



## RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

**SUBJECT: TACKLING POVERTY – A REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES FIRST, FAMILIES FIRST AND FLYING START PROGRAMMES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to amend the recommendations approved by Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in relation to Communities First, following the recent Welsh Government funding announcement for 2016/17.

### **DELEGATED DECISION (22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015):**

The recommendations as set out in the Cabinet paper considered on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in respect of the review of tackling poverty are confirmed, subject to the following amendment:

To add additional capacity to the Communities First programme by creating an additional 4 Community Engagement Worker posts, increasing the total number of these posts to 32.

  
**Chief Officer Signature**

C. BIRKBECK  
**Print Name**

22.12.15.  
**Date**

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

K. J. Mousman

**CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE**

22/12/15

**DATE**

P J Mee

**OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE**

22/12/15

**DATE**

Directorate:	Public Health & Protection
Contact Name:	Paul Mee
Designation:	Service Director, Public Health & Protection
Tel.No.	01443 425513

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16**

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF  
GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

<b><u>Part 1</u></b> <b>(Non-Confidential)</b>
<b>TACKLING POVERTY – A REVIEW OF COMMUNITIES FIRST, FAMILIES FIRST AND FLYING START PROGRAMMES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF</b>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation this report has been prepared to accompany the decision of the Group Director of Community and Children's Services as described below.
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to amend the recommendations approved by Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in relation to Communities First, following the recent Welsh Government funding announcement for 2016/17.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The recommendations as set out in the Cabinet paper considered on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in respect of the review of tackling poverty are confirmed, subject to the following amendment:
- 2.2 To add additional capacity to the Communities First programme by creating an additional 4 Community Engagement Worker posts, increasing the total number of these posts to 32.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Members considered the outcomes of a comprehensive review of the Council's approach to tackling poverty across Rhondda Cynon Taf, including communities first, flying start and families first.
- 3.2 On the basis of the information provided, Members determined to restructure Communities First to include a strategically commissioned

“core offer” of intervention/activity across all eight Clusters, but retaining an element of local flexibility through the Community Involvement budgets and local engagement staff.

- 3.3 This decision was made on the basis of the necessity to redesign the programme to improve co-ordination at a strategic level and on the ground and to release revenue resources for reinvestment in frontline delivery. This would ensure value for money and deliver better outcomes. In addition Welsh Government had indicated that there would be a budget reduction of between 5% and 20% in 2016/17.
- 3.4. As Welsh Government have now confirmed in principle that it is their intention to maintain funding levels in 2016/17 at the same levels as 2015/16, there is an opportunity to build additional capacity at a local level within the Communities First programme.
- 3.5 It is proposed that this is done by increasing the number of Community Engagement Worker posts from 28 to 32. These 4 additional staff will provide further capacity to bridge the gap between services/provision and its potential users by making initial targeted contact and providing on-going community support post activity. It may also create capacity to develop lead roles for specific areas of work that would be of benefit across the programme, for example in relation to digital inclusion.
- 3.6 The findings of the review as set out in the Cabinet paper of the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 remain the same and as such it is not proposed that the overall approach to service delivery as already agreed by Members be changed.
- 3.7 The impact of the proposed changes on staff will be dealt with in accordance with the agreed Managing Change Policy of the Council. Staff and trade unions would be fully consulted at the appropriate time.
- 3.8 This revised proposal will release between £1.122M and £2.543M based on 2015/16 Communities First allocation, to be pooled into the central commissioning team to be reinvested back into frontline specialised delivery.
- 3.9 There are no legal implications arising from these proposals; however it will be necessary to consult with Welsh Government and ensure that any changes to the programme will be in accordance with the conditions attached to the offer of funding.