

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

13 NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION: PLAYING FIELDS, OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND PARKS PAVILIONS

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet the comments and recommendations of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee from their meeting held on 4 November 2019 following the decision of eight members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to call in the decision of the Executive in relation to Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks Pavilions.

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, seven members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, requested that the Executive decision made by Cabinet on 22 October 2019 be Called-In.

3.2 The Committee considered the proposed decision by Cabinet including the reasons for the decision, taking into account whether the decision is in line with corporate priorities and policies.

3.3 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. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Committee examined the decision of the Executive at its meeting on 4 November 2019, held with members of the public, the Chief Executive and Officers from the Communities Directorate.
- 4.2 Following its examination of the decision, the Committee decided to recommend that the decision be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration for the reasons outlined at paragraphs 4.3 to 4.8 below.
- 4.3 Concerns were expressed by the Committee in relation to the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process. Whilst the Committee acknowledged the excellent work done by the CAT Officer, Members felt that the process was under resourced and was still too complex for many clubs to consider, despite the process having been recently streamlined. Given the potential increase in CAT's in the run up to the September 2020 deadline, the Committee therefore recommend that the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process and the process for clubs entering into Licence Agreements be reviewed.
- 4.4 The Committee also expressed concerns about the length of time that the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process currently took and further raised concerns about the number of completed transfers. The recent completion of a CAT by Bryncethin Rugby Club did however provide an opportunity to demonstrate to other sports clubs/community groups how the process can be achieved and the Committee therefore recommend that a Case Study of Bryncethin Rugby Club be put together to provide to other sports clubs/community groups for information.
- 4.5 Concerns were expressed by the Committee about the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process for Newbridge Fields. Members acknowledged that Newbridge Fields was a potential non-standard process but felt there was insufficient information contained within the Cabinet report of 22 October 2019 to understand the issues of CAT transfer of Newbridge Fields and therefore recommend a further report is provided for clarity.
- 4.6 The Committee expressed concern that there is insufficient information contained within the Cabinet report of 22 October 2019 as to the number of sporting clubs and teams affected by the changes to an increase in hire fees and how many games are played on the pitches. Therefore, the Committee recommend that greater detail is provided for clarity.
- 4.7 Concerns were expressed by the Committee that there was insufficient information provided within the Cabinet report of 22 October 2019 in respect of charges. It was noted that the figures provided showed an annual charge, but this did not break down to a fee per use. It was further noted that the financial information is not explicit and is misleading given the examples shown at Appendix E of the report. Members further highlighted that income generation appeared to be in excess of savings to be made. The Committee therefore recommend that greater detail as to

how much the proposals will cost clubs per season is provided for clarity and Appendix E of the Cabinet report is amended accordingly.

- 4.8 Members noted the Cabinet Decision Record with regards to the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). In particular where reference is made to the impact specifically relating to both younger and older persons in society and noted that 'a fund be set aside for this category of users to provide continued support for their access to facilities'. It was noted that a further report will be presented to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity. The Committee therefore recommend that Cabinet provide this report at its earliest opportunity and clarity is provided in respect of the fund.

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 of 22 October 2019.

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

- 7.1 An assessment under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been made and is outlined in the Cabinet report of 22 October 2019.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The financial implications are outlined in the Cabinet report of 22 October 2019.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that:-

- Cabinet considers the recommendations of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee as outlined at paragraphs 4.3 to 4.8 above.

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Background documents: None