



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

29 NOVEMBER 2023

NOTICE OF MOTION -UPDATE REPORT

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the following Notice of Motion:
- On the 29th March 2023, Council considered the [Notice of Motion](#) presented by County Borough Councillor D Grehan and seconded by County Borough Councillor S Evans

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- 2.1 Notes the information contained within the report in respect of the aforementioned Notice of Motion (NOM).

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To strengthen the existing notice of motion reporting arrangements, to feedback to Council responses received to motions adopted by full Council.
- 3.2 To provide transparency by informing Members of the progress made following the adoption of a notice of motion through publication of 'information reports' on the Council agenda.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At Full Council on the 29th March 2023 the Plaid Cymru Group submitted a notice of motion, proposed by Councillor D Grehan and seconded by Councillor S Evans. The amended and substantive motion was adopted and Council resolved to:

-Note that in the Last 10 years - total schools' budget increased by 28% compared to overall budget increasing by 11%. Equated to an extra £25M provided to schools compared to other Council services

-Note that School budget for 23/24 is £187M (7.9% increase) from 22/23 compared to an increase of 6.6% in Welsh Government settlements for RCT.

-Note that published comparative data demonstrates that RCT's budgeted expenditure per pupil for 2022/23 at £6,867 is higher than the Wales average at £6,773.

-Continue to prioritise school budgets and ensure that children are able to catch up following the impact of the pandemic.

-Continue to work with the Welsh Government to deliver key poverty interventions as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement between Plaid Cymru and Welsh Labour which includes the roll-out of Universal Free School-Meals for all Primary School Pupils.

In addition, the Council further requested that a report is presented to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee:

- Which proposes options to develop a Child Poverty Strategy, to be implemented across all relevant services including education*
- Ensure Children, Learners, Parents, Teaching Staff, Teaching Unions and relevant others, as well as appropriate Scrutiny Committees, are invited to participate in the development and scrutiny of the Child Poverty Strategy prior to adoption.*

4.2 The original approach was for this matter to progress through a Joint Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee and Community Services Scrutiny Committee, however, as it has been recognised that a long-term approach is required to tackle child poverty across RCT and Wales, and as the Council ensures that issues that impact on child poverty are at the core of all decision making, it was considered that the child poverty agenda will be key in the development of the Council's Corporate Plan.

4.3 Previously, the Overview & Scrutiny has been assigned responsibility to form a view on the Council's new draft Corporate Plan as part of its work programme reporting and it has been afforded the opportunity to pre scrutinise the Corporate Plan 2024-2028 to shape and influence its direction. In view of this and in line with its terms of reference, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a report at its meeting held on the [27th September 2023](#) to consider including the Notice of Motion, in relation to Child Poverty, as part of its forward work programme.

4.4 At the meeting, Members agreed to refer the Notice of Motion to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with the caveat that two members of the Education & Inclusion and Community Services Scrutiny Committees would be invited to all

future meetings where issues relating to Child Poverty are being considered, in order to reflect the cross-cutting nature of this subject. In addition, and if not already a member of the Committee, an invitation would also be extended to the mover and seconder of the original Notice of Motion.

4.5 It was also agreed that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would conduct its work in line with the approved Notice of Motion and report its findings to Full Council.

4.6 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee are due to receive a report in respect of the Corporate Plan as part of its next cycle of meetings.

5. INFORMATION REPORT

5.1 It was formerly agreed that any responses or outcomes relating to the Notices of Motions would be reported to Full Council in the form of information reports.

5.2 It is for Council to note the update and track the progress of the Child Poverty NOM and to also note that this update will be formally recorded in the Council minutes.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report and no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed necessary for the purposes of this report. The proposal to introduce specific actions to record all outcomes following the adoption of a NOM assists a more focussed approach and an opportunity for greater transparency.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 The mechanism for reporting outcomes and updates following the adoption of a Notice of Motion to Council was agreed by Full Council on the 14th June 2023 in response to a Notice of Motion submitted by the Plaid Cymru Group requesting such measures. All Members supported the revisions proposed.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 This report advises Members of the outcome of the Notice of Motion to Full Council on the 29th March 2023 through the information reporting mechanism, the format of which which was agreed at a previous Council meeting.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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NOTICE OF MOTION -INFORMATION REPORT

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COMMUNICATION**