

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 9TH DECEMBER, 2019

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 18TH NOVEMBER, 2019

“C143 WELSH GOVERNMENT’S STRATEGIC EQUALITY OBJECTIVES – DRAFT CONSULTATION RESPONSE (L / PR) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) -

The report brought to Cabinet’s attention the Council's draft response to the Welsh Government's draft strategic equality objectives consultation.

Under Wales specific equality duties, the Welsh Government must publish equality objectives that would help it to strengthen its performance of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and ensure it was making progress in advancing equality and inclusion for all protected groups. Its equality objectives helped Welsh Government to prioritise areas of inequality requiring urgent action. It must review them every four years and was now consulting on equality objectives for the period April 2020 to March 2024.

The Welsh Government had taken into account the Equality and Human Rights Commission's research in “Is Wales Fairer? 2018” which provided data and evidence on six themes or “domains”: education; health; living standards; justice and security; work; and participation. It had also taken into account feedback from earlier engagement with equality organisations, experts, and other key stakeholders.

The Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee had considered the Council’s response at its meeting held 14th November 2019. The relevant minute of that meeting was tabled as supplementary information. The Scrutiny Committee had recommended that the equality objectives for 2020-2024 should have greater consideration and reference to mental health as an area of inequality.

Cabinet were subsequently asked to consider an amendment to Question 9 within Appendix B, which was proposed to read:

“As part of the internal engagement undertaken by the Cabinet in order to fully and properly consider the consultation, the issue of equality was raised as a consequence, with the issue of health and wellbeing being raised with particular focus on mental health. Welsh Government are asked to consider the implications of varying health and wellbeing as a factor that contributes to equality and whether this should be included as an Equality Objective”.

Cabinet agreed to the amendment to the Council’s submission.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the content of the Welsh Government's consultation document (Appendix A to the report), the Council's draft response to the consultation (Appendix B to the report), and the recommendation of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be noted.

(2) T H A T the draft consultation response be approved for submission to Welsh Government by 19th November, as amended to include reference to potential mental health inequality as part of question 9 and to reflect the recommendation received from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.

(3) T H A T the use of Article 14.14.2 (ii) of the Council's Constitution (Urgent Decision Procedure) be authorised in respect of Recommendation (2) above.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To enable Cabinet to consider the consultation document and Council's draft response and views of the Scrutiny Committee.

(2) To enable the Council's views to be taken into account in the formulation of strategic equality objectives by the Welsh Government.

(3) To enable the response to be submitted by the Welsh Government deadline following consideration by Cabinet and previously Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.”