



## SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP GROUP – 26TH JUNE 2014

**SUBJECT: SPECIAL WHQS POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**REPORT BY: SCRUTINY RESEARCH OFFICER**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform and seek comments on the proposal to hold a special Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting themed on the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report proposes that a special Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee be held in the Rhymney area in July 2014 to discuss the Welsh Housing Quality Standard Annual outturn and customer satisfaction surveys and invite tenant representatives from the Caerphilly Homes Task group to take part.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Assembly legislation.

### 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Welsh Government guidance on the Local Government Wales Measure 2011 encourages scrutiny committees to engage with the public and key stakeholders. Holding a themed scrutiny committee meeting in the community would be good practice as the topic is relevant following a significant amount of WHQS works done in the area, it would raise the profile of scrutiny and make it accessible for the public to attend the meeting and observe discussions. An additional benefit would be the opportunity for Members to take part in a tour of properties which have benefited from WHQS improvement works prior to the start of the meeting.

- 4.2 Arrangements for the special meeting are outlined below:

- To hold a Special Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting at Ael y Bryn Community Centre, Rhymney.
- Scrutiny Committee Members to have opportunity to tour homes and meet tenants who have had their properties upgraded under WHQS.
- Caerphilly Homes Task Group tenant representatives and local ward Councillor(s) be invited to participate as expert witnesses.
- The committee to receive reports on the WHQS Annual Outturn 2013/14 and the outcome of the customer satisfaction surveys.
- Local tenants to be invited to observe scrutiny committee meeting in a public gallery.

4.3 Initial discussion with the Community Centre Management Committee representative indicates that the community centre will be available week commencing 28th July 2014, and the meeting room is available on the 29th July. The cost of hiring the centre from 16:00 hours until 20:00 hours would be less than £50.

4.4 It is proposed that additional publicity is arranged for the local area to encourage local people to attend to observe the meeting. However the additional publicity will make it clear that it is not a public meeting and members of the public would attend as observers.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's Eq1A process does not need to be applied.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The cost of hiring the community centre will be less than £50, which can be absorbed within existing budgets.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no personnel implications not contained in the report.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 There are no consultation responses not contained in the report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Scrutiny Leadership Group note and comment on the proposed special scrutiny committee meeting.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 To develop further public engagement in scrutiny.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

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