

Public Document Pack
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich
dewis iaith.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please
let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



**Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief
Executive's Directorate**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /
643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Tuesday, 20 October 2020

Dear Councillor,

TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

A meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum will be held in the remotely via Skype for Business on **Monday, 26 October 2020 at 16:00**.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 12
To receive for approval the Minutes of 10/12/19
4. Road Adoptions 13 - 18
5. Bridgend Public Services Board 19 - 22
6. Fit for the Future-Budget Consultation 2020, Engagement with Town and Community Councils 23 - 26
7. Urgent Items
To consider any other item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Rule 4 of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal, HR & Regulatory Services

Please note: Due to the current requirement for social distancing this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and Council Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Councillors:

S Aspey
SE Baldwin
JPD Blundell
MC Clarke
HJ David
P Davies
DK Edwards

Councillors

RM Granville
B Jones
JC Radcliffe
KL Rowlands
B Sedgebeer
SG Smith
JH Tildesley MBE

Councillors

SR Vidal
MC Voisey
KJ Watts
P White
RE Young

Including a representative from
each Town & Community
Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2019 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

N Alderton	JPD Blundell	MC Clarke	N Clarke
P Davies	Cllr L Desmond-Williams	RM Granville	Cllr P Jenkins
B Jones	D Jones	T Lyddon	A Mckay
CE Smith	W Willis		

Apologies for Absence

Cllr Stuart Baldwin, Cllr Ken Watts, Coychurch Lower Community Council, Pencoed Town Council.

Officers:

Michael Pitman	Business Administrative Apprentice
Zak Shell	Head of Neighbourhood Services

189. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

190. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the 15/07/2019 and 29/07/2019 as a true and accurate record.

191. BRIDGEND'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SERVICES

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support and Family Support presented a report which updated Members of the Town and Community Council Forum on Bridgend's local government education services.

He explained that BCBC maintained 60 schools, which included 48 Primary Schools (4 being Welsh-medium education), 9 Secondary Schools (1 being Welsh-medium education) and 2 special education schools.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support and Family Support explained that Bridgend was one of five local authorities in the Central South Consortium joint education service for school improvement. He informed Members that in 2019-20, the Council's net Education and Family Support Directorate budget was approximately £114m, which represented 42% of the Council's total net budget of £271m.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support and Family Support provided figures in relation to children and young people in Bridgend which was detailed at 3.3 of the report. He also provided statistics relating to school and pupil budgets which were detailed at 3.5 and 3.6 of the report.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support gave a presentation which elaborated on the aforementioned topics with the following key points noted:

- Overall, pupils in Bridgend make good progress between the statutory school ages of five and sixteen.
- Pupil attendance is strong and consistently compares favourably with the all-Wales average.
- Pupil exclusion data is generally in line with the all-Wales average, although, recently, BCBC has seen a rise in fixed-term exclusions.
- In general, progress made by vulnerable learners, is either in line with, or better than, the all-Wales average.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support provided further pupil information which saw that:

- Over a 3-year average, 18.1% of pupils aged 5 to 15 are eligible for free school meals (which is slightly higher than the Wales average of 17.9%).
- 7.7% of pupils aged 5 and over are fluent in Welsh (which is lower than the all-Wales average of 16.2%).
- 6.0% of pupils are from ethnic minorities (which is lower than the all-Wales average of 11.0%).
- 20.2% of pupils have special educational needs (which is lower than the all-Wales average of 22.6%).
- 131 children per 10,000 were looked after by the local authority in 2018 (which is higher than the all-Wales average of 102 children per 10,000).

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support explained that improvements had been made in schools which was shown by recent Estyn assessments. It was found that Bridgend had 31 'green' support category schools (up from 27 in 2017-2018); 22 'yellow' support category schools (up from 21 in 2017-2018); 4 'amber' support category schools (down from 9 in 2017-2018); and 3 'red' support category schools (which is the same as in 2017-2018).

He added that the processes to monitor 'schools causing concern' were effective and the impact of these focused and robust systems for ensuring that progress was clear. For example, in the past year: the number of schools in Estyn review or monitoring categories has fallen from 11 to 6; and the number of schools in 'red' or 'amber' support categories has fallen from 12 to 7.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support advised that The local authority placed significant emphasis on the importance of learner voice. As part of the post-16 review, all secondary school student councils were engaged in workshops to create the learner voice input to the 'ambitions for 16-18 education across Bridgend County'. Later in the process, a detailed survey to establish learners' views of current 16-18 provision was launched and over 2400 learners aged 16-18 responded.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support explained the concept of 'Team Bridgend', which was a recognition of the fact that all delivery partners and stakeholders subscribe to the same vision and focus all efforts, at all times, on improving learner outcomes.

Through 'Team Bridgend', schools are expected to work in their clusters to develop learning and share good practice. This was exemplified through the team 'Strategy On A Page' (SOAP) documents.

Similarly, there were a number of structures that facilitated a learning culture whereby professionals were able to draw on and learn from others' experiences (e.g. head teacher meetings and wider groups where the sharing of effective practice takes place).

There were also a number of well-established professional learning networks across the borough that also contributed to developing and sustaining a learning culture.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support talked about the Local authority's strategic vision, aims and priorities in relation to national, regional and local priorities. He advised that the local authority had worked closely with schools as well as all operational team leaders within the directorate to agree on Team Bridgend's direction.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support also talked about the effectiveness of the leadership of elected members and officers and how the link between them and schools was effective. He said that Members and Officers have significant experience of the local authority and possess an ambitious vision for children and young people.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support provided details on the five proposals of the learner travel consultation. The consultation ran from 14th October 2019 and ends on the 5th January 2020 and included the following proposals:

- Withdrawal of transport for learners who benefit from available walking routes to school and live within the two/three miles thresholds.
- Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than 8 passengers.
- Removal of specific examples in the policy regarding discretionary transport.
- Removal of transport for post-16 learners (with the exception of those learners attending Welsh-medium or faith schools).
- Removal of free home-to-school transport for nursery pupils.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support provided details on the post-16 consultation and the three options being considered:

Option 1

A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new local authority maintained sixth-form centre(s).

Option 2

A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new further education (FE) college governed sixth-form centre(s).

Option 3

The retention of sixth forms in all schools - the current position (ie a distributed tertiary model based on collaboration, but with further development in order to improve the delivery of this option).

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support provided a summary on the education services and ESTYN findings.

- In most key pupil attainment indicators (eg foundation phase indicator, key stage 3 core subject indicator, Level 1, Level 2, Level 2+ and Level 3), the local authority performs above the all-Wales average and compares favourably against similar local authorities.

- However, standards at key stage 2, performance in certain subjects (ie science at key stage 4) and the performance of more able and talented learners at post-16 have been identified as areas for development.
- The attainment of vulnerable groups is generally strong (eg the attendance and attainment of pupils eligible for free school meals in Bridgend is consistently above the all-Wales average).
- However, the gap in performance between pupils eligible for free school meals and pupils not eligible for free school meals requires improvement.
- In terms of pupil attendance, the local authority consistently performs better than the all-Wales average and, in most cases, exceeds the performance of similar local authorities. However, the number of fixed-term exclusions within the local authority is rising and has been identified as an area for improvement.
- Support for school improvement is generally good with 88% of Bridgend schools now being categorised as requiring 'green' or 'yellow' support (from 76% in 2016-2017). Similarly, since September 2017, the number of Bridgend schools in Estyn review or monitoring categories has fallen from 12 to 7.
- However, despite significant support from Central South Consortium, and the local authority exercising its statutory powers of intervention, the progress being made by Bridgend's three 'red' support category schools has not been swift enough and remains a key priority for the local authority.
- Provision for identified groups is generally good. For example, targeted support for young people at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training continues to result in positive outcomes. Similarly, the local authority's 'Edge of Care' services continue to demonstrate positive impact on preventing children from becoming looked after.
- The local authority works effectively with a wide range of delivery partners (including with its schools and Central South Consortium). The 'Team Bridgend' concept, which places significant emphasis on the importance of collaborative working, is promoted at every opportunity.
- While the local authority makes effective use of resources, it acknowledges the significant financial challenge it faces; especially in respect of the current and projected pressures on delegated and centrally retained budgets.
- The development of the Access to Education Panel and the creation of the Vulnerable Groups Team in 2018 demonstrate the substantial investment the local authority has made in ensuring children and young people in Bridgend benefit from tailored learning experiences and robust safeguarding processes.
- In conclusion, while readily acknowledging the challenges it faces, the view of the local authority is that its education services are generally effective. Local government education services in Bridgend are generally well-led, and, as a result, the local authority secures good outcomes for most learners.

A summary of the ESTYN recommendations were as follows:

- R1 Raise standards of literacy in primary schools
- R2 Improve outcomes for post-16 learners in sixth forms
- R3 Increase the pace of improvement in schools causing concern
- R4 Strengthen the role of the Welsh Education Strategic Forum to ensure timely progress in delivering the priorities identified in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

In conclusion, the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support was happy to answer any questions from Members and also explained that if they had questions following the meeting, that they could email EDSU.

The Leader thanked The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support for the comprehensive presentation and asked Members if they had any questions.

Cllr Evans said that the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support explained there was a difference in performance from children who received free school meals compared with ones who did not. He asked what were the issues surrounding this and what could be done.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support stated that additional pupil development grant funding had been received which would target specific these specific pupils.

Cllr Evans asked what could be done for the children who are struggling in general. The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support explained that children's home life was pivotal on their performance.

The Cabinet Member – Education and Regeneration added that this was an important point to be raised and that support was required from families as well as for families. He stated that the strongest schools in relation to pupil performance are the ones that involve the parents the most, so this is something the local authority needs to work on.

The Leader stated that although this needs continuous work, schools in Bridgend are performing well, but the gap in performance between pupils still needed to be narrowed.

A Member asked in relation to Option 3 of the Post 16 Consultation, that this was discussed at the Subject Overview & Scrutiny Committee 1 meeting. Was there any feedback from that?

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support explained that there were many good questions and discussions in that meeting and said that many positive comments were made about Option 3. He added that the authority will weigh up the risks and benefits of each options once there is enough feedback from the public and then report back to Scrutiny and Cabinet.

A Member asked if the schools and parents would be consulted. The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support confirmed that they would be. He explained that the language used will be different and tailored to ensure that everyone involved fully understands what we are planning.

A Member asked if there was any improvements to West Park Primary School in regards to School Modernisation Programme.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support explained that the Council had recently employed a new Energy Specialist who had been liaising with the Head Teacher at that school and said that the bills had already decreased there. He also explained that the infrastructure is assessed in categories from A to D and stated that no schools were in category D; however, there are issues with infrastructure in a number of schools that still need addressing.

A Member stated that the figures for Welsh Language speakers was lower than the average in Wales. He asked what was being done to ensure children and adults were encouraged into taking up the welsh language.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support agreed that this was an issue and that teaching the Welsh Language involves adults and children. He explained that

the 5 Welsh Medium Schools are doing well, but there is equal focus on ensuring English speaking schools are getting the chance to learn the Welsh language.

The Cabinet Member – Education and Regeneration added that involving people in learning languages in general would be beneficial and stated that it was easier to learn other languages when people learn a second language early in life.

A Member asked what we were doing to ensure futureproofing of our schools, particularly schools that are currently in Band C. The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support explained that the main priorities were to ensure that there was enough space in the schools and that schools were fit for purpose. He added that, unfortunately, Government funding received was only to build new schools and not provide infrastructure improvements to existing schools.

Cllr Jenkins explained that there were three schools in the Llynfi area that were in need of updating and modernising, e.g. wind turbines and solar panels, which would be an investment that would save money in the long term. He provided options on making schools run more efficiently which included combining all the holidays into one, working through the traditional summer holidays and then closing the schools in the winter period, which would save on energy and maintenance costs.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support thanked Cllr Jenkins for the points he made and stated that it was good to have ideas on how the local authority can do things differently. The Head Of Operations - Community Services added that the funding we had receive would be spent in schools and we need to look at where the best investments can be made and paid back at a reasonable rate.

The Leader asked the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support for an annual update on this item to review the progress.

RESOLVED: That the Town and Community Council Forum:

1. Noted the contents of the report and;
2. Requested an annual update to review the progress.

192. **STREET CLEANSING**

The Head Of Operations - Community Services presented a report to update on the current street cleansing activities and resource levels throughout Bridgend County Borough and its Town Centres.

He explained that that the ongoing financial savings implemented by BCBC in order to meet reductions in public funding have had a significant impact on the size of the Street Cleansing Teams. He advised that in 2010, the street Scene Department consisted of around 85 staff in total, now in 2019 the department was made up of 35 operators.

The Head Of Operations - Community Services explained that in May 2019, the All Wales Local Environmental Audit and Management System Report 2018-19 compiled from independent on street inspections carried out by Keep Wales Tidy, gave Bridgend a Cleanliness Indicator Score of 67.7 and graded the streets predominantly free of litter and refuse apart from some small items or better as 96.7%. These scores were shown on Appendix 1 with all other Welsh authorities, as can be seen the Bridgend scores are comparable with those of surrounding South Wales authorities. He added that the general score was actually the highest Bridgend has ever scored.

The Head Of Operations - Community Services explained that the Cleaner Streets Operations Officer had spent considerable time over the past year building relations with the community. They had attended meetings to identify opportunities and offer support and ideas for ways in which to work together to meet objectives. He outlined the project work that had taken place which was listed at 4.9 of the report.

The Head Of Operations - Community Services explained the situation on dog fouling and said that it had been on the forefront of complaints received coupled with social media escalating people's opinions further, which had increased the demand for more action to be taken. He advised that the Public Space Protection Orders could be used in certain areas which gave the Local Authority the power to place bans for certain activities in an area, one of which can be dog walking, as a way to tackle the dog fouling. Further enforcement had also been in place whereby members of the public who walk their dog can now be fined for not carrying appropriate dog waste disposal bags.

The Head Of Operations - Community Services explained that to further improve the street scene environment, the contractor 3GS had been engaged to carry out litter enforcement activities throughout the borough. He advised that 592 fines had been issued and 10 prosecutions that had gone to court. He stated that approximately 80% of the fines issued were from cigarette littering. The enforcement work began in May 2019 and was set for review after one year had elapsed which would then set out future provision for enforcement.

The Head of Operations – Community Services explained that the costs of the Street Cleansing Teams were met through the Councils Revenue Budget and there was also additional funding provided from Welsh Government for £30,000 which would be used for the Volunteer Community Hubs Project.

A Member stated that this area of the Communities Directorate was a shining light, and that the public have taken the initiative to help by picking up litter themselves. The Leader commented that the initiative had only been in place for a few months but had already proven very successful.

Cllr Jenkins explained that there was still a big issue of fly tipping in the Llynfi Valley. He stated that one area which costed a lot of money to clean, was already back in the same condition just a few months later. He explained that CCTV in problem areas, although it would be expensive, could catch the persistent fly tippers and avoid further costs of cleaning. He added that there should be a bylaw in place to ensure businesses were not leaving the rubbish and bi-products left over from their premises outside in the streets.

The Head of Operations – Community Services thanked Cllr Jenkins for the points made. He explained that the authority was constrained with resources and staff so this would be difficult to achieve. He added that considering the cuts that had been made, the authority had done extremely well with what was available.

The Head of Operations – Community Services explained that the local authority needed to work with Town and Community Councils and the community more intelligently to figure out the best ways to use the resources that we had and asked for any suggestions from Members and Town Councillors if there were any local knowledge that might help with this, e.g. where hotspots were for littering, where best to place the litter bins etc.

Cllr Unwin asked if there were any road cleaning machines available to use for particular areas of Bridgend Town. The Cleaner Streets & Waste Contract Manager stated that they had 2 road sweepers, but did not currently have a road cleaning machine. She added that if there were any particular problems in the town centre that need attending to then let our team know.

The Head of Operations – Community Services added that businesses taking personal responsibility for the outside of their premises was a good idea and that was the mind-set that the local authority hoped to instil and will look at ways to approach instilling this mind set into local businesses as a way to improve the cleanliness of streets.

A Member stated that there was something called a Street Litter Control Notice that required the owners or occupiers of businesses to take steps to both minimise and clear up any litter that had come about as a result of their commercial or retail activities. This may be something to look into for the borough. The Leader agreed that this was something that should be looked in to.

Cllr Prescott explained that in Ogmores Valley there had been a number of areas where the weed spraying had taken no effect when it was undertaken in May. The Cleaner Streets & Waste Contract Manager asked Cllr Prescott to let the team know the specific locations of the weeds and it will be dealt with.

Cllr Chapel asked if any publication had been done on 3GS enforcement officers patrolling the Borough as he had not seen any advertising of this. He also asked if any fixed penalty notices could be issued for dog fouling.

The Cleaner Streets & Waste Contract Manager stated that the 3GS Enforcement Officers would engage with members of the public to inform them of the proper procedures. She added that it was difficult to issue a fixed penalty notice to an owner because that required the officer to witness first-hand the owner avoiding picking up the dog mess and walking away.

She added that with regards to publicising this, the team are awaiting more figures from fixed penalty notices from other means of littering so that they can build a case and be able to put together a proper statement which included figures.

The Leader added that the publication of personal details would not be the case, however, the general location of the offenses would be publicised so that the public knew the range of areas that the offenses took place and people were being fined to ensure deterrence of future offending.

Cllr Chapel asked if there was a specific place where they as well as the public can report offending hotspots.

The Cleaner Streets & Waste Contract Manager stated that this could be reported directly to Clean up the county in BCBC. The team could then direct 3GS to these hotspots.

The Leader thanked the suggestions and comments from members of the Forum and thanked the Officers who presented the reports today. He also thanked Town and Community Councillors for making the Love it don't trash it scheme so effective.

RESOLVED: That the Town and Community Council Forum Noted the report.

193. **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

26 OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

ROAD ADOPTIONS

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the highway adoption process in Bridgend and outline the various stages involved in road adoption, the issues and problems together with the potential for improvement to the system both locally and nationally.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** –. taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council is responsible for overseeing the processes to secure the adoption of new highways and the modification of existing highways constructed by developers. These are more commonly known as Section 38 and Section 278 agreement highway works. The local highway authority can 'adopt' a road but there is no legal process to force developers to seek adoption.
- 3.2 The Council will only adopt a new road if it is constructed to certain standards. The Council may also adopt an existing road but in doing so takes on the ongoing maintenance liability.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The adoption process normally starts at planning pre-application stage where a developer enters into discussion with the local planning authority and the highway authority regarding a new development - planning and highway requirements are set out. The developer will submit a planning application and the relevant highway teams will be consulted.
- 4.2 During the determination of the application there may be further negotiations on the layout of the development and the Council will seek amendments to the scheme to

ensure the roads are approved to adoptable standards. Planning conditions may be used to secure further details or for certain works to be completed before the commencement of development/occupation wherever appropriate. Planning consent is usually approved subject to conditions and/or S106 agreement.

- 4.3 Development mitigation measures such as alterations or improvements to the public highway are sometimes required by the Council, for example requiring a developer to carry out highway improvement works within the existing highway network. This is done under agreement through Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 and 278 of the Highway Act 1980. Also, where the works are of strategic importance to that development, they may be dedicated as a new highway.
- 4.4 Once development commences and the conditions/S106 is complied with, highway officers and engineers check that submitted details are in accordance with both the approved highway layout from the planning application and technical specifications in relation to the construction of the roads. This would include various aspects from drainage, SUDS (Sustainable Drainage Schemes), open space, road safety, traffic orders, street lighting, geometry, highway structures etc.
- 4.5. During the construction phase the Council inspects site operations liaising with the developers, consultants and contractors. To commence the adoption process, the developer must submit a Section 38 application for a highway adoption agreement. Agreements under Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980 concern the adoption of new roads as highway maintainable at the public expense. A Section 38 agreement requires a complete set of drawings and calculations and submission of a bond. The process involves a series of design checks before being given technical approval. The Section 38 part 1 certificate will be issued when the works and maintenance defects items listed in part 1 of the schedule of the agreement are completed to the satisfaction of the Council (generally but not restricted to, installation of drainage, binder courses and street name signs). A part 2 certificate will then be issued when the items listed in part 2 of the schedule of the agreement are completed to the satisfaction of the Council.
- 4.6 Upon the issue of the part 2 certificate a maintenance period of not less than twelve months commences.. During the maintenance period the works that are subject to the agreement are dedicated as highway but will remain maintainable at the expense of the developer., During this period the developer, as street manager, remains fully responsible for all maintenance of the works including any damage, however caused, and may choose to take out appropriate insurance against such risks.
- 4.7 Prior to the end of the maintenance period the developer is required to contact the council in writing with a view to the Council undertaking the final inspection prior to the end of the maintenance period. In addition to completing all remedial works identified in the final inspection. commuted sums maybe required on non-standard assets. On full and satisfactory completion of these requirements, the council will issue the final certificate release the bond and assume the maintenance of and responsibility for the new highway.
- 4.8 Problems with the current road adoption procedures
 - Developers may fail to complete estate roads to satisfactory standard

- Road adoption can be delayed after the development has otherwise been completed resulting in unfinished roads and ancillary services
- Developers may go into administration leaving estate roads unfinished
- Delays in processing highway agreements and checking plans within the Council
- Delays in developers submitting required details and construction roads to standard
- It is difficult to use planning conditions to require works to be completed to adoptable standards as they cannot be used to enact other legislation
- If planning enforcement action were to be pursued against a developer for failure to complete highway works then it must produce a scheme for developer to implement

4.9 Possible solutions

Local:

- Consider revisions to internal processes within relevant Council teams
- Developers to provide more details up front
- Consider use of planning conditions/S106 to control occupancy of dwellings without certain highway works being completed
- Look at use of standard design details to provide certainty to developers (see recommendations of Task Force below)

National:

- Changes to national legislation requiring estate road completion to adoptable standards

4.10 Unadopted Roads Taskforce

4.11 The Unadopted Roads Taskforce was established at the Minister for Economy and Transport's request in 2018 to look at the issues in Wales and in so doing identify the extent of unadopted roads and what could be done to improve the situation.

4.12 The Taskforce membership included skilled practitioners and professionals that have been able to recognise and recommend certain actions that are leading to a better understanding of the nature and quantum of the issues across Wales. Following initial investigation, and a comprehensive consultation exercise involving key stakeholders, a [preliminary report](#) was submitted to the Minister in the Spring of 2019.

4.13 The Taskforce considered all the issues raised from the consultation which were varied and included matters to do with all types of unadopted roads, and the difficulties that arise as a result of no clear ownership or responsible bodies for particular unadopted roads.

4.14 As a result a Good Practice Guide was agreed together with the use of a set of common Common Standards. Once implemented, this approach is

considered to reduce significantly the chances of any further ‘unadopted road’ being created. Work has also progressed in establishing a database to provide a comprehensive record of all unadopted roads in Wales, which has been used to provide the quantum of unadopted roads. A final report was issued in September 2020 to build on the initial work and address the recommendations emanating from the initial report.

4.15 Further Recommendations of the Taskforce

RECOMMENDATION 1 –

- that Local Authorities initially identify the priority unadopted road issues within their Council areas, and that cost estimates be provided for improvement to adoptable standards. Such proposals would need to be justified in terms of need based on national and local priorities.

RECOMMENDATION 2 –

- that consideration be made for some form of central resource to be made available to assist with the funding of necessary works to address local unadopted road priorities

RECOMMENDATION 3 –

- that the usage of the Good Practice Guide be monitored, and that further dialogue with Local Authorities takes place later in 2020 to evaluate the benefits of using the Good Practice Guide

RECOMMENDATION 4 –

- that a suite of Common Standards for use by Local Highway Authorities and Housing Developers be published

RECOMMENDATION 5 –

- that the Common Standards suite of documents are reviewed annually and amended as necessary to reflect changing requirements as a result of other emerging initiatives, and that annual funding be provided to enable this

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 The adoptions of roads is controlled by the various legislation and policy, primarily the Highways Act 1980.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no direct implications associated with this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 Any changes to policy or procedure will be prepared in accordance with the 7 Wellbeing goals and the 5 ways of working as identified in the Act.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The report is for noting and current procedures are carried out within existing budget heads.

9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum notes the report.

**JANINE NIGHTINGALE
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**

26 October 2020

Contact officer: Jonathan Parsons
Group Manager Planning & Development Services

Telephone: (01656) 643153

Email: jonathan.parsons@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF21 4WB

Background documents: None

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

26 OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BRIDGEND PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Town and Community Council Forum of:
- the work of Bridgend Public Services Board (PSB) in relation to the Assessment of Well-being and the development of the next Well-being Plan for Bridgend County
 - the responsibilities of some Town and Community Councils under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act).

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-**

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- ***Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

3. Background

- 3.1 Bridgend PSB was established on 1 April 2016 following the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. More information about Bridgend PSB can be found [here](#).
- 3.2 The PSB published its first Assessment of Well-being in April 2017, which assessed the state of the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Bridgend County.

3.3 The Assessment of Well-being was used to develop the first Bridgend Well-being Plan which was published in May 2018. A copy of the Bridgend Well-Being Plan can be found [here](#).

4. Current situation/proposal

Well-being Assessment and Well-being Plan

4.1 The PSB must publish its Well-being Assessment of Bridgend County no later than one year before it publishes its Well-being Plan.

4.2 The Bridgend County Well-being Plan must be published no later than one year after the next ordinary election.

4.3 In practice this means the next well being assessment will be published by 30 April 2022 and the Well-being plan published by 30 April 2023.

4.4 Developing the Well-being assessment is an extensive exercise and work will commence early in 2021

4.5 The timeline for completion of the Well-being assessment is indicated in the chart below

Key Actions	2021										2022				
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Develop approach to Wellbeing assessment	•	•													
Quantitative and qualitative data collection	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•							
Citizen engagement/involvement activities			•	•	•	•	•	•							
Workshops/focus group work/partner input						•	•	•							
Complete draft qualitative and quantitative analysis								•	•						
PSB meeting to approve draft WBA										•					
Welsh Translation, Easy Read version, Young People version etc										•					
WBA to Commissioner for Review										•	•				
Statutory Consultation										•	•				
Response to consultation												•	•		
Publish WBA														•	

4.6 Town and Community Councils are statutory consultees on both the Well-being assessment and the Well-being Plan

Duty on Larger Town and Community Councils

4.7 Section 40 (1) of the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on certain community and town councils to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives included in the Bridgend Well-being Plan that has effect in their areas.

4.8 A community or town council is subject to that duty only if its gross income or expenditure was at least £200,000 for each of the three financial years preceding the year in which the local well-being plan is published.

4.9 Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl Town Councils currently meet the criteria in Section 40 (1) of the Act

- 4.10 If a town or community council is subject to the duty it must publish a report each relevant financial year detailing the progress it has made in meeting the objectives in the local well-being plan
- 4.11 The Statutory Guidance Shared Purpose: Shared Future: Collective Roles (Community Councils) provides more detail. A copy of the guidance can be found [here](#)

Engagement with All Town and Community Councils

- 4.12 Community or Town Councils who do not meet the criteria for being subject to the duty in section 40 (1) of the Act but which still wish to contribute towards meeting the local objectives in the well-being plan are welcome to do so on a voluntary basis.
- 4.13 In recognition of the important role Town and Community Councils play in improving the well-being of Bridgend, the PSB invited representatives of the Town and Community Council Forum to join the Assets Board of the PSB.
- 4.14 At the Town and Community Council Forum meeting held on 27 November 2018, Cllr Baldwin and Cllr Blundell agreed to become members of the PSB Assets Sub Board and have since been actively involved in workshops and the activities of the sub board. The sub board focuses on issues such as improving and protecting green spaces to help local people to use our natural, built and heritage assets to improve their well-being.
- 4.15 Bridgend PSB would like to further involve individual Town and Community Councils and the Town and Community Council Forum in the development of the Well-being Assessment and the Well-being plan.
- 4.16 Town and Community Councils can help to ensure that the views of local people influence the Well-being plan and the PSB would welcome views on how this can be achieved.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 This report has no effect on policy framework and procedure rules

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality impact implications arising from this report

7. The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 The Bridgend Well-being Plan clearly sets out how the Well-being objectives contribute to the 7 Well-being goals outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 7.2 The plan outlines how the PSB will act in accordance with the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

7.3 They do this through the 5 ways of working which are evidenced throughout the Bridgend Well-being Plan.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report

9. Recommendation

9.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum considers the report and determine future actions.

Mark Shepherd
Chief Executive

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Background documents: None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

26 OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

FIT FOR THE FUTURE - BUDGET CONSULTATION 2020 ENGAGEMENT WITH TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Town and Community Council Forum of the Fit for the Future Budget Consultation process for 2020, with the aim to ensure effective engagement with Town and Community Councils and local residents, and to introduce a presentation from the Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:
- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
 - **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 - **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 In conjunction with this report a presentation on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-22 to 2024-25 will be given to set the scene for future years' savings requirements and budget pressures.
- 3.2 Each year the council carry out a consultation with the public around the MTFS proposals for the following year(s).
- 3.3 In 2018 the consultation team engaged with 5288 residents through a variety of

mechanisms such as face to face engagement, online and paper surveys, social media and the councils Citizens' Panel. In 2019 this engagement increased to 7,437 interactions.

- 3.4 We aim to ensure that the consultation is as wide reaching as possible, and are continuously looking for ways to engage with the public and improve participation. However due to the impact of Covid-19 we realise that this year our capacity to engage with residents face to face is greatly restricted, so it is more important than ever to ensure that we work together to ensure participation so that all residents and communities across the county borough have a voice in the consultation process.
- 3.5 Prior to the consultation in 2018 we wrote to all Town and Community Councils (TCCs) to inform them of the consultation. However last year we attended Town and Community Council meetings, giving an overview of the consultation and arranging for copies of posters and surveys to be delivered to TCCs where requested. We hope that given the success of these engagement sessions we are able to replicate this for 2020, albeit via remote meetings where necessary.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The proposed timeframe for the Fit for the Future Budget consultation 2020 is 19 October 2020 to 13 December 2020.
- 4.2 This year the consultation focusses on seven key areas:
- ❖ Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic;
 - ❖ Business and the economy;
 - ❖ Health and wellbeing;
 - ❖ Customer access to Civic offices;
 - ❖ Digitalisation;
 - ❖ Council Tax levels;
 - ❖ The future.
- 4.3 The survey aims to gain views from residents about which services have been most important to them during lockdown, how the council have performed during the Covid-19 pandemic, and what is important as we start to plan for the future, asking residents what our future priorities should be and how we should implement these.
- 4.4 Town and Community Councils will be provided with the electronic link to the consultation, e-poster and the explainer video. Paper copies are available where requested.
- 4.5 The consultation will be available in a variety of formats, including online and paper, standard, easy read, youth version and large print. All formats are available in Welsh and English.
- 4.6 During the live period BCBC officers will be available to remotely attend Town and Community Council meetings. The Consultation and Engagement team will liaise with Town and Community Council Clerks directly to arrange attendance at meetings.

4.7 The Consultation, Engagement and Equalities team will develop a calendar of events for the live period, so all requests to attend meetings or events should be made as soon as possible. Meetings and events will not take place after the closing date of 13 December 2020.

4.8 The MTFS 2020 Budget Consultation Report will be presented to Cabinet in January 2021.

5. Effect upon policy framework & procedure rules

5.1 There are no proposed changes to the policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 This is an information report. As such, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum receives and considers this report and gives consideration to engagement during the live period.

9.2 That the Town and Community Council Forum notes the presentation by the Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change.

Gill Lewis

Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change

Date: 26 October 2020

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Background papers:

None

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