

Minutes



Council

Date: 20 July 2021

Time: 5.00 pm

Present: Councillors J Cleverly, P Cockeram, D Davies, M Al-Nuaimi, M Evans, C Ferris, D Fouweather, G Giles, D Harvey, Councillor R Jeavons, M Kellaway, M Linton, D Mayer, R Mogford, Councillor J Mudd, M Rahman, J Richards, M Spencer, T Suller, K Thomas, C Townsend, T Watkins, M Whitcutt, D Williams, G Berry, J Clarke, Y Forsey, P Hourahine, J Hughes, J Jordan, L Lacey, S Marshall, W Routley and J Watkins

Apologies: Councillors C Evans, J Guy, H Thomas, Councillor R Truman, R White, K Whitehead, D Wilcox, V Dudley and H Townsend

1. Mayor's Announcements

Members were reminded that they could invite the Mayor to any events within their ward.

The Mayor also hoped that he might be able to help to promote and celebrate the work being done by foster carers.

The Mayor was also planning a visit to waste recycling centre to promote the excellent work being undertaken by staff in Newport.

2. Minutes

The Minutes from 29 June 2021 were submitted for approval.

Agreed:

That the minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Appointments

To consider the proposed appointments set out in the report

Councillor Harvey moved the appointments set out in the report, as agreed by the Business Managers, subject to the additional appointments set out below.

Resolved: That the following appointments be agreed.

Governing Body Appointments

Governing Body	No of Vacancies / Re-appointments	Nominations Received
St Julians Primary School	1	Deborah Davies
Pentrepoeth Primary School	1	David Williams

Jubilee Park Primary School	1	Elizabeth Thomas
Jubilee Park Primary School	1	Sally Mlewa
Tredegar Park Primary School	1	Trevor Watkins
Tredegar Park Primary School	1	Catherine Jones
Ysgol Bryn Derw	1	Paula Halsall
St Julians School	1	Farzina Hussain
Maes Ebbw School	1	Vicky Barry

In addition to the appointments within the report, Cabinet recommended that Sarah Morgan be appointed as the Board Member for the Strategic Partnership Board of Welsh Educational Partnership – WEPCo Ltd.

4. **Treasury Management Report**

Before presenting the report, the Leader asked colleagues to accept apologies on behalf of herself and the Head of Finance as the Members Agenda pack had the mid- year position and not the outturn report. The website version was correct. The Leader had prepared a comprehensive briefing for councillors on the outturn and therefore continued to explain what the outturn position was and what had happened throughout the 2020/21 year on Treasury Management.

The report fulfilled the Councils responsibility to receive and approve an annual treasury management outturn report each year. The report dealt with the outturn for 2020/21 and was reviewed by both Audit Committee and Cabinet where no comments were made.

The report presented the following information:

- details of capital financing, borrowing, debt rescheduling and investment transactions
- reports on the risk implications of treasury decisions and transactions
- details the outturn position on treasury management transactions in 2020/2021 which confirms compliance with the treasury limits set by Council.

The Covid pandemic had an impact on Treasury Management during 2020/21. Since the early days of the pandemic the Council had to monitor a significant increase in cash-flow activities throughout 2020/21, from the making of business grants and the Business Rates Relief Scheme in particular, and also by its own increased costs and lower income level. The Welsh Government provided significant up-front cash-flow support to ensure Councils were adequately financed to administer the business rates and business grants scheme, reimbursed Councils throughout the year for their increased costs and reduced income. Alongside the slippage in the delivery of its own capital schemes and underspending on its revenue budget, this meant cash-flow was more positive than a 'normal year' which gave rise to lower borrowing activity and much more short term investing activities.

This did not however, reduce the need of the borrowing commitment the Council had, but did slow down the pace at which that borrowing was taken up towards that commitment level.

Notwithstanding the above, in line with the agreed Treasury Management Strategy, the Council still continued to be both a short-term investor of cash and borrower to manage day-to-day cash flows in 2020/21.

Turning to borrowing activities specifically, the financial year was relatively quiet, as shown in Appendix B to the report:

- The Council repaid a short-term loan taken out in March 2020 to specifically cash-flow and facilitate early payments of business grants in April. This was reimbursed by the Welsh Government and the loan repaid, as planned in June 2020.
- In March 2021 the Authority undertook borrowing on a short term basis in order to cover normal day to day cash flow activities.
- Lastly, a minimal amount of new long-term borrowing was required to be taken out in the second half of the financial year totalling £94k. This borrowing was from 'Salix' which was interest free and was linked to a specific energy efficiency project.

Whilst the Council had significant long-term borrowing requirements, the Council continued to follow its current strategy of funding capital expenditure through 'internal borrowing' rather than undertaking new borrowing where it could. It could do this because of its 'cash-backed' reserves and at 31 March 2021, internal borrowing was approximately £107m which saved, at current interest rate levels, about £2.4m in interest costs annually.

Current estimates within the Council's cash-flow indicated there was the potential that additional long-term borrowing would be required in the second half of this current financial year to fund the capital programme. Whilst slippage on that was included in the cash-flow forecasts, what actually happened in the year in regard to delivery of projects would influence this significantly. In particular, the major projects within the Band B Education schemes would start the period where longer term borrowing started to be taken out.

Turning to investing activities, the Council's strategies in this area of Treasury Management were (i) to be a short term and relatively low value investor, consistent with the pursuit of an 'internal borrowing strategy' and (ii) investment priorities should follow the priorities of security, liquidity and yield, in that order.

All investments were currently placed on a temporary basis and were placed in high security institutions, in line with the Council's other strategy in this area. At the 31 March 2021, £15m was placed with various local authorities and £9.8m with banks and building societies.

Lastly, Prudential Indicators. The Authority measured and managed its exposures to treasury management risks using various indicators which could be found in Appendix B. The report confirmed the Council complied with the Prudential Indicators for 2020/21, as set in February 2020 as part of the Treasury Management Strategy.

Councillor Jeavons seconded the report.

Agreed:

- That Council noted and approved that the report on treasury management activities for 2020/21 were in line with the agreed Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21.
- The Council noted the comments from Audit Committee on the report.

5. Formation of a Regional Public Services Board (PSB)

The Leader Presented the report to Council. The report, which was being received by all local authorities in Gwent, updated members on the formation of a regional 'Gwent' Public Services Board and on the next round of the Assessment of Local Well-being and Local Well-being Plans.

Members would be aware of the 'OneNewport' Public Services Board or 'PSB' and the important role of this partnership. To date each local authority area in Gwent had its own PSB.

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 enabled two or more Public Services Boards (PSBs) to be able to merge if it would assist them in contributing to the achievement of well-being goals.

Partners across Gwent recognised the benefits of working together as a region and building on the existing informal 'G10' partnership, proposed that we worked together as one, Gwent PSB. This meant one Well-Being Assessment for the region, and one Well-Being Plan. The footprint of the regional body would be better aligned to a range of existing partnerships in an increasingly complex landscape.

The report outlined the arrangements for the formation of a Gwent PSB from September this year and whilst this was a decision for the individual PSBs, there were also changes for Newport City Council as a key partner. Council was therefore asked to note the changes, and to approve the necessary governance and constitutional changes, to implement these proposed arrangements.

Local partnership

The appended report was being presented in each of the five local authority areas in the Gwent region. Our 'OneNewport' PSB was consulted on and agreed the proposed change with effect from September. We would continue to work closely with our OneNewport partners to ensure that our strong local partnership continued, and this included the ongoing delivery of the current Well-Being Plan (2018-2023).

The Council would also be reviewing the arrangements for local Partnership Scrutiny and would continue to work with Scrutiny members on this important aspect. This included Regional Scrutiny for the new PSB but locally there remained the task of scrutiny of Newport's partnership work.

PSBs across the region also considered the importance of maintaining the existing strong local partnerships in each area to support delivery of the Well-being Plan and other partnership work.

The existing individual Well-being Plans across Gwent would continue to be delivered through local partnerships and be overseen by the current local scrutiny arrangements until spring 2023.

Proposals

As outlined in the report the proposals that Council was required to note and approve were:

1. The merger of the Public Services Boards and the establishment of a regional Gwent PSB;
2. The proposed governance arrangements and terms of reference for the regional PSB;
3. The development of a single regional Well-Being Plan;
4. The establishment of a regional Joint Scrutiny Committee to review and scrutinise the work of the Gwent PSB;
5. Authorisation for the Proper Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution to reflect these changes in governance arrangements and terms of reference.

Discussions with Partnership Scrutiny were ongoing and would continue, to ensure the development of effective local Scrutiny for Newport partnership arrangements. This included a range of work including community safety and the ongoing monitoring of the current Well-being Plan.

Councillor Jeavons seconded the report.

Comments from Councillors:

Councillor M Evans asked how would the formation of a Regional PSB benefit Newport, as our needs would be different to Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire and how would it

improve the lives of our residents. As the scrutiny arrangements had not been agreed it was considered that further details regarding these arrangements were needed for greater clarity. There would be merits but councillor Evans felt that he could not support something that would put Newport in the back seat.

Whilst this was not procedurally a question and answer session, the Leader was pleased to respond that the report offered significant opportunities. The G10 Group already worked together effectively, as demonstrated by the response to the Covid pandemic, through the local resilience forum. The successful Test Trace and Protect programme which was put in place across the region, demonstrated our commitment and partnership working. This was a good example of how regional partnership worked well supporting citizens in the Gwent area, by comparison to arrangements for Track and Trace in England. This was approved recently in Torfaen and would be approved at Caerphilly's Council meeting next week. Monmouthshire had already proved this and Blaenau Gwent Council are yet to approve this. In terms of our partnership, there was a firm base to take this forward, as well as statutory requirements around partnership working, that would continue to be maintained. Furthermore, we would continue to maintain our work as a One Newport partnership through the Newport offer.

Agreed:

That Council approved the establishment of a Gwent PSB, a single Well-Being Plan and a regional Joint Scrutiny Committee and agreed the necessary governance and constitutional changes to implement these proposed arrangements, in order to deliver the benefits of collaborative working and improved well-being outcomes at a regional level, as set out above and in the annexed common report.

6. Questions to the Leader of the Council

Before Questions to the Leader commenced, the Leader updated Council on the following announcements:

- **City of Culture**

Newport City Council was committed to ensuring that people feel good about living, working, visiting and investing in our city.

The Council looked to seize all opportunities to promote confidence and pride within its communities as well as showcasing Newport to the wider world.

On 19 July the Council submitted an expression of interest to become the UK City of Culture 2025.

Newport was a city with a proud cultural tradition and heritage, the gateway to south Wales, with communities diverse and rich in culture and language.

Newport was also part of a wider region, formerly known as Gwent, where the past, present and future are inextricably linked. Newport shared a social, cultural and economic history underpinned by our internationally recognised heritage.

This expression of interest was about embracing the opportunity to highlight what the city and region had to offer and use it as a driver for change.

It was hoped that this would challenge and shape people's views about Newport and to tell the world about Newport's unique culture and long history, including the Chartist march for democracy. To also tell the stories of people from around the world who chose Newport as their home throughout the centuries.

The estuary and levels would be celebrated, as by those in whose footprints we follow and can still see preserved in the estuary mud today.

It would help reignite the city's passion for music, art and homegrown talent, to hear poetry, performance and music emanating from all establishments, large and small.

The Council also wanted to create a stronger platform for organisations with mutual interests to co-operate rather than compete for resources. To develop a shared programme of action, planning together to promote the importance of Newport's cultural wealth to residents and the wider world.

Newport had a strong track record of partnership working and delivering improvements to its environment and communities, and of course, major events on an international scale.

If the bid progressed to the next stage, the Council would develop and submit a detailed bid. If successful, this would see Newport delivering a year-long programme of events, activities and projects – with the support of wonderful partners across the city and region – that would celebrate Newport's diverse culture and help open it up to even more people – locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

- **Transporter Bridge – additional funding**

The Leader was pleased to report that an additional £80,000 grant from the Wolfson Foundation had been secured to help fund the Transporter Bridge transformation project.

The grant complemented the previous £8.75m awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the £1.5m from Welsh Government and the £1m capital funding that the Council also committed to the project.

The Foundation recognised the cultural and historical significance of the Transporter Bridge, and that the transformation project would bring this significance to life through improved public access and engagement.

- **HWRC award**

The city's household waste recycling centre was shortlisted for a national award. It was one of only three across the UK, and the only one from Wales, shortlisted for the 'civic amenity site of the year award' at this year's Awards for Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management.

It has been an incredibly busy year for the centre, which benefited from a refreshed layout, improved waste separation measures and a new booking system.

These changes have contributed to an increase in the recycling rate at the centre, from 65% in 2019/20 to over 90% for 2020/21.

The winners were to be announced on 21 July, the Leader wished the team the very best of luck for a much-deserved win.

- **Vaccine take-up and sessions**

As the easing of restrictions continued over the coming weeks, encouraging residents to take up the opportunity to have their vaccination, and to ensure they received their second jab, was of increasing importance.

Take up in the area was excellent and in the Aneurin Bevan area 88% of the adult population received their first dose and second doses were progressing well with 90% of over 40s being fully vaccinated.

Our walk-in sessions also had an excellent attendance and helped boost those figures. The Leader thanked everyone who helped spread the message within communities and in particular, for working with those who may be more reluctant or concerned.

Another walk-in session would take place on Sunday 25 July at Newport Centre between 2pm and 6pm.

- **LDP update**

Work was well under way on the replacement Local Development Plan. It would determine how the city would look and be developed over the next fifteen years.

The LDP looked at; how land should be used, what roads, paths and cycle ways there should be, the use of parks and green spaces, ensuring there was space for businesses, as well as protecting the environment.

The latest stage of consultation ran until 27 August and landowners, stakeholder organisations and local communities had the opportunity to submit potential sites for inclusion in the replacement LDP known as Candidate Sites.

Submissions could be made for a wide variety of uses - for example, housing, employment, retail, tourism, green infrastructure, recreation and renewable energy.

The Leader encouraged any interested parties to have their say at this stage of the process.

The Leader mentioned foster carers in Newport and their fantastic commitment to looking after children in their care. The Leader therefore took the opportunity to publicly thank those carers. In addition, as a special thank you for our long serving foster carers, the council named a special rose 'Foster With Love'. This is a tribute to all Newport foster carers from everyone at Newport City Council.

Leader also wanted to give a public thank you to Joel Hughes from Caerleon who was inspired to set up a Just Giving Page to support a young football fan, whose photo showing her distress at her team losing a European football match was shared on social media. They managed to locate the girl's family, who donated the money to UNICEF. This was an outstanding gesture by a citizen of Newport which made the Leader proud of the strengths of the people of Newport.

Leader's Questions

Councillor M Evans:

Councillor M Evans also praised Joel Hughes and also gave a mention to the foster carers and the good work they did.

Councillor Evans referred to the Night Time economy and his concerns that it was hanging by a thread. Whilst it was evident that Covid had an impact on the economy, Councillor Evans felt that in part this was a result of the Council's partnership with the University of South Wales. Councillor Evans referred to the USW's accepting money from Newport for the new build, and selling the Caerleon and Allt-yr-yn sites, but failing to attract the number of students anticipated into the City.. He went on to say that Newport had become a poor man's Pontypridd. Secondly, Newport had no national night club operators and had not done so, Councillor Evans believed, since Mecca had Tiffany's. The person that did own nightclubs in Newport had been caught up in controversy. Councillor Evans asked if the Leader agreed that radical action needed to be taken to address these issues and asked would the Leader consider approaching a national night club operator and also a casino

operator. Finally, what was the Leader doing in relation to USW in order for them to take Newport more seriously?

Response:

The Leader queried which question would councillor Evans like to be answered as they were two separate questions. Councillor Evens mentioned that they were effectively one question because they referred to the night time economy.

The Leader highlighted the positive and constructive working relationship with USW and a lot of their cyber and digital based activity was based in Newport. They offer strong support for start-up companies, which was important for the Council, as some of the business were located in Newport such as the Alacrity building. Both Alacrity, and the Nation Software Academy situated in the Information Station building also host start-up companies. USW also played an important role in the economic growth and knowledge transfer within the city. In addition, they formed part of Newport's Public Service Board and the Newport Economic Network. The world has changed, and the focus of universities has changed, providing an opportunity to develop the cyber offering in Newport, and we were working constructively with USW to do this.

The Leader also visited the city centre and the feedback from operators was that they were seizing new opportunities to develop new offers, such as outdoor seating, and the night time economy was starting to recover from the impact of the pandemic. The Leader understood that the question related to pre pandemic night-time economy, but within the context of the pandemic, the recovery strategy is leading to opportunities. The Queen's Hotel recently changed hands and there would be a new, exclusive night club on these premises. The Leader could not comment on a casino as each case is taken on it's own merit and the planners would need to look into this.

Supplementary:

Councillor Evans reiterated that student numbers had dropped and whilst there were new initiatives in the city, the student accommodation within Newport was being filled by Bristol students. Councillor Evans added that local students were not pertinent where an accommodation block needed to be filled with students. Councillor Evans stated that this was an issue that needed to be recognised in the strongest of terms, and it did affect the night-time economy.

In 2017. the council announced the Purple Flag Status for the night time economy, and it was anticipated that the Cabinet Member at the time would look into this further. Councillor Evans appreciated that night clubs could not open at the moment in Wales, but wanted the Purple Flag Status to be looked into. Councillor Evans felt that as far as a Casino was concerned, the council needed to look at radical solutions. Whilst there was the ICC and the Celtic Manor, customers might prefer to go to Cardiff or Bristol instead of Newport.

Response:

The Leader highlighted that Newport did work well with USW who had a key number of activities, scientific and business disciplines here. The Leader stated that this matched the focus of our city, which is about growth and a thriving city for everyone. With reference to student numbers, we could not take this question in isolation and must take into account Coleg Gwent who would be moving to the City Centre and the increased footfall of students. It should also be noted that students attending further education colleges are not all aged 16-18, and also attracted a wide range of mature students. The relocation of Coleg Gwent in the city centre would attract around 2,000 students into the area. In terms of opportunity for growth and attractions, it depended on whether the focus was on residents wellbeing. The focus could be on putting mental wellbeing at risk by opening a casino and encouraging

gambling, or by encouraging grassroots activities such as a live band, similar to what had taken place in the city centre on last Saturday afternoon in High Street. The Leader urged the councillor to talk to representatives, such as local businesses, and ask for their ideas. In terms of the Cultural City Bid, local businesses had all indicated that they wanted a Newport that would grow organically without the need for major companies to come in and exploit people.

Councillor K Whitehead was not present to put forward a question to the Leader, but would do so via email as instructed by Councillor Jordan.

Councillor C Townsend:

As part of recent levelling up fund application, could the Leader confirm if there was any other schemes that were looked into by Cabinet?

Response:

Our Master Plan for city centre provided us with the framework to match the criteria for the Levelling Up, which included the regeneration schemes. What guided this decision therefore was; the Master Plan, the financial limits within the Fund, and what could reasonably be achieved within the expected timeframe of implementing any actions from the successful bids. Another factor in the decision was the multiplier effect in relation to the active travel, following on from the South East Wales Transport Commission, and that was why that area was highlighted.

Councillor Forsey:

With regard to the bid for Newport to become the City of Culture in 2025, which organisations were involved, and what was the range of events that were planned?

Response:

Newport City Council were encouraged to apply by the Secretary of State for Wales. In terms of the application itself, this was the first time that the UK Government had allowed this application to be submitted, on a broader geographical basis. Whilst Newport was applying for this bid as a city this would leave a footprint for Gwent which had a richness of history and culture. Our partners in this would be the four Gwent Local Authorities. A huge range of other partners included USW, Coleg Gwent, Newport Now Bid, Friars Walk as well as the creative companies, Screen Alliance Wales and some freelance companies. This was because Newport recognised that this required a collaborative effort to achieve all of the benefits for cultural enrichment, and the economical benefits that came from regeneration. Our focus was looking to the future, we knew our history and heritage was inextricably linked from heavy industry to the industry of the future. We would look at how to embed data and technology. What was important was the role of individual and communities and working with organisations and children within these communities to develop a programme of events. An example was Operasonic, who were working with Roma gypsy travelling families in Maindee and Lliswerry, using music to unite and build community cohesion. Ballet Cymru had also done some excellent work with children in Somerton in relation to the National Duets Project. We therefore wanted to engage with communities to provide a sound platform for the future.

7. Questions to the Cabinet Members

There are four written question to the Cabinet Members:

Question 1 – Cabinet Member: Licensing and Regulation

In Councillor Truman's absence the following written response was provided to the question from Councillor J Watkins.

Councillor J Watkins:

Given the unacceptable levels of Nitrous Oxide and poor air quality across the one-way system in Caerleon, can the Cabinet Member explain why there is no monitoring of the air quality outside Charles Williams Primary School? A school which sits on this system therefore exposing young children to health issues caused by poor air quality?

Response:

Environmental Health are very much aware of the concerns of the local community in Caerleon regarding air quality and have been engaging with the head teacher and PTFA for Charles Williams Primary School. This has resulted in diffusion tube monitoring being deployed at the school from July 14th 2021. This will provide data that clarifies the school's position within the spectrum of air quality that is observed across Caerleon.

However, given the nature of air quality data obtained at the nearest monitoring locations to the school it is not anticipated that any breaches of the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide will be observed at Charles Williams School.

Question 2 – Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member: City Services

Councillor Mogford:

My question is on road safety and whether Newport City Council plans to roll out further 20MPH restrictions on our roads?

On 7 May 2019 the First Minister in the Senedd, Mark Drakeford said –

'We know that 20mph zones reduce speed of traffic, reduce accidents –particularly accidents to children–and we want to see that become the default position right across Wales.'

No doubt he was not the first person to ever utter these words of wisdom about the dangers associated with speeding traffic. In the Langstone Ward we have been seeking such speed reductions for years.

Could the cabinet member update the council on the roll out of 20 mph zones in Newport and clarify what local consultation is being planned to support any decisions taken locally?

Does the Cabinet member consider that roads and school entrances regularly used by children should be amongst the highest priority for imposing speed reductions?

Response:

Welsh Government has recently announced that the roll out of 20mph limits will form part of its initial programme of work. This is a national policy change and as such consultation is being led by Welsh Government. This was launched last week and can be found on the Welsh Government website. Locally consultation is held through the statutory TRO process.

Newport has already rolled out trial areas across the city and we are awaiting the detailed guidance from Welsh Government to conclude the full roll out. The current anticipated timeline for completion is 18 months.

Safety at schools will continue to be a priority for both Welsh Government and the Newport City Council under this legislative change.

The Member will be aware that the Langstone Primary School learner entrance is already traffic calmed and covered by an existing 20mph zone as part of a previous Welsh Government initiative to improve road safety at schools.

Supplementary:

Councillor Mogford referred to a previous Council Question that half of the Newport Schools had a speed limit greater than 20mph. Would the Cabinet Member give assurance that the speed limit would be reduced to 20mph outside Langstone school as this was in the gift of Newport City Council to do this.

Response:

The Langstone Primary School Learner Entrance already had in place traffic calming measures and was covered by a 20mph zone as part of the WG initiative to promote safety in schools, the other two entrances were off road.

Councillor Mogford asked for clarity on whether the Cabinet Member mentioned that one of the entrances was off road. The Cabinet Member would provide a written response.

Councillor Spencer raised a point of order regarding the Standing Orders in relation to supplementary questions and the Monitoring Officer confirmed that only one supplementary question should be allowed to clarify any points arising from the original answer.

The Chief Executive reminded members that the Mayor was in the Chair and asked them to adhere to the correct process in relation to the Cabinet Member questions, which stipulates a single question and a single supplementary only, within the timeframe allowed.

Question 3 – Cabinet Member: Sustainable Development

Councillor J Watkins:

Some Councils are installing plant carpets across the top of Bus Shelters in an effort to support the Bee population.

Given this Authority made a commitment to supporting an increase in the declining Bee population, a fact which is a serious matter for concern, will this Council commit to the installation of these plant carpets across Newport and as a matter of urgency?

Response:

Reversing biodiversity decline is a fundamental priority for this administration.

I am happy to confirm that we have already allocated funding for a number of bee friendly bus shelters, which will be installed later in the year.

Such shelters are not suitable everywhere and many of our new bus shelters will instead have solar panels installed to support the councils carbon reduction plan.

As you will be aware Newport has been awarded official bee friendly status and over the last two years we have implemented a range of initiatives, such as:

- Support for plant life “no mow may” to provide early sources of nectar for bees
- Setting aside land as natural meadows for pollinators
- Reducing the use of pesticides by investing in mechanical alternatives for weed removal
- Requiring a large bee friendly green roof on the new leisure facility

We are often asked by residents how they can support pollinators, so we have put together a guidance video that will be launched shortly.

Supplementary:

Given that we are already in summer, where bees would need this support, what did the Cabinet Member mean by 'later in the year'?

Response:

The new bus shelters have been purchased however, work would have to be undertaken to make these changes. Currently the focus on the bee policy was on the mowing of grass, this was also being undertaken within the Caerleon ward.

Question 4 – Cabinet Member: Leisure and Culture

Councillor M Evans:

At the last Council meeting, you were asked by Cllr Charles Ferris when did you last have a meeting with the National Trust?

In your reply you stated there were no formal requirements under the lease to do this, but you didn't state the last time you met with them. So please can you inform us how many times have you met with them, regarding Tredegar House since you became Cabinet Member?

Can you also tell us if you believe the transfer of Tredegar House to the National Trust was the right decision to make?

Response:

I am unable to confirm the exact number of times I have met with the National Trust but suffice to say I have always accepted an invitation to meet, the last one was with your Deputy Councillor Routley. The Covid 19 pandemic has interrupted such meetings but as restrictions ease I look forward to meeting the Trust again.

In respects of my view on the transfer of the site to the National Trust I wasn't the Cabinet Member at the time.

Supplementary:

Councillor Evans suggested that he was requesting further information on the relationship the Cabinet Member had with the National Trust. Councillor Evans made reference to debt that had incurred happened prior to 2008, and that the arrangement of Tredegar House being taken over by the National Trust was successful.

Response:

The Cabinet Member queried whether there was a question in what Councillor Evans had put as a supplementary. She had nothing further to add to her original reply.