



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**26 FEBRUARY 2024**

**STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2024-2028**

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

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To pre-scrutinise the Council's Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) 2024-28 Equality Report

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that: -

- 2.1 Members undertake pre scrutiny on the report (attached at Appendix **B**), thus providing Scrutiny with an opportunity to contribute to this matter; and
- 2.2 Authorise the Service Director Democratic Services and Communications to provide feedback to Cabinet on behalf of Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The need for Cabinet to be aware of the comments and observations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee prior to their consideration of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028

**4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The SEP has been developed so that the Council can set out how it aims to meet its commitment to equality and how it will meet its legal obligations contained within the Equality Act 2010.
- 4.2 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny are being provided with the opportunity to undertake pre scrutiny on the SEP in advance of Cabinet's consideration and whether it agrees the publication of the SEP Members will recall the

identification of equality and diversity for greater scrutiny as part of scrutiny improvements identified in 2020.

- 4.3 In particular, Members may wish to consider whether the report has captured the relevant information required to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties).

## **5. PRE SCRUTINY**

- 5.1 Members are reminded that the purpose of pre scrutiny activity is to influence the decisions before they are made. The Council's Overview & Scrutiny continues to have the opportunity to explore and comment on a number of reports in advance of Cabinet's consideration to bring a different perspective to the decisions made and enabling Cabinet decisions to be more informed.
- 5.2 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee has a further opportunity to undertake pre scrutiny of the SEP in advance of Cabinet approval for its publication

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

- 6.1 Equality and diversity implications will be considered as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's feedback and comments and any subsequent implementation arrangements.

## **7. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT**

- 7.1 The involvement of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the pre-scrutiny exercise will contribute to the quality and robustness of Cabinet decision-making

## **8. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Financial and resource implications will be considered as part of any feedback and subsequent implementation arrangements.

## **9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 9.1 Equality considerations feature throughout Corporate and National priorities and specifically the contents of the attached report contributes to a More Equal Wales and a Wales of Cohesive Communities.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 The undertaking of pre scrutiny by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Council's SEP strengthens accountability and assists Cabinet to

assess whether the plan meets its commitment to equality and how it will meet its legal obligations contained within the Equality Act 2010

- 10.2 Any comments and feedback to the Cabinet will ensure that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee fully evaluates the effectiveness of its overview and scrutiny function.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**as amended by**

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

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**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL EQUALITY REPORT**

**26 FEBRUARY 2024**

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COMMUNICATIONS**