

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

9TH MARCH 2017

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE CABINET IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, COUNCILLOR J ROSSER & COUNCILLOR M FOREY

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with the findings and recommendations of the Council's two Scrutiny Working Groups that conducted scrutiny reviews in respect of issues in relation to the Council's Mobile Library Service and Maesyffynnon Residential Care Home, Aberaman.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet Members:-

- 2.1 Note the work of the scrutiny Committees, as outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 of this report.
- 2.2 Agree in principle to each of the recommendations contained within section 2.3 and 2.4 of this report, subject to further consideration by the Cabinet Portfolio holders for this area, following which a detailed response is provided to the relevant Scrutiny Committees.
- 2.3 The Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee conducted a review into the Council's Mobile Library Service and recommended:
- Further promotion of the mobile library service through existing partnerships such as Communities First, Housing Associations and local Elected Members;
 - To further promote the online facilities available to customers so that they can order books and/or CD's ready for collection from the mobile library;
 - To retain the length of stops (as to alter them would have an impact on the number of stops which would have a potential adverse affect on more customers);
 - That posters are displayed on the door of each mobile library vehicle to

- inform customers that all mobile libraries have disabled access;
- That provision is made available on the mobile library, in the form of a checklist, for customers to be able to pre order books/CD's in advance of their next visit

2.4 The Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Working Group conducted a review into Maesyffynnon Residential Care Home and recommended:

- That where possible there is early identification of potential significant building maintenance issues to provide early warning of the need to transfer residents;
- That staff are made fully aware of the Council's decision making processes in relation to Cabinet decisions should a similar situation occur in the future;
- In addition, the Working Group would support the Council's Strategy for older people which is moving away from a dependency culture toward an enabling culture where support and care is provided at home or close to home. Within this is the option for extra care housing facilities and the working group would welcome this opportunity for Aberaman. However, if 'extra care' is the direction of travel for the future it is important that all residential care staff fully understand what this type of facility provides and it is therefore recommended that an information programme is developed to ensure that staff are aware of the introduction of the Council's first extra care housing scheme in Talbot Green, how this type of model operates and the potential benefits and opportunities of moving toward a more enabling and community based approach to care.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The need for Cabinet Members to consider the work of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, looking at issues in relation to the Council's Mobile Library Service and the work of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, looking at Maesyffynnon Residential Care Home.

4. BACKGROUND

a) COUNCIL'S MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

- 4.1 In line with its work programme, the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee identified the issue of the Council's Mobile Library Service as an area for review at the commencement of the Municipal Year 2015/2016. In particular Members were concerned that following the service change in 2014 there would remain a comprehensible service for the citizens of Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 4.2 Furthermore, at its meeting on the 7th October 2015, the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee requested that the review should be

widened to include the 'financial dimension' of the service change to the mobile library service i.e. 'to establish whether or not the savings identified as part of the service change implemented from June 2014 have been realised'

4.3 On the 15th February 2016 Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee considered and resolved to accept its Terms of Reference in respect of the Mobile Library Review as follows:-

4.31 Terms of Reference:

'To review the take up of the mobile Library Service to better understand usage and barriers to usage following the service change in 2014'

4.32 Scope:

- To review the impact the service change has had on usage
- Understand the target groups that are currently served by mobile libraries
- Identify any barriers to usage
- Assess how well the current provision meets the needs of the residents of RCT
- Consider whether the service is accessible to all and supports the most vulnerable
- Consider how the service is currently promoted
- Assess whether the financial savings required from the 2014 service change have been delivered
- From the information gathered formulate recommendations for improvement and/or modifications to the service

4.33 Methodology:

- Receive reports/presentations from Council officers in respect of the current provision since the service change in 2014
- Feedback from service users to obtain their views
- To understand how the local position compares with the regional and national picture
- Data collection to measure current performance

b) MAESYFFYNNON RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME, ABERAMAN

4.4 On 6th October 2015, Cabinet considered the report of the Group Director, Community & Children's Services in relation to the significant building maintenance issues which had come to light at the Maesyffynnon Residential Care Home

4.5 The report pointed out that a major breakdown of the mechanical services at the home could happen at any time, and with winter approaching, action

needed to be taken as a matter of urgency. The report provided options for managing the ongoing risks to residents and Cabinet agreed the proposal put forward, namely, the temporary closure of Maesffynnon Care Home and transfer of residents to alternative appropriate placements while all options for the home were fully investigated, costed and appraised. At the time of this decision there were 19 permanent residents living at the Home.

- 4.6 Cabinet agreed to the request of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee that their Committee should have a role in scrutinising the process adopted to transfer residents and as a result, at the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 14th October 2015, it was resolved to form a small working group consisting of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee along with the local Members for Aberaman North, to oversee the process of the transfer of residents from Maesffynnon Care Home to alternative placements.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 As outlined within Appendix 1 & 2 of this report, consultation was conducted through the reviews carried out by the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

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 and further analysis of each of the proposals will be needed if the recommendations are to be taken forward.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are currently no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED.

- 8.1 There are no legal implications at present.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 9.1 The Scrutiny report and recommendations link to the Council's Corporate Plan priorities of Prosperity: Improving our communities and Health: Supporting vulnerable adults and older people to live independently.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 At their meeting in September 2016, the Committee endorsed the findings of the customer feedback in respect of RCT's Mobile Library Service and identified areas for consideration, which they believe will improve the provision for the customers.
- 10.2 Having followed the transfer and settlement of residents into their alternative accommodation the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Working Group concluded that the transfer of residents to their new homes had gone smoothly and all are settled well into their new homes. The Working Group have identified various areas for improvement for the future.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committees – Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee & Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE CABINET IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR J ROSSER**

Item: SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

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