

## **SCRUTINY REPORT**

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Date Written       | 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2021  |
| Report Author      | Scrutiny Section               |
| Committee Division | Scrutiny                       |
| Exempt/Non Exempt  | Non Exempt                     |
| Committee Date     | 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021 |

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

# **Update on Council's Response to Coronavirus Pandemic**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 Members of the Regeneration and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee have requested a regular update report be introduced on the Council's response to the coronavirus pandemic

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the Regeneration and Public Protection Scrutiny meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020; Committee Members requested an update report be provided on the Council's response to Coronavirus at each meeting.
- 3.2 The Committee Chair confirmed that this information could be presented in template format; and that it should contain data and information updates relating to the services' key response activities.

## **3.0 WHERE WE WERE**

- 3.1 An initial report offering data/information on the Council's response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. The Committee reviewed the content of the report; and explored the activities impact on both the services delivery the support services, and communities across the County Borough.

3.2 On review of this report; Committee Members discussed the need to maintain an overview of this topic, and to scrutinise the impact of the response activities which the Community Regeneration, Public Protection and Housing services were delivering.

## **4.0 WHERE WE ARE NOW**

4.1 At the subsequent Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020; it was confirmed the Committee sought to receive an update on activities at all subsequent meetings. This agenda item has now been added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme as a standard agenda item.

4.2 Receiving regular update reports enables Committee Members to maintain an overview of both the progress made and the challenges faced by officers; whilst also enabling the voice/concerns of the public to be raised.

4.3 Following the meeting, it was agreed this report could be presented in template format which the Committee would review with officers, taking up a critical friend role.

4.4 At a subsequent meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Committee Members reviewed the current format of the report template and requested the template be updated to reflect additional information which they felt would be valuable to understand. The additional information requested included:

- Outcome data arising from the Coronavirus mass testing exercise which the Council played a key role in delivering;
- Data recorded in relation to the current confirmed cases of Coronavirus across the County Borough; along with data in relation to this issue across the wider Cwm Taf Morgannwg area;
- A more detailed breakdown of response activities in relation to the Protection and Safety Service teams across the Council; and
- A more detailed breakdown of the funding support secured by local businesses with Council support, by grant type and area.

4.5 Using the feedback received; the template format has been refocused to include all available information in line with the Committee's requests. The template will continue to be regularly reviewed and, where necessary, refined to meet new and emerging needs.

## 5.0 WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT

- 6.1 Regeneration and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Members will receive an updated report at each meeting. They will provide 'critical friend' challenge, and aim to work with officers to identify and drive any further improvements required.

### Performance and Scrutiny Department MTCBC

| <b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>   |                         |                          |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Title of Document(s)</b>  | <b>Document(s) Date</b> | <b>Document Location</b> |
|  |                         |                          |
| <b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b> |                         | <b>No</b>                |