

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**NOTICE OF THE DECISIONS FROM THE HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 26th MARCH 2024 AT 5.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillors: M. Chacon-Dawson, R. Chapman, C. Cuss, D. T. Davies, T. Heron, A. Hussey, D. Ingram-Jones, M. James, A. McConnell, B. Owen, L. Phipps, H. Pritchard, J. A. Pritchard, J. Rao A. Whitcombe (Chair), and S. Williams (Vice Chair).

Cabinet Members: S. Cook (Housing), and P. Leonard (Planning and Public Protection)

Officers: J. Roberts-Waite (Head of Strategy and Development), C. Boardman (Development Manager), S. Wilcox (Programme Development Manager), F. Wilkins (Housing Services Manager), L. Allen (Principal Group Accountant – Housing), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager) and A. Jones (Committee Services Officer).

The decisions and declarations of interest are set out below. For further details please refer to the relevant report.

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	VOTE
1.	To receive apologies for absence.	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Bishop and D. Cushing	N/A
2.	Declarations of interest.	There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.	N/A
3.	Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee held on 13 th February 2024.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 th February 2024 be approved as a correct record.	14 For 0 Against 1 Abstention
4.	Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.	There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.	N/A
5.	Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.	Following consideration of the Forward Work programme it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal vote, this was unanimously agreed. RESOLVED that the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme be published on the Council's website.	14 For 0 Against 0 Abstention

6.	To receive and consider the Cabinet reports listed on the Agenda.	There had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.	N/A
7.	Caerphilly Homes Presentation.	The Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee noted the Content of the Presentation.	N/A
8..	Private Sector Housing Renewal and Adaptations Policy.	<p>Following Consideration of the report an amendment to the recommendations was moved and seconded that:</p> <p>1. 'Residents needing a replacement or repair to their stairlifts should be treated under the same financial conditions, i.e: subject to discretionary grants as residents needing stairlifts for the first time'.</p> <p>By way of Microsoft Forms and Verbal votes the amendment was declared lost by the majority present.</p> <p>It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal votes this was agreed by the majority.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The change in approach to delivering financial assistance from a mainly grant based policy to a more sustainable repayable loan based policy in relation to property and regeneration be approved. 2 Following consideration of alternative(s) to the strategic approach the Private Sector Housing Renewal and Adaptation Strategy be approved. 3 The continuation of the delivery of medium adaptations via means tested mandatory DFGs in line with statute be approved, noting that this recommendation does not comply with the formal request of the Welsh Government Minister for Housing and Local Government, Julie James of the 10.03.2021 with regards to medium adaptations. 4 The proposed policy be introduced with immediate effect, that discontinued products cease to be offered from 31st of March 2024 	<p>3 For 12 Against 1 Abstention</p> <p>12 For 1 Against 1 Abstention</p>

		<p>with new financial products introduced from 1 June 2024 to allow for implementation planning and training.</p> <p>5 That applicants with active enquiries for discontinued products be given a time limited opportunity to progress applications to formal approval.</p> <p>6 The introduction of targeting of the In-House Agency Service to vulnerable households and amendments to Agency fees be approved.</p> <p>7 The realignment of the Private Sector Housing capital budgets £2,167,000 and associated slippage monies £6,916,280 (as at period 9 monitoring report 2023/24) to deliver the proposed Policy in agreement with the section 151 officer and Cabinet Member for Housing be approved. The slippage money and agency income to be ringfenced for a period of 5 years to allow the effective implementation of the proposed Policy be approved.</p>	
9.	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024/25.	<p>Following Consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and verbal votes this was agreed unanimously</p> <p>RESOLVED that</p> <p>Members of the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee acknowledged and considered the 2024/25 Housing Business Plan prior to its approval by Cabinet on the 3rd April, and its submission to Welsh Government by the 31st March 2024.</p>	15 For 0 Against 0 Abstention

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