

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-2015

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE &
CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
27TH April 2015**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE SERVICE
DIRECTOR CABINET OFFICE AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS AND DIRECTOR
OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC
SERVICES**

Agenda Item No. 3

**NOTICE OF MOTION –
COUNCIL MEETING – 25TH MARCH
2015**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' consideration to the Notice of Motion that was presented to the meeting of the Council on the 25th March 2015 .

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the statutory framework concerning the role of the Council's Chairman (the 'Mayor') and their current role and responsibilities.
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to make any recommendations to it's the Annual General Meeting in respect of the future role and responsibilities of the Mayor.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall the following Notice of Motion that was presented to Council on the 25th March 2015 standing in the names of County Borough Councillors R.Lewis, B.Stephens, L.M.Adams, (Mrs.)T.Bates, D.R.Bevan, H.Boggis, J.Bonetto, S.A.Bradwick, (Mrs.)J.Bunnage, A.Calvert, P.Cannon,QPM, S.Carter, (Mrs.)J.Cass, (Mrs.)A.Crimmings, W.J.David, A.L.Davies MBE, (Mrs.)A.Davies, J.Davies, (Mrs.)M.E.Davies, (Mrs.)L.De Vet, J.Elliott, S.Evans, M.Forey, A.S.Fox, M.Griffiths, P.Griffiths, (Mrs.)E.Hanagan, G.Holmes, G.E.Hopkins, (Mrs.)S.J.Jones, W.L.Langford, (Mrs.)C.Leyshon, S.Lloyd, C.J.Middle, K.Montague, A.Morgan, B.Morgan, M.A.Norris, S.Pickering, S.Powderhill, K.A.Privett, S.Rees, (Mrs.)A.Roberts, J.Rosser, G.Smith, R.W.Smith, G.Stacey, (Mrs.)M.Tegg, R.K.Turner, G.Thomas, (Mrs.)J.S.Ward, M.J.Watts, M.Webber, W.D.Weeks, C.J.Williams, D.H.Williams, T.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo:

“This Council notes the work undertaken by the Mayor as First Citizen of the County Borough including the contribution made through charity funding raising activity that has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for worthy causes.

This Council reconsiders the role and functions of the Mayor of the Council as defined in the 1972 Local Government Act.

That the role of the Mayor should be revised as in, the role and responsibilities it holds within the Council. Such changes could include the reduction/removal of ceremonial activity to support the on-going efficiencies being made by the Council.

Furthermore, the function of chairing the Constitution Committee of the Council could also form part of this new role. This and other changes should be considered by the Constitution Committee with any recommendations being reflected at the Council’s Annual General Meeting.”

3.2 It was resolved at that meeting to adopt the Notice of Motion.

3.3 In order to consider whether the role and responsibilities of the Mayor should be revised it is important to understand the relevant statutory provisions which allow the Chair of the Council the entitlement to use the style of Mayor.

4. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

4.1 The relevant provisions concerning the appointment of the Council’s Chairman are found in the Local Government Act 1972.

4.2 The Council must appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman both of whom must be elected annually at the AGM and cannot be members of the Cabinet. The Chairman of the Council is entitled to the style of “Mayor”. The Council must also appoint a member of the Council to be Vice-Chairman of the Council. The Vice-Chairman of the Council is entitled to the style of “Deputy Mayor”.

4.3 It is a statutory requirement that the Chairman must chair Council meetings (and in his/her absence the Vice-Chair).

4.4 Previously the Council has determined that the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Council use the titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively.

4.5 Remuneration of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council (if paid) must be made in accordance with the Independent Remuneration Panel For Wales Regulations.

4.6 The Council may decide not to apply any civic salary to the posts of civic head (i.e. its Chairman/Mayor) and deputy civic head (its Vice-Chair/Deputy Mayor). However (where paid) civic salaries within three bands (see 4.6 below) are payable and must be applied by the Council as it considers appropriate, taking

account of the anticipated workloads and responsibilities. The posts of civic head and deputy civic head are not included in the Senior Salary cap of 19.

- 4.7 The below is based on the determinations as set out in the 2015/2016 Independent Remuneration Panel Report: -

Remuneration of civic heads and deputy civic heads (*inclusive of basic salaries*)

<u>Band</u>	<u>Civic heads</u>	<u>Deputy civic heads</u>
a)	£24,000	£18,000
b)	£21,500	£16,000
c)	£19,000	£14,000

- 4.8 For the current Municipal Year Council determined that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be remunerated at 'band b'.

5. THE MAYOR'S CURRENT ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 Under Article 5 of the Council's Constitution the Mayor has the following role, functions and responsibilities.

5.2 Role and function of the Mayor

The Mayor of the Council and in his/her absence, the Deputy Mayor has the following roles and functions;

(a) Ceremonial Role

The Mayor of the Council:

- (i) is the civic leader of Rhondda Cynon Taff;
- (ii) promotes the interests and reputation of the Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff as a whole and acts as an ambassador for both; and
- (iii) undertakes civic, community and ceremonial activities and fosters community identity and pride.

(b) Responsibilities of the Mayor

- (i) to uphold and promote the purpose of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;
- (ii) to preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out fairly and efficiently and with regard to the rights of Councillors and the interests of the community;
- (iii) to ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community and the place at which Members who are not on the Executive are able to hold the Cabinet and Committee Chairmen to account;
- (iv) to promote public involvement in the Council's activities;
- (v) to be the conscience of the Council; and

- (vi) to attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and he/she determines appropriate.
- (vii) to carry out duties as required under The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013.

- 5.3
- Each year the Mayor selects three charities to support. A range of events are then scheduled each year to raise funds for the chosen charities.
- The Mayor also hosts and attends a number of Civic events throughout the year which are financially supported via the Mayoral budget.

6. POSSIBLE CHANGES TO ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 It is worth noting that in Welsh Government's White Paper – Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People, which is currently out for consultation, Welsh Government have stated that they recognise that the Council Chair or Mayor plays an important civic role undertaking ceremonial duties. In the White Paper they indicate they intend to make legal provision that any of the new Councils should be able to nominate the Chair of the Council as Mayor so, in their view, this important function may continue. Currently it is only County Borough Councils whose Chairman are entitled to use the style of Mayor (unless a County or City Council had powers to appoint local officers of dignity exercisable immediately before 1st April 1996).
- 6.2 Given the current financial climate, the Council has already agreed reductions to the Mayoral budget for 2014/15 and 2015/16. However it may be appropriate to reduce the annual budget for the Mayor further and review the number and scale of Civic events to focus more exclusively on fundraising events in support of the Mayor's chosen charities. The Mayor's annual budget is currently used to support charity events as well as Civic events such as Civic Sunday Ceremony and Dinner, the Civic Heads Dinner and Consorts Day.
- 6.3 As noted above it is the Mayor's responsibility to uphold and promote the purpose of the Council's Constitution and to interpret the Constitution when necessary. Given this important role to champion the Constitution it would seem appropriate that the Mayor (as the Council's Chair) also chair the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee and that the Deputy Mayor be nominated as the Vice-Chair of the Committee. It is suggested the Mayor not be separately remunerated for undertaking this function but rather it be included as part of the remuneration (if any) paid to the Mayor for the overall performance of his/her duties as civic head and Council chairman.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 In light of the above Members are asked to give consideration to whether or not the role and responsibilities of the Chairman ('Mayor') of the Council should be revised and what recommendations they wish to make (if any) to the Council's Annual General Meeting in respect of such changes.

