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**EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS TOOLKIT FOR COUNCILLORS ON  
ACCESSIBLE HOUSING – BRIEFING**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Members with an overview of the Equality & Human Right's Commissioner's draft Toolkit for Councillors on Accessible Housing, which will be published on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**Background**

2. Through its [Housing Inquiry](#), the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) identified that there is a chronic shortage of accessible and adaptable housing, and projections are that this is set to increase.
3. As a consequence, earlier this year, the EHRC commissioned Tai Pawb to develop a toolkit, '*Housing for Disabled People*' for local authorities in Wales.
4. Whilst developing the toolkit, Tai Pawb consulted with a range of local authority officers and members, including Cardiff Council and also attended scrutiny meetings, as an observer.
5. The aim of the toolkit is to support Local Authority elected members to consider housing for disabled people in their strategies and plans, and promote meaningful involvement of disabled people in developing these, share best practice, and assist with scrutiny of local authority housing policies and practices.

6. A summary of the process in developing the Toolkit is attached at **Appendix A**. An Executive Summary of the Inquiry referred to in Paragraph 2 is attached at **Appendix B**.

## **Way Forward**

7. At this meeting, Members will receive a presentation from:
  - Geraint Rees, Equality & Human Rights Commissioners Office
  - Ceri Meloy, Head of Business, Tai Pawb

The presentation will be followed by Members Questions.

8. Prior to the consideration of the next Item on the Agenda, Councillor Lynda Thorne (Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities), Jane Thomas (Assistant Director, Housing and Communities) and Ellen Curtis (Operational Manager, Landlord Services) will have the opportunity to comment on this issue.
9. Members may decide any comments, observations or recommendations they wish to pass to the witnesses and Cabinet Member for her consideration following the presentation at this meeting.

## **Legal Implications**

10. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person

exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- i. Consider the information provided in this report, **Appendices A and B**; and the presentation made at this meeting; and
- ii. Decide the way forward with regard to any further scrutiny of this issue.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**4 October 2018**