

Dear Colleague,

I hope you are all keeping well and enjoyed the summer break.

Hopefully many of you had the chance to take a well-deserved holiday and spend some downtime with family and friends.

Our focus now turns to getting 'back to business' as the Autumn approaches and you may be aware that the council's Annual General Meeting took place this evening. As you would expect, it was a 'virtual' meeting held using Microsoft Teams rather than taking place in the council chamber, which is always a strange experience for all involved.

I wanted to update you on a few key developments and decisions that resulted from the meeting.

The first is the appointment of our new Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The outgoing Mayor, Cllr Julian Simmonds, handed over the ceremonial chain of office to our new Mayor, Cllr Carol Andrews. I would like to thank Julian for his dedication and professionalism during his tenure and I would like to wish Carol the best of luck in her new role. I'm sure she will be an excellent ambassador for the council and the county borough. Our new Deputy Mayor is Cllr June Gale.

The Leader also announced changes to the Cabinet structure. Cllr Philippa Marsden has reconfigured the Cabinet to provide the organisation with a fresh focus as we begin our recovery process from the coronavirus pandemic.

As part of this review she also agreed to reinstate one additional Cabinet position which has been held vacant over recent months. We are one of the largest local authorities in Wales with a bold and ambitious improvement programme ahead of us, therefore it is clear that we need strong, focused leadership

Cllr Barbara Jones is leaving the Cabinet and will be replaced by Cllr Ross Whiting who is responsible for 'Learning and Achievement'. In addition, Cllr John Ridgewell will join the Cabinet to look after the 'Environment and Infrastructure' portfolio.

The revised Cabinet structure is as follows -

Leader of Council Cllr Philippa Marsden  
Economy & Enterprise (Deputy Leader) Cllr Sean Morgan  
Corporate Services Cllr Colin Gordon  
Finance, Performance & Customer Services Cllr Eluned Stenner  
Learning & Achievement Cllr Ross Whiting  
Social Care Cllr Carl Cuss  
Environment and Infrastructure Cllr John Ridgewell  
Housing & Property Cllr Lisa Phipps  
Waste & Public Protection Cllr Nigel George

Each Cabinet Member will lead on key priority areas within their portfolio and work closely with senior officers to further improve services.

I will arrange for the video link of the AGM to be distributed to you on Friday morning so that you can view the proceedings.

That's all for now, but I will be resuming my regular updates next week

Take care

**Christina**