



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

**CLIMATE CHANGE FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

18TH OCTOBER 2023

BI-ANNUAL CABINET MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services in respect of matters considered and agreed by Cabinet, and any key decisions taken, during the period 11 May – 18 October 2023; and,
- 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, in relation to Climate Change.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.2. To provide the Climate Change and Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge the Cabinet in respect of the decisions taken in the defined decision-making period.

- 1.3. 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

- 1.4. 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 Climate Change Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee as part of Cabinet and Scrutiny engagement.
- 1.5. Such an approach will provide Scrutiny Members with the opportunity to further challenge the Executive, as the Cabinet Member can provide details relating to the investments being taken forward within the portfolio and the challenges faced by the Council.

5. SCRUTINY OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

- 1.6. The role that the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee 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.
- 1.7. By Scrutinising the Cabinet Member Climate Change and Corporate Services, the public can gain a better understanding of their decision-making process and hold them accountable, which will promote openness and transparency within the Council. It will also ensure that those in Leadership positions are acting in the best interests of their constituents.
- 1.8. 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. Conversely, poor scrutiny can be indicative of wider governance, leadership and service failure.
- 1.9. Under the [Terms of Reference](#) of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, Members have the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge areas that fall under the remit of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services. The main responsibility areas of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services cover the following areas:
 - Performance & Resources
 - Corporate Estates

- Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Digitalisation Strategy
- Procurement & Transitional Services
- Climate Change Champion

5.5 Members should note that future opportunity will be provided to the Committee to scrutinise the Cabinet Member Prosperity and Development and the Cabinet Member Environment and Leisure, in line with their Terms of Reference

5.6 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.

5.7 Decisions taken forward by the Portfolio holder during the period 11 May - 18 October 2023

The decisions can be found by clicking on the following links below:-

27/09/23 [Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee Work Programme 2023-24](#)

27/09/23 [Think Climate RCT – The Council’s Tackling Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025](#)

27/09/23 [Nature on Your Doorstep’: Update on the implementation of the Living Landscape project in Rhondda Cynon Taf](#)

23/05/23 [PLANNING AND BIODIVERSITY: RCT OBSERVATIONS TO WELSH GOVERNMENT REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF PLANNING POLICY WALES.](#)

5.8 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

1.10. None arising as a direct result of this report.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

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

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

1.12. There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

10. CONCLUSION

1.14. To provide the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise, challenge and make recommendations for policy improvement under the remit of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Corporate Services.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES AND PROSPERITY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18TH OCTOBER 2023

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COMMUNICATIONS**