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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting WEDNESDAY, 16 MAY 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

10 **Correspondence Following the Committee Meeting** (Pages 3 - 6)

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My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

17 May 2018

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



Dear Lynda,

**COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16 MAY 2018 -
BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
OF COMMUNITY HUBS**

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 ***“Building Resilient Communities through the further development of Community Hubs”*** proposal prior to it being considered by Cabinet on the 17 May 2018. Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you.

The Committee supports the proposals and commends the report to Cabinet. Members were particularly pleased with the further roll-out of the Hub programme into areas that had not been previously considered as part of the original programme, therefore reaching a wider range of people and communities across the City.

Members were assured by the news that the proposals will be applied consistently across the City and that the development of community hubs would be of equal value in each area. Members also supported a mapping process to take place to avoid duplication within neighbouring hubs to ensure that the hub would be fit for purpose for that community.

Members noted and supported the need for rigorous community engagement within each area and were assured that the community will decide what services go into the Hub. Members felt that community engagement was absolutely essential in the success of the roll out of the Hub Programme.

Members noted and supported the expansion of the “strengths based approach” in encouraging communities to work together, for themselves.

Members were concerned with the lack of detail in terms of how the programme will be financially supported and sustained in both capital and revenue terms. Members would wish to receive further details of this, as each detailed proposal comes forward, and request that Scrutiny Members have the opportunity to look at the proposals when available.

Linked with above, Members were concerned about the sustainability of the city wide health and wellbeing services pilot being proposed, and felt that the services being funded for 9 months (with the option to extend by 1 year pending funding) was not sufficient. They felt that longer-term options should be available to draw in third sector partners and assure them that the support they provide will be recognised and sustained, especially as these will include vital community based services. Members were concerned that only 2 grants will be available for two providers – one for a city-wide health and wellbeing service and one for homework clubs.

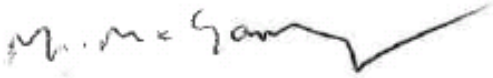
The Committee were particularly concerned about staff affected by the proposals. Members felt that, in relation to librarians, their job status and expertise as a librarian should not be downplayed or denigrated. Whilst Members were assured that current libraries staff will continue on current grades, and that they will have an opportunity to develop new skills and be involved in a wider range of services, Members were concerned that replacement staff for outgoing librarian posts (via VS, retirement etc) could potentially be offered a lower graded option, and felt that this may not be the best way forward. In addition, whilst Members were informed that job losses would be minimal, they were still disappointed that this proposal would result in such.

Finally, Members noted the proposals for the Central Library Hub. Whilst this falls outside the remit of this Scrutiny Committee, Members were assured that any changes to stock and space dedicated to the Library would be implemented gradually, following careful monitoring of people's changing requirements.

Thank you again to you and officers for attending. I do not require a response to this letter, but have tasked CASSC's Scrutiny Officer to work with Officers in ensuring that Members are able to receive detailed updates on the Programme as it continues to develop.

I hope you find the Committee's comments useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McGarry', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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
Nick Blake, Business Support Manager
Cabinet Support Office

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