



COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBER, PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 11TH MAY 2023 AT 5.30PM

PRESENT:

Councillor E.M. Aldworth - Mayor
Councillor M.A. Adams - Deputy Mayor

Councillors:

C. Andrews, A.P. Angel, C. Bishop, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, P. Cook, S. Cook, D. Cushing, C. Cuss, D.T. Davies MBE, N. Dix, G. Ead, C. Elsbury, G. Enright, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, C. Forehead, E. Forehead, J. E. Fussell, N. George, C. Gordon, D. Harse, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, M.P. James, G. Johnston, J. Jones, S. Kent, A. Leonard, P. Leonard, C.P. Mann, A. McConnell, B. Miles, C. Morgan, S. Morgan, B. Owen, T. Parry, L. Phipps, M. Powell, D.W.R. Preece, H. Pritchard, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Rao, J. Reed, J. Roberts, J. Sadler, J. Scriven, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, C. Thomas, L.G. Whittle, S. Williams, W. Williams, J. Winslade and C. Wright

Together with:

C. HARRY (Chief Executive), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services and Housing), M.S. Williams (Corporate Director for Economy and Environment), S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer), L. Lane (Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer), R. Barrett (Minute Taker)

Also in attendance:

Mr P. Brunt (Lay Member – Standards Committee)

RECORDING, FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Executive reminded those present the meeting was being live streamed, and a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Gair, L. Jeremiah, D. Price, R. Saralis, E. Stenner, J. Taylor, A. Whitcombe and K. Woodland.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. RETIRING MAYOR'S REMARKS

Councillor Elizabeth Aldworth as the retiring Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council thanked Members for giving her the opportunity to serve as Mayor for a second time and for all their support during the last year which had been very much appreciated, stating that it had been an honour and a privilege to represent the Caerphilly County Borough as Mayor.

The Mayor referenced the unique celebrations and anniversaries across all aspects of community life and the countless special events and activities that she had attended during her year in office. She referred to the many memorable experiences and the many wonderful people she had met from all walks of life and from all sections of the community and had been privileged to meet some very talented young people and inspirational residents living in the County Borough, which was an experience that would stay with her forever.

The Mayor placed on record her thanks to her Consort and husband Mike, without whose support she would not have been able to carry out her duties as Mayor.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Mike Adams (Deputy Mayor) for his excellent support over the past year, and expressed particular thanks to staff in the Civic Office, Zoe Turk, Joy Thomas and Mark Harris for all their guidance, support and assistance.

The Mayor thanked everyone who had supported her chosen charity, The Breast Cancer Unit, which had raised funds totalling around £2400.

In concluding her remarks, she wished the very best to her successor for the year ahead and was certain that whoever is elected would be a fitting ambassador for the County Borough.

Members in turn thanked Councillor Aldworth for the exemplary manner in which she had carried out her duties and for representing the County Borough to an impeccable standard, and also paid tribute to the thoughtfulness and kindness she had shown during her term in office.

4. TO ELECT A MAYOR OF COUNCIL UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY 2024

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Mike Adams be elected as Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council until the Annual Meeting in May 2024 and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 50 for, 2 against and 1 abstention, this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mike Adams be elected as Mayor of Council until the Annual Meeting in May 2024.

5. TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR OF COUNCIL UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY 2024

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Julian Simmonds be elected as Deputy Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council until the Annual Meeting in May 2024 and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 51 for, 0 against and 4 abstentions, this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that Councillor Julian Simmonds be elected as Deputy Mayor of Council until the Annual Meeting in May 2024.

6. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mike Adams thanked Members for giving him the opportunity to serve as Mayor for the forthcoming year and expressed his pride at being elected to the Civic Office to represent the County Borough for a second time.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Elizabeth Aldworth for her unstinting duty during her term as Mayor, and also thanked his wife Gloria who would be his Consort and provide invaluable support to assist him in carrying out his duties.

The Mayor looked forward to the year ahead and to meeting residents and organisations across the County Borough who are making a real difference in their communities.

The Mayor confirmed that Guide Dogs for the Blind would be his chosen charity and invited all Members to meet representatives from the charity and their guide dogs immediately following the meeting, to find out more about the important links that a guide dog and partner need to build for a more independent life.

Members expressed their congratulations to Councillor Adams and Councillor Simmonds on their appointments and conveyed their best wishes for the year ahead.

7. TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor Sean Morgan as Leader of Council be noted.

8. TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY LEADER

RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor James Pritchard as Deputy Leader of Council be noted.

9. TO NOTE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE CABINET AND THE NAMES THE LEADER HAS CHOSEN TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

RESOLVED that the appointment of 9 Cabinet Members (including the Leader) and their portfolios be noted: -

Councillor James Pritchard - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change

Councillor Nigel George - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways.

Councillor Eluned Stenner - Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance.

Councillor Carol Andrews - Cabinet Member for Education and Communities

Councillor Shayne Cook - Cabinet Member for Housing.

Councillor Elaine Forehead - Cabinet Member for Social Care.

Councillor Philippa Leonard - Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection.

Councillor Chris Morgan - Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces.

10. TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE MAIN OPPOSITION GROUP

RESOLVED that the appointment of Councillor L. Whittle as the Leader of the main opposition group be noted.

11. LEADER'S STATEMENT

The Leader of Council commenced his statement by congratulating the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their appointments. He expressed his certainty that they would be exemplary ambassadors for the County Borough during their year in office and very much looked forward to working with them both. The Leader also thanked the outgoing Mayor for representing the Council over the past year in such a wonderful manner, and with boundless enthusiasm and dedication to the role.

The Leader placed on record his thanks to Members for their continued support, together with his thanks to the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet.

The Leader referenced the many challenges faced by the Authority over the last financial year, including the navigation of the ongoing cost of living crisis whilst emerging from the global pandemic, and the reduction in budgets which are far worse than previous austerity measures, together with the uncertain times that still lay ahead. These are combined with the continuing challenges being faced by the Council, including climate change, the war in Ukraine, Brexit and a lack of support from central Government in terms of struggling communities.

These issues have stretched the Authority's resources, tested resilience and demanded significant changes in the organisation itself, and the Leader commended Council staff for the incredible 'can do' attitude they always show. Despite these pressures, the Authority has continued on its journey of transformation as "Team Caerphilly" and the Leader gave his personal assurances to Members and every resident of the County Borough that the Authority will continue along the road of modernisation and improvement of Council services, even within the ever-tightening financial constraints being faced.

The Leader referred to his previous pledges which placed an overarching focus on delivery, whilst continuing to protect frontline services, and creating vibrant and prosperous communities for residents. This work is well underway, including a series of community hubs, with the first to be opened in Rhymney shortly. New industrial units have been built in Rhymney and Nelson, and a range of visitor improvements have been made to Cwmcarn Forest. The school's capital investment programme continues to progress, including the Trinity Fields expansion, the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School, and the creation of a new Centre for Vulnerable Learners in Pontllanfraith and a new Net Zero Carbon school at Plasyfelin. The Council has expanded community use across all schools, including 3G pitches, sports halls and other facilities available to all residents to help improve wellbeing. The Council will also be launching its new Education Strategy on 7th July 2023 at Llancaiach Fawr.

This year saw the completion of the first new council homes to be built in almost 20 years, and a Later Living complex is now being constructed at Ty Darran, Risca, together with a mixed housing development in Oakdale, new housing in Rhymney and more council house building in the pipeline. In Caerphilly town centre, works have commenced on the new market development in Park Lane and the initial phase of work on a Wellbeing Centre is underway.

The Leader emphasised that this is just a taster of the good work going on to make Caerphilly County Borough the place that residents want and need, and he stated that he and the Cabinet will continue to work closely with the Corporate Management Team, whilst continuing with internal transformation, efficiency measures and progress with important strategic aspirations for the future. The Leader also thanked the Trade Unions for their continued support, as the Council transforms and continues to work in new ways, which are innovative and mutually beneficial to the workforce and residents alike.

The Leader highlighted the importance of recognising the ever-tightening financial constraints and the need to manage resources and focus services on what is most important to most people. The Council have been engaging with its residents over the past few months, to ensure that the priorities and resources are focused on what matters most. The new Corporate Plan is scheduled for Council on 4th July 2023, which will set out the following priorities and commitments that will be delivered over the term of this administration: Team Caerphilly will enable our economy to grow, our children to succeed, our residents to thrive, our communities to be inclusive, and Team Caerphilly will enable our environment to be greener.

In closing, the Leader pledged that Caerphilly Council would continue to focus on delivery, improvement and transformation – making the county borough a great place to live, work and enjoy.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

12. REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the review of the political balance across the Authority and the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The report outlined the political balance of the Authority, and Council were asked to note the political balance as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report and the general allocation of seats to the Committees in accordance with the political balance.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation contained in the Officer's report be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 54 for, 3 against and 1 abstention, this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the political balance as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report and the general allocation of seats to the committees in accordance with the political balance be noted.

13. REFINEMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to the report which sought Council approval of a number of changes to the Council's Constitution. The Council's Constitution sets out how the organisation operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure that these decisions are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Although the law requires some of these procedures to be in place, Council does have the ability to amend and refine elements of the Constitution in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness. The report sought to amend some of the procedures that underpin the Council's decision-making process with a view to further improving the process.

Prior to the report being presented, one Member raised a point of order and asked that the report be withdrawn, highlighting that the report had been authored by the Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services (Mr Richard Edmunds), and suggested that under Part 2 of the Council's Constitution (*Article 15 - Review And Revision Of The Constitution*) it is the responsibility of the Monitoring Officer to prepare any such report proposing constitutional changes. Mr Rob Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer) gave assurances that the report was procedurally correct and that he had provided significant input into it, including several discussions with the Corporate Director on its contents. Should the changes be approved, Mr Tranter would amend the Constitution to that effect. In response to further comments from Members, the Monitoring Officer emphasised to Members that this is their Constitution, that it is a matter for them to agree any changes or any items for inclusion, and that the name of the report author is irrelevant in this regard.

Following presentation of the report by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways, the recommendations in the report were moved and seconded.

Members expressed their concerns regarding the proposed changes to the constitution. One Member was disappointed that the Leaders of the Opposition Groups had not been consulted on the report. Concerns were also raised in terms of the proposed reduction in Scrutiny Committees from 5 to 3 and some Members felt that this would lead to reduced democracy and reduced scrutiny, thereby making it more difficult to hold the Executive to account and would result in some Members being unable to sit on a Scrutiny Committee at all.

Concerns were also expressed regarding a significant increase in workload/reading times for those Members sitting on the new committees due to the additional number of items that would be brought to these meetings. Some Members were particularly concerned with the proposal to combine Social Services and Education into a single scrutiny committee, given that these services comprise around 75% of the Council's budget, and felt that these directorates warrant separate scrutiny committee arrangements. Another Member felt that reducing Scrutiny Committees would be contrary to the recommendations made by Wales Audit Office in 2018.

One Member requested the removal of Appendix 2 from the report (Member Protocol on Involvement in Other Wards), stating that this may cause conflict with residents and Elected Members. He also expressed concerns over the inclusion of a reference to Standards Committee as part of the compliance monitoring regarding breaches of the protocol. Mr Tranter explained that the new Member Protocol had been included in the report proposals as an example of good practice, but that if Members were of an opposing view, this protocol would not be included as part of the proposed changes.

A Member expressed the need for all parties to work together and for regular meetings to take place between the Leader of Council and minority Group Leaders. In response, the Leader confirmed that he was more than happy to meet with Group Leaders.

Discussion also took place on the proposal to limit the number of questions that can be asked verbally at Council. Some Members were of the view that limiting questions in this way would be undemocratic, and clarification was sought on the procedure, with concerns also raised that this proposal would undermine the scrutiny process. Mr Tranter emphasised that the proposal only related to questions submitted to Full Council under Rules of Procedure and confirmed that the proposal was not seeking to limit the number of questions that could be asked during Scrutiny Committee meetings. He also confirmed that under the new arrangements, up to 3 questions could be asked verbally at Council, with the questions being managed in the order in which they have been received, and that any subsequent questions being responded to in writing following the meeting.

During the course of debate, Council was reminded that a number of Members sit on multiple committees and that the new arrangements would ease the burden on these Members. The number of committee places available to Councillors would also increase from 53 to 54 as the committee size increased from 16 to 18 Members. Member were advised that Joint Scrutiny Committee would enhance the scrutiny function as Members would be able to scrutinise cross-cutting matters such as Finance, Performance, Transformation, or other matters of significance. In terms of workload and reading time, Council was reminded that over the past year, 7 Scrutiny Committee meetings have been cancelled due to a lack of items, with 3 of these cancellations involving the Education Scrutiny Committee. Once the cross-cutting reports that would be dealt with by the All-Members Scrutiny Committee have been removed, there are on average less than 2.5 items being debated per Scrutiny Committee meeting, and the new arrangements will take into account the Wales Audit Office recommendations to have fewer items on the agenda but for these to be scrutinised in greater detail.

An amendment was proposed and seconded, in that the report be withdrawn and that an amended report be presented to September's meeting of Council following engagement with all Members and with the report firstly being considered by Scrutiny Committee.

Advice was sought from the Monitoring Officer, who confirmed that whilst a matter for the Mayor to decide as the Chair of the meeting on whether to take the amendment first, in his view Council should vote on the report recommendations as moved and seconded, and if they were in favour of the amendment, then they should vote against the recommendations. Should the motion be lost, Officers would then have to re-examine the proposed changes in the report for reconsideration by Members.

Having been moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Officer's report be approved, and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 38 for, 23 against and 0 abstentions, this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) The number of Scrutiny Committees be reduced from 5 to 3 in accordance with the naming conventions set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report, with the new arrangements coming into being in September 2023;
- (ii) Scrutiny Committees only receive a single Notice of Motion per meeting;
- (iii) Notices of Motion require support from the relevant Scrutiny Committee for onwards consideration by Cabinet or Council;
- (iv) the number of questions that can be asked verbally at Council be limited to three;
- (v) a protocol for Members who are asked to represent residents outside of their own elected Wards as set out in Appendix 2 be introduced;
- (vi) the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee be decommissioned, and local delivery matters be allocated to the relevant Scrutiny Committees;
- (vii) the ABUHB Co-opted Member Position on the relevant Scrutiny Committee with social services responsibility be removed;
- (viii) one User and Carer Co-opted position on the relevant Scrutiny Committee with social services responsibility be removed;

- (ix) the requirement for Task and Finish Groups to operate as Formal Sub Committees be removed;
- (x) the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Advisory Panel be disbanded and its remaining functions transfer to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee sitting as the Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub Committee comprising Caerphilly County Borough Councillors only;
- (xi) it be noted that a new set of terms of reference will be agreed at the next available Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub Committee to bring the new functions into effect;
- (xii) the Health and Safety Committee be replaced with a Health and Safety Working Group;
- (xiii) the changes to the Scheme of Delegation as set out in Appendix 3 to the report be endorsed;
- (xiv) the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

Following the conclusion of the vote on this item, Councillors A.P. Angel, C. Bishop, D. Cushing, N. Dix, G. Ead, G. Enright, C. Elsbury, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, M.P. James, J.E. Fussell, J. Jones, S. Kent, C.P. Mann, B. Owen, T. Parry, H. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard, J. Reed, J. Roberts, J. Scriven, S. Skivens and L.G. Whittle left the meeting in protest.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the meeting remained quorate.

14. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24 - SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

Consideration was given to the report, which informed Council of the publication of the 2023/24 Annual Report from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, as attached at Appendix 1 of the Officer's report.

The report also sought Council's determination on which roles should receive the senior salary payments, the appointment of civic roles and salaries together with the other ancillary matters as detailed within the report's recommendations.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the Officer's report be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 38 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The determinations of the IRPW as set out in the Annual Report for 2022/23 be noted;
- (ii) The following roles be confirmed that they will attract a senior salary payment:
 - Leader of Council
 - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change
 - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Property and Highways
 - Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

Cabinet Member for Education and Communities
Cabinet Member for Housing
Cabinet Member for Social Care
Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Protection
Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces
Leader of the Largest Opposition Group
Chair of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Chair of the Education Scrutiny Committee
Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
Chair of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Chair of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Chair of the Licensing and Gambling Committee/Taxi and General Committee
Chair of the Planning Committee

It was noted that the number of Scrutiny Committee chairs will be reduced from 5 to 3 in September 2023;

- (iii) The Mayor and Deputy Mayor as appointed receive a civic salary payment;
- (iv) A Presiding Member will not be appointed;
- (v) The Schedule of Remuneration at Appendix 2 of the report be noted, and A) to continue with the cap on payments to co-opted members of 12 full days a year for each Committee to which an individual may be co-opted and eligible to attend, and B) the continuation of the approved duties set out in Schedule 2 be noted;
- (vi) The publicity requirements set out in the IRP report and in paragraph 5.10 of the report be noted.

15. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Mayor welcomed Mr Peter Brunt to the meeting.

Mr Brunt, as Chair of the Standards Committee, presented the first Annual Report of the Standards Committee. The preparation of this report is a requirement of the Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 which applies to all councils in Wales, and reports on compliance with the Code of Conduct.

It was noted that report contained input from the 3 Party Group Leaders, who provided information on Code of Conduct training and compliance of their Group Members with the Code.

During 2022/23, the Ombudsman considered 6 code of conduct complaints against Councillors from Caerphilly County Borough Council, of which 4 did not require investigation whilst 2 complaints remain the subject of ongoing investigation with the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee have been much encouraged by the good levels of compliance with the Code of Conduct exhibited by councillors across the county borough during 2022/23 and very much hope this will continue.

Members thanked Mr Brunt for all his work in the preparation of the report.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report of the Standards Committee be noted.

16. TO APPOINT THE CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLITICAL BALANCE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

It was moved and seconded that Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees be appointed in accordance with the political balance and commencing from September 2023 and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 37 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) A Plaid Cymru Group Member to be appointed as Chair of the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee, Councillor B. Miles be appointed as Vice Chair, and the names of Councillors to be appointed to the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee be given to Democratic Services.
- (ii) Councillor G. Johnston be appointed as Chair of the Corporate Services and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Councillor A. McConnell be appointed as Vice Chair, and the names of Councillors to be appointed to the Corporate Services and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be given to Democratic Services.
- (iii) Councillor A. Whitcombe be appointed as Chair of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee, Councillor S. Williams be appointed as Vice Chair, and the name of Councillors to be appointed to the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee be given to Democratic Services.

17. TO APPOINT THE CHAIR AND/OR VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLITICAL BALANCE)

It was moved and seconded that Chairs and Vice Chairs (as necessary) and Members to Committees be appointed to the following committees for the ensuing year in accordance with the political balance and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting that there were 38 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Councillor B. Miles be appointed as Chair of the Appeals Panel, Councillor W. Williams be appointed as Vice Chair, and Councillors G. Enright and B. Miles, together with nominated substitutes Councillors M. Adams, T. Parry, and D.W.R. Preece be appointed to the Appeals Panel.
- (ii) Councillor E.M. Aldworth be appointed as Chair of the Appointments Committee, Councillor J. Sadler be appointed as Vice Chair, and Councillors N. George, E. Stenner, A. Whitcombe, C. Mann, J. Taylor, K. Etheridge, and the relevant Cabinet Member, together with nominated substitutes Councillors A. McConnell, P. Cook and J. Scriven be appointed to the Appointments Committee.
- (iii) it be noted that the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee must be a Lay Member and will be appointed at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of Council, with it resolved that Councillors M. Adams, E.M. Aldworth, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, P. Cook, G. Enright and J. Taylor be appointed to the Governance and Audit Committee.

- (iv) Councillor M. James be appointed as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee, Councillor L. Phipps be appointed as Vice Chair, and Councillors D. T. Davies, G. Ead, A. Farina-Childs, C. Forehead, A. Hussey, L. Jeremiah, C. Mann, A. McConnell, D. Price, J. A. Pritchard, J. Sadler, C. Thomas, A. Whitcombe and J. Winslade be appointed to the Democratic Services Committee.
- (v) Councillors A. Adams, E. M. Aldworth, A. Angel, D.T. Davies, C. Gordon, J. Taylor and A. Whitcombe, together with nominated substitutes Councillors G. Enright, D. Harse and W. Williams, be appointed to the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee.
- (vi) Councillor W. Williams be appointed as Chair of the Licensing and Gambling/Taxi and General Committee, Councillor S. Williams be appointed as Vice Chair, and Councillors E.M. Aldworth, D. Cushing, P. Cook, G. Ead, C. Gordon, D. Harse, T. Heron, J. Jones, D. Price, D.W.R. Preece, J. Scriven, J. Roberts and M. Adams be appointed to the Licensing and Gambling/Taxi and General Committee.
- (vii) Councillor R. Saralis be appointed as Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor E.M. Aldworth be appointed as Vice Chair, and Councillors M. Adams, A. Angel, R. Chapman, N. Dix, G. Ead, J. Fussell, A. Hussey, B. Miles, M. Powell, J. Taylor, S. Williams, A. Whitcombe and K. Woodland be appointed to the Planning Committee.
- (viii) It be noted that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standards Committee must be Lay Members and will be appointed at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of Council, with it resolved that Councillors D. Price and J. Taylor, together with nominated substitutes Councillors P. Cook and J. Scriven, be appointed to the Standards Committee.
- (ix) Councillors N. George, P. Leonard, C. Morgan, E. Stenner and J. Pritchard be appointed to the Rights of Way Cabinet Committee.

18. TO CONSTITUTE SUB COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/PANELS/BOARDS AND APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE HEREON FOR THE ENSUING YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLITICAL BALANCE

It was moved and seconded that Sub Committees/Working Parties/Panels/Boards be constituted and Members be appointed to serve thereon for the ensuing year in accordance with the political balance and by way of Microsoft Forms and Verbal Confirmation and in noting there were 38 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Councillors M. Adams, C. Andrews (Cabinet Member) M. Chacon-Dawson, B. Miles, M. James, J. Roberts, and A. Whitcombe, together with nominated substitutes Councillors T. Parry, J. Taylor, C. Wright, and A. Gair, be appointed to serve on the Advisory Panel for the Appointment and Removal of Local Authority Governors.
- (ii) Councillor P. Leonard be appointed to serve on the Caerphilly Community Safety Delivery Group.
- (iii) Councillor C. Morgan be appointed to serve on the Caerphilly Local Access Forum.

- (iv) Councillors A. Angel, P. Cook, A. Gair, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, N. George, C. Gordon, L. Jeremiah, A. McConnell, T. Parry, J.A. Pritchard, C. Thomas, L. Whittle, and J. Winslade be appointed to serve on Community Council Liaison Sub Committee.
- (v) Councillors S. Morgan, J. Pritchard, C. Andrews, S. Cook, E. Forehead, P. Leonard, J. Simmonds, C. Morgan, E. Stenner, N. George be appointed to serve on the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee.
- (vi) Councillor E. Stenner, together with nominated substitute Councillor E. Forehead, be appointed to serve on the Education Achievement Services Board.
- (vii) Councillor B. Miles and A. Whitcombe be appointed to serve on the Education Achievement Service Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.
- (viii) Councillors D.W.R. Preece and A. Whitcombe (Abercarn), J. Simmonds (Crosskeys), K. Woodland (Crumlin), N. George, P. Leonard, A. Leonard (Risca East), Bob Owen, Ceri Wright (Risca West) plus Cabinet Member C. Morgan (Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Open Spaces) - Nominated Reserve: Councillor C. Thomas (Crumlin) - By Invitation: Councillors A. Hussey, L. Jeremiah and G. Johnston (Newbridge Ward Related Matters) be appointed to serve on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Working Group.
- (ix) Councillors P. Cook, G. Enright, C. Gordon, B. Miles, M. Powell, D.W.R. Preece, J. Scriven, W. Williams plus the appropriate Cabinet Member, together with nominated substitutes Councillors M. Adams and E.M. Aldworth, be appointed to serve on the Pensions/Compensation Committee.
- (x) Councillors C. Elsbury and A. Hussey be appointed to serve on the Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Scrutiny Panel.
- (xi) Councillors C. Morgan, D. Harse and S. Kent be appointed to serve on the River Rhydney Task Group.
- (xii) Chairs, Vice Chairs of Scrutiny Committees, Democratic Services Committee and Governance and Audit Committee (Lay Member) be appointed to serve on the Scrutiny Leadership Group.
- (xiii) Councillors E.M. Aldworth, M. Chacon-Dawson, B. Miles, T. Parry, J. Taylor (Chair) and A. Whitcombe be appointed to serve on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.
- (xiv) Councillors P. Cook, R. Chapman, C. Gordon, J. Fussell, T. Parry, D.W.R. Preece, D. Price, H. Pritchard, T. Heron, E. Stenner, S. Williams, W. Williams, M. Chacon-Dawson, L. Whittle and J. Jones be appointed to serve on the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee/Voluntary Sector Liaison Sub Committee.

19. TO APPOINT/NOMINATE REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES WHERE REQUIRED

It was moved and seconded that Members be appointed/nominated to serve on Outside Bodies where required and by way of Microsoft Forms and verbal confirmation and in noting there were 38 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed/nominated to serve on Outside Bodies:

Army Benevolent Fund – Gwent

Councillor T. Heron

Association of Public Services Excellence (APSE) Welsh Regional Committee

Councillors S. Cook, N. George and C. Morgan

Caerphilly Foster Panel

Councillor B. Miles

Carbon Reduction Group

Councillor J. Pritchard

Cardiff Capital Region Joint Committee (Regional Cabinet)

Leader of Council and Deputy Leader of Council - Councillor S. Morgan and Councillor J. Pritchard

Cardiff Capital Region Joint Scrutiny Committee

Councillor (Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee) and Councillor C. Elsbury

Care and Repair - Caerphilly

Councillor S. Cook and Private Sector Housing Manager

Citizens Advice Bureau Trustee Board

Councillor N. George

Coleg Gwent Further Education Corporation (Crosskeys Community Partnership)

Councillor C. Andrews

Coleg Harlech WEA North

Councillor C. Andrews

Coleg Y Cymoedd Corporation (formerly Ystrad Mynach College Board of Governors)

Sian Farquharson, Challenge Advisor EAS

Corporate Parenting Group

Councillors E. Forehead, C. Andrews, Plaid Cymru Seat (Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee), C. Bishop, B. Miles (Foster Panel Member)

Corporate Safeguarding Group

Councillors C. Andrews and E. Forehead, Plaid Cymru Seat (Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee) and C. Bishop, T. Heron, Vacant (Independent).

Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association)

Councillor C. Morgan

Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee

Councillor C. Andrews and J. Simmonds

Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee – 2 Members

Councillors J. Simmonds and J. Taylor

Groundwork Wales

S. Williams

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Relevant Officer and Councillor C. Andrews

Gwent Regional Partnership Board

Councillor E. Forehead

Gwent Archives Joint Committee – 2 Members

Councillors C. Andrews and J. Simmonds

Gwent Police and Crime Panel - politically balanced across Gwent

Councillors C. Forehead, M. Chacon-Dawson, C. Mann

Gwent Public Services Board Joint Scrutiny Committee

Councillors A. Angel and S. Williams

Industrial Communities Alliance (formerly Coalfield Communities Campaign)

Councillor E. Stenner

Islwyn Indoor Bowls Club Management Board

Councillors M. Adams and C. Morgan

Joint Council for Wales

Councillors N. George and E. Stenner

The Learning Centre (Pupil Referral Unit)

Councillor M. Evans

Local Authority Action for Southern Africa (LAACTSA)

Councillor N. George

Local Government Association

Leader of the Council, Councillor S. Morgan and J. Pritchard + 2 Cabinet Member

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Joint Steering Group (Formally

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Regeneration Partnership)

Councillors J. Simmonds, C. Morgan (Councillor A. Whitcombe)

Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust

Councillor C. Andrews

PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Adjudication Joint Committee – Councillor N. George

Pen Bryn Oer Wind Farm Community Benefit Panel

Member for Twyn Carno Ward - Councillor C. Cuss

PFI Liaison Committee

Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement – Councillor C. Andrews

Prosiect Gwyrdd Joint Committee

Councillors C. Morgan and J. Pritchard

Regional Technical Statement (Aggregates)

Councillor N. George

Regional Transport Authority

Councillor S. Morgan

Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales

Councillor T. Heron

Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership

Councillor P. Leonard

Schools Admission Forum

Cabinet Member for Learning and Leisure - Councillor C. Andrews

Schools Budget Forum

Councillors E. Stenner and C. Andrews

South East Area Environment Group

Councillor C. Morgan

South East Wales Strategic Planning Group

Councillor P. Leonard

South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

Councillors C. Wright, A. Hussey, C. Elsbury

South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party

Councillor C. Morgan

Sportlot Community Chest Panel

Councillors A. Gair, C. Thomas and W. Williams

St. Johns Cymru Wales

Councillor C. Andrews

Strategic Planning Panel

Councillor P. Leonard

Urban Commission (Local Government Association)

Councillor N. George

Wales and National Nuclear Free Zone Forum

Councillor C. Forehead

Wales Council for Deaf People

Councillor A. Gair

Welsh Books Council (3 years) and Wales Book Council Executive Committee (1 year)

Councillor N. George

Welsh Centre for International Affairs

Councillor P. Leonard

Welsh Church Fund

Councillor E. Stenner and Substitute Councillor N. George

Welsh Local Government Association

Leader of the Council, Councillor S. Morgan and Councillors J. Pritchard + 2 Cabinet Members

Welsh Local Government Association - Executive Board

Leader of the Council – S. Morgan

WJEC

Councillor C. Andrews

Workers Education Association - South Wales District Committee

Councillor C. Forehead

The meeting closed at 7.22 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2023 they were signed by the Mayor.

MAYOR