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Mr Carl Sargeant AC / AM
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Date/Dyddiad: 31st January 2013

Dear Sir,

Compact for Change Commitments – Transport and Highways Services
A Joint Consultation on the Strategic Programme for Change Report

Thank you for your letter dated 20 December 2012 regarding the above. It is noted that you seek Caerphilly County Borough Council's views on the Strategic Programme for Change Report (SPfCR) and in particular the workstreams to be taken forward and the suggested phasing for carrying out further work on determining whether there are viable business cases for collaboration.

Your further letter dated 25 January 2013 attaches draft workstream project briefs as well as a proposed programme timeline for consideration.

Caerphilly CBC is committed to the Simpson Compact and has many examples of collaboration across a wide range of service areas. Transportation and Highways is no exception and CCBC officers contribute significantly to Sewta and SEWDERB in order that such collaboration is effective.

With regard to the SPfCR our comments are as follows:

We will continue to play an effective part in Sewta to ensure the collaboration agenda is taken forward via this well respected Joint Committee. Work items such as 'quick wins' will be challenging and depending on the outcomes of the business cases, resource levels will need careful consideration.

Cabinet Member
Aelod Cabinet

This correspondence is from an individual member and is not written on behalf of the Council.

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The capacity of officers to meet the pace of change when such change is significant, wide ranging and across sectors is questionable. Local Government has had to make savings and reduce its staff numbers and with this expertise has been lost. Whilst the need for collaboration to fulfil better services and / or savings is necessary at the earliest possible time, we all should be mindful of the risk of producing future operating models at a speed which do not effectively contribute to either.

Further, Local Government feels that the collaboration agenda and the various groups / organisations surrounding it have diminished the local representatives roles and effective decision making of councils. I would urge you consider how the pace of change required can fit within local government business arrangements.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, this council agrees to the SPfCR and awaits its outcomes. Further, it also looks forward to receiving and debating these so that it can decide if it wishes to take such business cases further.

In conclusion, CCBC plays an active role in the Simpson Compact. In terms of Transportation and Highways we will continue to fully engage with Sewta and thereby strive to improve services across the borough and the region.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Tom Williams
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Engineering

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