

# Minutes

Newport City Council

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Date 29 July 2014

Time 5.00pm

Present: In the Chair: The Mayor (Councillor M Evans)

Councillors: O Ali; M Al Nuiami; D Atwell; T Bond; P Cockeram; M Cornelious; E Corten; K Critchley; C Evans; C Ferris; D Fouweather; E Garland; G Giles; J Guy; P Hannon; D Harvey; I Hayat; P Huntley; R Hutchings; R Jeavons; C Jenkins; M Kellaway; M Linton; C Maxfield; D Mayer; S Mlewa; R Mogford; A Morris; J Mudd; R Poole; M Rahman; J Richards; M Spencer; T Suller; H Thomas; K Thomas; E Townsend; R Truman; T Watkins; M Whitcutt; R White; K Whitehead; D Wilcox and D Williams.

Apologies were received from Councillors R Bright; D Davies; V Delahaye; and C Suller; and N Trigg.

## 1. Mayor's Announcements

There were no formal announcements this time

## 2. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the City Council held on [29 April 2014](#) and the Annual General Meeting held on [20 May 2014](#) were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor

## 3. Appointments

The following appointments were agreed:

**Democratic Services Committee:** Cllr Emma Corten was appointed to the Democratic Services Committee to replace Cllr Deborah Davies

**Audit Committee:** Cllr Deborah Davies was appointed to the Audit Committee to replace Cllr Emma Corten.

**SACRE:** Cllr Omar Ali was appointed to replace Councillor Delahaye who had stepped down from the

**Newport Women's Aid:** Councillor Emma Corten was appointed to the vacancy

**Joint Council for Wales:** The Cabinet Member for Licensing and Regulatory Services is to join the Cabinet Member for HR & Assets on this body

## **Governors**

Bro Teyrnnon: Jayne Bryant

Clytha Primary: Mr Richard Hill

Lliswerry Comp: Alison Davies and Rita Reynolds to be appointed

Malpas Church in Wales Infants School: Laura-Emily Dunn

St Joseph's RC Primary School: Mr Jon Fox has resigned

St Julian's Primary: Elaine Bryant to be appointed

## **4. NATO Summit**

The Mayor welcomed Peter Boxer, the Deputy Director of the NATO Summit Team to the meeting. Members received an update from Mr Boxer on the forthcoming NATO Summit to be held on 4 and 5 September 2014.

Mr Boxer mentioned

- This is a very complex operation and one of the largest operations ever seen in the UK
- A high level of readiness at this stage
- The significant number of delegates will be travelling to and from Newport
- About 1500 press and media will be staying in and reporting on Newport as well as the Summit
- A significant police presence from many forces
- Potential protesters
- The role of Newport as the host city and the impact on the city, which will be in the spotlight for the duration of the event
- Outreach opportunities
- Potential disruption
- Well advanced preparations, and the job done by staff at Welsh Government, Newport and Cardiff Councils
- Presence of ships in the bay and a potential fly past
- There will be a slight military feel to the Summit and the leaders will be accompanied by military liaison officers.
- Arrangements for the duration of the Summit
- The #mywales campaign
- The detailed planning that had involved all agencies and emergency services about contingencies
- Potential for cyber interference

Members also received information and asked questions of Superintendent Mark Warrender on local issues relating to the Summit

In particular he referred to the following:

- Pinch points in the road networks; times of possible disruption ; and work being done by all agencies to restrict disruption

- Work done on engagement with local authorities and strategic working groups and as many groups and communities as possible about the impact of the event. This included dealing with a number of rumours.
- Official road closures are currently restricted to roads around the Celtic Manor
- Awareness of two demonstration marches to date which are subject to ongoing planning and negotiation. This could lead to temporary road closures

Members asked questions about:

- Any opportunity for the Leader of the Council and Mayor to attend events to help promote the city.
- Whether the Prison service on alert to take more prisoners: and the impact on the health services over the period of the event
- Whether all cost would be absorbed by central government
- Local traders being able to embrace the event and maximise impact for the city
- The impact on local hotels and the reported request for details of guests
- The extent of any 'exclusion zone' around the event
- The potential impact on the Severn crossings
- Possible impact on local residents' properties by protests
- Ability to sustain security and resilience measures beyond the days upon which the event is being held and beyond the location of the event into the communities
- Potential for protests to be hi-jacked by other groups, and actions that will be taken to provide security

Mr Boxer and Superintendent Warrender responded to Members' questions

## **5. Notice of Motion: Female Genital Mutilation**

A motion was presented and moved by Councillor Gail Giles and Seconded by Councillor David Mayer. The motion is set out in full in the resolution below.

In presenting the motion, Councillor Giles referred to the work of the Newport Labour Women's Network and its recent discussions with Sarah Barnwell about issues including female genital mutilation.

Councillor Giles referred to the prevalence of FGM in areas of the world. It was agreed during the discussion at the Network that education was a tool to eradicating this process. The issue should be discussed openly in parliaments, mosques and schools. Men should openly show support for eradication of the practice. The number of women and girls who have undergone the process and living in the UK is estimated at about 170,000 with some 65,000 aged 13 and under at risk of mutilation.

This was not something that happens elsewhere. This also happens in Newport and there is a particular issue around school summer holidays. Cllr Giles thanked staff of Newport Council for the work they already do to help eradicate this criminal act.

Councillor Mayer seconded the motion. He considered FGM to be an abuse of children embedded in male dominated societies. He referred to the difficulty to impact on the current generations but there was a need to make a start on education. This was a national issue and about persuading people about the eradication of the practice.

Councillor Kate Thomas spoke as the Council's Champion for Disabled and Vulnerable People and described the practice as impacting on unavoidably vulnerable children. The practice was described often carried out on very young girls and without access to anaesthesia. Councillor Thomas stated that all agencies need to work together to educate people. The Leader of the Opposition expressed his shock at what had been described when he researched the subject.

A significant number of elected members from all parties spoke in favour of the motion and were very concerned about the practice and its impact on victims. In winding up the debate, Councillor Giles stated that Newport was the first council in Wales to formalise its position on this matter.

### **Resolved**

It was unanimously resolved that this Council:

- I. Declares its support for campaigns against Female Genital Mutilation;
- II. Expresses its commitment to protecting Newport girls and women from all types of abuse, consistent with the recent adoption of the White Ribbon Campaign by
  - Raising awareness of Female Genital Mutilation through schools and public information
  - Working proactively with fathers, husbands and brothers to help them understand that they have a role to play in protecting their female family members from harm
  - Working with Health Services to ensure that all those who are affected are provided with specific healthcare and medical support.
  - Continuing to work in a collaborative, multi -agency approach to ensure zero tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation in Newport; and
- iii. Requests that the Cabinet approves and adopts a Charter for zero tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation in Newport

### **6. Notice of Motion: Caerleon Campus**

(Councillors Miqdad Al Nuaimi and David Mayer declared an interest in this item)

The following motion was moved by Councillor Ed Townsend and seconded by Councillor Kevin Whitehead:

“This Council believes that the Caerleon campus of the University of South Wales is important to Newport for the contribution it makes to the city’s economy and for the opportunities it offers people who would otherwise find it difficult to access higher education.

In reviewing its property portfolio, the university has an opportunity to strengthen the education opportunities it offers in Newport and to meet the promises made by the education minister at the time of the merger, that no campuses would be closed.

This council calls on the University managers and governors to ensure that courses offered in Newport are not syphoned away to other parts of South Wales, taking with them both jobs and educational opportunities from people in the Newport area.”

Councillor Townsend accepted that decisions relating to the use of its land and buildings were a matter for the University of South Wales but he considered the Council should take an interest in decisions affecting land or buildings in the city. He mentioned the Education Minister and First Minister had promised that no campuses would close following the merger of the Glamorgan and Newport Universities. The main issue for Newport was to know what the intentions of the University are. It appeared that public and private comments differed. More staff had left the Newport University than Glamorgan. He stressed the importance of the Newport University, particular in relation to part time courses. He sought an assurance that courses would be kept in Newport.

Councillor Whitehead seconded the motion, saying that the University had an important role in the regeneration of the city.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Truman and seconded by Councillor Wilcox, as set out in the resolution below:

In introducing the amendment, the Deputy Leader said that the issue was all about making sure that Newport Students are able to access higher education in Newport. He said all members would agree with this sentiment and members should encourage the University to continue to provide courses locally particularly given the visible growth and investment of our city centre and the wider city.

The University plays a significant role in the skills and work agenda, providing the skills for students to hopefully access jobs or become entrepreneurs in the city. The student population also adds to the mix of people that live, work and study in our city and hopefully they will benefit from the redevelopment of the city as it moves forward.

He agreed that the Council has little control over the way in which the University structures itself in the future but also considered it is very important that we build on the fruitful and positive relationships we have built.

In recognising the wish to make sure our students can access the courses they need in as local a location as possible, he suggested an amendment that supports the sentiments behind the original motion and encourages a lasting and positive relationship with the University that is such an important element in our City’s growth

Councillor Townsend and Councillor Whitehead accepted the amendment to original motion.

A significant number of members spoke in favour of the proposals, speaking about the importance of the University to the city and to the city's future. The long –term significance of the Caerleon Campus in the ward was also discussed. The importance of a two- way positive relationship was also stressed by members. The reference to Scrutiny would allow the University to present proposals for consideration by members in an open and transparent manner and allow the Council to comment on the University's plans in an informed debate. The amendment was passed unanimously.

## **RESOLVED**

A strong university is vital to the City's economic growth and skills agenda. The Council encourages the University of South Wales to retain and expand its offer of higher education provision at sustainable campuses, now and in the future, ensuring that Newport students remain able to access courses in as local a location as possible. The Council will continue to work with the University to maintain a lasting and positive relationship to benefit Newport's students and the City as a whole. We call for this matter to be referred to Scrutiny, to invite submissions, to consider relevant issues and the Council's response.

### **7. [Code of Corporate Governance](#)**

The Council was informed it is a statutory requirement to prepare an Annual Governance Statement with its Annual Statement of Accounts, based on how well the Council met its own Code of Corporate Governance. This was the first review of the Code of Corporate Governance.

The Code set out the Council's approach to achieving and maintaining good corporate governance. It followed guidance produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) and also took account of the Welsh Assembly Government's citizen-centred governance principles for Wales.

The main changes compared to the previous year were set out in the report. Comments made by the Audit Committee were set out in the paper and the Cabinet were reported to the Council.

## **Resolved**

To adopt the Code of Corporate Governance

## 8. Charitable Trusts

The Council acts as corporate trustees for some charitable trusts.

The Chair of the Democratic Services Committee informed members that the Charity Commission has been concerned about the way in which some councils take decisions as corporate trustees of Charities. The issue is that when acting as trustees, the Council needs to ensure it is able to take decisions in the best interest of the Trust and not necessarily the Council.

The concern is that if decisions are taken as part the normal course of a Cabinet meeting, this distinction is difficult to make.

The Democratic Services Committee was informed that other Councils treat this as an executive function and set up a separate sub-group of the Cabinet, who then sit as the corporate Trustees to take decisions in relation to the Charity as and when decisions are required.

Another option considered was for the Council to set up a sub- committee of non-executive members

Following discussions on the options, the Democratic Services Committee recommended to the Council that a panel of Non – Executive Members is established by the Council to take decisions as corporate trustees for Charitable Trusts

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In some cases, the Cabinet meeting is concluded and then a meeting of trustees is held immediately after

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In response to the Leader of the Opposition, it was explained that the issue of membership would now be a matter for discussion by the Business Mangers

## **Resolved**

As recommended by the Democratic Services Committee, to establish a panel of members to sit as the corporate Trustees and take decisions in relation to the Charity as and when such decisions are required.

### **9. [Annual Report by the Democratic Services Committee](#)**

The Democratic Services Committee is required by the Local Government Measure to provide the Council with an annual report.

The Chair of the Committee presented the Committee's report setting out the activities of the Committee in its first year of operation.

He reminded members that the Council had extended the remit of the Committee beyond that which was set out in the Local Government Measure and said that this had been continued to be a real success. He considered that the Committee had worked well in a non- partisan way and thanked officers for their support.

## **Resolved**

To received and endorse the Annual Report by the Democratic Services Committee

### **10. [Annual Report of Overview and Scrutiny](#)**

Councillor David Mayer, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee for Learning, caring and Leisure presented the report.

The Scrutiny Committees are required by the constitution to submit an Annual Report each year to Council, to review how Overview and Scrutiny has operated in the last 12 months.

In the past few years the Annual Report has been developed to be a key part of the performance management cycle for Scrutiny. It is difficult to measure the impact of Scrutiny using traditional performance measures, which count the outputs from the Scrutiny Committees but do not measure the outcomes of our work, or show whether improvements have been made as a result. The Annual Report is a more useful tool in reviewing the effectiveness of Scrutiny, providing an opportunity reflect properly on how Scrutiny has operated in the past year, and to identify upcoming challenges against which future performance can be judged.

An important feature of last year's Annual Report was the action plan that resulted from the Wales Audit Office's National Scrutiny Study. The Scrutiny Improvement Group was set up to implement this plan and to drive forward the improvement programme for Scrutiny. This year's annual report showed in detail the good progress made against last year's targets, reflected on Scrutiny activity throughout the year and sets priorities for the year ahead.



Good work was identified as:

- Developing relations with Cabinet – with regular meetings now diarised and protocols are being established
- Work programming is now more member led
- Policy Review Groups are working well
- Action sheets are prepared to improve running of meetings
- Cover reports by are prepared scrutiny officers to improve information to Members / promote independence of scrutiny

A further success was Gwent Scrutiny Challenge event held on 6 June This high profile event was attended by around 200 delegates. Welsh Government funding was secured and it was hosted by Newport at the Riverfront. The event has been recognised nationally as best practice and has received positive public comments by the Local Government Minister. Officers are now working on follow up training and information package

Some members referred to the heavy workload of the Scrutiny Committees and the need for the work programme and timing of reports to bear in mind the resources available.

Councillor Mayer thanked staff involved in the Scrutiny team for their excellent work

### **Resolved**

To agree the annual report as a basis for the work of the Scrutiny Committees in the coming year.

## **11. [Annual Report by the Director of Social Services](#)**

The Council received and considered the fifth Annual Report of the Director of Social Services. The report represents a self-evaluation of performance during 2013/14 and involves consultation with staff, service users and colleague agencies as well as with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW). The report will be a major source for CSSIW's inspection programme.

This report was, therefore, an evaluation of 2013/14 performance for Social Services and it identifies, 'Key Messages,' that have been learned from experience during the year and from listening to the views of key stakeholders, particularly service users and carers. It provides a view of the service and the challenges that continue to be faced.

Comments received at the Cabinet meeting and a joint meeting of the Scrutiny Committees were set out in the report, together with responses to comments made by the members.

The Director concluded that we provide good quality social care services with a clear vision and with excellent collaborative working, we are seeing significant evidence that we are helping to 'Improve People's Lives'.

The key messages were set out in detail in the report and were summarised as:

- We are creating a stable leadership team with dedicated social care managers. My report sets out recent activity in this area and our plans for the coming year to develop skills; adopt best practices and develop our collaborative opportunities
- We are setting out a clear direction with key strategic priorities which involve access to information and resources; effective prevention and intervention; and outcome focussed managed care.
- We are securing greater financial control. This includes a four year financial and budget planning framework
- Overall performance is good and improving. Details re in the report that show in adult services, 100% of targets are better or very close to our targets for this year and that children and family services is among the best performing area of the Council
- We are working hard to improve on areas where challenges have been identified
- We are taking action in recognition that there is increasing vulnerability in the population and our collaborative work with other local authority services and with other agencies is contributing to improved outcomes
- Efficiencies and outcomes are improving as a result of effective commissioning and collaborative relationships
- We are working to maintain a stable and effective workforce capable of responding to changing service needs
- Safeguarding remains our top priority and we will be taking action to improve training for staff , improve services and bring safeguarding functions under a single manager
- We will continue to develop better ways of communication and are committed to listening to the people we serve, staff and partners

The Director stated that he would monitor progress in all areas to ensure we face the changing challenges in both children and adult services. He said that he remained committed to run services that people tell us they need.

He informed members that the report gave extensive detail of where we are and where we want to be. The Director welcomed the support received from the Cabinet members and members of the Council generally and their commitment to protecting the most vulnerable people in our community.

The CM for Adults referred to the importance of improving people's lives. Many good news stories in the report and we need to communicate our successes better.

The CM Education and YP: referred to her comments and to a recent delegation of young people voicing their concerns about an issue relating to transport charges. We listened closely to them and worked to ameliorate some differences

The Leader of the Opposition welcomed the report but was worried about the impact of the reduction in Welsh Government Grant on the coming year's budget. The Director stated that Social Services could not be immune from savings and that every effort would be made to maintain improvements and exercising highest financial controls to face the challenge.

## **Resolved**

To receive the Director's report.

### **12. Local Authorities ( Standing Orders) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations**

The Council was informed that new Regulations came into force on 1 July.

The changes were introduced to meet the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. In summary, the main changes incorporated in the new Regulations are:

- The removal of the "Mayor and Council Executive" and "Alternative Arrangement" models as potential models of local governance.
- The addition of the post of Head of Democratic Services to those that need a committee and an independent person to decide on disciplinary action in cases of alleged misconduct
- The requirement to publically advertise all Chief Officer posts where the annual remuneration is £100,000 or more
- The inclusion of the posts of Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services to those not subject to appointment or dismissal by the Head of Paid Service
- The requirement for all decisions on Chief Officers' remuneration to be made by the full Council meeting.

## **Resolved**

- I. To revise the Council's Standing Orders to incorporate the provisions set out in the Report in order to meet the requirements of the Regulations.
- II. To ask Democratic Services Committee to consider consequential amendments to other parts of the Council's Constitution, as part of their review of this document, to reflect the amended Standing Orders and the other changes made by the Regulations.

### **13. Questions to the Chair of the Cabinet**

There were no questions submitted to the Chair on this occasion

### **14. Questions to Cabinet Members**

Questions submitted to and answered by the Cabinet Members are set out in the appendix to these minutes

**15. Questions to Chairs Committees**

There were no questions on this occasion to Chairs of the Scrutiny, Planning, Licensing or Democratic Services Committees.

**16. Standards Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 1 May 2014 were received.

**Signed**.....  
**Mayor of the City of Newport**

**Date**.....

## Appendix

### Questions to Cabinet Members

<b>COUNCIL MEETING: 29 July 2014</b>				
<b>Question to: Cabinet Member for Education and Young People</b>				
<b>Question from: Cllr Garland</b>				
<b>Subject: Results of Estyn Inspections</b>				
Question 1				
<b>Question:</b> Can the Cabinet Member for Education and Young People please provide an update on the results of the ESTYN inspections of schools in the last academic year?				
<b>Answer:</b>				
Yes, they have been particularly good this academic year and reflect the excellent education offered in Newport, though it is acknowledged challenges remain.				
The results have been as follows;				
School	Date	Judgement for Current Performance	Judgement for Prospects for Improvement	Follow Up Category
Newport High	November 2013	Good	Good	No Follow Up
Milton Infants	November 2013	Excellent	Excellent	Case Study
High Cross Primary	November 2013	Excellent	Excellent	LA Monitoring
Rogerstone Primary	December 2013	Adequate	Adequate	Estyn Monitoring
Eveswell Primary	January 2014	Excellent	Excellent	Case Study
Duffryn High School	February 2014	Good	Good	LA Monitoring
Glasllwch Primary	March 2014	Excellent	Excellent	Case Study
Lodge Hill Primary	May 2014	Awaiting Publication of Report		
Langstone Primary	June 2014	Awaiting Publication of Report		
Malpas Park Primary	June 2014	Awaiting Publication of Report		

We intend to build on these excellent outcomes by continuing with a variety of measures of challenge and support to ensure the pupils across the city enjoy the highest levels of teaching and learning. We will continue to give schools aspirational targets to improve at every key stage and our priority remains to tackle the effects of poverty and deprivation on educational achievement. We have key development programmes in place which focus on raising standards at every level. The Estyn Reports demonstrate the good effect of our support and challenge and I can ensure members this will continue in the future.

**COUNCIL MEETING:**

**Question to: Cabinet Member for Licensing & Statutory Functions**

**Question from: Cllr John Guy**

**Subject: Blaenau Gwent CCTV Systems**

Question 1

**Question:** I am given to understand that Newport City Council has been awarded the tender to manage the CCTV systems in Blaenau Gwent? Is this correct and what exactly will this entail?

**Answer:** The Council's medium term financial plan has a target to make the CCTV service cost neutral within 3 years. The team have been working very hard to review their operating provision and to see where efficiencies can be gained through delivering the service on behalf of other public sector bodies.

It is excellent news that Newport City Council was successful in winning the tender for providing the CCTV monitoring and out of hours call handling for Blaenau Gwent CBC. The contract for this work started on the 4th June, 2014 and runs for 5 years.

The contract sees the Newport team monitoring CCTV cameras across the main towns in the Blaenau Gwent area on a 24/7 basis. Also the team will handle Blaenau Gwent's out of hour's calls between the hours of 16.30hrs and 07.00hrs of each day and over week-ends.

In a continued move to cost neutrality, the CCTV service is looking to see where this can be replicated with other local authorities or public bodies.