

CYNGOR CAERDYDD

CARDIFF COUNCIL

COMMUNITY AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 Jan 2023

CASSC TASK & FINISH INQUIRY COVER REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. For the committee to consider approving the draft Task & Finish Inquiry report. Committee Members are advised the initial draft Task & Finish report is attached at **Appendix A**.
2. Following a meeting with the relevant Cabinet Members, and Assistant Director for Housing & Communities to discuss the draft report, requests for amendments have been made. These requests require Committee Members' approval. A summary of the requested amendments is shown in in **Appendix B** (to follow)

Background

3. At the 2022 Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Forum, Members agreed to undertake an Inquiry exploring Cardiff Council's support for residents with the cost-of-living. Remaining mindful of the nature of the issue, Members concurred on the need for the Inquiry to provide, timely, focused assistance to the Council in its review of services.

4. The Committee agreed the following Terms of Reference for the task group:

To assist the council in its response to the cost-of-living crisis, this Inquiry will:

- *Review issue-related council services and proposed action on offer to Cardiff residents.*
- *Examine the scope, remit, demand, capacity and join up of services on offer.*
- *Assess, in consultation with key stakeholders, community awareness and accessibility of services and schemes available.*

5. Members of the Task & Finish group were:

- Councillor Margaret Lewis (Chair)
- Councillor Saleh Ahmed
- Councillor Mike Ash-Edwards
- Councillor Claudia Boes
- Councillor Peter Littlechild
- Councillor Bablin Molik

6. During the course of the Inquiry, the Task Group reviewed the evidence gathered from all stakeholders who engaged with the work, including; the Cabinet Member for Tackling Poverty & Supporting Young People, the Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities, Cardiff Council's Assistant Director for Housing & Communities, operational and senior managers within the council's advice services and frontline staff delivering services.

7. Over the course of the Inquiry, which ran from November to December 2022, Members held 5 meetings, which included four visits to local services, liaison with the councils executive and frontline staff, and a roundtable with 9 external representations. Representation within the roundtable included the Welsh Government, Cardiff Foodbank, Community Housing Cymru and Diverse Cymru

(et al). The full detail of the external representation at the roundtable can be found in the 'Inquiry Methodology' section of **Appendix A**.

8. Following an analysis of the evidence gathered throughout the Inquiry, a number of key findings were identified. From the key findings, a number of recommendations were agreed. All of which are set out at **Appendix A**.

Way Forward

9. The draft report of the Task & Finish Group is attached at **Appendix A**. A version of the report which details the requested amendments is at **Appendix B**. Members' attention is particularly drawn to the recommendations made in the report and to the requested amendments detailed in **Appendix B**.
10. Members may wish to consider the report, consider the amendments being requested, make any further amendments and agree whether to approve the report to be considered by the Cabinet.

Legal Implications

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

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

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Consider the draft report of the Task and Finish Group.
- ii. Consider if they wish to accept the amendments requested in **Appendix B**.
- iii. Endorse the report, subject to any comments the Committee may wish to make, for submission to the Cabinet.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

10 January 2023