



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL
JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee held on Tuesday, 7 February 2023 at 12.00 pm (draft, subject to approval).

County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present:

Councillor A Crimmings Councillor R Lewis
Councillor M Webber (Chair)

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr P Griffiths, Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services

Trade Unions

Mr P Crews, Representing Unison
Mr W Bond, Representing GMB

Apologies

Councillor A Morgan
Ms L Davies- Unite

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct there were no declarations of interest pertaining to the agenda.

Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee held on the 10th February 2022 were a true reflection of the meeting.

BUDGET CONSULTATION 2023/24 (PHASE 2)

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, the Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services provided Members with an overview of the Budget Consultation 2023/24 (Phase 2) and updated the Committee on the following areas: Phase 1 Budget Consultation – Headlines; Provisional Local Government Settlement 2023/24 – Headlines/Implications for Rhondda Cynon Taf; Cabinet Proposed Budget Strategy 2023/24; and Next steps and key dates.

Members of the Committee thanked the Service Director for his overview of the

Cabinet's proposed Budget Strategy for 2023/24 and provided the following comments:

- The Unison representative fed back that although the need to deliver efficiency savings is recognised, further information was requested to provide assurance that the savings can be delivered without the need for compulsory redundancies. The Service Director provided assurance that agreed efficiency savings would be delivered via natural staff turnover, redeployment and the Council's voluntary redundancy / retirement schemes, and through close working with Trade Union colleagues. The Director of Human Resources also fed back that where agreed efficiency savings are staffing related, these will be discussed with the recognised Trade Unions.
- A question was raised in relation to the implications of the cessation of European Social Funding (ESF) on some service areas and specifically grant funded posts, and further information was requested on the posts that would be affected. The Service Director indicated that information will be compiled and fed back to Trade Union colleagues.
- The Unison representative acknowledged the challenging funding position and commented that under these difficult circumstances it is important to continue to recognise the key roles undertaken by Council staff. The representative made specific reference to Social Care, an area of increasing demand, and noted the need for on-going discussion between the Council and Trade Unions on the challenges within this area. The Service Director noted the feedback and indicated that the Cabinet's proposed 2023/24 budget strategy aims to continue to prioritise the allocation of additional resources to social care and schools in particular.
- A request was made for any planned changes to office accommodation arrangements to be provided in a timely manner to alleviate staff concerns. The Director of Human Resources fed back that timely updates will be provided, as and when agreed by the Senior Leadership Team, and also discussed with Trade Union colleagues. The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication added that the Cabinet is scheduled to consider the Council's updated Office Accommodation Strategy in due course.
- The GMB representative commented that in such challenging times, it was more important than ever for the Council and Trade Unions to work together.
- The Chair reinforced the open-door policy between the Trade Unions and the Council.

This meeting closed at 12.50 pm

**Cllr M Webber
Chair.**