

**COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT**

**REPORT TO: THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**SUBJECT: ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - 21ST JULY, 2022**

**REPORT OF:**

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**PRESENT:**

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

D. Woods

WITH:

Interim Chief Executive  
Corporate Director of Education  
Chief Officer Resources  
Chief Officer Commercial & Customer  
Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance  
Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships  
Head of Regeneration  
Head of Adult Services  
Head of Organisational Development  
Service Manager Performance & Democratic  
Communications & Marketing Manager

Mr. Phil Diamond - Head of the Regional Partnership Team

ITEM	SUBJECT	ACTION
No. 1	<p><b><u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.</p>	
No. 2	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. Edmunds and the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services.</p>	
No. 3	<p><b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.</p>	
No. 4	<p><b><u>PRESIDING MEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></b></p> <p>Congratulations were expressed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Alfie Skinner who had represented the British Junior Golf Team in San Diego, California and had finished 18<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup></li></ul>	

	<p>in two events.</p> <p>RESOLVED that an appropriate letter be sent.</p>	
<b>No. 5</b>	<p><b><u>MINUTE BOOK - NOVEMBER 2021 - APRIL 2022</u></b></p> <p>The Minute Book for the period November 2021 – April 2022 was submitted for consideration, whereupon:</p> <p><b><u>Annual Meeting of the Council – Part 2 – 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2022</u></b> <b><u>Chair of Democratic Services Committee</u></b></p> <p>For accuracy, it was reported that Councillor Julie Holt had declined the position of the Chair of Democratic Services Committee as had all other Members of the Independent Group at this current point in time.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the minutes be approved and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<b>No. 6</b>	<p><b><u>ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - PART 1</u></b></p> <p>Agreed.</p>	
<b>No. 7</b>	<p><b><u>ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - PART 2</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Annual Meeting of the Council – Part 2 – 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2022</u></b> <b><u>Chair of Democratic Services Committee</u></b></p> <p>For accuracy, it was reported that Councillor Julie Holt had declined the position of the Chair of Democratic Services Committee as had all other Members of the Independent Group at this current point in time.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the minutes be approved and confirmed as a true record of proceedings.</p>	
<b>No. 8</b>	<p><b><u>ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL</u></b></p> <p>Agreed.</p>	

No. 9	<b><u>SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 10	<b><u>PLANNING, REGULATORY &amp; GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE (PLANNING MATTERS)</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 11	<b><u>PLANNING, REGULATORY &amp; GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE (PLANNING MATTERS)</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 12	<b><u>GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 13	<b><u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 14	<b><u>SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 15	<b><u>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 16	<b><u>SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 17	<b><u>JOINT EDUCATION &amp; LEARNING AND SOCIAL SERVICES SAFEGUARDING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 18	<b><u>SPECIAL EDUCATION &amp; LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	

No. 19	<b><u>SPECIAL PUBLIC SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 20	<b><u>EDUCATION &amp; LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 21	<b><u>REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 22	<b><u>CORPORATE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 23	<b><u>COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 24	<b><u>JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (BUDGET MONITORING)</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 25	<b><u>EDUCATION &amp; LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 26	<b><u>GOVERNANCE &amp; AUDIT COMMITTEE</u></b> Agreed.	
No. 27	<b><u>MEMBERS QUESTIONS</u></b> There were no questions submitted by Members.	
No. 28	<b><u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u></b> There were no questions submitted by members of the public.	

<p><b>No. 29</b></p>	<p><b><u>MOTION - COST OF LIVING</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Motion submitted regarding the cost of living.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Motion be supported and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of £2,000 or RPI (whichever was greater) be supported.</li> <li>➤ The Local Government Association be called upon to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim.</li> <li>➤ The Chancellor and Secretary of State be written to calling for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.</li> <li>➤ A meeting be convened with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council could support the campaign.</li> <li>➤ All local government workers be encouraged to join a union.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>No. 30</b></p>	<p><b><u>ANNUAL REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES 2021/22</u></b></p> <p>Members considered the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance &amp; Partnerships.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that Council was satisfied that there was a sufficient level of support for Elected Members.</p>	
<p><b>No. 31</b></p>	<p><b><u>ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2021/2022</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Scrutiny &amp; Democratic Officer.</p>	

	<p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely, the ‘scrutiny activity’ that had been undertaken by each Scrutiny Committee during 2021/22 be approved and the report published on the Blaenau Gwent website.</p>	
<p><b>No. 32</b></p>	<p><b><u>SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Democratic Services, Governance &amp; Partnerships.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be deferred and re-considered at the September Meeting of the Council.</p>	
<p><b>No. 33</b></p>	<p><b><u>SCHEDULE OF MEMBERS REMUNERATION 2022/2023</u></b></p> <p>The report of the Head of Organisational Development was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely, the Schedule of Members Remuneration for 2022/23 be agreed and published.</p>	
<p><b>No. 34</b></p>	<p><b><u>STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS MADE TO ELECTED MEMBERS IN 2021/2022</u></b></p> <p>The report of the Head of Organisational Development was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, i.e. in order to comply with relevant legislation that the Statement of Payments Made to Members during 2021/22 be published.</p>	

<p><b>No. 35</b></p>	<p><b><u>COUNCIL'S SUITE OF DISCIPLINARY AND CAPABILITY POLICIES &amp; PROCEDURES</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the suite of Disciplinary and Capability Policies and Procedures be approved for implementation. This would ensure that the policies reflect best practice, statutory requirements and strengthens current practice.</p>	
<p><b>No. 36</b></p>	<p><b><u>EMPLOYER SUPPORTED VOLUNTEERING POLICY</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Organisational Development.</p> <p>A Member requested that the document be amended to reflect that the policy would only apply to volunteering within the local community of Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing, that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Volunteering Policy be supported for implementation.</p>	
<p><b>No. 37</b></p>	<p><b><u>REGIONAL POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (PNA)</u></b></p> <p>The joint report of the Interim Corporate Director of Social Services and Head of the Regional Partnership Team was submitted for consideration.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Population Needs Assessment be endorsed.</p>	



<p><b>No. 38</b></p>	<p><b><u>REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR COMMISSIONED DOMICILIARY CARE PROVIDERS DUE TO THE INCREASE IN FUEL COSTS</u></b></p> <p>Due to the need to consider the following item as a matter of urgency, the Presiding Member confirmed that the following matter could be considered under the Provisions of Paragraph 4(b), Section 100(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Adult Services.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 2 be endorsed, namely that an immediate urgent response to the current staffing crisis in social care be developed and implemented and the current commissioned hourly rate to providers be increased by £1 per hour.</p> <p>This would be time limited for a 6-month period to December 2022.</p>	
<p><b>No. 39</b></p>	<p><b><u>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>	
<p><b>No. 40</b></p>	<p><b><u>MEMBERSHIPS REPORT</u></b></p> <p><b>Consideration was given to:</b></p> <p><b><u>ANEURIN BEVAN COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The appointment of one representative on the above.</li> </ul> <p>RESOLVED that Councillor E. Jones be appointed to the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council.</p>	

## **GWENT ARCHIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**

- The appointment of one representative on the above.

RESOLVED that Councillor H. Trollope be appointed to the Gwent Archive Joint Committee.

## **ADVISORY PANEL FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS**

The following recommendations were made by the Panel on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 to appoint in principle:

**Ebbw Fawr Learning Community** – Jon Mower  
**Willowtown Primary School** – Jordan Colcombe  
**St. Illtyd's Primary School** – Sarah Long  
**Deighton Primary School** – Councillor Ellen Jones  
**The River Centre** – Jacqueline Gwynne

It was, thereupon, unanimously,

RESOLVED that the above appointments be endorsed.

## **Membership - Advisory Panel for the Appointment of Local Authority Governors**

Pursuant to the revised terms of reference agreed at the Panel meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June, the membership of the Advisory Panel for Local Authority Governors was reviewed as follows:

- 3 Majority Group Members (including the Executive Member for People & Education who will Chair the Panel); and
- 3 Members from the Minority Group
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It was, therefore, RESOLVED that following Members be appointed to the Panel:

1. **Executive Member – People & Education**  
Councillor S. Edmunds (Chair)
2. Councillor D. Bevan
3. Councillor D. Davies

4. Councillor G. A. Davies

5. Councillor J. Hill

6. Councillor T. Smith

**Cost of Living Crisis Cross Party Working Group**

- Establishing and appointing Members to the above-named Working Group.

RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed to the above-named Working Group:

1. Leader of the Council/Executive Member Corporate Overview & Performance
2. Deputy Leader of the Council/Executive Member Place & Environment
3. Executive Member – Place & Regeneration
4. Executive Member – People & Education
5. Executive Member – People & Social Services
6. Chair of Corporate Overview & Performance Scrutiny Committee
7. Councillor G. Humphreys

**No. 41**

**TIME OF FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Members considered the time of future Council meetings.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED that all future Council meetings commence at 10.00 a.m.

<p><b>No. 42</b></p>	<p><b><u>EXEMPT ITEMS</u></b></p> <p>To receive and consider the following reports which in the opinion of the proper officer were exempt items 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 exemptions was available on a schedule maintained by the proper officer).</p>	
<p><b>No. 43</b></p>	<p><b><u>SHORTLISTING - JNC OFFICERS</u></b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 &amp; 13, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report which related to staffing matters be accepted and the decisions contained therein be noted</p>	
<p><b>No. 44</b></p>	<p><b><u>APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 &amp; 13, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup></p>	

June, 2022.

It was unanimously,

RESOLVED that the report which related to staffing matters be accepted and the post be offered to Joanne Watts on a salary in accordance with JNC 1 (£52,178 - £57,392).