

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-2017**

**FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**4<sup>TH</sup> April 2017**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF  
LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**Agenda Item No. 3**

**EXECUTIVE RESPONSE – IN RESPECT  
OF THE FINANCE & PERFORMANCE  
REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL’S OFFICE  
ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of the response received from the Executive to the findings and recommendations of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee’s review into the Council Office Accommodation Strategy.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:-

- 2.1 Receive and acknowledge the response from the Executive to the recommendations submitted by this Committee following its review into the Council’s Accommodation Strategy

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The report of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee Council’s Office Accommodation Working Group was agreed by the Committee at its meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and subsequently passed on to the Executive for consideration.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Report was formally considered by Cabinet at the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016 where the recommendation of the review was agreed.
- 3.3 The response of the Executive to the Committee’s recommendations is attached as Appendix 1.

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Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

Dear Councillor Watts,

I am writing in relation to the report of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee in respect of the review conducted of the Council's Accommodation Strategy.

As former Chair of the Working Group, I recognise that the office rationalisation strategy is a key priority for the Council and unlocks the potential to further reduce the Council accommodation portfolio, reduce operating and revenue costs and utilise existing office space more efficiently.

During our review, we strongly felt that it was vital to receive as much information as possible in order to assess and identify the more effective use of Council accommodation. The report which was presented to Cabinet in October 2016 evidenced that a number of avenues were explored such as the Council's property database and an overview of an information system sponsored by Welsh Government (e-PIMS).

In respect of the office accommodation strategy, I and the Members of the Working Group fully recognise that it goes in conjunction with agile working and digitalisation projects which are being progressed in the Council. Both elements add to the Council's aim of significantly reducing the requirement for fixed office space by 20% by 2020.

As a new Member of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group, it was pleasing to note the benefits of our review conducted in respect of the RCT Together approach for progressing Community Asset Transfers. The RCT Together programme plays a pivotal role in supporting individuals and small groups who wish to deliver Council services or take over Council assets. As a result of the concerns raised by the Working Group, the refined Community Asset Transfer Factsheet and Expression of Interest form create a streamlined process which encourages as many community and voluntary groups as possible to submit their proposals.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the Members for their involvement in this vital piece of work and as the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, I welcome the recommendations that were put forward in respect of the Council's Accommodation Strategy.

Yours sincerely



Councillor M Norris

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