

## AGENDA ITEM 4

### RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### CABINET

10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015

#### PONTYPRIDD COMMUNITY DAY CENTRE

#### REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR M FOREY.

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#### 1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the significant building maintenance issues currently present at the Pontypridd Community Day Centre and to consider the proposed way forward for the Centre.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the current building maintenance issues with Pontypridd Day Centre as outlined in the report.
- 2.2 Instruct Officers to urgently review opportunities to work with local, voluntary and third sector providers to commission affordable community provision within the Pontypridd area to meet any unmet need should the Day Centre close in view of paragraph 2.1 above.
- 2.3 Agree, subject to Officers identifying and agreeing appropriate community provision within the Pontypridd Area to meet any unmet need, to close Pontypridd Community Day Centre (as soon as is practicable) for the reasons outlined in the report.

#### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Given the current condition of this facility, significant investment is required to sustain the provision. In light of this plus other factors such as its location, low centre usage and declining demand for meals, making this investment and continuing to operate Pontypridd Community Day Centre is unsustainable and does not represent value for money.

- 3.2 It is not envisaged that there would be interest in a community asset transfer to a local community group in view of the significant investment requirement.
- 3.3 However in delivering the Council's wellbeing duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and in delivering its role in enabling and supporting community based resources this is an ideal opportunity to work with local community based providers to deliver a community based, town centre alternative.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Pontypridd Community Day Centre is one of nine open access day centres run by the Council. The Centre is located in Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd and this discretionary service provides people aged 50 and over, regardless of their financial position or health, with the opportunity to socialise and have a hot subsidised lunchtime meal as well as offering breakfast, afternoon tea and other snacks.
- 4.2 The Centre is open Monday to Friday from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm with lunchtime meals served between 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm. On average, 17 meals are provided per day. Demand for meals has steadily declined over recent years; with a 19% reduction over the past 2 years alone.
- 4.3 The Centre is available for use by community groups, but usage is low. Currently the Centre is used by the following groups:
- **Life 4 Living:** friendship group for people with a disability. Meets for one half day per week.
  - **Cynon Valley Vision:** support group for people with visionary impairment. Meets for one half day per fortnight.
  - **Whist:** local resident card group. Meets for one half day per week.

#### **5. BUILDING MAINTENANCE ISSUES**

- 5.1 The Centre was constructed circa 1970 and is of a timber wall construction. Over the years the Centre has been subject to day to day maintenance, but as with all buildings of this age and construction type there is a need for significant refurbishment to be undertaken.
- 5.2 A survey of the Centre was undertaken by Corporate Estates in September 2015, which identified clear signs of the building fabric failing. External wall panelling and windows, in particular, are in poor condition and rotten timber and frames are prevalent at all elevations. The Centre's mechanical services (i.e. heating system and hot and cold water supply) and boiler plant have reached the end of their useful lives and need replacement.
- 5.3 In order to address the above refurbishment issues, significant investment is required, estimated to be in excess of £325,000, of which, £106,000 is

classed urgent, £187,000 classed essential and just £33,000 classed as desirable. There is currently no provision set aside within the Council's capital or revenue budget to fund any of these works.

## **6. ACCESS ISSUES**

- 6.1 In addition to the structural issues at the centre, access to the site is an issue as is the current parking provision and it may be opportune to consider a more central location for community based provision within the town centre and closer to public transport facilities if possible.

## **7. PROPOSAL**

- 7.1 In view of the building maintenance and other issues outlined above it is proposed that Officers urgently review opportunities to work with local, voluntary and third sector providers to commission affordable community provision within the Pontypridd area to meet any unmet need should the Day Centre close.
- 7.2 Subject to Officers identifying and agreeing appropriate community provision within the Pontypridd Area to meet any unmet need it is proposed that Pontypridd Community Day Centre be closed (as soon as is practicable).

## **8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. This exercise has shown that a full EqIA is not required. The screening form can be accessed by contacting the author of the report or the Cabinet Business officer.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 9.1 The opportunity to work with local community third sector providers will minimise the need for capital investment and would provide a more cost effective and value for money alternative that would also support community resilience.

## **10. CONSULTATION**

- 10.1 Should Cabinet agree the recommendations outlined in the report appropriate staff consultation, and engagement with service users and relevant stakeholders, would be undertaken as part of the identification of substitute community based provision.

## **11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

11.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) received Royal Assent on the 1st May 2014 and takes effect from April 2016. The Act creates a new legal framework to bring together and modernise Social Services law.

11.2 The fundamental principles of the Act are about:

**People** Putting an individual and their needs, at the centre of their care, and giving them a voice in, and control over reaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being

**Well-being** Supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of this care and support

**Earlier intervention** Increasing preventative services within the community to minimise the escalation of critical need

## **12. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP**

12.1 This proposal reinforces the priorities set out in the Rhondda Cynon Taf Single Integrated Plan by further promoting the independence of potentially vulnerable adults by delivering an integrated community based and run service.

## **13. CONCLUSION**

13.1 Given the significant capital investment urgently required and in light of low centre usage, declining demand for meals and its location and associated access issues, continuing to operate Pontypridd Community Day Centre is unsustainable and does not provide value for money.

13.2 In view of the substantial amount of refurbishment works required to the Centre, it is not envisaged that there would be interest in a community asset transfer to a local community group.

13.3 This report therefore recommends instructing officers to urgently review opportunities to work with local, voluntary and third sector providers to commission affordable community provision within the Pontypridd area to meet any unmet need should the Day Centre close. Subject to Officers identifying and agreeing appropriate community provision within the Pontypridd Area to meet any unmet need it is proposed that Pontypridd Community Day Centre be closed (as soon as is practicable) based primarily on structural and building maintenance grounds. Whilst the numbers of service users has reduced in recent years, there is still an opportunity to consider alternative service delivery options. Partnering with a third sector

provider could see the service provision enhanced, not least if a better facility is available locally and is closer to public transport links.

#### **14. NEXT STEPS**

- 14.1 It is acknowledged that this conclusion may cause anxiety for service users, and staff. It is imperative that if the recommendations contained within this report are accepted, we commence an engagement exercise with all interested stakeholders as a matter of urgency.
- 14.2 Each service user and group would be offered support to find alternative provision to match their identified needs. Staff would be transferred to other parts of the service and suitable vacancies exist to accommodate requirements.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**  
**AS AMENDED BY**  
**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**  
**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**CABINET**  
**10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

**ITEM: PONTYPRIDD COMMUNITY DAY CENTRE**

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Health and wellbeing scrutiny committee

**Background Papers:**

None

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