

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013-2014

**COUNCIL
15TH JANUARY, 2014**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL
AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

	Agenda Item No.7
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION – THE FAMILY ABSENCE FOR MEMBERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES (WALES) REGULATIONS 2013	

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek Members agreement that the amendments to be made to various parts of the Council's Constitution to take account of The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013, which came into force in December, 2013 be considered by the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee and the recommendations therefrom be reported to Council for approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee be requested to consider the proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution, to take account of The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013, prior to submission to Council for approval.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members may recall that at the Council Meeting held on the 8th May, 2013, consideration was given to the response to be made to the Welsh Government's Consultation document - The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013, which in accordance with Section 30 of the provisions of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 introduces an entitlement to a period of family absence for Members of County Borough Councils, during which a Member a Member is entitled to be absent from authority meetings. (For ease of reference a copy of the consultation document and Regulations as reported to Council on the 8th May, 2013 are attached at Appendix 1).
- 3.2 At that Council meeting, Members took on board the comments of the Democratic Services Committee following its meeting held on the 3rd April,

2013 and the Council's response was made by the deadline of the 14th June, 2013.

- 3.3 Whilst The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 came into force on the 5th December, 2013 as shown at Appendix 2 to this report, where Members will note that "*the functions in question cannot be the responsibility of an authority's executive*"; the final guidance is still awaited from the Welsh Government.

4 **CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 As no applications have been received under The Family Absence for Members of Local Authorities (Wales) Regulations 2013 and that final guidance is still awaited, the proposed amendments to various parts of the Council's Constitution be considered by the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee prior to submission to Council for approval.

Council - 15.01.14

Local Government Act 1972

As Amended by

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Council

15th January 2014

Report of Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Background Papers

Freestanding Matter

