

COUNCIL

27 MAY 2021

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE & LEGAL SERVICES

MEMBER PROTOCOL ON CORPORATE PARENTING

Reason for this Report

1. To consider the proposed Protocol, which aims to provide guidance and advice to elected Members on their roles and responsibilities in relation to Corporate Parenting.

Background

2. At an Extraordinary meeting of Council on 20th January 2020, full Council approved a Motion which welcomed the appointment of an independent expert by the then Director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children & Families and the Chief Executive, to undertake a review of the Member Safeguarding Protocol.
3. The Council also approved the proposed extension of the remit of the independent expert to include various specific issues, including the 'Development of a protocol on the corporate parenting role of Councillors, which aligns with the Member Safeguarding Protocol.
4. The Protocol on the Role of Elected Members in Corporate Parenting (also referred to as the Corporate Parenting Protocol) aims to provide guidance and advice to elected Members on their roles and responsibilities as Corporate Parents.

Issues

5. The independent expert held a series of discussions with Cabinet Members, Group Leaders, Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and offered workshops for all Elected Members to enable them to have their views considered as part of the development of a Corporate Parenting Protocol. The proposed Corporate Parenting Protocol is attached at **Appendix A**.
6. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, at its meeting on 18 May 2021 considered the proposed protocol and agreed to seek the views of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Members prior to it being recommended to Council for approval and adoption, and authorised the Committee's Chair, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Governance and Legal Services, to finalise the draft Corporate Parenting Protocol to reflect any feedback that was received.

7. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee has recommended that the Corporate Parenting Protocol should be incorporated within the Constitution for clarity and certainty.

Legal Implications

8. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, section 78, places a duty on the Council to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child it looks after, and every care leaver. The Council collectively, including all elected Members, is the 'Corporate Parent' for these children. The Corporate Parenting Protocol aims to provide guidance for Councillors on their roles and responsibilities as Corporate Parents.
9. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) has responsibility for advising and making recommendations to the Council and Cabinet with regard to corporate parenting matters.
10. Any amendments to the Constitution require the approval of Council.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

12. Council is recommended to:
 - a) Approve and adopt the draft Protocol on the Role of Members in Corporate Parenting, attached at **Appendix A**; and
 - b) Subject to approval of recommendation a), to incorporate the Protocol on the Role of Members in Corporate Parenting within Part 5 of the Constitution.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance & Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

21 May 2020

Appendices:

Appendix A: Draft Protocol – The Role of Elected Members in Corporate Parenting

Background papers:

Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee report, [Proposed Corporate Parenting Protocol and Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee Terms of Reference](#).
Minutes of Extraordinary Council meeting, [January 2020](#)