

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

4 JUNE 2019

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION: RATIONALISATION OF SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES 2019/2020

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to consider the decision of Cabinet of 21 May 2019 in relation to the rationalisation of supported bus services 2019/2020.

2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority/priorities:

- Supporting a successful economy – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
- Helping people to be more self-reliant – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
- Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 18 of the Council's Constitution, three members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Chair, have requested that the Executive decision made by Cabinet on the 21 May 2019 be Called-In.

- 3.2 For the purposes of informing the Committee more fully regarding the reasons for Call-In, the following appendices have been attached:

- **Appendix A** – Cabinet Decision Record of 21 May 2019;
- **Appendix B** – Notice of Call-In Form;
- **Appendix C** – Report of the Corporate Director – Communities: Rationalisation of Supported Bus Services 2019/2020

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The role of Councillors exercising Overview and Scrutiny is, amongst other things, to ensure that the development of the Council's policies and the way they are being implemented reflect the needs and priorities of local Communities in the County Borough. As such, in holding to account the Cabinet for the efficient exercise of the executive function, the Overview & Scrutiny process aims to strengthen accountability for the decisions and performance of Bridgend County Borough Council.

4.2 Three Members and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 have requested to Call-In the Cabinet decision of 21 May 2019.

4.3 The role of the Committee within the Call-In process is to consider the proposed decision taken by Cabinet including the reasons for the decision, factors taken into account by Cabinet when making the decision and whether the decision is in line with corporate priorities and policies. Further details as to the reasons for Call-In are provided at Appendix B and can be summarised as follows:

- The decision to remove the subsidy was not recommended by the Council officers, yet decision passed by Cabinet.
- Effect on Community Transport has not been properly scrutinised, and the report states concerns over capacity.
- Due to public impact, visible public scrutiny should be undertaken.

4.4 Following its examination of the decision, the Committee has the power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the Cabinet. If referred to the Cabinet, it must be reconsidered by Cabinet within 7 clear working days, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision. If the Committee does not refer the matter back to the Cabinet, the decision may be determined on the date of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 The equality implications are outlined in the Cabinet report attached as Appendix C.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 There are no direct implications attached to this report in relation to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The financial implications are outlined in the Cabinet report attached as Appendix C.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The Committee is asked to consider the Cabinet decision of 21 May 2019 relating to the rationalisation of Supported Bus Services 2019/2020 and to determine whether it wishes to;

- i) refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration;
- ii) decide not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet.

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Background documents: None