



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

26th SEPTEMBER 2019

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

UPDATE REPORT

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update in respect of:

- A Shared Community – Model Charter
- RCTCBC Twinning Committee
- Future Meetings and Training
- Single point of contact

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Community Liaison Committee:

- (i) Notes the updates provided within the report;
- (ii) Formally agrees and adopts the revised Charter at each of the respective Town and Community Council meetings
- (iii) Agree the future calendar dates proposed within the report and advise of any locations that may be utilised for meetings of the Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A number of items are under consideration by the Community Liaison Committee and this report looks to provide Members with details of the current status of these items to ensure Members are kept up to date.

3.2 To agree a future calendar of meetings and to seek suggestions for future possible agenda items and venue locations from Committee Members

4. A SHARED COMMUNITY – MODEL CHARTER

4.1 At the meeting of the Community Liaison Committee on the 7th May Members agreed in principle to the adoption of the revised Model Charter (as attached at appendix 1).

- 4.2 It was also agreed that formal adoption of the Charter be taken forward at each of the Town / Community Council meetings.
- 4.3 To date, two Councils have formally endorsed and adopted the revised Model Charter.
- 4.4 Going forward it is asked that Members of the Committee advise the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication whether they have adopted the Charter or the proposed timeline for adoption, or alternatively if there are any concerns in respect of its adoption.

5 RCTCBC TWINNING COMMITTEE

- 5.1 At the Council AGM the Leader of the Council updated his 'Scheme of Delegation', which incorporated the creation of a 'Rhondda Cynon Taf Twinning Association Steering Group'.
- 5.2 As part of its Membership the terms of Reference of the group stated 'To enhance the work of the steering Group representatives from Town & Community Councils of Rhondda Cynon Taf will also be sought.'
- 5.3 Members are advised that Expressions of Interest have been sought from Town and Community Councils and a shortlisting exercise will be undertaken shortly.
- 5.4 As Chair of the Twinning Committee, County Borough Councillor Webber would like to thank all those that have shown an interest in the Committee membership.
- 5.5 Updates in relation to the work of the Committee will be advised upon appropriately.

6 FUTURE MEETINGS

- 6.1 To assist Members with their diaries the following dates have been proposed as future meeting dates of the Calendar. Members are asked that if agreed upon, these dates are added to Members dairies:
- Tues 21st January 2020 – 10:30 am (venue to be confirmed)
 - Thursday 7th May 2020 – 10:30am (Venue to be confirmed)
- 6.2 Members are asked to consider and advise upon any agenda items that they wish to see taken forward in the future to assist in the collaborative working of the Committee.
- 6.3 In addition, if Members would like to host any future meeting of the Committee then they are also asked to advise accordingly.

7. TRAINING

- 7.1 At the Committee meeting on the 7th May, Members received an update in respect of GDPR and its requirements in respect of Community and Town Councillors. A request was made for the training to be repeated for the benefit of all Community and Town Councillors.
- 7.2 A training session was arranged for the 4th September 2019, within the Council Chamber.
- 7.3 8 Members attended the training and positive feedback was received from those in attendance.

8. SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT

- 8.1 The committee will be aware of the commitment given to provide a dedicated single point of contact for community council clerks and members to raised matters with the Council outside of normal communications channels available.
- 8.2 To date this ability has been provided within existing resources, as part of the responsibilities of other Officers within the Democratic Services team, and where the matter is of strategic importance, directly by the Service Director – Democratic Services & Communications.
- 8.3 The Council recognises this role as important in resolving matters which may not have been sufficiently addressed through normal channels or require specific assistance.
- 8.4 The Council will shortly complete a recruitment process for a additional member of staff, within the Democratic Services team, who will hold as one of their key responsibilities the role of single point of contact and liaison with Community Councils in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 8.5 Contact details will be circulated to all Members following appointment.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report

10. CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Initial revisions to the Charter were taken forward following meetings and discussions with Town and Community Council representatives, to ensure the charter was fit for purpose.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

11.1 None.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None

13. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

13.1 Working in partnership with the Town and Community Council's within Rhondda Cynon Taf links with the three priorities within the Corporate plan of People, Economy and Place, as it will help people and Communities to help themselves and assists in building a sustainable Rhondda Cynon Taf.

13.2 The revised charter reflects the seven well being goals and the five ways of working, from within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, to which the Town / Community Council as well as Rhondda Cynon Taf Council work to. However, further work can be done in this area to strengthen these links, which will be made through further revisions to the Charter.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

26TH SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS –

Community Charter Report – 7th May 2019.