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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting WEDNESDAY, 14 MARCH 2018, 4.30 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

8 Correspondence Following Committee Meeting (Pages 3 - 10)

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My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

15 March 2018

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member Social Care, Health & Well-Being
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Susan,

COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2018
CARDIFF & VALE OF GLAMORGAN AREA PLAN FOR CARE AND SUPPORT NEEDS
2018-23

As Chair of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I wish to thank you and officers for attending Committee and providing Members with an opportunity to consider the Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Area Plan for Care and Support Needs 2018-23. Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you:

The Committee supports the Area Plan and corresponding Action Plan and commends the report to Cabinet.

Members agreed that the Action Plan provided a clear commitment towards more joined-up working, as well as drawing together the breadth of work that is already happening across the RPB and beyond. Members felt that the Plan was very clearly set out, easy to read, and appreciated the clear links with Wellbeing Objectives, Social Services Outcomes and Capital Ambition.

Members stated that they recognised the challenges faced in terms of governance structures, and that the Plan, in its current form, sets out a starting point for addressing this issue going forward. They also accepted that the development of the Plan had presented an opportunity for these discussions to start taking place and this is to be commended. However, the Committee would like to see, as a matter of priority, further clarity in terms of governance structures - particularly between the RPB, PSB and other statutory bodies, as this was not clear. This is to ensure that the raft of priorities and commitments set out in the Plan are implemented, are able to be monitored and reviewed, and most importantly, ensure

that the Plan presented the opportunity to provide real tangible improvements to people's lives.

Arising from the Q&A session, Members noted that some of the priorities set out in the Action Plan were not the responsibility of the RPB, and therefore did not have "key actions" against them. Whilst Members appreciated the inclusion of these in the Plan, going forward Members suggested that this be more clearly presented, to avoid confusion, and to place further responsibility on those delivering priorities outside of the RPB. Linked with this, these organisations should be encouraged to contribute to the Plan as per the organisations within the RPB.

Members noted that the Plan would not result in major changes being made in Social Services structures, staff and management. They welcomed the fact that the Plan provided the Service with a clear vision and direction on where services are going and how they are going to be delivered.

Members stated that they would welcome an update on any plans that were highlighted as "under development" in the Area Plan. In particular, Members would like an update (via the PSB) on when the Cohesion Plan on Asylum Seekers and Refugees will be available for Scrutiny, as this issue had been delayed for some time.

Members observed that, in terms of mechanisms for involving people in decisions that affect them, currently, they would fall under the particular methods adopted by the organisation providing the service. The Committee felt that this should be reviewed during the current year to ensure a consistent approach and avoid duplication.

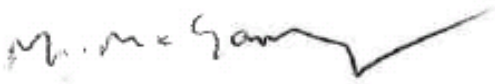
Overall, the Committee stated that it would be very interested to monitor the implementation of the Area Plan and Action Plan during the coming year and, in line with the issues raised in this letter, would be particularly keen to receive updates on the following issues:

- Clarity of Governance Arrangements/Structures
- Updates/progress on the implementation of priorities that fall under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee, including those being delivered by Partners
- An update on any Plan on Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- Update on how consultation and engagement methods have been streamlined

I will work with yourself and Officers to programme these into the Committee's Work Programme for 2018/19. I will also speak to Councillor Bridgeman as Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to ensure that issues that fall within the remit of his Scrutiny Committee are also picked up and addressed.

Thank you again to you and officers for attending. I hope you find the Committee's comments useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McGarry', followed by a large checkmark.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M^CGARRY

Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc: Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People and Communities
Tony Young, Director of Social Services
Rachel Jones, Assistant Director Integrating Health & Social Care
Amanda Phillips, Assistant Director, Adult Services
Cabinet Support Office

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My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

15 March 2018

Councillor Lynda Thorne
Cabinet Member Communities & Housing
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Lynda,

COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2018
HRA BUSINESS PLAN 2018/19

As Chair of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I wish to thank you and officers for attending Committee and providing Members with an opportunity to consider the HRA Business Plan 2018/19. Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you.

The Committee supports the HRA Business Plan and commends the report to Cabinet.

Members agreed that the Business Plan was an excellent reflection of the progress made by Members and officers, and provided a clear, concise picture of the growth in the Service to date, as well as setting out commitments going forward. Like yourself, Members were extremely pleased by the commitment to provide 2000 new homes during the next 10 years and commended the other avenues taken in maximising the options available in terms of bringing homes into Council ownership.

Part of the Q&A session was taken up with discussions on financial issues. Members felt that the financial figures set out in the Plan were complex, particularly in terms of risk and borrowing. Anil offered to provide Members with a more detailed explanation of some of the issues raised in the Plan, particularly in relation to the sensitivity analysis (page 74 of the Plan), the affordability of borrowing, and how the 30-year plan was calculated. Members have requested that a written brief be provided setting out the above, and any other relevant information, to enable us to better understand the opportunities, risks and challenges considered in planning for the delivery of the largest commitment made by the Council in many years.

Members were encouraged by responses given on tackling the challenges that can be faced in some of the existing housing areas and noted that “designing out” crime and anti-social behaviour was a key consideration in relation to new housing developments as well as the focus on ensuring there are mixed communities within these developments.

Members accepted the responses provided in relation to the non-inclusion of some maintenance work on current stock, such as cladding of homes, due to cuts in funding from Welsh Government. They also noted the issues raised in relation to failure by contractors to carry out works, particularly in relation to the upgrade of fire doors. Members have requested they receive an update on this issue in the future when this work has been completed.

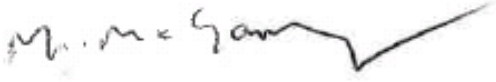
The Committee would wish to receive further information on the 400 properties that are not part of the Cardiff Living developments. Members felt that this should include any implications arising from the procurement process, as they noted that the Cardiff Living Scheme had taken 2 years to secure, so would seek reassurance on what will happen regarding developments provided by other developers.

Members were encouraged by the commitment to ensuring that new builds will be more easily adapted to accommodate disabled people. They were also pleased to hear that new builds will be developed in line with the needs and mix of the population in Cardiff.

The Committee stated that they were disappointed that other energy efficiency measures had not been explored in relation to new builds, such as solar panels. Whilst they appreciated the range of measures that would be installed, they commented that measures to tackle fuel poverty should also be investigated.

Thank you again to you and officers for attending. I hope you find the Committee’s comments useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McGarry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M^CGARRY

Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc: Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People and Communities
Jane Thomas, Assistant Director Communities & Housing
Colin Blackmore, Estates Improvement Manager
Anil Hirani, Operational Manager, Capital & Treasury
Nick Blake, Business Support Manager, Communities Housing & Customer Services
Cabinet Support Office

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