



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25th MAY 2022

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS FOR THE 2022-2023
MUNICIPAL YEAR & ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the Council's Committees for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.
- 1.2 To confirm which Committee Chair Roles which will qualify for a senior salary in line with the determinations of the IRP.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Subject to the appointment of such Committees at Agenda Item 9 and to the adoption of the revised scrutiny committee structure set out at Agenda item 6, Members are advised to make appointments to the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair set out in item 10 of the agenda, in-line with the requirements and detail set out in this report; and
- 2.2 Notes the recommendations in respect of which Chairs roles should be in receipt of a Senior Salary in line with the recommendations of the IRP annual report (Up to a maximum of 19 overall).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The determinations contained with the IRP Report can be accessed via the following links: -

[English](#)

[Cymraeg](#)

- 3.2 The IRP for Wales sets the range and level of payments for the financial year 2022 to 2023, which is published within its annual report, including the number of senior salaries such as chairs of committees and the leader of the opposition.
- 3.3 Members are asked to note that there is no change to the maximum proportion of Members who are eligible to receive a Senior Salary. Therefore, the maximum proportion of the Council's membership which can be paid a Senior Salary remains capped at 19.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

- 4.1 Subject to the appointment of the Committees at Agenda Item 9 the Council is requested to appoint Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the under-mentioned Committees:
- Planning and Development Committee
 - Licensing Committee
 - Appointments Committee
 - Appeals/Employee Appeals/Chief Officer Appeals Committee
 - Pension Fund Committee

APPOINTMENT OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR

- 4.2 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (the 'Measure'), the Council must appoint the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee and that Chair must not be a Member who belongs to a group with Members in the Executive. Council may also appoint the Vice-Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

- 4.3 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021, the Governance & Audit Committee Chair, who is appointed by the Committee, must be a lay person and the deputy chair must not be a member of the local authority's executive or an assistant to its executive.
- 4.4 At the Council meeting held on the [20th October 2021](#), it was agreed to extend the term of office of the current Lay Member appointed to the Governance & Audit Committee, Mr. Christopher Jones, until the ordinary Local Government Elections following May 2022 (currently scheduled for May 2027)

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- 4.5 The appointment of the persons to Chair the Scrutiny Committees must comply with the requirements set out in the Measure.

- 4.6 In light of the Political Balance report presented at Agenda Item 7 viz: two or more Political groups with multiple Scrutiny Committees, the application of the procedures set out in Section 70 of the Measure results in the allocation set out below:

Labour Group - 3
Plaid Cymru Group - 1
RCT Independent Group - 0
Conservative Group - 0

- 4.7 The Council must determine, which of the following Scrutiny Committees is to be chaired by the Plaid Cymru Group (and subject to the agreement of the proposed scrutiny arrangements as set out at agenda item 9):

- Overview and Scrutiny
- Education & Inclusion
- Community Services
- Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity

- 4.8 It is proposed that the arrangements for the 2022-2023 are as follows:

- Scrutiny Committee (to be determined) being chaired by a member of the Plaid Cymru Group.
- Nominations from the appropriate Group Officers in respect of these scrutiny Chair posts will be sought at the meeting.
- The Council will need to appoint the Vice-Chairs of the four Scrutiny Committees.

APPOINTMENT OF CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

- 4.9 The Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to keep its Constitution under review and up to date and the Constitution Committee has been appointed for this purpose. The Committee is a body to which the political balance requirement of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies.
- 4.10 To note the appointment of the Presiding Member as the Chair of the Constitution Committee and, subject to agreement of agenda item 3, confirm which Deputy Presiding Member should be nominated as the Vice-Chair of the Constitution Committee.

CWM TAF PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 4.11 To note that the Chair & Vice-Chair of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee ('JOSC') will be appointed by the JOSC. The Chair and Vice Chair must be a member

of either Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough or Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. Members are asked to confirm the Council's Nomination for one of these roles.

5. POSTS THAT ATTRACT SENIOR SALARIES

- 5.1 In line with the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRP) the Council has determined which roles, with additional responsibilities such as Cabinet Members and Chairs, will receive a Senior Salary up to a maximum of 19.
- 5.2 The Head of Democratic Services has been advised that the Leader of the Council will appoint eight Cabinet Members through his scheme of delegation.
- 5.3 There is flexibility therefore within cap of 19 to be able to allocate a Senior Salary to role which has not been possible, despite the extensive workload, responsibilities and time requirement of each Chair. Previously under the cap of 19, it has not been possible to recognise the significant Committee workloads, both in terms of business and the time requirements and responsibilities of the Chair of Appeals and the Chair of the Pensions Committee.
- 5.4 Through the added senior salary flexibility provided by the reduction in the number of Cabinet Members, it is recommended that the following 19 posts, which meet the qualifying criteria and would attract Senior Salaries, are to be paid by this Council for the 2022/23 Municipal Year as follows:

POSITION	AMOUNT (£)
Leader	£63,000
Deputy Leader	£44,100
Executive (Cabinet Member) (x6)	£37,800
Planning & Development Committee Chair	£25,593
Licensing Committee Chair	£25,593
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair	£25,593
Scrutiny Committee Chairs (x3)	£25,593
Appeals Committee Chair	£25,593
Democratic Services Committee Chair	£25,593

Pension Fund Committee Chair	£25,593
Presiding Member	£25,593
Leader of Opposition (largest group)* *must be paid subject to relevant criteria being met	£25,593

Civic Salaries

- 5.5 In 2021-22 the Council determined not to remunerate the position of Deputy Mayor following a reconfiguration of the roles agreed at the Council's Twenty Fourth AGM and the decision to appoint a Presiding Member.
- 5.6 The posts of Mayor and deputy Mayor are not included in the Senior Salary cap of 19.
- 5.7 Members must not be paid a Senior Salary and a Civic Salary.

6. Reimbursement of Travel and Subsistence Expenses

- 6.1 The IRP has decided there will be no change in 2022-23 to mileage rates that can be claimed for travel. These remain linked to current HMRC rates. Likewise, the IRP has determined that a maximum rate which can be claimed for subsistence expenses continue to be in line with Welsh Government rates and all claims must be supported by receipts.
- 6.2 Claims for travel, such as bus and taxi fares will only be reimbursed on production of a receipt showing the actual expense and are subject to any requirement or further limitation that the Council may determine. Members and co-opted members should always be mindful of choosing the most cost-effective method of travel.
- 6.3 Members of this Council have previously determined that undertaking constituency duties should not be included as an approved duty for the purposes of claiming travel allowances.
- 6.4 It is proposed that, subject to any change to the mileage rates that can be claimed for travel or the rates for subsistence expenses (which will be reported to the subsequent Annual General Meeting of the Council (AGM), the current arrangements, as set out above, continue until the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council following the Local Government Elections to be held in 2027.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers

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Freestanding Matter