



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**13 DECEMBER 2023**

**BUDGET CONSULTATION 2024-25**

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

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. For Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be consulted and to formally respond to the first phase of the Council's 2024-25 Budget Consultation.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1. Provide feedback on the Council's 2024-25 Budget Consultation.
- 2.2. Request the Service Director for Democratic Services & Communications to provide Cabinet with the feedback of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To afford the opportunity for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide its feedback on phase 1 of the 2024-25 Budget Consultation, as part of its role as a consultee in the process.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Every year the Council undertakes a comprehensive approach to its annual budget consultation, providing a wide range of engagement methods for residents and stakeholders to take part in the process.
- 4.2 In line with the Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Committee is a consultee as part of the Council's Budget Consultation process.

- 4.3 Cabinet, at its meeting on [23rd October 2023](#), agreed the Council's 2024/25 budget consultation arrangements. The first phase of the 2024-25 Budget Consultation process is taking place between 21 November and 19 December 2023.

## **5. 2024-25 BUDGET CONSULTATION (PHASE 1)**

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to provide feedback, as part of the first phase of the 2024-25 Budget Consultation process, on the key strategic building blocks that are used to construct the Council's budget.
- 5.2 The information provided in the presentation, attached at Appendix 1, will be presented to Members at the meeting and feedback requested.
- 5.3 For Members information, the Committee's feedback will be incorporated into a Budget Consultation report, alongside all other feedback received from stakeholders, for consideration by Cabinet as part of developing a draft Revenue Budget Strategy for 2024/25. The draft Revenue Budget Strategy will then be pre-scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of phase 2 of the Budget Consultation process in early 2024.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS/SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 6.1 The 2024-25 Budget Consultation process aims to provide opportunities for all of the Council's stakeholders to get involved in giving their feedback, through a wide range of engagement methods.

## **7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. There are no Welsh language implications arising from this report.

## **8. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT**

- 8.1. The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference as a consultee of the Council's Budget Consultation process, will contribute to the quality and robustness of Cabinet decision-making.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

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

## **11. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 11.1 The budget setting process impacts on all Council services and contributes, in turn, to the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities.

## **12. CONCLUSION**

- 12.1. The 2024-25 Budget Consultation process affords opportunity for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide feedback as part of phase 1 of the Council's Budget Consultation process, in line with the Terms of Reference of the Committee.
- 12.2. The feedback all stakeholders provide via the consultation process will be incorporated into a Budget Consultation Report to be considered by Cabinet as part of it developing a draft 2024/25 Revenue Budget Strategy, which will also then be pre-scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in early 2024.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**as amended by**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

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