



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

**CLIMATE CHANGE FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

4TH MARCH 2024

BI-ANNUAL CABINET MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To scrutinise any arising matters with the portfolio holder responsible for Development and Prosperity and to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to effectively scrutinise the Executive.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the Cabinet Member for Development and Prosperity in respect of matters considered and agreed by Cabinet, and any key decisions taken, during the period 11th May 2023 – 4th March 2024; and,
- 2.2 Identify any areas arising from those matters determined within this period which Committee wish to further scrutinise, as part of revisions to the committees published work programme, in relation to Development & Prosperity.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To provide the Climate Change and Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge the Cabinet in respect of the decisions taken in the defined decision-making period.
- 3.2. The recommendations seek to provide a structure to these sessions, to enable discussion and challenge to be focused upon a defined period and those individual decisions taken.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. As part of this Council's ongoing commitment to improve the function of Scrutiny as a critical friend of the Council, this item is being brought before the Climate Change Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee as part of Cabinet and Scrutiny engagement.
- 4.2. Such an approach will provide Scrutiny Members with the opportunity to further challenge the Executive, as the Cabinet Members can provide details relating to the investments being taken forward within the portfolio and the challenges faced by the Council.

5. SCRUTINY OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

- 5.1. The role that the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee can play in holding the Council's decision-makers to account makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy. Scrutinising the Executive serves an important purpose in ensuring that decision makers of the Council are held accountable for their actions and decisions.
- 5.2. By Scrutinising the Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity, the public can gain a better understanding of their decision-making process and hold them accountable, which will promote openness and transparency within the Council. It will also ensure that those in Leadership positions are acting in the best interests of their constituents.
- 5.3. Scrutiny can also identify areas for improvement and drive positive changes, strengthening our governance arrangements. Effective scrutiny helps secure the efficient delivery of public services and drives improvements within the authority itself. Conversely, poor scrutiny can be indicative of wider governance, leadership, and service failure.
- 5.4. Under the [Terms of Reference](#) of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, Members have the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge areas that fall under the remit of the Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity. The main responsibility areas of the Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity cover the following areas:
 - Inward Investment
 - Enterprise & Economic Regeneration Funding
 - Town Centres
 - Business Support
 - Planning and Development

- Planning Strategy
- Building Control
- Housing Strategy & Policy
- Tourism

5.5 Scrutiny in various forms is essential to ensuring accountability, transparency and fairness and ensures that political decisions are taken in the best interests of our residents.

5.6 **Decisions taken forward by the Portfolio holder for Development & Prosperity under the Committee's Terms of Reference during the period 11 May 2023 - 4th March 2024:**

The decisions can be found by clicking on the following links below:-

- 18/12/23 [Aberdare Town Centre Strategy](#)
- 20/11/23 [Management of the Council's Land and Buildings Portfolio: Interim Update on Progress](#)
- 23/10/23 [CIL Annual Monitoring 2022/2023](#)
- 18/09/23 [Acquisition of Land to the East of Cenarth Drive Cwmbach, Aberdare](#)
- 17/07/23 [Renovation and Redevelopment of the Rock Grounds Buildings, Aberdare](#)
- 17/07/23 [Cardiff Capital Region Housing Viability Fund](#)
- 28/06/23 [Aberdare Town Centre - Draft Strategy](#)
- 15/05/23 [The Council's Office Accommodation Strategy Workspace Plan: Fit for the Future and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Operating Model and Working Arrangements Policy](#)
- 15/05/23 [Pontypridd Placemaking Plan - Southern Gateway Project Progress Update](#)

The following Officer Delegated Decisions were also taken forward to which the Cabinet Member was a consultee:

- 08/09/24 [Energy Company Obligation](#)
- 26/07/23 [Re-development of the 42-43 High Street, Former Rates Building, Aberdare](#)

- 23.05.23 [RCT Observations To Welsh Government Regarding Proposed Amendment Of Planning Policy Wales](#)

5.7 Questions should be focussed in respect of the above decisions taken by the Cabinet Member, to enable effective scrutiny of those decisions by committee members.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

6.1 None arising as a direct result of this report.

7 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

7.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in this report.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 To provide the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise, challenge and make recommendations for policy improvement under the remit of the Cabinet Member for Development & Prosperity.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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**CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES AND PROSPERITY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

4th March 2024

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COMMUNICATIONS**