

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 11TH APRIL, 2024

REFERENCE FROM LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 8TH FEBRUARY, 2024

“803 ANNUAL EQUALITY MONITORING REPORT 2022-23 (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 11th January, 2024 was presented by the Operational Manager for Corporate Communications, Participation, Equalities and Directorate Development.

Following the Operational Manager’s overview of the content of the report, in response to a query from Councillor Hennessy, the Officer advised that they would contact the team responsible for administering a scheme to provide shopping vouchers to homeless residents, in order to provide Committee with details regarding the levels of uptake of this support.

In response to a subsequent question from R. Goodjohn in relation to a lack of representation for people who identified as non-binary in terms of their gender, the Director of Corporate Resources advised that Officers were looking at ways to improve the fact that a form used for data collection had not included an option for selecting non-binary as respondents’ gender. They added that the reason for this omission may have been due to requirements around the way the data was shared with another agency, and that they would contact relevant colleagues in order to confirm the reason behind this to Committee.

In response to a subsequent question from Councillor Hodges regarding reports made to the Councillor by users of the Green Links community transport scheme, around delayed and back-dated invoicing, the Director of Corporate Resources advised that they needed to contact the relevant Officers to obtain details of the situation, and that they would then provide an update regarding this to Committee as soon as possible. The Operational Manager for Accountancy added that there had recently been steps taken to address issues experienced regarding debt recovery. They added that if there were specific cases that Councillor Hodges would like them to liaise with the income management team on, the Operational Manager would be happy to do so.

In response to a subsequent question from Councillor Hennessy, the Operational Manager advised that they could pass on a suggestion regarding schools requiring transport making use of the Green Links scheme, to Transport and Education colleagues, for them to investigate the feasibility of this.

In response to a subsequent query from the Vice-Chair regarding the taxi service in the Vale of Glamorgan appearing to be inaccessible to children, young adults or older people with disabilities, and the contractual obligations the Council has to

ensure that taxis are accessible, the Operational Manager advised that they could liaise with colleagues in the Licensing team to explore the parameters and any opportunities available to enhance the accessibility of transport options.

In response to subsequent questions from the Chair, the Operational Manager stated that while they could not advise on when a forthcoming Welsh Government Disability Action plan would be published, they did see it as being a potential driver for the Council's future strategic equality objectives. On the Chair's second question, the Officer advised that they would obtain the data relating to the cost of the use of external training providers in order to report this back to Committee.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T having considered the reference from Cabinet, and the appended report, Committee's comments be referred back to Cabinet for consideration and inclusion in the final version of the Annual Equality Monitoring Report.

Reason for recommendation

In order to make Cabinet aware of the views of this Committee, and to enable publication by 31st March, 2024 to meet the Council's statutory duties.”