

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of the Twenty-First Annual Meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 25th May, 2016 at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillors

L.M.Adams	P.Griffiths	S.Rees
P.Baccara	(Mrs.)E.Hanagan	S.Rees-Owen
(Mrs.)T.A.Bates	G.Holmes	(Mrs.)A.Roberts
D.R.Bevan	G.E.Hopkins	J.Rosser
H.Boggis	P.Howe	G.Smith
J.Bonetto	J.S.James	G.Stacey
S.A.Bradwick	P.Jarman	B.Stephens
J.Bunnage	(Mrs.)S.J.Jones	(Mrs.)M.Tegg
A.Calvert	R.Lewis	R.K.Turner
(Mrs)A.Crimmings	(Mrs.)C.Leyshon	G.Thomas
W.J.David	R.B.McDonald	(Mrs.)J.S.Ward
A.L.Davies,MBE	C.J.Middle	P.Wasley
(Mrs.)A.Davies	K.Montague	M.J.Watts
C.Davies	A.Morgan	M.Weaver
G.R.Davies	B.Morgan	M.Webber
(Mrs.)L.De Vet	K.Morgan	C.J.Williams
J.Elliott	M.A.Norris	D.H.Williams
S.Evans	I.Pearce	T.Williams
S.Evans-Fear	S.Pickering	C.J.Willis
M.Forey	S.Powderhill	R.Yeo
A.S.Fox	M.J.Powell	
M.Griffiths	K.Privett	

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Bradshaw – Chief Executive
Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.G.Isinigrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mr.C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet & Public Relations
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors S.Carter, (Mrs.)J.Cass, J.Davies, (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, W.L.Langford, S.Lloyd, L.Walker, E.Webster and W.D.Weeks,

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – to note that there were no declarations of interest in matters pertaining to the agenda.

3. RETIRING MAYOR'S REMARKS

The retiring Mayor, County Borough Councillor B.Stephens addressed the Council on his year of office.

County Borough Councillor B.Stephens thanked the Members and Officers for their support during his year of office and expressed particular gratitude to his wife Barbara, who had been his Consort, his Chaplain, Reverend Barbara Woods, his Secretary, Anne and the Chauffeurs, Steve and Gareth.

In response, Members paid tribute to the retiring Mayor and he was commended for his hard work and efforts during the past year.

4. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED – That County Borough Councillor R.Lewis be elected as Mayor of the County Borough for the 2016/17 municipal year.

Following his election, the retiring Mayor presented County Borough Councillor R.Lewis with his chain of office.

The Mayor's Consort, Miss Jamie Louise Howells, was then presented with the Mayor's Consort chain of office.

On taking the Chair, County Borough Councillor R.Lewis thanked the Council for their support and confidence in electing him as Mayor of the County Borough and he paid tribute to the retiring Mayor.

The Mayor announced that his chosen charities for the year would be:-

Action for Children
MIND – Merthyr and the Valleys
New Horizons
Adrev

He also thanked his Chaplain, Reverend Sarah Rogers who would be supporting him in his role as Mayor.

The Mayor was congratulated on his appointment by the Council.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED – That County Borough Councillor C.Middle be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the County Borough for the 2016/17 municipal year.

Upon his appointment, the Mayor presented the Deputy Mayor with his chain of office and he also presented the Deputy Mayor's Consort, Mrs.Ursula Middle with her chain of office.

6. BLESSING – REVEREND SARAH ROGERS

The Mayor called upon Reverend Sarah Rogers to offer a blessing.

Note: At this juncture in the proceedings the Mayor, County Borough Councillor R.Lewis left the meeting to attend to his guests and the Deputy Mayor, County Borough Councillor C.Middle took the Chair.

7. APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED – That County Borough Councillor A.Morgan be appointed Leader of the Council and to note that County Borough Councillor M.Webber to be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council

County Borough Councillor A.Morgan thanked Members for supporting his appointment and he also wished to place on record his thanks to Members of the opposition political groups, in particular to the Leader of Plaid Cymru, County Borough Councillor P.Jarman, where due to the service changes that have been put in place due to financial constraints, many comprises have had to be made.

County Borough Councillor M.Webber thanked the Council in supporting her appointment as Deputy Leader of the Council and indicated that it was a honour and privilege to be appointe and that she would give 100% commitment to the role.

8. LEADER'S SCHEME OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

The Leader of the Council announced his Cabinet, comprising nine Members (including himself) and their individual designations, as follows:-

- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business and Human Resources – County Borough Councillor M.Webber
- Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning – County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)E.Hanagan.
- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services – County Borough Councillor M.Forey.
- Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Equalities and the Welsh Language – County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins
- Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture – County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings
- Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Tourism and Planning – County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

- Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Well-Being and Communities – County Borough Councillor J.Rosser
- Cabinet Member for Corporate Services – County Borough Councillor M.A.Norris

The Leader informed the Council that full details of the portfolios of the individual Cabinet Members would be published on the Council's website in due course.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

9. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION INCLUDING ITS GENERAL SCHEME OF DELEGATION

In his report, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services sought the Council's approval of amendments to the Council's Constitution including its General Scheme of Delegation of Executive and Non Executive Functions.

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

1. Allocation of Notices of Motion

To allocate the 20 Notices of Motion as required by Council Procedure Rule 10(2)(a) for the 2016/17 municipal year, as follows:-

Labour – 11
Plaid Cymru – 5
Independent Group – 2
Democratic Alliance Group – 1
Unallocated Member – 1

2. The Council's General Scheme of Delegation of Executive and Non-Executive Functions

- (1) To agree the proposed improvements to the General Scheme of Delegation as outlined within paragraph 5 of the report to allow for further transparency in the Council's decision making process;
- (2) To instruct the Council's Monitoring Officer to update the Council's Constitution to reflect the changes to the General Scheme of Delegation and any other necessary consequential changes required to be made;
- (3) To agree that the amendments to the General Scheme of Delegation be taken forward by Officers following the Annual General Meeting with full implementation from 1st July, 2016.

3. Proposed Amendments to the Access to Information, Overview and Scrutiny and Executive Procedure Rules

To amend the following paragraph of the Access to Information Rules and relevant sections of paragraphs of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and the Executive Procedure Rules as follows:-

(1) *Paragraph 14.2(a) of the Access to Information Rules*

“The Proper Officer or his or her representative shall attend any meeting of the Cabinet, a Committee of the Cabinet or a Joint Committee or Joint Sub-Committee where all its Members are Members of the Executive, and shall, within two clear working days after the relevant meeting produce a decision record.”

(2) *Paragraph 17.1(a) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules*

“..the decision shall be deemed to have been published upon publication on the Council’s website by the Proper Officer within two clear working days of it being made. A copy will also be available at the main offices of the Council.”

(3) *Paragraph 17.1(e) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules*

“If, having considered the decision, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee refers it back to the decision making body for reconsideration or the matter to full Council, it must set out in writing, the nature of its concerns. If referred to the decision maker they shall then reconsider within a further 5 clear working days, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision. This decision shall take effect and be implementable on the date and time immediately following the closure of the relevant meeting.”

(4) That provision be made in the Executive Procedure Rules that the role of Proper Officer, in the absence of the Service Director – Cabinet Office and Public Relations be undertaken by the Chief Executive.

4. Development Control Committee – Proposed Amendments to its Terms of Reference

To amend paragraphs of the Development Control Committee’s terms of reference

(1) By adding the following after paragraph 2.1 (kk) as follows:-

- “(ll) Power to issue an Enforcement Warning Notice*
- (mm) Duties in relation to Development of National Significance and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.*
- (nn) Power to issue Local Impact Reports for Developments of National Significance and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.*

(oo) *Power to issue Screening and Scoping Opinions*

(pp) *Powers to issue Temporary Stop Notices for Listed Buildings*

(qq) *Powers to discharge conditions*

(hh) *Power to issue formal pre-application advice.”*

(2) To include reference to recent legislative changes in paragraph 2.2.1 as follows:-

- Planning (Wales) Act 2015
- Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016

(3) To amend paragraph 2.2.1(d) as follows:-

(d) *Applications submitted by serving Councillors or their immediate family or employees of the Regeneration and Planning Service or their immediate families.*

5. Establishing a Pension Fund Committee

(1) To create a politically balanced Pension Fund Committee consisting of 5 elected Members to oversee the Council's responsibilities with regards to the administration of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund:

(2) That the Pension Fund Committee be responsible for the strategic management of the RCT Pension Fund in accordance with its terms of reference as set out in Appendix 3 of the report with all operational matters as set out in Appendix 4 of the report continuing to be delegated to the Group Director for Corporate and Frontline services (as the Section 151 Officer or in his absence the Deputy Section 151 Officer) who shall be supported by an Investment and Administration Advisory Panel.

6. Scrutiny Committee Membership, Members' Participation in the Scrutiny Process and Scrutiny of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board

(1) That the membership of the Council's Scrutiny Committees be reduced from 17 to 14 elected Members;

(2) That Members of the Democratic Alliance Group (DAG) (x2 Members) and the Council's unallocated Member (x1 Member) be given an opportunity to attend meetings of a Scrutiny Committee of their choice on an ex-officio/co-opted basis and agree they be able to nominate themselves and participate in any Scrutiny Working Group(s) they may have an interest in joining;

(3) To agree that scrutiny of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board be undertaken, in the first instance, by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

(4) That officers be instructed to work with their colleagues in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and in consultation with

the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate the possibility of creating a Joint Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the Cwm Taf Public Services Board in the future;

7. Members' Attendance at Meetings

- (1) To note that the Chairman of the Standards Committee was arranging to meet with Leaders of the Council's Political Groups prior to the Annual Meeting of Council on the 25th May, 2016 to outline the intention of the Standards Committee to monitor Members' attendance at meetings in the future and recommend to the Council's AGM changes to the manner of recording Members attendances;
- (2) That the following recommendations from the Standards Committee, that, in future, the following data be captured with regards to Members' attendance at each meeting be referred for consideration by the Democratic Services Committee:-
 - Members' Attendance/Non-Attendance
 - Recording whether apologies were given (or not) for non-attendance by a Member; and
 - Whether a Member remained for the duration of the meeting or left prior to its conclusion.
- (3) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services amend the Council's Constitution to reflect the required amendments/initiatives, following consideration by the Democratic Services Committee.

10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/17

The Director, Legal and Democratic Services requested the Council to consider appointing its Committees for the 2016/16 municipal year, and it was **RESOLVED** – to appoint the following Committees for the 2016/17 municipal year:-

- Development Control Committee (x18 Members)
- Licensing Committee (x15 Members)
- Appointments Committee (x5 Members)
- Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee (x5 Members)
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members) plus Statutory Co-optees
- Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee (x14 Members)
- Audit Committee (x15 Members) plus 1 lay Member
- Democratic Services Committee (x15 Members)

- Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee (x7 Members)
- Pension Fund Committee (x5 Members)

11. QUASI JUDICIAL BODIES/AD HOC COMMITTEES

The Director, Legal and Democratic Services requested the Council to consider the appointment of Members to sit on the Quasi Judicial/Ad Hoc Committees listed in his report, and it was **RESOLVED** – that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following Quasi Judicial/Ad Hoc Committees:-

Bodies Subject to Political Balance

- Local Education Authority Governors (Appointments) Committee (5 Members)

County Borough Councillors W.J.David, M.Forey, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, S.Rees-Owen and R.Yeo.

- Voluntary Early Retirement/Redundancy Panel (5 Members)

County Borough Councillors (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, W.J.David, (Mrs.)S.Jones, M.Weaver and M.Webber

Non-Politically Balanced

- Joint Consultative Committee (4 Members)

County Borough Councillors D.R.Bevan, A.Morgan, M.A.Norris and M.Webber.

12. THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF THE COUNCIL

In his report, the Director, Legal and Democratic Services advised Members of the outcome of the annual review of the Political Balance of the Authority and it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. That the scheme for the allocation of seats to the different political groups and bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989 applies, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be adopted;
2. That the Director, Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make appointments to politically balanced bodies upon receipt by him as Proper Officer, of notification of the wishes of the political groups subject, in the case of subsequent requests for amendment of membership of Committees, being referred to Council;
3. To note that Members of the Cabinet be not eligible for appointment to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Committees;

4. To note that at least one Member of the Cabinet can sit on the Audit and Democratic Services Committees but the Council Leader is excluded from the positions.

13. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS FOR THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Following consideration of the report of the Director, Legal and Democratic Services in respect of the above-mentioned matter, it was **RESOLVED** –

1. To appoint the following Members to the posts of Chairs and Vice-Chairs:-
 - Development Control Committee – G.Stacey (Chair) and M.Griffiths (Vice-Chair).
 - Licensing Committee – A.S.Adams (Chair) and B.Morgan (Vice-Chair)
 - Appointments Committee – (Mrs.)T.Bates (Chair) and (Mrs.)S.Jones (Vice-Chair)
 - Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee – D.H.Williams (Chair) and J.Bonetto (Vice-Chair)
 - Pension Fund Committee – M.A.Norris (Chair) and G.Hopkins (Vice-Chair)
2. To appoint County Borough Councillor P.Jarman (Chair) and County Borough Councillor M.Webber (Vice-Chair) of the Democratic Services Committee, subject to the conditions laid down in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.
3. To note that under the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure, 2011, the Chair of the Audit Committee is to be appointed by the Audit Committee.
4. To agree that the responsibility for the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee be delegated to the Audit Committee.
5. That the Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee be allocated to the Plaid Cymru Group.
6. To appoint the following Members to the posts of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees:-
 - Overview and Scrutiny Committee – L.M.Adams (Chair) and G.Smith (Vice-Chair)
 - Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee – M.J.Watts (Chair) and (Mrs.)J.S.Ward (Vice-Chair)
 - Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee – G.R.Davies (Chair) and S.Bradwick (Vice-Chair)
 - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – (Mrs.)C.Leyshon (Chair) and B.Stephens (Vice-Chair)

- Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee – R.W.Smith (Chair) and S.Rees (Vice-Chair).
7. To appoint County Borough Councillor C.J.Willis as Scrutiny Performance Management Co-ordinator.
 8. That in accordance with the decision made at the Council's Annual Meeting held on the 20th May, 2015 (Minute No.14.4(2) refers) to note the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee.

JOINT REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE & FRONTLINE SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

13. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES AND SALARIES – INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES' EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

In their joint report, the Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services and the Director, Legal & Democratic Services informed Members of the current position regarding both Members' salaries and allowances following the publication of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' Eighth Annual Report (the 'IRP Report') and sought the Council's approval for Members' salaries and allowances for the 2016/17 municipal year.

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

1. To note the current position with regard to Members' salaries and allowances following the Independent Remuneration Panel's ("the Panel") findings in its Eighth Annual Report;
2. To note the Leader of the Council's determination with regards to the level at which Executive (Cabinet) Members should be remunerated in accordance with the Executive Member remuneration bandings as detailed in paragraph 3.9 of the report.
3. That in accordance with the Committee Chair remuneration bandings as detailed in paragraph 3.12 of the report, Committee Chairs be remunerated at Level 1.
4. That in accordance with the remuneration bandings as detailed in paragraph 3.16 of the report, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be remunerated at Level 2.
5. To note the posts that attract a Senior Salary (up to a maximum of 19) as shown at Appendix 1 to the report.
6. That the 17 posts as shown at Appendix 2 to the report be paid a Senior Salary to the Level as shown at 3 above (i.e. Level 1) and to note that

should the Audit Committee not appoint the Lay Member as the Chair that the post will remain a non-salaried position.

7. To agree payments to co-opted Members continue to be capped at a maximum of the equivalent of 10 full days a year for each Committee to which an individual may be co-opted.
8. To agree that Members undertaking constituency duties shall not be included as an approved duty for the purposes of claiming travel allowances.
9. To reconfirm that subsistence claims for official business which takes place in-county shall not be reimbursed by the Council.
10. To note the publicity requirements of the IRP report that the Council will need to undertake in respect of the arrangements for the publication of the remuneration received by Members during the Municipal Year.
11. To note the query raised by a Member in relation that should a Member take Family Absence, how would the absence be recorded following the recommendations of the Standards Committee as outlined above (Minute No.9(7) above, when it was agreed that clarity would be sought from the IRP Panel and the matter be considered by the Democratic Services Committee.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

14. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Director, Legal and Democratic Services sought the approval of the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2016/17 municipal year, and it was **RESOLVED -**

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To agree the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

15. APPOINTMENTS TO NON-EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEES 2016/17

RESOLVED – That the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following non-executive Joint Committees for the 2016/17 Municipal Year:-

(a) Combined Fire Authority for South Wales

County Borough Councillors S.Bradwick, (Mrs.)S.Jones, B.Morgan and S.Pickering.

(b) Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)J.S.Ward

16. APPOINTMENTS TO THE POLICE CRIME PANEL 2016/17

RESOLVED – to appoint County Borough Councillors R.W.Smith and S.Rees-Owen to the Police Crime Panel for 2016/17.

17. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED – that the under-mentioned Members be appointed to the following Outside Bodies:-

Education & Lifelong Learning Group

1. Welsh Joint Education Committee (4 Year Term)

County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)E.Hanagan

2. Board of Governors – Coleg y Cymmoed (4 Year Term)

County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)E.Hanagan and Mr.C.Bradshaw (Officer)

Corporate & Frontline Services Group

1. Consortium Local Authority Wales (C.L.A.W.) (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillor G.Hopkins

2. Investment and Advisory Panel (Pensions)

No Members required to sit on this Panel as the Pensions Committee was established earlier on in the meeting (Minute No.9(5.1) refers)

3. Joint Council for Wales (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillors M.Webber and D.H.Williams

4. Welsh Local Government Association (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillors A.Crimmings, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.Hopkins, A.Morgan and M.Webber

5. Welsh Local Government Association Co-ordinating Committee (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillor A.Morgan and County Borough Councillor M.Webber (Substitute)

6. Wales Co-op Centre Board (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan.

7. Edward Thomas Charity (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillors A.Davies,MBE, R.Lewis, S.Pickering and (Mrs.)J.S.Ward.

8. The Alliance (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillors G.Thomas, (Mrs.)J.S.Ward and D.Weeks

9. Tower Site Liaison Committee (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillors H.Boggis, K.Morgan and G.Thomas

10. Reserve Forces & Cadets Association (4 Year Term)

County Borough Councillor C.Middle

11. South Wales Economic Forum (4 Year Term)

County Borough Councillor D.R.Bevan

12. Judges Hall Trust (4 Year Term)

County Borough Councillors (Mrs.)S.Jones, C.Middle and J.Rosser

13. Welsh Centre for International Affairs (4 Year Term)

County Borough Councillor S.Pickering

14. Allotments Society (4 Year Term)

County Borough Councillor S.Bradwick

15. Valuation Tribunal Wales – Appointments Panel

County Borough Councillor M.Webber

Community & Children's Services Group

1. Age Concern Cymru (Annual Term)

County Borough Councillor M.Forey

2. Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Committee

County Borough Councillor A.Morgan

3. Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Arts – Executive Committee

County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings

18. REVISED MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

In his report, the Director, Legal and Democratic Services advised Members that regulations made by Welsh Government have recently amended the Model Code of Conduct for Local Government Members. The Model Code of Conduct contains mandatory provisions which must be adopted in relation to Members and co-opted member of this Council with regards to its own Members' Code of Conduct.

He reported that as a result of the amendments the relevant legislation requires this Council to adopt a Code of Conduct in place of its existing Code of Conduct or revise its existing Code of Conduct by 26th July, 2016.

The Director, Legal and Democratic Services further advised Members that at following consideration of the proposed revisions to the Members' Code of Conduct at the meeting of the Council's Standards Committee held on the 28th April, 2016, the Committee wished to recommend to full Council the adoption of the revised Code of Conduct as shown at Appendix 1 to the report.

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

1. To note the recent changes to the `Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct` for Local Government Members as highlighted in the report; and
2. As a consequence of the changes to the Model Code of Conduct a revised Members' Code of Conduct as annexed at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted by this Council, reflecting those changes, with effect from the 26th May, 2016.

19. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, County Borough Councillor L.M.Adams presented to Members the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2015/16.

Councillor Adams reported that following the establishment of the new Scrutiny Committee Structure as agreed at last year's Annual Meeting of the Council it had been a learning curve for both Members and Officers as it was necessary to develop a sound basis on which to build robust Scrutiny Work Programmes which would be more outcome focussed.

He reported on the areas in which Scrutiny had developed a more outcome focus approach and areas that the underperforming areas that had been identified through close monitoring of the Council's quarterly Performance

reports which resulted in a number of referrals to the appropriate Scrutiny Committees for further review.

Improvements had also been made in pre decision scrutiny work in a number of areas such as the Draft Corporate Plan for 2016-2020 and the Draft Medium Term Strategic Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf Leisure Services 2015-2020. To assist Non-Executive Scrutiny Members in the pre-scrutiny agenda, the improved Cabinet Work Programme has resulted in all reports being presented to Cabinet which now make reference to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee, thus enabling Scrutiny Members to co-ordinate their future Work Programmes.

In conclusion, Councillor Adams wished to thank the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees and the Audit Committee for their enthusiasm and commitment in working under the new arrangements and also to the Members and co-opted Member of the Committees who have supported and embraced the new way of working as learning from the experiences under the new arrangements will further improve the effectiveness of scrutiny within Rhondda Cynon Taf throughout 2016/17 and beyond.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the Scrutiny Annual Report of 2015/16.

20. URGENT ITEM – CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP TO RCT HOMES BOARD

With the permission of the Deputy Mayor, the Cabinet Member for Council Business and Human Resources reported that following changes to the Cabinet made by the Leader and reported earlier on in the meeting (Minute No.8 refers) County Borough Councillor who now has responsibility for Housing would replace County Borough Councillor K.Montague on RCT Homes and that County Borough Councillor B.Stephens was to replace County Borough Councillor J.Elliott; and it was **RESOLVED** – accordingly.

**B.STEPHENS
RETIRING MAYOR**

**R.LEWIS
MAYOR**

**C.MIDDLE
DEPUTY MAYOR**

The meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.

These Minutes are subject to approval at the next Council Meeting