

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - 26TH MAY, 2022

REPORT OF:

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR J. HOLT (THE CHAIR, PRESIDING)

Councillors C. Bainton
P. Baldwin
S. Behr
D. Bevan
K. Chaplin
M. Cross
H. Cunningham
D. Davies
G. A. Davies
M. Day
S. Edmunds
J. Gardener
J. Hill
W. Hodgins
G. Humphreys
R. Leadbeater
E. Jones
J. Morgan, J.P.
J. C. Morgan
J. P. Morgan
L. Parsons
D. Rowberry
C. Smith
T. Smith
G. Thomas
J. Thomas
S. Thomas
H. Trollope
J. Wilkins

D. Wilkshire
L. Winnett
D. Woods

WITH:

Interim Chief Executive
Corporate Director of Education
Interim Corporate Director of Social Services
Chief Officer Resources
Chief Officer Commercial & Customer
Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
Head of Regeneration
Head of Community Services
Head of Organisational Development
Organisational Development Manager – Payroll, Health & Safety
Communications & Marketing Manager
Press & Publicity Officer
Scrutiny & Democratic Officer

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>There were no apologies for absence received.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><u>DEMOCRATIC ARRANGEMENTS 2022 ONWARDS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Democratic and Performance.</p>	

	<p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein relating to the democratic arrangements moving forward be noted.</p>	
No. 5	<p><u>PRESIDING MEMBER AND DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBER</u></p> <p>It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Chris Smith be elected Presiding Member of the Council and that Councillor David Wilkshire be appointed Deputy Presiding Member of the Council for the ensuing year.</p> <p>Upon a vote being taken it was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p>Councillor Smith, thereupon, took the Chair at this juncture.</p>	
No. 6	<p><u>LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</u></p> <p>It was proposed and seconded that Councillor S. Thomas be elected Leader of the Council and that Councillor H. Cunningham be elected Deputy Leader for the ensuing year.</p> <p>Upon a vote being taken it was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p>	
No. 7	<p><u>GROUP OFFICERS</u></p> <p>The Labour Group Officers for the ensuing year were reported as follows:</p> <p>Councillor S. Thomas – Leader Councillor H. Cunningham – Deputy Leader Councillor T. Smith – Secretary Councillor C. Smith – Group Chair Councillor D. Wilkshire – Group Vice-Chair Councillor P. Baldwin – Treasurer</p> <p>It was reported that the Independent Group Officers for the ensuing year would be:</p>	

	<p>Councillor J. Wilkins - Leader Councillor W. Hodgins - Deputy Leader Councillor L. Parsons – Secretary</p>	
No. 8	<p><u>MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE</u></p> <p>Upon a vote being taken it was unanimously RESOLVED that the following be appointed:</p> <p><u>Leader of the Council/Executive Member - Corporate Overview & Performance</u> Councillor S. Thomas</p> <p><u>Deputy Leader of the Council/Executive Member – Place & Environment</u> Councillor H. Cunningham</p> <p><u>Executive Member – Place & Regeneration</u> Councillor J. C. Morgan</p> <p><u>Executive Member – People & Social Services</u> Councillor H. Trollope</p> <p><u>Executive Member – People & Education</u> Councillor S. Edmunds</p>	
No. 9	<p><u>CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND MEMBERSHIP OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES</u></p> <p>It was proposed and seconded that the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair be held by the following and upon a vote being taken this was unanimously RESOLVED:</p> <p><u>People Scrutiny Committee</u> Chair Councillor T. Smith Vice-Chair Councillor J. Morgan, J.P.</p> <p><u>Place Scrutiny Committee</u> Chair Councillor M. Cross Vice-Chair Councillor R. Leadbeater</p>	

Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor W. Hodgins

Vice-Chair Councillor P. Baldwin

Corporate & Performance Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor J. Wilkins

Vice-Chair Councillor J. Thomas

FURTHER RESOLVED that the following be appointed:

People Scrutiny Committee**9 Members – Proportionality 6:3**

1. Chair - Councillor T. Smith
2. Vice Chair - Councillor J. Morgan, J.P.
3. Councillors C. Bainton
4. D. Bevan
5. K. Chaplin
6. G. A. Davies
7. J. Holt
8. G. Thomas
9. D. Wilkshire

Would also include 2 Members of religious bodies and between 2-5 parent governors with voting rights only when dealing with education matters.

1. Mr. T. Baxter Diocesan Education Body
(R.C. Church)
 2. Mr. T. Pritchard (Church in Wales)
 3. Vacant Youth Forum Representative
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Place Scrutiny Committee**9 Members – Proportionality 6:3**

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| 1. | Chair - | Councillor M. Cross |
| 2. | Vice Chair - | Councillor R. Leadbeater |
| 3. | Councillors | P. Baldwin |
| 4. | | S. Behr |
| 5. | | J. Gardner |
| 6. | | J. Hill |
| 7. | | J. Holt |
| 8. | | J. P. Morgan |
| 9. | | D. Rowberry |

Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**9 Members – Proportionality 6:3**

- | | | |
|----|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Chair - | Councillor W. Hodgins |
| 2. | Vice Chair - | Councillor P. Baldwin |
| 3. | Councillors | K. Chaplin |
| 4. | | D. Davies |
| 5. | | E. Jones |
| 6. | | L. Parsons |
| 7. | | C. Smith |
| 8. | | L. Winnett |
| 9. | | D. Woods |
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**Corporate & Performance Scrutiny Committee –
9 Members – Proportionality 6:3**

1. Chair - Councillor J. Wilkins
2. Vice Chair - Councillor J. Thomas
3. Councillors C. Bainton
4. M. Day
5. G. Humphreys
6. E. Jones
7. R. Leadbeater
8. C. Smith
9. T. Smith

No. 10 COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Upon a vote being taken it was unanimously,
RESOLVED that the following be appointed:-

**Brecon Beacons National Park – National Park Authority &
Site Visits**

Councillor P. Baldwin

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Cabinet

Leader of the Council

Gwent Police Crime Panel

Councillor G. A. Davies

Councillor J. Thomas

Silent Valley Waste Services Ltd

Non Executive

Councillor T. Smith
Councillor L. Winnett

South Wales Fire Authority

Councillor J. Morgan, J.P.

Tai Calon Board

Councillor S. Behr
Councillor E. Jones

Member Champion – Armed Forces

Councillor D. Bevan

No. 11

ANNUAL CYCLE OF MEETINGS 2022/2023

Members considered the joint officers' report.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that:

- (i) The proposed annual cycle of meetings 2022/2023 attached at Appendix 1 be approved.
- (ii) The decision making process to deal with any urgent business during the August recess be approved:
 - a. the Leader and Deputy Leader in conjunction with appropriate Executive Members and Officers deal with any urgent items from 1st - 31st August 2022 (i.e. a Special Meeting of the Executive would be convened at short notice recognising that the matter was urgent and the call-in procedure would apply). The Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service in conjunction with the Leadership would determine if a matter was urgent; and
 - b. decisions should be limited to urgent matters and recorded on a decision schedule presented to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council. No controversial or

	sensitive matters should be dealt with during this period.	
No. 12	<u>PART 2 BUSINESS</u>	
No. 13	<u>REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES 2022/23</u> Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development. It was unanimously, RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the determinations in the final IRPW Annual Report for 2022/2023 be noted.	
No. 14	<u>EXEMPT ITEM</u> To receive and consider the following report which in the opinion of the proper officer was an exempt item taking into account consideration of the public interest test and that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting (the reasons for the decisions for the exemption was available on a schedule maintained by the proper officer).	
No. 15	<u>SENIOR STAFFING REPORT</u> All officers apart from the Interim Chief Executive, Chief Officer Resources, Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance, Head of Organisational Development and the Democratic and Committee Support Officer left the meeting whilst this item of business was considered. Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt. RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12 & 13, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).	

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Chief Executive.	
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It was unanimously,

RESOLVED that the report which related to staffing matters be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that Council approve the mutual termination of the officer named in the report with effect from the 31st May 2022.
