

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Rhonda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 26 February 2014 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

(Mrs) T.Bates	G.Holmes	(Mrs) A.Roberts
D.R.Bevan	G.E.Hopkins	J.Rosser
H.Boggis	J.S.James	R.W.Smith
J.Bonetto	P.Jarman	G.Stacey
S.A.Bradwick	(Mrs) S.J.Jones	B.Stephens
J.Bunnage	R.Lewis	(Mrs) M.Tegg
A.Calvert	(Mrs) C.Leyshon	R.K.Turner
P.Cannon,QPM	S.Lloyd	G.P.Thomas
S.Carter	R.B.McDonald	L.G.Walker
A.Christopher	C.J.Middle	(Mrs) J.S.Ward
W.J.David	K.Montague	P.Wasley
(Mrs) A.Davies	A.Morgan	M.J.Watts
C.Davies	B.Morgan	M.O.Weaver
J.Davies	K.Morgan	M.Webber
G.R.Davies	M.A.Norris	E.Webster
(Mrs) L.De Vet	I.Pearce	C.J.Williams
J.Elliott	S.Pickering	T.Williams
M.Forey	S.Powderhill	C.J.Willis
A.S.Fox	M.J.Powell	R.A.Yeo
(Mrs) E.Hanagan	K.A.Privett	

Officers in Attendance

Mr.K.Griffiths – Chief Executive
Mr.S.Merritt – Group Director, Corporate Services
Mr.G.Jones – Group Director, Environmental Services
Mr.C.Lee – Director, Financial Services
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mrs.J.Cook – Director, Regeneration & Planning
Mrs.E.Thomas – Service Director, Schools & Community
Mr.B.Gatis – Service Director, Community Care
Mr.C.Hanagan – Head of Strategy, Public Relations & Tourism

107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, P.Baccara, (Mrs) J.Cass, A.L.Davies,MBE, (Mrs) M.E.Davies,

S.M.Evans-Fear, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, P.Howe, W.L.Langford, S.Rees, S.Rees-Owen, G.Smith, W.D.Weeks and D.H.Williams.

108 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor P.Jarman stated in relation to agenda item no.6 – The Council’s 2014-2015 Revenue Budget Strategy that “On 3rd December 2013, following a request I made to the Standards Committee, I was granted a dispensation in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition to speak and vote at meetings of the Council and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on matters relating to all services affected by the budget process for a period leading up to and including the formal approval of the budget for 2014/2015 by the Council. My Son works for the Council and lives with me”.

109 PETITIONS

County Borough Councillor G.Holmes presented the Mayor with the following:

- (i) a petition from residents of Llantrisant requesting the continuation of the community bus service no.47 – Llantrisant – Talbot Green;
- (ii) a petition containing over 1,000 signatures, protesting against the proposal to exclude children residing in Llantrisant from taking up education at Y Pant Comprehensive School.

110 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 January 2014.

111 OPEN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FRONTLINE SERVICES

The Cabinet Member for Frontline Services, County Borough Councillor A.Morgan, was pleased to bring to Members’ attention the fact that recycling figures for the week following Christmas 2013, topped 1,000 tonnes for the first time since the launch of the kerbside collection service. With the roll-out and extension of options available for recycling, Councillor Morgan was confident there would be further improvements in the figures over the coming year.

112 MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

- (1) **From County Borough Councillor P.Griffiths to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Community Safety (County Borough Councillor P.Cannon,QPM)**

“Will the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Community Safety make a statement on the Council’s preparations for the next round of European funding?”

As County Borough Councillor P.Griffiths was not in attendance to ask his question to the Cabinet Member, a statement was not made.

(2) From County Borough Councillor G.Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, Leisure and Tourism (County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan)

“Will the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, Leisure and Tourism make a statement regarding the Council’s approach to destination management?”

Response from County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

“Currently the Council is preparing its Destination Management Plan and will shortly present the details of this report to Cabinet.”

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor Thomas:

“As you are aware, a number of businesses within my electoral ward rely heavily on tourism particularly because of our close proximity to the National Park. Will the plan acknowledge the importance of this proximity and will it support these businesses in terms of marketing and promotion beyond RCT?”

Response from County Borough Councillor Bevan:

“Certainly, we recognise the fact that the area you represent is quite significant in its location. It plays a pivotal role in the Destination Plan we are producing. We are in a fortunate position in this Authority to be sandwiched between the Capital City and the National Park in the Brecon Beacons so we will pay significant acknowledgement to both areas particularly in RCT”.

(3) From County Borough Councillor S.Bradwick to the Cabinet Member for Frontline Services (County Borough Councillor A.Morgan)

“Will the Cabinet Member for Frontline Services make a statement about how the Council assisted residents during recent adverse weather conditions?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan:

“I am more than happy to make a statement on this and the efforts our staff have contributed.

During the adverse weather, we dealt with a huge number of calls including over 1,000 emergency calls which required responses from the Emergency Planning, Streetcare and Parks Departments.

There were numerous occasions where we provided assistance to the public and to our partners dealing with individual events of flooding, downed trees, loss of power, clearance of culverts, provision of sandbags, etc.

On a separate occasion, Rhondda Members will be aware, we liaised with Dwr Cymru following a failure of their water pump, to ensure that Social Services, Environmental Health and other teams were available to the affected community.

Emergency Planning staff also liaised with the Met Office, Natural Resources Wales, South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that our communities and organisation were prepared for the recent periods of inclement weather. Over the last three months, the Council delivered over 2,500 sand bags thereby preventing flooding to properties which were at imminent risk of flooding. Our jetting crews visited over 7,000 locations in normal working hours alone in order to prevent any build up of leaves, etc. in culverts and water courses. We inspected the 246 priority culverts on a weekly basis and undertook any debris removal where necessary.

I would also add that we work year round in improving the resilience of our communities through Flood Groups and Business Continuity Events and working with our Public Sector Partners to prepare for periods of bad weather.”

Supplementary Question from Councillor Bradwick:

“Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that all our staff deserve an enormous amount of praise for all their hard work during the severe weather and support provided to residents during this time. I would also like to thank Councillor Morgan for keeping me updated on issues in my area during the period of adverse weather.”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Morgan:

Absolutely, many staff went above and beyond what can be expected of them in order to ensure that residents suffered as little disruption as possible during what were some very severe weather conditions. Undoubtedly, without the hard work of these members of staff, things would have been a lot worse for residents, that goes for a number of departments, Parks, Cleansing, Highways and various other Officers who have been assisting them during this time.”

(4) From County Borough Councillor K.Montague to the Cabinet Member for Council Business and Public Relations (County Borough Councillor M.Webber)

“Will the Cabinet Member for Council Business and Public Relations make a statement about how the Council communicates with residents?”

Response from County Borough Councillor M.Webber:

“The Council seeks to communicate through a number of channels and methods with its residents to disseminate important information about the service we provide and the decisions we make.”

Supplementary Question from Councillor Montague:

“The Council already utilises twitter to communicate important service information to residents. Owing to the reductions in spending the Council has agreed around advertising, will the Council seek to utilise social media to continue communicating with residents?”

Response from Councillor Webber:

“Thank you for highlighting the important savings we are making in this area. Yes, most definitely the Council is committed to utilising social media further and we will extend our use to other platforms such as Facebook in the coming months.”

(5) From County Borough Councillor P.Jarman to the Mayor (County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings).

“Will you make a statement on Rule 9 and all its sub paragraphs under Part 4 Rules of Procedure of the Council’s Constitution and their application insofar as they affect the Conduct of Council Meetings?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings:

“I refer you to the said Rules and Procedures as set out in the Council’s Constitution.”

Supplementary Question from County Borough Councillor Jarman:

“You will recall that at the Council meeting on 15 January, I was asked a question as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee on the priorities of that Committee which I answered. Councillor Montague, as far as I can tell, was not compliant with Rule 9.6 in asking his supplementary question, for nothing arose out of the original question or reply. It should have been ruled out of order by yourself as should the supplementary question to Councillor Geraint Davies from Councillor John Watts. Will you rule that supplementary questions that fail to be in compliance with Rule 9.6 will be ruled out of order by yourself and your successor Mayors”

Response from County Borough Councillor Crimmings:

“I will take advice and get back to you in writing”.

REPORT OF THE CABINET

113 THE COUNCIL’S 2014/2015 REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY

The Group Director, Corporate Services presented the report of the Cabinet which provided information on the implications of the Local Government

Settlement for 2014/2015 together with the recommendations of the Cabinet in response to the Council's resourcing requirements in order to assist Members to determine specific service allocations within the Council's Revenue Budget together with the level of Council Tax for the year ending 31 March 2015.

At the request of the Mayor, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services informed the Council that this week, he had received letters from Solicitors regarding the decision of the Cabinet on 8 January 2014 which was implemented on 20 January 2014 relating to School Admissions Arrangements. To date, the Solicitors' letters had been acknowledged and would be fully responded to in due course. Members were further informed that the Cabinet's decision was in dispute and potentially subject to legal proceedings but it was not for discussion at this meeting.

Members were advised that it was only necessary at this stage to agree the Council's Revenue Budget for 2014/2015 in order to meet the statutory deadline and there were no items concerning the Phase 1 or the Phase 2 service reduction proposals on the agenda today.

In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rule 2(b), the following had to be considered in conjunction with the Cabinet's report:

"Dear Mr. Lucas,

Please accept this email as written notice of the following proposal on behalf of the Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales Group, proposed by Councillor Pauline Jarman and seconded by Councillor Geraint Davies:

To reduce the number of Cabinet Members from 10 to 7 to reflect the reduction in Services.

£31,900 - £13,175 x 3 + £56,175 savings.

Cease paying the practicing certificates for the Council's 16 Solicitors = £7,040 savings.

Regards,
Councillor Pauline Jarman".

The Group Director, Corporate Services confirmed that the figures provided by Councillor Jarman were correct and agreed.

In speaking to her amendment to the Revenue Budget strategy, Councillor Jarman, with the consent of her seconder, withdrew from the amendment, the second part relating to ceasing payment of the practicing certificates for the 16 Solicitors.

A vote then took place, for or against the revised amendment and as a result, the amendment was lost.

A discussion then ensued on the recommended Budget proposals as presented in the report and it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the written statement from the Minister and the table on the 2014/2015 local government settlement, reproduced at Appendix 1.
- (2) To approve Tables 1a and 1b in Section 12 of the report as the basis of allocating resources to the Individual Schools Budget to other Council Services and to meet its corporate financing requirements.
- (3) To agree the Council Tax increase for the financial year ending 31st March 2015 is 4.5%.
- (4) To agree the Council's overall budget for 2014/2015 in order to set the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year by the statutory deadline of 11 March 2014.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES

114 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2015

In his report, the Group Director, Corporate Services provided Members with details of the calculation of the Authority's Council Tax for the financial year ending 31 March 2015 prior to passing the necessary statutory resolutions.

The Group Director, Corporate Services reported that on 24 February 2014, final confirmation had been received from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales that there was no precept change and the precept for the financial year ending 31 March 2015 would rise by 5.22%.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the level of the precept from the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales.
- (2) To note the level of the Community Council Precepts, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- (3) To pass the formal Council Tax resolutions for the financial year ending 31 March 2015 as set out below:

1. Confirm, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995 (as amended) made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), the following amounts for the year 2014/2015:

(a) **£72,557.42** being the amount calculated by the Council as the Council Tax Base for the year;

(b) Parts of the Council's area

Community Area	
Gilfach Goch	£974.06
Hirwaun	£1,565.63
Llanharan	£2,723.93
Llanharry	£1,406.30
Llantrisant	£5,396.04
Llantwit Fardre	£5,881.25
Pontyclun	£3,452.85
Pontypridd	£9,650.59
Rhigos	£261.94
Taffs Well	£1,372.23
Tonyrefail	£3,644.54
Ynysybwl & Coed y Cwm	£1,365.64

being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of it's Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which special items relate;

2. Agree that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2014/2015 in accordance with Section 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act, 1992:

- (a) **£700,473,271.0960** ~ being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (d) of the Act;
- (b) **£241,307,470.6247** ~ being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act;
- (c) **£459,165,800.4714** ~ being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;
- (d) **£366,951,942.0000** ~ being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of Revenue Support Grant and redistributed National Non-Domestic Rates (less discretionary Non Domestic Rate relief);
- (e) **£1,270.9087**~ being the amount at 2(c) above less the amount at 2(d) above, all divided by amount at 1(a) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
- (f) **£1,662,381.2500** ~ being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;
- (g) **£1,248.0000** ~ being the amount at 2(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(f) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of it's Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;

(h) Parts of the Council's Area:

Community Area	£. p
Gilfach Goch	46.1984
Hirwaun	36.5348
Llanharan	52.0000
Llanharry	47.9997
Llantrisant	36.4100
Llantwit Fardre	37.7200
Pontyclun	32.1474
Pontypridd	59.0598
Rhigos	51.5385
Taffs Well	21.1335
Tonyrefail	49.8521
Ynysybwl & Coed y Cwm	20.1915

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;

(i) Parts of the Council's Area

RCTCBC & Community Councils	Band A*	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)
Gilfach Goch	718.9991	862.7989	1,006.5988	1,150.3985	1,294.1984	1,581.7980	1,869.3977	2,156.9973	2,588.3968	3,019.7963
Hirwaun	713.6304	856.3565	999.0827	1,141.8087	1,284.5348	1,569.9869	1,855.4392	2,140.8913	2,569.0696	2,997.2479
Llanharan	722.2222	866.6667	1,011.1111	1,155.5555	1,300.0000	1,588.8889	1,877.7778	2,166.6667	2,600.0000	3,033.3333
Llanharry	719.9998	863.9998	1,007.9998	1,151.9997	1,295.9997	1,583.9996	1,871.9996	2,159.9995	2,591.9994	3,023.9993
Llantrisant	713.5611	856.2733	998.9856	1,141.6977	1,284.4100	1,569.8344	1,855.2589	2,140.6833	2,568.8200	2,996.9567
Llantwit Fardre	714.2889	857.1467	1,000.0045	1,142.8622	1,285.7200	1,571.4355	1,857.1511	2,142.8667	2,571.4400	3,000.0133
Pontyclun	711.1930	853.4316	995.6702	1,137.9088	1,280.1474	1,564.6246	1,849.1018	2,133.5790	2,560.2948	2,987.0106
Pontypridd	726.1443	871.3732	1,016.6021	1,161.8309	1,307.0598	1,597.5175	1,887.9753	2,178.4330	2,614.1196	3,049.8062
Rhigos	721.9658	866.3590	1,010.7522	1,155.1453	1,299.5385	1,588.3248	1,877.1112	2,165.8975	2,599.0770	3,032.2565
Taffs Well	705.0741	846.0890	987.1039	1,128.1186	1,269.1335	1,551.1631	1,833.1929	2,115.2225	2,538.2670	2,961.3115
Tonyrefail	721.0289	865.2347	1,009.4406	1,153.6463	1,297.8521	1,586.2636	1,874.6753	2,163.0868	2,595.7042	3,028.3216
Ynysybwl & Coed y Cwm	704.5508	845.4610	986.3712	1,127.2813	1,268.1915	1,550.0118	1,831.8322	2,113.6525	2,536.3830	2,959.1135
All Other Parts of Rhondda Cynon Taf	693.3333	832.0000	970.6667	1,109.3333	1,248.0000	1,525.3333	1,802.6667	2,080.0000	2,496.0000	2,912.0000

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2(g) and 2(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands, as set out below:

3. Note that for the year 2014/2015 (and subject to there not being any precept change, on or before 1st March 2014, following further consultation as required by regulation – see para 6.2 of this report) the Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Police & Crime Commissioner for South Wales	Band A*	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)
All Parts of the Area	105.7446	126.8935	148.0425	169.1914	190.3403	232.6381	274.9360	317.2338	380.6806	444.1274

4. Agree that having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/2015 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Total Council Tax for Area	Band A*	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	Band I
	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)	(£.p)
Gilfach Goch	824.74	989.69	1,154.64	1,319.59	1,484.54	1,814.44	2,144.33	2,474.23	2,969.08	3,463.92
Hirwaun	819.38	983.25	1,147.13	1,311.00	1,474.88	1,802.63	2,130.38	2,458.13	2,949.75	3,441.38
Llanharan	827.97	993.56	1,159.15	1,324.75	1,490.34	1,821.53	2,152.71	2,483.90	2,980.68	3,477.46
Llanharry	825.74	990.89	1,156.04	1,321.19	1,486.34	1,816.64	2,146.94	2,477.23	2,972.68	3,468.13
Llantrisant	819.31	983.17	1,147.03	1,310.89	1,474.75	1,802.47	2,130.19	2,457.92	2,949.50	3,441.08
Llantwit Fardre	820.03	984.04	1,148.05	1,312.05	1,476.06	1,804.07	2,132.09	2,460.10	2,952.12	3,444.14
Pontyclun	816.94	980.33	1,143.71	1,307.10	1,470.49	1,797.26	2,124.04	2,450.81	2,940.98	3,431.14
Pontypridd	831.89	998.27	1,164.64	1,331.02	1,497.40	1,830.16	2,162.91	2,495.67	2,994.80	3,493.93
Rhigos	827.71	993.25	1,158.79	1,324.34	1,489.88	1,820.96	2,152.05	2,483.13	2,979.76	3,476.38
Taffs Well	810.82	972.98	1,135.15	1,297.31	1,459.47	1,783.80	2,108.13	2,432.46	2,918.95	3,405.44
Tonyrefail	826.77	992.13	1,157.48	1,322.84	1,488.19	1,818.90	2,149.61	2,480.32	2,976.38	3,472.45
Ynysybwl & Coed y Cwm	810.30	972.35	1,134.41	1,296.47	1,458.53	1,782.65	2,106.77	2,430.89	2,917.06	3,403.24
All Other Parts of Rhondda Cynon Taf	799.08	958.89	1,118.71	1,278.52	1,438.34	1,757.97	2,077.60	2,397.23	2,876.68	3,356.13

- (4) To note the comments of the Group Director, Corporate Services upon the robustness of the Estimates and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves as detailed in paragraph 9.2 of the report.

(Note: County Borough Councillor J.S.James wished to have recorded that he voted against the above-mentioned resolution.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, REGENERATION & PLANNING

115 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

In the report, the Director, Regeneration & Planning sought Council's approval to proceed to the next stages of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) process and to agree the contents of the CIL Draft Charging Schedule/Community and Responses Report and the Statement of Modifications.

A lengthy discussion ensued and it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To agree the contents of Statement of Modifications (Appendix A); the CIL Draft Charging Schedule/Report of Comments and Responses and the Draft Regulation 212 Declaration (Appendix B).
- (2) To authorise the Director, Regeneration & Planning to agree the contents of any procedural/evidence base documents necessary to support the CIL process.
- (3) To authorise the Director, Regeneration & Planning to submit the CIL documentation for Examination.
- (4) To authorise the Director, Regeneration & Planning to negotiate and agree amendments to the CIL as part of the examination process.

(Note: During the proceedings, the following lost amendment to the motion was moved by County Borough Councillor P.Wasley and seconded by Councillor L.Walker:

“As the whole issue of CIL has been delayed by one year, to refer the issue of community investment to the Corporate Services Scrutiny Working Group for consideration and report back to the Council on their thoughts on proceeding to the next stage.”

Also, the following lost further amendment to the motion was moved by County Borough Councillor P.Jarman and seconded by County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies:

“To retain the £100 levy in Zone 3 and not reduce it to £85 as suggested in the report and that Tonyrefail remain in Zone 3.”

(Note: County Borough Councillor (Mrs) T.Bates, (Mrs) E.Hanagan and A.Morgan wished to have recorded that they did not vote on the above-

mentioned matter as they were not present for the whole debate. County Borough Councillors S.Bradwick and R.B.McDonald wished to have recorded that they abstained from voting on the matter.)

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

116 REVIEW OF THE CAP IN RELATION TO MEMBERS' INDEMNITIES

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services informed Members of the current position regarding Members' indemnities and requested them to consider whether to reduce the current approved cap for the Authority for the reasons outlined.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council reduces the cap in relation to the Members' indemnities for this Authority from £50,000 to £20,000 per incident with the Standards Committee determining on a case by case basis, each application for a costs indemnity in order to decide whether an indemnity should be given at all and as recommended by the Cabinet at its meeting on 19 February 2014.

(Note: During the proceedings, the following lost amendment to the motion was moved by County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell and seconded by County Borough Councillor J.S.James:

"To defer the matter until the costs to the Council were known")

117 REVIEW OF CORONER SERVICE

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services advised Members of the outcome of a review of the provision of the Coroner Service for the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys (Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr and Bridgend) and Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Coroner Areas.

The report also outlined options relating to the provision of a Coroner Service and supporting administration for the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys and Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Coroner Areas.

With regard to the recommendation to amalgamate both Coroner Areas and recruit one Whole-time Coroner, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services reported orally at the meeting that he was still awaiting a formal decision from Cardiff Council. In view of this position, the Director recommended that he advises all interested parties of the current situation and then report back to the next meeting of the Council on the outcome. If agreement could not then be reached with all parties, the post of whole-time Coroner for Powys, Bridgend and The Glamorgan Valleys only should be advertised immediately.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) That the current Powys, Bridgend and The Glamorgan Valleys and Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Coroners Areas be merged into a single combined Coroner Area to cover the six local authority areas of Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr, Bridgend, Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan.

- (2) That the Part-Time Coroner posts which currently cover Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys and Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Coroner Areas be made into a single Whole-Time Coroner position for the new Coroner Area following the merger.
- (3) That Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is designated as the Relevant Authority to continue to accommodate the coroner and continue to provide the existing administrative support functions to the Service.
- (4) That costs be apportioned on a population ratio basis (already established within the Powys, Bridgend and The Glamorgan Valleys Coroner Area).
- (5) That the Director, Legal & Democratic Services reports back to the Council at its next meeting on the position of Cardiff Council in this matter and that if agreement cannot be reached by all parties, the post of Whole-Time Coroner for Powys, Bridgend and The Glamorgan Valleys be advertised following that meeting.

118 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION
(1) THE FAMILY ABSENCE FOR MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES
(WALES) REGULATIONS 2013
(2) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SERVICE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services sought approval for amendments to various parts of the Council's Constitution to take account of The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 which came into force in December 2013 and amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Service Scrutiny Committees.

Following consideration of the report, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To approve the following amendments/insertions to the various parts of the Council's Constitution, as shown, to take account of The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013, which came into force in December, 2013 and the Terms of Reference of the Service Scrutiny Committees and as recommended by the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee at its meeting held on the 14th February, 2014:
 - (i) **Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution**

Article 5 – Chairing the Council (b) Responsibilities of the Mayor (or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor)
 - (vii) To carry out duties as required under The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013.

(ii) **Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions**

Section 2 – Responsibility for Council Functions

Council or Name of Committee	Membership	Non-Executive Functions	Delegation of Functions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<p>The Mayor (or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor)</p>	<p>In accordance with The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 (Regulation 34), the Mayor (or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor) to consider whether to cancel a Member's period of absence that he/she has been given notification of and on reasonable grounds by the Head of Democratic Services.</p>	<p>Head of Democratic Services</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appeals Committee – Family Absence 	<p>3 Members of the Democratic Services Committee (must include Mayor Deputy Mayor) not the or</p>	<p>In accordance with The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 (Regulations 35 and 36):</p> <p>To hear appeals from Members against a decision to withdraw entitlement to family absence.</p> <p>To settle disputes, where a Member, who is on leave of</p>	<p>Head of Democratic Services</p>

		<p>absence would like to attend a particular meeting, type of meeting, or perform a particular duty or type of duty and the Mayor (or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor) of the Council refuses this request.</p>	
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(iii) **Part 4 – Rules of Procedure – Council Rules of Procedure**

(7) Quorum

If a Member is on Family Absence and it would be difficult to replace that Member on a temporary basis, the Mayor (or in his/hr absence the Deputy Mayor) can request that Member to attend a meeting if it might otherwise be inquorate.

(25) Family Absence for Members

25.1 A Member on maternity absence or parental absence may, subject to paragraph 25(2) and (6) below:

- Attend particular meetings
- Attend particular descriptions of meetings
- Perform particular duties; or
- Perform duties of a particular description

25.2 The Member must obtain the permission of the Mayor (or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor) before attending any meeting or performing any duty.

25.3 The Mayor (or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor) must inform the Leaders of each political group of the Local Authority before granting permission under paragraph 25.2 above.

25.4 A Member may complain in writing to the Head of Democratic Services regarding a refusal under paragraph 25.2 above.

25.5 The Head of Democratic Services must refer a complaint under paragraph 25.4 above to the Mayor.

25.6 A Panel constituted in accordance with The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulation 2013 must determine a complaint made under paragraph 25.4 above.

25.7 The Panel May:

- Confirm the decision of the Mayor (or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor) of the Council; or
- Substitute its own decision as to the Member attending any meeting or performing any duty.

(iv) Section 4 - Head of Democratic Services

- (t) To carry out duties as required under The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations, 2013.
- (2) To note the contents of the letter of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales in respect of the entitlement of Members to receive allowances during family absence.
- (3) That Article 6 paragraph 6.01 of the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees be amended so that the Museums be removed from within the terms of reference of the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee and that Tourism be removed from within the terms of reference of the Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee and both come within the remit of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.
- (4) That Development Control be deleted from within the terms of reference of the Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee as it already sits within the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.
- (5) That the Director, Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated authority to amend the terms of reference of the Service Scrutiny Committees consequent upon changes in Officer responsibilities for functions and report back such changes to the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee for information.

119 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors P.Jarman, G.R.Davies, I.Pearce, K.Morgan, S.Rees-Owen, M.Weaver, C.Davies, S.Evans-Fear and E.Webster was moved and seconded:

“That this Council commits to invest EU Structural Funds, under the funding programme for the period 2014-2020, in key regeneration schemes relating to skills and youth unemployment and Social Enterprise development in the Northern area of this County Borough, as defined in the Council’s LDP.

This is necessary so that the economic performance and prosperity of those areas are raised in the valleys cease to be amongst the poorest parts of Europe.”

Following consideration of the matter, it was **RESOLVED** not to adopt the motion.

120 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8 - DURATION OF MEETING

Following the disposal of the above-mentioned item of business, the Council was advised that the meeting had lasted for more than three hours and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8, it was necessary for Members to vote on continuing the meeting or not.

On voting on the matter, the majority of Members resolved to terminate the meeting at this point in the proceedings thereby leaving the remaining business on the agenda, i.e. Notice of Motion standing in the names of L.Walker, P.Wasley and P.Howe – “Would Council consider in the best interests of the good people of Rhondda Cynon Taf and in the Democratic Process, that the motion allowed to the opposition groups be increased to five for the Independent Group on an annual basis” - to be dealt with at the next appropriate meeting of the Council, to be agreed by the Mayor.

**A.CRIMMINGS
MAYOR**

The meeting terminated at 8.15 p.m.