

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

(Multi-Location Meeting - Council Chamber, Port Talbot & Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

17 May 2023

Chairperson: Councillor P.Rogers

Councillors: T.Bowen, C.Clement-Williams, C.Galsworthy, J.Henton, J.Jones, R.G.Jones, S.Paddison, C.Phillips, S.Pursey, S.H.Reynolds, A.J.Richards and M.Spooner

Officers In Attendance K.Jones, A.Jarrett, A.Thomas, C.Griffiths, H.Jones, C.John and T.Davies

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors W.F.Griffiths, S.Harris, S.K.Hunt, J.Hurley, N.Jenkins, S.Jones, S.A.Knoyle, A.Llewelyn, D.M.Peters and J.Hale

Warm Wales Katie Cooke

1. **Chairs Announcements**

The Chair welcomed the Committee.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

Karen Jones - Re. Item 5 of the Cabinet papers - Grant of Officer Indemnity to Karen Jones in respect of Local Government Data Unit Wales - as she is the officer discussed within the report. Karen Jones declared a prejudicial interest at the meeting and left the meeting when the item was discussed.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The following minutes were approved as an accurate record:

- 10th March 2023

- 5th April 2023

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4. **Pre-decision Scrutiny**

Grant of Officer Indemnity to Karen Jones in respect of Local Government Data Unit Wales

(Karen Jones reaffirmed her interest and withdrew from the meeting for this item only)

Members were updated on the request to grant an officer indemnity to the Chief Executive in light of her role as director of the Local Government Data Unit Wales (Data Cymru).

Members asked whether the post would be remunerated for the work involved. Officers explained that the post would not be remunerated and the Chief Executive would be doing the role on a voluntary basis due to her expertise.

Following scrutiny, the report was supported to Cabinet.

Audit Wales – Assurance and Risk Assessment, Financial Position Update 2021- 2022

The Chair confirmed that the scrutiny committee had no lines of inquiry for this item, however, it was noted that the relevant Cabinet member wished to verbally present the report to committee.

Update in relation to the delivery of the Neath Port Talbot Hardship Relief Scheme

Members were updated in relation to the delivery of the Neath Port Talbot Hardship Relief Scheme, as detailed within the circulated report.

Katie Cook from Warm Wales was in attendance of the meeting to present the report.

Discussions took place around the initial concept of the Hardship Relief Scheme. It was noted that members had originally requested the scheme to support the public that were not only in receipt of benefits but also working constituents that are being affected by the current cost of living crisis. Members asked that consideration be

given to have a more widened approach around the criteria to ensure there was more scope around those that would require support. Members asked that a ward breakdown of those that have requested the funding be provided to members.

Members also requested that the Warm Wales leaflets be provided to members to share with their constituents.

Following scrutiny, the report was noted.

5. **Urgent Items**

There were none.

CHAIRPERSON

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