



## CABINET – 3RD FEBRUARY 2016

**SUBJECT: WHQS COMPLIANCE POLICY**

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

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- 1.1 The attached report was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 19th January 2016, having previously been considered by the Caerphilly Homes Task Group on 10th December 2015. The report sought the views of Members on the draft WHQS (Welsh Housing Quality Standard) Compliance Policy, which is a Welsh Government requirement, prior to its presentation to Cabinet.
- 1.2 Members were advised that social housing landlords are required to put in place a Compliance Policy by 1st April 2016. 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. A copy of the draft policy was appended to the report.
- 1.3 It was noted that the Caerphilly Homes Task Group had expressed a need for the Environmental Programme to be more fully incorporated into the Policy, as it is an integral part of the programme, and at that meeting it was agreed that an additional paragraph be included in the Policy as follows:-

“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 Following consideration of the report and the recommendation from the Caerphilly Homes Task Group, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein, and subject to the inclusion of reference to the Environmental Programme, the WHQS Compliance Policy be adopted.
- 1.5 Members are asked to consider the recommendation.

Author: R. Barrett, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4245

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 19th January 2016 – Agenda Item 13