

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013-2014

**COUNCIL
30 OCTOBER 2013**

**JOINT REPORT OF
THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Agenda Item No. 7

**RESIGNATION OF THE
SENIOR CORONER FOR POWYS,
BRIDGEND AND GLAMORGAN
VALLEYS**

**Authors: Paul Lucas – Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Tony Wilkins - Director of Human Resources**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To advise Council of the resignation of the Senior Coroner; to note interim arrangements, agree a process for the appointment of a successor, possible amalgamation with Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Coroner Area and agree an Appointment Panel to appoint a successor.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the resignation of the Senior Coroner for the Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys Area.
- 2.2 To note the interim arrangement whereby the existing Assistant Coroner will assume the role of Acting Senior Coroner to ensure continuity of Service Delivery.
- 2.3 To note the consideration of possible amalgamation with Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Coroner Area.
- 2.4 That a Panel of 3 Members viz The Leader, HR and Service Improvement Portfolio Holder and Leader of the largest Opposition Group (or substitutes) be constituted as a Coroner Appointment Panel.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Senior Coroner for the newly merged Area of Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys has resigned leaving a vacancy to be filled.

- 3.2 The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 provides for a number of structural changes to the coroner system. It creates the new national head of the coroner system, the office of Chief Coroner. Schedule 2 to the Act promotes the move towards fewer and larger coroner areas and thus when a senior coroner vacancy arises, the Ministry of Justice and the Chief Coroner will expect the coroner area to merge with a neighbouring area unless it would be impracticable to do so.
- 3.3 The Senior Coroner for the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Area has also recently resigned thus creating a vacancy and potential opportunity to merge with Powys, Bridgend and Glamorgan Valleys. I am currently in discussions with The Vale of Glamorgan Council (the relevant Authority for the Cardiff and the Vale Area) to explore the financial feasibility and practicalities of such an amalgamation. I will report back to the November meeting of Council the outcome of these discussions.
- 3.4 In the interim, the existing Assistant Coroner will assume the role of Acting Senior Coroner to ensure the continuity of Service Delivery.
- 3.5 Whatever the outcome of the discussion with the Vale of Glamorgan, it will be necessary to appoint a successor as soon as reasonably practicable. In accordance with past practice it is proposed that a Panel of three Members viz, the Leader, Human Resources and Service Improvement Portfolio Holder and Leader of the largest Opposition Group (or substitute) be constituted as a Coroner Appointment Panel.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

COUNCIL

30 OCTOBER 2013

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
AND DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

REPORT

**RESIGNATION OF THE
SENIOR CORONER FOR POWYS,
BRIDGEND AND GLAMORGAN
VALLEYS**

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Freestanding matter

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