

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 Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 2nd April, 2014 at 2 p.m.

Present:

County Borough Councillor R.Lewis – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

A.Roberts (Vice-Chair), J.Elliott, J.Rosser and M.Webber

Officers in Attendance

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

Ms.K.May – Democratic Services Manager

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors P.Jarman and R.K.Turner.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor J.Rosser declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 3 – Presentation from Mr.Vince Hanly, Service Director, Procurement “Contract Procedure Rules” – *“Organisation I work for currently has a Tender Contract with Cultural Services and is also on the Alitto system for some youth activities”*.

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee held on the 14th February, 2014, subject to Minute No.8 reading 10th October (and not 10th November).

12. MATTERS ARISING – MINUTE NO.8

At the meeting the Director, Legal & Democratic Services verbally reported that there were continuing problems being experienced with inputting information into the Exari software, which was being replicated throughout Wales. However, Bond Dickinson’s had recently reported that the problem had been resolved.

RESOLVED – to note the information and that Members be provided with an update at the next meeting of this Committee.

13. PRESENTATION

The Committee received Mr.Vince Hanly, Service Director, Procurement, who with the aid of PowerPoint slides gave his observations under the following headings:

- New EU Directives (including threshold values)
- Governance Arrangements
- Contributing to Council Strategy & Policy
- Supporting Economic Development & Regeneration
- Delivering Smarter Procurement
- Collaborating to Maximise Benefits
- Contract Procedure Rules

In respect of the Contract Procedure Rules, it was reported that these must be kept under continuous review to ensure they reflect changes in contracting and best practice and should be read in conjunction with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and Scheme of Delegation as contained within the Council's Constitution.

The Procurement Unit have recently been working to amend the Contract Procedure Rules in line with the WLGA model and other guidelines and were presented to Members for their consideration prior to the proposed amendments being reported to the Council's AGM on the 21st May, 2014.

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

1. To note the proposed amendments to be made to the Contract Procedure Rules, which are to be reported to the Council's AGM on the 21st May, 2014.
2. That copies of the PowerPoint slides and the Council's Procurement Strategy be emailed to Members of this Committee, following today's meeting.

14. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 (COMMENCEMENT NO.3) ORDER 2014 – REMOTE ATTENDANCE

In his report, the Director, Legal & Democratic Services informed Members of the Commencement Order (as shown at Appendix 1 to the report) which came into force on the 28th February, 2014 in respect of Section 4 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, which makes provision regarding remote attendance by Members of a local authority at meetings of the authority.

The Director, Legal & Democratic Services gave the background to this matter whereby at the meeting of Council held on the 24th July, 2013, Members gave consideration to the Welsh Government's Consultation Document relating to Remote Attendance, which was duly responded to by the deadline of the 21st August, 2013.

In view of the fact that Commencement Order in respect of Remote Attendance came into effect on the 28th February, 2014 without the assistance of Statutory Guidance from the Welsh Government, Members were advised that the information could only be noted at this state in time and that the Council's Constitution be amended on receipt of the guidance.

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

1. To note that the Commencement Order (as shown at Appendix 1 to the report) came into force on the 28th February, 2014 in respect of Section 4 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, which makes provision about remote attendance by Members of a local authority at meetings of the authority.
2. That a recommendation be made at a future meeting of the Council, that the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly on receipt of the final Statutory Guidance in respect of remote attendance from the Welsh Government.

R.LEWIS

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 3 p.m.

