

Social Care Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

29 July 2021

Chairperson: Councillor L.M.Purcell

Councillors: A.P.H.Davies, O.S.Davies, J.Miller, S.Paddison, S.H.Reynolds, D.Whitelock, A.N.Woolcock, C.Edwards, W.F.Griffiths and H.C.Clarke

Officers In Attendance A.Jarrett, A.Thomas, R. Davies, C. Howard, A.Davies, H.Short, G.Evans, T.Davies and C.Davies

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors A.R.Lockyer and P.D.Richards

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 5th July 2021, be approved.

2. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny**

The committee chose to scrutinise the following cabinet board items:

Social Housing Grant Prospectus 2021

Members were informed of the Council's Social Housing Grant (SHG) Prospectus 2021, as detailed within the circulated report.

Members commended that the schemes currently held in reserves during 2020/21 were able to transfer to the main programme in 2021/22.

Discussions took place around the terminology in relation to renting along with the definition for affordable housing, as it was highlighted that affordable housing wasn't necessarily affordable for all. Further information was requested on the benchmark for affordable housing,

as it was highlighted that in some areas affordable houses were still too costly for people to rent.

Members asked whether the grant was available for the council to utilise to build their own houses. It was highlighted that this was an option for other Councils, however, as Neath Port Talbot had transferred their housing stock in previous years this was not an option.

Members were pleased to see that the report was linked to the Local Development Plan and that the report had therefore considered future planning.

Officers clarified that the figures included in the table on page 11 of the report is £9.9m of Welsh Government grant which equates to approximately 448 units of accommodation.

It was confirmed that the Amman Valley was not included in appendix 2 of the report, following the work undertaken by the Opinion Research Services (ORS) in 2019 as they did not identify any need for additional housing in the Amman valley. Officers confirmed that they would be confirming the accuracy of this.

It was discussed whether the numbers of housing were sufficient for future years with the increase in population. It was noted that the numbers had been calculated on the work undertaken by the ORS and was based on affordable housing.

Members asked for the dimensions of the dwellings to ensure the sizing was sufficient, due to the decrease in sizing dwellings over the years. It was clarified to members that there were guidelines set by Welsh Government on dimensions that had to be complied with. It was noted that further information on the size of the dwellings and the standards on dimensions would be circulated to members of the committee outside of the meeting.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

3. **Forward Work Programme 2020/21**

Members noted the Forward Work Programme and requested the following item be include:

- A report providing an overview of Neath Port Talbots Housing and its policies and how this would link in with future plans.

4. **Access to Meetings**

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 18 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

5. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s**

NPT Youth Justice and Early Intervention Draft Annual Plan 2021-2022

At the start of the item, the Director advised Scrutiny Members that the wrong Exempt Paragraph had been used – this should have been Paragraph 18 and not Paragraph 14.

Members received an update on the on the NPT Youth Justice and Early Intervention Draft Annual Plan 2021-2022, as detailed within the private circulated report.

Following discussions the following concerns within the report were raised for amendment at Cabinet Board.

- Valleys Communities Impacts should read 'No Impacts'.
- The Officer Contact details for Alison Davies should read 'a.davies8@npt.gov.uk'.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by cabinet board.

CHAIRPERSON