



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 APRIL 2024

#### BI-ANNUAL CABINET MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

#### REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To scrutinise any arising matters within the portfolio holders responsibility and to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to effectively scrutinise the Executive.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Council Business in respect of matters considered and agreed by Cabinet, and key decisions taken, during the period 1st May 2023– 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- 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.

#### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide Overview and Scrutiny the opportunity to challenge and scrutinise the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business in respect of matters considered by Cabinet during the 1 May 2023 – 20 March 2024
- 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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee to maintain a constructive dialogue between Cabinet Members and the relevant Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.2 Such an approach will provide Scrutiny Members with the opportunity to further challenge the Executive, as the as the Cabinet Member can provide details relating to the investments being taken forward within the portfolio and the challenges faced by the Council
- 4.3 Members are encouraged to utilise performance information contained with the quarterly performance reporting to committee, to inform contributions and questions within the time period outlined.

## **5. SCRUTINY OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

- 5.1 The role that Overview and Scrutiny 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, the public can gain a better understanding of their decision-making process and the rational supporting key decisions, which in turn will promote openness and transparency within the Council.
- 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.
- 5.4 Under the [Terms of Reference](#) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members have the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge areas that fall under the remit of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business which cover the following areas:
  - Council Business
  - Employee & Trade Union Relations
  - Communications and Engagement (including digital communications)
  - Legal Services
  - Democratic Services
  - Strategic Events
  - Armed Forces Covenant
  - Human Resources

- Member Equalities Champion

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.

**Decisions taken forward by the Portfolio holder during the period 1 May 2023 – 20 March 2024**

- [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](#)
- [Real Living Wage Accreditation](#)
- [Draft Public Participation Strategy Public Consultation](#)  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee formally consulted in [May 2023](#)
- [Review of Dog Control PSPO](#) - Considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee [July 2023](#)
- [Public Services Ombudsman for Wales - Annual Report and Letter 2022-2023](#)
- [Budget Consultation Report](#) – Overview and Scrutiny Committee formally consulted in [December 2023](#)
- [Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 \(RIPA\) -Use of RIPA by RCTCBC](#)
- [Annual Equality Report 2022-23](#) – Pre scrutinised by Overview and Scrutiny Committee [February 2024](#)
- [Strategic Equality Plan 2024-2028](#) – Pre scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee [February 2024](#)

5.6 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. The above decisions do not include exempt decisions considered by Cabinet

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

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 Overview and Scrutiny the opportunity to challenge and scrutinise the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Council Business and make recommendations for policy improvement under the remit of the Deputy Leader's portfolio.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**22 April 2024**

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