



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

#### **PROPOSALS TO REVIEW THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY DAY CENTRES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR G HOPKINS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT COMMUNITY SERVICES & WELSH LANGUAGE**

**Author:** Paul Mee, Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to propose that a focussed consultation be undertaken with service users and the local communities of the remaining Community Day Centres to inform a subsequent decision on their future.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve a six week focussed consultation with service users and the local communities on the future of the remaining four Community Day Centres.
- 2.2 Subject to 2.1, a further report on the outcome of the consultation exercise with recommendations concerning the Community Day Centres is presented to Cabinet for consideration.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Council, as part of its Medium Term Financial Plan, must continuously review and challenge its service delivery to ensure it is cost effective, remains fit for purpose and is meeting the Council's commitment to deliver the best possible services for our communities. Where necessary it may be necessary to modernise and transform those services to meet current requirements.

## **4. BACKGROUND**

### **Community Day Centres**

- 4.1 There are five remaining Community Day Centres located across the County Borough. These provide daily hot meals and a programme of activities for people over 50 years of age. The average number of meals provided per day varies from one centre to another and ranges from, on average 12 meals per day (Teifi House, Maerdy) to 36 per day (Gilfach Goch). Numbers of meals provided are declining slowly each year. The net subsidy per meal ranges from £7.38 (Gilfach Goch) to £16.82 (Nazareth Day centre, Williamstown) and the cost to the Council is gradually increasing as usage declines.
- 4.2 There is a programme of activities held at Teifi House, Alec Jones, Brynna Jones (one afternoon each week) and Gilfach Goch although these programmes are generally quite limited. There are no activities held at Nazareth House in Williamstown. The Council has learning disability satellite services based at both Brynna Jones and Gilfach Goch Day centres.

## **5. DISCUSSION AND PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 The Council's Community Day Centres have provided an important opportunity for older people in our communities to access a hot meal each week day and participate in a range of activities that help tackle social isolation and loneliness. There are five remaining Community Day Centres run by the Council located across the County Borough:
- Gilfach Goch Day Centre;
  - Brynnar Jones Day Centre, Gelli;
  - Alec Jones Day Centre, Porth;
  - Teifi House Day centre, Maerdy;
  - Nazareth Day Centre, Williamstown.
- 5.2 A public consultation has been approved into the future provision of services currently held at Alec Jones Day Centre, Porth as part of the wider Porth Town centre regeneration Strategy considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018. This includes the proposal to integrate the day centre provision into a Community Hub to be developed at the existing Porth Plaza. This would maintain access to meals and a range of activities currently held at the day centre. Therefore, Alec Jones Day Centre is not included within the proposed consultation set out in Section 2 of this Report.

5.3 The current average meal sales per day, net subsidy per meal and net budget for each Community Day Centre is presented at Table I.

**Table I – Community Day Centres**

| Community Day Centre | Average meals per day |         |         | Net cost per meal served 2017/18 | Expenditure Budget 2018/19 | Income Budget     | Net Budget 2018/19 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                      | 2016/17               | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |                                  |                            |                   |                    |
| Teifi House          | 15                    | 13      | 12      | £15.73                           | £90,950                    | £(29,910)         | £61,040            |
| Brynnar Jones        | 29                    | 25      | 23      | £8.50                            | £95,390                    | £(36,560)         | £58,830            |
| Nazareth House       | 21                    | 19      | 21      | £16.82                           | £96,160                    | £(24,140)         | £72,020            |
| Gilfach Goch         | 30                    | 29      | 36      | £7.38                            | £92,160                    | £(33,010)         | £59,150            |
|                      |                       |         |         |                                  |                            |                   |                    |
|                      |                       |         |         | <b>TOTAL:</b>                    | <b>£374,660</b>            | <b>£(123,620)</b> | <b>£251,040</b>    |

\*Staffed by Catering Direct so would therefore need to consider impact on the service of any operational changes

5.4 The low usage levels at these facilities have either remained static or slowly declined with relatively few meals now being provided each day. The net cost per meal to the Council is significant at all centres and in one case is nearly £17 per meal. There is a programme of activities held at Teifi House and Brynna Jones (one afternoon each week) and Gilfach Goch although these programmes are generally quite limited. There are no activities held at Nazareth Day Centre in Williamstown. The low usage and ongoing cost to the Council is not sustainable.

5.5 Members will be aware that following the recent closure of St George's Day Centre in Tonyrefail, service users were signposted to Gilfach Goch Day Centre as an alternative. In addition, Gilfach Goch Day Centre supports clients from learning disability services who also access meals at the centre. Members may wish to consider deferring further consideration of the future of this facility until such time as the impact of the recent service change can be assessed.

5.6 There are restrictive covenants in place regarding all of these buildings. These relate to restrictions on the sale of alcohol; access rights for neighbouring properties or in one case a power of entry for the maintenance of drains and sewers. None of these are a barrier to the future beneficial use of the buildings.

5.7 The repair and maintenance requirements for each building have been assessed by Corporate Estates and it is estimated that over the next five years repair requirements of all four buildings would cost the Council approximately £500k. The estimated repair costs for each building are all significant; the greatest cost being in respect of Nazareth House, Williamstown estimated at approximately £165k and Teifi House, Maerdy, estimated at £193k.

- 5.8 On the evidence of the small number of service users it can reasonably be argued that the existing model no longer caters for the needs of the majority of older people in our communities. It is therefore proposed that the Council undertakes a six week focussed consultation with service users and the local communities on the future of the remaining four Community Day Centres (excluding Alec Jones Day Centre which is subject to a separate consultation), exploring opportunities for alternative service delivery models either through the developing Community Hub model where appropriate or through existing third sector organisations located in the communities concerned.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Equality Act 2010 introduced a general equality duty and a specific public sector equality duty that is applicable to Councils. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (Public Sector Single Equality Duty) requires public authorities to demonstrate that they have paid 'due regard' in their decision-making process to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 6.2 The Council must have due regard to the impact of any proposals on those with a protected characteristic. The Council has a specific duty to publish information to demonstrate how it has paid due regard to the aims above as part of its decision-making. Undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment screening exercise (and if necessary a full Equality Impact Assessment) would be evidence that the Council has considered its legal obligations in making the decision on the recommendations in this report.
- 6.3 There is a potential impact on some vulnerable groups with protected characteristics (specifically older people) due to the proposed changes. Consequently a full Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken, informed by the consultation feedback and included in a subsequent report to Cabinet prior to any decision being made on the proposal.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Council undertakes a six week focussed consultation with service users and the local community in respect of

the future of the remaining four Community Day Centres to inform a subsequent Cabinet report with recommendations.

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

- 8.1 The net budget for the Council of providing the five remaining Community Day Centres is £251,040, excluding management and support costs which it is proposed are retained to support the Community Hubs programme.
- 8.2 The Quarter 2 Financial Report for 2018/19 also being considered at this Cabinet Meeting highlights that Adult Social Care is predicted to overspend by £2.2m for this financial year. It is proposed that any potential contribution these proposals will make to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan will be used to maintain essential assessed adult social care services. This allocation of funding will depend on the outcome of the public consultation and any subsequent decision on the future of the Community Day Centres.

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

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. There is no statutory duty on the Council to provide Community Day Centres.

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

- 10.1 The development of Community Hubs contributes to the Council's corporate priorities through redesigning local services to ensure they are integrated and efficient. The Council is committed to working in a way that makes the best and most sustainable use of our limited and decreasing resources, always looking at alternative ways of doing things.
- 10.2 This proposal contributes to the well-being goals under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The proposals set out in this report support the Council's aim to provide a **long-term sustainable future** plan for the delivery of community services in RCT. Working in **collaboration** with communities and third sector organisations creates the opportunity to address unsustainable service models and **integrate** service delivery for the benefit of residents.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 The Council must continuously review and challenge its service delivery to ensure it is costs effective, remains fit for purpose and is meeting the council's commitment to deliver the best possible services for our communities. The proposed consultation on the future of the

Community Day Centres will inform the Council's approach to delivering these services in the future.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**Background Papers**

Cabinet - [16<sup>th</sup> October 2018](#) (Porth Town Centre Strategy) & [19<sup>th</sup> April 2018](#)  
(Developing Community Hubs in RCT)

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