

COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the County Council held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Ruthin LL15 1YN on Tuesday, 28 January 2020 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Mabon ap Gwynfor, Brian Blakeley, Ellie Chard, Ann Davies, Gareth Davies, Meirick Davies (Chair), Hugh Evans, Peter Evans, Bobby Feeley, Rachel Flynn, Tony Flynn, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Hugh Irving, Alan James (Vice-Chair), Brian Jones, Tina Jones, Gwyneth Kensler, Geraint Lloyd-Williams, Richard Mainon, Christine Marston, Barry Mellor, Melvyn Mile, Paul Penlington, Pete Prendergast, Arwel Roberts, Anton Sampson, Peter Scott, Glenn Swingler, Andrew Thomas, Rhys Thomas, Tony Thomas, Julian Thompson-Hill, Graham Timms, Joe Welch, Cheryl Williams, David Williams, Emrys Wynne and Mark Young

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive (JG), Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services (GW), Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm (GB), Head of Finance and Property (SG) and Committee Administrator (SLW)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joan Butterfield, Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Martyn Holland, Huw Jones, Pat Jones, Bob Murray and Merfyn Parry

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Peter Prendergast – Item 9 – declared a personal interest as he is a Director of Denbighshire Leisure Ltd.

Huw Hilditch-Roberts – Item 9 – declared a personal interest as he is a Board Member of Denbighshire Leisure Ltd.

Bobby Feeley – Item 9 – declared a personal interest as she is a Board Member and Chair of Denbighshire Leisure Ltd.

At this juncture the Chair offered condolences to Councillor Christine Marston whose husband had recently passed away.

Condolences were also offered to Councillor Brian Blakeley whose brother had recently passed away.

Congratulations to Councillor Brian Blakeley who celebrated his 80th Birthday yesterday.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

No urgent items.

- (a) **Petition** handed in from Cllr Mabon ap Gwynfor – the petition related to the demand for nursery provision in the Llandrillo community and had gathered over 600 signatures. The Chair received the petition and confirmed he would pass it on to the relevant department.
- (b) **Question** put forward by Rhys Thomas – The Ruthin Independent School is not under Local Authority control. If it was, our officers would have acted at once and, if necessary, there would have been suspensions and sackings at the school. They are not meeting their safeguarding responsibility. Our own officers are caring and competent in the work they do. Can we please be told what are our corporate responsibilities concerning the safeguarding of the children that attend the Ruthin Independent School and what actions have we so far taken?

Response by Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts – there is legislation, which directs the operation of independent schools, which is obviously different to that of our own local authority schools. Regulation under the Education Act 2002 sets out the standards all independent schools must adhere to as conditions of the registration. This includes condition around welfare, health, safety of pupils and condition related to the suitability of the proprietors and staff.

All independent schools must be registered with Welsh Government. If an independent school fails to meet a condition of the registration, the Welsh Government, not the local authority, has the power to remove the registration.

No independent school can operate legally within Wales without meeting the conditions of the registration.

Independent schools are inspected by Estyn and if they have a boarding provision, by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

If an independent school fails to meet conditions of registration, the Welsh Government will require the school to take certain steps to address the concerns. The process may include consultation with Estyn, CIW and may be inspected by both. If Welsh Government remains dissatisfied, notice will be given of removal of the registration, subject to appeal. So, in effect, the school can be closed.

Independent schools must adhere to the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. The local authority has a duty to manage the process relating to this, act in partnership with other bodies regarding safeguarding and child protection concerns. However, an independent school only has to have regard to the recommendations of the local authority, an independent school is not maintained by the local authority. We talk about our officers and their involvement in this, it has been really difficult until now to speak regarding this publicly.

We have been involved with Ruthin School since April 2018. We first escalated safeguarding concerns about Ruthin School to Welsh Government, Estyn and CIW in April 2018. Myself, Karen I Evans and Nicola Stubbins have been involved with this process. This led to an unannounced joint inspection by Estyn and CIW in May 2018.

Further safeguarding concerns were raised and referred to us in May 2019. We escalated these concerns to the Welsh Government, Estyn and CIW and a subsequent unannounced inspection took place in November 2019, hence the report last week and the surrounding press which had arisen from it.

I have every confidence in our officers and our partners who have worked with us along the way on this journey. I am really pleased to see the recommendations which have been made by CIW and I urge Ruthin School to take the appropriate and decisive action. Safeguarding of children is really important and we must ensure every child is safe in our communities.

(c) Question put forward by Councillor Glenn Swingler – Following on from Kingdom Securities, we are interested in knowing how District Enforcement Ltd., are performing now that they have been active for a month. Can we have brief details of how many fines have been issues, for what offences and in which parts of the county?

Response by Councillor Mark Young – District Enforcement Ltd., went “live” on 4 December 2019.

Between 4 December 2019 and 22 January 2020, there had been 147 Fixed Penalty Notices issued (approximately 3 per day).

In addition to the enforcement activity, District Enforcement have:

- Issued approximately 750 free dog bags to shops and dog owners in public areas;
- Given out 500 stubby bags to smokers;
- Advice and warnings provided to the public throughout duty time but not necessarily logged. Officers speak to members of the public throughout the day. There is a great deal of interest from the general public due to the colour of the uniform and the resumption of officer presence;
- Dog order signs replaced and additional signs circulated in problem areas with further reviews of dog frequented areas – requested by Councillors and also DCC staff;
- Yellow chalk spraying for public information in areas where officers have patrolled and identified poor dog fouling clean up;
- Greater patrolling of promenade areas and exclusion areas;
- Final arrangements of school deployments with Education Service for presentations by District officers in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy. Estimated commencement for the presentations post half term holidays;

- Waiting for invitations to speak to public associations and organisations of all ages – any assistance with this element would be grateful;
- Daily briefings are held with Tim Wynne Evans and the Team Manager

A Working Group is to be set up, on which Councillor Mark Young will be Chair, with a representative from each Member Area Group, and officers. The Group will meet quarterly to discuss progress, good practice and any issues or concerns regarding the contract. Regular activity statistics can also be circulated to all members via the Member Area Group meetings.

We are also happy to attend Scrutiny Committee as and when required by members.

Supplemental Question put forward by Councillor Glenn Swingler – Are any of the operatives Welsh speakers?

Response by Councillor Mark Young – We abide by the law and support Welsh speakers. At the moment, none of the officers are Welsh speakers but members of the public can request to speak to someone in Welsh.

(d) Question put forward by Councillor Mabon ap Gwynfor – Is it possible to have an update on this Authority's gritting policy please?

Response by Councillor Brian Jones – The gritting policy is on the Denbighshire County Council website and other social media outlets. The policy covers the main classified roads, the A and B roads, the principal bus routes, access for police, fire, hospital, primary school routes are safeguarded, villages and communities. It also extends to shopping areas and areas where it is known there are traditional issues, such as exposed areas, steep gradients etc.

In the past, teams have gone the extra mile and have made access to residents in rural areas for hospital appointments and other similar issues.

Supplemental Question put forward by Councillor Mabon ap Gwynfor – I appreciate the work which has been done by the gritters. Occasionally, some do work harder than expected. It appears occasionally that the rural communities are exempt and that the gritters do not reach the roads in the rural areas because priority is given to the main roads and B roads. This means that some rural communities are isolated and the people living in those communities cannot even get to the main road to get to work. Is it possible to ensure that every community is fully gritted so that everyone can get to their place of work safely?

Response by Councillor Brian Jones – the A and B roads are prioritised. Rural areas do get cut off but there is communication there and if there are

any emergencies, they will be dealt with on a case by case basis, but you cannot grit every road in the county within an hour.

We can look at it and come back to you but I am confident and know the officers and, more importantly, the workforce, are committed when we get spells of bad weather. Rest assured officers are aware of the issues.

4 CHAIRMAN'S DIARY

A list of civic engagements undertaken by the Chair and Vice-Chair for the period 5 October 2019 to 20 December 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED that the list of civic engagements undertaken by the Chair and Vice-Chair be received.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of Full Council held on 15 October 2019 were submitted.

Matters Arising – page 8 – Councillor Peter Scott thanked the Lead Member for Planning, Public Protection and Safer Communities, Councillor Mark Young for the granting of a weeks' extension to the consultation of the gypsy site.

RESOLVED that, subject to the above, the minutes of Full Council held on 15 October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6 BUDGET 2020/21 - FINAL PROPOSALS

The Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets, Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill, introduced the Budget 2020/21 – Final Proposal report (previously circulated).

The Council was legally required to set a balanced and deliverable budget before the start of each financial year and to set the resulting level of Council Tax to allow bills to be sent to residents.

The Draft Local Government Settlement for 2020/21 had been received on 16 December 2019 and resulted in a positive settlement of +4.3%, which was also the Welsh average position. The Final Settlement was expected on 25 February 2020 but Welsh Government had indicated there should be very few changes.

As part of the settlement there were “transfers in” of £1.794m mainly relating to grant transfers for part year for Teachers Pay and Teachers Pension Grant. The full year effect of the grants need to be funded from the general settlement.

The final proposals to balance the 202/21 budget were shown in the extract from the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan in Appendix 1 to the report. The main points were as follows:

- Pay pressures of £1.124m
- Price and energy inflation of £250k

- Fire Service levy of £93k
- Allowance for increase in Council Tax Reduction Scheme of £350k
- Schools inflationary pressures recognised amounting to £2.852m
- Schools demographic pressure of £716k
- £2.6m to recognise demand pressures and forecasts in Community Support Services as part of the council's long term strategy to manage care budgets
- £1.546m recognised existing pressures in Education and Children's Services relating to Out of County Placements and Recoupment
- £1.4m pressures in Waste Services had been recognised based on in year pressures
- A further £600k pressure recognised relating to School Transport
- £529k pressure had been included to fund Corporate Plan Priorities
- In light of the scale of pressures a contingency of £358k had been included.

The impact of using £2m of cash in 2019/2020 (which had the effect of just delaying the need to identify savings) meant that the total shortfall amounted to £14.418m.

The +4.3% settlement generated £6.219m additional revenue, leaving a funding gap of £8.199m. To bridge the gap, the following items had been included in the proposals:

- £2m savings had been included due to the triennial actuarial review of the Clwyd Pension Fund
- Service saving proposals which had been intensely scrutinised by the Budget Board had been circulated to elected members in December 2019. All proposals would require delegated decisions, either to heads of service or lead members and, therefore, no specific Cabinet or Council decisions were required. The proposals contribute £1.756m in total
- School had been requested to find 1% efficiency savings - £692k.
- £685k of the cash, which had already been earmarked to help smooth the budget reductions, be used for 2020/2021. The original figure had been £1.085m
- Council Tax increase by 4.3% which would generate £2.298m additional revenue
- The Council Tax Base had increased more than expected which meant that additional Council Tax of £486k was projected. The Base also impacted on the Revenue Support Grant and this had benefitted the council by £282k

In addition, the reduction in the requirement for cash would result in £400k remaining in the Budget Mitigation Reserve which was recommended to be released to help fund the initial stages of the Zero Carbon Target project and the pressures relating to Ash die-back (proposal to allocate £200k to each project). This funding would allow the projects to produce detailed spending plans which could be considered and incorporated in next year's budget considerations.

Councillor Graham Timms expressed his disagreement to the reduction of council tax from 4.8% to 4.3% and proposed an amendment to recommendation 3.3 as follows:

3.3 that Council approve the average Council Tax rise of 4.8% proposed and the extra revenue used to support council work on climate change and ecological emergency.

Councillor Timms explained that the amended proposal would increase council tax by £6.64 per year on an average band D house. Councillor Brian Blakeley seconded the amendment.

Discussions took place and the following points were raised:

- The amendment would affect those working families who were already struggling financially. 25% of residents were in receipt of the council tax reduction scheme.
- The Welsh Government (WG) needed to provide funding for the Climate Change Scheme. WG had awarded £21m to Cardiff for clean air and it was the consensus of opinion that funding should be given in North Wales.
- It was confirmed WG and the UK Government would provide funding, but currently it was not clear what the funding would be.
- It was stated that the WG priority would be the NHS.
- Plans were required for 5-10 years' time to allow people's habits and practices to change. Education was important to enable younger people to be more aware of the implications of climate change.

The Chief Executive clarified that the Welsh Government Local Framework was expected in March 2020, but would come with additional costs. A scoping action plan was to be agreed, and work was taking place regionally through the Public Services Board (PSB). Therefore, there was an expectation for the WG to have a fully costed plan to deliver significant costs.

Councillor Graham Timms expressed the urgency to make changes immediately as the council only had 10 years until the 2030 deadline.

A vote on the proposed amendment was to take place and Councillor Graham Timms requested a recorded vote. As required, more than one sixth of those present supported a recorded vote.

The recorded vote was as follows:

In favour of proposed amendment:

Councillors Mabon ap Gwynfor, Brian Blakeley, Ellie Chard, Meirick Lloyd Davies, Rachel Flynn, Alan James, Gwyneth Kensler, Barry Mellor, Paul Penlington, Peter Prendergast, Arwel Roberts, Graham Timms, Cheryl Williams and Emrys Wynne.

Against proposed amendment:

Councillors Ann Davies, Gareth Davies, Hugh Evans, Peter Evans, Bobby Feeley, Tony Flynn, Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Hugh Irving, Brian Jones, Tina Jones, Geraint Lloyd-Williams, Richard Mainon, Christine Marston, Melvyn Mile, Anton Sampson, Peter Scott, Glenn Swingler, Tony Thomas, Andrew Thomas, Rhys Thomas, Julian Thompson-Hill, Joe Welch, David G. Williams and Mark Young.

Therefore, the proposed amendment failed.

A vote then took place on the substantive recommendation as follows:

In Favour – 24

Abstain – 0

Against – 12

RESOLVED that Council:

- (i) Note the impact of the Draft Local Government Settlement 2020/21*
- (ii) Approves the proposals outlined in Appendix 1, and detailed in Section 4, in order to finalise the budget for 2020/2021*
- (iii) Approve the average Council Tax rise of 4.3% proposed*
- (iv) Delegate authority to the Head of Finance and Property in consultation with the Lead member for Finance to adjust the use of cash included in the budget proposals by up to £500k if there is movement between the draft and final settlement figures in order to allow the setting of Council Tax in a timely manner*
- (v) Confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment.*

7 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2020/21

The Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets introduced the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2020/2021.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contained provisions to abolish council tax benefit in its then current form across the UK. From 31 March 2013 council tax benefit ceased and the responsibility for providing support for council tax and the funding associated with it, had been passed to the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government, in partnership with local authorities in Wales, introduced a new scheme to provide council tax support which was adopted by the Council in January 2013.

The Welsh Government had finalised both sets of regulations on 2 December 2019 and the new Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and amendments Regulations 2020, were required to be adopted by 31 January 2020.

RESOLVED that:

- Members adopt the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Amendments Regulations 2020, in respect of the 2020/2021 financial year.*
- Members approve the 3 discretionary elements of the scheme, shown in section 4.2, for 2020/2021*

8 THE REAL LIVING WAGE

The Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets introduced the Real Living Wage report (previously circulated).

Council originally considered the implications of paying the Real Living Wage in December 2018 and it was requested that a further report be submitted in December 2019. The report was to inform council of the recommendations of the Real Living Wage Foundation and the outcome of the national pay negotiations and, if there was a differential between the two, decide whether or not to pay the Real Living Wage to staff in the following financial year.

The Real Living Wage, as of 1 November 2019 was increased to £9.30 per hour for workers over the age of 18. A higher rate of pay would be required in London to reflect the higher living costs. The rate was set annually by the Living Wage Foundation and Loughborough University's Centre for Research.

From 1 April 2019, the council had been paying the equivalent of the Real Living Wage to employees on Spinal Column Point (SCP) 1 of £9.00 per hour. As stated above, the Real Living Wage was reviewed in November of each year, so therefore, currently paying 30p per hour under the current Real Living Wage.

The National Employers for Local Government Services and Trade Unions were currently in negotiations as to the cost of living increase for April 2020, and indications were it was unlikely to have any updates until after April 2020.

Becoming an accredited Living Wage Employer meant that the organisation would be duty bound to pay any increase in pay within six months of it being set, regardless of their financial position or means to do so.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- It was confirmed that outsourced services eg: Civica and Denbighshire Leisure Ltd., staff met the Denbighshire County Council pay and employment policies.
- It was agreed funding would be required to become an accredited Real Living Wage Employer. The Lead Member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets and the Leader confirmed they would put this point forward to the WLGA.

A further updated report would be presented at a future Full Council meeting. The Pay Policy was required to be presented at Full Council before the end of March but there was uncertainty as to whether the pay negotiations would be concluded by then. If pay negotiations were not concluded by then, a separate report would be presented.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Council note the estimated cost implications of paying the Real Living Wage and becoming a Real Living Wage employer
- (ii) Council agreed to wait for the National Pay Agreement in April 2020 or such time as finally agreed

9 IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MODEL (ADM) FOR VARIOUS LEISURE RELATED ACTIVITIES/FUNCTIONS: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

Councillor Peter Prendergast declared a personal interest as he is a Director of Denbighshire Leisure Ltd.

Councillor Bobby Feeley declared a personal interest as she is a Board Member and Chair of Denbighshire Leisure Ltd.

Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts declared personal interest as he is a Board Member of Denbighshire Leisure Ltd.

Councillor Bobby Feeley introduced the Implementation of an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) for various leisure related activities/functions: Appointment of Independent Directors report (previously circulated).

Council appointed Councillors Brian Blakeley, Hugh Irving and Graham Timms to sit on the recruitment panel. Unfortunately, Councillors Brian Blakeley and Graham Timms were unable to attend the interviews and further nominations were sought via group leaders, at relatively short notice, for other members to sit on the interviews. As a result, Councillor Mark Young was nominated and attended at the interviews with Councillor Hugh Irving, supported by the Managing Director, the Corporate Director and HR. The interviews were observed by Councillor Bobby Feeley in her capacity as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Company.

Three candidates were selected for interview but one withdrew. There were, therefore, two remaining candidates.

The two candidates recommended to council for appointment were Paul McGrady in respect of the Independent Director role with finance and commercial experience, and Sian Rogers in respect of the Independent Director role with community development experience.

Members were given the resume of experience of both candidates.

Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that the Council formally appoints Paul McGrady and Sian Rogers as Independent Directors to sit on the Board of Directors of Denbighshire Leisure Limited.

10 AVOIDANCE AND REDUCTION OF PLASTICS IN DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES

Councillors Hugh Irving and Emrys Wynne introduced the Avoidance and Reduction of Plastics in Denbighshire County Council Offices report (previously circulated).

At Council in July 2018, as a result of a Notice of Motion, it was resolved to support the principle of the Council reducing its use of plastic and that a Member Task and

Finish Group consider the issues, and report to Performance Scrutiny Committee before reporting back to Council.

Council was required to consider the work of the Task and Finish Group as supported by Performance Scrutiny Committee.

The following actions to the first response of reduction in the use of plastics in Council buildings were as follows:

- Remove all water coolers – carbon filters to be fitted to water taps
- Remove all tea/coffee machines in council offices
- Remove all vending machines completely.

It was queried as to why the tea/coffee machines had to be removed rather being able to use china mugs/travel mugs. It was confirmed that individual plastic containers of milk and plastic stirrers would be required which was what the Council were trying to move away from.

If the recommendations were to be approved, the Task and Finish Group would then look into detail regarding the reduction of plastic in school catering and more widely through the use of the procurement processes.

RESOLVED that Council considers the findings of the Task and Finish Group as supported by the Performance Scrutiny Committee:

- (i) approves the recommendations and Action Plan (Appendix 1) in order to demonstrate that the Council is taking a community lead in reducing the use of plastics*
- (ii) supports the continuation of the Task and Finish Group for a further 12 months with a view to proposing further actions to reduce the Council's use of plastic in the areas of:*
 - a. school catering, and*
 - b. procurement*
- (iii) endorses the proposal that the avoidance and reduction of plastics within the Council be a work stream linked to the wider Climate Change and Ecological Emergency response.*

11 CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY - PROGRESS REPORT ON COUNCIL MOTION

Councillors Brian Jones and Graham Timms introduced the Climate and Ecological Emergency – Progress Report on Council Motion report (previously circulated).

At this juncture, the Chair thanked members of Friends of the Earth who were in attendance to offer their support to the Council.

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Notice of Motion was unanimously passed by Council on 2 July 2019 and committed the Council to a set of actions contained within it.

A range of activity had been delivered by the Council to contribute to the climate change and ecological improvement ambitions. It included work delivered under and across the existing Corporate Plan, which included an “Environment” priority.

The following examples were given of how the Council had been and would be reducing carbon, increasing carbon sequestration and improving ecology:

- Energy reduction programme in council buildings
- On-going rationalisation of the corporate estate
- Council housing energy efficiency work and new build council housing being constructed to “A” or “Passivhaus” standards
- Tree planting and natural flood management
- New fleet strategy (electric first) being rolled out along with electric charging points
- Using council land and verges as green space for biodiversity
- Staff flexible, home and remote working policies and practices
- New buildings to BREAM excellent standards
- All electricity used to be purchased from renewable sources
- Renewable energy generation in or on our buildings has doubled and is growing
- Invested in – and now open – two energy-from-waste plants.

A cross party political Working Group had been set up chaired by Councillor Graham Timms.

A public meeting had been organised to take place on 25 February 2020 where members of the public, representatives from environmental improvement community and school groups could give their ideas to feed into the Council’s developing plans. The meeting would be webcast to enable more involvement with the residents of the county.

During discussions the following points were raised:

- It was the consensus of opinion that Welsh Government should provide funding to local authorities to enable them to work towards being carbon neutral by 2030.
- Issues regarding electric cars were raised. For example, if everyone needed to charge cars at a similar time of day, the impact on the national grid would be overwhelming. Also electric car batteries were extremely expensive to replace and what would happen to the old batteries?
- Was there any possibility of hydrogen cars?
- The Leader asked the question if the project was too big for the Working Group. Cllr Graham Timms responded that it made sense for the Working Group to work through issues for at least the next six months.
- It was confirmed that school pupils visited a new housing development in Llanbedr which had air source heating. The pupils had been extremely impressed with the development.
- Cllr Brian Jones informed the meeting of a proposed North Wales tidal lagoon which would benefit the coastal area from the Little Orme in Llandudno to past Prestatyn and alleviate flooding.

- The Chief Executive confirmed that “remote attendance” at meetings had been included within the recent Local Government Bill.
- Cllr Brian Jones confirmed an official response would be sent to the Friends of the Earth who handed out fact sheets at the meeting.
- Scoping exercises needed to take place. Further work was required to prepare the council to apply for funding from the Welsh Government.

RESOLVED for:

- *Council to note the progress made by the Climate and Ecological Emergency cross-party Working Group and the proposal to implement a programme management structure by 31 March 2020 to deliver on our ambitions as set out in the Motion*
- *Council to note the imminent (01.04.2020) Welsh Government requirement on scope and reduction of carbon emissions which will form the basis of our action plans*
- *Council to note the date for a public meeting (25.02.2020) to gather public ideas to feed into on our developing plans*

12 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill put forward the following Notice of Motion on behalf of himself, Councillor Gwyneth Kensler and Councillor Brian Blakeley for consideration by Full Council:

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;
- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks;
- to write to the Welsh Government urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of firework displays;
- to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays;
- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock “quieter” fireworks for public display.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the three Councillors work together with Councillor Mark Young and officers regarding the Notice of Motion.

It was confirmed that the wording in the first bullet point of the Notice of Motion be changed to read “to encourage all public firework displays

The vote took place as follows:

In favour – 26
Abstain – 1
Against – 0

RESOLVED that this Council:

- *to encourage all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;*
- *to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks;*
- *to write to the Welsh Government urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of firework displays;*
- *to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays;*
- *to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock “quieter” fireworks for public display.*

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Barry Mellor put forward the following Notice of Motion on behalf of Councillor Joan Butterfield, who was unable to attend the meeting, for consideration by Full Council:

This local authority notes that since being established in 2006, Show Racism the Red Card (Wales) has worked with over 150,000 young people in Wales. Show Racism the Red Card education workers have witnessed for some years now growing anti-immigrant sentiment and anti-Muslim hatred to add to the older more established types of racism. They have become increasingly worried about the way in which migrant communities are being demonised for social problems which have varied and complex causes.

This council notes that:

- Hate crime continues to increase across the UK with racially and religiously motivated hate crime accounting for over 80% of all hate crime in Wales.
- The majority of referrals to Wales Extremism & Counter-Terrorism Unit (WECTU) are of individuals between 15 and 20 years of age.
- An NSPCC investigation found that Welsh Police Forces have logged nearly 600 race hate offences against children over a 3-year period (2015 to 2018), with 240 of these crimes recorded last year (17/18), with toddlers and babies among the victims.
- The charity surveyed 1,000 teachers and school support staff during Spring Term 2019 with results showing that 1 in 4 respondents had observed, responded to or had a pupil report racial discrimination in the previous 12 months.

This Council therefore resolves to: -

- Consider the results of our 2019 survey as part of the councils Strategic Equality Plan
- Consider commissioning the Show Racism the Red Card schools programme that will educate young people and teachers on addressing local issues
- Commit to adhering to best practise that 'schools should report and record all incidents of racism and report to councils annually' Estyn/WAG.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- Schools were doing everything possible to eradicate racism but hate crime was not only in schools but in all aspects of society.
- It was agreed that parents and grandparents needed to take responsibility to educate their children and grandchildren regarding racial matters.
- The Welsh Government were carrying out a piece of work to reduce hate crime. As a local authority, DCC were doing as much as they could to reduce hate crime but required funding from the Welsh Government.

At this juncture, Councillor Richard Mainon proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Ann Davies. The amendment was to change the first part of the resolution to "Consider the results of our 2019 survey" rather than "Consider the result of our 2019 survey as part of the council's Strategic Equality Plan".

A vote took place on the amendment as follows:

In favour – 15
Abstain – 4
Against – 7

Therefore, the amendment was carried and the substantive Motion was amended.

A vote on the amended substantive Motion then took place as follows:

In favour – 25
Abstain – 1
Against – 1

It was:

RESOLVED that this Council:

- *Consider the results of our 2019 survey*
- *Consider commissioning the Show Racism the Red Card schools programme that will educate young people and teachers on addressing local issues*
- *Commit to adhering to best practise that 'schools should report and record all incidents of racism and report to councils annually' Estyn/WAG.*

14 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Rhys Thomas put forward the following Notice of Motion for consideration by Full Council:

“In relation to the Local Government (Wales) Bill and the recent member training on this subject, we ask that this council attempts to take the lead in attempting to attract as diverse a group of citizens as possible to engage with the local democratic process.

To this end, we ask that the Chief Executive and senior officers report back to this full Council in 12 months’ time with a plan of action as to how a more diverse range of citizens can be encouraged to stand for the council at the next county council elections.

We believe that the steps outlined in the Local Government Bill do not go far enough and that Denbighshire could lead the way in promoting citizen engagement in the important role played by county councils.”

During discussion it was agreed that it was not appropriate for the Chief Executive and officers to bring back a report but that the Lead Member for Corporate Services and Strategic Direction would present a report in 12 months. Therefore, an amendment to the Notice of Motion stating this was put forward.

A vote on the amendment took place as follows:

In favour – 27
Abstain – 0
Against – 0

Therefore, the amendment was passed and a vote on the amended substantive Notice of Motion took place as follows:

In favour – 24
Abstain – 0
Against – 0

RESOLVED that:

In relation to the Local Government (Wales) Bill and the recent member training on this subject, we ask that this council attempts to take the lead in attempting to attract as diverse a group of citizens as possible to engage with the local democratic process.

To this end, we ask that the Lead Member for Corporate Services and Strategic Direction, report back to this full Council in 12 months’ time with a plan of action as to how a more diverse range of citizens can be encouraged to stand for the council at the next county council elections.

We believe that the steps outlined in the Local Government Bill do not go far enough and that Denbighshire could lead the way in promoting citizen engagement in the important role played by county councils

15 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Rachel Flynn, in support of the Plastic Free Prestatyn Group, put forward the following Notice of Motion for consideration by Full Council:

- Council must lead by example to remove single use plastic items from their premises
- Council to encourage plastic-free initiatives, promoting the campaign and supporting events
- A representative of the council must be named on the plastic free community steering group

A vote took place as follows:

In favour – 25

Abstain – 0

Against – 0

RESOLVED that:

- *Council must lead by example to remove single use plastic items from their premises*
- *Council to encourage plastic-free initiatives, promoting the campaign and supporting events*
- *A representative of the council must be named on the plastic free community steering group*

16 COUNTY COUNCIL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services introduced the Council's Forward Work Programme together with the Council Briefing Forward Work Programme (previously circulated).

RESOLVED that the Council and Council Briefing Forward Work Programmes be approved and noted.

The meeting concluded at 2.05 p.m.