

**HOW THE COUNCIL ENGAGES WITH HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS**

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**Reason for the Report**

1. To provide Committee Members with a briefing on how the Council currently engages with Housing Associations (HA).

**Background**

2. When considering the Committee's work programme for 2018/19, Members agreed that they would wish to undertake a piece of work around the Council's engagement and working relationship with Housing Associations with a particular focus on;
  - How the Council works with HA's around the letting of properties / waiting list
  - How the Council works with HA's on the development of new properties.
3. Representatives from the following Housing Associations have been invited to attend Committee to share their knowledge, views and perspectives of the relationship, along with possible areas for development:
  - **Cardiff Community Housing Association (CCHA)** - *Hayley Selway, CEX*
  - **Cadwyn** - *Andrew Bateson, Director of Operations and Simon Fry, Head of Investments*
  - **Hafod** – *Jas Baines, CEX*
  - **Linc Cymru** – *Scott Sanders, CEO and Louise Attwood, Executive Director*
  - **Taff Housing** – *Joshua Dowdall, Head of Housing & Communities*
  - **United Welsh** – *Richard Mann, Deputy CEX and Victoria Miller, Neighbourhood Lead*
  - **Wales & West** – *Anne Hinchey, CEX*

4. To provide Members with background information prior to the meeting, each of the HA's currently engaged with the Council were provided with an opportunity to submit written submissions. The submissions received prior to publication are attached to this report as the following Appendices:
  - **Appendix A**; CCHA
  - **Appendix B**; Cadwyn
  - **Appendix C**; Hafod
  - **Appendix D**; Linc Cymru
  - **Appendix E**; Newydd
  - **Appendix F**; United Welsh
  - **Appendix G**; Wales & West
  
5. Although written evidence has been provided by Newydd (**Appendix E**) they will not be in attendance at Committee but would welcome updates following the meeting.

### **Way Forward**

6. At this meeting, the following witnesses will be in attendance:
  - (i) Councillor Lynda Thorne, (Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities);
  - (ii) Jane Thomas, (Assistant Director, Housing & Communities);
  - (iii) David Jaques, (Housing Development Manager);
  - (iv) Members will also receive evidence from the following organisations:
    - Cardiff Community Housing Association (CCHA)
    - Cadwyn
    - Hendre
    - Linc Cymru
    - Taff Housing
    - United Welsh
    - Wales & West
  
7. At the start of this meeting, Councillor Lynda Thorne (Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities) Jane Thomas (Assistant Director for Housing &

Communities) and David Jaques (Housing Development Manager) will provide Members with an overview of the relationship, and also be invited to comment at the end of the meeting within a Q&A session.

8. Following evidence from witnesses and Q&A sessions, Members will be able to decide if they wish to feed any comments, observations or recommendations back to witnesses and to Cabinet for their consideration.

### **Legal Implications**

9. 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 the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decision taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirements 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 taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (he) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial 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 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 information set out in this Report and subsequent Appendices;
- ii. consider the information provided by witnesses to this meeting;
- iii. decide whether it wishes to relay any comments or observations to the Cabinet and witnesses; and
- iv. decide the way forward with regard to any further scrutiny of this issue.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director of Governance & Legal Services**

**30 May 2019**