



## **POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19TH JANUARY 2016**

**SUBJECT: WHQS COMPLIANCE POLICY**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151  
OFFICER**

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- 1.1 The report was considered by the Caerphilly Homes Task Group (CHTG) on the 10th December 2015 and sought views on the draft WHQS Compliance Policy, which is a Welsh Government requirement, prior to its consideration at Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
- 1.2 Social housing landlords are required to put in place a Compliance Policy by 1st April 2016, which would be subject to annual review. The Compliance Policy is intended to provide the Welsh Government, tenants and the Council with assurance that WHQS will be achieved and maintained and must set out the arrangements for independent verification.
- 1.3 The Task Group debated various aspects of the report and raised concern for the brief reference to the Environmental Programme within the Policy. It was agreed that as the Environmental Programme was an integral part of the programme and has to be delivered to achieve WHQS, that a fuller explanation should be incorporated within the Policy. The Scrutiny Committee are asked to note that in view of the concerns expressed, the following additional paragraph has been included in the Policy:-  
  
“There will be a separate environmental programme which will address Part 6 of the WHQS. The process will involve engagement and consultation with residents to identify community aspirations and to determine priorities for environmental improvements. An engagement plan has been agreed that will run from January 2016. Project implementation is likely to commence during 2016 and will be phased through to the end of the programme in 2020. Improvements may include landmarks/gateways, street furniture, traffic calming, street lighting, rationalising pedestrian routes, landscaping, safe play areas, car parking, defensible space and demarcation of boundaries”.
- 1.4 The Task Group discussed the progress being made on surveys and it was noted that additional resources are required in order to increase the number of surveys completed in advance of works commencing.
- 1.5 Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that subject to the inclusion of reference to the Environmental Programme, the Policy be recommended for approval by Cabinet. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the report, the Caerphilly Homes Task Group recommend the adoption of the revised WHQS Compliance Policy to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

- 1.6 Members are invited to consider the report and the above recommendation.

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Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Caerphilly Homes Task Group Report – 10th December 2015