



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

18TH DECEMBER 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 18th December 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
Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 21 st November 2023	Pre-Scrutiny HMO Licensing Report	<p>Members were supportive of the recommendations to continue with a new ALS for HMOs in Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p> <p>Members were pleased to see the level of engagement with the Consultation and acknowledged the valid comments that were provided as responses. There was some concern around the level of feedback received from tenants as a single group noting that it is important the voice of tenants is heard. There were queries around the engagement plans for future in relation to this group.</p> <p>Members noted the process of inspections and raised a concern about the involvement of residents in inspections to ensure accurate experiences are recorded.</p> <p>Members discussed the need for licensing conditions to ensure personal safety is considered within HMO's and the need to ensure safe spaces. Members felt this was an important licensing condition to be included under any future scheme.</p> <p>There was discussion of specific issues relating to Pontypridd and surrounding areas in relation to HMO's. It was felt these were longstanding issues and whilst Members recognised there is ongoing work across multi-agencies there was a concern raised that the number of students declining may be accelerated by the factor of poor standard of accommodation.</p> <p>Members discussed the process of responding to non-compliant landlords when issues are identified. Members felt the licensing scheme is a positive addition and ensuring robust and clear plans support this process.</p> <p>There was acknowledgement of the positive action of the property accreditation scheme</p>

		<p>but it was noted that this is voluntary. Whilst not a substitute for regulation, Members felt it is important to look to do more to encourage landlords to be part of this.</p>
<p>Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 21st November</p>	<p>Pre-Scrutiny Day Services offer for older people</p>	<p>Members acknowledged the content of the report noting the background and reasons for the recommended proposals.</p> <p>Members queried the data provided in the report relating to capacity of each provision under the proposals highlighting the need that any change should not detrimentally affect current service users from attending.</p> <p>A Member queried the level of provision that would be provided to service users of Tonyrefail Day Centre and the expectation that they should receive the same standard of provision at Cwrt yr Osaf.</p> <p>A Member also raised the matter of ensuring appropriate management of the process of change for service users and staff to ensure the same level of care is provided and support for staff undergoing any service restructuring.</p> <p>A Member noted the travel time between Tonyrefail and Cwrt yr Osaf raising a concern that the increased travel time may be a barrier to current service users being able to attend the centre.</p> <p>Members also acknowledged the importance of service users being able to continue to access open spaces as part of a day centre offer.</p> <p>A Member referenced the potential for Cwrt yr Osaf to attract interest from more local residents to register to attend the day centre and the need to ensure this does not impact on individuals who are currently registered to attend in Tonyrefail.</p>

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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COMMUNICATION**

Item: **PRE – DECISION SCRUTINY**

Background Papers