



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

23RD OCTOBER 2023

PRE- SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the feedback and comments of the items that were pre-scrutinised by the Council's thematic Scrutiny Committee's following its last Committee cycle.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the comments and observations of the Scrutiny Committees following pre-scrutiny of the items listed within section 5 of the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need for Members to be aware of the comments and observations of the Council's Scrutiny Committees prior to their consideration of the items listed within the Cabinet agenda for the 23rd October 2023.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In response to the [Local Government & Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#), where there is now a requirement for greater consideration of Cabinet decisions in Scrutiny, the Council's Scrutiny Committees place a greater emphasis on identifying items for pre-scrutiny to support and improve the decision making process
- 4.2 Members are reminded that the purpose of pre- scrutiny activity is to provide the key "critical friend" challenge and influence the decisions before they are made to contribute to policy and service improvement.
- 4.3 The Council's Scrutiny Committees continue to have the opportunity to scrutinise and comment on a number of reports in advance of Cabinet's consideration to bring a different perspective to the decisions being made and enabling Cabinet decisions to

be more informed. Effective scrutiny helps support the efficient delivery of public services and drives improvements within the Council's services.

5. ITEMS CONSIDERED FOR PRE-SCRUTINY

5.1 Outlined below are the items that have been pre-scrutinised in line with each Committees Terms of reference for Cabinet consideration:

Committee	Report	Comments
Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee – 14th September 2023.	Proposals to develop a new School in Rhondda Cynon Taf.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Education Committee acted as a consultee on this item and the Committees views formed part of the consultation response. The comments of the Committee are attached in full as Appendix 4 to Agenda item 10 • Members were overall supportive of the proposal before them and look forward to seeing any future developments and welcomed any future opportunities to undertake scrutiny on the proposal • Members felt reassured that following engagement and consultation with parents, pupils, governors, School Councils and special schools staff that overall the response so far to the proposal had been positive • Members were encouraged to hear of the Council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral • Concern was raised in respect of the proposal having a potential negative impact on the Welsh Language • Members recommended officers visit other out of county provisions to draw on best practice to ensure the primary consideration is its design and safety. • Members of the Committee also highlighted the importance of recruiting a highly skilled and trained workforce
Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 25th September 2023	Representations, Compliments and Complaints Procedures Annual Report – 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members queried the lessons learnt from the compliments and complaints received to the service and quality assurance process. • Members requested further data in relation to any trends in the complaints received
Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee – 18th October 2023.	Community Infrastructure Levy Annual Monitoring Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal Feedback will be provided at the meeting

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/INVOLVEMENT

7.1 Details of the Scrutiny involvement and consultation are highlighted within section 5 of the report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 None

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 none

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10.1 The work of all Councillors, through pre-scrutiny of Cabinet decisions is fundamental to the work of the Council and subsequently the delivery of the Corporate Plan

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 relevant Scrutiny Committee will strengthen accountability and assist Cabinet Members in taking any future decisions on these matters.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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23rd October 2023

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COMMUNICATION**

Item: **PRE – DECISION SCRUTINY**

Background Papers