



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE SUMMONS

C Hanagan
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: Julia Nicholls - Democratic Services (01443 424098)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a hybrid meeting of **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2023** at **4.00 PM.**

It is the intention to live stream this meeting, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

AGENDA

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No's**

TIME	ITEM	PAGE(S)
5 Minutes	ITEM 1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive disclosures of personal interests from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.	
5 Minutes	ITEM 2. ANNOUNCEMENTS	
5 Minutes	ITEM 3. MINUTES To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Council Meetings held on the 12 th July 2023.	5 - 26
OPEN GOVERNMENT:		

10 Minutes	ITEM 4. STATEMENTS In accordance with Open Government Council Meeting Procedure Rule 2, to receive any statements from the Leader of the Council and/or statements from Cabinet Portfolio Holders:	
20 Minutes	ITEM 5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS To receive Members questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2. (N.B a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for questions on notice.)	27 - 34
COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME - FOR MEMBERS INFORMATION Council Work Programme 2023/24		
OFFICERS' REPORTS		
15 Minutes	ITEM 6. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 - 2026/27 To receive a report from Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services providing an update on the Medium-Term Financial Plan	35 - 44
10 Minutes	ITEM 7. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S TERMS & CONDITIONS To receive the joint report of the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services and Director of Human Resources.	45 - 48
10 Minutes	ITEM 8. COUNCIL INVESTMENT PRIORITIES To receive the report of the Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services.	49 - 54
10 Minutes	ITEM 9. MULTI LOCATION MEETING POLICY (MLM) To consider the Council's draft Multi Location Meeting Policy (MLM).	55 - 70
10 Minutes	ITEM 10. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE -OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE To consider the joint report of the Chief Executive, the Director of Legal Services and Democratic Services and the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication.	71 - 82
10 Minutes	ITEM 11. CHANGE TO OUTSIDE BODY MEMBERSHIP To receive the report of the Service Director Democratic Services & Communication.	83 - 88

<p>10 Minutes</p>	<p>ITEM 12. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES</p> <p>To receive the joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Human Resources.</p>	<p>89 - 90</p>
	<p>ITEM 13. URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>To consider any items which the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.</p>	

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

To: All Members of the Council

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 12 July 2023 at 4.00 pm.

This meeting was live streamed, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present in the Council Chamber:-

Councillor G Hughes (Chair)

Councillor Sheryl Evans	Councillor B Stephens
Councillor R Bevan	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor G Caple
Councillor J Cook	Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor R Davis	Councillor J Edwards
Councillor L Ellis	Councillor S Emanuel
Councillor G Jones	Councillor B Harris
Councillor W Jones	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor W Hughes
Councillor C Leyshon	Councillor G O Jones
Councillor C Lises	Councillor M Maohoub
Councillor C Middle	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor C Preedy
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor S Rees
Councillor L Tomkinson	Councillor J Smith
Councillor M Webber	Councillor G Warren
	Councillor R Yeo

The following Councillors were present online:-

Councillor M Ashford	Councillor J Barton
Councillor V Dunn	Councillor A Dennis
Councillor A S Fox	Councillor R Evans
Councillor D Evans	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor S Hickman	Councillor H Gronow
Councillor G Hopkins	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor D Parkin	Councillor C Preedy
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor A Rogers
Councillor K Webb	Councillor D Williams
Councillor T Williams	Councillor R Williams
	Councillor D Wood

Officers in attendance

Mr P Mee, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Group Director of Finance, Digital & Frontline Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr S Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services and Democratic Services

Officers from Trivallis

Mr D Forbes, Chief Executive
Mr N Beckett, Chair of the Board
Mr K Montague, Executive Director of Communities
Ms L Pinney, Executive Director of Resources
Mr D Davies, Corporate Director, Repairs
Ms T Hawkins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods

Apologies for absence

Councillor L Addiscott	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor E L Dunning	Councillor A J Ellis
Councillor P Evans	Councillor S Evans
Councillor K Johnson	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor N H Morgan	Councillor M Norris
Councillor W Owen	Councillor S Powderhill
Councillor M Powell	Councillor G E Williams

23 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations were made pertaining to the agenda:

County Borough Councillor C Middle declared a personal interest – “I have been appointed by the Council to the Board of Trivallis but this has not yet been endorsed by Trivallis”.

County Borough Councillor S Emmanuel declared a personal and prejudicial interest- “I am a paid employee of Trivallis and I will preclude myself for the remainder of the this item”

County Borough Councillor A S Fox declared a personal interest – “My partner works for the organisation presenting at the meeting”.

24 Trivallis

The Presiding Member introduced the representatives from Trivallis and advised Members that they will be covering items as indicated on the agenda.

The Chief Executive, Mr D Forbes introduced himself and his colleagues Mr N Beckett, Chair of the Board, Mr K Montague, Executive Director of Communities, Ms L Pinney, Executive Director Finance & Resources as well as other colleagues who were present to answer any queries relating to their specific roles.

The Chief Executive provided an overview of the key areas they intended on addressing with Members such as service challenges, capacity for investment and successes. He advised that the team at Corporate Director level is new which was now clear in its roles and its intention to forge good relationships with its external partners such as the Council.

Through the aid of PowerPoint slides the Chief Executive and attending

representatives presented an overview of key matters under the following headings:

- How far we have come
- Challenges – Repairs
- Challenges – Neighbourhoods & Support Services
- Improved Services
- Supporting Growth in RCT
- Communications

Following the presentation, the Leader of the Council thanked the representatives of Trivallis for attending Full Council. The Leader stressed the importance of Trivallis fostering good relationships with Elected Members who are accountable to their residents and who need to raise concerns, from time to time, with Trivallis.

The Leader commented that issues relating to anti-social behaviour had previously been difficult to the point where he felt Trivallis has lost control of its Estates in certain areas, but recent work involving the Police, RCT Council and other partners to directly address the serious anti-social behaviour concerns has brought about improvements (although the Leader acknowledged there were some areas which still required attention).

The Leader referred to the following concerns, an open and unaddressed backlog of maintenance and repairs, response times, financial and operational issues, general estate management and he added that key to resolving these issues is that Trivallis builds and maintains relationships with Elected Members. He commented that following an extensive period of time where concerns have been raised with Trivallis and following discussions between the Council and Welsh Government, fundamental questions would need to be raised by the Council should improvements in these areas not be forthcoming. However, the Leader felt confident that this would not be the case, with the new senior leadership team in place and with the commitment of improved communication between the two organisations.

The Chief Executive, Mr D Forbes responded to the queries raised by the Leader and he stressed that relationships with Elected Members would be strengthened in areas such as the planned walkabouts with Trivallis Officers and local Members to improve collaboration between the two partners.

The Presiding Member opened up the opportunity for questions from the Group Leaders (or nominated Members).

County Borough Councillor W Jones raised concern about a specific case within his ward which the Executive Director of Communities advised would be addressed following the meeting.

The Group Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor S Trask asked whether Housing Officers from Trivallis could attend the PACT meetings in his ward to

listen and address tenant's issues in person. He added that queries are currently not being resolved and response times are between 2-3 weeks. The Executive Director of Communities gave his personal commitment that a Neighbourhood Area Manager would attend the PACT meetings in the future as listening to people was of the utmost importance.

At this point in the proceedings, the Presiding Member announced that the Council meeting at 5pm would commence at 5.15pm in order to allow all Members the opportunity to put their questions to Trivallis. The following Members posed questions as follows:

Councillor S Rees, as Chair of the Planning & Development Committee commented that the committee face significant public opposition to many of the housing proposals from Trivallis which can be, on times hostile. Where communities are accepting social housing they often ask that the letting policy ensures that tenants are over 55 years old. How does Trivallis engage with local people to ensure appropriate locations and housing types is provided and how do they win over hearts and minds to buy into Trivallis developments?

Councillor A Rogers thanked Trivallis for hosting an event in his ward in April where they offered advice on the cost-of-living crisis to local residents. However, he pointed out that the response to residents' queries is frustrating and asked what arrangements are in place to record and track queries and are reference numbers used as proof as what needs to be actioned?

Councillor D Owen-Jones raised concern regarding the cleanliness of the estates in his ward and commented that the Council is tasked with removing unwanted furniture from alleyways and car parks. Can Trivallis rectify this longstanding problem, the disrepair and collapsing garages and the kitchen/bathroom project which is five years behind target.

The Executive Director of Communities advised that environmental issues and fly tipping are a priority for Trivallis. He added that Trivallis has established a cross organisational working group to address these issues, managing rubbish and gardens on the Estates and being more proactive with enforcement and at the design stages for new developments such as the location of bin stores. He confirmed that Trivallis receives over 1,000 complaints a year concerning the state of gardens, issues which can relate to lifestyle or resident's vulnerabilities. He advised that Councillor Owen-Jones use the dedicated Member enquiries line to ensure the appropriate level of engagement is in place between him and his local area coordinator.

The Executive Director of Communities advised that Trivallis uses the dynamic system, which is a Microsoft system, to log and record all queries with written correspondence being provided to all tenants. To improve the service and particularly for tenants under the age of 55 years old, Trivallis is looking to develop a tenant's app, which will be rolled out in September this year to enable queries to be recorded online and for tenants to be able track their repairs at their leisure. However, work is still being conducted to enhance the call centre experience and written correspondence times for those who choose not to use the app.

The Executive Director of Communities advised that there is opposition to social housing, Trivallis is led by the market needs assessment that the local authority provides and subsequently what is built is in direct response to the local needs

of the community. He added that Trivallis responds to the local need and that has to be evidenced as part of the planned development programme. He commented that as much pre-engagement is undertaken as possible but acknowledged that much more can be done to settle tenants and integrate them into the community through local community groups and through the local authority.

Councillor C Lises thanked Trivallis for their presentation and for their most recent publication and communication with all Elected Members. Councillor Lises highlighted the apology that Trivallis has issued within its publication and hoped this would be extended through its communication with its tenants. Councillor Lises also welcomed the forthcoming tenants app.

Councillor A Roberts asked why does Trivallis have the highest rate of social housing rent in Wales, in one of the poorest areas of Wales?

Councillor D Williams raised two concerns, the first around the six garages that were built by Trivallis at the same time as the community centre 12 years ago but still remain empty, despite requests from the centre to use them for storage. The second concern about the garages to the rear of the club in Glyncoch which are in disrepair and attract anti-social behaviour on a regular basis. Councillor Williams stated that the garages were due to be demolished two years ago but are still in place and are the cause of much anti-social behaviour.

Councillor M Webber commented that throughout Covid, she engaged regularly with all other Housing Associations except Trivallis at a time when communication was crucial. She commented that five years ago, she contacted Trivallis about the poor state of garages in her ward, to be told that they were soon undertaking a garage review, but they remain empty and in the same poor state of repair. Councillor Webber also raised concern about issues relating to cavity wall insulation and stressed the importance of Trivallis engaging with Elected Members. In view of her own experiences, she concluded that there is still work to do, to improve communication and partnership working.

The Executive Director of Communities apologised for the lack of contact in responding to Councillor's Webber's complaint and he outlined the measures in place to address these issues going forward. He advised that over the next few months Trivallis would be looking to recruit an officer whose role would be to co-ordinate the community development activities. He advised that there would be an update with regards to two key common issues which had been raised in the meeting by Members, namely garages and cavity wall insulation.

Councillor G Hopkins raised a query in respect of the role Trivallis plays in the community common housing register and he asked, as a vital partner in the scheme what underpins it and can Trivallis suggest any ways it can be improved?

Councillor J Barton made the point that the Tenants App will not be appropriate for elderly tenants and asked what strategy Trivallis has in place for those long-term tenants having to deal with new, disruptive tenants who often make their lives a misery?

Councillor J Smith asked what policy does Trivallis have in place regarding fly tipping and issues around the creation of rat runs in gardens?

The Executive Director of Communities advised that it is in the tenants' agreement that they keep their garden in a good state of repair, but tenants can struggle due to ill health or a disability, but some tenants choose not to abide by the agreement at all. He commented that a more proactive approach needs to be adopted, so that problems can be identified early and support provided to navigate residents through their difficulties. He added that some barriers could be 'designed out' in the early design stages of new developments.

The Director advised that Trivallis has recently appointed two new officers to assist with response times, to deal with queries quickly and efficiently. In respect of the query regarding the common allocations policy, the Director confirmed that the relationship with the local authority is very good in managing the housing allocation and due to issues around mental health, cost of living crisis and the need for temporary accommodation, the allocation process requires a balanced approach, to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable tenants is met against sustainable communities. He suggested that it will be a challenge, but a joint approach will be required.

In conclusion, the Chief Executive, Mr D Forbes thanked Members for their engagement and questions, some of which would be addressed outside the meeting. He noted from the issues raised that the importance of the interaction on the estates is critical between the neighbourhood manager, neighbourhood coordinators and Elected Members and the engagement they have with their residents to overcome issues such as anti-social behaviour. He added that in certain cases it is balance, trying to support neighbours in a mediation role especially with covid and the cost-of-living crisis impacting and sometimes worsening existing issues within the neighbourhoods.

The Leader reiterated his thanks to the team from Trivallis as he noted common issues raised by Elected Members and the subsequent wider issues which would require improvements from Trivallis. The Leader emphasised the importance of making progress on key areas of concern but made it clear that these areas cannot be allowed to regress, that the issues experienced over the last 17 years need to be addressed and that the local authority will work closely with Trivallis to progress and deliver for Trivallis tenants across the county borough.

The Presiding Member thanked the representatives from Trivallis for their attendance and advised Members that any further questions can be passed on to them via the Council Business Unit.

This meeting closed at 5.00 pm

**Councillor G Hughes
Chair.**

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 12 July 2023 at 5.15 pm.

This meeting was live streamed, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present in the Council Chamber:-

Councillor G Hughes (Chair)

Councillor S Evans	Councillor B Stephens
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor R Bevan
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor G Caple
Councillor J Cook	Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor E Dunning	Councillor R Davis
Councillor S Emanuel	Councillor J Edwards
Councillor G Jones	Councillor L Ellis
Councillor W Jones	Councillor B Harris
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor G Holmes
Councillor C Lises	Councillor W Hughes
Councillor C Middle	Councillor G O Jones
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor C Leyshon
Councillor A Morgan	Councillor M Maohoub
Councillor S Rees	Councillor C Preedy
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor J Smith
Councillor S Trask	Councillor L Tomkinson
Councillor M Webber	Councillor G Warren
	Councillor R Yeo

The following Councillors were present online:-

Councillor J Barton	Councillor P Binning
Councillor A Dennis	Councillor M Ashford
Councillor V Dunn	Councillor S J Davies
Councillor R Evans	Councillor D Evans
Councillor H Gronow	Councillor S Hickman
Councillor R Lewis	Councillor J Elliott
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor Sera Evans
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor K Webb	Councillor A S Fox
Councillor T Williams	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor R Williams	Councillor D Parkin
Councillor A Rogers	Councillor A Roberts
Councillor D Wood	Councillor D Williams

Officers in attendance

Mr P Mee, Chief Executive
Mr B Davies, Group Director of Finance, Digital & Frontline Services

Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr S Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services and Democratic Services

Apologies for absence

Councillor L Addiscott	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor A J Ellis	Councillor P Evans
Councillor K Johnson	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor N H Morgan	Councillor W Owen
Councillor M Norris	Councillor S Powderhill
Councillor G E Williams	Councillor M Powell

26 Welcome

The Presiding Member welcomed Members to the hybrid Council meeting at the later start time of 5.15pm.

27 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations were made pertaining to the agenda and a declaration in relation to agenda item 5 was declared later in the meeting (Minute 31 refers):

Agenda item 7-Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2022 - 2037- Update on National and Regional Planning Matters and Approval for A Delivery Agreement and Timetable Amendment for The Continued Preparation of the RLDP

County Borough Councillor W Lewis declared a personal interest –“My employer Hafod Housing Association is mentioned in the report and also the Scout Association, of which I am a member.”

Agenda Item 10-Urgent Notice of Motion

County Borough Councillor W Hughes declared a personal and prejudicial interest (I will leave the meeting for the duration of this item) -“My wife manages homecare.”

County Borough Councillor G Hughes declared a personal and prejudicial interest (I will leave the meeting for the duration of this item and vacate the Chair for County Borough Councillor B Stephens, the Deputy Presiding Member, to take the item) – “My mother works for the homecare service.”

28 Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the hybrid Council meeting held on the 14th June 2023 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

29 Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- The Leader announced the sad passing of former Group Director, Mr George Jones. He described Mr Jones as an excellent Officer, polite and friendly and a 'gentle giant.' Sadly, Mr Jones had retired a few years earlier due to ill health. The Leader, on behalf of the Council expressed his sorrow and wished to extend his condolences to the family of Mr George Jones.
- On behalf of Councillor S Morgans, County Borough Councillor J Smith wished to congratulate years 1 and 2 of Maerdy Primary School for their success in winning the 2023 Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative nationwide competition at foundation phase. From 6,000 entries, Years 1 and 2 won the annual heritage project competition with their presentation entitled 'Made and Moulded in Maerdy'.

30 Statements

The Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A Morgan OBE advised that he has requested the Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services, as part of his mid-year review of the Council's position in respect of its underspends and reserves, to bring forward any available packages of funding to support residents and the 3rd sector ahead of the forthcoming winter months. He added that if available, he would like to see the Council bring forward a multi-million package of funding to assist residents and families in any way possible with the cost-of-living crisis and the subsequent impact on child poverty.

31 The Council Work Programme 2023/24

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications confirmed that this would be the last scheduled Council meeting ahead of the summer recess with the next Full Council meeting to be held on the 20th September 2023 at 5pm. He added that as there are a considerable number of business items scheduled at that meeting, there may be a need to reflect on the proposed flow of business items across the council meetings throughout the autumn, which will be done in consultation with the Group Leaders as appropriate.

The Service Director advised that following recent notification of the Members development and training opportunities, the training sessions would be implemented at an opportune time and in response to Members' feedback.

32 Members' Questions

1) Question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

"Will the Leader update on the commitment to fund 10 PCSOs in RCT and provide an overview of how the Community Wardens service is benefitting our communities?"

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

The Leader advised that the 10 PCSO's and are working well in with the fourteen community wardens in support of South Wales Police. He added that they will not replace the role of the Police as they provide a visible and

reassuring presence in key locations across the communities such as town centres and parks. Public feedback has been extremely positive to date and reports from businesses and local residents commenting that their presence is having a positive effect on perceptions of community safety.

The Leader commented that they help to uphold the Council's PSPOs, such as helping to secure compliance with the ban on dogs on marked sports pitches and the alcohol related PSPO's in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres. However, their role is one of assurance. Currently there are 14 Wardens in total – including 2 Senior Wardens – and they work up to 7 days a week in shifts with the service running between 14/15 hours per day.

The Leader urged Members to report any issues relating to anti-social behaviour through the usual channels, via the Members Services inbox and the Community Safety teams or via the Police. In conclusion, the Leader commented that it was one of the core manifesto commitments of the RCT Labour Group which has been implemented.

There was no supplementary question

2. Question from County Borough Councillor D. Parkin to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

“Will the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the progress of play area improvements across the County Borough?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:

Councillor Crimmings was pleased to confirm that the Council's programme of play area upgrades and improvements has picked up from where it left off and continued over the start of the new Council term. She explained that every year since 2015 the Council has delivered significant investment programmes in this area – in recognition of the immense benefits that outdoor play opportunities afford our young people in encouraging their development and imagination.

Councillor Crimmings advised that 166 of the 217 play areas have been invested in over that period - which equates to 76.5% of the stock - so over 3/4s of the play facilities have received improvements through an overall investment programme of £6m. Some of these facilities have had “Phase 2” works undertaken due to partial investments or kit needing to be replaced at later dates, so there have been 186 total projects undertaken.

In conclusion, Councillor Crimmings advised that for this current 2023/24 financial year, 10 projects have been identified for a total of £341,000 of investment to include the Tyn-Y-Bryn play area in Councillor Parkin's ward which is one of those facilities scheduled for improvement.

There was no supplementary question.

3) Question from County Borough Councillor S. Emanuel to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“Can the Leader provide an update on the progress of the South Wales Metro?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

The Leader commented that considerable progress has been made by Transport for Wales over the last 4 months in particular. The Integrated Control Centre in Taff's Well has officially opened and the new Metro vehicle was introduced on the line. He advised that night-time testing on the electric-battery tram-trains, which will be operating on the Treherbert and Aberdare lines, is underway. This testing is prior to the commencement of the training for train operatives and they will operate from the £100m Taff's Well depot.

The Leader explained that the first section of rail between Cardiff and Pontypridd electrified towards the end of May, and track upgrades have taken place at locations across the Core Valley Line to prepare for the new tram-trains. The transformation programme for the Treherbert Line began at the end of April 2023 with the palisade fencing installed and construction of under track crossings throughout the route. At Dinas Rhondda station, a new platform is being constructed as the railway line will be doubled through the station. A new Access for All bridge, with lift and step access to both platforms, is also being installed.

The Leader commented that safety messages have been issued via Facebook from Transport for Wales in respect of the electrification of the lines, in order to keep communities safe.

There was no supplementary question.

4) Question from County Borough Councillor A. J. Dennis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“What support and signposting services are available to residents in regard to the cost-of-living crisis?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

The Leader advised that there will be further packages of support in the Autumn but to date through the micro grant scheme, there are opportunities for further funding for community groups and a substantial number of applications have been received. He added that the impact of sustained austerity and now the cost-of-living crisis means that unfortunately food banks are necessary to support residents, there is extensive work being undertaken through food pantries, food and fun clubs and through the process of bulk buying of stock through the Council's procurement service.

The Leader commented on the success of the Hubs last winter and the support that is provided to residents via the Councils' libraries and community centres for

those impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. He added that helping residents to socialise and offering them a safe and warm place to meet will be crucial particularly in view of the rising energy and fuel costs. He stressed that the Council would continue to provide as support as necessary, particularly to the 3rd sector.

There was no supplementary question.

5) Question from County Borough Councillor S. Morgans to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:

“Following the granting of planning approval, can the Cabinet Member outline the next steps for the development of a brand-new school in Ferndale for YGG Llyn-Y-Forwyn?”

Response from County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:

Councillor Lewis advised that works have already started on site to create a new Welsh Medium Primary School for YGG Llyn y Forwyn. To date, significant remediation works have been completed and the appointed construction contractor, Wynne Construction, are on-site and are progressing with the site clearance and ‘cut and fill’ works. The building structure is targeted to commence in September 2023.

Councillor Lewis commented that targeted completion for the new school (the building itself) is August 2024, in readiness for the new academic year of September 2024. Importantly, Wynne Construction have recently visited the school to give a Health and Safety talk to the pupils around site safety and the dangers of a live construction site. They have also launched a poster competition where pupils from various year groups will design a safety poster, and a selection of these will be displayed around the construction site hoarding.

There was no supplementary question.

6) Question from County Borough Councillor D. R. Bevan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“Will the Leader update on the progress of the Tylorstown tip works?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

The Leader advised that due to the prolonged dry spell the Tylorstown Tip works is continuing to progress well since the main earthworks started in April 2023 moving 160,000 tonnes of material by the contractors. He commented that recently he accompanied the First Minister and other Welsh Government officials to the site to see first-hand, the work being undertaken.

He explained that there will be further works over the coming months and work on the site will be completed before the winter period but it will need to be

monitored over the winter months to assess how the rainfall impacts the mountain and if required further additional and modification works will be necessary. Works for completion of the project include finishing the finalised profiles, installing and repairing drainage infrastructure and restoring the site.

The Leader was pleased to announce that since the major landslide in RCT (which was one of the most significant landslips in Welsh history), the site is now safe and subject to completion this year the site can be put to rest. In conclusion, the Leader announced that a significant bid has been submitted to Welsh Government for further tip work, to enable intervention in other sites.

There was no supplementary question.

7) Question from County Borough Councillor W. Lewis to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“How is the Council working with and supporting local food banks through the effects of the Cost-of-Living crisis?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

The Leader reiterated that the Council has provided direct support to the local foodbanks and through the Council’s purchasing powers over recent years. Through the micro grants, the Leader added that seventy-five projects and community groups have been approved and will commence delivery shortly, some include holiday and other food provision. The well-established Neighbourhood Network Fund delivers grants of up to £1,000 to community organisations and groups. The Leader commented that the SPF – RCTCBC Community Micro Grant, which opens shortly, contains an allocation of circa £40k specifically for sustainable food provision, which was secured by the Council to meet increasing demands.

The Leader acknowledged the small team led by Syd Dennis for their tireless work with the community connectors, through the RCT Together network, which supports residents through difficult times. The Leader hoped that in the future, the economy will improve, there will be a different stance on public spending, negating the need for residents to rely on foodbanks as they move out of poverty.

There was no supplementary question.

8) Question from County Borough Councillor M. Maohoub to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

“Can the Leader provide an update on the preparations that the Council has undertaken in readiness for the Welsh Government’s 20mph rollout?”

Response from County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:

The Leader confirmed that a considerable amount of work has been conducted to deliver the Welsh Government priority. In 2021/22 a total of £53,522.62 was spent, undertaking the preparation work and in 2022/23 a further £1.1 million

was spent on reviewing traffic regulations and undertaking design trials and in some areas the 20mph roundels were removed. The manufacturing of approximately 1,268 new signs has been commissioned and teams are on hand to install the new signs and the removal of existing 'gateway' features for whole of RCT has commenced.

The Leader advised that there have been huge challenges to meet the deadline of the 1st September, and this has taken priority over other additional schemes. However, the Leader stressed that, in line with the recent correspondence to all Elected Members, whilst there are no other resources available this year for other traffic regulation orders submitted by Members, any requests will continue to be recorded and cross referenced with Police incident reports to identify urgent matters with other non-urgent, traffic schemes will be reviewed in the future.

There was no supplementary question due to the lapse of the allotted time.

(Note: County Borough Councillor J Brencher declared a personal interest – “My son works for Transport for Wales”)

33 Annual Treasury Management Review 2022/23

In accordance with the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, the Deputy Chief Executive & Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services Director of Finance and Digital Services provided Members with information on:

- the Council's Treasury Management activity during 2022/23; and
- the actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2022/23.

In advance of setting out the key areas of the report, the Group Director advised that the Council's Treasury Management activities are highly regulated and governed by codes of practice and the Council continues to comply with all relevant requirements in this regard. The Treasury advisers provide the Council with information and advice noting that all decisions are those of the Council.

The Group Director advised that, against a difficult economic backdrop, the Council continues to exercise its low-risk strategy, minimising counterparty exposure and taking maximum advantage of the Council's own cash balances. He added that the Council's net capital charges for the year were delivered within budget with no opportunities to further reduce the cost of borrowing via rescheduling during the year, which is continually reviewed.

The Group Director provided an overview of the Council's borrowing activity -the weighted average interest rate for the year was 2.86% and the Council continues to hold the Welsh Government repayable funding for transport infrastructure. The capital expenditure during last financial year amounted to £135m with the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), which represents the underlying need to borrow, at £503M. The end of year actual borrowing of £294M demonstrates the under-borrowing position which continues to serve the Council well.

In conclusion, the Group Director commented that the Council operated within all its prudential limits during the year and its capital envelope has subsequently been increased by £40.5M to reflect project cost increases. The Group Director confirmed that the report will be subject to review by the Council's Governance and Audit Committee.

Following discussion, whereby the Group Director responded to a number of queries relating to the report, it was confirmed that an update and presentation in relation to the Council's medium term financial plan would be delivered to all Members ahead of the Full Council meeting in September (and individual training available upon request through the Members PDR process).

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the content of the report; and
2. Note the funding arrangements for the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme as set out at section 12.

34 Revised Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2022 - 2037- Update on National and Regional Planning Matters and Approval for a Delivery Agreement and Timetable Amendment for the Continued Preparation of the RLDP.

The Director of Prosperity and Development presented the report which set out the ongoing national and regional planning matters that are having an influence over the preparation of the Revised Local Development Plan 2022 - 2037 (RLDP).

The Director drew Members' attention to section 3 of the report which set out the positive progress to date in the preparation of the RLDP. It also explained the factors contributing to the proposal to extend the agreed timetable for the reparation of the RLDP. The Director proposed that, the strategy is presented to Full Council in November 2023 ahead of the formal 6 weeks Preferred Strategy consultation.

Whilst referencing the matters impacting on the progress of the RLDP, the Director of Prosperity and Development referred to the new version of Technical Advice Note 15 (TAN 15) for Flood risk which creates specific rules for the allocation of land in the RLDP and subsequent planning applications. He alluded to the difficulties in determining growth options to date and the need for clarity from the new version of the TAN due to be published in the New Year, following discussions with Planning Officers and Welsh Government.

In conclusion, the Director of Prosperity and Development drew Members' attention to section 5 of the report which demonstrated the proposed amendments to the timetable. For clarity, the previously agreed dates are shown, and the proposed new dates inserted.

The Chair of the Members RLDP Steering Group, Councillor L Tomkinson, commented on the involvement and engagement of the cross-party Members' Steering Group to date on all stages and content of the plan to ensure there is appropriate consideration. She thanked Members for their positive contributions to this important forum.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Acknowledge the matters, as set out, that are affecting the preparation of the RLDP in accordance with its approved timetable.
2. Approve a proposed amendment to the RLDP Delivery Agreement timetable to incorporate an extension period for its preparation. This is set out in the following report in section 5 and in the proposed new Delivery Agreement which is attached as Appendix 1.
3. Seek necessary Welsh Government agreement to the Delivery Agreement changes.
4. Authorise the Director of Prosperity & Development to make minor changes to the timetable in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Development and Prosperity. To request that the RLDP Steering Group are sighted upon any such amendments made by the Director of Prosperity & Development.

35 Change of Membership

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communication advised of the changes to the Labour Group's nominated representation on the Alliance for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to note that:

1. The Authority's nominated representative on the Alliance going forward will be County Borough Councillor J Smith; and
2. Correspondence be sent to the Alliance advising them of the change to the Authority's nominated representative.

36 Urgent Business

The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications advised that in accordance with Procedural Rule 10.5, the Presiding Member had granted permission for Full Council to determine whether this Urgent Motion should be:

- Discussed at the meeting; or
 - Deferred until the next meeting to consider with the benefit of written Officer advice;
- or
- Referred for consideration and decision to the Executive or a Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to discuss the Urgent Notice of Motion at the meeting.

(Note: The Presiding Member, County Borough Councillor G Hughes and County Borough Councillor W Hughes left the meeting for the duration of the item having both declared a personal and prejudicial interest (Minute No.27 refers).

In the absence of the Presiding Member, the Deputy Presiding Member, County Borough Councillor B Stephens, took the chair for agenda item 10.

37 Urgent Item - Notice of Motion

To consider the following Urgent Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors **A O Rogers; D Wood, K Morgan, S Evans, D Grehan, H Gronow, P Evans and A Ellis:**

Despite the email from the Chief Executive sent to Members at 1326 hrs yesterday, this Council regrets that it had no prior information of plans to discontinue the inhouse provision of the night mobile homecare service. All Members were made aware of this proposal via an email sent two days ago by staff working in the service who were summoned to attend a meeting with officers and unions last week to be told that it was intended to outsource the service to other providers in the private/independent sector.

This flies in the face of the Council's commitment to retain directly provided services where the staff are paid on National Terms and Conditions. It is unforgivable that such a change to a much valued and necessary service, was being considered, until yesterday, by management under an unpublished operational delegated decision.

The Cabinet Work Programme had also been varied, whereby both the Annual Director of Social Services report and the draft Adult Services Strategy which were to be considered in July, are now rescheduled to be considered in October 2023. Should these reports have been considered in July as planned then members would at least have had information about the proposal to discontinue the night service.

The Operational Delegated decision now being published goes some way to answer the concerns of Members about due process, however what it doesn't do is authorise the officer decision in March to not take referrals, thus deliberately running down the service creating the statement in the CEO email that " the current arrangements no longer presents the most effective means of providing this care and support."

Under these circumstances it is important to establish how officers can use operational authority to reduce a service, with the ultimate aim of removing it, without the knowledge and consent of Members.

This Council therefore requests that the CEO make a statement today, before recess, as to:

- Why the service was deliberately run down in March and no delegated decision notice was published announcing that change.
- How the removal of a service is allowed to be defined as an operational decision as opposed to a Cabinet/Full Council decision.

Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Urgent Notice of Motion and the Chief Executive provided the following statement:

"Members will recall the budget strategy agreed by Council on 8th March 2023, at which time the Council agreed a budget strategy that closed an unprecedented budget gap of £38 million. The budget strategy was subject to a comprehensive consultation exercise and in advance of the provisional settlement from Welsh Government, the Council had already started consultation on several key service

changes that had wide ranging implications across our communities, including those to waste services and community meals.

The review of the support at home night mobile service was considered as part of the service efficiencies and operational service reconfiguration savings agreed as part of the budget strategy. In the context of increasing demand and ongoing budget pressures the Council continuously reviews all its services across the Council, including its social care provision in line with the Council's medium term financial planning arrangements and performance management framework.

To provide members with some context, the Council's wider support at home service provides 17,000 hours of care and support at home each week to 1,431 adult residents across Rhondda Cynon Taff through its commissioned and in house services, in discharge of our statutory duties under the Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act.

The support at home night mobile service is a small discretionary service that is generally used to reduce the length of time between the last call in the evening and the first call in the morning, with some calls during the night to help with continence care. The service provides up to 145 hours of care per week, supporting forty-six people.

There is no statutory requirement to provide a home care service at night and to the best of our knowledge, this service is not provided by any other Council in Wales. As this discretionary service was subject to review as part of the budget strategy and ongoing medium term financial planning arrangements, pending that review, from April the care and support needs of new clients were met through alternative provision and no additional people were added to the night mobile service so as not to raise expectations and to ensure continuity of care provisions for those adults.

The review of the service was commenced due to the relatively high cost of the service, the limitations of the service due to its small size and its discretionary nature. There has not been any intention to run the service down since March; this inefficiency was already identified based on the service at the time the budget strategy was agreed.

The review has determined that the care and support needs of the individuals receiving this service can be reviewed and reassessed to make alternative care and support arrangements to meet their assessed needs and this provision can be made through existing in-house and commissioned services. We will not be outsourcing the night mobile service.

In terms of the decision, this was made as a delegated operational decision to implement the service efficiencies and operational service reconfiguration savings already agreed as part of the budget strategy. The decision does not require any changes to the Council's policy or strategic direction regarding support at home or social care; it merely responds to the needs of adults receiving care and support in a different way. Therefore, the decision has been properly made by the Interim Director for Social Services in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation.

I appreciate that this has caused concern to our staff, the trade unions and members are quite rightly concerned about the impact on our valued workforce and of course those people in receipt of this service. I have already dealt with

the arrangements to review and reassess the needs of the adults receiving the service and I can assure members that the Council will work closely with the trade unions to support its staff through this difficult time. No compulsory redundancies will be required, and we will manage this through the Council's management of change policy. Staff will have the options of voluntary redundancy, voluntary early retirement, or redeployment within the service.

Although I am fully satisfied that this decision has been properly made by the Interim Director of Social Services, and that the changes proposed are necessary, I accept that the manner in which the trade unions were consulted in advance and staff notified was not handled as well as we would expect and for that I apologise to the trade unions and staff involved. I also apologise for the concern this has caused to members of this Council. These are areas I will ensure are improved going forward."

The Leader acknowledged the statement delivered by the Chief Executive. He advised Members that officers are charged with making delegated operational decisions on a regular basis but where appropriate, and upon the advice of the proper officer, they are referred to a Cabinet Member, Cabinet or Full Council. The Leader commented that he is clear and content that it was the right course of action for officers to use their delegated authority on this occasion.

The Leader commented on the key points raised by the Chief Executive and he reiterated the point that there is no requirement for compulsory redundancies as the Council will seek to offer voluntary redundancy, voluntary early retirement, or redeployment through existing vacancies in social care services.

Whilst the Leader concluded that there are lessons to be learned in view of how the information was communicated with staff, he asked Members to apply perspective, with delegated operational decisions being made on a daily basis, this is the first time the Chief Executive has been called on to make a statement following Members' concerns.

Councillor A Rogers was invited to comment. He asked where in the Council Constitution would he find the authority for an officer to introduce and implement major changes to a service in March with the ultimate aim of closing down a service without the need for Members to be notified of the decision.

Councillor Rogers also commented that this decision would have benefitted from scrutiny through the most appropriate Committee. He queried whether the decision caused the unit cost to increase, with no new referrals accepted in March, yet staffing costs remained the same and he asked what the new unit cost was prior to March?

Councillor Rogers asked whether the budget had been adjusted accordingly in view of the decision being taken before the new financial year, on the 1st April 2023 with the ultimate aim of closing the service down. He also queried whether Members' attention had subsequently been drawn to this in any Cabinet or Council Budget report. Councillor Rogers further queried whether any concerns had been raised in performance reports. He concluded by asking how were staff summoned via email to a meeting on the 4th July before the delegated decision was made on the 6th July and sought clarity on whether any political clearance had been given to the closure of the service in March and if so, by whom?

The Chief Executive provided responses to those questions not already covered

in his earlier statement:

The Chief Executive advised that the authority derives from Section 3 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation which allows Officers to make Officer Delegated Operational Decisions. He added that the decision not to accept further, new referrals into the service from March, pending the review of the night mobile service, was set out in his earlier statement. He stressed that it was not the intention to run the service down or increase the unit cost but it had been identified as an efficiency that needed to be made through the budget strategy.

The Chief Executive advised that the decision was made during the Budget Strategy which was considered by Council on the 8th March 2023. He commented that it was not a performance issue but an efficiency issue, with the Council using its resources to maintain its central services in the most efficient and effective way. He added that staff were requested to attend a meeting to be notified of the change to their services, a point which he had also addressed in his earlier statement. The Chief Executive apologised for the manner in which the communication had been conducted on this occasion and added that lessons would be learned.

In conclusion, the Chief Executive advised that in terms of political clearance, as he had already specified, this was part of the operational efficiencies considered by Council at its meeting in March this year.

Councillor W Jones thanked the Chief Executive for his frank and honest statement and commented that he was content as long as officers are confident they can maintain the service as previously provided and that the staff are supported.

Councillor S Trask stressed the importance of putting the service users first whilst also remembering the Council's own staff. He was reassured to hear there were no planned compulsory redundancies and he wished to pass on his very best wishes to those seeking retirement and to those seeking redeployment. He hoped they would be provided with suitable employment and they would remain with the council for many years to come.

The Leader also commented on the frank and honest statement delivered by the Chief Executive. Following on from the earlier statement and questions he himself had raised with officers, the Leader confirmed that he was confident that this decision does fall within the remit of a Delegated Operational Decision. The Leader commented that whilst the Council must ensure that clients' needs are met it must also ensure that funding can be prioritised elsewhere, as social care is under huge financial pressure.

The Leader concluded by restating that compulsory redundancies would be avoided through voluntary retirement and redeployment and managed through the Council's management of change policy whilst working closely with Trade Unions and staff.

This meeting closed at 6.34 pm

**Councillor G Hughes
Chair.**

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the order of questions in respect of the Members Questions on Notice, following the amendment to the process agreed at the [Council AGM 2019](#).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Receive the Questions and any supplementary questions proposed, as in accordance with the running order advised upon in 4.3 of the report, which should not exceed a 20-minute time period.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As agreed at the Council AGM on the 15th May, 2019, Members agreed to amend Council Procedure Rule 9.2 in respect of Members Questions on Notice. A further amendment was made to Council Procedure Rule 9.2 at the Council AGM on the 26th May 2021 in respect of supplementary questions following expiry of the 20 minute time duration. [Council AGM 2021](#)

4. MEMBERS QUESTION ON NOTICE

- 4.1 The closing date for receipt of Members Questions on Notice to the Council Business Unit for the Council meeting on the 20th September 2023 was 5pm on the 7th September 2023.
- 4.2 Thirty-four questions were received and put forward to the Council Ballot held on the 12th September 2023, to determine the running order of the questions at the Council Meeting.
- 4.3 The results of the ballot are outlined below:

Number	Corresponding Question
1	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Evans to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader give an update on the Britannia Bridge scheme?”</p>
2	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor H. Gronow to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure County Borough Councillor A Crimmings:</p> <p>“Could the relevant Cabinet Member please give us an update on fly tipping across the county borough”</p>
3	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Hickman to the Cabinet Member for Development and Prosperity, County Borough Councillor M. A. Norris:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on investment in Porth town centre?”</p>
4	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Davis to the Cabinet Member for Social Services, County Borough Councillor G. Caple:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the works to deliver an Extra Care scheme in Porth?”</p>
5	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor V. Dunn to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader provide Members with an update on the rollout of the Council’s Community Wardens team and outline what progress has been made in the further commitment to fund 10 PCSOs with South Wales Police?”</p>
6	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. E. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader please provide an update to residents on the progress of the Maindy Road bridge scheme?”</p>
7	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor Sera Evans to the Cabinet Member for Public Health & Communities, County Borough Councillor R. Harris:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member please update members on its preparations to host the National Eisteddfod in Pontypridd in 2024?”</p>

8	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Wood to the Cabinet Member for Public Health & Communities, County Borough Councillor R. Harris:</p> <p>“With the advent of two small Pontypridd Businesses leaving the town citing issues with ASB and the location of the Hostel, could we please have an update on when the Hostel, which was due to be moved early 2020, will be moved please?”</p>
9	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor A. S. Fox to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader provide an update to Members on the discussions taking place given the significant financial pressures facing the public sector next year?”</p>
10	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor R. Williams to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member update Council on the Leisure 4 Life service, and outline how it is helping to achieve a healthy and active RCT?”</p>
11	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor Sheryl Evans to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Since the additional wardens have been appointed, please can we have an update on how many people have been fined in relation to dog fouling”.</p>
12	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor M. Powell to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>"Could the Cabinet portfolio holder for highways say what measures or proposals the RCT Highways department are considering to alleviate the dire traffic congestion problems that the Pontypridd Town centre has been enduring for many, many years please?"</p>
13	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor A. Rogers to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“It is important for us all to encourage our residents to use public transport. Unfortunately, our bus services are not the most reliable. How is the Council addressing the issues of cancellations, long waits and the knock-on effect of overcrowding on our buses?”</p>
14	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader make a statement on bus services in RCT and outline the latest position on providing support to providers?”</p>

15	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor L. A. Tomkinson to the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, County Borough Councillor R. Harris:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the Muni Arts Centre redevelopment scheme?”</p>
16	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D.R. Bevan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“What impact is the UK Government’s pursuit of austerity having on councils and communities across Wales?”</p>
17	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor T. Williams to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Could the Leader provide Councillors with an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund Community Fund?”</p>
18	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor K. Morgan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Should passenger trains be reinstated to Hirwaun and Rhigos, where would the stations for both villages be located?”</p>
19	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Brencher to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member please make a statement on the works to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park?”</p>
20	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Bonetto to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader make a statement on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan?”</p>
21	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Smith to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“With the introduction of the Social Partnership and Procurement Bill in Wales, can the Leader please outline what action RCT are taking to ensure compliance with the legislation?”</p>
22	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Emanuel to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Will the Leader make a statement on whether any Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) has been identified in RCT schools?”</p>

23	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. O. Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“We have heard in recent months that the combined impacts of both Brexit and the war in Ukraine are having a profound effect on our construction industry. What does this mean for the Council and how can we mitigate these impacts?”</p>
24	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor E. L. Dunning to the Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language, County Borough Councillor R. Lewis:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please make a statement on outreach work and detached youth service provision in Rhondda Cynon Taf, particularly in the Ystrad area?”</p>
25	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Owen-Jones to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Can the Leader provide an update on the progress of the A4119 dualling works?”</p>
26	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor L. Addiscott to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Following the wet winter we had, potholes have been an issue for councils across the country. Can the Leader therefore provide an update on the Council’s ongoing programme of investment in the County’s Highways network?”</p>
27	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor D. Williams to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services, County Borough Councillor C. Leyshon:</p> <p>“Would the Cabinet Member provide a further update on the progress of EV charging point rollouts in RCT?”</p>
28	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor K. Johnson to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services County Borough Councillor C Leyshon:</p> <p>“Please could the Cabinet Member responsible provide a detailed update on EV charging point roll out throughout RCT?”</p>
29	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor C. Middle to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“What progress is the Council making in achieving its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030?”</p>

30	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor C. Preedy to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure, County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings:</p> <p>“Can the Cabinet Member please give an update on the usage of the National Lido of Wales’ and any information on how long the summer season will be this year?”</p>
31	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor S. Powderhill to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Following the successful lift of the new bridge at Castle Inn, can the Leader outline what the next steps of the final phase of the scheme will be?”</p>
32	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor J. Edwards to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Would the Leader update on the progress of the Welsh Government funded walking and cycling route along the river through the Rhondda Fach?”</p>
33	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Will the Cabinet Member please confirm the latest position on the scheme to replace the Llanharan Railway Footbridge?”</p>
34	<p>Question from County Borough Councillor N. H. Morgan to the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A. Morgan OBE:</p> <p>“Will the Leader provide an update on how the Council is progressing its work to upgrade and improve drainage on its highway network?”</p>

4.4 At the Council meeting a maximum of 20 minutes shall be allowed for Questions on Notice. Any questions that are not dealt with in this time limit shall fall. Any questions on notice not answered will need to be resubmitted to the Proper Officer for the next full Council meeting in accordance with these rules.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

5.1 The amendments to the Council Procedure Rule in respect of Members Questions was considered and agreed at the Council’s AGM 2019 and AGM 2021, following consultation with the Constitution Committee.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The amendment to the Council procedure rule taken forward at the Council AGM, allows the opportunity for more Members to ask a question at Council

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

9.1 The opportunity for Members to propose questions at Council meetings allows Members to receive information which potentially detail the Council priorities. It also embraces the Future Generations Act as all work and decisions taken by Council seek to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the County Borough.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 Detailing the procedure for Members Questions on Notice assists in transparency for both Members and for public engagement.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION.**

Item: MEMBERS QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Background Papers

[Council AGM 2019.](#)

[Council AGM 2021](#)



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 – 2024

COUNCIL

20TH SEPTEMBER 2023

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 TO 2026/27

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND GROUP DIRECTOR –
FINANCE, DIGITAL AND FRONTLINE SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE
RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON**

AUTHOR: Barrie Davies (01443 424026)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023/24 to 2026/27, based on current modelling assumptions in advance of formulating the detailed budget strategy proposals for 2024/25 during the autumn.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members note the current position modelled in respect of the 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27' and receive further updates in the autumn as part of the annual budget setting process.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need to keep Members informed of the budget modelling work being undertaken as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning arrangements. This work is in advance of the Provisional Local Government Settlement, due from Welsh Government later this year.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Each year as part of the Council's robust financial management arrangements, an update on the Medium-Term Financial Planning assumptions is provided to Members in advance of the detailed budget strategy work in the autumn. In this

regard, the Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27 was presented to Cabinet on [18th September 2023](#).

- 4.2 The Public Sector has faced a sustained period of real term reductions in funding levels for a number of years and unprecedented challenges lie ahead for services across local government as a result of on-going difficult economic conditions, high levels of inflation and the widespread implications of the conflict in Ukraine. These conditions are resulting in sustained increases in demand and costs associated with many Council services, in particular Social Care Services, and the need for us to continue to provide additional support to our residents, businesses and communities as they deal with the impact of on-going increases in energy, food and other costs.
- 4.3 Locally, this Council has demonstrated its ability and willingness to invest in services over a long-term period, linked to our priorities as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan "Making a Difference - 2020 – 2024", in order to meet the changing needs of our people and communities. The significant 'additional' investment already agreed by Members during recent years is providing real improvements across many areas including Schools, Town Centres, Roads and Parks and Play Areas, alongside specific packages of financial support, funded by the Council and Welsh Government, to help families through the cost of living crisis.
- 4.4 Whilst investment through the use of one-off funds has been very positive, the Council recognises that it must still address projected base budget shortfalls and make difficult decisions to balance its ongoing revenue budget into the medium term. This report provides an updated view on the range and scale of the significant challenge faced and the arrangements being put in place to address the budget gap across the planning period, recognising that this follows on from the Council needing to address the most significant budget gap it has ever faced, at £38M for the current year, through a wide range of budget reduction measures.
- 4.5 Welsh Government, as part of its 2023/24 settlement, provided an indicative all Wales settlement level for the next financial year (2024/25) at +3.1%. Members will note the UK Government Budget is scheduled to be announced in autumn 2023 and will be a key driver and determinant of any additional funding being made available to devolved nations for 2024/25 and also the prospects for settlement levels over the medium term.

5. CURRENT MODELLING ASSUMPTIONS

- 5.1 The detailed modelling assumptions are included as part of the updated 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27'. The updated plan sets out the detailed basis of the medium-term strategy with references to revenue spending, capital plans, income levels and reserves.
- 5.2 Key assumptions used in the construction of the revenue budget modelling to 2026/27 are shown below:

5.3 Income

- Local Government settlement levels have been modelled on a range of planning scenarios:

Year	Potential Settlement	Potential Settlement	Potential Settlement
2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27	3.1%, 2.0% and 2.0% annum	3.0% per annum	4.0% per annum

- Council Tax increases are currently being modelled at 3.90% per annum.
- Specific grant funding from Welsh Government assumed to continue in respect of the Social Care Workforce Grant (£3.668M for 2023/24).
- Fees and charges uplifted by medium term inflation only (other than where exceptions have already been agreed by Cabinet).

5.4 Expenditure

- Service area pressures reflected which arise from statutory requirements, demand led pressures, demographics etc.
- Modelled uplifts included for pay and non-pay inflation (with agreed pay awards for teaching staff for 2022/23 and 2023/24 included on the basis of being fully funded by Welsh Government).
- Authority wide requirements reflected including Capital Financing, Levies and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- Schools budget is modelled to cover, in full, pay and non-pay inflation plus specific budget pressures (and in the context of the projected range of local government settlement levels).

6. CURRENT MODELLING OUTCOMES

- 6.1 The modelling uses a number of assumptions which are all subject to change and will be reviewed as part of the detailed budget strategy work underway. Due to current uncertainty at a UK Central Government level around public sector funding levels, paragraph 5.3 sets out a range of modelling assumptions for Welsh Government funding levels for financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. The variability of the potential level of the Settlement from Welsh Government has a significant impact on the budget gap, at £4.7M per 1%, and Figure 1 illustrates the outcome of the range of modelling assumptions currently applied.

Figure 1 : Modelled Budget Gap 2024/25 to 2026/27

Budget Requirement	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000
Additional Budget Requirement			
Additional Budget Requirement	46,920	41,715	38,710
Additional Resources			
Council Tax	6,409	5,100	5,299
Transition Funding	-9,105	0	0
Social Care Workforce Grant	0	0	0
WG Resource in line with WG indicative settlement for 2024/25 (+3.1%) and a Council assumption of settlement levels: 2025/26 +2% and 2026/27 +2%	14,611	9,719	9,913
WG Resource at +3%	14,140	14,564	15,001
WG Resource at +4%	18,853	19,607	20,391

Remaining Budget Gap at Welsh Government Settlement Levels	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	3 Year Budget Gap
+3.1% increase for 2024/25, +2.0% increase for 2025/26 and +2.0% increase for 2026/27	35,005	26,897	23,498	85,400
3% increase per year	35,477	22,052	18,410	75,938
4% increase per year	30,764	17,008	13,020	60,792

Note: a 3.90% Council Tax increase per year is assumed as part of the modelled gap

6.2 As shown above, all of our planning assumptions result in a significant budget gap being faced by the Council. The extent of the impact on our services is clearly going to be largely and directly determined by the level of funding the UK Government provides to Welsh Government and thereafter the settlement level local authorities in Wales receive from Welsh Government.

6.3 The indicative all Wales settlement level provided by Welsh Government for 2024/25 of 3.1% is, as referred to above, informed by and reliant on the forecasted funding level to be provided by the UK Government. It is clear that this position is significantly out of line with inflationary and service pressures being faced across local government.

7. BALANCING THE BUDGET

- 7.1 The Council continues to focus on the budget gap position over the medium term and has successfully implemented a strategy of early identification and delivery of base budget reducing measures in-year. This has enabled the Council to deliver financial savings early and to replenish the Medium-Term Financial Planning and Service Transformation Reserve which has been used proactively as part of the budget strategy for a number of years.
- 7.2 Whilst our priority and focus is on protecting and supporting residents, communities and businesses, this is set in the context of the Council facing a budget gap of £35M for the next financial year and follows on from the £38M budget gap in the current year, as referenced in paragraph 4.4. The significance of the year-on-year funding shortfalls will mean that the Council's priority and focus will be extremely challenging to continue to deliver at the same levels as in previous years.
- 7.3 As the above clearly demonstrates, in the absence of additional funding from UK Government and thereafter Welsh Government, the Council faces a significant budget gap for next year and across the medium term. It is clear that the indicative funding allocation in no way reflects the reality of today and UK Government urgently needs to provide assurance to Welsh Government / Local Government that additional funding will be forthcoming. In the absence of such assurance, and to enable this Council to discharge its statutory duty to set a balanced budget for the financial year 2024/25 by the 11th March 2024, then once again all options to reduce council spend and generate income will need to be considered. This is at a time when residents are continuing to face cost of living challenges with significant pressures on household budgets.
- 7.4 In this regard, we must now, in the absence of any indications of additional funding being provided to local government, embark on further reviews across all our services to urgently identify options which can be considered to close the budget gap being faced. Whilst our valued services and jobs will be safeguarded wherever possible, it is inevitable that there will be a need to make cuts in service levels and jobs in order to close the budget gap we face, unless or until we receive assurances as to likely more positive funding levels next year and into the medium term.
- 7.5 As part of our service and financial planning arrangements, opportunity must be taken to ensure we continue a programme of transformation and service delivery changes which we have made across many, if not all of our service areas, in recent years. The Council continues to make step changes in our working arrangements, supported by a number of key strategies including Office Accommodation Strategy, Climate Change Strategy and Digital Strategy, and are providing the direction and focus to deliver more efficient and effective services to residents.
- 7.6 In line with the above, the areas we will explore include the continued: maximisation of efficiency saving opportunities including on-going review of workforce requirements and resources; delivery of our Social Services Transformation Programme (including our Residential Care Homes for Older People Strategy and Children's Services Residential Transformation Strategy);

review of our base budget requirements at both a service level and an authority wide level including our built assets; maximisation of opportunities to invest for the long term and collaboration with others and progress the delivery of our climate change ambitions; and, as a last resort, proposals to reduce service levels. In parallel, there will be a continued focus on the principles of Digitalisation, Commercialism, Early Intervention and Prevention, Independence and being an Efficient and Effective Organisation.

- 7.7 We have for many years sought to prioritise funding for schools, ensuring they have been treated favourably in comparison with other council services and providing additional resources for inflationary pressures (pay and non-pay), pupil number movements and other cost pressures being felt across our schools, and alongside this, the requirement to deliver a budget efficiency target. In light of the aforementioned position, schools will need to be prepared to contribute to closing the funding gap we face, as the sector has done in previous years.
- 7.8 As work develops through the areas described in 7.6, this will be reported to Members as appropriate.
- 7.9 Greater certainty will be available on the level of savings required post the Provisional Local Government Settlement later in the year. The position will be reported to Members as soon as possible after the settlement publication and as referenced above, the continued focus across a medium-term planning period is paramount.

8. RESERVES

- 8.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan includes its Reserve Policy, setting out the important part reserves play in the overall financial management and financial standing of the Council.
- 8.2 The Council holds a number of categories of reserves, these being one-off funding allocations set aside for specific purposes and are continuously monitored as part of financial management and budgetary control arrangements to assess changes in risk and potential liabilities. This process also identifies reserves that can be released and made available to provide additional one-off investment in priority areas and infrastructure, subject to elected Member approval.
- 8.3 In addition to the above, the Council has also used reserves prudently as part of supporting its annual budget strategies over a number of years. Importantly, the approach recognises that due to their one-off nature, the use of reserves do not represent a sustainable strategy and more permanent changes / reductions to the base budget must be made to address budget gaps. By way of example, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan, to balance the budget based on modelled Welsh Government annual settlement levels at 3.1% for 2024/25 and 2% per year for 2025/26 and 2026/27, using reserves alone would require the

use of over £182M of reserves and the Council would still have a need to reduce its base budget by over £85M at the end of this period.

9. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

9.1 There are no immediate equality and diversity or socio-economic duty implications to consider as an Equality Impact Assessment will be an integral part of the budget strategy itself that will be reported on later in the year.

10. CONSULTATION

10.1 There are no specific consultation requirements at this time.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The financial modelling assumptions and implications are set out in the detail of the report. At this stage, the Council is not being asked to make any new financial decisions in respect of the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

13. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

13.1 The report supports our Corporate Plan cross-cutting priority of 'Living within our Means'.

13.2 The Medium-Term Financial Plan is a key enabler for the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and its obligations to support wider partnership objectives.

14. CONCLUSIONS

14.1 This report and the accompanying 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27' sets out the current position on the financial challenges facing the Council in the medium term. The report notes, that subject to the level of funding from Welsh Government, a significant budget gap is likely to be faced in 2024/25 and for the following two years.

14.2 The report also sets out that the current indicative funding allocation for 2024/25 in no way reflects the demands and pressures facing local government.

Consequently, in the absence of any assurances from UK Government and thereafter Welsh Government of additional funding, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC must embark on further reviews across all its services to urgently identify options which can be considered to close the budget gap being faced and enable the Council to discharge its statutory duty to set a balanced budget for the financial year 2024/25 by the 11th March 2024.

- 14.3 To support this work, the Council will continue the proactive strategy it has adopted in recent years to identify a range of budget saving options for consideration and reporting to Members as part of the 2024/25 budget setting process.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20th SEPTEMBER 2023

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 TO 2026/27

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND GROUP DIRECTOR - FINANCE,
DIGITAL AND FRONTLINE SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT
PORTFOLIO HOLDER (CLLR C LEYSHON)**

Item:

Background Papers

- Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26
<https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36973/Appendix%201.pdf?LLL=0>
- Council Performance Report (Quarter 4 (Year-end) 2022/23)
<https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s41942/Report.pdf?LLL=0>
- Budget Strategy 2023/24, Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2025/26 and Council Tax Resolution 2023/24
<https://rctcbc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&MId=50004241&Ver=4&LLL=0>

Officer to contact: Barrie Davies



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-2024

COUNCIL

20th SEPTEMBER 2023

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S TERMS & CONDITIONS

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, DIGITAL & FRONTLINE SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Authors: Barrie Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director
Finance, Digital & Frontline Services
Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Council with a proposal for change in respect of staff terms and conditions of employment.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Council agree to introduce a revised rate of pay for Sunday working based on a Time plus a Half of Time payment;
- 2.2 That this change is introduced from the 1st November 2023.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that at the Council meeting of 28th September 2022, it was agreed to introduce an enhanced rate of pay for weekend working at Time plus a Third of Time payment.
- 3.2 Members will also recall that a commitment was given to keep further terms and conditions matters, raised by the recognised trade unions, under review in light of operational and service need.
- 3.3 The change agreed by Council was positively received by both the trade unions and staff. The trade unions also welcomed the Council's ongoing commitment to keep under review additional terms and conditions matters raised by them.

4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 4.1 As referenced in paragraph 3.3 above, the recognised trade unions welcomed the changes previously agreed. Discussions have continued with them since the Council meeting of the 28th September 2022, in respect of any further changes to the terms and conditions matters they raised.
- 4.2 Recently, the issue of enhanced rates for weekend working was again raised by the trade unions, with a view to whether the Council could further enhance the current Third of Time rate. Following the conclusion of the most recent discussions, the Council has now reviewed its position and determined that it would be reasonable to consider an increase to the current weekend working rate.
- 4.3 The enhancement being proposed is that for any hours worked on a Sunday, staff will be paid an enhanced rate of Time Plus a Half, starting from the 1st November 2023. The existing Time plus a Third payment will remain in place for any hours worked on a Saturday.
- 4.4 In scope roles for the payment of the weekend supplement would include home care staff, social care staff, leisure staff, cleansing staff etc.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 Due regard has been given to the Council's public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, namely the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio Economic Duty.
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and concluded that the recommendations set out in the report are in line with the above legislation.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Welsh Language implications as a consequence of the recommendations contained within this report.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Discussions have taken place with the recognised trade unions over these proposals.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 The financial implications of implementing the changes set out at section 4 amount to £0.330M (full year cost). The ongoing implications will be factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. The part year implication for this financial year (5 months, £0.138M) can be funded from available one-off resources.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 In accordance with Section 54 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 the Chief Executive must keep under review (i) the number and grades of staff required by the Council for the exercise of its functions; (ii) the organisation of the Council's staff; (iii) the appointment of the Council's staff and (iv) the arrangements for the management of the Council's staff (including arrangements for training and development).
- 9.2 Where the Chief Executive considers it appropriate to do so, they must make a report to Council setting out the Chief Executive's proposals in respect of any of the matters set out in paragraph 9.1.
- 9.3 It is Full Council's responsibility to then consider such reports.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 This report sets out a proposal to introduce an increased enhanced payment rate for weekend (Sunday) working which will have operational benefits in terms of ensuring workforce capacity.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 – 2024

COUNCIL

20th SEPTEMBER 2023

COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN – INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

REPORT OF THE CABINET

AUTHOR: Barrie Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director – Finance, Digital & Frontline Services (01443 424026)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the position regarding the opportunity for the Council to further invest in its priority areas, aligned to the Corporate Plan, “Making a Difference” 2020 – 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:

2.1.1 Review and if acceptable agree the additional investment and funding arrangements as set out in paragraph 4 which, if agreed, will be incorporated into the Council’s Capital Programme.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The importance of investment in areas supporting key Corporate Plan priorities has already been recognised by the Council with £154M of additional resources, over and above normal Capital Programme allocations, invested since October 2015.
- 3.2 A further opportunity for investment is now available for consideration, subject to agreement by Cabinet on 18th September 2023.

4. ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT

- 4.1 In line with the Council’s Corporate Plan priorities, additional investment is now proposed across the following areas:

Investment Priority	£M
Highways & Roads	1.500
Structures	2.500
Making Better Use/Traffic Developments	0.550
Flood Alleviation Works	0.200
Streetcare Improvements (bins)	0.050
Parks & Green Spaces	0.300
Town Centre Enhancements	0.100
Leisure Centres	0.400
Extra Care and Modernisation of Accommodation for Older People	2.000
Community Facilities Energy Grants	0.130
Total Investment	7.730

4.2 The Council's unaudited draft Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023 show the Council has revenue stream earmarked reserves at the 31st March 2023 of £93.806M which are set aside for a variety of purposes. In addition, there are specific reserves relating to funding for the existing Capital Programme plus future Investment/Infrastructure.

4.3 The Investment/Infrastructure reserve is a specific reserve to fund the cost of maintaining and enhancing infrastructure across the County Borough. The balance of this reserve at 31st March 2023 was £24.950M, therefore the proposed investment priorities shown at paragraph 4.1 can be fully funded from this reserve.

4.4 Further detail on the proposed additional investment is shown below.

a) Highways & Roads (£1.500M)

Funding will continue to support the enhanced investment in the Council's largest asset, building on sustained increases in annual funding for highways capital maintenance over recent years.

b) Structures (£2.500M)

Funding will allow the continuation of the enhanced programme of capital repairs and maintenance of over 1,500 structures including, bridges, culverts, retaining walls, reinforced earth embankments and rock anchors. These structures are often critical to the continued safe operation of the highway network.

c) Making Better Use/Traffic Developments (£0.550M)

Funding will allow continuation of the programme of tackling congestion, pinch points and improving road safety by utilising existing road space to provide additional capacity.

d) Flood Alleviation Works (£0.200M)

Funding will continue to support small scale works on land drainage and flood alleviation schemes.

e) Streetcare Improvements (£0.050M)

Funding will support improvements to include new bins in public spaces.

f) Parks & Green Spaces (£0.300M)

This additional funding will allow the ongoing investment programme into the refurbishment of sports pavilions, upgrading of sports pitches and the repairs to parks infrastructure to be enhanced even further.

g) Town Centre Enhancements (£0.100M)

Funding will support townscape enhancements across our key town centres via a targeted approach to upgrading town centre buildings for increased business and commercial use and continuing to improve the quality of the townscape providing business investment and employment growth.

h) Leisure Centres (£0.400M)

Funding will support the capital maintenance of leisure buildings to ensure that the building decoration, floor coverings, changing facilities, and sport surfaces are maintained, adding to the customer experience. Each leisure facility will benefit from this investment.

i) Extra Care and Modernisation of Accommodation for Older People (£2.000M)

Funding will support the Council continuing its work with partners to deliver its strategy to modernise accommodation options for older people and deliver Extra Care housing across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

j) Community Facilities Energy Grants (£0.130M)

This funding would be made available to support energy cost pressures being felt across not for profit community based facilities.

The above investments support all of the Corporate Plan priorities of **People**, **Places** and **Prosperity**.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

5.1 Due regard has been given to the Council's public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, namely the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There are no consultation requirements as a result of the recommendations set out in the report. Subject to the decision of Council, consultation will be undertaken on specific areas, as appropriate, as part of developing/implementing projects.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. The proposed investment priorities totalling £7.730M are fully funded from Council resources already set aside for this purpose.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The recommendations have been compiled ensuring continued compliance with the Council's legal requirement to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs as set out in Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. In addition, the proposed investment areas support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities, in line with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

10. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 The proposed investment areas are in line with the priorities included within the Council's Corporate Plan and support the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, in particular, planning for the 'long term', helping to 'prevent' problems occurring or getting worse in the future and delivering services in 'collaboration' with others.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 This report has identified the opportunity to invest a further £7.730M of additional resources in our local area including our own assets in order to improve our infrastructure and the services which are available to our residents.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20th SEPTEMBER 2023

COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN – INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & GROUP DIRECTOR – FINANCE,
DIGITAL & FRONTLINE SERVICES IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER OF THE
COUNCIL, CLLR A MORGAN**

Officer to contact: Barrie Davies.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

COUNCIL

20th SEPTEMBER 2023

MULTI-LOCATION MEETING POLICY

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members endorsement of the draft Rhondda Cynon Taf Multi-Location Meeting policy (attached at Appendix 1) following its consideration by the Democratic Services Committee and Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Endorse the draft Multi Location Meeting policy (attached as appendix 1), following which the Council Constitution be amended to include a copy of the agreed policy.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need for the Council to take forward a Multi-Location Meetings policy and for the policy to be adhered to by Members, Officers and the general public as a form of good practice when attending multi location meetings.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At the start of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 provided a framework for

Councils to convene remote meetings for all attendees while face to face meetings were unable to take place.

- 4.2 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 has enabled Councils to continue to meet remotely with the introduction of multi-location meetings, thereby enabling greater public participation and Councillor involvement in decision making.
- 4.3 During Covid lockdowns and throughout 2020/21 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council convened its meetings by remote means resulting in a number of benefits such as allowing decisions to be made in a transparent way; Making it easy for the public to view and participate in the democratic process and making it easier for participants to take part if they have family and/or caring commitments.
- 4.4 When considering arrangements for remote attendance or 'multi-location meetings', Authorities must have regard to the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers: Interim statutory guidance on multi-location meetings <https://gov.wales/local-authority-multi-location-meetings-interim-guidance>
- 4.5 The statutory guidance sets out a number of general principles to guide Authorities when developing their meeting arrangements, namely, transparency, accessibility, good conduct, Welsh language, local needs and future generations.
- 4.6 The statutory guidance also stipulates that Authorities should develop a policy setting out how multi-location meetings will operate and reflect the meeting arrangements in its constitution (Appendix 1 refers).

5. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5.1 A 'Multi-Location Meeting' is a meeting whose participants are not all in the same physical place. Some of the participants may be physically located in the meeting venue whilst others join from their home or other remote location.
- 5.2 The Council Chamber has multi-location meeting capability, through its webcasting facility, which enables participants to attend both remotely and in person. The Chamber also has a designated public gallery, which allows the public to attend in person. This is in addition to the live public webcasting of some meetings; both providing additional transparency and public oversight in the decision-making process.
- 5.3 The Council has determined that all meetings must be able to operate as multi-location meetings to ensure that participants are able to attend remotely or physically should they wish to do so, subject to those meetings that were determined by Council, to be conducted as virtual only ([June 2021 Council](#)), or by the request of the Chair.

- 5.4 At the meeting of the [Democratic Services Committee](#) on the 13th February, 2023 Members considered the draft policy before them and took forward a number of amendments, which, for ease of reference are highlighted in red within the appendix, to reflect the changes proposed.
- 5.5 The draft policy was also considered by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs at their meeting on the 21st March 2023, who supported the amended policy.
- 5.6 The draft policy, with the incorporation of the Democratic Services Committee amendments is presented at Appendix 1 for Members comment and agreement.
- 5.7 Subject to Members agreement, the policy will be inserted within the Council Constitution. A Multi Location Meeting handbook will also look to be drafted to assist Members and other attendees for future meetings.
- 5.8 Members are reminded that support staff from within the Council Business Unit / Democratic Services are available to support Members and provide assistance with any arrangements necessary for the undertaking of a Multi Location Meeting.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Equality considerations feature throughout the Council's draft multi-location meetings policy.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation was undertaken with the [Democratic Services Committee](#) and the Council's Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 10.1 Equality considerations feature throughout Corporate and National priorities and specifically the content of this report contributes to a More Equal Wales and a Wales of Cohesive Communities. Many of the improvements brought

about by multi-location meetings, such as innovation around the transaction of meetings, reductions in the use of paper, enhanced public accessibility will serve the objective of making local democratic systems more sustainable.

- 10.2 Multi-location meetings contribute to the Councils Climate Change agenda as the meetings reduce the carbon footprint of physical meetings (although digital activity is not carbon-neutral).

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 It is recognised that multi-location meetings are a vital component of good democracy in local government and help improve the Council's decision making, service provision and cost effectiveness.
- 11.2 The undertaking of multi-location meetings will strengthen accountability and transparency in the democratic process.
- 11.3 The Multi Location meetings policy will be reviewed as and when appropriate to ensure it remains relevant and 'fit for purpose'.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

COUNCIL

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS**

APPENDIX 1

Multi – Location Meeting Policy

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MULTI-LOCATION MEETINGS POLICY

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 came into force on the 30th April 2021 and enabled Councils to operate multi-location meetings whereby Members, Officers, the public and Press are able to attend meetings physically or remotely.
- 1.2 In August 2021, Welsh Government published Interim Statutory Guidance on Multi-Location Meetings which can be found [here](#):
- 1.3 Multi-location meetings provide an opportunity for local authorities to become more efficient, raise their profile in the local community and make it easier for the public to view and participate in decision making and the democratic process.
- 1.4 Conducting meetings in this manner allows for greater flexibility and equality of access, acknowledging that some participants may have a preference for physical meetings potentially due to protected characteristics or circumstances which limits their ability to participate online. Other participants may wish to join council meetings remotely and from another location as a matter of default because, for example, they have working or caring responsibilities..
- 1.5 The provision of multi-location meetings also helps the Authority meet the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in terms of making the Authority more sustainable and resilient. Multi-location meetings reduce the carbon footprint of wholly physical meetings and reduce both the reliance on paper and need for travel;
- 1.6 This policy aims to produce a clear guide as to how the Authority will take forward multi-location meetings, ensuring transparency with decision making and accessibility for all, whilst also reflecting the meeting arrangements within the Council Constitution.

2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 ('the 2021 Act'), Part 3, Chapter 4, local authorities are required to:
 - i. Electronically broadcast full Council meetings (with effect from May 2022).

- ii. Make and publish arrangements to ensure that all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Joint Committee meetings may be attended remotely also referred to as 'multi-location meetings'.
 - Meetings must be capable of being held virtually, but each authority must decide whether their meetings will be held fully virtually, partially virtually (where some participants are in the same physical location, whilst others join the meeting virtually, also referred to as 'hybrid meetings') or as physical meetings (authorities may **not** mandate physical attendance at meetings).
 - Participants in the meetings must be able to speak to and hear each other; and for meetings which are required to be broadcast (full Council meetings), participants must also be able to see and be seen by each other.
 - iii. Publish all meeting documents on the Council's website, including notices, summonses, agendas, reports and background papers (with effect from May 2021).
 - A note of the meeting, including Members in attendance and decisions made, must be published within 7 working days of the meeting.
 - Notice of meetings is no longer required to be posted at the Council's offices. However, copies of agendas and reports must be made available for the public if meetings are held physically.
 - The Council is also required to make public access provision for members of the public who cannot access electronic documents, for example, by providing access to computers, copies of documents, or making documents available for inspection.
- 2.2 Authorities should take into consideration the statutory guidance available when taking forward multi-location meetings. The statutory guidance provides a number of general principles to guide authorities when developing their meeting arrangements, namely, transparency, accessibility, good conduct, Welsh language, local needs and future generations.

3. WHAT IS A MULTI-LOCATION MEETING?

- 3.1 A Multi-location meeting is a meeting whose participants are not all in the same physical place. Some of the participants may be physically located in the meeting venue whilst others join from their home or other remote location.
- 3.2 In respect of such meetings, the Authority has determined these meetings to be called 'hybrid' meetings and will refer to them as such on Committee Summonses / Agendas / Meeting invites.
- 3.3 When a meeting is to be convened fully remotely the Council will regard these meetings as 'virtual' meetings and will refer to them as such on Committee Summonses / Agendas / Meeting invites.
- 3.4 The Council Chamber, situated in the Council Headquarters in Clydach Vale

has multi-location meeting capability to enable participants of meetings to attend and fully participate through a hybrid setting. The Council Chamber is therefore the designated venue for physical attendees at a Council Committee meeting. The Chamber also has a designated public gallery to allow the public and press to attend in person.

- 3.5 The Council uses a secure virtual platform to conduct the remote aspect of a meeting. Details of how to access meetings through the virtual platform are provided to Members and relevant attendees in advance of the meeting.
- 3.6 The Council has determined that all meetings must be able to operate as multi-location meetings to ensure that participants are able to attend remotely or physically should they wish to do so, subject to those meetings that were determined by Council, to be conducted as virtual only ([June 2021 Council](#)), or by the request of the Chair.

4. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

- 4.1 Meetings invitations will be provided electronically and will provide details of the meeting, its location and timings. Meeting invites will include links to enable the participants to join remotely should they wish to do so. In respect of hybrid meetings, participants will need to indicate their intention to attend the meeting physically or remotely in advance to enable any necessary administrative and support arrangements to be put in place by Democratic Services.
- 4.2 Owing to the necessary administrative support that is required to hold hybrid meetings, a minimum number of physical attendees will be put in place for those meetings as indicated below. If the minimum number is not met, the meeting will be held as virtual only and the participants informed accordingly by Democratic Services. The Council website will also be updated to advise of the changes and notify any members of the public who may have wished to attend the meeting physically in a viewing / observer capacity.
- 4.3 The minimum physical attendance by Members and subsequent arrangements will be in place as follows:

MEETING	DETAILS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Cabinet • Planning Committee • Licensing Committee • Appeals Committee • Standards Committee 	All meetings will be offered as hybrid (i.e. participants can attend either physically or remotely).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Scrutiny Committees • Governance and Audit Committee • Democratic Services Committee 	All meetings will be offered as hybrid subject to the following attendance numbers: – ¼ of the Committee as

	Minimum number of physical attendees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Education Authority Governors • Voluntary Early Retirement Redundancy Panel • Pension Fund Committee • Executive Committees / Steering Groups • Joint Committees • Working Groups 	All meetings will be offered as virtual (i.e. participants can attend remotely only)

5 QUORUM

- 5.1 The quorum of a meeting is one quarter of the voting Members unless specified otherwise within the Council’s Constitution. The quorum shall include those attending remotely, or physically; providing they are able to speak and be heard by each other and to see and be seen by others when participating in proceedings.
- 5.2 If the numbers present fall below the quorum required, the meeting ends immediately.

6 USE OF CAMERAS

- 6.1 Remote participants of meetings must be able to “speak to and be heard by each other” and “to see and be seen by each other”.
- 6.2 For all meetings, Members are requested to leave their cameras on throughout the duration of the meeting. Any Press in attendance will be asked to keep their cameras off for the duration of the meeting. If circumstance arises where it may not be appropriate to capture your video image, permission must be sought from the Chair and the reason recorded. It is accepted that there will be occasions when a remote participant may need to disable their camera due to poor connection/internet issues or personal circumstances of their home environment.
- 6.3 Committee reports under consideration will not be displayed on screen. Only when Officers are providing a presentation, will the information be shown on screen.
- 6.4 Members and Officers should be mindful of any confidential information they may have on display when attending a hybrid meeting that could be picked up on camera.

7 WITHDRAWAL FROM A MEETING DUE TO A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

- 7.1 Should an Elected Member declare a Prejudicial Interest at a hybrid or virtual meeting, the Member must withdraw from the meeting unless they are relying on a relevant exemption set out in the Council's Member Code of Conduct and which is properly disclosed or obtained a dispensation from the Council's Standards Committee. However, where Members of the public are able to speak at a meeting, the Elected Member can also remain to make their representations but must leave after their representations are made. (For further information on declarations of interests at meetings see the [Council's Constitution](#).)
- 7.2 The Elected Member will be invited back into the meeting once the item relating to the prejudicial item has concluded. Should that person not respond to the call to re-join, the meeting will continue without them, providing it is quorate.

8 CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AT MEETINGS

- 8.1 Each meeting agenda will indicate whether the information to be considered is exempt or confidential and these items are generally kept until the end of the agenda to limit any disruption to the meeting and any participants who may be required to leave the meeting at that point.
- 8.2 Agenda items which contain public information, and which are not exempt or confidential can be considered in a public forum. When an exempt or confidential item is itemised on the agenda the following steps may be used to ensure that the information is not shared with anyone other than those entitled to receive it:
- a) Request that those not entitled to consider the exempt information leave the public remote meeting or be moved to the "virtual" waiting room whilst the exempt information is considered.
 - b) Request that Members who are attending a meeting remotely ensure that the consideration (including any vote) on any confidential/exempt item cannot be overheard or seen other than by themselves
 - c) The meeting recording and webcast will be paused for the duration of the exempt item. In the physical part of the meeting any observers will be requested to leave the room whilst the exempt item is considered.
 - d) When consideration of the exempt information has been completed, if there are further public items to be considered, all remote participants will be invited to re-join the public remote meeting and the recording and webcast will be resumed. Likewise, the observers or participants attending the physical meeting will be invited to return into the meeting venue.

9 MEETING ETIQUETTE

- 9.1 Participants attending meetings remotely, should use an appropriate background setting. It is recommended that Members either blur their

background or chose the corporate background feature when attending remotely.

9.2 Members should conduct themselves in a professional manner at all meetings regardless of the setting (physical or remote). Members should refrain, whenever possible, from eating **and smoking** when on camera and should consider their appearance with no offensive clothing or materials on display. Members should ensure that they show respect at all times and consideration for others and not use bullying language or behaviour towards others.

9.3 In addition it is essential to **attend meetings from a safe, confidential and secure location, ensuring that where possible the location does not cause connectivity, sound and vision issues which may detract from the content of the meeting.** ~~avoid joining a meeting virtually from a noisy or public location or from your vehicle as undoubtedly these locations will cause.~~ **Members and Officers should ensure that their location provides a** ~~Neither will they offer a safe and confidential environment when discussing exempt agenda items. If it is deemed that the location a Member has chosen to conduct the meeting is not suitable for the reasons stated above, Under such circumstances the Chair in discussion with the Proper Officer attending the meeting may~~ ask a member to leave the meeting and rejoin from a more suitable location.

9.4 Virtual participants should only use the chat function if there is something they need the meeting to be aware of i.e. they are having sound issues or they need to leave the meeting early. The chat facility is not to be used for discussions, as all discussions must be made verbally in the meeting for the sake of individuals observing the meeting and / or the meeting recording where appropriate. The chat is not to be used for other reasons. Be mindful that everyone in the meeting can see the chat content.

9.5 All those participating in the meeting, physically or remotely, will need to indicate when they would like to speak, via the microphone queuing system in the Chamber or virtual hands raised when attending remotely. Only when brought in by the Presiding Officer / Chair may someone speak. Those in physical attendance in the Council Chamber should wait for their microphone light to indicate red before speaking. Those attending remotely should remember to unmute their microphone when speaking and to re-mute when finished. In both settings, participants must speak clearly and into the microphone.

10 VOTING

10.1 Voting will either take place electronically, via a roll call or a mixture of both. All voting results will be announced by either the Presiding Officer / Chair, the Monitoring/Legal Officer or the Head of Democratic Services before moving to the next item of business. Should a Member leave the meeting and not return, their vote will not be able to be provided by another Member.

10.2 Unless a recorded vote is requested in accordance with the Council's

Constitution, the Chair will seek a consensus from Members. If no objections are received the recommendations will be considered as carried (“no dissent”).

- 10.3 In both Hybrid or virtual meetings, where the vote will be carried out electronically the names of those voting for, against or abstaining will be automatically recorded and published on the Council’s website. If a physical roll call of votes is taken this will be undertaken by the Monitoring Officer or Head of Democratic Services at Full Council and for any other meeting by the Legal/Democratic Services Officer.

11 WELSH SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

- 11.1 The Council Chamber conferencing system, which includes simultaneous interpretation and webcasting, currently promotes the use of the Welsh Language at every opportunity and this provision is in place to support those committees where the membership includes Welsh speaking Members. This will also be offered where Democratic Services has been informed in advance of any public speakers wishing to converse through the medium of Welsh (as indicated above).
- 11.2 For observers of any live webcast meeting, observers will have the option of viewing the webcast through either the English or Welsh feed provided, subject to their language choice.

12 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

- 12.1 The Democratic Services Officer will record the attendance of each Committee Member and participant at the meeting and record attendance in the relevant Decision Notice/Minutes of the meeting. An attendance record will also be displayed on each individual Members’ profile on the Council webpages. Committee Members are to inform the relevant Democratic Services Officer if they are unable to attend a meeting and their apologies will be recorded at the meeting and published in the minutes of the meeting.

13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 13.1 In order to address Committees such as the Planning & Development Committee, public participation guidance is available to assist residents when they attend both remote meetings and in person in the Council Chamber. Following confirmation of their requests to the appropriate chair, they will be contacted and supported through the processes in place to address Committee.
- 13.2 A public participant at a meeting wishing to speak in Welsh is required to contact Democratic Services at least 2 days in advance of a meeting (as directed on each Committee agenda) so that the necessary translation arrangements can be made. All meetings will be facilitated by a Democratic Services Officer.

14 CHAIRING MEETINGS

- 14.1 The Statutory Guidance understands that chairing a multi-location meeting is very different to chairing a face-to-face meeting. The job of the Presiding Officer / Chair is particularly challenging at a physical meeting with some participants joining remotely. Presiding Officers / Chairs and vice-chairs are encouraged to attend meetings in person in order to benefit from the direct support of the Democratic Services officer and Legal officer supporting the Committee. **It is suggested there where a Chair is unable to attend the Council Chamber the meeting is held as a virtual meeting.**
- 14.2 In general Chairs of meetings should ensure they are prepared for the meeting; ensure all participants are able to access the meeting and can see and hear each other; introduce themselves and others to members of the public who may be present; check occasionally to ensure no one has been lost due to technical difficulties and provide support to those participants experiencing challenges; and, ensure all participants are given an opportunity to speak and appropriately use the chat facility.

15 WEBCASTING OF MEETINGS IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

- 15.1 Local Authorities are required to webcast certain Council meetings. The main purpose of webcasting is to aid transparency, governance and accountability by giving members of the public, elected members, officers and other interested parties the opportunity to observe meetings without having to attend in person and for the Council to have an official audio and visual record of its decision-making process.
- 15.2 The following formal meetings of the Council are amongst some of the meetings that will either be webcast by being streamed live or recorded for upload to the Council's webcasting website within a reasonable period of time following the end of the meeting:

[Home – Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(public-i.tv\)](#)
[Virtual Meetings | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council](#)
rctcbc.gov.uk

- Council
 - Cabinet
 - Planning & Development Committee
 - Licensing Committee
 - Governance and Audit Committee
 - Democratic Services Committee
 - All Scrutiny Committee meetings
 - Standards Committee
- 15.3 Webcasting enhances the formal record of the meeting and the decisions taken, which are published on the Council website in the form of minutes or decision notices.

- 15.4 A webcasting protocol is included in [Part 4 Of the Council's Constitution](#).

16 RECORDING OF THE MEETING

- 16.1 At the start of each meeting, participants will be informed verbally of the intention to record the meeting. Subject to any disagreement being made verbally, all attendees consent to be filmed and to the use of those images and any sound recordings.
- 16.2 When recording the meeting the Council collects, uses and stores the following categories of personal information about participants;
- Their voice which will be recorded when they speak at the meeting;
 - Their image which will be recorded for the duration of their attendance in the meeting.
- 16.3 Details of how the local authority uses a participant's personal information for Recording and Publishing Meetings of the Council, Cabinet and Committees can be found [here](#).

17 PUBLICATION OF MEETING INFORMATION

- 17.1 The Council's committee administration software [Civica-Modern.gov](#) is used to publish all meeting related agendas, reports, minutes and decision notices to its Council webpages on both the English and Welsh side of the website for the public to view. In addition, each Committee page links to its relevant webcast recording.

18 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

- 18.1 A calendar of meetings will be developed annually which identifies when Committee meetings will be taken forward throughout the Municipal Year and the timings of such meetings. This may be subject to change for operational reasons and these changes will be publicised.

19 TRAINING

- 19.1 Members and officers will receive training to be able to participate at meetings which will include the use of the virtual meeting platform software utilised for joining remote meetings and the use of the microphones in the Council Chamber when meetings take place physically in the building. Other training includes access to Modern Gov Committee papers, electronic voting and external participants will also receive support from Democratic Services when accessing the meeting.
- 19.2 Training for multi-location meetings will continue to be reviewed and provided to ensure the appropriate support provision is provided at all times by the Council Business Unit.

20 REVIEWING THE POLICY

20.1 The Multi Location meetings policy will be reviewed as and when appropriate to ensure it remains relevant and 'fit for purpose'.

21 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

21.1 This guidance policy should be read in conjunction with the Council's Constitution, Privacy Notice for Recording and publishing Council, Cabinet and Committee Meetings and the Council's Corporate Privacy Notice - which can be found in the following links:

Constitution – [Council Constitution | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](http://rctcbc.gov.uk)

Privacy Notice - [Recording and Publishing Council, Cabinet and Committee Meetings for Staff and Elected Members | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](http://rctcbc.gov.uk)

Council's Corporate Privacy Notice – [How we use your personal information - An Overview | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](http://rctcbc.gov.uk)



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

THE SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (THE CJC)

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks Council agreement for the creation of a Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as part of the Governance arrangements relating to the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (the CJC).
- 1.2 The CJC is required to have appropriate scrutiny arrangements in place. This report sets out the requirements in relation to those statutory duties and seeks authority to implement suitable arrangements.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Appoints the JOSOC as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the CJC;
- 2.2 Approves the Draft Terms of Reference for its functions in respect of the CJC, as attached at Appendix 2;
- 2.3 Notes the appointment of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, as the host authority, for the JOSOC.
- 2.4 Notes that the cost of administering the JOSOC for the CJC will be dealt with by a service level agreement between RCTCBC and the CJC, to be concluded in due course.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that appropriate Overview and Scrutiny functions are implemented in respect of the CJC.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Statutory Guidance issued by Welsh Government that accompanies the CJC Regulations states that the CJs will be subject to the same performance, governance and scrutiny requirements as local authorities. However, it also states that it is expected that these arrangements should be proportionate to the scale of functions the CJC undertakes.
- 4.2 The Statutory Guidance further states that *'in considering the most effective and efficient approach to scrutiny, constituent councils and CJs should give thought to the benefits of a joint overview and scrutiny committee made up of the constituent councils'*.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 Regulations 8 – 10 of the Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 (“the Regulations”) set out the CJC’s duties in relation to overview and scrutiny. The Regulations require the CJC to provide information to, attend meetings of and consider any report or recommendations made by a ‘relevant overview and scrutiny committee.’ A ‘relevant overview and scrutiny committee’ is defined in Regulation 8 (7)) as:
- a. an overview and scrutiny committee appointed by a constituent council under section 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2000;
 - b. a joint overview and scrutiny committee appointed under the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013 where the appointing authorities are constituent councils of the corporate joint committee;
 - c. a sub-committee of a committee described in paragraph (a) or (b).
- 5.2 The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (the “JOSC”) was appointed by the constituent councils of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Committee (the “CCR”) to provide the scrutiny function for the Joint Committee that body. It meets up to 4 times per year and is administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (“RCTCBC”).
- 5.3 The JOSC comprises one non-executive member from each constituent council of the CCRCD, which are also the constituent authorities of the CJC. Authorities are also requested to appoint Deputy Members to support the operation of the committee and effective scrutiny.

6. PROPOSALS

- 6.1 It is proposed that appointing the JOSC as the overview and scrutiny committee for the CJC under a separate terms of reference would best satisfy Welsh Government’s intention, as set out in the Statutory Guidance, because:

- (1) the Statutory Guidance provides for consideration to be given to scrutiny being carried out by a joint committee of the constituent authorities;
 - (2) the Statutory Guidance expressly states that scrutiny arrangements should be proportionate to the scale and functions of the CJC; and
 - (3) JOSOC already provides the scrutiny function of the CCR, the functions of which will be transferred to the CJC in due course.
- 6.2 Informal discussions have taken place between the Interim Monitoring Officer of the CJC and Service Director for Democratic Services & Communications in respect of the proposal.
- 6.3 The host authorities 'Head of Democratic Services' would be responsible for fulfilling the statutory responsibility of ensuring that sufficient advice and resources are available to members of the JOSOC to effectively perform their role. This would also include enabling access to sufficient training and development opportunities.
- 6.4 The JOSOC met on 27th July 2023 and have indicated their agreement in principle to the proposal. A letter from the Chair of the JOSOC to the Interim Monitoring Officer of the CJC dated 27th July 2023 is attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 6.5 The Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013 requires all ten constituent Councils to agree to appoint a JOSOC as a relevant scrutiny committee for the CJC, and when doing so, to enter into an agreement setting out the terms of reference, rules and procedures and other ancillary matters as set out in regulation 4 of those Regulations.
- 6.6 A draft terms of reference dealing with these matters is attached to this report as Appendix 2. In approving the draft terms of reference, the Council is entering into an agreement pursuant to regulation 4 as set out above.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report and no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed necessary for the purposes of this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The additional costs of providing the scrutiny function will be met by the CJC under existing budgets.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal implications are set out in the body of the report.

10. CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The JOSc has been consulted at its meeting held on the 27th July 2023, prior to consideration of any of the proposals being presented to the ten constituent Councils.

11. THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT 2015

- 11.1 In developing these proposals, regard should be given to the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act 2015 which provides the context within which public bodies, including CJsCs, should be exercising their functions, using their resources and ensuring their governance is effective with the aim of maximising their contribution to the well-being goals within the scope of their functions / responsibilities. The Act places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language and is globally responsible. The five ways of working set out in the WFG Act (long-term, collaboration, involvement, prevention and integration) will be particularly important to consider in the context of the CJC.
- 11.2 The Well-being of Future Generations Act asks public bodies to work better with people, communities and each other to meet the Sustainable Development principle. The Council's approach to the implementation of the Act agreed by Cabinet is to make sure that its requirements are embedded into the everyday business.
- 11.3 The 'Future Generations Framework for Scrutiny' poses a set of questions that Scrutiny Members can use as a prompt. It can be used to see if the decisions they conclude have applied the Sustainable Development principle and to ensure that the work and recommendations of the JOSc are progressed through the lens of the Act.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 This report advises Members of the proposal to appoint the JOSc as the overview and scrutiny committee for the CJC under a separate terms of reference, which would best satisfy Welsh Government's intention, as set out in the Statutory Guidance. To ensure that appropriate overview and scrutiny arrangements are in place as an important part of the democratic accountability of the CJC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

COUNCIL

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

THE SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (THE CJC)

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION**

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Letter from the Chair of the JOSOC dated 27th July 2023

Appendix 2 – Draft Terms of Reference of the JOSOC for the CJC

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27th July 2023

Cardiff Capital Region Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Feedback on the proposal of Scrutiny arrangements of the Corporate Joint Committee

Dear James,

The Cardiff Capital Region Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on the 27th July 2023 to consider the proposed Scrutiny arrangements for the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee, before these are formally considered at the CJC on Monday 31st July 2023

Members were supportive of the proposed arrangements for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be appointed as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the CJC and highlighted the importance of ensuring that an effective model of governance and scrutiny arrangements for the CJC are put in place. This included ensuring that the arrangement is adequately resourced to include funding for Members to receive sufficient training and support to take forward future Scrutiny for the CJC. In doing this, Members welcomed the opportunity to shape and revise their Terms of Reference to ensure they are fit for purpose and provide a clear and defined purpose on the Committee's future objectives and responsibilities.

We look forward to hearing from you following the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee meeting on Monday 31st July to progress the next steps

Yours sincerely,

Councillor A Whitcombe
Chair Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Y Pafiliynau, Cwm Clydach, Tonypany,
CF40 2XX The Pavilions, Clydach Vale,
Tonypany CF40 2XX

scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk

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Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi. Rhoch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to a delay. Let us know your language choice if Welsh or bilingual.



MAE EICH DATA O BWYS www.rctcbc.gov.uk/diogeludata
YOUR DATA MATTERS www.rctcbc.gov.uk/dataprotection



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**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE**

Definitions

1. For the purposes of these Terms of Reference:

‘CJC’ – The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

‘Appointing Authorities’ are the constituent councils of the CJC

‘Host Authority’ means Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC, or such other authority as the Appointing Authorities may agree from time to time;

Introduction

2. The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (“the JOSC”) was established by the agreement of the Appointing Authorities pursuant to the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013.

Members

3. The JOSC shall consist of one non-executive member from each Appointing Authority.
4. It is a matter for each Appointing Authority, from time to time, to nominate, or terminate the appointment of its nominated member serving on the JOSC. Each Appointing Authority shall be entitled, from time to time, to appoint a deputy for its member representative to the JOSC but such deputy shall only be entitled to vote at meetings of the JOSC in the absence of their corresponding principal.
5. The length of appointment is a matter for each Appointing Authority.

Quorum

6. The quorum necessary for a meeting of the JOSC is at least 5 out of the 10 JOSC members, present at the relevant time.

Election of a Chair

7. The JOSC shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually.

Rules of Procedure

8. The procedure rules will be those of the Host Authority for its Scrutiny Committees.

Members' Conduct

9. Members of the JOSC will be bound by their respective Council's Code of Conduct.

Declarations of Interest

10. Members of the JOSC must declare any interest either before or during the meetings of the JOSC (and withdraw from that meeting if necessary) in accordance with their Council's Code of Conduct or as required by law.

Confidential and Exempt Information / Access to Information

11. The Host Authority's Access to Information Procedure rules shall apply subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.

Openness and Transparency

12. All meetings of the JOSC will be open to the public unless it is necessary to exclude the public in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.
13. All agendas, reports and minutes of the JOSC will be made publicly available, unless deemed exempt or confidential in accordance with the above Act.

Functions to be exercised by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14. The JOSC shall be responsible for exercising the functions of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee pursuant to the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013.
15. Any member of the JOSC may refer to the JOSC any matter which is relevant to its functions provided it is not a local crime and disorder matter as defined in section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
16. Any member of any of the Appointing Authorities may refer to the JOSC any local Government matter which is relevant to the functions of the JOSC, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The matter relates to one of the functions of the Appointing Authority and is relevant to the functions of the JOSC,
 - b. It affects the electoral area of the member or it affects any person who lives or works there; and
 - c. It is not a local crime and disorder matter as defined in section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
17. When considering whether to refer a matter to the JOSC a member should first consider if it falls within the remit of a single overview and scrutiny committee within the member's local authority, and if that is the case the member should raise the matter there. Members should only refer a matter to the JOSC if it falls clearly within the responsibilities and terms of reference of the JOSC and if there is no scrutiny of the issue in the local authority to which the member belongs.

Administrative Arrangements

18. It shall be the responsibility of the Head of Democratic Services of the Host Authority to ensure that an appropriate level of officer support and other resources to the joint overview and scrutiny committee are in place at all times. The cost of providing these resources will be met by the CJC.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/2024

COUNCIL

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

OUTSIDE BODY MEMBERSHIP

SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To receive the Authority's nomination and subsequent appointment of an Elected Member on the Governing Body of Coleg Y Cymoedd for the remainder of the four-year term (culminating in 2025).
- 1.2 To consider the proposed change to the current Officer representation to the Governing Body of Coleg Y Cymoedd following the resignation of Mrs G Davies, Director of Education & Inclusion Services, from the position.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To receive Member nominations to represent the Council on the Governing Body of Coleg Y Cymoedd for the remainder of the term of office;
- 2.2 To consider the appointment of Kate Owen as the nominated Officer in place of Mrs G Davies, Director of Education & Inclusion Services, following her resignation from the position; and
- 2.3 Subject to the agreement of 2.1 and 2.2, correspondence be sent to Coleg Y Cymoedd advising them of the appointment (and change) to the Authority's nominated representatives.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Previously, due to the nature and personal requirements of the role (as set out in section 4 of the report), the Member appointed to this position has been the relevant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education.

- 3.2 Since the Local Government Elections in May 2022, Mrs G Davies has fulfilled the requirements of the Board and represented the Council on the Governing Body of Coleg Y Cymoedd in her capacity as Director of Education & Inclusion Services.
- 3.3 Coinciding with the resignation of Mrs Davies, the Council has been invited to consider the appointment of both an Elected Member and proposed nominated Officer representative, namely Kate Owen, to the Outside Body for the remaining term, until the Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2025.

4. THE GOVERNING BODY

- 4.1 The Governing Body at Coleg Y Cymoedd is made up of people from business or public life and will bring with them a range of skills and expertise that is important to the development and future of Coleg y Cymoedd. The Governing Body is responsible for the scrutiny of a number of areas including *'the determination of the educational character and mission of the institution and for oversight of its activities.'*
- 4.2 Coleg Y Cymoedd has determined that amongst the personal qualities required for the appointment includes *'a strong interest in further education and training and a determination to improve student success'*, as well as *'an ability to understand complex matters relating to public education and training policy, College planning, and College performance.'*
- 4.3 In view of the required knowledge and personal qualities, Council is now asked to consider appropriate nominations for the appointment of an Elected Member to represent the Council on the Governing Body of Coleg Y Cymoedd.
- 4.4 Council is also asked to consider the appointment of Kate Owen as the Council's Officer representative.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Members are encouraged as part of the Local Government & Elections Act Wales, to promote diversity in representations, particularly when determining senior roles.

6. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 There are no consultation implications aligned to this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 As in accordance with the Council's membership requirements – Council Constitution.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 9.1 The Council's Committees contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan objectives, therefore it is important to ensure the Committee membership to its Outside Bodies is complete and accurate.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 To provide Members with information in respect of the Committee membership.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee – Not applicable

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION**

Background Papers

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODY

Freestanding Matter

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

COUNCIL

20TH SEPTEMBER 2023

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Author – Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report seeks ratification of the decision of the Appointments Committee, regarding the appointment of the selected candidate to the post of Director of Social Services following completion of the recent recruitment and selection process agreed previously by the Appointments Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council ratify the recommendation of the Appointments Committee that Mr Neil Elliot be appointed to the post of Director of Social Services,
- 2.2 To note that if Council agree to the Appointment Committee's recommendation, then Mr. Elliot's start date in this post will be Thursday 21st September 2023.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will be aware from the Council's Constitution of the procedure for the selection and appointment of candidates to chief officer positions within the Council.
- 3.2 Section 144 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 stipulates that a local authority must appoint an officer, to be known as the director of social services, for the purposes of its social services functions.
- 3.3 To that end, I would advise Members that following an intensive assessment centre recruitment process on Wednesday 2nd and Friday

4th August 2023, the Appointments Committee determined to recommend to the Council that Mr Neil Elliot be appointed to the post of Director of Social Services.