer
G. Ayers, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer
E. Evans, Principal Democratic Services Officer
G. Jones, Digital Support Engineer
I.R. Llewelyn, Forward Planning Manager
R. Lloyd, Democratic Services Officer
L Morris, Senior Press Officer
K. Thomas, Democratic Services Officer
C.J. Warwick, Digital Support Engineer
J. Hawker, Digital Support Officer
N. Evans, Business Support Manager
N. Daniel, Head of I.C.T. and Corporate Policy
S Burford, Project Manager
L. Jones, Performance & Information Officer
R. C. Reynolds, Project Officer

Virtual Meeting - . - 2.00 - 5.30 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F. Akhtar, C.A. Davies, K. Davies, S. Davies, R. Evans, C.J. Harris, H.I. Jones, T.J. Jones, B.A.L. Roberts,

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
K. Lloyd	7.1 – Notice of Motion	He and close personal associates are members and hold shares in Carmarthenshire Energy Ltd. Granted dispensation to speak but not vote on general environmental matters but not matters specifically relating to Carmarthenshire Energy Limited.
K. Broom	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak but not vote in respect of any Council business relating to farming and farming related matters generally .
C. Campbell	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak but not vote in respect of any Council business relating to farming and farming related matters generally .
J.M. Charles	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak but not vote in respect of any Council business relating to farming and farming related matters generally .
A. Davies	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak but not vote in respect of any Council business relating to farming and farming related matters generally .
W.T Evans	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak but not vote in respect of any Council business relating to farming and farming related matters generally .
K. Howell	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak but not vote in respect of any Council business relating to farming and farming related matters generally .
A. James	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak but not vote in respect of any Council business relating to farming and farming related matters generally .
J. Lewis	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak but not vote in respect of any Council business relating to farming and farming related matters generally .

A.G. Morgan	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Pecuniary interest as he is a tenant of Delta Lakes and he runs a business from there. He will abstain from voting.
G.B. Thomas	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak but not vote in respect of any Council business relating to farming and farming related matters generally .
J.E Williams	7.2 – Notice of Motion	Granted dispensation by the Standards Committee to speak but not vote in respect of any Council business relating to farming and farming related matters generally .
K. Madge	9.1 – CCC’s Annual Report 2019/20	His daughter works in social care.
A.G. Morgan	14 – Pentre Awel	He is a tenant of Delta Lakes and he runs a business from there.

3. CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chair extended condolences on behalf of members to Councillor Fozia Akhtar on the sad passing of her son last month and to Councillor Rob Evans on the passing of his father earlier in the day.

The Chair also made the following announcements:-

- Best wishes for a speedy recovery were extended to Councillor Louvain Roberts following her recent surgery and to Councillor Jim Jones who was also recuperating after recent surgery;
- Congratulations were extended to Lyndsay Jayne McNicholl, the Manager of Llys y Bryn Care Home in Llanelli who was recently awarded a BEM in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for services to Health and Social Care during Covid-19.
- Congratulations were also extended to the following people from Carmarthenshire who also received awards in the Queen’s Birthday Honours:-

MBE:

The Venerable Rachel Hannah Eileen Davies, Founder of Tir Diew for services to Farming in West Wales

Paul David Harries for services to Engineering and Employment in West Wales

George Parker for services to the business and community in Llanelli

British Empire Medal:

Paul Christopher Alan Buckingham for services to the NHS in Wales during Covid-19

Jack William Gibbins, Tactical Lead with St John Ambulance (Cymru) for services to the community during Covid-19

Nigel Williams for services to Local Government in Swansea during Covid-19

Phoebe Leigh McLavy, Team Member with WorldSkills UK for services to the WorldSkills Competition

- Councillor Gary Jones thanked the following people for their help on the during the Llangennech train derailment:
 - Nicky Lloyd, Vice Chair of Llangennech Community Centre;
 - Night Manager of McDonalds for generously providing tea and coffee;
 - Jaqueline Seward, Community Councillor;
 - Alun James, Caretaker;
 - Alun Bowen, Caretaker;
 - Rob Willock, Community Councillor and
 - Councillor Gwyneth Thomas.
- The Chair thereupon invited the Leader to address Council with an update on the Covid-19 position in the County. The update was accompanied by a short video "Voices from the Front Line" which provided an insight into the experiences of our care home staff during the pandemic.

4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH SEPTEMBER 2020

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on the 9th September, 2020 be signed as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

6. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

6.1. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR ALUN LENNY TO COUNCILLOR EMLYN DOLE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

"The Office of National Statistics recently reported that almost 700,000 people found themselves out of work between March and July due to Covid-19. By the end of July unemployment rose to more than 4%. With the furlough scheme expiring at the end of this month, (October 31st) it's inevitable that unemployment will increase again. We cannot hide from the bleak winter ahead. So, with this in mind, is this Authority confident there is sufficient welfare support in place for its residents, and that this support is readily available?"

Response by Councillor Emlyn Dole, Leader of the Council: -

Can I first of all thank Councillor Lenny for his question, which I welcome at this critical time. It is absolutely on point with what we have been doing, as

well as what we intend to do, in terms of our recovery programme in relation to Covid 19. That recovery programme responds to the stark reality of the impact that Covid 19 has had, and continues to have, on our economy and communities and the issues our people in Carmarthenshire will now be facing as a result. We are currently preparing a Tackling Poverty plan. Much of that will of course be around welfare support. As well as being a needs analysis it will be an action plan – what can we do to improve the situation our people are facing as well as what steps we need to take so that we can make progress and play our part in dealing with the real problems that will be facing so many people.

You will know that one of my first decisions as Leader was to overturn the decision by my predecessor to return the temporary front desk in Llanelli Town centre to Ty Elwyn. I decided that it should stay in the Town Centre and the Hwb was established in Vaughan street providing advice and assistance to residents on a multitude of our Council services, including a cash desk, housing support, employment engagement programmes and IT facilitates to support people looking for employment, education, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities. Hundreds of people come through the doors every week helping to drive town centre footfall. A Similar Hwb facility has since been established in Ammanford town centre and our Spilman Street offices in Carmarthen.

There are several employability support schemes being delivered in Carmarthenshire, some of which are delivered by Carmarthenshire County Council, with others being coordinated by Careers Wales under the Working Wales gateway. Two of the schemes that we are delivering are Workways Plus and Communities for Work.

Workways + aims to increase the employability of Economically Inactive and Long Term/Short Term Unemployed people aged 25 and over, who have complex barriers to employment. Workways+ Team cover the whole of Carmarthenshire and are based within the HWB's in Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ammanford. Each participant will be supported through a personalised mentoring provision, and support through Employer Liaison Officers to provide employment opportunities aligned to labour market trends.

Communities for Work focuses on our most deprived communities, and provides 1-to-1 support, guidance, and training. The programme is able to offer community-based support, training barriers funding to help people into training or employment and works alongside key partner organisations. The team work on an outreach basis across Communities, with bases at the Llanelli and Ammanford Hwbs.

Communities for Work Plus provides specialist employment advisory support and intensive mentoring to people who are either in or at risk of poverty who are not eligible for Communities for Work, PaCE or other regional programmes funded by the European Social Fund, and who have complex barriers to employment and training opportunities.

Creating opportunities that will upskill individuals through basic skills and vocational training support, work tasters, placements, and support to achieve sustainable training and jobs.

The Council is also looking to participate in the Kickstart Work Placement Programme - As part of the government's plan to increase job opportunities for young people, the new £2 billion Kickstart Scheme has been created to support hundreds of thousands of new, fully subsidised work placements for young people across the country.

The 6-month placements are open to those aged 16-24 who are claiming Universal Credit and are at risk of long-term unemployment. These will be available across a range of different sectors in England, Scotland and Wales. The first placements are likely to be available from November. Organisations and businesses sign up for this programme will need to commit a minimum of 30 new job placements. There are not many businesses of sufficient scale in Carmarthenshire able to commit to that. The Council is therefore looking to support businesses who have fewer than 30 jobs on offer by acting as an intermediary to facilitate the required minimum 30 job placements across a number of businesses and also as an employer so that the Council can also offer direct placements. Initial engagement with local businesses has identified that there is a positive appetite for that scheme. From those contacted to date, 58 companies have stated that they could accommodate a total of 110 placements, with further engagement and marketing it is envisaged that this number will only increase.

The council provides funding support to a number of partner agencies such as Care and Repair, offering repair and adaptations and also benefit maximisation checks and refer residents on to partner agencies who would support them as they apply for unclaimed benefits.

We also fund Shelter Cymru who offer debt and benefit advice across tenure for difficult complex cases. Anyone can self-refer or referrals can be made by organisations who identify debt or welfare benefit issues that are more complex than they can deal with or that they can address. You may already be aware that they sit within our Housing Team in Eastgate as do the Wallich and Care and Repair.

I could name others funded by us such as CAB, who provide entitlement assessments, applications for benefit preparation, appeals and tribunals.

Floating support, commissioned through supporting people offer advice and assistance on Tenancy Support, Welfare and Benefit Maximisation and Budgeting the same would be the case for all support providers such as the Wallich, Pobl - also based in Eastgate with our team, NACRO, CTAP, Offender Service and Domestic Abuse Services. All of that being the fundamental purpose of the grant.

Age Cymru Dyfed - Provides life-enhancing services and vital support to people in later life, which includes Health and Wellbeing as well as Warm Home and Benefit Maximisation services.

Catch-up - Provides a specialist welfare benefits information and advice service for individuals and their carers living in Carmarthenshire. Assistance can be given with form filling, reviews and appeals for most benefits. There is an office in Llanelli and Carmarthen. Whilst Age Cymru and Catch-up are not

funded by the Council, officers work closely with them, making referrals to ensure the best outcome for our residents.

The Council's Options and Advice team have a co-ordinating role in terms of ensuring clients in difficulties get welfare benefits advice and support. Many of the housing queries received, are accompanied by affordability and debt issues. Staff can identify issues which are often hidden and not the primary reason for the call.

Our Options and Advice Officers provide Housing Advice to anyone who presents as needing help with housing, offers preventative advice to avoid homelessness which includes welfare benefits and budgeting advice. Staff also refer for additional help to the floating support providers already mentioned, or for more complex cases onto Shelter Dab team, which the team commissioned to be set up in conjunction with Supporting People.

During Covid-19 Options and Advice set up an Enhanced Advice Team to provide benefit advice to people affected by Covid-19 and were unaware of how to navigate the benefit system.

A Pre-Tenancy team provides advice and support to new tenants within Homes and Safer Communities Division. They provide:

- Welfare Benefit advice to ensure that tenants claim the correct benefit.
- Should the tenant need to move onto Universal Credit, they ensure that claims are made on time, in line with tenancy start dates.
- Complete Council Tax Reduction forms and Direct Debit mandates.
- Depending on eligibility, Discretionary Housing Payments and Discretionary Assistance Fund grants applications are made.
- Advice on eligibility for free school meals and uniform grants.

Within the Tenancy Support team of Options and Advice, we have a considerable number of staff who are competent in providing comprehensive Welfare Benefit advice. These officers also support tenants to:

- make applications for Discretionary Housing Payment,
- Help-U applications to reduce the cost of their water rates,
- Council Tax Reduction Forms
- Signposting to energy efficiency help. They also advise tenants on eligibility for free school meals and uniform grants.

Simple Lettings manages properties on behalf of private landlords and the Tenancy Support Officers who work in this team provide the same services to the Private Rented Sector tenants as the Tenancy Support Officers do with Council Tenants. To reiterate – we offer this advice to our tenants and private tenants across the county.

All our Tenancy Support Officers, Options Advisors and Housing Officers are verified to allocate food vouchers and often deliver these to those tenants who are unable to collect parcels. We also send electronic vouchers to

anyone needing an urgent parcel.

Within our Revenues and Benefits Team, we have a Personal Budgeting Officer providing financial support cross tenure, which includes:

- Benefit maximisation advice;
- Helping service users to identify where expenditures can be reduced and how;
- Referral to specialist support providers such as Catchup, Shelter Cymru, energy efficiency personnel or floating support providers within the community;
- Apply for DAF grants;
- Help U reductions from Welsh Water;
- Discretionary Housing Payments and
- Issuing foodbank vouchers.

The point I'm making is that we are absolutely on point with regard to being pro-active with our collaborative programme with embedding others within our teams in housing and the hubs etc. and making sure that we inform people as to what benefits they are entitled to and how to apply successfully for those.

Supplementary Question by Councillor Alun Lenny:

Some neighbouring Local Authorities have opted for a single centralised access point for welfare support. Are there reasons why this is not considered an option in Carmarthenshire?

Response by Councillor Emlyn Dole, Leader of the Council:-

I am aware that some Local Authorities have created a single access point and I can see how that may work in areas where there is one single central point conveniently accessible to all and that may work well for them. However, to do so in Carmarthenshire, in my view, would increase the hardship and decrease the accessibility of support outlined in my original response.

I have no ambition to pull all this into one central unit and removing staff from integrated and strategic positions to some centralised unit, to do so would be counterproductive. It would also lead to an inevitable removal of funding from third sector organisations in order to fund this central unit. So I will continue to ask and assess how well the third sector are providing the services we fund.

You noted in your original question that we have a bleak winter ahead of us and we do, in many ways, but I would like to assure you that we have services in place to support our residents in all corners of the county and that we have plans in place, and will continue to plan, ensuring that this support continues.

I know that as Members we receive calls, letters, emails and are approached by some of our residents when they are facing difficulties. I would encourage you to familiarise yourselves with the services we offer so that you can play your part in supporting those facing hardship and to ensure that they do not fall through the net.

7. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION

7.1. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ALUN LENNY

[NOTE: Councillor K. Lloyd had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

Council considered the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Alun Lenny:

“One Planet review request to Welsh Government

The One Planet Development (OPD) policy was implemented by the One Wales Government in 2010 and sits within Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6 –Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities. The policy has the commendable objective that Wales, within a generation, should use only its fair share of the earth’s resources. In principle, it conforms with our agreement at Full Council in February 2019 to declare a climate emergency and commit to making Carmarthenshire County Council a net zero carbon local authority by 2030.

In practice, however, OPD is proving problematic for three specific reasons:-

1. There's a common perception that the policy is being used to override the Local Development Plan. This has resulted in considerable resentment by rural residents who find it difficult – if not impossible – to build a new home for younger generations on their land.
2. TAN 6 states that a new dwelling in the countryside should only be allowed to support a rural enterprise which has already been established for at least three years and proved sustainable. An OPD application is not based on a prior evidence base, but on a management plan which forecasts the development’s chances of success over a 5-year period after planning permission is granted.
3. An annual monitoring report must be submitted to the Local Planning Authority to show compliance with the management plan. Failure to meet the terms of the plan could result in enforcement proceedings. However, monitoring compliance is proving problematic due to the lack of expertise in LPAs.

Carmarthenshire County Council believes that the One Planet Development policy, although commendable in its intention when implemented 10 years ago, is proving problematic in practice. In view of increasing concern about the way in which this policy is being implemented, the cumulative impact of such developments, and issues with monitoring, we call on the Welsh Government to review the policy and consider imposing a moratorium on

OPD applications while such a review is held. We also suggest that such a review should consider whether elements of OPD, relating to sustainable practices, might be incorporated into mainstream planning policies in a more radical way, so as to have a wider impact on carbon reduction.

The Motion was duly seconded.

The proposer and seconder of the Motion were afforded the opportunity of speaking in support thereof and outlined the reasons for its submission, as set out in the Motion.

A number of statements were made both in support of and against the Motion and following a vote it was

RESOLVED that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

7.2. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR JOHN JAMES

[NOTE:

- Councillor A.G. Morgan declared a pecuniary interest in this item.
- Following advice from the Head of Administration and Law, Councillors K. Broom, C. Campbell, J.M Charles, A. Davies, W.T. Evans, K. Howell, A. James, J. Lewis, G. B. Thomas, J.E. Williams had declared an interest in this item as set out in Minute 2.]

Following a discussion on the Motion and Amendment, Councillor James informed Council that he was withdrawing his Notice of Motion.

8. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

To comply with the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Council is required to review its Constitution on an annual basis and therefore established the Constitutional Review Working Group (CRWG) to present recommendations for constitutional change.

The report included amendments as recommended by CRWG which update the Council's Constitution. Council considered the amendments as shown in the report and highlighted within its appendices thereto:-

- Article 6 Scrutiny Committees
- Part 4.1 Council Procedure Rules
- Part 4.5 Scrutiny Procedure Rules
- Part 5.6 Protocol for Communication with Elected Members

RESOLVED:

8.1 That the following recommendations of the Constitutional Review Working Group following its annual review of the Constitution be approved and adopted:-

- a) To amend Article 6 of the Constitution to update and 'tidy up' Scrutiny Remits (in accordance with a WAO Scrutiny Fit for the Future?**

recommendation)

- b) To recall the delegations granted to the Chief Executive, The Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Administration and Law in the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (which have never been exercised by them) with view to the function being exercised by the Executive Board (Part 3 Table 4 Responsibility for Functions and Part 3.2 Scheme of Delegation to Officers)
- c) To update Council Procedure Rules (Part 4.1) to stipulate a revised agenda order for ordinary meetings of the Council and to reflect remote attendance.
- d) To update Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4.5) to reflect the advice of the Centre for Public Scrutiny that Executive Board Members should attend their respective Scrutiny Committee to present their reports and be held to account.
- e) To update Part 5.6 – Protocol for communications with elected members to reflect the decision of Council to hold paperless meetings.

8.2 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.

8.3 That subject to recommendations 1 above, the Council Constitution be adopted for 2020/21.

9. **TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:-**

9.1. **CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20**

[NOTE: Councillor K. Madge had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Council was informed that the Executive Board at its meeting held on the 5th October 2020 (minute 4 refers) had considered a report on Carmarthenshire County Council's Annual Report for 2019/20 which was produced in accordance with the requirements of both the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

It was reported that the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted upon the final 6-weeks of the 2019/20 year and whilst the report outlined the timeline of the pandemic the focus of the Annual Report was on the majority of the normal business during the period.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:

“that the council’s annual report for 2019/20 be approved.”

9.2. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 2019-2020

The Council was informed that the Executive Board at its meeting held on the 21st September 2020 (minute 10 refers) had considered the Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report 2019-2020, which had been produced in order to comply with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Sector.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:

“that the Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report 2019/20 be approved.”

9.3. SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL JOINT COMMITTEE AGREEMENT

The Council was informed that the Executive Board at its meeting held on the 5th October 2020 (minute 6 refers) had considered a report on report seeking the Council’s endorsement to the Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Committee’s decision to amend Clause 7 of Schedule 12 of the Joint Committee Agreement relating to the Joint Scrutiny Committee Quorum arrangements in so far as it related to the deletion of Clause 7.1 and its replacement by the following:

“The Quorum for meetings shall be no less than 6 members, which must include at least 1 member from each of the 4 Authorities. The Joint Scrutiny Committee is not permitted to scrutinise a matter relating to a project if a member representative of the Council’s involved in that project is not present at the meeting”

It was advised that for any amendment to the Joint Committee Agreement to come into effect, it would first need to be considered by the Joint Committee and then placed before each of the 4 four local authorities to consider and adopt. In accordance with that agreement, the Joint Committee had considered the amendment on the 9th July 2020 and it was now being presented to each of the 4 authorities for confirmation

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:

“9.1 “to endorse the decision of the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee to amend the Joint Scrutiny Committee quorum arrangements, as detailed within the report;

9.2 to authorise the Head of Administration and Law to enter into a deed of variation to effect the changes to the Joint Committee Agreement.”

9.4. REVISED CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018 - 2033

The Council was informed that the Executive Board at its meeting held on the 5th October 2020 (minute 7 refers) had considered a report on the revised Delivery Agreement and Covid-19 Update in relation to the adoption of the Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033.

Council at its meeting held on the 13th November 2019 had endorsed a 6 week public consultation (subsequently extended to 8 weeks) on the Deposit Revised LDP 2018-2033 together with its supporting documents (Habitat Regulations Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal) and two draft Supplementary Planning Guidance. In addition, a 3-week consultation had been undertaken in response to the impacts of the lockdown.

The current report reflected on the implications of Covid 19 on that consultation and the current preparation of the revised LDP. It also considered the implications of the outbreak on the timetable for the adoption of the LDP and the proposal to revise the Delivery Agreement (and its component timetable and Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)) ahead of submission to the Welsh Government for Agreement.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:

“10.1 To endorse the continued progress of the Revised Local Development Plan 2018-2033 (and supporting documents) and the approach outlined within the report;

10.2 To approve the Revision of the Delivery Agreement to include a 7-month extension to the timetable and other consequential amendments, including those arising from Covid-19;

10.3 To grant officers delegated authority to make non-substantive typographical, cartographical and/or factual amendments as necessary to improve the clarity and accuracy of the Draft Deposit Revised Local Development Plan.”

10. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:-

10.1. 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 7th September 2020 be received.

10.2. 21ST SEPTEMBER 2020

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 21st September 2020 be received.

10.3. 5TH OCTOBER 2020

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 5th October 2020 be received.

11. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES:-

11.1. THE PLAID CYMRU GROUP HAS NOMINATED COUNCILLOR DAI THOMAS TO FILL ITS VACANT SEAT ON THE COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Councillor Dai Thomas be appointed to fill the Plaid Cymru vacant seat on the Community Scrutiny Committee.

15. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION.

The Chair stated that the minutes outlined on the agenda 12.1 – 12.4 were available for information on the Council website.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item as the report contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act

14. PENTRE AWEL

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED** pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 12 above not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act).

The report contained details about potential academic partners who had not as yet signed memoranda of Understanding with the Authority. Although the public interest would normally favour transparency and openness, this is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality in this case until the MOUs have been signed.

[NOTE: Councillor A.G. Morgan had earlier declared an interest in this item.]

The Council was informed that the Executive Board at its meeting held on 21st September 2020 (minute 13 refers) had considered a report which provided an update statement on Pentre Awel in relation to the submission of the City Deal Business case, agreements with academic partners and phase 1 design development.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Executive Board be adopted:

“That the Council:

- 14.1 Approves the final Business Case (as attached in appendix 1) for formal submission to the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee for approval to submit to Welsh Government and UK Government.
- 14.2 Agrees and approve the signing of Memorandum's of Understanding with academic partners. To note that these discussions fit within the overall planning for education skills and training.
- 14.3 Endorses the completion of the RIBA Stage 3 detailed design development work and outputs.”

CHAIR

DATE