

EMPLOYEE FORUM

19 June 2019

Present:

Member representatives:

Mrs J James (substitute for A Archer), Councillor R Owens, Dr RM Plummer and Councillor M Williams.

Staff representatives:

Mrs P Connah, Mr M George, Mrs D Hughes, Mrs J Morgan and Ms E Rooney.

Union representatives:

Mr J Lewis (Unison).

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 13.35am – 14.10pm)

1. Election of Chair

The Chief Executive explained that it was the Authority's custom for Chair's to be elected from Member and staff representatives alternately. As the previous Chair had been a Member representative, nominations were sought from Staff Members of the Authority.

It was **RESOLVED** that Mr Medi George be elected Chair for the ensuing year.

2. Election of Deputy Chair

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor R Owens be elected Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Archer, Councillor P Harries, Councillor P Kidney and Mr Richard Hughes.

4. Introductions

Each person introduced themselves to the rest of the Employee Forum.

5. Disclosures of interest

There were no disclosures of interest.



6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3 October 2018 were presented for confirmation and signature.

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3 October 2018 be confirmed and signed.

7. Responding to the Climate Emergency

A Climate Emergency had been declared by the UK Government, the Welsh Government and Pembrokeshire County Council which had raised the question of whether the Authority should have a more direct response to it.

The Chair informed Forum Members that this item would be put before the Staff Representatives in their meeting on the 4th July and Members views on the topic were therefore sought. The steps that the Authority was already taking were presented; these included noting that the building at Llanion was already environmentally friendly, 50 Eco Bricks made by Staff had been passed on for use rather than going to landfill, greening of the fleet was ongoing and the Authority was looking to install electric car charging points, Carew Castle were trialling an electric vehicle and a project to install water refill points at car parks was due to be rolled out later this year. Sessions had also been held in Oriel y Parc for 20 Schools on Marine Plastic and its Impact on the environment.

Members were pleased that staff had tabled this item at the Employee Forum and wanted the Authority to do more. It was suggested that a presentation by the Centre for Alternative Technology could be arranged, and more work undertaken with regard to car sharing and the use of electric vehicles. Other Forum members felt that it would be good to have an active involvement in reforestation as at the present time the UK was 13% covered in trees with this figure needing to increase to 25% to be carbon neutral. Members also felt that there was a huge captive audience in terms of visitors and that the Authority was well placed to be a change maker/influencer. It was also felt that the Authority was not visible enough with regards the work that was already being undertaken and that an editorial piece in Coast to Coast 2020 linking existing and future work would be informative.

The Unison Representative noted that his organisation was striving to reduce its carbon footprint and he also felt that it was important to source goods ethically for items that were sold in centres.

The Chief Executive informed Forum members that a new post would be advertised shortly to make the Rights of Way network more pollinator friendly. He also noted that Natural Resources Wales were undertaking a



Climate Risk piece of work and had developed a methodology to measure carbon across the public sector and that the 2013 report on Climate Change report would need updating. The Authority also needed to link climate risk to its own Estate and Risk Registers. The CEO felt that there was a balance to be had between policies and financial challenges and felt that people would become more aware as time moved on.

The topic would be discussed at the Staff Representatives Group and a paper outlining how the Authority was responding to Climate Change would be brought back to Members later in the year.

It was **RESOLVED** that a report would be drafted, outlining how the Authority was responding to Climate Change, for discussion by Members.

