



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**BUDGET CONSULTATION 2024-25 (PHASE 1)**

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

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Joint Consultative Committee to respond and contribute to the first phase of the Council's 2024-25 Budget Consultation.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Provide feedback, as the Committee considers appropriate, as part of 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 Joint Consultative Committee.

**3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To afford the opportunity for the Joint Consultative Committee to provide its feedback on phase 1 of the Council's 2024-25 Budget Consultation.

**4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 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 Cabinet, at its meeting on [23rd October 2023](#), agreed the Council's 2024/25 budget consultation arrangements.

- 4.3 The Committee will note that the formulation of the Council's budget for the forthcoming financial year (2024/25) is set in the context of a forecasted budget gap of £35M, as set out within the latest Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27 as reported to Cabinet and Council on the [18th September 2023](#) and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 respectively.

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

- 5.1 The Joint Consultative 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 the Committee at the meeting and feedback requested.
- 5.3 For 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 subject to consultation as part of phase 2 of the Council's budget consultation process in early 2024.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND 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. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Joint Consultative Committee is requested to act as a consultee as part of the Council's Budget Consultation process.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

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

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

- 9.1 The Council has a legal duty under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to set a balanced budget and also a legal duty under the Local Government Act 2000 for it to be reported to and approved by Full Council.

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

- 10.1 The budget setting process impacts on all Council services and, in doing so, contributes to the delivery of its Corporate Plan priorities.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 The 2024-25 Budget Consultation process affords opportunity for the Joint Consultative Committee to provide feedback as part of phase 1 of the Council's Budget Consultation process.
- 11.2 The feedback of all stakeholders provided 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. The draft Revenue Budget Strategy will then be subject to consultation as part of phase 2 of the Council's budget consultation process in early 2024.

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

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