

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

### **WALES AUDIT OFFICE - GOOD GOVERNANCE WHEN DETERMINING SIGNIFICANT SERVICE CHANGES REPORT**

#### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR A MORGAN**

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#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the latest Wales Audit Office (“WAO”) report to be issued and note the action to be taken by the Council in response to the proposals for improvement raised.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report;
- 2.2 Consider whether the Council’s response to the WAO proposals for improvement are sufficient.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is important that WAO proposals for improvement are considered by Cabinet and appropriate action is taken in response to the matters raised.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 As part of the Audit of the Council for the financial year 2016/17, Wales Audit Office has undertaken a review that has focused on the effectiveness of the Council’s governance arrangements for determining significant service changes. The WAO has taken the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s (CIPFA) revised framework for “Delivering good governance in local

government” as an appropriate standard and has provided the Council with a baseline from which to plan further improvement.

4.2 A copy of the WAO report is included in Appendix 1.

## **5. THE WAO PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND THE PROPOSED RESPONSE**

5.1 The WAO report is a positive report and reflects the fact that the Council has robust financial, service change and performance management arrangements in place. Nevertheless, there are opportunities to improve these arrangements and the WAO has made three proposals for improvement, which are as follows:

- P1 – The Council set out at the point of decision on service change proposals how the impact of proposed changes is going to be measured and monitored;
- P2 – The Council clarify and promote the arrangements for public participation in its overview and scrutiny process in order to encourage and promote public involvement;
- P3 – The Council publish its overview and scrutiny committees’ forward work programme(s) as stand-alone documents(s) on the Council website to increase openness and transparency.

5.2 Appendix 2 to this report sets out an action plan with timescales that responds to the proposals for improvement.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 Not required.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

8.1 There are no financial implications.

# **Good Governance when Determining Significant Service Changes**

## COUNCIL ACTION PLAN TO RESPOND TO WAO PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Proposal for improvement	Council response	Timescale for action	Officer responsible
P1 – The Council set out at the point of decision on service change proposals how the impact of proposed changes is going to be measured and monitored.	Agreed. This recommendation will be implemented in setting future revenue budgets.	As appropriate	Chief Executive
P2 – The Council clarify and promote the arrangements for public participation in its overview and scrutiny process in order to encourage and promote public involvement.	Agreed. The Council will consider the opportunities to engage the public in the scrutiny process, learning from best practice across the UK. A report on this recommendation will be considered at the Annual General Meeting when it is convened early in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.	June 2017	Head of Democratic Services
P3 – The Council publish its overview and scrutiny committees' forward work programme(s) as stand-alone documents(s) on the Council website to increase openness and transparency.	Agreed. For the Municipal Year 2017/18, the work programmes of the various scrutiny committees will be available on the Council's website as a stand-alone item.	September 2017	Head of Democratic Services