



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CABINET

20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024

### WORKING TOWARDS AN AGE-FRIENDLY RHONDDA CYNON TAF

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR - PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR GARETH CAPLE, CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Author: Caroline O'Neill, Head of Arts, Culture and Library Services

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides information to Members in relation to the Council's continued commitment to being an Age-Friendly Community and its proposed application to become a member of the [World Health Organisations Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities](#).

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet consider the information within this report and approves the submission of an application to become a member of the World Health Organisations Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

#### **3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To inform Members of the Council's continued work in recognition of RCT as an Age-Friendly Community.
- 3.2 To gain recognition for RCT as an Age-Friendly Community through submitting an application to become a member of the World Health Organisations Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.
- 3.3 To continue to develop community resilience, recognising that an age-friendly community supports each other, and creates community-based opportunities for early intervention and prevention.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Welsh Government's [Strategy for an Ageing Society](#) (2021) sets out a vision for an Age Friendly Wales with 4 identified aims:
- Enhancing wellbeing.

- Improving local services and environments.
  - Building and retaining people's own capacity.
  - Tackling age-related poverty.
- 4.2 In 2013, the Council committed to collaborate on developing policy and to be proactive to create age friendly communities by 2020 in signing the [Dublin Declaration](#).
- 4.3 As a result, a [Cwm Taf Ageing Well in Wales Plan](#) was produced and revised in 2019, setting out the vision for Cwm Taf to be a good place to grow older for everyone, where Older People can continue to do the things that are important to them.
- 4.4 Recent discussions at the RCT Community Support Steering Group, consisting of membership from public and third sector partners, including the Older People's Advisory Group Chair, have raised the opportunity for RCT to be recognised as an Age-Friendly Community by the World Health Organisation.
- 4.5 Furthermore, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales is supportive of the work in RCT and considers that an application to become a member of the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities has merit and reflects the significant progress being made in RCT.
- 4.6 Progress to date has included significant activities such as piloting Cwm Taf Morgannwg's Dementia Listening Project and events such as Turning Ponty Blue, in support of Dementia Action Week.

## **5. WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

- 5.1 The World Health Organisation Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities was established in 2010 to connect cities, communities, and organisations across the world with the common vision of making their community a great place to grow.
- 5.2 Age-friendly cities and communities improve access to key services and enable people of all ages to be and do what they value through action across eight domains:
- Housing.
  - Transportation.
  - Outdoor spaces and buildings.
  - Community support and health services.
  - Communication and information.
  - Social participation.
  - Respect and social inclusion.
  - Civil participation and employment.

- 5.3 There are currently three existing Welsh members of the network: Cardiff City Council, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Isle of Anglesey County Council and Flintshire County Council and other local authorities are working towards membership.
- 5.4 Considering the proposed new Corporate Plan, becoming a member of the global network will meet the People and Communities Wellbeing objective, supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives; and also increasing community resilience through shared learning and opportunities to explore innovative and practical approaches to age-friendly community development with our community partners.
- 5.5 The Older Persons Co-ordinator within the Community Development Team, has prepared an application to become a member of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, which will highlight RCT as an excellent place to live well and age well, celebrating our older population, and ensuring that we are committed to older people being valued and active participants in our communities.
- 5.6 The vision for RCT stated within the application (see Appendix A) is that **“Rhondda, Cynon Taf is a great place to grow older and a place where older people feel valued, heard, included and respected, and can get out and about; stay informed; afford to do things they want to do; and lead healthy and active lives.”**

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 6.1 There are no implications as a direct result of this report.

## **7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

## **8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 8.1 There are no consultation implications as a direct result of this report; however, it should be noted that developments to date and those in future, rely upon significant involvement from all key partners and agencies.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

- 10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to the recommendations in the report.

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

- 11.1 Becoming an Age-Friendly Community contributes to all four of the Wellbeing Objectives within the new Corporate Plan:

**People and Communities:** supporting and empowering residents and communities to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives; whereby they can take care of their health and wellbeing so that they can live healthy and independently; with access to affordable, good quality and energy efficient homes; and safeguarding vulnerable residents of all ages.

**Work and Business:** helping to strengthen and grow RCT's economy, with thriving town centres and a well-connected County Borough.

**Nature and the Environment:** a green and clean RCT that improved and protects our environment and nature, using Natures Assets to benefit our residents and communities.

**Culture and Heritage:** recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future where culture and heritage are vibrant, preserved and recognised as enhancing well-being,

- 11.2 The work in this area reflects the five ways of working in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, with age-friendly communities based on long-term considerations and focus on preventative and precautionary action, contributing specifically to the Resilience and Global Responsibility Goals of the Act.

## **12. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS**

- 12.1 The Age-Friendly Communities work takes place across the whole of the County Borough.

## **13. CONCLUSIONS**

- 13.1 Becoming a member of the World Health Organisations Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities highlights Rhondda Cynon Taf as an excellent place to live well and age well, celebrating our older population, and ensuring that we are committed to older people being valued and active participants in our communities.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

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**Background Papers:**

None

**Officer to contact:**

Caroline O'Neill, Head of Arts, Culture and Library Services