

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

13 February 2018

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



Dear Lynda,

**COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12 FEBRUARY 2018
DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2018-21 AND DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 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 draft Corporate Plan 2018-21 and the Draft Budget Proposals for 2018/19 relevant to your Portfolio. Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you.

Communities, Housing & Customer Services Directorate

Housing Revenue Account

The Committee looks forward to receiving a Cabinet pre-decision report on this at its next meeting on the 14th March 2018. Some further comments and observations are as follows:

New Homes

The Committee commends the target of building 200 new homes during 2018/19. The Committee supports the avenues that the Council is seeking in being able to build new homes and also the initiatives in place to buy-back properties and to encourage people to down size.

The Committee would again wish to encourage the Council to provide a sufficient number of 3+ bedroomed homes in future builds so that the Council can provide much needed family homes.

The Committee would be very interested in receiving regular updates on this issue going forward and look forward to discussing this with you, when we meet to discuss the Committee's 2018/19 Work Programme later this year.

Universal Credit

Members were satisfied with your and officers' responses in relation to what the Council is doing to mitigate the transition to Universal Credit, and the effect this may have on collecting rents and dealing with arrears, and to mitigate the affect the rent increase may have (albeit a small increase). However, Members would be interested in receiving a briefing on the outcome of the transition at an appropriate date during 2018/19.

Give DIFFerently Campaign

Members were pleased to receive an update on the Give DIFFerently Campaign. Members look forward to the full launch of the Campaign in the coming months. Members were also reassured by the way the money from the campaign was being used, and would be interested, at an appropriate juncture, to receive details of what the campaign has done to improve the lives of people currently street homeless.

Butetown Pavilion/City Centre Youth Hub

Members were extremely supportive of the improvements proposed in youth provision in Butetown and the City Centre. Members were impressed with the range of services proposed for both sites and will follow developments closely with our colleagues on the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

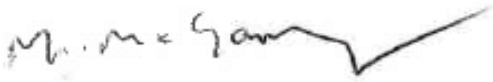
Policy & Partnerships

Thank you for the updates from yourself, Joe and Steph re the future of the Community Safety Partnership, tackling substance misuse and the future of Taxi Marshalls in relation to the Night Time Economy. Members were assured that there will not be a gap in provision in relation to Taxi Marshalls and look forward to receiving details on developments in this area with our colleagues on the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee.

Finally, Members were very reassured by the work you and Councillor Elsmore are doing together across Portfolios (and further) in ensuring that the Council continues to develop a more joined-up, communicative culture in delivering services.

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: Christine Salter, Corporate Director
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance
Allan Evans, OM Accountancy
Councillor David Walker, Chairperson Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee
Nicola Newton, Principal Scrutiny Officer
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People and Communities
Jane Thomas, Assistant Director Communities & Housing
Nick Blake, Business Support Manager, Communities Housing & Customer Services
Joe Reay, Head of Performance & Partnerships
Steph Kendrick-Doyle, Community Safety Manager
Cabinet Support Office