

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17TH OCTOBER 2019.

PRE SCRUTINY –

MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2020-2024 FOR CONSULTATION

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (COUNCILLOR ANDREW MORGAN)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the Council's draft corporate plan 2020 – 2024 for consultation following Pre-scrutiny by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 23rd September 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the comments and observations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee attached as Appendix B of this report.
- 2.2 Subject to any further comment by Cabinet Members, endorse the recommendations outlined within the Council's draft Corporate plan 2020 – 2024 as attached as Appendix A of the report (and for ease of reference as listed below):
- I. Consider and challenge the draft Corporate Plan;
 - II. Note the comments and points raised by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 23rd September 2019, in pre-scrutinising the draft Corporate Plan;
 - III. Notes the actions set out in the plan that will contribute to the Council's commitment to delivering the Net Zero Carbon targets set out by the Committee on Climate Change;
 - IV. Uses the Corporate Plan as a key aspect of the forthcoming 2020/21 Budget Consultation process with the public of Rhondda Cynon Taf;

- V. Request that the feedback from the consultation processes is presented to Cabinet in March 2020, with the revised Corporate Plan being presented to a meeting of the Council later that month.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need for Members to be aware of the comments and observations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee prior to their consideration of the draft plan for consultation as attached as Appendix A.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, has been assigned responsibility to form a view on the new draft Corporate Plan.
- 4.2 In light of this role, Pre-scrutiny on the draft plan was undertaken by the Committee on the 23rd September 2019 prior to Cabinets consideration, and the draft minute is attached as appendix B.

5. PRE-SCRUTINY OF THE STRATEGY

- 5.1 At the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members discussed the draft plan for consultation and provided comments in relation to each of the Council's main priorities and key commitments aligned. An overview of these comments are set out below:

- i. **Council's Vision** – to better reflect the Council's position, as one of the best Council's in Wales the Committee commented that the Council's vision be revised to read "To be the best place in *Wales* to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy, and prosperous."

ii. **Priority: People – Are independent, healthy and successful**

Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do - How we will deliver this:

- The Committee commented on the need to work in partnership with Welsh Government, strive to reduce child poverty, providing services that encourage and build resilience of children and their families.

iii. **Priority: Places – Where people are proud to live, work and play**

Keeping RCT clean through efficient street cleaning services, minimising the amount of waste we send to landfill, achieving our recycling targets through weekly recycling and regular refuse collections, and reducing our carbon footprint – How we will deliver this:

- Members felt it was important to recognise illegal parking within this area and the consequences this has on residents and the Council - Working with residents and communities to reduce the number of incidents of

littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and illegal parking, using enforcement powers as necessary;

Ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels of community cohesion and where residents feel safe – How will we deliver this: *Members provided comment on the following actions and commitments to deliver on this aspect:*

- *Supporting the voluntary, community and faith sectors to help build active communities, creating the capacity for meeting the needs of residents within their communities;*
- *Working with the police and other Safer Communities partners to prevent and deter anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in our towns;*
- *Delivering a multi-agency response to all forms of violence and the criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults;*
- *Preventing radicalisation and supporting victims of hate crime, including raising awareness.*

iv. **Priority: Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to: be innovative; be entrepreneurial; and fulfil their potential and prosper.**

Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education; - How we will deliver this:

- Supporting schools to successfully introduce and embed the new curriculum, raising the standards of educational performance for all pupils;

5.2 The Draft plan has been amended to incorporate the comments of the Committee and is attached as Appendix A.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The report contained within appendix A has been presented to scrutiny for pre scrutiny before consideration by Cabinet. Subject to Cabinet approval this will go forward to public consultation.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 Any financial implications are outlined within Appendix A of the report.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 Non applicable – the report is identifying the scrutiny arrangements that have taken place.

10 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10.1 Making Best Use of Our Budget – Pre scrutiny can improve cost effectiveness.

11 CONCLUSION

11.1 It is recognised that scrutiny is a vital component of good governance and improves Councils' decision making, service provision and cost effectiveness.

11.2 The undertaking of pre-scrutiny by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in this area will strength accountability and assist Cabinet Members in taking any future decisions on these matters.