

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms 1/2 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

17 December 2015

Chairperson: Councillor Mrs.D.Jones

Councillors: J.S.Evans, J.Miller, A.Taylor, R.Thomas and D.Whitelock

Officers In Attendance N. Jarman, M.Jones, Ms.A.Flynn and N.Evans

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors P.D.Richards and J.Rogers

1. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2015.**

Noted by the Committee.

2. **TO RECEIVE THE SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16.**

Noted by the Committee.

3. **PRE SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

i. **Proposed New Arrangements for Community Meals**

Members considered a report that sought approval to cease the operation of the Council's Community Meals Service and to develop alternative arrangements where existing customers can be signposted.

Officers advised that this was in fact a loss making service and could not be sustained. If the contract continues until the end of August then it would cost the Council circa £100,000.

Members asked if Officers were confident that all those who currently received a community meal could be matched up with a new provider. It was confirmed that a lot of work was being undertaken with providers in the area so that service users would in fact get a choice.

Members asked for confirmation that close consultation is undertaken with individuals and it was agreed that this was planned.

Following scrutiny the Committee were supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

4. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEM(S) PURSUANT TO SECTION 100A(4) AND (5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE RELEVANT EXEMPT PARAGRAPHS OF PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE ABOVE ACT.**

5. **PRE SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following private items:

Cabinet Board Proposals

i. **Provider Support for administering Direct Payments**

Members considered a report that sought to enter into a temporary agreement with Independent Living Brokerage Partner (ILBP) LTD for provisions within Direct Payments.

Members asked who had taken the original decision to appoint DEWIS Cil as the original contractor. It was confirmed that the City and County of Swansea had the original contract and Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot had joined as part of Western Bay.

Members requested that individuals are supported as much as possible through this process and it was confirmed that a team was in existence to address any issues.

Following scrutiny the Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

ii. Provider Support for Administering Direct Payments Pre Paid Accounts and Associated Services

Members considered the report on the decision required to award a contract to Aquarium Software Limited for Pre-Paid Accounts and Associated Services.

Members were advised that a system of this nature allowed for a full audit trail and offered extra features such as if money is deposited on a pre-paid card and is not used for a while it flags this up on systems and alerts officers.

Following Scrutiny the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

CHAIRPERSON