



CABINET – 20TH JANUARY 2016

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CENTRES TASK AND FINISH GROUP

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

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- 1.1 The attached report was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 22nd September 2015. At the commencement of the meeting, and in relation to this item, Councillors J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, Mrs A. Blackman, W. David (Chair), H.R. Davies, C. Durham, D. Havard, G. Johnston, Mrs G. Oliver and Mrs M.E. Sargent declared that they had each received dispensation from the Standards Committee in respect of their position as Management Committee Members of Community Centres in their wards.
 - 1.2 The Education for Life Scrutiny Committee established a Task and Finish Group to review the Council's support of community centre provision throughout the County Borough and make any recommendations necessary under the Medium Term Financial Plan.
 - 1.3 The report sought the Scrutiny Committee's views on the final recommendations of the Community Centres Task and Finish Group.
 - 1.4 The Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendations from the Community Centres Task and Finish Group. With regards to the recommendation to close Tirphil, Channel View and Rhymney Day Centre (as listed in 9.4 of the report to the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee and to achieve savings of £18k), Members unanimously agreed the REMOVAL of Rhymney Day Centre from this recommendation to allow more time to increase its usage following the withdrawal of Social Services.
 - 1.5 Subject to the forgoing, and having considered the report from the Community Centres Task and Finish Group, the Scrutiny Committee recommended to Cabinet that:-
 - (i) the council cuts the budget for payment of water rates for community centres to achieve savings of £27k;
 - (ii) the council reduces its caretaking contribution from 12 hours per week to 11 hours per week for each community centre, and recharges each community centre for one hour per week (to achieve savings of £14k);
 - (iii) two centres be put forward for closure - Tirphil and Channel View, Risca (to achieve savings of £18) and Rhymney Day Centre be allowed more time to develop and increase its usage;
 - (iv) that miscellaneous items be cut from the budget to achieve savings of £5k.
 - 1.6 Members are asked to consider the recommendations.

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Appendix 1 The Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Report dated 22nd September 2015.