

**RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

Key Decision            ✓

**SUBJECT: Consultation on proposal to reconfigure Mountain Ash Day Centre to create a Community Hub incorporating Mountain Ash Library.**

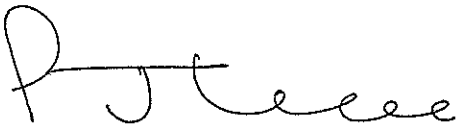
**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

The report requests approval for the initiation of a focussed community consultation on the creation of a Community Hub at the Mountain Ash Day centre, including the transfer of Mountain Ash Library from its current location.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services as described below


**DELEGATED DECISION:**

It was agreed that a focussed community consultation process regarding the proposal to reconfigure Mountain Ash Day Centre to create a Community Hub, including the transfer of Mountain Ash Library from its current location would begin on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 for a period of four weeks.

|   |                                |                        |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| <br><i>Chief Officer Signature</i> | PAUL JEFF<br><i>Print Name</i> | 2/2/18.<br><i>Date</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

**CONSULTATION**



02/02/2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.**

**IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

NO ✓

Reason for urgency:.....

*If deemed urgent* - signature of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....  
(Mayor)

.....  
(Dated)

**NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.**

FOR CABINET OFFICE USE ONLY

**PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES**

**PUBLICATION**

Publication on the Councils Website:- 2<sup>nd</sup> February 18

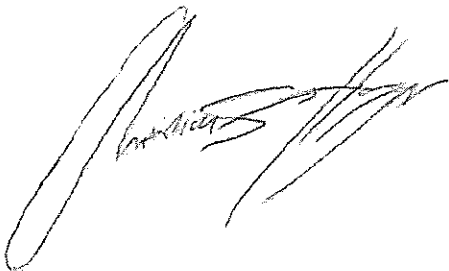
**DATE**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

**Note:** This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be 12<sup>th</sup> February 18.

**DATE**



CHRISTIAN S3 HANAGAN

02/02/18

**Secretary to the Cabinet Signature**

**Print Name**

**Date**

Further Information

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Directorate:  | Public Health, Protection & Community Services |
| Contact Name: | Wendy Edwards                                  |
| Designation:  | Head of Community Services                     |
| Tel.No.       | 01443 744111                                   |

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**KEY DELEGATED DECISION**

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR, PUBLIC  
HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**31<sup>ST</sup> January 2018**

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE MOUNTAIN ASH  
DAY CENTRE TO CREATE A COMMUNITY HUB, INCORPORATING  
MOUNTAIN ASH LIBRARY**

**Author(s): Wendy Edwards, Head of Community Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to request approval for a focussed community consultation to be initiated on a proposal to develop the first Community Hub in Rhondda Cynon Taf, co-locating a number of important services in one building for the benefit of the community. It is proposed that the Council reconfigure the existing provision at Mountain Ash Day Centre to develop the Community Hub, including moving Mountain Ash Library from its current venue to be located alongside employment support services, One4All and a community café.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Approval is given for a focussed 4 weeks community consultation to begin on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 There is an exciting opportunity to create a new Community Hub in Mountain Ash town centre. It is proposed to develop the facility as a Community Hub to provide a range of Council services from the same location. This will include the relocation of Mountain Ash Library and co-location of other services to support the needs of local people. These will include One4All services, enhanced access to employment and community support and a community café. In addition there will be rooms for flexible use by the community and partner organisations.
- 3.2 The current location of the library does not have all of the facilities that are suitable for the provision of a modern library service. The current



Day Centre is underutilised and there is an opportunity to make better use of this valuable community asset. By bringing services together at a town centre location there will be a greatly enhanced public service offer for the community and the building will be used to its full potential thereby securing its long term future. Initiating a focussed community consultation will provide residents with an opportunity to consider the proposal and offer feedback prior to a final decision being made.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Council is exploring the opportunity to develop its first community Hub in Mountain Ash. This will include a library, One4All service, enhanced access to employment and community support and a café. The co-location of these services will provide better public services to the community and ensure that the building is utilised to its full potential.
- 4.2 The Council is committed to providing the best possible public services and to improving the health and well-being of its residents. It is important that we make the best use of our assets and that where it is appropriate to do so, we locate community services together so that a joined up approach is taken to supporting our communities and building community resilience in a sustainable way.
- 4.3 The development of a Community Hub will provide direct access to many of the services our residents need on a daily basis as well as providing opportunities to receive employment support and information, advice and assistance on a range of issues that affect people's quality of life and well-being. The co-location of services will enable the Council to provide facilities where food would be available throughout the day, residents and community groups can continue to meet as well as access to an enhanced library service and support for employment and skills development, all of which help tackle social isolation and loneliness and promote economic growth.
- 4.4 The Day Centre is currently underutilised. Current meal provision is a breakfast service, available from 10 a.m. to 10.30; a lunch provision, available from 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.; afternoon tea provision from 3.15 p.m. to 3.45 p.m. Numbers attending the breakfast and afternoon tea service are low and meal take-up averages 23 per day.
- 4.5 There is potential to make better use of this valuable community asset by bringing a number of services together at the premises to create a Community Hub. The proposals would include an area where groups could continue to meet and a community café. With a café style service, food and beverages would be available throughout the day allowing individuals to have more choice as to when they use this facility, so ensuring a constant throughput of customers.

- 4.6 The current Mountain Ash library was built in 1997. The size of the library and the facilities it offered reflected local circumstances and also the priorities of library provision at that time. In the intervening years there have been significant changes to the public libraries serving Rhondda Cynon Taf alongside major changes in what libraries are expected to offer their customers.
- 4.7 Since 1997 the Welsh Government has been responsible for overseeing library services in Wales and ensuring that all public library services adhere to the requirements of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. The Welsh Government's strategic development framework for libraries in Wales, *Libraries Inspire*, has outlined the vision and expectations for library services. The priorities of the strategy include:
- Work together to review current models of service delivery in response to the current economic climate, and develop innovative models of service delivery;
  - Modernise public library buildings to meet the changing lives of users;
  - Maximise the contribution of libraries to developing peoples' skills to help everyone reach their potential, reduce inequality and improve economic and social well-being.
- 4.8 The increasing emphasis on libraries as facilitators of learning that provide access to the development of skills, support for job-searching, internet access and a venue for community meetings, require libraries to have additional facilities. These include space for community meetings and an education/IT training suite that will facilitate classes as well as providing a quiet area for people who need to apply for jobs or update their CVs.
- 4.9 The current library building at Mountain Ash has no separate room for community meetings or training. Consequently, the delivery of adult learning opportunities is limited. The current consultation room is already in constant use and there is no capacity to provide confidential space for other providers to meet with customers to offer advice and support on a wide range of issues.
- 4.10 Feedback from customers who use the library have indicated the need for a dedicated room for meetings and training and for more activities and learning opportunities to be facilitated at the library.
- 4.11 This proposal would provide the library with a town centre location that is more visible and is more convenient for parking than the current location. It also provides an opportunity for ensuring the future



sustainability of the library and day centre while providing added value and greatly enhancing the public service offer for the local community.

## **5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the report is requesting approval for a consultation only.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 A report summarising the results and feedback from the focussed consultation process will be presented to Cabinet prior to any final decision being made.

## **7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 7.1 As this report is seeking authority to consult only, there are no financial implications aligned to this report

## **8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 There is no statutory obligation to consult on the relocation of Mountain Ash library as it does not entail a reduction in provision that would potentially adversely affect service users. However, it is good practice to engage with service users to better understand their needs.
- 8.2 Consultation, when undertaken, should be when a proposal is at a formative stage which is the case in respect of the proposed development of the community Hub and relocation of Mountain Ash library.

## **9 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

- 9.1 This request for approval for consultation on the development of a Community Hub and re-location of Mountain Ash Library from its current location to Mountain Ash Day Centre links to the corporate priority of promoting independence and positive lives for everyone.
- 9.2 The co-location of services in a Community Hub will create a more sustainable service model, making better use of a community asset and bringing together services of benefit to the health & well-being of the local community in a single accessible location. There will be flexible accommodation available for use by partners and community groups which will support a collaborative and integrated approach. It is also anticipated that the Community Hub will develop links with the proposed Primary Care Hub to be developed in Mountain Ash by the University Health Board.



9.3 The development of Community Hubs with the co-location of a number of services will contribute to a more prosperous Wales, to building resilient and cohesive communities and to the health and well-being of the population.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

10.1 Providing approval for a community consultation at this time will ensure that residents have the potential to influence the decision making process at an early stage and offer an opportunity for them to identify the range of provision they would like the Community Hub to provide in Mountain Ash.

### **Other Information:-**

#### ***Relevant Scrutiny Committee***

Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity

#### ***Contact Officer***

Wendy Edwards, Head of Community Services