



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022 - 2023

COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25th MAY 2022

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBERS

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for Council to consider a proposal to appoint two Deputy Presiding Members as part of the Council's democratic Council structure to undertake the functions of the Presiding Member in their absence as of the Chair of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Considers the proposal to appoint two Deputy Presiding Members into the Council structure, who would undertake the administrative functions of the Chair of the Council in the absence of the Presiding Member.
- 2.2 Subject to 2.1 above, appoints two Deputy Presiding Members for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year (at agenda item 4 'Elections & Appointments') and on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting thereafter.
- 2.3 Subject to 2.2 above, agrees that the Director of Legal Services (as Monitoring Officer) amends the Council's Constitution to reflect the required amendments detailed in the above recommendations and makes any consequential changes.

3. APPOINTING TWO DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBERS

- 3.1 The ability to appoint a Presiding Member was introduced via amendments to the Local Government Act 1972 by the Local Government (Democracy) Wales Act 2013.

- 3.2 At the Council AGM in 2019 Members resolved to adopt the Presiding Member and Deputy Presiding Member structure by which:
- a. The recognised governance and administrative functions of the position of the Chair of the Council are undertaken by the Presiding Member (or in his/her absence the Deputy Presiding Member); and
 - b. The ceremonial and civic functions could become a stand-alone role to be undertaken by the Mayor (or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor).
- 3.3 Where a Presiding Member is appointed, the Council must appoint a Deputy Presiding Member.
- 3.4 Members are asked to consider the appointment of **two** Deputy Presiding Members to ensure the availability of one or the other to preside over meetings of full council, in the absence of the Presiding Officer.
- 3.5 Should Council agree to the appointment of two Deputy Presiding Members, neither is entitled to be remunerated for the functions attributed to that post. A Deputy Presiding Member cannot be a member of the Executive and may do anything authorised or required to be done by the Presiding Member.
- 3.6 The availability of two Deputy Presiding Members will ensure a consistent approach to the Chairing of hybrid meeting arrangements, and the complexities which they present. This arrangement would mean that in most circumstances one of the three members would be available to chair a hybrid meeting in person, which is vital to the smooth running of a live broadcasted meeting. This additional role would also support the discharge of Council business, through their shared knowledge and understanding of the role of Presiding Officer ensuring that one or the other will always be available to undertake the administrative functions of the role, in discussion with the Head of Democratic Services, in the absence of the Presiding Member.
- 3.7 It is proposed that the appointment of a Presiding Member and the two Deputy Presiding Members is undertaken on an annual basis with such appointments being made at the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.8 Should Council wish to make changes to the existing arrangements it would require consequential changes to the Constitution and it is recommended the Director of Legal Services (as Monitoring Officer) be given delegated authority to make such changes.

4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 On the 2nd May 2019 the Council's Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee, in accordance with its terms of reference, met to consider the appointment of a Presiding Member (and Deputy Member) and determined to recommend to Council the appointment be made on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting, commencing from the 2019 Council Annual General Meeting.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The legal implications and relevant legislation is outlined in the main body of the report.

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

- 8.1 The work of all Councilors is fundamental to the work of the Council and subsequently the delivery of the Corporate Plan, hence ensuring Members are fully supported in undertaking their roles during Council meetings is important to the work of the Council overall.
- 8.2 Ensuring appropriate governance arrangements are in place is also essential to the smooth operating and sustainability of the Council when undertaking Council Business.
- 8.3 The proposal is also linked to the Future Generations well-being goals of a more equal Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AS AMENDED BY
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
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Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)
Local Government (Democracy) Wales Act 2013