

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17th May 2023

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

MATTER FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED – ALL

APSE Wales Chair – Climate Change and Renewables Advisory Group

Purpose of Report

To authorise the Leader of Council to act as Chair of the APSE Wales Renewables & Climate Change group and that an officer from the Environment and Regeneration Directorate be identified as the Lead Officer associated with this advisory group.

Background

APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) is a not for profit unincorporated association working with over 300 councils throughout the UK, with the aim of promoting excellence in public services.

APSE operates on a UK wide basis with self-governing branches, of which Wales is one. Each area determines its own work programme and in Wales that includes 4 advisory groups.

APSE (Wales) have established an advisory group called Renewables & Climate Change, which aims to look at all aspects of carbon reduction, local authority energy generation and the effects of climate change including flooding and coastal erosion. It is free and open to all officers and elected members from APSE's Welsh authority membership.

The chair of this particular group has been offered to the current Leader of Council, Cllr Steve Hunt who role is it is to chair the meeting and agreeing the agenda in advance. The position carries an honorarium of £500 per annum.

Approval therefore is sought for the Leader of Council to be authorised to act as Chair of the APSE Wales Renewables and Climate Change

The advisory group would usually be supported by a lead officer from the same authority of the Chair. Following discussions with officers, the Council has identified that the Environment and Regeneration Directorate is able to provide a lead officer for this group with the benefits of participation anticipated to justify the officer time that would be committed. These appointments will reinforce the Council's commitment to responding to the climate emergency and illicit learning that should

benefit or work programmes in an area identified as a priority within the Council's Corporate Plan.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report as it relates to an outside body appointment

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report as the honorarium mentioned above is met by APSE.

Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Integrated Impact Assessment

As this report relates to governance arrangements, there would be no requirement for an integrated impact assessment.

Workforce Impact

As indicated above, the advisory group though would usually have a lead officer from the same authority of the Chair and following discussions with officers, the Council has identified that the Environment and Regeneration Directorate could provide a lead officer for this group, without it having a detriment on officer workloads. The benefits that Council could gain from this group will in turn hopefully benefit work programmes that this Council will embark on.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council authorise the Leader of Council to act as Chair of the APSE Wales Renewables & Climate Change group and that an officer to be confirmed by the Director of Environment and Regeneration be identified as the Lead Officer associated with this advisory group.

Reason for Proposed Decision

To provide authorisation for the Leader of Council to act as a representative to an outside body and to authorise officer participation in the same work.

Implementation of Decision

Implementation is proposed after the three-day call in period.

Appendices

None

Background Documents

None

Officer Contacts

Craig Griffiths - Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Tel: 01639 763368 Email: c.griffiths2@npt.gov.uk