

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2022

**“C922 DRAFT MULTI-LOCATION MEETINGS POLICY (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

Cabinet had received a report at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 which provided a progress update on the legislative requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 ("the Act") and on a hybrid solution for use at Council meetings. That report had advised that as at 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2021 Section 47 of the Act required that all Local Authorities MUST make and publish arrangements for the purpose of ensuring that meetings were able to be held by means of any equipment or other facility which enabled persons who were not in the same place to attend the meetings.

In compliance with the provision under the use of the Managing Director's (as amended to Chief Executive 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2022) Emergency Powers, the Council, from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2021, published its arrangements for Attendance at Local Authority Meetings and agreed at the same time, in light of COVID 19, that all meetings would be live-streamed going forward.

The report provided Cabinet with a revised Attendance at Local Authority Meetings Policy, namely a Multi-Location Meetings (MLMs) Policy having regard to the requirements of the Act and Welsh Government's Interim Statutory Guidance on Multi-Location Meetings published in August 2021.

Cabinet was requested to consider and approve the Draft Multi-Location Meetings Policy attached at Appendix A to the report and to refer the same to Council and for inclusion into the Council's Constitution. The Policy provided detailed guidance regarding the Council processes when conducting MLMs.

The Leader outlined an amendment to the draft Policy, requesting that paragraph 6.7 in the Draft Multi-Location Meetings Policy at Appendix A to the report be amended to read "A participant at a meeting (as defined in paragraph 6.1 above) wishing to speak in Welsh or a person wishing to use the Welsh Language translation service at a meeting, is required to contact Democratic Services at least 72 hours before the meeting." Cabinet agreed for this amendment to be reflected with an additional resolution.

This was a matter for Executive and Council decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

## RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T it be noted that the Council's current Remote Attendance at Meetings Procedure within the Council's Constitution had been reviewed in light of the provisions of Sections 46 and 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 21 and Welsh Government's Interim Guidance on Multi-Location Meetings (published in August 2021).

(2) T H A T the Draft Multi-Location Meetings Policy attached at Appendix A to the report be recommended to Full Council for approval and that the draft Multi-Location Meetings Policy be included in the Council's Constitution.

(3) T H A T a review of the Policy be undertaken upon receipt of any further statutory guidance from Welsh Government, any accessibility requirements and the Council's Public Participation obligations.

**(4) T H A T the use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 14:14 of the Council's Constitution be exercised in order that the Draft Policy and the report can be considered by Full Council on the same day as considered by Cabinet.**

(5) T H A T paragraph 6.7 in the Draft Multi Locations Policy at Appendix A to the report be amended to read "A participant at a meeting (as defined in paragraph 6.1 above) wishing to speak in Welsh or a person wishing to use the Welsh Language translation service, at a meeting is required to contact Democratic Services at least 72 hours before the meeting."

### Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard Legislation and Statutory Guidance.

(2) In order that a Multi-Locations Meetings Policy can be approved to be in place by 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

(3) Having regard to statutory guidance received, accessibility requirements and the Council's Public Participation obligations.

**(4) In order for Full Council to be able to consider the matter on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.**

(5) Having regard to the Council's Welsh Language Standard number 33."