

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE PRESIDING MEMBER AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - 21ST DECEMBER, 2022

REPORT OF:

PRESENT:

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

WITH:

- Interim Chief Executive
- Corporate Director of Education
- Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services
- Chief Officer Resources
- Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
- Head of Organisational Development
- Head of Adult Services
- Head of Community Services
- Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
- Service Manager Policy & Partnerships
- Professional Lead for Engagement, Equality & Welsh Language
- Press & Publicity 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>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <p>Councillors D. Davies, J. Morgan, J.P., D. Woods, Interim Corporate Director of Social Services and the Chief Officer Commercial & Customer.</p>	
No. 3	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>The following declarations of interest were reported:</p> <p>Item No. 5: NJC Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2022-2023 – Additional Annual Leave</p>	

- Damien McCann - Interim Chief Executive
- Lynn Phillips - Corporate Director of Education
- Ellie Fry - Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services
- Rhian Hayden - Chief Officer Resources
- Andrea Jones - Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance
- Andrea Prosser - Head of Organisational Development
- Alison Hoskins - Head of Adult Services
- Clive Rogers - Head of Community Services
- Sarah King - Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships
- Andrew Parker - Service Manager Policy & Partnerships

The Interim Chief Executive confirmed that following advice received from the Monitoring Officer, whilst above-named officers had declared an interest in respect of the above item they would be permitted to remain in the meeting. However, should debate ensue those officers who had declared an interest would leave the meeting at the appropriate juncture, with the exception of the following officer who would remain in the meeting to answer any questions and clarify points raised:

- Andrea Prosser – Head of Organisational Development

No. 4

PRESIDING MEMBER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations

Congratulations were expressed to Gwendoline Moore who had been born in Tredegar but was now residing in Australia on celebrating her 111th birthday.

RESOLVED that an appropriate letter be sent.

Condolences

Condolences were expressed to the family of former County Borough Councillor and Mayor Des Davies, who had sadly passed away. Des had been a Councillor for the Cwm Ward for over 35 years and would be sorely missed.

Members and officers paid their respects with a minute's silence.

An appropriate letter had been sent to the family.

<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>WORKFORCE CHRISTMAS WORKING AND PAY</u></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 adjusting the pay outside of the NJC guidance be agreed for those who were on rota to work between 25th December, 2022 and 2nd January, 2023 and be paid as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25th December, 2022 – 2nd January, 2023 pay to be at treble time with no lieu time allowance. • The 30th December (classed as a normal working day) to be an exception and paid at double time with no lieu time allowance. 	
<p>No. 6</p>	<p><u>NJC LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2022-2023 - ADDITIONAL ANNUAL LEAVE</u></p> <p>The following officers declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting whilst it was considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Damien McCann - Interim Chief Executive - Lynn Phillips - Corporate Director of Education - Ellie Fry - Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community Services - Rhian Hayden - Chief Officer Resources - Andrea Jones - Head of Legal & Corporate Compliance - Andrea Prosser - Head of Organisational Development - Alison Hoskins - Head of Adult Services - Clive Rogers - Head of Community Services - Sarah King - Head of Democratic Services, Governance & Partnerships - Andrew Parker - Service Manager Policy & Partnerships <p>Members considered 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 an uplift of one day annual leave (pro rata for part time staff) for the Council's JNC Chief Officers and Chief Executive be agreed.</p>	
<p>No. 7</p>	<p><u>WELSH LANGUAGE PROMOTION STRATEGY 2022/27/STRATEGAETH HYRWYDDO'R GYMRAEG 2022/27</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Service Manager Policy & Partnerships.</p> <p>It was noted that the Corporate and Performance Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the Strategy at its meeting on 15th December, 2022.</p> <p>It was unanimously</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 be endorsed, namely that the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-2027 be approved.</p>	
<p>No. 8</p>	<p><u>SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF THE FINANCIAL POSITION 2023/24 TO 2027/28</u></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 Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>It was unanimously,</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Option 1 endorsed, namely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the main assumptions used in the MTFs (section 5.1.2 of the report) be approved; • the forecast funding gap for the period of the MTFs (section 	

	<p>5.1.3 of the report) be noted; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the continuing development of Bridging the Gap Strategic Business Reviews be noted.	
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--