



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 2022-2027 COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny 2022-2027 Committee held on  
Wednesday, 3 May 2023 at 5.00 pm

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

### **County Borough Councillors – The following Overview and Scrutiny 2022-2027 Committee Councillors were present:**

Councillor J Edwards (Chair)

Councillor J Brencher	Councillor M Ashford
Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor S Evans
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor C Middle
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor G L Warren
Councillor K Webb	Councillor G E Williams

### **Officers in attendance:-**

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services  
Ms S Daniel, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **Apologies for absence**

Councillor S Evans    Councillor K Morgan  
Councillor W Owen

#### **67    Declarations of Interest**

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

#### **68    Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st March 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting

#### **69    Consultation Links**

The Principal Scrutiny Officer advised of the open consultations that members are able to feed into. Members were reminded that if they had any queries they could contact the Scrutiny Team via the Scrutiny mailbox

#### **70    Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23**

The Service Director, Democratic Services and Communications explained that

the agenda item had been brought to seek the views of Members of the Committee, in respect of the formatting, content and approach of the annual reporting mechanisms. The publication of annual reports from the scrutiny function, was a requirement within the council's constitution, and provided that opportunity for those annual reports, that found their way to full council, to be considered by all Members, as well as an opportunity to highlight the important role that scrutiny played in various matters and subjects, over the course of the municipal year.

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

1. Endorse Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23 and its presentation to Council.
2. Authorise the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications to consult with the Chairs of the respective thematic scrutiny committees to confirm the content of their individual Annual Reports before presentation to Council

## **71 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE ETHICAL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK**

The Director Legal Services advised Members of the consultation initiated by Welsh Government in respect of the recommendations of the independent review of the Ethical Standards Framework in Wales (Richard Penn report).

Members were advised that an independent review of the Framework was undertaken by Richard Penn between April and July 2021 to assess whether the Framework remains fit for purpose. The review took into account the new legislative requirements set out in the 2021 Act and the current equality and diversity policy context.

The Director continued that since the publication of the review Welsh Government engaged with stakeholders including monitoring officers, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) and her office, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and One Voice Wales. They also listened to the discussion on the Review's recommendations at the All-Wales Standards Conference in February 2022

Members were informed that this consultation was also considered by the Council's Standards Committee (as per its terms of reference) at its meeting on 25th April 2023 and a separate response will be sent to Welsh Government in respect of the responses agreed by that Committee

Members made the following comments and observations:

Members were supportive in bringing the regulations up to date to include standardising a threshold for the declaration of gifts and hospitality to support transparency in Local Government

Members welcomed the removal of the requirement to disclose personal addresses on individual Members' Register of Interest forms which are published which moves to support Members safety.

Members agreed that formulating guidance by the WLGA on the use of social

media should be taken forward given the increase of its use and importance amongst Councils and the public.

Members supported that all Local authorities should want to ensure the promotion of equality and diversity and therefore adding protected characteristics is a sensible approach

Members supported the removal of a restriction on former council employees not being able to sit on Standards Committees in an authority where they were once employed. The removal of this restriction would support Standards Committees in attracting potentially high quality candidates to their Committees

Members considered that a requirement for Councillors of all Principal and Town and Community Councils to receive Mandatory training on the Code of Conduct imperative, and commented that Members of the Senedd should also undergo the training and could be linked to a qualification to make the role attractive to attract younger members to the roles.

Following discussions it was RESOLVED to Authorise the Director of Legal Services to provide Members feedback in respect of the consultation in order for a response to be submitted to Welsh Government in advance of the consultation closing date of 23rd June 2023

**72 Urgent Business**

None

**73 CHAIRS REVIEW AND CLOSE**

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

**This meeting closed at 5.25 pm**

**Councillor J Edwards  
Chair.**

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