

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

15 OCTOBER 2014

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

APPOINTMENT OF A CABINET MEMBER

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the appointment of an additional Cabinet Member.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

- 2.1 Cabinet provide the Strategic Leadership for the Authority and drives the implementation and delivery of all of the objectives within the Corporate Plan.

3. Background.

- 3.1 Legislation provides for executive arrangements and permits a maximum of a Leader and 9 other members of the Executive (Cabinet) to be appointed. The following are examples of the current levels of Leader and Cabinet Members in other Local Authorities.

Blaenau Gwent	10
Caerphilly	10
Cardiff	9
Newport	8
RCT	9
Swansea	10
Neath Port Talbot	9

- 3.2 At the start of this term of office Council approved that 5 Cabinet members be appointed for the forthcoming year. The Leader subsequently nominated those elected members who were to form the Cabinet. Council approved those nominations on 16 May 2012 at its Annual Meeting.

- 3.3 In subsequent years, the number of Cabinet members has remained constant. However, the workload of each Cabinet Member has increased in order to meet the current challenges facing the Authority and the delivery of the MTFS.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The Leader has indicated that he wishes to increase the number of cabinet members to six. This number is significantly less than the number permitted by the legislation and is lower than in many other Authorities in Wales.

- 4.2 The additional Cabinet Member post shall be utilised to collectively support all Cabinet Portfolios and assist in the delivery of the Strategic Change programme in

order to develop appropriate service delivery and culture. The appointed Cabinet Member is anticipated to fulfil a fulltime role with immediate effect.

- 4.3 Specific responsibilities of this role will be determined by the Leader and amended by him as necessary to reflect the changing nature and challenges that are faced by the Council.
- 4.4 The new post will be provided with the responsibility of a Cabinet Member and be allocated those functions listed in Scheme A Paragraph 1.1 – 1.8 of the Councils Scheme of Delegation of Functions. Further decision making powers may be allocated as necessary in consultation with the Monitoring Officer.
- 4.5 It is further proposed that the Councils Scheme of Delegation be updated to include the Cabinet Member for Strategic Change as follows

“Where any delegated power is allocated to an individual Cabinet Member and that Member is absent or otherwise unable to act the power is allocated to the Leader and in the Leader’s absence to the Deputy Leader or in the absence of both the Leader and Deputy Leader to the Cabinet Member for Strategic Change.”

- 4.6 There is sufficient provision within the current schedule of remuneration to enable a full senior salary to be paid.
- 4.7 The membership of the Cabinet shall be reviewed in preparation for the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2015 whereby in accordance with the Councils Constitution the number of members of the Cabinet and appointment of those members shall be determined by Council for the forthcoming municipal period

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 There will be no direct effect on the Policy Framework

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

- 6.1 There are no equality implications regarding this report.

7. Financial Implications.

- 7.1 The remuneration of an additional Cabinet Member can be met from this year’s existing Budget. Work will be undertaken as part of the proposed review to undertake the re-alignment of relevant budgets to ensure that any on-going costs are fully met.

8. Recommendation.

- 8.1 Council is recommended to:
- approve the Leader’s proposal to increase the overall size of the Cabinet to 6 Elected Members;
 - receive a nomination from the Leader for the appointment of an Elected Member to the role of Cabinet Member for Strategic Change;
 - appoint the Cabinet Member for Strategic Change;

- approve that the Cabinet Member for Strategic Change be remunerated and the Council's Schedule of Remuneration amended accordingly;
- note that the membership of the Cabinet shall be reviewed in preparation for the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2015.

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Background documents

None were used in the production of this report