

**SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: CALL-IN OF  
'DEVELOPING THE FUTURE OF THE MY DAY MY LIFE BASES'**

**MEETING: Council**

**DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To provide Council the opportunity to consider the decision taken by Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> November concerning 'Developing the Future of the My Day My Life Bases'. This follows the call-in of the decision and the subsequent recommendation of the People Scrutiny Committee to refer the matter to full Council.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Council considers the discussion held at the People Scrutiny Committee and makes a decision whether to:
- i) Accept the Cabinet Decision; or
  - ii) Refer the Decision to Cabinet for reconsideration (with reasons)

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution gives scrutiny committees the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet. This is one of the ways in which the executive can be held to account.
- 3.2 The Constitution requires that a Scrutiny Meeting is held within 15 working days of the receipt of a call-in of an Executive decision to consider the call-in request. Following debate of the issue, the Committee can either:
- Accept the Cabinet decision; or
  - Refer the matter back to the Cabinet with reasons; or
  - Refer the matter to full Council for consideration with reasons.
- 3.3 On 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Cabinet considered a report recommending:

That Cabinet considers the findings of the options appraisal and the recommendations set out in the My Day, My Life Future Bases Final Options Appraisal report, and agrees the following recommendations:

- (i) As per the options appraisal and consultation that has already been undertaken the Melville Centre for the Arts will be the long-term base for MDML and we will now proceed to make this building more accessible and suitable. Whilst this work is being undertaken the MDML service is also able to use the Wellbeing Centre in Abergavenny.

- (ii) That support will be provided to interested groups to assist them in developing their proposals for providing community-based support for a range of people in Abergavenny. Support will include being able to use the Wellbeing Centre in Abergavenny as a base for their current activities and meetings; and advice about the developing business proposals.
  - (iii) That the decision regarding Tudor Street building is deferred until the end of this financial year. This will allow any interested groups that might be interested in the building the opportunity to come forward with their proposals.
  - (iv) That a review of community-based support for people with learning disabilities in Monmouthshire is undertaken.
- 3.4 On the 11<sup>th</sup> October, Cabinet agreed that the new base for the My Day My Life service in Monmouth would be the Overmonnow Family Learning Centre. The decision about a base for My Day My Life in Abergavenny was deferred to allow further engagement with interested community-based groups and further consideration of the options.
- 3.5 The report taken to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 subsequently presented the findings of the final options appraisal for the proposed future My Day, My Life bases in Abergavenny, and sought approval of the recommended base (as per the recommendations above in paragraph 3.3). The decision resolved by Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> November was to accept the recommendations set out in paragraph 3.3.
- 3.7 A review of the My Day My Life Service was undertaken between November 2022 - March 2023 by Practice Solutions Ltd. The final review report was produced in March 2023 with recommendations to the council for the future for the My Day, My Life service. The review made 10 recommendations for the service's future development which were scrutinised by People Scrutiny Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 together with the Council's response to the review and the implementation plan. The People Scrutiny Committee offered broad support and expressed a desire that the work be progressed at pace. The review of the My Day My Life Service was agreed in full by Cabinet on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- 3.7 The decision was subsequently called in for the following reasons:
- Lack of pre-decision scrutiny
  - Lack of proper community and service user engagement
- 3.8 The Special People Scrutiny Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 considered the call-in of this decision and the Members who called in the decision outlined their reasons for doing so. The Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services attended and provided his response.
- 3.9 The Cabinet decision report provides full context of the background and key issues relating to the decision taken on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023, outlined in sections 3 and 4 together with an options appraisal provided under section 5, accessed via [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 15th November, 2023, 5.00 pm \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/agenda/cabinet-on-wednesday-15th-november-2023-5.00-pm) .
- 3.10 Appendix 1 provides the formal minute of the call-in and a fuller account of the debate being available via [Agenda for People Scrutiny Committee on Friday, 1st December, 2023, 10.00 am \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/agenda/people-scrutiny-committee-on-friday-1st-december-2023-10.00-am) .
- 3.11 Relating to the specific matters raised in the calling-in of the decision, the debate that took place led the Committee to confirm its intention to refer the decision for

reconsideration, and following a vote, the majority agreed to refer the decision to full council for the reasons outlined below:

- Members have reservations about the decision and concerns about the robustness of the consultation process carried out with service users.
- Doubts that the remit of My Day, My Life fits with a building such as the Melville Theatre.
- There were continuing concerns of various members about the consultation process and the decisions relating to the My Day My Life bases indicate a fault in the administration's decision-making.
- Concerns about accessibility at Melville Theatre.
- Concerns about communication with service users.

3.12 Following a vote, four Members agreed to accept the Cabinet's decision and five Members agreed to refer the decision to full Council, which was carried.

#### **4.0 EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**

4.1 There are no direct considerations from this report.

#### **5. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

5.1 Not applicable.

#### **6. REASONS:**

6.1 To refer the Cabinet's decision taken on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 on Developing the Future of the My Day My Life Bases to full Council for the reasons outlined above.

#### **7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

7.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

#### **8. CONSULTEES:**

Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnerships

#### **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Appendix 1: Draft Minutes of the People Scrutiny Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 on Developing the Future of the My Day My Life Bases.

#### **10. AUTHOR:**

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager

#### **11. CONTACT DETAILS:**

Tel: 01633 644233

E-mail: [hazelilett@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:hazelilett@monmouthshire.gov.uk)