

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee held at the County Borough Council Headquarters, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Thursday, 18th September, 2014 at 2 p.m.

Present:

County Borough Councillor R.Lewis – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

J.Elliott, J.Rosser, M.Webber and C.J.Willis

Officers in Attendance

Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Ms.K.May – Democratic Services Manager

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors P.Jarman and A.Roberts.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – to note that there were no declarations made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee held on the 2nd April, 2014.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

18. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION – APPOINTMENTSCOMMTTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE RULES

In his report, the Director of Legal & Democratic Services advised Members of the amendments that were required to be made to the Constitution as a result of changes to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006 (the `Standing Orders Regulations`) dealing with Senior Officer appointments and dismissals.

The Director of Legal & Democratic Services outlined the key changes made by the Amendment Regulations and attached to the report at Appendix 1 were

details of the required amendments to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules and at Appendix 2 the amendments required to the terms of reference of the Appointments Committee.

He further reported that this matter is to be reported to the Council Meeting on the 24th September, 2014.

RESOLVED –

1. To note the amendments made to the Standing Orders Regulations.
2. That in order to reflect the legislative amendments to the Standing Orders Regulations a recommendation be made to Council to the approval of the amendments to:
 - (a) The Officer Employment Procedure Rules as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
 - (b) The terms of reference of the Appointments Committee as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

19. UPDATE ON THE WELSH MODULAR CONSTITUTION AND THE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME

In accordance with Minute No.8 of the meeting of this Committee held on the 2nd April, 2014, the Director of Legal & Democratic Services reported that at present the most important task of the Committee is the continuation of the necessary preparatory work which will assist the Council to formally adopt the new modular constitution in due course.

He reported that the problems experienced by Officers in being unable to access the system and then inputting the information into the software used to produce the new constitution, resulting in no progress made in incorporating the Council's existing Constitution into the new constitution, with the necessary amendments, where appropriate, had now been rectified and the exercise can now be taken forward.

The Committee were now in a position to continue its work by reviewing sections of the modular constitution in easy to manage `bite size chunks` through comparison against the Council's current constitution, and it was therefore suggested that this exercise now forms the basis of the Committee's work programme for the remainder of this municipal year.

The Director of Legal & Democratic Services further reported that in addition to the work of the Committee in overseeing the implementation of the new modular constitution, Members will, throughout the year, be presented with other proposed amendments to the constitution which they will be asked to review and decide whether or not to recommend their formal acceptance by Council.

RESOLVED –

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To agree a work programme for the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2014-2015 at its next meeting.

**20. URGENT BUSINESS –
REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011**

With the permission of the Chairman, the Director of Legal & Democratic Services reported that an announcement had been made by the Welsh Government on Tuesday of this week (16th September, 2014) that they are reviewing the provisions introduced by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. This will be approached by inviting all local authorities to contribute to one of three workshop events to be held during October of this year.

RESOLVED – to note the information and the findings from one of the workshops which is to be attended by appropriate Members and Officers (maximum of four attendees per authority) be reported to the next meeting of this Committee.

**R.LEWIS
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting closed at 2.35 p.m.

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