



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 September 2023

BI-ANNUAL CABINET MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To scrutinise any arising matters within the portfolio holder responsible for and to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to effectively scrutinise the Executive.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the Leader & Cabinet Member for Infrastructure in respect of matters considered and agreed by Cabinet, and key decisions taken, during the period 1st May – 20 September 2023.
- 2.2 Identify any areas arising from those matters determined within this period which Committee wish to further scrutinise, as part of revisions to the committees published work programme.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide Overview and Scrutiny the opportunity to challenge and scrutinise the Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Investment in respect of matters considered by Cabinet during the 1 May 2023 – 20 September 2023
- 3.2 The recommendations seek to provide a structure to these sessions, to enable discussion and challenge to be focused upon a defined period and those individual decisions taken

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of this Council's ongoing commitment to improve the function of Scrutiny as a critical-friend of the Council, this item is being brought before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to maintain a constructive dialogue between Cabinet Members and the relevant Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.2 Such an approach will provide Scrutiny Members with the opportunity to further challenge the Executive, as the Leader can provide further details relating to the potential challenges facing the Council's services as we move into 2023/24 Municipal year, as well as the opportunities and priorities currently being pursued.
- 4.3 Members are encouraged to utilise performance information contained with the quarterly performance reporting to committee, to inform contributions and questions within the time period outlined.

5. SCRUTINY OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

- 5.1 The role that Overview and Scrutiny can play in holding the Council's decision-makers to account makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy. Scrutinising the Executive serves an important purpose in ensuring that decision makers of the Council are held accountable for their actions and decisions
- 5.2 By Scrutinising the Cabinet Member, the public can gain a better understanding of their decision-making process and the rational supporting key decisions, which in turn will promote openness and transparency within the Council.
- 5.3 Scrutiny can also identify areas for improvement and drive positive changes, strengthening our governance arrangements. Effective scrutiny helps secure the efficient delivery of public services and drives improvements within the authority itself.
- 5.4 Under the [Terms of Reference](#) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members have the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge areas that fall under the remit of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Investment. The main responsibility areas of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Investment cover the following areas:
 - Strategy Policy
 - Finance and Budget Setting
 - Manifesto delivery
 - Key infrastructure and Capital Programme
 - Partnership and Joint Working
 - Government Relations
 - Council wide Safeguarding

- Emergency Planning & Civil Contingency
- Highways Maintenance & Traffic Management
- Flood Risk Management

5.5 Scrutiny in various forms is essential to ensuring accountability, transparency and fairness and ensures that political decisions are taken in the best interests of our residents.

Decisions taken forward by the Portfolio holder during the period 1 May 2023 – 20 September 2023

- [Council Corporate Plan - Investment Priorities](#)
- [Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-24 to 2026-27](#)
- [Local Cost of Living Support Scheme 2023](#)
- [URGENT ITEM - SUBSIDISED BUS TRAVEL SCHEMES ACROSS RHONDDA CYNON TAF DURING THE 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR](#)
- [Report to commence formal statutory consultation of the authority's review of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Planref: 616](#)
- [Real Living Wage Accreditation](#)
- [The Council's Office Accommodation Strategy Workspace Plan: Fit for the Future and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Operating Model and Working Arrangements Policy](#)

5.6 Questions should be focussed in respect of the above decisions taken by the Cabinet Member, to enable effective scrutiny of those decisions by committee members. The above decisions do not include exempt decisions considered by Cabinet Committee.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

None arising as a direct result of this report

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

7.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in this report

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph Part 4 of the Constitution (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules).

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 To provide Overview and Scrutiny the opportunity to challenge and scrutinise the Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Investment and make recommendations for policy improvement under the remit of the Council Leader's portfolio.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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27th SEPTEMBER 2023

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
COMMUNICATIONS**