

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**



Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088
www.caerdydd.gov.uk
County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087
www.cardiff.gov.uk

Fy Nghyf / My Ref : CM41055

Dyddiad / Date: 22 February 2019

Councillor Mary McGarry
Chairperson – Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee
Room 282
Atlantic Wharf
County Hall
Cardiff. CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear

**Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee – 18 February 2019
Draft Budget Proposals 2019/20**

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 20 February 2019 and for the letters to Cabinet colleagues, Councillor Thorne and Councillor Elsmore. We were grateful for the useful observations raised and can assure you that Cabinet were able to reflect on these prior to our meeting on 21 February 2019.

In respect of the particular comments addressed to Councillor Thorne, I would make the following points:

Rent increase

I recognise and share Members concerns about the possible impact that Welsh Government rent policy will have on future housing development and I will keep the Committee updated as and when further information is available.

With regard to impact of the rent increase on tenants, council rents remain very good value for money when compared with private sector rents. There are various measures in place to help tenants who struggle with their rent payments including a dedicated Welfare Liaison visiting team to assist with income maximisation and budgeting.

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO :

Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office, Ystafell / Room 518, Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Glanfa'r Iwerydd / Atlantic Wharf, Caerdydd / Cardiff, CF10 4UW,
Ffon / Tel: (029) 2087

GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



Council tax

I note Members concerns about those who may struggle to meet their council tax payments. The Money Advice service works very closely with the Council Tax teams to identify and assist anyone who is struggling with payments, whether they are in work or unemployed, and steps have been taken recently to promote the availability of Council Tax Reduction for those claiming Universal Credit. It is accepted however that more can be done to raise awareness and officers will consider any further steps that can be taken to publicise the services available, particularly to those in work.

Homelessness

I would like to reassure Committee that our key focus is to help homeless individuals into accommodation and provide the support they need to sustain that accommodation. Officers will work with Welsh Government to secure the funding necessary to maintain and improve services for rough sleepers and other homeless people in the city.

I hope that this letter captures all the points raised in your letter and thank you again for your support in the budget process.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Chris Weaver
Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance
Aelod Cabnet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad