



DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH (SIRHOWY ROOM) ON WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 5:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor C.P. Mann - Chair
Councillor D.T. Davies - Vice Chair

Councillors:

P. Bevan, D.G. Carter, W. David, Ms J.G. Jones, Miss L. Jones, G. Kirby, Mrs G. Oliver, Mrs D. Price, Mrs E. Stenner and J. Taylor.

Together with:

A. Price (Interim Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H.W David, Mrs C. Forehead, Mrs P. Griffiths and Mrs M.E. Sargent.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th September 2015 be approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

4. DRAFT INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16.

The report highlighted the draft determinations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report relating to Councillors and Co-opted Members for 2016/17.

The Interim Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer outlined the different elements of the annual report and confirmed that the Panel were not suggesting any increases in payments for 2015/16 however the Panel does propose two levels of £29,000 and £26,100 for Senior Salaries and two levels for Committee Chairs; Level 1 is £22,000, Level 2 is £20,000 and the remuneration for the Leader of the largest opposition group has been reduced from £22,000 to £20,000. The Council will have to determine itself which Executive Members and Committee Chairs would be entitled to which level of pay within these two levels based upon the portfolios, level of responsibility and workload.

The Panel's determinations will take effect from the date of the Council's Annual General Meeting in 2016 and the Officer confirmed that as previously agreed Members or Co-opted Members may forego any part of their remuneration entitlement by giving notice in writing to the Chief Executive.

Members were advised that any feedback on the draft proposals would be forwarded to the Panel as part of the consultation exercise, which is due to end at the end of November.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the report and full discussion ensued.

Members, having fully considered the report offered a number of comments and suggestions, which included reducing the number of members of Cabinet, how the possible implementation of 2 levels of Committee Chairs could be achieved, and noted the proposed a reduction on the salary for the leader of largest opposition group within an Authority.

Members discussed the support services in place for Members, both from Democratic Services and IT and it was noted that Caerphilly CBC are providing more services than other Local Authorities. However, whilst some Members felt that there were adequate facilities in place, such as the Citrix Keys, iPads and availability of the Mod.gov system on all devices, a Member felt that the service provided by IT Support was not good enough and had experienced a number of problems with the service.

Having fully considered its content the Democratic Services Committee noted the report and the Panels draft determinations and requested that the Committee be circulated the response prior to sending to the Panel.

5. DEMOCRATIC SERVICES FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report and Forward Work Programme for the period 2015 to 2016 was presented to Members for their consideration. Members were asked to request any additional reports in line with the Democratic Service Committee's terms of reference, and were advised that the forward work programme would be updated on a quarterly basis to reflect any the changes.

Members thanked the Officer for the report and noted the Forward Work Programme for 2015/16.

The meeting closed at 5:44 pm.

Approved as a correct record subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2016 there were signed by the Chair.

CHAIRMAN