



**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.

County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present:

Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor M Webber (Chair)

Councillor R Lewis

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

1 Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted from Councillor A Morgan and L Davies (Unite).

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communication advised that this was the second formal meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee which provides a formal mechanism to engage with colleagues from the Trade Unions, over and above the regular dialogue and discussions which takes place with the Trade Unions.

The Service Director advised that this meeting provided an opportunity to engage with the Trade Unions on the Budget Consultation 2023/24 (Phase 2).

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

3 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.

4 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 Deputy Leader praised the council staff and their continuing positive approach to maximising efficiency savings and commended officers for delivering them year on year. The Deputy Leader spoke of the positive engagement with local residents throughout the budget consultation and the encouraging responses received to the Council’s draft budget and current strategies. Likewise, the positive feedback received from the School Budget Forum where members complimented the council on its continued support for schools through its proposed Budget Strategy in allocating funding in full to cover school costs. The Deputy Leader commented on the Council Tax increase proposal which, although higher than anticipated, would generate additional income.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure commented that in difficult and challenging times it is important to strike a balance to ensure the fees and charges proposals are in line with what is required to achieve a balanced budget and provide value for money for local residents. The Cabinet Member stressed the importance of Leisure Centre membership fees remaining affordable so that members (of which there are currently 10,000) can access these facilities.

The Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language referred to the Councils track record of protecting Schools and how it will continue to do so through the proposed uplift to Schools budget (with the 2.2% efficiency saving requirement (reduced from 2.75%) compared to 7.7% for non-school services). He acknowledged the valuable role that schools play, not only providing education to the children and young people of RCT but supporting their local communities as they did throughout the Pandemic.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the presentation.

This meeting closed at 12.50 pm

**Cllr M Webber
Chair.**