

**COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG**  
**RECORD OF KEY OFFICER DELEGATED DECISION**

**Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision** ✓

**PWNC | SUBJECT:** RCT Together – Community Asset Transfer of Perthcelyn Community Centre to ASD Rainbows (Charitable Incorporated Organisation CIO – Charity No. 1173216)



**DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To approve the grant of a 15 year lease of Perthcelyn Community Centre in accordance with the provisions of the Community Asset Transfer Scheme to ASD Rainbows (CIO) on terms to be agreed to the satisfaction of the Council.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director of Corporate Estates and the Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services.

**PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION: 7/6/24**

To approve the grant of a 15 year lease of Perthcelyn Community Centre to ASD Rainbows (CIO) as set out in Paragraph 3 of the accompanying Officer report.

 <b>Llofnod y Prif Swyddog</b> Chief Officer Signature	Louise Davies <b>Enw (priflythrennau)</b> Name (Print Name)	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024 <b>Dyddiad</b> Date
 <b>Llofnod y Prif Swyddog</b> Chief Officer Signature	David Powell <b>Enw (priflythrennau)</b> Name (Print Name)	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024 <b>Dyddiad</b> Date

**Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.**

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.

**YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION**



27<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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**LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGHOROL O'R CABINET**  
CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

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**DYDDIAD | DATE**

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**LLOFNOD SWYDDOG YMGYNGHOROL**  
CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

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**DYDDIAD | DATE**

**WILL THIS DECISION HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WARD?**  
**A FYDD Y PENDERFYNIAD YMA'N CAEL EFFAITH AR Y WARD?**

**BYDD | YES** ✓      **NA FYDD | NO**

**Any further comments/Need for Local Member to be informed:** Local ward Members aware of proposal and in support

**Unrhyw sylwadau pellach/Oes angen rhoi gwybod i'r Aelod Lleol?:**

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**RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.**

**A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYN A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:**

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

**YDY | YES**

**NAC YDY | NO<sup>✓</sup>**

**Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:**

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**Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Llywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:**

*If deemed urgent* - signature of Presiding Officer or Deputy Presiding Officer or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....  
**(Llywydd | Presiding Officer)**

.....  
**(Dyddiad | Date)**

**DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.**

**NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.**

**DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES**

**CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION**

**Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Council's Website:-** \_\_\_\_2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024\_\_\_\_

**DYDDIAD | DATE**

**GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAD | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

**Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.**

**Note:** This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

**Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar / Subject to Call In the implementation date will be**

\_\_\_\_6th July 2024\_\_\_\_  
**DYDDIAD / DATE**

**WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓**

**Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:**

Cyfadran   Directorate:	Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Enw'r Person Cyswllt   Contact Name:	Alice Holloway
Swydd   Designation:	Community Development Officer, RCT Together Team
Rhif Ffôn   Telephone Number:	07385 370198

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

**RCT TOGETHER, COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF PERTHCELYN COMMUNITY CENTRE TO ASD RAINBOWS (CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ESTATES AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Author(s):** Alice Holloway, Community Development Officer, RCT Together Team

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve the grant of a 15 year lease of Perthcelyn Community Centre to ASD Rainbows (Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity No 1173216) on terms to be agreed to the satisfaction of the Council.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Director of Corporate Estates and the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the grant of a 15 year lease of Perthcelyn Community Centre to ASD Rainbows (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) on terms to be agreed to the satisfaction of the Council.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 A costed business plan was submitted by ASD Rainbows Committee for the proposed leasehold transfer of Perthcelyn Community Centre to enable the group to reinstate and improve a valued community facility for the people of Perthcelyn and to enable the expansion of services provided by ASD Rainbows as well as re-developing the centre for community benefit following a significant period of time where this local asset had remained closed.
- 3.2 At the Strategic Community Asset Transfer Panel meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024, it was recommended to approve the leasehold transfer to ASD Rainbows based on the following reasons:
  - A "30 Day Window of Opportunity" advertising the building to any "not for personal profit" community organisation to submit an "Expression of Interest" to lease the centre was promoted on the Council's website and community networks between 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The building had remained vacant since 2017.

- Following this process, ASD Rainbows were invited to submit a costed business plan and as part of a pilot to test the potential viability of operating the centre have occupied the building on a “Tenancy at Will” basis since February 2022.
- The group have recently secured funding to employ a Charity Development Officer whose role is to re-establish this much valued community facility and ensure it is able to meet the needs of both ASD Rainbows and the wider community of Perthcelyn.
- ASD Rainbows have clearly evidenced the proposal meets identified local need and that the proposal will safeguard and sustain a facility that the whole community can utilise to engage in activities to improve their general health and well-being, learn new skills, socialise and feel connected.
- ASD Rainbows Committee are prepared to take on the running of the building whilst they explore other funding opportunities to enhance the building, ensuring the aging building will be improved and remodelled to ensure it is energy efficient and fit for purpose;
- ASD Rainbows have a track record of successfully leveraging in capital and revenue grant funding to sustain their activities and they previously completed a Community Asset Transfer in 2020 for the Perthcelyn Training Centre Annex building (former Flying Start Building).
- The group have also been able to secure substantial Community Benefits offer from Trivallis which has seen the building benefitting from some key refurbishments before its official re-opening in September 2022.

### **Risks**

- ASD Rainbows will continue to explore opportunities to lever in key sources of funding to make the building energy efficient and sustain their community activities as well as ensure the continuation of the Charity Development Officer position. They are confident that there is robust evidence of need for the building since they have reopened it and the impact their services have locally will be supported by funders. They have developed a funding strategy which they are currently exploring with funders.
- The group are also looking to maximise income generation opportunities through room hire, regular events and activities as well as the charges they apply for the services they provide.
- The group are clear on the key risks to the sustainability of their services and currently have a range of mitigation controls in place to manage this. The offer of periodic support from the RCT Together Team and other support agencies is also offered to safeguard this community asset transfer opportunity.

## **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Council’s RCT Together Approach for progressing Community Asset Transfers was agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014. This approach will see the Council working with communities and partner agencies to sustain delivery of services that the Council may no longer be able to deliver on its own.
- 4.2 Applications are considered from “not for personal profit” voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and Town and Community Councils for activities, services and facilities that benefit residents within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

- 4.3 At the Cabinet meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016, it was agreed that applications for the asset transfer could now be dealt with under the Council's Delegated Decision framework. High Level Asset Transfers will need to be reported to Cabinet if Officers and the appropriate Cabinet Member feel that this is required.
- 4.4 A review of RCT Together was undertaken and approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018 to ensure any future Community Asset Transfers that are progressed, align with the Council's Community Hub development programme and can deliver the Council's strategic service requirements. Each Hub will support a neighbourhood network of preventative community services and activities that will support people living in our communities to improve their independence, resilience, health and well-being.

### **Overview of ASD Rainbows**

- 4.5 ASD Rainbows is registered at the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (C.I.O.) and is also registered with the CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales) and ICO (Information Commissioners Office) as a childcare provider. ASD Rainbows was founded in 2017 by specialist childcare professionals with combined experience of over 30 years' working with children with additional needs who developed the service to address the needs of families requiring support.
- 4.6 The charity has previous experience of completing a successful Community Asset Transfer in March 2020 of their current venue in The Annex, Perthcelyn Training Centre, Glamorgan Street CF45 3RJ (the old Flying Start building). This previous leasehold transfer enabled them to lever in funding to transform the building and deliver focussed autism support to children, their siblings and parents.
- 4.7 The Charity is governed by trustees with a range of skill sets, with some also being parent(s) of child(ren) with ASD. They support and guide a small management team, a suite of 11 nursery staff members, a Charity Development Officer, and a growing bank of 11 volunteers. The charity boasts a range of skills, professions, knowledge, and experience. Drawing on people from the local community, individuals' backgrounds include teaching, autistic specialisms, community development, financial management, and local government.
- 4.8 During the past 7 years the organisation has developed and adapted to the needs of families and residents, gaining knowledge and skills in providing weekly services. Since taking on Perthcelyn Community Centre under a Tenancy at Will, ASD Rainbows have been able to expand their services to provide additional support to families as Perthcelyn Community Centre provides the space and facilities for these additional services to take place, including the 'family room' where families can receive support in private.
- 4.9 The Charity secured funding in October 2023 to employ a Development Officer and over the past 7 months the community has benefitted from a comprehensive range of activities, information events, workshops and a range of social opportunities for all ages and abilities including the development of a local food pantry, regular coffee mornings, and school holiday activities for the local children. The Charity has



engaged and worked in partnership with other support agencies such as the local primary school, Citizens Advice, Interlink, Trivallis, Cynon Taf Housing, CRT Together and a range of others to provide access to information, advice and support to those residents in the Perthcelyn and surrounding area.

- 4.10 Acquiring the long term lease for Perthcelyn Community Centre is of paramount importance to the Charity as this will enable them to also meet the need communicated by local residents as well as expanding their autism focused activities such as Family Support Sessions, Peers Support. It will enable ASD Rainbows to maintain the highly valued community services and Autism focused services they provide.

### **The Proposal**

- 4.11 ASD Rainbows will continue to use the current Annex building for the pre-school nursery provision and will use Perthcelyn Community Centre to provide additional support services to the Autism community and general community engagement and development opportunities for residents of Perthcelyn and surrounding communities. Their focus is on expanding what can be offered at these venues by continuing to encourage feedback and dialogue with local families and residents, centre users and consultation with the wider community. They wish to take out a 15 year lease to ensure the building is energy efficient and sustainable for the needs of the community.
- 4.12 An aim is to tackle inequality and disadvantage in its many forms, including continued provision and possible expansion of the food pantry, encourage health and wellbeing within the community, including but not limited to the organisation of events and support sessions within the community centre. To promote and facilitate social interaction within/for disadvantaged groups, including provision of a warm/welcome space.

### **Review of ASD Rainbows Business Plan**

- 4.13 ASD Rainbows was established in 2017, to provide a nursery service in the Cwm Taf area for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder independent of parental supervision or carers for pre-school, or out of school hours service for children of school age.
- 4.14 The business plan outlines a delivery programme for Perthcelyn Community Centre to extend the provision of additional support services to the autism community as well as providing a wide range of services such as information, advice, social, health and wellbeing activities for the benefit of local residents. The group were aware, due to feedback from the community and local partners, of the lack of local spaces for people to connect and access advice and guidance and social wellbeing opportunities.
- 4.15 **Arrangements and capacity to manage the premises** – ASD Rainbows have experience in community asset transfer following successful lease transfer on the former Flying Start annex building for their pre-school nursery. The group will be

entering into an agreement with the Council to undertake the statutory compliance testing which will be recharged back to the group.

- 4.16 **Market Appraisal** – the group have worked with a range of partners to assess the evidence of need to re-open this community asset by undertaking a range of community engagement and consultation activities which supports the need for both their autism focussed activities and general community benefits associated with having a local space to meet, network, socialise, learn and have fun. The group also operate a waiting list for their specific autism focussed services.
- 4.17 **Financial Appraisal** – ASD Rainbows has a track record of successfully acquiring funding as well as charging for the services they provide. They retain over 12 paid members of staff. They also undertake local fundraising actions and in-kind support from a range of support partners. It is acknowledged that for most community organisations there is a dependency on grant funding as well as trying to maximise opportunities for income generation.
- 4.18 **Risk Assessment and Management** – There is a reliance placed on volunteers and staff members to support services and activities at the centre. However, with a growing number of people accessing the centre, the number of volunteers has increased to 11 and they have a strong committee with 3 key staff members who support the running of the centre.
- 4.19 The group is dependent on funding and grants to help them run their activities. However, there is clear support from agencies as well as the group having developed a fundraising strategy and mitigation actions to combat risks to ensure the sustainability of the charity. With the combination of their current charged services and fundraising efforts, the charity has responded well to date with increased demand and are responsive to change to ensure they can address local needs.
- 4.20 **Partnership Engagement** – The Committee is dedicated to partnership working and to date has benefitted greatly from the knowledge and experience of RCT Together, Interlink, Communities for Work Plus, Cynon Tâf Housing Group, Trivallis, Cwm Taf University Health Board, Bryncynon Strategy, Lee Gardens pool along with many more.
- 4.21 **Outcomes** – The proposal contributes to identified strategic service priorities as well as regional and national strategies whilst complementing other local projects/initiatives. The team have a comprehensive range of Key Performance Indicators they strive to meet in their short, medium and long terms plans for the charity pertaining to both their autism focussed support services and the wider needs of the Perthcelyn Community.
- 4.22 The Social Value (wellbeing impact of their work for both individuals and communities) of the services and activities they deliver encourage a more inclusive community by positively promoting the facility to groups and individuals. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 broadly defines social value as “improvements in economic, social and environmental well-being”. The overall social value (wellbeing impact to local people) of the services they deliver equates to £648,932 Social Value

per annum, demonstrating that for each £1 invested represents a social return on investment of £3.96. (NB, we have been conservative and used minimum attendance numbers to not over-exaggerate the social value of this facility, ensuring we count each person only once). Outcomes used include:

- Full time employment
- Part time employment
- Volunteering
- Go to youth clubs
- Member of a social group
- Frequent moderate exercise
- Relief from depression

4.23 The following table identifies the annual social value of the services they provide across both sites which ASD Rainbows currently deliver engagement activities from:

**Table 1 – Social Value of ASD Rainbows Services and Activities**

<b>ASD Rainbows</b>	<b>Nos of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Exchequer Value (savings to the public purse)</b>	<b>Total Social Value</b>	<b>Actual Social Return On Investment</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>£200,447</b>	<b>£648,932</b>	<b>£1: £3.96</b>

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required at this time. The screening form can be accessed by contacting the author of the report or the Cabinet Business Officer.

## **6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no Welsh Language implications arising from this report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

7.1 There will be no ongoing cost implications to the Council associated with the leasehold transfer of Perthcelyn Community Centre. ASD Rainbows will be responsible for all future capital and revenue costs associated with the operation of the building. This will include repair, maintenance and statutory compliance responsibilities.

7.2 ASD Rainbows have a proven track record of leveraging in funding and generating income through its activities and services. Whilst they still remain reliant on grant funding for longer term sustainability, their focus is now on income generating activities and room hire income combined with a strong history of fund raising provide confidence in their ability to make this a viable and sustainable community facility.

- 7.3 Any surpluses generated will be reinvested back into sustaining delivery of their services and activities.
- 7.4 The lease transfer will enable ASD Rainbows the ability to lever in external funding sources that the Council would not be eligible for in order to maintain and extend the lifespan of this much valued community asset.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The Council's property legal team completed an examination of the Council's title deed for the building (report on title). The examination revealed that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is the registered owner of the property and there are no apparent legal restrictions preventing the proposed disposal as outlined in this report.
- 8.2 Under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councils can dispose of land and buildings provided that best consideration is achieved. An "Open Market Rent" will be charged for use of this building.
- 8.3 The group will also enter into an agreement with the Council to manage its statutory compliance checks for the building (subject to a recharge).

## **9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

- 9.1 A "30 Day Window of Opportunity" advertising the Community Asset Transfer opportunity to any "not for personal profit" community organisation to submit an "Expression of Interest" to lease the centre was promoted on the Council's website and community networks between 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- 9.2 The group have also undertaken a range of consultation and community engagement opportunities between September 2022 and April 2023 with local partners, stakeholders, existing user groups, the local community and parents involved in their pre-school provision in discussions for the proposed transfer and have evidenced support that the proposal meets community needs and demand for this to be sustained for the long-term future. The group also received strong support and feedback from local partners and advocates for the need to sustain this community facility.
- 9.3 ASD Rainbows also work closely with the RCT Together Community Development Team and are part of the Neighbourhood Network for the South Cynon area. This network incorporates community stakeholders, local groups and organisations the opportunity to work together to identify needs and solutions, deliver community activities with a purpose of developing and strengthening community resilience and resourcefulness.

## **10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

- 10.1 ASD Rainbows proposals align with both national and local objectives and priorities thus re-enforcing the public benefit that is delivered through the project, in turn contributing to the Council's vision:

***“All people, communities and businesses can grow and live in a healthy, green, safe vibrant and inclusive County Borough where they can achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives and work, both now and in the future.”***

- 10.2 Their proposals also deliver against priorities outlined within the Council's Corporate Plan **“Working with Our Communities”** 2024-2030 under the Councils objective **“People & Communities – Supporting and empowering RCT residents to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives”**;

### **Council Priorities**

- **Children and young people have the best start in life and can learn and grow safely.**
  - ASD Rainbows provide services to children, young people and their families to enable them to have a voice and help shape and further improve their services and educational experiences.
  - They provide support to families of Autistic children to enable them to better understand the needs of, and communicate with, their child(ren).
- **Safeguarding our most vulnerable residents of all ages, providing protection, care and support when they need it most so that they can maximise their potential.**
  - Perthcelyn has a high number of social housing. They work closely with their local housing provider who provide a regular drop-in session at the centre. Their project contributes to their Tenant Involvement strategy as many tenants' benefit from ASD Rainbows community activities.
  - Provide support to families of autistic children to enable them to better understand the needs of, and communicate with their child.
  - Provide the services and support that people in the local area need – this includes training, food pantry, access to support via advice days and bringing partners and other agencies to Perthcelyn.
  - Their range of activities provide opportunities for engagement, development, shared learning and being a good neighbour by taking pride in their community.
  - Providing a Food Pantry to help supplement people who may be struggling to purchase a healthy range of food.
- **Residents can take care of their health and wellbeing so they can live healthy, independent and fulfilling lives.**

Council priorities include:

- **Helping our residents to keep healthy, active and well; fulfilling their potential and strengthening local communities through opportunities to participate in learning, leisure, physical and creative activities that are accessible to all.**

ASD Rainbows provide the following weekly activities at the centre all which contribute to the above Council priority.

- Early intervention to pre-school children by providing daily nursery sessions;
  - A parent and child group as a stepping-stone whilst waiting for a place in nursery.
  - A junior after school club for children aged 5-11 years of age.
  - A senior after school club for children aged 11-15 years of age.
  - A junior/senior group for children with social emotional challenges.
  - A parent and child group.
  - Parent and sibling support group.
  - Parent and carers training.
  - A range of groups and activities for the residents of Perthcelyn and surrounding areas.
  - A Community Food Pantry.
  - A warm hub/ welcome centre.
  - Information, Advice & Support Events.
  - Activities and special events for the local Community.
- **Enabling people to be engaged in resilient communities, strengthening connections between community groups, providing opportunities to lead and influence community developments and be involved in volunteering.**
    - ASD Rainbows is an employer and has created **12 jobs** for local people.
    - Provide opportunities for **11 regular volunteers**, including those with disabilities, enabling them to reach their potential, providing them with training and development as appropriate. Encouraging them to be active and engaged in their community by re-selling donated items, crafts activities, supporting activity days. These support volunteers of all ages.
    - Surpluses will be re-invested to run both their sites and provide as many low cost/no cost activities as possible from the Centre.
    - Longer-term, they aim to bring opportunities to the centre for people with small businesses or wanting to start up small businesses, to get the support and guidance they need to be able to do so.
    - Tabletop sales enable families to access resources at a reduced costs and relieve the “Cost of Living” burden.
    - Their activities and Autism support has pulled in visitors from across RCT and beyond with local businesses advising the positive impact it has had on local trade.
  - **Developing connections so that communities and the third and business sectors can work together to source sustainable and healthy food and develop horticulture and other technical skills that support the growth of sustainable food.**

- Include the community in decisions regards activities and services available (autism community and local geographical community).
- They think about their purchases and where possible will chose an environmentally friendly option, reusable items.
- They provide a Community Food Pantry so that residents can access affordable food options locally.

10.3 Along with 44 public bodies across Wales, the Council is subject to the statutory requirements of the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**, which sets a common vision for the long-term well-being of people and communities through seven national well-being goals and provides a framework for public services to work differently through five sustainable development principles. These principles include thinking about the **long-term impact** of our actions, seeking to **prevent** issues from occurring in the first place or from worsening, **involving people** and communities in decisions made that affect them, working together **collaboratively** with other organisations and integrating our work to understand the knock-on effects of what we do. ASD Rainbows contributes towards these well-being goals and sustainable principles by:

- Working collaboratively as part of the Neighbourhood Network in South Cynon to undertaking regular engagement and consultation events to ensure community partners can meet the needs of local residents and build community resilience.
- Providing bespoke support to children and their families around Autism-offering a one-of-a-kind provision and whole family support.
- Supporting the community of Perthcelyn to have access to a food pantry, coffee mornings, a warm space and a sense of community and belonging from the community centre.
- Leasing Perthcelyn Community Centre will enable ASD Rainbows to secure the long-term provision of services for the community and their Autism service and will provide a facility for recreational, educational and social interaction purposes and will positively impact the health and well-being of users.

10.4 The Council is approaching this principle in different ways and has launched RCT Together as a means of engaging and involving residents in how services are best sustained in communities:

*“The Council’s vision is to develop a new relationship with residents that enables them to be independent and resilient and to take on greater responsibility for their local communities. This is not about the Council shifting its responsibility – it is about recognising that residents want to be more involved in what happens in their community”.*

10.5 The ‘RCT Together’ approach, now aligning with the Council’s developing Community Hub and Neighbourhood Network approach will further strengthen the involvement of local residents and community groups in determining the best use of its assets to enable the community to strengthen its resilience and wellbeing.

## **11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS (please specify)**

- 11.1 Perthcelyn Community Centre was built by the Local Authority in 1976 and was managed by a charity who ceased operations some years ago. The Centre had been closed for several years until ASD Rainbows entered into a “Tenancy at Will” in March 2022 to pilot community activities at the centre and to allow the expansion of their Autism Support Services, whilst providing a much-needed facility for the community. The Management and Trustees of ASD Rainbows believe that they have the experience and ability to turn the centre into a thriving multi-purpose community hub and welcome the opportunity to ensure that a valued community facility is maintained within Perthcelyn. This ambition is also underpinned by letters of support from a wide range of partners who believe the group has the skills and experience to deliver services the community needs.
- 11.2 Prosperity - Perthcelyn is a community that is in need for a local community space to bring the community and residents back together to form that sense of neighbourhood and this has become evident through the projects that ASD Rainbows have started to run in the community centre. The Community Centre aims to be the ‘hub’ of the community that the area is in need of as well as supporting the expansion of the Autism service. Any funding /grants levered in is always retained and used for the benefits of those families accessing ASD Rainbows provision and the residents of Perthcelyn.
- 11.3 Health - Children and families that access ASD Rainbows services have benefitted from both emotional and wellbeing support as well as information and advice. The wellbeing of users is evident from feedback and comments they receive from residents/ service users of all ages. This also includes the wellbeing of volunteers and members. They encourage people to get involved with the development of their activities to help people feel good about their environment and themselves and to build confidence, self-esteem, and positivity.

## **12. CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 ASD Rainbows proposal has the potential to offer a viable and sustainable opportunity to provide an accessible space from which to operate valued services and activities within the heart of the community especially impactful during the current “Cost of Living” crisis.
- 12.2 The benefits of transferring an asset to a Community group on a long-term leasehold transfer can be substantial, unlocking community enterprise, encouraging volunteer commitment, helping utilise local knowledge and empowering the community to design and deliver services to meet local need as well as providing them with an ability to lever in funding to enhance this much-loved community asset.
- 12.3 ASD Rainbows have evidenced their ability to use the centre to address both the needs of their autism support service users and the wider needs of the community. Whilst there is a recognition that the Group’s longer term sustainability will be dependent on a mix of grant funding and a range of income generation opportunities. Officers were mindful of their track record to date of leveraging in



Community Benefit support from Trivallis, securing funding for activities and now employing a Development Officer whose role has enabled a significant rise in opportunities for local residents which now includes a wide range of information & advice opportunities, community food pantry, social opportunities, income generating events and development opportunities now being delivered at the Centre.

- 12.4 The Officer recommendation is therefore to approve the grant of a 15-year lease to ASD Rainbows with periodic support being offered by the RCT Together Community Development Team alongside other support agencies.

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

**25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE  
ESTATES AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**RCT TOGETHER, COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF PERTHCELYN COMMUNITY  
CENTRE TO ASD RAINBOWS (CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Communities Services Scrutiny Committee

**Background Papers**

- Cabinet – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014.
- Cabinet - 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- RCT Together – Review of the Community Asset Transfer Process; Cabinet – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018.

**Officer to contact**

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