



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**26 FEBRUARY 2024**

**ANNUAL EQUALITY REPORT 2022 - 23**

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

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To pre-scrutinise the Council's Annual Equality Report attached at Appendix B, for the year 2022-23

**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 Annual Equality Report, for the year 2022-23

**4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Annual Equality Report has been developed to fulfil the Council's legal duties and obligations to report on its progress in delivering the General and Specific Equality Duties.

- 4.2 The report contains progress made in year 2022-23 in meeting the equality objectives contained in Council's Strategic Equality Plan
- 4.3 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny are being provided with the opportunity to undertake pre scrutiny on the Annual Equality Report in advance of Cabinet's consideration and whether it agrees the publication of the Annual Equality Report 2022-23. Members will recall the identification of equality and diversity for greater scrutiny as part of scrutiny improvements identified in 2020.
- 4.4 In particular, Members may wish to consider whether the report has captured the relevant information required to fulfil the Council's legal duties and obligations to report on how it has met the General Equality Duty set out in the Equality Act 2010.

## **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 Annual Equality Report for the 2022-23 Municipal Year in advance of Cabinet approval

## **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 Annual Equality Report, for the year 2022-23 strengthens accountability and assists Cabinet to assess whether progress made in year 2022-23 meets the equality objectives contained in Council's Strategic Equality Plan.

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**

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