



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014

**SUBJECT: DIGEST OF CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report from Caerphilly CBC contains a digest of committee reports containing items of interest for the voluntary sector. If there are reports of particular interest Members can request the committee report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to prepare a further report/take questions.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A quarterly summary of Caerphilly CBC committee reports selected as they contain areas of interest for the voluntary sector.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 All Caerphilly CBC reports relate to aspects of the Caerphilly County Borough Community Strategy.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The following reports have been selected as having particular interest on voluntary sector issues (note Members can request a full hard copy of any of the reports included):-

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 3RD JUNE 2014

Corporate Website Re-Design

The IT Development Manager, presented the report, which informed Members of the background, plan and estimated costs related to the redesign of the Authority's corporate website and the progress made to date. This report was prepared following a Member request for such information at the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 4th March 2014. The existing corporate website has been in place since September 2008, and since that time, technologies available and the expectations of users have become more sophisticated. A redesign of the facility was deemed to be required and a project initiated to deliver an enhanced solution during 2014.

End Of Year Update on Improvement Objective 6 (2013/14) – Improve the Availability of Private and Public Sector Housing to Reduce the Number of Residents Who May Become Homeless

The Principal Private Sector Housing Officer presented the end of year progress report against the Improvement Objective relating to improving the availability of public and private sector housing to reduce the number of residents who may become homeless. Members were informed that good progress was made throughout the year against the actions contained within the Improvement Objectives. Nine risks were identified and assessed, with eight risks closed and one remaining open. Of the twenty actions identified, nineteen have been successfully completed. Eight performance indicators were identified in total, with 6 performing above expectation, one below, and data for the remaining indicator not yet available, and full details were appended to the report.

Equalities and Welsh Language Annual Reports

The Senior Policy Officer - Equalities and Welsh Language, presented the report, which informed Members of the progress made during the financial year 2013/2014 against targets in the Council's current Strategic Equality Plan and Welsh Language Scheme. This report will be presented to Cabinet for approval for submission to the relevant Commissions and publication online, before the deadline date of 30th June 2014.

CABINET - 16TH JULY 2014

Introduction of Car Parking Charges at Country Parks

The report sought approval to proceed with the introduction of car parking charges at five country parks following the advertising of the Caerphilly County Borough Council Traffic Regulation Order. Car parking charges at country parks were agreed indicative proposals as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). They have now been advertised as required by regulations and the report outlines the responses received to the consultation. Given the level of public response it had been decided that the matter should be reported to Cabinet to decide whether or not the charges should be confirmed. The proposals have been advertised and the public consultation has been completed. On the advice of Legal Services the consultation period was extended by a week to allow for the Easter holidays and to ensure the public had adequate time to respond. Consultation ran between 3rd April and 2nd May 2014. The advertised charges for each of the parks is £1.00 for up to 2 hours or £3.00 for the day. Blue badge holders are allowed up to 3 hours for £1.00, this being in accordance with the concession previously approved by the Council. Season tickets will be available at a cost of £50.00 for 1 year (or £25.00 for 6 months).

Extension of Bedlinog Line/Dowlais Park and Ride

The report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 1st July 2014, informed members of the potential to extend the current freight line between Ystrad Mynach and Cwmbargoed to Dowlais Top to facilitate the potential future reinstatement of a passenger service. Members' views were sought on the proposal to develop and promote the scheme (in conjunction with Merthyr CBC) and ensure it receives due consideration amongst the other rail priorities identified and being developed in South East Wales.

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 30TH JULY 2014

Community and Leisure Services Division Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 & 2016/17 – Items for Consideration

To consider the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) contributions from the Community and Leisure Services Division in accordance with the Cabinet Report of 16th April 2014 ("Next stages of the MTFP – 2015/16 & 2016/17").

This report asks the Scrutiny Committee to consider the Community and Leisure Services Division's contribution to assisting the Authority to meet its obligations in respect of the 2014/17 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), taking due note that:-

- (i) The Councils MTFP requires estimated savings of £6.5m for the 2015/16 financial year and £6.9m for 2016/17.
- (ii) Discretionary services are reviewed in full, including those areas of statutory provision where delivery exceeds the minimum required levels, with a view to identifying savings proposals totalling over £8m across the Authority.
- (iii) Further proposals for members to consider in respect of up to 3% efficiency savings. These efficiency savings targets to be applied to those statutory and essential services that the Authority has to deliver, either directly or via a third party organisation.

In both cases the savings identified for potential consideration should be presented to Special Scrutiny Committees between April and October 2014.

The Division operates a mix of statutory (e.g. waste services) and discretionary services (e.g. Sport and Leisure, Parks) with some other services (e.g. street cleansing) having a statutory basis with discretion over service delivery.

The report has therefore been subdivided into the 5 distinct services that make up the Community and Leisure Services Division with implication notes for each suggested saving being included as appendices.

The Scrutiny Committee is then asked to consider the suggested potential savings.

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 5TH AUGUST 2014

Fairtrade Products

The purpose of this report is to advise the Scrutiny Committee on the council's current commitments to the purchasing of Fairtrade products. The report identifies what Fairtrade products are currently purchased and other methods used within the council for supporting Fairtrade and other ethical schemes.

A request was received from Cllr. Reynolds to ascertain the council's current position with regard to the purchasing of Fairtrade products. The report takes into account the purchase of food items that are approved as Fairtrade or form part of other ethical schemes and also seeks to establish if the council has any Fairtrade schools and what, if any, benefits they have experienced in gaining this accreditation.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. The Fairtrade Foundation provides a certification and a Trade Mark which can be used on products which meet international Fairtrade standards. As well as Fairtrade there are also other ethical schemes that are offered including, for example, the Rain Forest Alliance and the council also considers these other means of ethical consumerism alongside Fairtrade during the procurement process.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equalities implications have been taken into account for a number of reports submitted to Cabinet and other committees.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None, this is an information paper only on the contents of Caerphilly CBC reports which contains items of interest for the Voluntary Sector Committee.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Not applicable.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Members are invited (if they feel appropriate) to select any report for further consideration by the committee by requesting the report author to attend a future meeting of the Voluntary Sector Committee to take questions/prepare another report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure Members are fully briefed on items of interest for the Voluntary Sector.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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