

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: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Wednesday, 31 March 2021

Dear Councillor,

CABINET

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 6 April 2021** at **14:30**.

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 - 8
To receive for approval the Minutes of 23/2/2021.
4. Bridgend County Borough Local Nature Reserves 9 - 14
5. Allocations under Town and Community Council Capital Grant Scheme 2020-21 & Community Asset Transfer Fund 15 - 24
6. Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2021-22 25 - 36
7. Non Domestic Rates Discretionary Relief - Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2021-22 and Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme 2021-22 37 - 48
8. Section 33 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, Partnership Agreement between the Council and Cwm Taf Morgannwg NHS Trust 49 - 54
9. Dates of Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and Cabinet Committee Equalities meetings - 2021-22 55 - 58

By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you will save the Authority approx. **£2.20** in printing costs

10. School Modernisation Programme: Outcome of the Consultation on Bridgend West Schools' Modernisation Proposal 59 - 110

11. Urgent Items

To consider any items of business that by reason of special circumstances the chairperson is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with paragraph 2.4 (e) of the Cabinet Procedure Rules within the Constitution.

Note: 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 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.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal, HR & Regulatory Services

Councillors:

HJ David

CE Smith

Councillors

HM Williams

D Patel

Councillors

RE Young

NA Burnett

CABINET - TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
ON TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

CE Smith
NA Burnett

HM Williams

D Patel

RE Young

Officers:

Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Gill Lewis	Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Michael Pitman	Democratic Services Officer - Committees

622. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

623. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the 19/01/2021 be approved as a true and accurate record

624. CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2023 REVIEWED FOR 2021-2022

The Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change presented a report which sought endorsement of the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2023 reviewed for 2021-22 (Appendix A) prior to submission to Council for approval.

She advised that the Corporate Plan 2018-2023, described the Council's vision for Bridgend County Borough, our 3 well-being objectives and our organisational values and principles that underpin how we will work to deliver our priorities. It also represented the contribution to achieving the 7 national well-being goals.

The Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change explained that the Corporate Plan had been refreshed for 2021-22. This followed a corporate planning process with Corporate Directors / Heads of Service through each Directorate's departmental management team. The process was carried out between October 2020 and December 2020 to review progress and streamline the plan. The updated plan was listed at Appendix A of the report.

The Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change explained that due to Covid-19, the targets set had become redundant in that the performance indicators and data collected were not indicative of a normal year of performance.

She advised that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the updated plan on 14 January 2021 and made a number of constructive comments and where feasible, those changes had been added to the updated plan. The Committee would continue to monitor progress against the plan.

The Leader thanked Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change for the report. He stated that it was the most important report received by Cabinet and was pleased to see the high level of engagement from Members through the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was reflected in the plan.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help welcomed the report and stated that considering the position we had been in for the last year, she was pleased to see the partnership work and relationships had been strengthened. She explained that the prevention agenda was extremely important and had been recognised as such throughout the pandemic.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration supported the statement on performance indicators and stated that this was particularly noticeable in the education sector. He paid tribute to the head teachers, teachers, parents and children who had endured the difficulties during Covid-19 and said that the challenges had been met superbly.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations thanked all the officers who put the report together and made it such an easy read. She pointed out a number of key areas listed in the report and was pleased to see that the environmental aspect was key and had not been forgotten amongst others.

The Deputy Leader also thanked everyone involved in putting the report together and had full gratification for the staff who had stepped up during these times with many undertaking additional roles that they may not have been familiar with. He also thanked the finance team for successfully distributing £30 million worth of business grants to local businesses in need.

The Leader stressed that much of the detail in the report was important and crucial plans but was not an exhaustive list of everything that was carried out by BCBC. There were many services that were provided by BCBC but were not necessarily included in the Corporate Plan, however were just as important.

The Cabinet Member Communities thanked the team involved in bringing forward a thorough and cohesive strategy in terms of the heat networks. He stated that it was a small team, but they had worked tirelessly on these strategies and this had not gone unnoticed.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

Endorsed the Corporate Plan 2018-2023 reviewed for 2021-22 and recommended it to Council for approval on 24 February 2021.

625. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) 2021-22 TO 2024-25**

The Interim Chief Officer, Finance, Performance and Change presented a report containing the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-22 to 2024-25, attached at Annex 3, which included a financial forecast for 2021-25, a detailed revenue budget for 2021-22 and a Capital Programme for 2020-21 to 2030-31.

She advised that the MTFS was complimentary to the Council's Corporate Plan, and looked to provide the resources to enable the Council's well-being objectives to be met. The MTFS outlined the principles and detailed assumptions which drive the Council's budget and spending decisions,

outlined the financial context in which the Council is operating, and tried to mitigate any financial risks and pressures going forward, as well as taking advantage of any opportunities arising.

She added that the final local government settlement for 2021-22 is approximately two months later than previous years, due to the delay in the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review by the UK government, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The final settlement was not due to be announced until 2 March 2021 and as a result this budget was proposed on the basis of the provisional settlement received in December 2020. Further background was at section 4 of the report.

The Interim Chief Officer, Finance, Performance and Change outlined the financial implications as indicated at section 8 of the report. She emphasised that the biggest financial risks the Council was exposed to at the present time related to the uncertainty of Welsh Government funding, including funding to mitigate the effects of Covid-19, the increasing difficulty in the delivery of planned budget reductions as well as the identification of further proposals.

The Leader thanked the team for the work that had gone into the MTFs as well as the Capital Programme 2020-21 to 2030-31 especially with the pressures of the last year.

The Deputy Leader asked if there had been any alternative budget proposals.

The Interim Chief Officer, Finance, Performance and Change stated that there had been no alternative budgets proposed. The deadline for submitting an alternative was last Friday and nothing had been submitted before or since the deadline.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel for the time spent looking at the information, scrutinising and providing their input. He added that the input of Independent Members of the Panel were as equally valuable. The Deputy Leader commented on the 14 recommendations made by the Panel and elaborated on the responses of Cabinet.

The Leader stressed that the contributions of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and all elected Members outside of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees were also valued and considered when forming the budget and that was evident from the MTFs report presented.

The Leader stated that the budget proposals were not developed overnight, and that it was a long and scrutinised process that began almost immediately after the previous budget. He asked the Interim Chief Officer, Finance, Performance and Change to explain the timeline of this.

The Interim Chief Officer, Finance, Performance and Change explained that the process began shortly after the 2020 budget was set, which was end of February beginning of March 2020 and Cabinet were aware of the timeline for the 2021 budget proposals shortly after. She explained that the first Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) meeting was end of May- early June 2020 where the first discussions took place on the proposals. Various Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees were then given the opportunity to scrutinise the budget proposals of particular areas, discuss and offer recommendations. This was then presented to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee with all Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees invited to the discussions.

The Cabinet Member Communities stated that an increase of Council Tax by 3.9% was proposed in the MTFs, which was a better proposal than was initially expected at the

start of the process. He asked where we were in terms of our council tax proposals compared with other Local Authorities.

The Interim Chief Officer, Finance, Performance and Change explained that while she could not give a definitive answer as many Local Authorities had not had their budget meeting yet, early discussions with other local authorities had shown that most were looking at a similar increase in council tax and all local authorities in Wales were proposing some increase in council tax.

The Leader explained that many residents may struggle to pay council tax. He asked what was in place to help those in need of support.

The Interim Chief Officer, Finance, Performance and Change explained that eligible residents could apply for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which aimed to help low-income people or those who had recently lost their job as a result of Covid-19. She added that a few tweaks had been made to how council tax could be paid, one of which was allowing residents to pay the last 10 months as opposed to the first 10 months. She added that a personal and proactive approach had also been taken by understanding personal circumstances and support residents where ever possible with paying council tax and ensuring that eligible people are made aware of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The Leader stated the BCBC had funds that were in their reserves. He asked what these funds were used for.

The Interim Chief Officer, Finance, Performance and Change elaborated on the reserve funds and what each percentage of funds was earmarked for, which covered, but were not limited to:

- Council running costs
- Capital programme
- Asset Management
- Covid-19 fund
- Grant funding
- Major claims, service reconfigurations, Insurance and redundancies

The Leader stated that Auditors and Audit Wales inspected the Councils reserves regularly and could make recommendations on how the Council uses the reserves.

The Interim Chief Officer, Finance, Performance and Change elaborated on this stating that Auditors carefully looked at reserves and ensured that reserves were in fact earmarked, as part of their test criteria. They had also undertaken a piece of work on financial sustainability and commented favourably on BCBCs reserves in terms of financial planning.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations supported the MTFs report and budget proposals with the following supporting reasons:

- that all Members had the chance to provide input.
- A public consultation was undertaken on what goes into the budget and changes had been made as a result
- Wellbeing and future generations had been considered when developing the proposals which was evident by the number of aspects of this included in the appendices.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the MTFS 2021-22 to 2024-25, including the 2021-22 revenue budget and the Capital Programme 2020-21 to 2030-31, and recommend the following elements to Council for approval:

- The MTFS 2021-22 to 2024-25 (Annex 3).
- The Net Budget Requirement of £298,956,245 in 2021-22.
- A Band D Council Tax for Bridgend County Borough Council of £1,597.01 for 2021-22 (Table 17 of the MTFS).
- The 2021-22 budgets as allocated in accordance with Table 10 in paragraph 4.1.3 of the MTFS.
- The Capital Programme 2020-21 to 2030-31, attached at Appendix H of the MTFS.

626. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL STRATEGIES 2021-22 ONWARDS**

The Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change presented a report which outlined the Treasury Management Strategy 2021-22 (Appendix A), which included the Treasury Management Indicators, and the Capital Strategy 2021-22 to 2030-31 (Appendix B), which included the Prudential Indicators, and the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2021-22 (Schedule A of Appendix B), before submitting for approval by Council.

The Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change provided background to the Treasury Management and its relation to borrowing activities with regards to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA). Further background was at section 3 of the report.

She advised that the Treasury Management Strategy 2021-22 at Appendix A confirmed the Council's compliance with the CIPFA Code, which required that formal and comprehensive objectives, policies and practices, strategies and reporting arrangements were in place for the effective management and control of treasury management activities, and that the effective management and control of risk were the prime objectives of these activities. She outlined the various sections of the Treasury Management Strategy 2021-22 and the Capital Strategy 2021-22 to 2030-31.

The Leader welcomed the report and thanked the Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change for the comprehensive report and the team who worked hard to provide it.

The Deputy Leader stated in relation to the extension to lend money from £1million to £2million for a special purpose vehicle, this did not mean that the Council would be doing so, and justification would need to be provided for that level of borrowing.

The Deputy Leader asked for elaboration on the feasibility assessment and what level of detail would be required.

The Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change explained that the intentions of the recommendations from Internal Audit was to strengthen the link between feasibility and cost and effectiveness of work and to ensure that the Council learnt lessons from previous work in terms of planning.

CABINET - TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021

The Corporate Director Communities stressed that feasibility was an essential part of any project that was undertaken by the Council, and elements that were looked at were achievable, prudent, level of investment, whether planning permission was needed as well as risk. This formed a robust budget allocation which included a contingency fund of 10-15% to account for unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

The Leader echoed the Corporate Directors comments on feasibility and it showed the level of detail that went into projects and how much risk management and forward planning was undertaken.

RESOLVED: that Cabinet considered the report and noted the that the following be presented to Council for approval:

- the Treasury Management Strategy 2021-22 including the Treasury Management Indicators 2021-22 to 2023-24 (Appendix A);
- the Capital Strategy 2021-22 to 2030-31 including the Prudential Indicators 2021-22 to 2023-24 (Appendix B);
- the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2021-22 (Appendix B - Schedule A).

627. URGENT ITEMS

None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 APRIL 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to declare Bedford Park as a Local Nature Reserve and to extend the boundary of the existing Frog Pond Local Nature Reserve to include the area known as Village Farm Meadow. The report also seeks approval for future management approaches and resources for both sites.

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**:-

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.
2. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) exist to protect habitats and species and provide opportunities to increase awareness about the natural environment within communities. LNRs are established and managed by local authorities, following consultation with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. For a site to become an LNR it must have natural features of special interest to the local area, and the authority must either have a legal interest in the land or have an agreement with the owner to manage the land as a reserve. In Wales LNRs have been designated over a number of years, from 1970 to the present day, and are on-going.

- 3.2 There are currently 5 LNRs in Bridgend County Borough. Kenfig LNR is also a National Nature Reserve which is no longer managed by BCBC. These areas are classed as LNRs due to the specific species and habitats that exist within them and they are:

- Locks Common, Porthcawl
- Craig Y Parcau, Bridgend

- Frog Pond Wood, Pyle
- Tremains Wood, Brackla
- Kenfig Nature Reserve, Kenfig

Bedford Park

- 3.3 Bedford Park is a long, narrow 18 hectare park and is not currently an LNR. The majority of the park is owned by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) with the exception of two small areas of land which are under a lease/deed of dedication for 99 years from 09/06/1998 to the Millennium Commission for use as an informal recreation area.
- 3.4 The park is situated four miles north-west of the town of Bridgend in the broad east-west valley of the Nant lowerth Goch, close to the settlements of Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr.
- 3.5 The habitats on this post-industrial site are mainly successional, for example thick scrub habitats which have invaded the grasslands due to a lack of management and young secondary woodlands. The ravine oak woodland and wet (rhos) pasture are UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and Bridgend Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BLBAP) habitats. These are likely to represent the oldest and most valuable habitats on site possibly because they have been subject to less disturbance through time.
- 3.6 Smaller amounts of semi-improved dry grassland, tall herb and fern communities, tree-lines and eutrophic standing water are also represented in the interesting habitat mosaic at this site. These features provided the basis for declaring Bedford Park a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in 1995, which has been re-confirmed in subsequent SINC reviews.
- 3.7 Evidence of dormice was discovered at the site in the form of chewed hazelnuts in 2006. Continued survey effort is on-going at the park where 50 nest boxes have been installed and are subject to seasonal inspections.
- 3.8 The parkland and ironworks at Nant lowerth offer significant roosting and feeding opportunities for bats that are also UK and local BLBAP species.
- 3.9 A survey of butterflies and macro-moths carried out in 2006 highlighted good habitat for the UK BAP priority species the Double-line moth, and potential habitat for another UK BAP Priority Species, the Marsh Fritillary butterfly.

Frog Pond Wood

- 3.10 Whilst Frog Pond Wood is already an LNR, the area known as Village Farm Meadow, which is approximately 0.2 hectares and is next to Frog Pond Wood LNR, is not included within the LNR boundary. The freehold of the land belongs to BCBC.
- 3.11 Village Farm Meadow predominantly consists of purple moor grass that would benefit from enhanced management. Improved management of the grassland would provide an opportunity to make it far more species-rich. In its current state it will support small mammals and some invertebrates but would benefit from reinstating grassland management.

4 Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 Designating Bedford Park as an LNR and extending Frog Pond Wood LNR to include Village Farm Meadow is something that BCBC has the power to do and aligns with national and local policies.
- 4.2 Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 gives Local Authorities, in consultation with the NRW, the power to designate sites in their control as LNRs. In using these powers to declare Bedford Park as an LNR and include Village Farm Meadow within the boundary of the Frog Pond Wood LNR, BCBC would be committing to manage these areas as nature reserves and to protect them from inappropriate uses or development.
- 4.3 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to consider improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. This Act also means that, for the first time, public bodies must operate in a sustainable way. Public bodies need to make sure that when making their decisions they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in the future.
- 4.4 This is reinforced by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which seeks to reverse the decline and secure long-term resilience of biodiversity in Wales. Section 6 of this Act places a duty on public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions. In so doing, public authorities must also seek to promote the resilience of ecosystems.
- 4.5 In March 2018, BCBC adopted its Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Forward Plan 2018-22, which outlines how the Local Authority will comply with Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 4.6 Bedford Park and Village Farm Meadow are designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) under the provisions of Policy ENV4 of the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan (LDP) 2013-2022. The basis for these designations is that both sites have habitats and species of local, regional and national significance that require protection under the Town and Country Planning System.
- 4.7 Furthermore, the LDP includes Policy ENV5, which promotes the concept of Green Infrastructure approach. Green Infrastructure is considered as a strategically planned and delivered network of natural and man-made green (land) and blue (water) spaces that sustain natural processes. It is designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for society. BCBC was the first council in Wales to incorporate such a policy in its LDP.
- 4.8 The designation of Bedford Park as an LNR would require the creation of an LNR Management Plan for the site as exists for all other LNRs. This would set out the priority areas for action and the resource requirements. It is proposed that this management plan would be overseen by the Natural Resources Team and co-ordinate the action of other Council departments within specific responsibilities as

well as identify opportunities to work in partnership with suitable organisations and enter into agreements for management. The resource and management of the Ironworks compound and Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) would still be the responsibility of the Conservation and Design Team, while the Community Route will also still be under the control of the Rights of Way Team.

- 4.9 The extension of Frog Pond Wood LNR to include Village Farm Meadow would require a revision to the current management plan. This would be undertaken by the Natural Resources Team.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 The Council will need to use its powers under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, in consultation with the NRW, to designate Bedford Park as a new LNR and extend the boundary of Frog Pond Wood LNR.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An initial assessment has identified that there are no equality issues related to this report.

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

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment Template has been completed and a summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is below:

- Long-term: By seeking to secure the future management of these sites BCBC is seeking to improve these areas beyond their current conditions for use and access in the long-term.
- Prevention: Seeking resources to undertake improvements to Bedford Park and Village Farm Meadow will ensure that the condition of the site does not deteriorate further and that the biodiversity that exists there can be enhanced.
- Integration: The proposal will achieve this way of working by recognising the approaches that are proposed for support are those that have been identified by internal and external stakeholders and the proposal itself will integrate with other existing activity in the area as well as aligning with management approaches adopted on other LNRs.
- Collaboration: Future action in relation to Bedford Park and Village Farm Meadow as outlined above will take place in collaboration with internal departments and external partners to ensure a co-ordinated approach.
- Involvement: Proposals relating to the future of Bedford Park and Village Farm Meadow will be developed and delivered in close partnership with key stakeholders. Discussions and development with key BCBC officers will be undertaken.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 A new annual resource of £15,000 is considered as required to undertake management actions arising as a result of the declaration of Bedford Park as and LNR and the extension of Frog Pond Wood LNR and the delivery of their respective LNR management plans.
- 8.2 This resource will be provided on a recurring basis through the Communities Directorate Public Realm Fund and relates to additional requirements over and above those currently undertaken in relation to SAMs and Rights of Way, for which resources already exist.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:-

- Formally declare Bedford Park as a new Local Nature Reserve and extend the boundary of Frog Pond Wood Local Nature Reserve to include Village Farm Meadow;
- Authorise the Corporate Director Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer - Legal, HR & Regulatory Services, to establish a new management plan for Bedford Park and a revised management plan for Frog Pond Wood in line with the approach outlined in section 4 with the resources outlined in section 8.

Janine Nightingale
Corporate Director - Communities
8 March 2021

Contact Officer: leuan Sherwood
Group Manager: Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability

Telephone: (01656) 815333

E-mail: leuan.Sherwood@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Bridgend County Borough Council, Communities Directorate, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents:
None

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

ALLOCATIONS UNDER TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME 2020-21 & COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER FUND

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to allocate capital funding to Town and Community Councils to develop projects in line with the recommendations contained within the report from the Town and Community Council (T&CC) Capital Grant scheme for 2021-22 and Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Fund.

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**:

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.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more health and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on BCBC and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure 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 to deliver BCBC's well-being objectives.

3. Background

Town & Community Council Capital Grant scheme

- 3.1. The Council (BCBC) has allocated £50,000 for 2021-22 and subsequent years in the approved Capital Programme to support applications from T&CCs for capital projects.
- 3.2. Since 2017-18 funding under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme has prioritised applications supporting projects directly linked to BCBC's CAT programme, and

Cabinet has approved match funding of £302,373 in respect of 15 CAT related projects during this period in recognition of reducing Local Authority resources and the options available to T&CCs to deliver alternative services.

- 3.3 With the stated desire to more closely align the T&CC Capital grant scheme with the CAT process the approvals in 2020-21 were as follows:

T&CC	Total Project Value	Requested Funding	Project Summary
Coity Higher	£29,022.00	£14,511.00	Refurbish Litchard Park Play Area
Garw Valley	£26,000.00	£13,000.00	Essential external maintenance of Bettws Life Centre in partnership with Awen Cultural Trust
Laleston	£158,987.40	£20,000.00	Refurbishment of Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre
Newcastle Higher	£15,303.00	£7,651.00	Tarmac, lighting and upgrades of Penyfai playing fields
Porthcawl	£107,791.00	£20,000.00	Refurbishment of John Street Public Toilets
Pyle	£22,999.00	£11,000.00	Provision of play equipment at Waun Cimla Park
Total	£334,102.40	*£86,162.00	

* £50,000 allocation under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme 2020-21 + £36,162 Balances Carried forward from previous years

- 3.4 BCBC was allocated funding under the Welsh Government's Play Accessibility initiative and the improvements planned by Pyle Community Council upon the play area at Waun Cimla Park costing £22,999 have been funded from this source instead. This has meant that the £11,000 allocated to Pyle Community Council in 2020-21 is available to be added to the T&CC Capital Grant scheme in 2021-22.
- 3.5 Applications to the T&CC Capital grant scheme 2021-22 were made available in January 2021 with the deadline for receipt of completed applications of 26 February 2021 being established. Funding of up to £65,427.61 is currently available for grants in 2020-21:

Source of Funding	Amount Available
T&CC Capital Grant Annual Allocation	£50,000.00
Uncommitted funding from previous years	£4,427.61
Reinstatement of funds allocated to Pyle Community Council in 2020-21 (see paragraph 3.4)	£11,000.00

CAT Fund

- 3.6 The £1 million Sports Pavilion Fund originally established in February 2014 to promote the transfers of sports facilities was re-designated as the CAT Fund and the scope for funding widened under the MTFs 2019-20 to 2022-23 in February 2019 to also include building works on other Council facilities such as community centres and

public toilets. In February 2020 the Cabinet also approved that the CAT Fund should also be extended to include pitch and drainage improvements for playing fields. These measures were designed to ensure that the CAT programme is supported and as many assets as possible can be appropriately maintained, kept open and provide long-term community benefits.

- 3.7 Funding applications up to £50K are usually agreed by the CAT Steering Group with all sums in excess of this threshold being referred to Cabinet for approval.
- 3.8 To maximise the support that could be provided in 2020-21 as the T&CC Capital Grant scheme was oversubscribed, the CAT Fund was also able to be utilised as applications met the criteria for this fund, which enabled as many projects to be progressed as possible. This resulted in £65,000 being allocated under the CAT Fund for the following 4 projects having a combined total project value of £140,000:

T&CC	Total Project Value	Requested Funding	Project Summary
Cefn Cribwr	£40,000.00	£20,000.00	Renovation of Cae Gof Pavilion in support of the local rugby and football clubs
Cornelly	£10,000.00	£5,000.00	Continued upgrade of North Cornelly Community Centre
Maesteg	£50,000.00	£20,000.00	Establishment of Grant Fund to support sports clubs undertaking CATs in the Llynfi Valley
Pencoed	£40,000.00	£20,000.00	Continued upgrade of Pencoed Pavilion
Total	£140,000.00	£65,000.00	

- 3.9 Cabinet and the CAT Steering Group has, to date, allocated funding totalling £503,327.61 via the CAT Fund which is summarised in the table below and detailed at **Appendix A**:

Purpose of Funding	Amount Allocated
Building Refurbishment / Development	£343,995.32
Drainage & Pitch Improvements	£26,564.80
Maintenance Equipment	£112,767.49
Miscellaneous	*£20,000.00
Total Allocation	£503,327.61

* Match funding allocated to Maesteg Town Council to support sports clubs progress CAT related projects under via £50K CAT Fund

- 3.10 The Cabinet has previously confirmed their commitment to replenishing the CAT Fund as and when necessary, subject to the availability of finite capital resources, to encourage transfers and meet demand particularly where value for money can be clearly demonstrated post CAT.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1. The proposals received for the 2021-22 T&CC Capital Grant allocation are outlined below:

T&CC	Project	Total Project Cost	Requested Funding	CAT Related
Brackla	Essential repairs to Brackla Community Centre	£51,350.00	£25,675.00	Yes
Bridgend (1)	Accessibility adaptations and ground works to new Bridgend Town Hall	£30,000.00	£15,000.00	No
Bridgend (2)	Flooring at new Bridgend Town Hall	£11,000.00	£5,500.00	No
Cefn Cribwr	Footpath re-surfacing at lane near War Memorial	£30,029.00	£15,014.50	No
Cornelly (1)	Continued improvements to North Cornelly Community Centre	£14,450.00	£7,225.00	Yes
Cornelly (2)	Fencing improvements at North Cornelly Playing Fields	£10,000.00	£5,000.00	Yes
Coity Higher	Refurbishment of Heol Mair Play Area	£30,005.15	£15,002.57	Yes
Coychurch Lower	Phase 2 Refurbishments to Coychurch Play Area	£42,098.99	£20,000.00	Yes
Llangynwyd Middle	Contribution towards Drainage Improvements at Llangynwyd Playing Fields	£10,000.00	£5,000.00	Yes
Total		£228,933.14	£113,417.07	

CAT Related Projects

- 4.2 In considering proposals and their connection with the CAT programme it should be noted that 6 out of 9 projects are in respect of assets subject to transfers that have already been completed or transfers currently being finalised.
- 4.3 Brackla Community Council completed the transfer of the Brackla Community Centre in 2015 under a 99-year lease and at that time no funding was available to support the CAT. Usage of the Community Centre has grown in recent years with 25 weekly user groups each ranging in size from 5-50, covering all age ranges – from a weekly Bump and Baby Group, to children and adult Karate, a 50+ Keep Fit class and several weekly University of the Third Age Groups currently using the facility. The Community Council have recently commissioned a condition survey which has identified essential building works and fire safety and accessibility improvements. Brackla Community Council has determined that improvements should be progressed in stages with Phase 1 works having a total cost of £51,350 being prioritised with a contribution of £25,675 requested from BCBC.
- 4.4 Cornelly Community Council have previously been allocated £50,000 (roof replacement) and £10,000 (toilet refurbishment), in respect of North Cornelly Community Centre under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme in 2017-18 and 2019-20

respectively and a further £5,000 (electrical improvements) under the CAT Fund in 2020-21. Cornelly Community Council are looking to make further accessibility improvements so that users can more easily utilise the green space and the play area adjoining the Community Centre and are seeking funding of £7,225 towards a scheme costing £14,450.

- 4.5 Cornelly Community Council are also progressing the transfer of North Cornelly Playing Fields including the pavilion and have submitted an additional funding application to enable repairs to the fencing so that the site can be afforded greater protection while retaining defined entry and exit points so that public open space can be safeguarded. The project is estimated to cost £10,000 with a contribution of £5,000 requested from BCBC.
- 4.6 Coity Higher Community Council have previously indicated a desire to take over the day to day running of all the play areas managed by the Parks Department in their area and have previously been allocated funding under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme in respect of the play areas at Pendre Fields (£14,999.97) and Coity Castle (£15,416.27) in 2019-20 and Litchard (£14,511.00) in 2020-21 to replace play equipment. The Community Council's latest refurbishment proposal is in respect of the Heol Mair Play Area which is estimated to cost £30,005.15 and is currently managed by the Parks Department under a Deed of Dedication that may require BCBC to manage the project, if approved, while issues surrounding ownership of the play area are subject to further investigation.
- 4.7 Coychurch Lower Community Council are currently finalising the CAT of Coychurch Play Area and have secured funding of £55,251.46 working in partnership with BCBC under the Welsh Government's Play Accessibility initiative to progress the first stage of the project. The Community Council are looking to also undertake Phase 2 refurbishments to the play area at Coychurch and are seeking funding of £20,000.00 towards a project having a total value of £42,098.99.
- 4.8 Llangynwyd Rangers Boys and Girls Club are progressing a CAT of Llangynwyd Playing Fields. Llangynwyd Middle Community Council are seeking to support the project by making a contribution of £5,000 towards drainage improvements with match funding from BCBC of a further £5,000 requested. The Club have recently commissioned an independent drainage survey with the results expected to be finalised shortly which is likely to form the basis of future funding applications under the CAT Fund and other external funders such as Sports Wales and the Football Association of Wales Trust.
- 4.9 It should also be noted that the CAT Fund can only be used to support the transfer of CAT Priority 1 assets which is currently restricted to playing fields / pavilions, community centres and public toilets. As such the T&CC Capital grant scheme is the only source of grant funding administered by BCBC that can be used to support improvements to play areas, classed as being CAT Priority 2, which accounts for 2 out of the 6 related CAT applications.

Non CAT Related Projects

- 4.10 Bridgend Town Council is planning to relocate from its current offices at Carnegie House following the purchase of the former Registry Office at Ty'r Ardd at Sunnyside

from BCBC so that it can be redeveloped as a new Bridgend Town Hall. The Town Council have submitted two funding applications under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme to support improvements to the new Bridgend Town Hall which includes £15,000 towards accessibility adaptations and ground works and £5,500 for flooring for projects having a combined total cost of £41,000.

- 4.11 In 2012 Cefn Cribwr Community Council created a new village war memorial on Mynydd Bach Common which included tarmac resurfacing of Mountain Lane from Ty Fry Road to the memorial to allow unhindered access. The Community Council are looking to re-surface the footpath near the War Memorial as the next stage of the project which will cost £30,029.00 with a contribution of £15,014.50 sought from BCBC.

Collaborative Working

- 4.12 BCBC wishes to further expand its collaboration with T&CCs both formally and informally, to foster a culture of joint working, recognising the extremely important role that T&CCs can play in helping to manage and maintain facilities and services that otherwise may come under threat as BCBC continues to experience ongoing cutbacks to its overall budget. BCBC also acknowledges that in some cases, because of their direct link to local communities and community groups, T&CCs may be better placed to work in partnership at a local level to develop long-term sustainable solutions.
- 4.13 Paragraph 3.5 has confirmed that funding of up to £65,427.61 is available for allocation under the T&CC Capital scheme in 2021-22, however, funding applications from T&CCs outlined at paragraph 4.1 total £113,417.07 for 9 potential projects having a combined estimated project value of £228,933.14. While we are not currently in a position to fully fund all applications submitted by T&CCs in 2021-22, BCBC wishes to ensure that as many projects as possible can be progressed so that local communities can benefit in line with our corporate priorities. To maximise the support that can be provided to T&CCs this year it is proposed that the CAT Fund should once again also be utilised. Taking into account the information provided in the applications the proposed approvals under the T&CC Capital scheme 2021-22 and CAT Fund should be as follows:

Applicant	T&CC Capital Grant	CAT Fund
Brackla		£25,675.00
Bridgend (1)	£15,000.00	
Bridgend (2)	£5,500.00	
Cefn Cribwr	£15,014.50	
Cornelly (1)		£7,225.00
Cornelly (2)		£5,000.00
Coity Higher	£15,002.57	
Coychurch Lower	£14,910.54	
Llangynwyd Middle		£5,000.00
Total	£65,427.61	£42,900.00

- 4.14 It should be noted that it is proposed that Coychurch Lower Community Council should only be allocated £14,910.54 of the £20,000.00 requested as this takes into account the support already provided to them by BCBC under the Play Accessibility initiative.
- 4.15 All funding offers will be conditional on compliance with the stated terms and conditions of the T&CC Capital Grant scheme or CAT Fund and feedback will be available to the applicants.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There will be no direct effect on the Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An initial assessment has identified that there are no equality issues related to this report.

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

- 7.1 BCBC is committed to promoting sustainable development and to discharge our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The required Assessment Template has been completed and a summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is outlined below:

- Long-term: The projects proposed for support are those that have been identified by T&CCs themselves in response to current need and therefore propose to implement action that meets the requirements of current generations. A process of local needs identification followed by local led delivery in response to it will enhance the capacity of local organisations to take forward further schemes in the future.
- Prevention: The projects that are proposed for support if left undelivered may create a worsening of conditions currently being experienced by local residents. In addition if the schemes were to be delivered in future years any further deterioration may result in increased costs.
- Integration: The T&CC Capital grant scheme and CAT Fund will achieve this way of working by recognising the projects that are proposed for support are those that have been identified by the T&CCs themselves as best placed to utilise available funding to meet local needs in a holistic way.
- Collaboration: The proposals have been developed and will be delivered through a strong partnership between BCBC and those T&CCs that have applied for funding.
- Involvement: The T&CC Capital grant scheme and CAT Fund are delivered in close partnership with a range of local stakeholders. Discussions and development with the T&CCs has taken place through BCBC's CAT Officer and information about the funding opportunity was provided to all T&CCs in the County Borough.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. Following the 2020-21 allocations a balance of £65,427.61, based on the base budget of £50,000, non-committed funding of £4,427.61 from previous years, and reinstatement of £11,000 allocated and subsequently funded from an alternative source (see paragraph 3.5) is available for allocation under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme for the financial year of 2021-22. The CAT Fund has a current balance of £496,672.39 available for allocation.
- 8.2 It is proposed that £65,427.61 is allocated under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme 2021-22 and £42,900.00 under the CAT Fund as outlined in paragraph 4.13. On this basis there would be no balance to be carried forward to 2022-23 under the T&CC Capital Grant scheme as it is proposed that all funding is allocated.
- 8.3 The deadline for applications for the T&CC Fund for 2022-23 and its budget of £50,000 will be February 2022 and it is currently envisaged a decision will be made in March 2022. It is proposed that the criteria for future funding rounds be more closely aligned with the 2030 Decarbonisation agenda and a further report will be presented to Cabinet before the application process for 2022-23 is launched.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1. It is recommended that Cabinet:-
1. Approve the 9 T&CC projects outlined at paragraph 4.13 based on the allocations detailed which total £108,327.61 (£65,427.61 - T&CC Capital Grant scheme 2021-22 and £42,900.00 – CAT Fund).
 2. Receive a further report in relation to amendments to the T&CC Fund and its future aligned with the 2030 De-carbonisation agenda.

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES
March 2021

Contact Officers:	<u>T&CC Capital Grants</u> Ieuan Sherwood Group Manager: Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	<u>CAT Fund</u> Guy Smith Community Asset Transfer Officer
Telephone:	(01656) 815334	(01656) 815323
E-mail:	Ieuan.Sherwood@bridgend.gov.uk	Guy.Smith@bridgend.gov.uk
Postal Address:	Bridgend County Borough Council, Communities Directorate, Civic Building, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB	

Background documents:
None

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER (CAT) FUND APPROVED ALLOCATIONS

APPENDIX A

Page 23

Community Group	Council Asset	CAT Fund				
		Total Allocation	Building Refurbishment / Development	Drainage / Pitch Improvements	Maintenance Equipment	Miscellaneous
Bryncethin RFC	Bryncethin Playing Fields	£120,000.00	£110,000.00		£10,000.00	
Caerau FC	Hermon Road/Metcalf Street Playing Fields	£60,000.00	£50,000.00		£10,000.00	
Rest Bay Sports	Rest Bay Playing Fields	£55,220.00	£45,220.00		£10,000.00	
Pencoed Town Council	Pencoed Pavilion	*£95,000.00	*£95,000.00			
Carn Rovers	Cwm Garw Playing Fields	£20,333.77	£10,333.77		£10,000.00	
Cefn Cribwr Community Council	Match funding for Refurbishment of Cae Gof Playing Fields Pavilions	£20,000.00	£20,000.00			
Cornelly Community Council	Match funding for North Cornelly Community Centre	£5,000.00	£5,000.00			
Maesteg Town Council	Match funding towards the establishment of a £50K CAT Fund for Sports Clubs	£20,000.00				£20,000.00
Wyndham Bowls Club	Waunllwyd Bowls Pavilion & Green	£9,746.90			£9,746.90	
Kenfig Hill & Pyle Bowls Club	Pyle Bowls Pavilion & Green	£4,526.76			£4,526.76	
Bridgend Municipal Bowls Club	Bridgend Municipal Bowls Pavilion & Green	£7,531.78			£7,531.78	
Pontycymer Bowls Club	Waunbant Bowls Pavilion & Green	£5,612.40			£5,612.40	
Caerau / Caerau Welfare Bowls Clubs	Caerau Welfare Park Bowls Green	£9,630.00			£9,630.00	
Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club	Cae Gof Bowls Pavilion & Green	£5,232.38			£5,232.38	
Gilfach Goch / Gilfach Goch Ladies Bowling Clubs	Evanstown Welfare Park Bowls Pavilion & Green	£7,138.98			£7,138.98	
Ogmore Vale Bowls Club	Caedu, Ogmore Park Bowls Pavilion & Green	£10,000.00			£10,000.00	
Maesteg Bowls Club	Maesteg Welfare Park Bowls Green	£10,000.00			£10,000.00	
Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club	Cae Gof Playing Fields (Bowls Pavilion, Bowls Green + 2 x Rugby Pitches	£138,587.02	£103,441.55	£26,564.80	£8,580.67	
Total		£503,327.61	£343,995.32	£26,564.80	£112,767.49	£20,000.00

* Maximum contribution towards building works £75K approved by Cabinet on 21/05/19 and a further £20K approved under Delegated Authority on 27/03/20 by the Cabinet Member, Communities with improvements still being progressed

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 APRIL 2021

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

HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT DELIVERY PLAN 2021-22

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Update members on the Housing Support Grant Delivery Priorities for 2021-22;
- seek approval to waive the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in accordance with Contract Procedure Rule 3.2.9.3 for two existing Housing Support Grant funded contracts;
- seek approval to use the Housing Support Grant allocation to continue service delivery for the Phase 2 low level supported accommodation project, effective from 1st April 2021;
- suspend the relevant parts of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules with regards to the requirement to tender for a contract and agree for the Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change to enter into a contract with Pobl, in order to continue service delivery of an existing supported accommodation project;
- seek approval to offer an uplift of up to 5% in the contract value of all existing Housing Support Grant funded contracts that BCBC has with third sector housing related support providers, effective from 1st April 2021, on the basis that any actual uplift directly materialises in improved terms and conditions of the workforce.

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** – ensure 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 The Welsh Government Housing Support Grant (HSG), came into being in April 2019, following the Welsh Government funding flexibilities pathfinder project. It brings together three former grants - Supporting People Programme, Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement Grant.

3.2 The HSG is an early intervention grant programme to support activity which prevents people from becoming homeless, stabilises their housing situation, or helps potentially homeless people to find and keep accommodation.

3.3 HSG Practice Guidance requires Local Authorities to develop an annual HSG Delivery Plan, which should include the following headings:

- Introduction
- Delivery Priorities
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Local Commissioning Plan
- Local Spend Plan
- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Annex A: Homelessness Statutory Duties

3.4 Following the publication of the draft Welsh Government budget Local Authorities are given an indicative HSG allocation and are required to submit to Welsh Government their Delivery Priorities, Stakeholder Engagement, Spend Plan and Annex A: Homelessness Statutory Duties, from their annual HSG Delivery Plan. An offer of grant is then made, following the publication of the final Welsh Government budget.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) HSG allocation from Welsh Government for 2021-22 is £7,833,509.33. This represents an increase of £1,878,966.49 (32%) from the allocation in 2020-21 of £5,954,542.84. The increase is as a result of an additional £40m being allocated to the total HSG budget by Welsh Government. The additional monies have been allocated to Local Authorities based on the existing HSG distribution formula. Welsh Government have confirmed that whilst budget allocations are on an annual basis, the increased HSG allocation to Local Authorities should be treated as the new baseline for HSG funding.

4.2 A Frequently Asked Questions document circulated by Welsh Government, following the 2021-22 indicative award, states that the increase is intended to help to deliver the transformational change required to achieve the goal of ending

homelessness in Wales. The expectations of Welsh Government throughout the Covid-19 pandemic detailed at section 4.10.1 below and the current situation in Bridgend outlined at section 4.10.2 below will therefore shape the type of provision that will be required in the future.

- 4.3 Further it is not expected that the increase in funding will be used solely for new services, but to build upon existing provision. This includes Housing First projects, 24/7 support services and to continue those projects that received support from Welsh Government's Covid-19 Homelessness and Housing Related Support Services Phase 2 funding ('Phase 2 funding') for 2020/21 only. The need for these services has increased and therefore additional funding will be required to ensure supply meets demand.
- 4.4 As part of ongoing strategic planning BCBC Housing service engage with a diverse range of stakeholders including through attendance at various forums such as; BCBC Landlord Forum, Community Safety Partnership, Homeless Cell, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. As such there is ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders, including Health, Police, Probation, Registered Social Landlords, Social Services and support providers. Ongoing consultation with service users is undertaken by service providers and through established contract monitoring processes.
- 4.5 Regional engagement and collaboration is a Welsh Government requirement for the HSG. The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Collaborative Group, takes forward regional working, on behalf of the region. A quarterly meeting is attended by both officers and elected members of the three local authority areas as well as key stakeholders, including; support providers, registered social landlords, Probation and Public Health Wales. Specifically in preparation for the 2021-22 HSG Delivery Plan across the three local authority areas, the HSG Regional Collaborative Group developed a strategy to engage with stakeholders. Two web-based surveys were created, one for service users and one for other stakeholders. The links for these were shared widely amongst networks across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region. In addition to stakeholder engagement a needs assessment and analysis was undertaken.
- 4.6 In addition to the above, Bridgend's existing Homelessness Strategy 2018 – 22 has informed the HSG Delivery Priorities for 2021-22. The Strategy was developed on a co-production basis with a broad range of stakeholders, including those with lived experience and following findings from an independent Homelessness Review in 2018.
- 4.7 In line with the HSG requirements set out at section 3.4 a submission of BCBC's Delivery Priorities, Stakeholder Engagement, Spend Plan and Annex A: Homelessness Statutory Duties has been made to Welsh Government. Following this submission a funding award of £7,833,509.33 has been received. The HSG Delivery Priorities for 2021-22 are highlighted in section 4.8 to section 4.12 below.
- 4.8 **Improve the accessibility and availability of support and accommodation options for all service users.**

- 4.8.1 It is clear that people in housing need are presenting with increased and often multifaceted support needs, which impact on the ability to maintain accommodation. Increased and more varied models of support are required to meet these needs.
- 4.8.2 Examples include longer term supported accommodation models, such as a 'wet house' for those with alcohol dependency and increased 'Housing First' provision. The availability of suitable accommodation, both in terms of the location and building facilities are key to the ability to drive forward these type of projects. In addition to supported accommodation, increased capacity for services who support those with mental health and substance misuse issues will be prioritised. Support to a regional health outreach team, delivered in partnership with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board is one project which will be supported.
- 4.9 **Tackle the need to sleep rough, ensuring that where it occurs rough sleeping is rare, brief, and non-recurring.**
- 4.9.1 BCBC will be seeking to better understand the barriers faced by rough sleepers and the steps that can be taken to overcome them. Support will continue for existing services in place to prevent and react to rough sleepers, including a Rough Sleepers Intervention Service, an Engagement Officer and Housing First service. Taking a multi-agency approach and looking at best practice models will further support this aim.
- 4.10 **Safeguard vulnerable persons throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- 4.10.1 Throughout the pandemic Welsh Government have been clear in their expectations that all local authorities must ensure that no individual is street homeless and everyone in need is to be provided with suitable temporary accommodation. As part of Welsh Governments 'Phase 1' to approaching this challenge a Guidance Note, from the Minister for Housing and Local Government, extended the definition of vulnerable with regards to the 'priority need' criteria set out in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. In effect this makes all homeless persons eligible for an offer of temporary accommodation. This Guidance Note remains in place, whilst BCBC awaits further guidance from Welsh Government, with regards to the longer term position.
- 4.10.2 As a result BCBC Housing Service has responded to this directive in a number of ways. In addition to using existing temporary and emergency provision to its best advantage, a range of additional temporary accommodation units have been secured, largely from the tourism sector, such as hotels and bed and breakfasts. The demand on homelessness services during this time has been significant. For the period 1st January to 31st December 2020 BCBC received 1505 homelessness applications. Whilst support enabled some of these cases to be resolved, without further action, 1055 (70%) were provided with temporary accommodation. As at 21st March 2021 BCBC were temporarily accommodating 196 households, representing a 165% increase, compared to the 74 households temporarily accommodated on 23rd March 2020. Of the 196 households in temporary accommodation on 21st March 2021 78% were single person households.
- 4.10.3 In addition to providing accommodation BCBC has responded to the express support needs of those presenting which, as can be seen from the snapshot data on 21st March 2021 detailed above, has been mostly single person households.

4.10.4 The impact of the pandemic is likely to be felt throughout 2021-22 and it will be a priority to ensure that there is sufficient temporary accommodation and associated support services, both in terms of meeting immediate support needs and to support households to secure long term accommodation. Where current support projects are effective, it is intended to enhance or expand these services, where possible but where gaps are identified the procurement of new services will be explored.

4.11 Prioritise preventative services, bringing prevention as ‘upstream’ as possible.

4.11.1 Prevention and preventing the need for more costly interventions is an underpinning aim of HSG funded services. It is widely accepted that the earliest preventions are most effective and most cost efficient. BCBC will continue to prioritise services which support individuals before a situation reaches crisis point, acting to prevent problems occurring in the first place, or getting worse. Support will continue for a range of existing services that contribute to this agenda, such as mediation and support services which work with individuals, who need support to maintain their accommodation. These include specialist services for older persons, young people and those released from the secure estate. ‘Early Doors’, a project which supports tenants and landlords in the private rent sector, ideally prior to the stage where a notice of eviction is served, is a specific example.

4.11.2 As the longer term social and economic impact of the pandemic is realised, there is the possibility that there will a further increase in the number of households who find themselves threatened with homelessness.

4.12 To work with regional partners across Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

4.12.1 It is acknowledged that some services, for example more specialist services or those where it is appropriate to benefit from greater economies of scale are best taken forward on a regional basis. BCBC will continue to commit to working with its regional partners, including as part of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Collaborative Group to overcome shared challenges, such as the common pressure on homelessness services and increasing complexity in the support needs of those accessing services.

4.13 In order to support BCBC’s HSG Delivery Priorities approval is requested to waive BCBC’s Contract Procedure Rules in order to uplift two existing contracts, as detailed in Table 1 below. An uplift in these services will provide additional resources to meet the support needs of increased presentations, including the increased numbers accommodated in temporary accommodation, highlighted at section 4.10.2. The cost of the proposed uplifts will be met from BCBC’s HSG allocation.

Table 1

Current Service	Current Support Provider	Current Contract Details	Details of Proposed Uplift
<p>Generic housing related floating support service, providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drop in advice at a town centre based hub 6 days a week, as well as drop in surgeries throughout the county borough. ➤ Short term support for up to 12 weeks ➤ Longer term support for up to 18 months. ➤ Group courses, such as the 'Tenancy Ready Course' 	Pobl	<p>Contract Period = 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2024</p> <p>Annual Contract Value = £350,000</p>	<p>Annual cost of proposed uplift = £62,463.63</p> <p>Total cost of proposed uplift over the remaining contract period, assuming a start date of 01/04/2021 = £234,623.66</p> <p>Percentage uplift in contract value = 11.2%</p>
<p>Known as 'START' the service supports young people and adults leaving the secure estate, supporting individuals prior to their release from custody and in the community after release.</p>	Taff Housing Association	<p>Contract Period = 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2024</p> <p>Annual Contract Value = £60,000</p>	<p>Annual cost of proposed uplift = £27,940</p> <p>Total cost of proposed uplift over the remaining contract period, assuming a start date of 01/04/2021 = £104,947.23</p> <p>Percentage uplift in contract value = 29.1%</p>

4.14 A waiver is sought under the Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs), which state:

Waiver from obtaining quotations or tendering will only apply to the criteria listed in Rules 3.2.1 to 3.2.9 below and any waiver must be obtained...

(a) in respect of any new Contract or the modification of an existing Contract (including any extension of a Contract) from the Appropriate Body where the value of the Contract or modification of a Contract exceeds £100,000

...

3.2.9.3 Where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (i) *the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which the Council having been duly diligent could not have foreseen;*
- (ii) *the modification does not alter the overall nature of the Contract;*
- (iii) *any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original Contract or Framework Agreement.*

For the purpose of the calculation of the price the updated figure shall be the reference figure when the Contract includes an indexation clause.

The proposed uplifts will provide additional resources to existing services and as such will not alter the overall nature of the existing contracts and as can be seen in Table 1 above the increase in price does not exceed 50% of the original contract value. The need to modify the contracts to provide the uplift is required in order to allow for additional resources to be provided which has been brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting impact on housing services, as highlighted at section 4.10, as well as the expected long term social and economic impact of the pandemic. The resulting impact and increase in demand could not have been foreseen by the Council, having been duly diligent. As such it is suggested that the conditions set out in BCBC Contract Procedure Rule 3.2.9.3 are satisfied.

- 4.15 To further support BCBC's HSG Delivery Priorities approval is also requested to suspend the CPRs and directly enter into a contract with Pobl to allow for the continuation of an existing supported accommodation project, currently funded via Welsh Government 'Phase 2 Funding'.
- 4.16 Following a successful bid to Welsh Government for 'Phase 2 Funding' Pobl have entered into a lease agreement for 11 units of accommodation in the Maesteg area. Two staff members are in place to support those with low level support needs, such as those ready to step down from more intensive supported accommodation models. The current funding comes to an end at the 31st March 2021 and, in order for continued delivery, a new contract and further funding is required. Continuation of the project is key in supporting the HSG Delivery Priorities, through provision of much needed additional units of accommodation, with on site support. Without continued funding vulnerable service users would be made homeless, which would place additional pressures on homelessness services, as well as limiting future housing and support options for those in need.
- 4.17 It is therefore proposed that Phase 2 Funding continues to be funded from BCBC's HSG allocation and a contract be entered into with Pobl until 31/12/2022 with an option to extend for up to 24 months at a maximum total cost of £283,674.32 (£75,522.34 per annum). It is suggested that this length of contract is necessary in order to give certainty to vulnerable service users accommodated within the project. The contract period will also align with a wider contract for supported accommodation for vulnerable services users. The length of contract and alignment with the contract period for provision of a similar nature will allow for a full review to be undertaken after a reasonable period of time and consideration to be given to recommissioning services collectively at the end of the contract period.
- 4.18 Cabinet needs to be aware that in awarding this contract to Pobl, the Council is exposed to the risk of potential challenge from other providers of such services. The

Council's CPRs ensure that procurement exercises are lawful and carried out in compliance with Public Procurement Law, in particular the Public Contract Regulations 2015. This report proposes entering into a contract with Pobl without any competition which breaches the requirements of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and therefore requires Cabinet's approval to set aside the Council's CPRs.

- 4.19 The risk of challenge is not possible to quantify, however given the need to continue service provision to vulnerable people, the pressures on current homelessness services, as highlighted at section 4.10.2 and the limited availability of suitable accommodation to deliver such services, the Council may take the view that the potential for challenge is one it is prepared to accept. In addition, due to the specialist nature of provision there are relatively limited providers of such services.
- 4.20 Any new services to be commissioned will be procured in line with BCBC's Contract Procedure Rules.
- 4.21 As detailed in section 4.3 above Welsh Government have stated that not all increased HSG funding should necessarily be used to commission additional resources. Welsh Government have suggested that Local Authorities consider utilising funding to reward staff operating in the sector as per a recommendation from an expert Homelessness Action Group.
- 4.22 In July 2019 the Minister for Housing and Local Government commissioned an expert Homelessness Action Group to consider the actions needed to create a new policy landscape to achieve the goal of ending homelessness. On 23rd November 2020 the Minister confirmed that all recommendations from the Group were accepted in principle.
- 4.23 The Group's report of March 2020, highlighted as a background document to this report included a recommendation 'to ensure the workforce is effectively supported'. Part of the recommendation is to make roles and terms and conditions of staff as attractive as possible to prospective and current staff. The report highlighted that there is a feeling 'of being poor relations both in employment terms and when joint working with other professions'. The report further highlighted increase staff turnover, high workloads, low recognition for the pressures and expertise people have and the pressure to deliver against targets.
- 4.24 In acknowledgement of the value BCBC places on the workforce of the third sector providers it commissions and to support the recommendation of the Homelessness Action Group, approval is requested to award an uplift of up to 5% in the contract value of all existing HSG funded contracts that BCBC has with third sector providers, effective from 1st April 2021.
- 4.25 The funding will be held by the Council and prior to any uplift BCBC will liaise with third sector providers to ensure that any uplift award will directly result in improved terms and conditions of the workforce. Where appropriate, consultation with appropriate Trade Unions will take place at this stage. The final percentage increase in each contract, will be agreed following discussions with each provider and will be dependant upon the providers commitment to the increase terms and conditions of the workforce. Each contract will be considered individually to ensure the providers comply with the terms and conditions. If the Provider does not comply

with the improved terms and conditions of the workforce, an uplift will not be provided. The maximum cost of this proposal, assuming all providers receive a 5% uplift is approximately £290,000 per annum.

- 4.26 Further guidance and direction is expected from Welsh Government with regards to long term proposals in relation to this agenda and any future proposals will be submitted to members for consideration.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening has been completed and, it is deemed there are no equality implications arising from this report.

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

- 7.1 The report contributes to the following goals within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A globally responsive Wales

- 7.2 The five ways of working have been considered in the preparation of this report and are summarised below:

- Long term – HSG funded services will support individuals to meet their short term support needs, with the aim of delivering long term positive outcomes, supporting individuals to achieve their goals and aspirations,
- Prevention – HSG services are preventative in nature and are designed to reduce the burden on more costly interventions,
- Integration – HSG funded services support economic, social and cultural outcomes, both at an individual level and in wider communities.
- Collaboration – BCBC effectively engages with a range of internal and external partners on a local and regional basis,
- Involvement – As part of ongoing strategic planning BCBC Housing engages with a diverse range of stakeholders including service users and those with lived experience.

- 7.3 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 The combined total cost of the proposed uplift in contract value for the two contracts detailed at section 4.13 is £339,570.89 (£90,403.63 per annum).

- 8.2 The total cost of the proposed contract award detailed at section 4.17 is £283,674.32 (£75,522.34 per annum)
- 8.3 The maximum additional cost of the proposal at section 4.24 is approximately £290,000 for 2021-22, assuming all providers receive a 5% uplift on current contract value.
- 8.4 All additional costs highlighted in this report will be funded from BCBC's Housing Support Grant allocation.
- 8.5 BCBC receives its Housing Support Grant allocation on an annual basis from Welsh Government and any expenditure through the grant, is subject to the year on year continuation of funding received from Welsh Government.

9.0 Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- notes the Housing Support Grant Delivery Priorities for 2021-22;
- approves a waiver of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules under Rule 3.2.9.3 from the relevant parts of the Contract Procedure Rules for the procurement of the services provided under the Contract with Pobl for the generic housing related support service and the Contract with Taff Housing for the support service for young people and adults leaving the secure estate and approves the uplift in the contract value, as detailed within this report and delegate authority to the Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal, HR and Regulatory Services, to enter into any agreements or documents which may be required to give effect to such variations,
- approves using the Housing Support Grant allocation to continue service delivery for the Phase 2 low level supported accommodation project, effective from 1st April 2021;
- suspends the relevant parts of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules with regards to the requirement to tender for a contract and agrees for the Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change to enter into a contract with Pobl, in order to continue service delivery of the Phase 2 low level supported accommodation project.
- delegates authority to the Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change to approve the final terms of the contract with Pobl for the Phase 2 low level supported accommodation project on behalf of the Council and to arrange execution of the contract on behalf of the Council subject to such delegated authority being exercised in consultation with the Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services;

- approves an uplift of up to 5% in the contract value of all existing Housing Support Grant funded contracts that BCBC has with third sector housing related support providers, effective from 1st April 2021 subject to the providers ensuring that any actual uplift directly materialises in improved terms and conditions for the workforce and there is compliance with the terms and conditions of each individual contract BCBC has entered into with the providers,
- delegate authority to the Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal, HR and Regulatory Services, to vary those existing Housing Support Grant funded contracts that BCBC has with third sector housing related support providers to apply the uplift of up to 5% in the contract value and enter into any agreements or documents which may be required to give effect to such variations;

Gill Lewis
Interim Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change
6th April 2021

Contact officer: Ryan Jones
Strategic Housing Commissioning Manager

Telephone: (01656) 643525

Email: Ryan.jones@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Ravens Court, Brewery Lane, Bridgend, CF31 4AP

Background documents:

BCBC Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/9376/homelessness-strategy-2018-to-2022.pdf>

Housing Support Grant Practice Guidance 2020

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-02/housing-support-grant-practice-guidance.pdf>

Report from the Homelessness Action Group for the Welsh Government March 2020

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/homelessness-action-group-report-march-2020_0.pdf

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 APRIL 2021

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

NON DOMESTIC RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF - RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY RATES RELIEF SCHEME 2021- 22 AND ENHANCED HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE RATES RELIEF SCHEME 2021-22

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for Cabinet to adopt the Welsh Government's Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2021-22 and the Welsh Government's Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme for 2021-22.

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 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.

- 2.2 The schemes aim to help businesses to reduce their business rates charges for the period 01/04/21 – 31/03/22 in order to support continued occupation of High Street and retail premises, and to support those in the hospitality, leisure and tourism sectors.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Welsh Government has announced a temporary extension of the current Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme for 2021-22 to support eligible occupied properties by offering 100% support to businesses within the retail, leisure and hospitality sector with a rateable value under £500,000. The Scheme sets out the various categories of retail, leisure and hospitality premises that will benefit from relief. These are detailed in **Appendix A** of the report, but broadly the premises included are those that have a rateable value of under £500,000, are occupied, and are shops, pubs and restaurants, gyms, performance venues and hotels across Wales. The Welsh Government has also announced that an Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief

Scheme will be available for the 2021-22 financial year, to support eligible occupied businesses within the hospitality, leisure and tourism sector in Wales with a rateable value over £500,000. The Scheme sets out the various categories of hospitality, leisure and tourism premises that will benefit from relief. These are detailed in **Appendix B** of the report, but broadly the premises included are those that have a rateable value of over £500,000, are occupied, and are hotels, holiday parks and stadia across Wales.

- 3.2 The Schemes will be administered by the Council as a 'reimbursing local authority' that uses discretionary relief powers (under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988). It will be for individual local billing authorities to decide to grant relief under section 47 but Welsh Government will reimburse local authorities for the relief that is provided.
- 3.3 The Welsh Government will provide 100% rates relief for eligible properties for the 2021-22 financial year.
- 3.4 The Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme for 2021-22 will run alongside the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme.
- 3.5 It is estimated that there will be in the region of 1,000 eligible ratepayers across the borough that could potentially benefit from having no rates to pay for the 2021-22 financial year under these Schemes.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Council can elect to adopt the Schemes but does not have discretion over any elements of the Schemes. It is proposed that the Council adopts the Schemes for 2021-22 by making the appropriate determination and decision, as required by Sections 47(1) (a) and 47(3) respectively of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
- 4.2 Full details of the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme for 2021-22 and the Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme for 2021-22 along with the guidance on the application of the Schemes has been received from Welsh Government. If the Schemes are adopted, those businesses benefiting from the schemes in 2020-21 and still meeting the criteria set by Welsh Government will be awarded the relief for 2021-22 automatically. However application forms will be available for all new qualifying business properties. It is proposed that, upon receipt of a valid application form, the decision to award relief be made by the Revenues Manager providing all terms of the Schemes are met.
- 4.3 The Chief Executive has delegated power to award relief to all qualifying businesses in accordance with the Non-domestic Rates Relief Scheme following receipt of the information requested by Welsh Government.

5 Effect upon policy framework and procedures rules

- 5.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An initial assessment has identified that there are no equality implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 Once adopted, the Council is obliged to comply with the Welsh Government's rules in applying the Schemes. These are detailed in **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**.

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 direct financial implications to the Council in adopting the scheme. The full value of the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief and the Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief awarded will be reimbursed by the Welsh Government.

9. Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 9.1 Adopt the Non Domestic Rates Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme for 2021-22 and the Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme for 2021-22 as detailed within **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**.

Gill Lewis
Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
16 March 2021

Contact Officer: Helen Rodgers
Revenues Manager

Telephone: 01656 643194

Email: Helen.Rodgers@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Ravens Court

Brewery Lane
Bridgend
CF31 4AP

Background documents:

Non-domestic Rates Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme for
2021-2022 in Wales Guidance

Non-domestic Rates Enhanced Hospitality and Leisure Rates Relief Scheme for
2021-2022 in Wales Guidance

APPENDIX A

Resolution

(a) The Council determines that, unless hereditaments are excepted under (b) below, Section 47(1)(a) (discretionary relief) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 will apply as regards the hereditaments described in 'The Scheme' in accordance with the rules described in relation to those hereditaments.

It is reasonable for the Council to make this decision having regard to the interests of persons liable to pay business rates set by the Council.

(b) Relief is not available under this resolution in respect of any hereditament which is occupied by -

- the Welsh Ministers, a Minister of the Crown or government department,
- any public authority (including any local authority),
- the holder of any public office, or
- the Crown

(c) The Council decides, under Section 47(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, that during the billing year 2021-22 'The Scheme' shall apply to the hereditaments described.

The Scheme to be Adopted

Introduction

This relief is aimed at businesses and other ratepayers in Wales in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors, for example shops, pubs and restaurants, gyms, performance venues and hotels.

The Welsh Government will provide grant funding to the 22 local authorities in Wales to provide the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme to eligible ratepayers for 2021-22. The scheme aims to provide support for eligible occupied properties by offering a discount of 100% on the non-domestic rates bill for a property, to all eligible premises. The scheme will apply to all eligible ratepayers with a rateable value of £500,000 or less.

Properties that will benefit from this relief will be occupied retail, leisure and hospitality properties – such as shops, pubs and restaurants, gyms, performance venues and hotels across Wales. More detailed eligibility criteria and exceptions to the relief are set out below.

Grant support should be provided to each eligible business as a reduction to its rates bill based on occupation between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

It is intended that, for the purposes of this scheme, retail properties such as, 'shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments' will mean the following (subject to the other criteria in this guidance).

Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public

- Shops (such as florists, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off-licences, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets, etc)
- Charity shops
- Opticians
- Pharmacies
- Post offices
- Furnishing shops or display rooms (such as carpet shops, double-glazing, garage doors)
- Car or caravan showrooms
- Second hand car lots
- Markets
- Petrol stations
- Garden centres
- Art galleries (where art is for sale or hire)

Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public

- Hair and beauty services
- Shoe repairs or key cutting
- Travel agents
- Ticket offices, eg. for theatre
- Dry cleaners
- Launderettes
- PC, TV or domestic appliance repair
- Funeral directors
- Photo processing
- DVD or video rentals
- Tool hire
- Car hire
- Estate and letting agents

Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of food and / or drink to visiting members of the public

- Restaurants
- Drive-through or drive-in restaurants
- Takeaways
- Sandwich shops
- Cafés
- Coffee shops
- Pubs
- Bars or Wine Bars

We consider assembly and leisure to mean the following.

Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of sport, leisure and facilities to visiting members of the public (including for the viewing of such activities) and for the assembly of visiting members of the public

- Sports grounds and clubs
- Sport and leisure facilities
- Gyms
- Tourist attractions
- Museums and art galleries
- Stately homes and historic houses
- Theatres
- Live Music Venues
- Cinemas
- Nightclubs

Hereditaments that are being used for the assembly of visiting members of the public

- Public halls
- Clubhouses, clubs and institutions

We consider hotels, guest & boarding premises and self-catering accommodation to mean the following.

Hereditaments where the non-domestic part is being used for the provision of living accommodation as a business

- Hotels, Guest and Boarding Houses,
- Holiday homes,
- Caravan parks and sites

Other considerations

To qualify for the relief, the hereditament should be wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purposes. In a similar way to other reliefs, this is a test on use rather than occupation. Therefore, hereditaments which are occupied but not wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purpose will not qualify for the relief. For the avoidance of doubt, hereditaments which closed temporarily due to the government's advice on Covid-19 should be treated as occupied for the purposes of this relief.

The above list is not intended to be exhaustive as it would be impossible to list all the many and varied retail, leisure and hospitality uses that exist. There will also be mixed uses. However, it is intended to be a guide for local authorities as to the types of uses that the Welsh Government considers for this purpose to be eligible for relief. Local authorities should determine for themselves whether particular properties not listed are broadly similar in nature to those above and, if so, to consider them eligible for the relief. Conversely, properties that are not broadly similar in nature to those listed above should not be eligible for the relief. As the grant of the relief is discretionary, local authorities may choose not to grant the relief if they consider that appropriate, for example where granting the relief would go against the local authority's wider objectives for the local area.

Ratepayers may view that they have been able to continue trading at a substantial level during Coronavirus restrictions and as such would be inclined to not accept the relief. Arrangements for opting out of receiving relief should be made with the relevant local authority.

Types of hereditaments that are not considered to be eligible for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief

Any hereditament with a rateable value over £500,000.

The following list sets out the types of uses that the Welsh Government does not consider to be retail, leisure or hospitality use for the purpose of this relief and which would not be deemed eligible for the relief. However, it will be for local authorities to determine if hereditaments are similar in nature to those listed and if they would not be eligible for relief under the scheme.

Hereditaments that are being used wholly or mainly for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public

- Financial services (eg. banks, building societies, cash points, ATMs, bureaux de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawnbrokers)
- Medical services (eg. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (eg. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents, financial advisers, tutors)
- Post Office sorting offices
- Day nurseries
- Kennels and catteries
- Casinos and gambling clubs
- Show homes and marketing suites
- Employment agencies

There are a number of further types of hereditament which the Welsh Government believes should not be eligible for the relief.

Hereditaments that are not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public

If a hereditament is not usually reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public, it will be ineligible for relief under the scheme even if there is ancillary use of the hereditament that might be considered to fall within the descriptions listed under *Which properties will benefit from relief?*

Hereditaments that are not occupied

Properties that are not occupied on 1 April 2021 should be excluded from this relief. However, under the mandatory Empty Property Rates Relief, empty properties will receive a 100% reduction in rates for the first three months (and in certain cases, six months) of being empty.

Hereditaments that are owned, rented or managed by a local authority

Hereditaments owned, rented or managed by a local authority, such as visitor centres, tourist information shops and council-run coffee shops or gift shops attached to historic buildings, are exempt from this scheme.

How much relief will be available?

The total amount of government funded relief available for each property under this scheme for 2021-22 is 100% of the remaining bill, after mandatory reliefs and other discretionary reliefs funded by section 31 grants have been applied, excluding those where local authorities have used their wider discretionary relief powers introduced by the Localism Act 2011 which are not funded by section 31 grants. Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief should be applied against the net bill after other reliefs have been applied.

The eligibility for the relief and the relief itself will be assessed and calculated on a daily basis. The following formula should be used to determine the amount of relief to be granted for a particular hereditament in the financial year.

Amount of relief to be granted = V , where

V is the daily charge for the hereditament for the chargeable day after the application of any mandatory relief and any other discretionary reliefs, excluding those where local authorities have used their discretionary relief powers introduced by the Localism Act 2011 which are not funded by section 31 grants.

This should be calculated ignoring any prior-year adjustments in liabilities which fall to be liable on the day.

Ratepayers who occupy more than one property will be entitled to Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief for each of their eligible properties.

Retail, leisure and hospitality properties which are excluded from Small Business Rates Relief due to the multiple occupation rule are eligible for this relief scheme.

Changes to existing hereditaments, including change in occupier

Empty properties becoming occupied after 1 April 2021 will qualify for this relief.

If there is a change in occupier part way through the financial year, after relief has already been provided to the hereditament, the new occupier will qualify for the relief if they operate in the retail, leisure or hospitality sectors on a pro-rata basis based on the remaining days of occupation using the formula used in the section titled *How much relief will be available?*

The discount should be applied on a day-to-day basis using the formula set out above. A new hereditament created as a result of a split or merger during the financial year, or where there is a change of use, should be considered afresh for the discount on that day.

State Aid

Following the end of the transition period for the United Kingdom leaving the European Union on 31 December 2020, EU State Aid regulations only apply in limited circumstances. As the grant support is not funded by EU residual funds, EU State Aid regulations no longer apply for this scheme. As of 1 January 2021, the UK Subsidy Regime came into force, the scheme has been viewed to be outside the scope of any international trade agreements as measures are focused locally within Wales.

Resolution

(a) The Council determines that, unless hereditaments are excepted under (b) below, Section 47(1)(a) (discretionary relief) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 will apply as regards the hereditaments described in 'The Scheme' in accordance with the rules described in relation to those hereditaments.

It is reasonable for the Council to make this decision having regard to the interests of persons liable to pay business rates set by the Council.

(b) Relief is not available under this resolution in respect of any hereditament which is occupied by -

- the Welsh Ministers, a Minister of the Crown or government department,
- any public authority (including any local authority),
- the holder of any public office, or
- the Crown

(c) The Council decides, under Section 47(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, that during the billing year 2021-22 'The Scheme' shall apply to the hereditaments described.

The Scheme to be Adopted

This support is aimed at businesses and other ratepayers in Wales in the hospitality, leisure and tourism sectors operating from properties with a rateable value over £500,000.

The Welsh Government will provide grant funding to the relevant local authorities in Wales to provide the support to eligible ratepayers for 2021-22. The scheme aims to provide support for eligible occupied properties by offering a grant equal to a discount of 100% on the non-domestic rates bill for a property, subject to conditions. The scheme will apply to all eligible ratepayers with a rateable value of more than £500,000.

Properties that will benefit from this support will be occupied hospitality, leisure and tourism properties that have a rateable value of over £500,000 – such as hotels, holiday parks and stadia across Wales.

Grant support should be provided to each eligible business as a reduction to its rates bill based on occupation between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

For the avoidance of doubt, hereditaments which closed temporarily due to the government's advice on Covid-19 should be treated as occupied for the purposes of this support.

As the support is discretionary, local authorities may choose not to provide the support if they consider it appropriate, for example where providing the support would go against the local authority's wider objectives for the local area.

Eligibility Criteria

The total amount of government funded support available for each property will be 100% of the non-domestic rates liability for the 2021-22 financial year subject to two criteria being met.

- Ratepayers can demonstrate that there has been a material negative impact on their business between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.
- The level of support, equal to 100% of the non-domestic rates liability, should not exceed operating costs between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021. If the level of support exceeds operating costs, the amount of support will be equal to the value of the operating costs.

To ascertain whether the criteria have been met, applicants should provide the following information to local authorities.

- Annual turnover information. This should include income from sales as well as revenue from public sources (eg grants, Economic Resilience Fund, or special rental arrangements). The application should also include a declaration that turnover has been negatively impacted by 40% or more as a result of coronavirus restrictions.
- Operating costs (minus staff) between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.
- Details of their business' current headcount and also planned headcount at 1 April 2022. This should be based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff.
- Declarations confirming whether the applicant has received other funding from the Welsh Government and, where appropriate, this can be checked against any Economic Resilience Fund application in terms of existing job safeguard conditions already in place.
- A declaration stating whether the applicant has an Economic Contract in place with the Welsh Government. For those that do not, the Welsh Government will work with them to put one in place within a 4-week period of relief being awarded.

State Aid

Following the end of the transition period for the United Kingdom leaving the European Union on 31 December 2020, EU State Aid regulations only apply in limited circumstances. As the grant support is not funded by EU residual funds, EU State Aid regulations no longer apply for this scheme. As of 1 January 2021, the UK Subsidy Regime came into force, the scheme has been viewed to be outside the scope of any international trade agreements as measures are focused locally within Wales.

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

SECTION 33 OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (WALES) ACT 2006 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND CWM TAF MORGANNWG NHS TRUST

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet a proposal for entering into a new revised Section 33 Agreement of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 with Cwm Taf Morgannwg NHS Trust, regarding the provision of integrated Mental Health Daytime Opportunities.

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 of all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking early 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 On 18th October 2005 Cabinet approved the development of an integrated mental health day opportunities service between this Authority and the former Abertawe Bro Morgannwg (ABMU) NHS Trust, by amalgamating and reconfiguring resources previously utilised separately at Ty'r Ardd and at Glanrhyd Hospital.
- 3.2 Cabinet also agreed that this new service be called Assisted Recovery in the Community (ARC), to provide integrated Health and Social Care Services for people with more complex mental health needs.
- 3.3 In July 2008 Cabinet approved a Section 33 Agreement with ABMU Health Board for the provision of integrated community day opportunities. This agreement took effect from 1st October 2008 and expired on the 31st March 2012. The Section 33 Agreement has been revised and extended on a number of occasions since. The current Section 33 Agreement commenced on 1st April 2017 and was novated from the former ABMU Health Board to the newly constituted Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board following the health board boundary change in April 2019. The current Section 33 Agreement with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board will expire on 31st March 2021.
- 3.4 The service has progressed considerably in the last 13 years and it is now necessary to update the Section 33 Agreement and ensure that the revised Section 33 Agreement reflects the changes that have taken place and adequately reflect the current situation including budget and staffing details. Elements of ARC have been integrated into the Local Primary Mental Health Service which was established on 1st October 2012 with the introduction of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010.
- 3.5 The service offers responsive and accessible person-centred support, promoting the recovery of a person from an episode of mental ill health. In accordance with agreed local plans this includes:-
 - Preventative Services
 - Signposting – Advice and guidance
 - Short term Support
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Activity Planning
 - Employment support and advice
 - Social Support

The public can access the advice and guidance service without the need for referral and the service acts as a point of contact for mainstream community organisations and agencies requiring information and advice in support of individuals. This includes local third sector organisations, employers and local colleges.

The service supports all mental health services in the Bridgend locality (both primary and secondary care), providing opportunities for individuals to improve their mental health and well-being, enhance their lifestyles and to maximise function and independence through using existing community resources.

- 3.6 The Joint Partnership Management Group has reviewed and redrafted the schedules concerning the Section 33 Agreement to reflect current developments and now seek authority to enter into the revised Section 33 agreement.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The revised Section 33 Agreement sets out the arrangements under which the combined service will operate and be managed:

- Schedules 1-3 of the Agreement set out the service objectives, statutory responsibilities of each organisation and the operational practices of the service.
- Schedule 4 covers human resource management including the secondment of Trust staff to the Local Authority.
- Schedules 5 and 6 cover financial management and governance arrangements.
- Schedule 7 is the protocol for information sharing.

- 4.2 As previously agreed by Cabinet, the Council shall take the lead responsibility for the delivery of the service. The Agreement will be managed by a Partnership Management Group comprised of the Head of Adult Social Care of the Council and the Service Group Manager for Mental Health, Bridgend Integrated Locality Group from Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB. These Officers will report formally to their respective organisations. This group will be serviced by a Pooled Fund Manager identified within the Adult Social Care Division who will report to the group on performance against objectives and financial matters.

- 4.3 Should Cabinet approve entering into the revised Section 33 Agreement it will run for a further four years, with the agreement expiring on 31st March 2025.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no impact on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

- 5.2 This development is consistent with the Welsh Assembly Government's 'Delivering Beyond Boundaries' agenda, and the service model is consistent with Adult Mental Health Services strategies and National Service Frameworks including 'Together for mental health - a strategy for mental health and wellbeing in Wales' - Welsh Government 2012.

- 5.3 In Bridgend County Borough, agencies providing mental health services are working in partnership to develop a whole service model for mental health based on an agreed set of values that places service users and carers at the heart of service development and delivery. The

development of Day Opportunities is a key component of the whole service model.

- 5.4 A Pooled Fund Manager, identified by Bridgend County Borough Council, will be responsible for the management of the Service in accordance with both the Authority's financial and contractual procedure rules and the Section 33 agreement.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report, therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

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

- 7.1 The implementation of the duties and responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) in turn, supports the promotion of two of the seven goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 within the County Borough of Bridgend. By promoting an environment that maximises people's physical and mental well-being and by supporting children, young people, adults and their carers and families to fulfil their potential no matter what their circumstances, the wellbeing goals of a Healthier and more equal Bridgend and Wales are supported.

- 7.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- **Long Term** – Social Services is demand led and the SSWBA focusses on sustainable prevention and wellbeing outcomes for the future. There is a requirement to meet the needs of people in the longer term and, because of rising demographics and increasing complexity, the remodelling and transformation of services continues to be a priority. The ARC service provides a long term sustainable provision of day time opportunities which offers more choice to people who use services.
- **Prevention** – the report is about the new approaches adopted by the Directorate in line with the SSWBA, for example, the provision of information, advice and assistance to enable people to remain independent for as long as possible. This will ensure that need is anticipated and resources can be more effectively directed to better manage demand. The ARC service enables people to live and participate in their chosen community.
- **Integration** – the implementation of the SSWBA requires local authorities to work with partners, particularly the NHS and the

Police, to ensure care and support for people and support for carers is provided.

- **Collaboration** – the strategic planning and local delivery of integrated support and services are developed and agreed at a regional basis in order to provide the best possible intervention to people. The ARC service is one of the few collaborative arrangements of its kind in Wales and provides an excellent example of joint working.
- **Involvement** – the key stakeholders are the people who use social care. There is considerable engagement including surveys, stakeholder meetings, feedback forms and the complaints process. The provision of accessible information and advice helps to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The Section 33 Agreement will continue to set out that the Council, with lead responsibility for the delivery of the service, is host for the operation and management of the Pooled Fund. This Pooled Fund shall be used solely to achieve the aims and objectives of the service as outlined in the Agreement.
- 8.2 At the start of the agreement period (1 April 2021) the Pooled Fund will comprise of contributions from the Council and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, and will form a single fund of £ 671,750 of which the Council will contribute £335,875 and the Health Board will contribute £335,875 for 2021-22.
- 8.3 Both partners' contributions equate to their previous service provision. Consequently the Council's contribution will be met from existing resources.
- 8.4 As host for the Pooled Fund, the Council will be responsible for its administration. Financial management arrangements have been established between both bodies to ensure that the budget and projected outturn position are regularly reviewed.
- 8.5 It is the responsibility of the Pooled Fund Manager to ensure the service is managed within the available budget. Should expenditure be projected to exceed the total Pooled Fund in a financial year, the Council and Health Board, through the Partnership Management Group, shall agree how to manage the situation in order to either bring the Pooled Fund back into financial balance by the year end, or to jointly agree a funding strategy. To date the service has been managed within the agreed budget. If expenditure is less than expected then the Partnership Management Group would decide how the unspent funds are spent in accordance with the Section 33 agreement.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve:

- the proposal to enter into a renewal of the Section 33 Agreement under the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board regarding the provision of integrated mental health daytime opportunities.

Claire Marchant
CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING
March 2021

Contact officer: Mark Wilkinson
Group Manager

Telephone: (01656) 642281

Email: mark.wilkinson@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend.
CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER LEGAL, HR & REGULATORY SERVICES

DATES OF CABINET, CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING AND CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES MEETINGS – 2021-22

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the schedule of meetings of Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and the Cabinet Committee Equalities for the period May 2021 - April 2022.

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:-**

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.
2. **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. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure 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 to deliver the Council’s well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 The proposed dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and Cabinet Committee Equalities and Joint Committee meetings will be reported for noting in the proposed Programme of meetings that will be reported to the Annual Meeting of Council on 19 May 2021. This prevents meeting dates of Cabinet, Council or their Committees, wherever possible, conflicting with each other.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Cabinet

4.1.1 Meetings of Cabinet, proposed below, are planned to continue over the course of the municipal year on average on a four weekly cycle with meetings commencing at 2.30pm.

4.1.2 The proposed schedule of Cabinet meetings for the period May 2021 – April 2022, is as follows:

2021	2022
18 May	18 January
22 June	8 February
20 July	22 February (Budget)
14 September	8 March
19 October	12 April
16 November	
14 December	

4.2 Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting

4.2.1 The proposed Schedule of meeting dates for the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting is detailed below:

Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting
1 July 2021 14 October 2021 13 January 2022 7 April 2022

4.3 Cabinet Committee Equalities

4.3.1 The proposed schedule of meeting dates for the Cabinet Committee Equalities is detailed below:-

Cabinet Committee Equalities
27 July 2021 25 November 2021 22 March 2022

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There will be no direct effect on the policy framework and procedure rules but, if approved, the report will provide a sound structure for Executive decision-making, improve corporate planning within the Authority and provide greater accessibility and understanding for the residents of the County Borough.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no negative equality implications arising from this report.

7. Wellbeing 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 Cabinet approves the schedule of meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and the Cabinet Committee Equalities meetings for the period May 2021 - April 2022, as outlined in Paragraphs 4.1.2, 4.2.1 and 4.3.1 of the report.

K Watson
Chief Officer Legal, HR & Regulatory Services
March 2021

Contact Officer: **Mark Galvin**
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Telephone: (01656) 643148

Email: cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk

Background documents: None, other than the Programme of Meetings scheduled for the period 2021-22

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON BRIDGEND WEST SCHOOLS' MODERNISATION PROPOSAL

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the Bridgend West schools' modernisation proposal;
- to present the findings of the consultation in a detailed consultation report (Appendix A); and to
- seek approval to progress to the publication of a public notice as prescribed in the School Organisation Code.

2. Connection to corporate wellbeing 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 focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 On 3 March 2015, Cabinet approval was received for the Council to adopt revised principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend. Five key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools. These are:

- commitment to high standards and excellence in provision;
- equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend;
- inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils;
- community-focused schools, where the school actively engages with its local community; and
- value for money.

3.2 The Learning Communities – Schools of the Future - Policy and Planning Framework sets out 17 areas where these principles should be applied in practice.

The principles which are particularly relevant in the context of Band B are:

- the size of primary schools (to ensure that “all Bridgend’s primary schools are large enough to make the full range of necessary provision”); and
- value for money, efficiency and effectiveness (“narrowing the gap between the most and the least expensive provision currently”).

3.3 As Cabinet will be aware, the Band B Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) was submitted to Welsh Government (WG) in July 2017, for which Cabinet approval was subsequently sought in October 2017. Cabinet was presented with a report detailing the outcome of the Band B review and the revised SOP submission and gave approval to discontinue the original Band B schemes identified in the November 2010 Cabinet report, and approved the following Band B schemes:

- Bridgend North East (primary);
- Bridgend South East (primary) - subsequently substituted by Mynydd Cynffig Primary School in June 2020;
- Bridgend West – Welsh-medium (primary);
- Bridgend West – English-medium (primary); and
- Bridgend Special School.

3.4 In its meeting of 21 January 2020 Cabinet gave approval for the Bridgend West schemes to be taken forward via the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) funding arrangements. The preferred way forward for the Bridgend West scheme were:

- preferred education options of provision of a new-build, two-form entry English-medium school on 'a' site - suitable for Afon y Felin and Corneli Primary Schools combined); and
- provision of a new-build, two form entry Welsh-medium school on ‘a’ site - suitable for an enlarged Ysgol Y Ferch O’r Sgêr.

3.5 The preferred sites for the new schools were determined by Cabinet as the Valleys to Coast (V2C) owned Marlas Estate site and the existing Ysgol Y Ferch O’r Sgêr/Cornelly Integrated Children’s Centre/Corneli Primary School site.

3.6 In its meeting of 19 January 2021 Cabinet gave permission to formally consult on the Bridgend West proposal.

3.7 This report outlines the responses to the consultation and seeks approval to continue the progress to the next stage.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 In order to progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 25 January 2021 and 7 March 2021 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. A copy of the consultation document was made available during this time on the Council’s website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/consultations/closed-consultations/bridgend-west-primary-schools-consultation/>

- 4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. A summary of the issues raised by consultees and the local authority's responses are provided in the consultation report as detailed in Appendix A of this report. Cabinet will need to consider the consultation report and determine the preferred way forward.
- 4.3 Should Cabinet wish to proceed with the proposal, the next stage of the process is to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposals which would need to be published for a period of 28 days and any formal written objections would be invited during this time.
- 4.4 If there are no objections during the public notice period then the proposal can be implemented with Cabinet's approval.

If there are objections at this public notice stage, an objections report will be published summarising the objections and the authority's response to those objections. Cabinet will need to consider the proposal in light of objections. Cabinet could then accept, reject or modify the proposal. The following timetable provides an indication of the likely timescales involved:

Activity	Date
Consultation period where we welcome your views and observations on the proposal*.	25 January 2021 to 7 March 2021
Draft Consultation Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation.	6 April 2021
Publish Approved Consultation Report on the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) website, hard copies available on request.	12 April 2021
If agreed by the Cabinet of BCBC, a public notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	26 April 2021
If there are no objections, Cabinet can decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an objections report will be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration and subsequent determination. The approved report will then be published on the BCBC website and hard copies of the report will be made available upon request.	9 June 2021
Implementation.	1 September 2023 (English-medium) 2 September 2024 (Ysgol Y

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality impact assessment

6.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and has been further informed by responses to the consultation papers. The assessment has concluded that there is no negative impact anticipated on the duties of the Council towards protected groups.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long term	Supports the statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places and promote the Welsh language.
Prevention	Councils have a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient supply of school places, and these schemes will safeguard the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge in this regard.
Integration	Providing sufficient places ensures that the curriculum can be delivered and meets social, environmental and cultural objectives.
Collaboration	The local authority works effectively with schools, Estyn and with the Central South Consortium (CSC), health, community councils and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building meets the short-term and future needs of the users and the community which it will serve.
Involvement	This area of work involves the engagement of all potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners which will include third sector organisations.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The costs of the consultation will be met from existing budgets.

8.2 If the proposal does go ahead and is implemented, then the cost of the new schools will be funded via an annual charge to the revenue budget, over a 25-year period, which will need to be built into the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) as a budget pressure. Early estimates are that this could be in the region of £500k per

annum, but this will be determined as the scheme progresses. The cost is based on a Welsh Government intervention rate for MIM schemes of 81%, with the authority funding 19% of the annual costs, plus 35% of any up-front capital investment for ICT and furniture and equipment. Provision for these costs is already built into the capital programme.

8.3 The running costs of the new school would be met from within the delegated schools' budget, as is currently the case. It is too early to say whether there will be efficiency savings or additional costs from the proposed new school, and future reports to Cabinet will outline the financial implications, as they are known, in more detail.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is therefore recommended to:

- note the outcome of the consultation with interested parties as detailed in the attached consultation report and appendices;
- approve the consultation report for publication;
- authorise the publication of a public notice on the proposal; and
- approve the implementation of the proposal, should there be no objections at the end of the public notice period.

Lindsay Harvey

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

April 2021

Contact Officer: Chris Lewis
Project Manager, School Modernisation

Telephone: (01656) 642645

E-mail: christopher.lewis@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents

Cabinet Report (1 September 2015): "STRATEGIC REVIEW INTO THE DEVELOPMENT AND RATIONALISATION OF THE CURRICULUM AND ESTATE PROVISION OF PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND POST-16 EDUCATION"

Cabinet Report (3 October 2017): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B (2019-2024)"

Cabinet Report (30 January 2018): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B"

Council Report (31 January 2018): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B"

B”

Cabinet Report (20 November 2018): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Cabinet Report (19 December 2018): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Council Report (20 December 2018): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Cabinet Report (19 March 2019): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Council Report (20 March 2019): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Cabinet Report (21 July 2020): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME BAND B, MUTUAL INVESTMENT MODEL WELSH EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP - STRATEGIC PARTNERING AGREEMENT”

Cabinet Report (19 January 2021): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BRDIGEND WEST – PERMISSION TO CONSULT ON STATUTORY PROPOSAL”

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION REPORT

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON THE BRIDGEND WEST SCHOOLS' MODERNISATION PROPOSAL

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This public report is to inform of the outcome of the consultation on the Bridgend West Schools Modernisation proposal.

2. Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The school modernisation programme supports many of the corporate priorities and in particular:

- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement

3. Background

- 3.1 On 3 March 2015, Cabinet approval was received for the Council to adopt revised principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend. Five key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools. These are:

- commitment to high standards and excellence in provision;
- equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend;
- inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils;
- community-focused schools, where the school actively engages with its local community; and
- value for money.

- 3.2 The Policy and Planning Framework sets out 17 areas where these principles should be applied in practice.

The principles which are particularly relevant in the context of Band B are:

- the size of primary schools (to ensure that “all Bridgend’s primary schools are large enough to make the full range of necessary provision”); and
- value for money, efficiency and effectiveness (“narrowing the gap between the most and the least expensive provision currently”).

- 3.3 Cabinet in their meeting on 21 January 2020 gave approval for the Bridgend West proposal to be taken forward via the Mutual Investment Model funding arrangements. The preferred way forward for the Bridgend West scheme being:

- preferred education options of provision of a new-build, two form entry English-medium school on 'a' site - suitable for Afon y Felin and Corneli Primary Schools combined) and;
- provision of a new-build, two form entry Welsh-medium school on 'a' site - suitable for an enlarged Ysgol Y Ferch O'r 'Sgêr

3.4 The preferred sites for the new schools were determined by Cabinet as Valleys to Coast (V2C) owned Marlas Estate site and the existing Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr/Cornelly Integrated Children's Centre/Cornelly Primary School site.

3.5 Cabinet in their meeting of 19 January 2021 gave permission to formally consult on the Bridgend West proposal.

3.6 This report outlines the responses to the consultation.

4. Current situation

4.1 In order to progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 25 January 2021 and 7 March 2021 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. A copy of the consultation document was made available during this time on the Council's website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/consultations/closed-consultations/bridgend-west-primary-schools-consultation/>

4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. A list of stakeholders consulted can be seen at appendix 11.

5. Summary of responses to consultation

5.1 Key points from the consultation exercise were as follows, with full details appended at the end of this report. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold open stakeholder consultation meetings (the authority would ordinarily hold such meetings in addition to consulting via its corporate website). It was, however possible to 'virtually' meet with pupils, staff and governors in order to consult with them.

5.2 Pupil consultation

The Corneli Primary School Council met virtually with BCBC Council representatives on 11 February 2021 to discuss the proposal. The pupils were given a child friendly version of the Consultation Document prior to the meeting and asked about their views. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 1 of this consultation report.

5.3 The main concerns for Corneli Primary pupils related to what facilities the new school would have and how large classes would be. Council representatives explained that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, sufficient outdoor space would be provided including circulation space, sports pitches

(possibly astro-turf), games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas and habitat space. Should the proposal progress, further pupil meetings would be arranged so that pupils can input into the design process. Council representatives also explained that the proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes overall ie two forms per year group, but the individual classrooms would not be of a bigger capacity (there would just be more of them). A school council vote as to whether the pupils felt that the proposal was generally a good or a bad idea was held at the end of the meeting. All 10 pupils present agreed that they felt it was a good idea.

- 5.4 The Afon Y Felin Primary School Council met virtually with BCBC Council representatives on 11 February 2021 to discuss the proposal. The pupils were given a child friendly version of the Consultation Document prior to the meeting and asked about their views. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 2 of this consultation report.
- 5.5 The main concerns for Afon Y Felin Primary School pupils related to moving from a small school to a larger one, what facilities the new school would have and whether they would have new teachers. Council representatives explained that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, sufficient space would be provided including circulation space, sports pitches, games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas and habitat spaces. Council representatives explained that it is likely that all the existing teachers (from both Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) would transfer to the new schools, so pupils would not necessarily have new teachers. Although the proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes ie two forms per year group, the individual classes would not be bigger capacity (there would just be more of them). The authority would wish to maintain the current small school 'ethos' in the new school. However, if people still have concerns, they should respond to the consultation stating such. A school council vote as to whether the pupils felt that the proposal was generally a good or a bad idea was held at the end of the meeting. All six pupils present agreed that at this stage, they felt it was too early to know whether the proposal was a good or bad idea.
- 5.6 The Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr School Council met virtually with BCBC Council representatives on 11 February 2021 to discuss the proposal. The pupils were given a child friendly version of the Consultation Document prior to the meeting and asked about their views. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 3 of this consultation report.
- 5.7 The main concerns for Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr pupils related to traffic and access, use of a forest area and provision of larger play areas. Council representatives explained that entrances and drop off points would be determined at detailed design stage, and would be safe and would be informed by a full Transport Assessment (Transport Assessments consider the impact of the development on all transport modes, set out proposals to minimise the impact of the development on the transport network and promote measures to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly transport). Although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, it is likely that a forest/habitat area will be included in the design as would sports pitches, games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas. The Council representative stated that should the proposal progress, he will come back to the school council at detailed design stage (as he would wish to involve pupils in the design process). A school council vote as to whether the pupils felt that the proposal

was generally a good or a bad idea was held at the end of the meeting. All three pupils present agreed that they felt it was a good idea.

5.8 Staff and Governing body consultation

A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with the Corneli Primary School staff and Governing Body representatives on 1 March 2021. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 4 of this consultation report. Questions were raised mainly concerning the potential staff employment impacts of the proposal. Council representatives explained that the shadow Governing Body of the school would have the responsibility of setting the staffing structure. Once the consultation process has concluded and a determination made whether to progress the proposal we would begin to consult with the schools on the structure as soon as possible. BCBC Human Resources will provide support if anybody has any anxieties about the proposed change.

5.9 A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with the Afon Y Felin Primary School staff and Governing Body representatives on 1 March 2021. Questions were raised mainly concerning the potential staff employment impacts of the proposal, when the school would be designed and the impact of moving from a small school to a larger one. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 5 of this consultation report. Council representatives explained that while staffing is ultimately a governing body decision, the authority would not wish to see changes as it is felt that maintaining 'familiar faces' would be of benefit to the pupils. A 'match-and-slot' exercise would be used to appoint from the existing staff pool to the new school positions (with applications invited from the existing staff pool for any entirely new or novel posts). Should Cabinet determine to progress the proposal subsequent to consultation conclusion, it is anticipated that the Stage 1 MIM submission would take place in June 2021 and design would begin after that. Council representatives stated that increased opportunities presented by a new, larger school would be tremendous. The local authority would seek to transfer the existing small school 'ethos' to the new school.

5.10 A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with the Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr staff and Governing Body representatives on 25 February 2021. Questions were raised mainly concerning the possibility of a deficit budget, school design and the lack of Welsh-medium catchment maps on the BCBC website. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 6 of this consultation report. Council representatives explained that the authority would endeavour to support the school during transition as the new build progresses. Architects for the school design will not be appointed until after the consultation process has concluded and consequently we do not yet have a design. Council representatives explained that BCBC is looking at posting geographical area maps for Welsh-medium schools on the corporate website as a matter of priority.

5.11 Summary of written representations

One item of direct correspondence and a completed pro forma response was received during the consultation period. See Appendix 7 of this consultation report for details and responses/clarifications.

5.12 Responses were sent to the originators of items of correspondence thanking them for their submissions and stating that their comments would be taken into consideration in any report submitted to Cabinet.

5.13 **Summary of online survey responses**

Overall, 46 respondents completed the online questionnaire. In respect of the question on whether they support the proposal, 21 responded 'Yes' and 25 responded 'No'. See Appendix 8 of this consultation report for details and the authority's responses/clarifications in respect of issues raised.

6. The view of Estyn, her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales

6.1 Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal. See Appendix 9 of this consultation report for full details. Estyn's Summary/Conclusion is as follows:

"The proposal by Bridgend County Borough Council is to discontinue Corneli Primary School and Afon y Felin Primary School and open a new school with effect from 1 September 2023. They also propose to enlarge Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr with effect from 2 September 2024. The council lays out a clear rationale for its proposal. It involves eradicating around £1.5m maintenance backlog between the three schools, which it considers to be in poor condition, exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended. The proposal also addresses the need for Welsh medium places and of promoting the growth of the Welsh language.

The proposer has consulted widely, including with children and young people, parents/carers, school staff, a wide range of interested parties and members of the public. Estyn is of the opinion that the current proposal is likely to at least maintain the education provision for pupils in the area."

7 Impact Assessment

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document. The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group. Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the conclusion remains valid.

7.2 A Welsh Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document. It concluded that the anticipated uptake of Welsh-medium education in the area will increase as a consequence of the proposal, thereby supporting the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) targets, promoting the Welsh language and increasing the numbers of non-maintained nursery children transitioning to Welsh-medium primary school. Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the conclusion remains valid.

7.3 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document. It concluded that the sites for the proposed new schools are less than 0.3 miles away from the current school sites. There is therefore not anticipated to be significant potential for there to be negative impact on the community. However, there is a possibility that there may be a positive impact on community cohesion should the proposal go forward, as learners would be attending larger new school buildings which will incorporate purpose built community facilities. Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the conclusion remains valid.

7.4 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been considered in formulating the proposal (see Appendix 10).

8 Financial Implications

8.1 The costs of the consultation will be met from existing resources.

8.2 If the proposal does go ahead and is implemented, then the cost of the new schools will be funded via an annual charge to the revenue budget, over a 25 year period, which will need to be built into the MTFs as a budget pressure. Early estimates are that this could be in the region of £500k per annum, but this will be determined as the scheme progresses. The cost is based on a Welsh Government intervention rate for MIM schemes of 81%, with the authority funding 19% of the annual costs, plus 35% of any up-front capital investment for ICT and furniture and equipment.

8.3 The running costs of the new school would be met from within the Delegated Schools' Budget as is currently the case. It is too early to say whether there will be efficiency savings or additional costs from the proposed new school, and future reports to Cabinet will outline the financial implications, as they are known, in more detail.

9. Statutory process in determining proposals

- The following table sets out the provisional timetable:

Activity	Date
Publish Approved Consultation Report on BCBC website, hard copies available on request.	12 April 2021
If agreed by the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council, a public notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	26 April 2021
If there are no objections, Cabinet can decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objections Report will be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration and subsequent determination. The approved report will then be published on the BCBC website and hard copies of the report will be made available upon request.	9 June 2021
Implementation.	1 September 2023 (English-medium) 2 September 2024 (Ysgol Y)

10. Recommendations

10.1 Cabinet is therefore recommended to:

- note the outcome of the consultation with interested parties as detailed in the attached consultation report and appendices;
- approve the consultation report for publication;
- authorise the publication of a public notice on the proposal; and
- approve the implementation of the proposal, should there be no objections at the end of the public notice period.

Hard Copies of this report are available on request.

Contact Officer: Education and Family Support Directorate (Directorate Support Unit)
Telephone: (01656) 643 643

E-mail: edsu@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend,
CF31 4WB

Appendix 1

Bridgend West – School Council Consultation Corneli Primary School TEAMS meeting 11 February 2021

Attendees: CL (Project Manager), XX, XX, XX, XX (Teachers)

School Council: XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX

1.	Introduction
1.1	<p>A ‘child friendly’ summary of the consultation had been distributed to pupils prior to the meeting. CL presented the summary document on screen and then an overview was given by CL explaining the reasons for undertaking the consultation:</p> <p>The local authority (LA) is responsible for planning school places and ensuring that there are enough places to accommodate all children in the county borough. A proposal has been put forward to ensure that there is enough school access in the Bridgend West area by building two brand new schools.</p> <p>The proposal outlines how a new English-medium school (to replace Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) could be established at Plas Morlais by entering into an agreement with the current site owner. The proposal also outlines how Ysgol Y Ferch O’r Sgêr could use part of the current site occupied by Corneli Primary School to build a new larger school and increase its size to become a two-form entry school Welsh-medium school with a 60-place Welsh-medium nursery.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation meeting is to get the views of pupils. All views are welcomed up to the 7 March 2021. If the decision is made to proceed with the proposal then a public notice will be issued and the public are given time to object.</p>
2.	Views and questions provided by the pupils
2.1	<p>XX asked whether the proposed new school sites would be large enough. CL stated that yes, the proposed sites would be large enough (a ‘test-fit’ planning exercise has been carried out to ensure this).</p>
2.2	<p>XX asked if pupils would be able to use an allotment area. CL stated that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, it is likely that a forest/habitat/allotment area could be included in the design. CL stated that he will come back to the school council at detailed design stage (as he would wish to involve pupils in the design process). CL explained that on previous projects schools have transferred plants and trees across from their old sites to the new.</p>

2.3	XX questioned whether the proposed new school will have more pupils in the classrooms. CL stated that no, there would not be more pupils in the classrooms. The proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes ie two forms per year group, but the individual classrooms would not be bigger of capacity (there would just be more of them).
2.4	XX asked whether new IT equipment would be provided in the new school. CL stated that there would be a budget allocated for new IT equipment.
2.5	XX asked whether there would be a sports hall in the proposed new school. CL stated that yes, there would in fact likely be two.
2.6	XX asked how many yards would be provided at the new school. CL stated that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, sufficient outdoor space would be provided including circulation space, sports pitches (possibly astro-turf), games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas and habitat space.
2.7	XX asked whether Corneli United would be able to use the school astro-turf if it were provided in the new school. CL stated that yes, with the school's permission, they could.
2.8	XX stated that she would like to see the following things provided at the proposed new school: large playground, climbing frame, recycling bins, water fountains and an outside wildlife area.
2.9	XX asked when the new school would be ready for pupils if the proposal goes ahead. CL stated that it is currently anticipated that the new building would be ready for occupation in September 2023.
3	Proposal Vote
3.1	CL requested a vote as to whether the pupils felt that the proposal was generally a good or a bad idea. All 10 pupils present agreed that it was a good idea.
3.2	CL advised that if anyone had any questions or comments or suggestions after this consultation meeting, then the consultation pro-forma can be completed but the deadline for questions and comments submission is 7 March 2021.

Appendix 2

Bridgend West – School Council Consultation Afon Y Felin Primary School TEAMS meeting 11 February 2021

Attendees: CL (Project Manager), XX (Teacher)

School Council: XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX

1.	Introduction
1.1	<p>A 'child friendly' summary of the consultation had been distributed to pupils prior to the meeting. CL presented the summary document on screen and then an overview was given by CL explaining the reasons for undertaking the consultation:</p> <p>The LA is responsible for planning school places and ensuring that there are enough places to accommodate all children in the County Borough. A proposal has been put forward to ensure that there is enough school access in the Bridgend West area by building two brand new schools.</p> <p>The proposal outlines how a new English-medium school (to replace Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) could be established at Plas Morlais by entering into an agreement with the current site owner. The proposal also outlines how Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr could use part of the current site occupied by Corneli Primary to build a new larger school and increase its size to become a two-form entry school Welsh-medium school with a 60-place Welsh-medium nursery.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation meeting is to get the views of pupils. All views are welcomed up to the 7 March 2021. If the decision is made to proceed with the proposal then a Public Notice will be issued and the public are given time to object.</p>
2.	Views and questions provided by the pupils
2.1	<p>XX asked if the proposed new school would have a better playground than the existing school has. CL stated that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, sufficient outdoor space would be provided including circulation space, sports pitches (possibly astro-turf), games courts, soft play areas, hard play (yard) areas and habitat space. CL stated that should the proposal be taken forward, further meetings with the school council would be arranged so that pupils can input into the design process.</p>
2.2	<p>XX stated that her school isn't as old as Corneli Primary. CL explained that all three of the schools involved in the proposal are relatively old and in need of substantial spending on backlog maintenance.</p>

2.3	XX asked what happens if pupils feel they don't want to move. CL explained that they should respond to the consultation explaining that fact (the purpose of the consultation is to listen to people's views on the proposal).
2.4	XX asked when the proposed new schools would be ready. CL explained that it is currently anticipated that the English-medium school would be complete in September 2023 and the Welsh-medium school would be complete in September 2024.
2.5	XX queried whether there will be a basketball, rugby, football and netball club. CL explained that the proposed new schools would have sports pitches and games courts that could be used by clubs for such activities.
2.6	XX asked when the old Afon Y Felin Primary School building would be knocked down. CL explained that if the proposal was progressed, the old school would be demolished sometime after the new school became available (so some time after September 2023).
2.7	XX asked whether the old school site land would be used for house building. CL stated that this was likely.
2.8	XX asked if the pupils would have new teachers. CL stated that it is likely that all the existing teachers (from both Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) would transfer to the new schools, so pupils would not necessarily have new teachers.
2.9	XX asked how big the proposed new English-medium school would be. CL explained that it would be two forms of entry (two classes per year group). This would add up to a total of 420 pupils plus nursery. The proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes ie 2 forms per year group, but the individual classrooms would not be of bigger capacity (there would just be more of them).
2.10	XX stated that her mum had chosen to send her to Afon Y Felin because it is a small school. CL explained that the authority would wish to maintain the current small school 'ethos' in the new school. However, if people still have concerns, they should respond to the consultation stating such.
2.11	XX asked whether the proposed new school would look like Nant Gwyn. CL explained that it would likely look like the recently built Pencoed Primary School. CL stated that if the proposal is progressed, and lockdown restrictions allow, he would arrange a visit for pupils to see the new Pencoed Primary School building. Pupils could then see the things there that they like and have input into the design process for their new school.
2.12	XX asked when the next school council meeting on the proposal would take place. CL stated that it would likely be as soon as possible after the consultation process has concluded and BCBC has determined whether to progress the proposal (so late June 2021).

3	Proposal Vote
3.1	CL requested a vote as to whether the pupils felt that the proposal was generally a good or a bad idea. All six pupils present agreed that they were unsure at this stage whether the proposal is a good idea or not.
3.2	CL advised that if anyone had any questions or comments or suggestions after this consultation meeting, then the consultation pro-forma can be completed but the deadline for questions and comments submission is 7 March 2021.

Appendix 3

Bridgend West – School Council Consultation Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr TEAMS meeting 11 February 2021

Attendees: C L (Project Manager), XX, XX, XX (Teachers),

School Council: XX, XX, XX

1.	Introduction
1.1	<p>A 'child friendly' summary of the consultation had been distributed to pupils prior to the meeting. CL presented the summary document on screen and then an overview was given by CL explaining the reasons for undertaking the consultation:</p> <p>The LA is responsible for planning school places and ensuring that there are enough places to accommodate all children in the County Borough. A proposal has been put forward to ensure that there is enough school access in the Bridgend West area by building two brand new schools.</p> <p>The proposal outlines how a new English-medium school (to replace Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) could be established at Plas Morlais by entering into an agreement with the current site owner. The proposal also outlines how Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr could use part of the current site occupied by Corneli Primary to build a new larger school and increase its size to become a two-form entry school Welsh-medium school with a 60-place Welsh-medium nursery.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation meeting is to get the views of pupils. All views are welcomed up to the 7 March 2021. If the decision is made to proceed with the proposal then a Public Notice will be issued and the public are given time to object.</p>
2.	Views and questions provided by the pupils
2.1	<p>XX asked whether the proposed new school would have an area for playing football larger than the school currently has so that more people can play. CL stated that yes, the proposed new larger school would have larger outdoor play areas.</p>
2.2	<p>XX asked if pupils would be able to use a forest area. CL stated that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, it is likely that a forest/habitat area will be included in the design. CL stated that he will come back to the school council at detailed design stage (as he would wish to involve pupils in</p>

	the design process).
2.3	XX questioned whether the proposed new school will have an art room. CL stated that detailed design has not yet been undertaken. However, CL stated that he will come back to the school council at detailed design stage (as he would wish to involve pupils in the design process) and if pupils request a dedicated art room, he will forward the request to the architects.
2.4	XX stated that there would be worries over traffic and asked where the school access would be. CL stated that entrances and drop off points would be determined at detailed design stage, and would be safe and would be informed by a full Transport Assessment (Transport Assessments consider the impact of the development on all transport modes, set out proposals to minimise the impact of the development on the transport network and promote measures to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly transport).
2.6	XX stated that he felt it was a good idea to have a new school because the existing school building is falling apart and yards are sinking.
3	Proposal Vote
3.1	CL requested a vote as to whether the pupils felt that the proposal was generally a good or a bad idea. All three pupils present agreed that it was a good idea.
3.2	CL advised that if anyone had any questions or comments or suggestions after this consultation meeting, then the consultation pro-forma can be completed but the deadline for questions and comments submission is 7 March 2021.

Appendix 4



Bridgend West TEAMS Consultation Meeting with Corneli Primary School Governing Body and Staff 1 March 2021

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Advisor, Human Resources
School Programme Manager
Project Manager
Head teacher
Members of school staff
Members of the governing body

Lindsay Harvey introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

Questions/Issues

It would be good to get together with Afon Y Felin Primary School at the earliest opportunity in order to get to know them.

At what point would the staff structure be sorted?

It is agreed that the school is not in a good condition and staff have had to work very hard to achieve the school's excellent standards.

Answer/Comments

Visiting has obviously been restricted at the moment due to COVID, but we will arrange visits as soon as is practicable. Recently completed 'Band A' schools such as Pencoed Primary School, Brynmenyn Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd have been transformational and visits would be most beneficial.

Once the consultation process has concluded and a determination made whether to progress the scheme we would begin to consult with the schools on the structure asap.

Human Resources will provide support if anybody has any anxieties about the proposed change. You can send any questions you may have directly to Human Resources if you wish.

Corneli have done a remarkable job with an old building.

Please feel free to contact us directly if you need any further clarifications.

Appendix 5



Bridgend West TEAMS Consultation Meeting with Afon Y Felin Primary School Governing Body and Staff 1 March 2021

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Advisor, Human Resources
School Programme Manager
Project Manager
Head teacher
Members of school staff
Members of the governing body

Lindsay Harvey introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

Questions/Issues

What happens if the build programme is delayed?

The school has great staff and there are concerns about positions.

Would Learning Support Officer contracts remain as they are?

Current contracts with Afon Y Felin would cease and new contracts entered into with

Answer/Comments

The effective date detailed in the consultation can be modified if needs be. Although the shadow governing body would be constituted once consultation is over and would work on new staff structures, the new structure would not come into effect until the effective date. Construction is ongoing now (ie during lockdown) so hopefully COVID will not delay things.

Central South Consortium and BCBC think that Afon Y Felin is an excellent school. We don't want to affect that. A larger school and larger budgets would hopefully mean more staff opportunities.

We would consult on structure in the future but we are not anticipating any redundancies.

It would be for the governing body to ultimately determine but we would hope not to see any changes.

We want to maintain 'familiar faces' for the pupils in order to minimize any impact of the proposal on them.

Yes.

the new school?

Would staff have to apply for jobs in the new school?

The school council meeting was very good, one comment that struck me was related to the fact that some parents chose the school because it was small.

The existing school has many awards. What happens to these if the proposal progresses?

There is a Flying start 'pod' on the existing Afon Y Felin site.

Afon Y Felin Primary School is highly regarded in the community and we would like to feel this can continue, we would like to see collaboration between the affected schools prior to closures.

Afon y Felin Primary School's excellent standards didn't come through in the consultation document.

When will we be able to see the design? I

While staffing is ultimately a governing body decision, the local authority would not wish to see changes as it is felt that maintaining 'familiar faces' would be of benefit to the pupils. A 'match-and-slot' exercise would be used to appoint from the existing staff pool to the new school positions (with applications invited from the existing staff pool for any entirely new or novel posts).

Increased opportunities presented by a new, larger school would be tremendous. We would seek to transfer the existing small school 'ethos' into the new school.

We transfer legacy items to the new site, so trophies etc could be transferred and displayed at the new site. We will investigate the possibility of transferring/maintaining any existing accreditations and get back to you.

Both newly created school buildings would have purpose built integrated community facilities. It is envisioned at this stage that the existing Flying Start provision at Afon y Felin Primary would transfer to the Integrated Childrens Centre building if the proposal is progressed. We will think in more detail about how to alleviate any issues regarding the transfer of 'pod' facilities (eg by transferring legacy items) if the proposal progresses.

Corneli Primary School staff have said precisely the same thing. We would arrange collaboration meetings between the schools should the proposal progress. Additionally, we have lessons learned from our Band A Headteacher group. We would bring you together with them in order to share their experiences and knowledge of moving to a new school. We would also arrange for you to visit some of our Band A schools as soon as we are allowed.

The School Organisation Code state that we must use the latest Estyn inspection report in the document. BCBC are aware of the existing good standards at the school.

The scheme is a revenue funded Mutual

would like to have input into it.

Investment Model (MIM) scheme and as such, detailed design plans will not be worked up by WEPCo (ie the joint venture company established between a Private Sector Delivery Partner and a subsidiary of the Development Bank of Wales) until after the Stage 1 MIM submission has been made to Welsh Government. Should Cabinet determine to progress the proposal subsequent to consultation conclusion, it is anticipated that the Stage 1 submission would take place in June 2021.

Consequently, school detailed designs do not exist at this stage. The only plans that currently exist are red-line boundary and phasing plans used by Welsh Government's project managers to 'test-fit' the Building Bulletin recommended areas for schools against the land available on the sites. Schools will be asked to input into design at the appropriate time.

Would the Meithrin at the Integrated Childrens Centre continue?

Yes.

What are the arrangements for parking and drop-off?

Entrances and drop-off points would be determined at detailed design stage, and would be informed by a full Transport Assessment (Transport Assessments consider the impact of the development on all transport modes, set out proposals to minimise the impact of the development on the transport network and promote measures to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly transport).

If you have any further questions, please feel free to complete the consultation pro forma or contact officers directly.

Appendix 6



Bridgend West TEAMS Consultation Meeting with Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger Governing Body and Staff 25 February 2021

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Senior Advisor, Human Resources
School Programme Manager
Project Manager
Head teacher
Members of school staff
Members of the governing body

Lindsay Harvey introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

Questions/Issues

Not having anticipated catchment for Welsh-medium schools on the BCBC website can be problematic.

Can we help the authority with publicising this scheme if the proposal is progressed?

The council will be opening a shiny new English-medium building before the new Welsh-medium building under the proposal. The need for phasing at the sites is understood, but why has the council chosen Corneli rather than Porthcawl?

Why is there no Learning Resource Class proposed for the new Welsh-medium school?

Marketing of the new Welsh-medium school will be crucial if it progresses.

Answer/Comments

BCBC is looking at setting up catchment maps on the corporate website as a matter of priority.

Yes.

A detailed Options Appraisal exercise determined the proposed sites as preferred. Essentially, there is a lack of suitable land in Porthcawl.

Corneli Primary School already has one existing and future demand for it has been confirmed with BCBC Learner Support. Welsh-medium additional learning needs provision for the area is funded to schools and support takes place in existing intervention rooms and therefore no additional LRC is currently required at Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger.

Noted.

Do we know the 'aspect' of the new building?	Not at present. We have not yet reached detailed design stage. When detailed design stage is reached, we will try to work with you and accommodate your wishes if possible within the site constraints.
Shouldn't we inform the architects of our wishes asap?	Architects for the school design will not be appointed until after the consultation process has concluded. We will engage with them at the earliest opportunity.
It is important to have the children's voice.	Agreed. That is why we have already met with the respective school councils to discuss the proposal and have explained to them that we will have further meetings with them, should the scheme progress, in order for them to be involved in the design process.
Concerned about the possibility of deficit budget. Will the school be supported through transition?	We will endeavor to support as the new build progresses.
What is in it for the community?	Very significant investment. We maximize community use. The scheme would provide multi-use pitches, purpose built community rooms and facilities and community accessible wi-fi. It is hoped that inviting the community into the school in this way will benefit the community and also attract people to the new school.
We are all really excited. What happens if the 'English-medium' side say no?	The proposal as it stands is for two Mutual Investment Model new builds. One relies on the other. The scheme would not be able to be progressed as a single new build school.
Estyn would comment on safeguarding issues so we need to be robust in terms of fencing and segregation.	The site would be designed in such a way to be totally secure utilising fenced boundaries and 'lock-down' control of areas.
Would the school benefit financially from the community use of facilities?	Yes. The local authority pays an annual charge for hard facilities management. Any revenues would come back to the school.

Appendix 7

Pro forma response form received (Local Authority's response is included in bold text):

What to consider?

You are invited to consider the proposal and submit your views as to whether or not you support it.

Questions

Name (Initials):

L

Class:

Oren

School:

Corneli Primary

Do you support the proposal: Yes/No

If you do not support the proposal – please state why:

Comment/suggestions/requests/questions:

If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals presented please give details:

We have 2 yards now, will we have four yards when the two schools join?
How big will the yards be?
How many classrooms will there be?

Response:

A detailed design for the new school has not been produced at this stage –as we are currently still just consulting on the ‘idea’ of providing new schools (the consultation process should be complete in June). If, following consultation, the council decides to progress the scheme – the detailed design would then start. All our new schools are designed to meet Building Bulletin guidelines (Building Bulletin 99 applies to Primary Schools). The key purpose of the building bulletin document is to set out simple, realistic, non-statutory area guidelines for primary school buildings. Since detailed design has not yet started, I can only comment at this stage on what the design would be likely to include in terms of classrooms and play space. This would be:

Pitches 8400 m²
Soft play (INFORMAL & SOCIAL) 2260 m²
Hard Play (INFORMAL & SOCIAL) 1030 m²
Habitat area 620 m²
Games courts (hard surfaced) 1440 m²
2 Nursery Classrooms
2 Reception Classrooms
4 Infants Classrooms
8 Junior Classrooms
Learning Resource Base
1 Specialist Practical Classroom (Food/Science/Art)
Large 'Street' with integrated local resource areas (e.g. Library)

Any other comments/questions:

Will there be activities to play on the yards...basketball and football courts?

Response:

Yes. If the scheme progresses to detailed design stage – we would arrange further meetings with pupils to input into the design of the new school (e.g. sports line markings etc. that pupils would like for the games courts/yards).

Direct correspondence received (Local Authority's response is included in bold text):

Dear Sir,

I apologise for the private email, I was unable to respond on the iPad, the only device I have.

My name is . I am currently on the Governing Body of Afon y Felin Primary School, having served as a parent governor from 2006 until 2019. My own children no longer attend school.

I am unsure whether the considered scheme is a benefit to Cornelly or not, but I would like to express my viewpoint.

In 2004 my mother took my elder daughter to the three local schools, Afon y Felin, (previously my last choice) was the only school to welcome my mother and daughter in. I quickly overcame my prejudice, and supported the school anyway I could. I have raised funds, served on the governing body, worked there temporarily, volunteered and wrote the school news for local press for many year, so I am quite attached to this school. Also over the years it has been a great source of pride that many children, unable to settle in other schools, not only are willing to attend our school, but also flourish.

I am afraid that the many qualities we have, would be lost in a larger school. Every teacher knows every pupil, as well as knowing who the siblings and other relatives are. I feel we succeed in many areas larger schools can't. At one point we even had two brothers travelling to school by bus from Barry, the older child cried and cried when he had to leave at the end of Year Six. This is not an isolated case, we have had a lot of success with vulnerable children over the years.

My main concern, and I'm sure you will agree, is the safety of the children. A footpath was built connecting the newer estate with Afon y Felin, in order to provide a safe route to school. It is widely used, with many parents allowing children to walk to and home from school alone because it is a safe route. My husband and I have put a lot of thought into the safety aspect if the new school went ahead as planned. The children only have two options once they reach the end of the footpath, to cross the road on an adverse camber, a very dangerous place indeed, or to cross on the junction of Meadow Street and Heol y Parc. It is a spot where many accidents and near misses have occurred over the years, even one child being caused an injury is one too many. I am very concerned about this viewpoint, car drivers use our estate as a rally course frequently, please, if this modernisation goes ahead, consider this safety access at great length before making a final decision.

I apologise if you have catered for this in the consultation document. I haven't had time to read it all due to family circumstances.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Local Authority Response:

The local authority does not feel that moving from a smaller school to a larger school would have a negative impact on education standards or would result in a large school with less personalised experience for pupils (where teachers were

unable to get to know the children and families) or reduced pastoral care. It is likely that all the existing teachers (from both Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) would transfer to the new schools, so pupils would not likely have new teachers. Although the proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes ie two forms per year group, the individual classes would not be any bigger capacity than they are presently (there would just be more of them). The authority would seek to maintain the current small school 'ethos' in the new school and would arrange close collaboration between the staff of the existing schools far in advance of transfer in order to achieve this.

The proposed new schools would be built in full compliance with Building Regulations and would be built to Building Bulletin (Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects – which specifically references safety and security) design standards. Entrances and drop off points would be determined at detailed design stage, and would be safe and would be informed by a full Transport Assessment (Transport Assessments consider the impact of the development on all transport modes, set out proposals to minimise the impact of the development on the transport network and promote measures to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly transport). Any necessary transport network improvements (including crossing points, footpaths, cycle-ways) identified by the Transport Assessment would form part of the proposed new build scheme.

Appendix 8

Bridgend West Consultation (Snap Online Survey) Responses:

Are you (please tick):

Parent/guardian (36) 78%

School staff (6) 13%

Other interested party (please specify) (3) 7%

School governor (1) 2%

School pupil (-)

Do you support the proposal:

No (25) 54%

Yes (21) 46%

If you do not support the proposal – please state why:

As a parent, I put my children into afon-y-felin because it was a nice small school, everyone knows one another and we are able to voice our opinions to all the teachers and head teacher of afon-y-felin without getting over looked. Cornelly primary is a bigger school and this is why I did not put my children there. We love afon-y-felin and it just wouldn't be the same without it. My children are thriving there and I wouldn't want them to be disrupted.

The school would become too large- a less personalised experience for all children attending!

I think these "super schools" are a disgrace! My children will now have to look for another school out of catchment. I do not want my children in a huge class room. I picked afon-y-felin as it's a lovely little school with no more than 20 per class as my husband is a teacher he tells me how over 20 kids they get lost in the class and you cant teach properly over this with 30+ a class children who struggle like I did as a child get lost and dont get the help and attention needed. I went to a big primary trimmans and brynteg and I struggled all through school for this reason so knew I wanted small schools for my children as my son is like myself and already not finding school easy at all. This will pull him from a school he loves and take him away from friends and teschers he loves also. You are turning children's world and education upside down at a time when they have had enough disruption in the past year to there education that will effect them for life. This is a disgraceful proposition and to take away a fantastic school like afon-y-felin one of the last schools like it in bridgend with an amazing headmistress and team. It would be the biggest loss to our community in north cornelly nobody wants or is asking for a super school they are all happy with the way they are!! Dont fix what isnt broke. Leave the schools and our children alone.

I do not think only having one large school which is not central to the whole area would benefit the area or the pupils especially with a proposed nursery of 60 my eldest child currently gose ti Afon y Felin primary which is the smaller of the two schools that you want

to join together i chose to put him in Afon y Felin because it is a small school and all the pupils and staff know everyone the children get the attention they need and it also give the personal touch between staff ,pupils and parents i want my Daughter to gi to Afon y Felin as well because my son has done really well there academically and has close bonds with friends and staff but if the two schools are merged into one big school I think all that will be lost and pupils will suffer and I will be looking for a small school out of the area for my Daughter to attend which is the last thing I want to do but I do agree with making the Welsh school Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr bigger.

We chose this school as it is small and it supports the needs of the child more than a larger school would.

It seems to be the plans for all schools in Wales proposed for these mergers. Kenfig hill and vale of Glamorgan. Children are happy at the schools they attend and teachers they have. Afon Y felin has improved with help of Mrs Williams and worked hard to develop into a green school whilst Cornelli has seemed to relax their standard to what they were. Increasing school sizes will see more bullied and staff cuts. The pandemic has been a large enough transition for children without the proposal for time building these projects and parking for local parents as quite unsafe now without the merge of these schools. Money wasted when things such as ports cabins have been used at other schools for extra classrooms.

Afon y felin is a small school which is why I chose it. My children and myself would not attend larger school.

I chose afon y felin simply because it was such a small school. Friends and family recommended the school because of the support the children receive. The teachers have time for 1:1 support. My daughters development has come on great since attending and I believe by joining the schools this support would be minimised greatly. The children and their education has been affected enough over the last year due to the pandemic the last thing the children need after settling down again into education is to be moved. The children have formed a bond with each teacher regardless of what year their in which I think it's great. All teachers know the children even though they don't teach them yet. It works very well. We don't not want this interrupted

I think it's silly when there's already 3 schools in close proximity

I went to that primary school as a child, my son now attends and I've felt nothing but ease with that school, there was a choice of 3 before I signed him to Afon y felin & I feel I chose the best one. I would be devistated to see Afon y felin go, especially due to the current situations as to why i chose not to send my son two the other stated schools, for personal reasons. I haven't also declined to be moved from my property when I could've really benefited just due to wanted to keep myson in Afon y felin.

I do not think a 'mega school' will help our children

I chose a small school for my child's education, not a large school I didn't want to send my children to a school where teachers were unable to get to know the child and family. The current school (afon y felin) have such wonderful nature facilities, beautiful green space, for the children to enjoy. This clearly is a monetary decision swapping land for land so V2C

can build houses instead of children having beautiful green space. There has recently been an owl lodging on school grounds which has sparked the children's interest in nature, swapping sites and building on this land will ensure that local children will have very minimal interaction with nature. Placing a new school on the proposed site is just so disappointing, such a awful, bleak and quite frankly depressing view for the children. Currently children from local estates can walk safely to Afon-Y-Felin with minimal to no roads to cross, by building the new school it will increase traffic as many parents will then chose to drive not walk, increase pollution and there will be an accident as currently people drive around with very little thought to others. Most roads are used as rat runs in Cornelly. This clearly is just a money making scheme for BCBC at the expense of our children's education and local area, BCBC should be ashamed of themselves.

I would like yo keep my daughter in the school she's in now which is perfect the way it is

I like Afon y Felin Primary as it is as a small school. Also the children have had enough upheaval with their education because of the virus and being closed!

I personally believe this decision is a very wrong one. I had the choice between 2 schools in my area -

afon y felin came out on top and my gosh, have they done a fantastic job with my kids. They have come on leaps and bounds, the teachers are amazing, and I chose that particular school as it's a small school. That's a main reason I did send mine there over Cornelly. Also, I don't think the site of Plas Morlais is a good choice either. It's not private, another reason I chose afon y felin is its well away from houses and covered by trees, and I don't see how your going to fit a bit school in an area so small. The views are going to be shocking for the children and there's houses over looking the school - you never know whose watching do you. I certainly won't feel comfortable sending my children to a school there and sure as hell would not let them attend it, I would move to another area like Margam.

I think during a pandemic the money could be better spend elsewhere like starting the work on the Dr's surgery in north Cornelly

I like afon y felin the way it it's

I do not support the proposal. I have several reasons. Firstly I do not feel that the majority of children that live in the area and attend Corneli Primary and Afon Y Felin have been taken into consideration adequately with this proposal. The site that has been proposed is not a sufficiently large enough plot to allow adequate playing facilities and I believe that they will share this with the new proposed Welsh Medium School at their site. This means that the children in the combined school will have to go to the different site for activities. The site which holds Corneli Primary presently is a much larger plot and more central for all the estates in North Cornelly. I feel that they are being sidelined for the Welsh Medium School which has a small number of children from Cornelly attending and a lot are bussed into the area. There are also a lot of new houses planned I believe for Greenfield Terrace and the present Afon Y Felin site. North Cornelly has been inundated with houses and is now the size of a small town rather than a village with no infrastructure. There is a doctor's surgery that is not fit for purpose, one pharmacy that is currently struggling and no dentists. Cornelly deserves a decent

school but a Welsh Medium school that has children from all over the county could be rehoused anywhere. Also as a resident of Greenfield Terrace I would have concerns about the amount privacy

and disturbance issues from having a larger school built on the site. I would imagine that residents from the area around the proposed new school on Marlas Estate would prefer their gardens extended so that their children could play safely in their gardens. There is also the issue of increased traffic around the proposed site. It appears that the council is more concerned with housing and overpopulation than children's welfare.

I disagree with some of the reasons put forward in the consultation document, particularly those referring to the condition of the school building at Afon Y Felin. I also believe the site of Afon Y Felin would be a better choice for the new school.

i believe it will interfere with the quiet of the near by streets. it will be able to see into near by houses. the volume of traffic in the surrounding area will increase and cause chaos. parking will be an issue for the small streets near by as parents will use these to park to get access to the school.

School has green status and we want to keep it as a small school. Mainly because my child has severe allergies and is more risk to having his EpiPens with a larger number of children. having my child in AYF primary reduces the risk instead of having more children to attend to. Leave it how we are!

Because I chose afon y felin for my daughter to attend purely because it was a smaller school with smaller classes allowing for teachers to give students more attention. Also my daughter is going through a hard enough time at the moment without making her change school possibly having new teachers and new friends to get used to, I am hoping if enough people oppose the plan then it will not go ahead, I myself also suffer with mental health and I do not cope with change very well due to the nature of my condition so I would have a lot of hurdles to overcome if this school went ahead as planned, I have made good relationships with the staff at afon y felin and I feel comfortable with their support, it would be a shame for me to lose all this and have to start the process again when it took me nearly 2 years to get to this stage.

Because I picked my child to go to afon y felin as there is family members in cornelly school which I have to keep away from and can't be anywhere near them and won't be fair on my child

Does gen i ddim barn y naill ffordd neu'r llall ar y cynlluniau o ran y sector Saesneg. Er fy mod i'n gefnogol iawn i'r egwyddor o hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg yng ngorllewin y sir, ni allaf gefnogi'r cynlluniau arfaethedig. Ar hyn o bryd mae lleoedd ar gael yn Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr, felly mae yna le iddi ehangu a chynyddu'r ddarpariaeth leol yn barod. A dweud y gwir mae'r nifer yn yr ysgol wedi cwmpo dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae'r cyngor yn gywir i nodi bod cyflwr truenus yr adeiladau presennol yn debygol o fod yn ffactor sy'n achosi i drigolion beidio ag eisiau anfon eu plant yno. Fodd bynnag, ffactor arall yw pellter a thrafnidiaeth. Mae'r ysgol yn gwasanaethu ardal enfawr â mwyafrif ei phoblogaeth yn byw ym Mhorthcawl, cryn bellter o safle'r ysgol. Mae ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr wedi'i lleoli'n dda i wasanaethu ardal y Pîl / Cynffig; fodd bynnag, o Borthcawl y gellid tybio y bydd mwyafrif y tyfiant disgwyledig yn dod. Mae Porthcawl yn dref ag iddi

boblogaeth o 20,000 ac debyg mae hi yw un o'r trefi mwyaf yng Nghymru heb unrhyw ddarpariaeth cynradd Cymraeg yn lleol. Er mwyn cael addysg yn y Gymraeg mae'n rhaid i blant deithio i Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr ar fysiau. Mae arolygon barn mynych ym mhob man o Gymru wedi awgrymu bod rhieni'n bodlon iawn anfon eu plant i addysg Gymraeg os yw'r ddarpariaeth yr un mor agos â'r ddarpariaeth amgen. Digon rhesymegol felly yw disgwyl y byddai ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd ym Mhorthcawl yn hybu tyfiant llawer yn fwy nag ehangu Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr. Os am gynyddu'r lleodd mewn addysg Gymraeg yn yr ardal felly, a gwneud hynny mewn ffordd y byddai'n hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg, onid y ffordd amlwg o wneud hynny fyddai darpariaeth newydd yn ardal Porthcawl, yn hytrach nag ehangu ysgol nad yw'n agos at fod yn llawn ar hyn o bryd? Yn sicr, mae angen adnewyddu cyfleusterau Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr. Ond petai'r cyngor yn dyblu ei faint byddai hynny'n gwtio yn ôl unrhyw benderfyniad i gynnig darpariaeth leol ym Mhorthcawl, yn enwedig (fel sy'n debygol iawn o ddigwydd) pe bai'n cymryd blynyddoedd lawer i Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr gyrraedd ei llawn maint. Mae perygl y byddai hyn'n "cloi" y sefyllfa presenol, a llesteirio tyfiant addysg gymraeg ym Mhorthcawl, am ddegawd neu ragor. Mae'r cyngor yn nodi y byddai agor ysgol newydd yn ddrud oherwydd dim ond niferoedd bychain byddai'n ei mynychu i ddechrau. Fodd bynnag mae'r model o agor ysgolion cwbl newydd ar y model "seedling" wedi gweithio dro ar ôl tro mewn ardaloedd megis y Barri a Chasnewydd. Ond anhebyg y byddai'r cyngor yn gallu cyfiawnhau hynny wedi cynyddu'r ddarpariaeth yn Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr i'r fath raddau a'r cynlluniau arfaethedig.

Afon y Felin Primary has been an excellent school and has a lot to do with the community

The school with the dedicated staff and governing body having worked cohesively as a team to move the school from Red to Green have developed a school which has good/excellent standards. The school has grown in size annually and is now looked upon as a very respected school both within the community and beyond including CSC. Everyone connected to school including parents/guardians and pupils are very proud of the achievements that have been made. Significant sums of money have always been made available to be used to both improve and enhance the learners experience and improvements to the buildings. Currently many of the learners/families from the Flying Start choose the school due to the strong transition arrangements. The school has a strong status for the development of Welsh as a second language. The outlook and position of the school provides a super outdoor learning environment for pupils to develop their health and wellbeing. Many of our parents choose the school for the community based ethos that a small school can provide. All cycle routes have been developed to the school to provide safe access. The concern is; Would the new build on the site proposed be the best solution for the community?

If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals presented please give details:

Only concern is children's safety with regards to parking etc. Will there be safe and ample room for drops offs etc.

Think they will give children in the area a better opportunity going forward

Mae angen adeilad newydd sbon ar Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr, un sy'n addas ar gyfer addysgu yn yr 21ain ganrif.

I support this proposal as it includes expansion of the welsh language education provision in the area.

Leave the schools as they are!!

Leave Afon y Felin primary and Corneli primary as two separate schools but maybe updated the existing buildings for them etc as for the Welsh school find a larger area for that to go and still go ahead with the plans to make it a larger school as it is the only Welsh school in the area

Maybe an Early Years/ Foundation Stage Observational Class/es for pupils too.

Stop trying to merge schools and allow children, teachers and parents to remain where they are and what children they can help with a smaller classroom.

My interests lie solely in the welsh medium educational provision. I feel strongly that the proposals have addressed many problems that YFOS have faced over the last few years and provided solutions, eg, clearing the backlog of maintenance deficit, delivering a 21st century building suitable for modern teaching standards and improving the physical appearance of the site to increase uptake in admissions. There is one aspect that has not been addressed in my opinion, that is the site locality. YFOS would be ideally situated on more of a neutral site to attract more prospects from West Bridgend , eg Porthcawl. The current location is off putting to some , a neutral site would increase the uptake of welsh medium education significantly .

Huge step forward for Cornelly, as a teacher, as a parent and a local resident I know myself and my family are really pleased with the development. I was wondering about entrances and traffic? Would there be more than one entrance? When will plans be available?

I am glad to see the local schools being improved, my daughter has sen needs so seeing that a provision for this will be available in a more local school is great. Also her brother already attends cornelly primary so would be nice to have both children in one school.

Keep Corneli Primary where it is and have the use of 'Marlas infants' again which is currently the welsh school. It will be big enough then to merge the two schools. Then move the Welsh school to Afon y felins old ground.

Add foundation phase learning resource Centre so that there is a continuum of specilaist provision within the cynffig cluster, right through to secondary.

Maybe even putting the 2 schools together and leaving Afon y felin out of the move as I think the school could maybe just benefits some upgrades rather than demolish Afon y felin

If modernisation is the key driving force for this then modernise the current school, look at the beautiful land, put temporary classrooms up whilst modernising the current school. The school is in such a beautiful spot with so many benefits to the children, don't waste that

land on social housing, there is enough all ready in Cornelly. If the Welsh school needs a new building place that on the plans morlais site. Instead of merging two schools increasing pollution and traffic in the area.

Leave the school as it is but some money for air conditioning would be good and sports teams.

I think you should leave the schools as they are. At the end of the day, it's all down to money. Why don't you just spend it to modernise the schools we have and Build a small unit for children who need extra support for their education as at the moment I know is not available in Cornelly due to funding. Children are being sent to different schools miles away to get the support they need, and that's not really fair on them is it. Also, we are in the middle of a pandemic, what about the new surgery the council have been keen to build for years and still haven't been done yet? The money can be spent elsewhere. I don't pay my council tax every month and not have a say where it goes.

Spend the money on starting the work on the Dr's in north Cornelly instead

Has the viability of the 2 English medium schools being combined as the new school on the current Corneli Primary site been seriously considered from a vehicular access point of view ?

Either a site looked for Welsh Medium School elsewhere or both new schools sited on the present Corneli Primary/Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger as it is a huge site and surely both can be accommodated there.

Locating the new school on the Afon Y Felin site.

leave the schools as they are or use existing sites and build upon them

Why cant they upgrade afon y felin school and extend the school they av just build a castle in the grounds for the children and that would be waste of money

Mwy doeth o lawer byddai ail-adeiladu Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr fel ysgol 1FE ynllle 2FE, tra'n ymrwymo I sefydlu ysgol Gynradd newydd yn ardal Porthcawl.

The place were you intend to put the new school is not very well situated for the parents for parking to drop and pick children up. Q. If you are intending giving V2C the land that afon y Felin is on and we have more houses wouldn't that affect other resources in the area?

Afon-y-Felin has proved itself to be a school of excellence a flagship to the authority in so many ways, by closing it and removing its name in favour of a new build and name would mean that all the hard work that has been taken to achieve this will be lost. I agree that a new 21st Century building for education in this area is very appealing for the community therefore would the local authority consider expanding our school on our site as a better alternative?

Any other comments:

Stop trying to build more houses on land that is our beloved school and heart of our and our children's community

Many parents have moved their children from Corneli to Afon y Felin because of various reasons e.g. bullying or needs not being met because it's a big school already so I don't think many parents will be on board with plans to merge the two schools because of the reasons they took them out of a big school and put them in a smaller school

Think it's beyond how this can be discussed during pandemic and so many children already missing on basic education.

I am happy that most needs have been addressed with the proposals. An aggressive marketing campaign for the new Welsh Medium facility, targeting West Bridgend will be essential. e.g. billboards, local media platforms and events.

A fantastic step forward for the local community, I am so pleased that my children will have access to these brand new facilities. As a local resident I see it as a huge positive for the community.

I'm very concerned about the leadership and management of Ysgol Ferch or Sger currently and would hope that with an expanded school, much work would be done in school improvement. I would hope that a new head and senior leadership team would be identified otherwise I fear that a bigger school will just add to the pressures that the staff currently face.

I would not move my son into the "new build school" he would have to be taking to Kenfig Hill as I've avoided it for certain reasons

I just don't think it's the right place or the right thing to do at all. Children don't like change, they've barely been in school the past year, and to uproot them again when they're all settled back in when they finally do to then move them to a super school with new teachers etc is going to be such a hard transition for them and one I know my own children will struggle with.

What guarantees can mainscale teaching staff be given regarding transfer of job responsibilities and signing of new contracts of employment? Similarly what Learning Support Officer structures do you envisage being practical and appropriate? Will there be appropriate and adequate library and digital resources for all pupils? Is a separate P.E sports hall viable instead of being cramped into a timetable with the school canteen? Will space be available on site for staff to work on site during noncontact teaching periods? Can staffroom space be of a more appropriate size with suitable kitchen facilities? Can toilet facilities for staff be of an appropriate number? Please ensure that window openings are not so high that if you are only 5 ft 2 in tall you need to stand on a table to reach them! Fans for use in warm weather in class are a necessity alongside roller blinds that don't constantly break. All classes should have the same standard of SMART Board. Likewise with regards to display boards usually ridiculously high for a short person to reach. Hygienic storage is a must for pupil lunchboxes in addition to suitable cloakroom space. If sinks are in classrooms again need to be of a good quality / standard. A communal water cooler - not keen on this with current hygiene regulations - what about classroom hydration stations? Will changing room facilities for PE be available? Finally an absolute must is the need to securely fence off staff parking areas

so that pupils and parents do not use them as shortcuts when staff are entering and exiting the school site responsibly

I feel having the opportunity to choose a smaller school is very important and that many parents in Afon Y Felin have made the choice of the school because of this. I myself, as a parent, chose a small school for my own children for better pastoral care and a 'family' ethos and value the opportunities a smaller school environment can provide.

new site will also disturb the many rats that are there and will cause them to seek shelter elsewhere causing further rat infestations in our homes

Dydy'r ddogfen ymgynghori ddim yn dangos bod y cyngor wedi rhoi llawer o ystyriaeth i'r syniad o sefydlu ysgol newydd ym mhorthcawl.

Local Authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

Safety/security, parking, traffic concerns

The local authority rejects the concerns raised in the consultation responses regarding safety, security and traffic/pollution on the grounds that the proposed new schools would be built in full compliance with Building Regulations and would be built to Building Bulletin (Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects, which specifically references safety and security) design standards. Entrances and drop-off points would be determined at detailed design stage, and would be safe and would be informed by a full Transport Assessment (Transport Assessments consider the impact of the development on all transport modes, set out proposals to minimise the impact of the development on the transport network and promote measures to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly transport). Any necessary transport network improvements (including crossing points, footpaths, cycleways) identified by the Transport Assessment would form part of the proposed new build scheme.

Small school moving to a larger school concerns

The local authority does not accept the view that moving from a smaller school to a larger school would have a negative impact on education standards or would result in a large school with less personalised experience for pupils (where teachers were unable to get to know the children and families) or reduced pastoral care. It is likely that all the existing teachers (from both Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) would transfer to the new schools, so pupils would not likely have new teachers. Although the proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes ie two forms per year group, the individual classes would not be any bigger capacity than they are presently (there would just be more of them). The authority would seek to maintain the current small school 'ethos' in the new school and would support the management of all affected schools and arrange close collaboration between the staff of the existing schools far in advance of transfer in order to achieve this.

Site size/facilities concerns

The local authority does not accept the concerns raised in the consultation responses in relation to the size of proposed sites being insufficient. Site 'test-fit' analysis undertaken by Welsh Government appointed project managers has demonstrated that the sites are large

enough to accommodate the proposed new 21st century schools. Building Bulletin (Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects) recommended areas for new primary schools (including all types of space in primary schools eg teaching areas, circulation space, sports pitches, games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas and habitat space) were compared to the land available on the sites to ensure that they are of sufficient size. Design of the proposed new schools would be in accordance with Building Bulletin design standards (and will take full account of eg aspect, fencing, planting, safety and security, privacy, environmental issues, energy, ventilation, acoustics and lighting). The proposed continuation (in the proposed new English-medium school) of the existing Corneli Primary School additional learning need resource centre has been determined by an analysis of need and consultation with BCBC's Inclusion Service. There is deemed to be insufficient demand for any further specialist provision.

Timing concerns

The local authority does not accept the criticism stated in the consultation responses in relation to the timing of the consultation. The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure the required number of suitable pupil places in its area. The overall timescales involved in undertaking the necessary consultations in relation to school reorganisations, securing the necessary Welsh Government approvals, securing the necessary funding and designing and building new schools mean that in order to ensure the required number of suitable pupil places for when they become needed consultation had to be undertaken between January and March 2021. It was, nonetheless, unfortunate that the pandemic coincided with the consultation period.

Condition of the school building at Afon Y Felin

The local authority rejects the disagreement expressed in the consultation responses regarding the condition of the school building at Afon Y Felin. The backlog maintenance figure of £525,450 was provided by professional surveyors appointed by BCBC's Corporate Landlord Department and the school's currently condition is graded category C+ (poor - exhibiting major defects and/ or not operating as intended).

Rat infestations

The local authority does not accept the contention made that development of the proposed sites will cause rat infestations in homes. If the proposal was progressed, the sites would be subject to geological surveys, ecological surveys, drainage surveys and mitigation measures would be put into place in line with survey recommendations. Typically, unidentified underground redundant pipes are a major cause of rat infestations. The drainage surveys required for development of the sites would identify existing underground pipes and problematic redundant pipes would be removed.

Area housebuilding

The local authority rejects the views expressed in the consultation responses that the proposal is 'a money making exercise' and is driven by a desire to build more houses in the area. The proposal is, as outlined in the consultation document, driven entirely by the need to provide suitable and sufficient pupil places. The proposed land swap with Valleys to Coast Housing will not generate any income for the authority (it is purely a means to secure the site required for the school development). Any future proposals for housebuilding that Valleys to Coast Housing may put forward for the Afon Y Felin Primary School site would be subject to the necessary planning approvals (which would consider, amongst other things, impacts on local infrastructure).

Alternate options

A number of alternate options have been put forward in the consultation responses (eg leave the schools as they are, locate the Welsh-medium school in Porthcawl, leave Afon y Felin Primary School and Corneli Primary School as two separate schools but update the existing buildings, spend to modernise the schools we have, leave Afon y Felin Primary School out of the move and just upgrade). As explained in the consultation document, all three existing schools involved in the proposal are nearing the end of their design life, are in poor condition (exhibiting major defects and/ or not operating as intended) and have very significant backlog maintenance requirements. The existing buildings, in addition to being in poor condition, were not designed to 21st century school standards and do not lend themselves to adaptation to such.

As stated in the consultation document, the option of leaving the existing schools as they are was discounted principally because this option is not sustainable, does not meet the strategy and aims of the authority and would disadvantage future generations of learners by not addressing the need for 21st century pupil places. It could potentially lead to a shortage in education places due to the anticipated future growth in housing in the area. Schools are currently in very poor condition and do not have appropriate facilities to maximally meet modern curriculum need. Any option variation which involves leaving a particular school out of the proposal would obviously disadvantage the pupils of that school for the reasons outlined above. Realistically, the only sites in the area large enough to accommodate the proposed schools (other than North Cornelly Playing Fields, which the authority would not wish to use due to the extensive community use) are the existing Corneli Primary School site and the Valleys to Coast owned land.

BCBC Cabinet committed in January 2020 to the principle of providing a new Welsh-medium school in Porthcawl. Should the Bridgend West proposal progress, it would not be at the expense of future Welsh-medium provision in Porthcawl. The Bridgend West scheme as proposed is intended to meet the demand for pupil places that would be created by potential future housing in the immediate area, to promote the Welsh language and to increase the numbers of non-maintained nursery children transitioning to Welsh-medium primary education. An entirely separate 'Porthcawl' area review has been undertaken and a future scheme for new Welsh-medium school in Porthcawl is being developed.

Legacy items of furniture and equipment from the existing schools identified by the schools as needed would be transferred to the new schools should the proposal go ahead. Consequently, funding recently spent on play castles etc should in no way be regarded as wasted.

The options for the Bridgend West area presented in the consultation document were the culmination of an analysis of education options and site options by BCBC educationalists and technical officers. The options were set out in the authority's Strategic Outline Business Case submitted to Welsh Government, which has been approved. The consultation responses have been considered and the authority wishes to publish the proposal as consulted on.

Appendix 9

Estyn's response to the proposal by Bridgend County Borough Council to discontinue Corneli Primary School and Afon y Felin Primary School and establish a new school with effect from 1 September 2023 and to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr in the form of an enlargement with effect from 2 September 2024.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales. Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Summary/ Conclusion

The proposal by Bridgend County Borough Council is to discontinue Corneli Primary School and Afon y Felin Primary School and open a new school with effect from 1 September 2023. They also propose to enlarge Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr with effect from 2 September 2024.

The council lays out a clear rationale for its proposal. It involves eradicating around £1.5m maintenance backlog between the three schools, which it considers to be in poor condition, exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended. The proposal also addresses the need for Welsh medium places and of promoting the growth of the Welsh language.

The proposer has consulted widely, including with children and young people, parents/carers, school staff, a wide range of interested parties and members of the public. Estyn is of the opinion that the current proposal is likely to at least maintain the education provision for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

Bridgend County Borough Council has laid out the benefits to this proposal clearly. The proposal will eradicate a large maintenance backlog, while opening a new 2 form entry primary school with 60 place nursery and 15 place Additional Learning Needs resource centre. It will also increase the capacity for Welsh-medium education in the area. The council has considered one potential disadvantage to the scheme and has a solution that should negate this. However, the proposal does not detail clearly enough the possible impact on the Flying Start provision on the Afon Y Felin site, or how the council will address this.

The proposal identifies three risks to the project, namely, objections to the proposal, costs exceeding available budget and unknown costs of infrastructure works. The counter measures for these risks involve effective communication and early commission of transport assessment to inform budget for highway works. These measures lack detail of how the project will proceed if the risks are realised.

It is not clear from the proposal how the phased development of the new, enlarged Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr will work. However, it is reasonable to assume that such a major project taking place on-site will inevitably cause disruption to learners, and it should be made clear how the disruption will be minimised.

The council have considered suitable alternatives, including maintaining the status quo. The grounds for discounting the alternatives are reasonable, such as a site being too small for expansion, the poor quality of existing buildings preventing expansion and alternatives not addressing the WESP or Cymraeg 2050 commitments.

The proposed sites for the new schools are less than 0.3 miles away from the current school sites, and it is therefore reasonable to expect that this should not affect learner travel arrangements, including journeys to alternative provision, and journey times for pupils with SEN.

The council realises that increasing the capacity of Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr will increase surplus places at the school. However, they have considered suitably the authority's local development plan when determining the long-term strategy for education in the area. They believe a 2 form-entry, Welsh-medium school is appropriate for the Bridgend West area (in light of the demand for pupil places that would be created by potential future housing, the need to promote the Welsh language and to increase the numbers of non-maintained nursery children transitioning to Welsh-medium primary education). The council have considered the extent to which this proposal supports the target of the WESP and it is reasonable to assume that uptake of Welsh-medium education in the area will increase as a consequence of the proposal.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The council has taken into account the standards, provision and leadership and management in all three schools involved in the proposal. They state that standards in all three primary schools have improved since their last inspections with most pupils making good or better progress across the school, including pupils with additional learning needs. All schools have broadly similar areas for improvement linked to literacy, the development of curriculum for Wales and wellbeing. It is fair to assume that a larger community would not impact on those areas of priority.

The county states that the quality of teaching in Corneli Primary, Afon-y-Felin Primary and Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr is good or better. Even though all schools are deemed by the local authority to make the best of their environments, it is fair to assume that it is likely that experiences for learners would improve with a modern, purpose-built facility as proposed. While the proposal considers leadership and management in the schools, it does not do so strongly enough. The proposer's main consideration is the last categorisation of the schools, which took place in September 2019.

The new school that will replace Corneli Primary and Afon-y-Felin Primary is yet to be established and as such, has no governing body. This means that the staffing structure for the school is yet to be established, and that no staff have been appointed to any posts. There is also a need for one less headteacher. All this poses an inherent risk that is not addressed strongly in the proposal.

Local Authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

Leadership and management considerations for the schools form an integral part of the planning for this proposal. If the proposal is approved, due process and HR guidelines will be observed to secure a strong governing body (GB) for the school. Current governing bodies will work alongside a shadow governing body until the new school is opened, at which point the shadow GB will assume the full powers of a GB.

The position of headteacher, will be ring-fenced for one of the current substantive headteachers, to ensure continuity.

Appendix 10

WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 ASSESSMENT

<p>Project Description (key aims): Proposal to discontinue Corneli Primary School and Afon y Felin Primary School and create a ‘new’ school with effect from September 2023 and to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Y Ferch O’r Sgêr in the form of an enlargement with effect from September 2024.</p>	
<p>Section 1</p>	<p>Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.</p>
<p>Long-term</p> <p>(The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs)</p>	<p>1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?</p>
	<p>The scheme has been identified through a collaborative strategic approach with officers from key departments of the Council. A strategic group considered current and projected data including capacity of schools, housing, building condition etc. This project has been established on a geographical/need basis on the basis of a long list of options, to identify this preferred option. In considering this option, the team gave consideration to the long-term needs of the local authority’s statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places and promote the Welsh language.</p>
<p>Prevention</p> <p>(How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)</p>	<p>2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?</p>
	<p>Provision of places at schools is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure there is a sufficient supply and there is suitable accommodation to deliver the curriculum effectively. The schemes have been identified to ensure that pupil places can be delivered in the future and to prevent pupils not being able to obtain a pupil place. Certain schemes will also ensure that the Council aids on the Welsh Government commitment of Cymraeg 2050. Councils have a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient supply of school places, and these schemes will safeguards the Council’s position in terms of any potential legal challenge in this regard.</p>
<p>Integration</p> <p>(Considering how the public body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each of the wellbeing goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of</p>	<p>3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?</p>
	<p>Providing sufficient places ensures that the curriculum can be delivered and meets the social, environmental and cultural objectives of pupils and the community the schools will serve. Schemes will promote inclusion. Community use of facilities will be explored and where appropriate will be incorporated into design. Construction will be competitively tendered by Welsh Government/WEPCo and Community benefits will be maximised.</p>

other public bodies)	
<p>Collaboration</p> <p>(Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives)</p>	<p>4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</p> <p>The local authority works effectively with schools, Estyn, Central South Consortium (CSC), health, community councils and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building meets the short-term and future needs of the users and the community which it will serve. Officers developing the scheme will ensure that the building design is sustainable and energy efficient. In evaluating the list of options available, consideration will be given to how best make the schemes work effectively in order to maximise the use of resource and capitalise on the expenditure ensuring the schemes meet the needs of current and future generations.</p>
<p>Involvement</p> <p>(The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves)</p>	<p>5. How does your project / activity involve stakeholders with an interest in achieving the well-being goals? How do those stakeholders reflect the diversity of the area?</p> <p>Schemes are subject to a long list of options, which include education and site. These are systematically evaluated and result in further development and refining. Work involves the engagement of all potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners which will include 3rd sector organisations. The proposal is subject to statutory consultation under the School Organisation Code.</p>

Section 2 Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals (use Appendix 1 to help you).		
Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?	Is there any way to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	Construction companies will be appointed by Welsh Government/WEPCo and therefore will have to adhere to sustainability strategies developed for construction and meet targets for recycling. They are also expected to provide community benefits on each project. This could include providing apprenticeships, employment and work experience plus employment opportunities as appropriate.	We would maximise the benefits by ensuring that certain key aspects are detailed within the construction contract.
A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	Schemes will be developed to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the environment.	N/A
A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	Improved facilities for pupils, staff and the wider community encourages physical and mental well-being.	Ensuring the building is designed to current regulations.

<p>A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>	<p>Schemes will be fully inclusive in terms of their design and promote opportunities for all pupils to learn, develop and reach their full potential.</p>	<p>Ensure the building design is fully inclusive and meets the needs of the pupils and communities they serve.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<p>We will engender good relations with the communities that the schools will serve, working closely with them to promote opportunities to engage throughout the course of the project and thereafter.</p>	<p>Improved facilities for schools presents opportunities for increased community use.</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>	<p>Welsh language will be promoted by the Council in Band B, thereby supporting the aim of Cymraeg 2050. Schemes will be designed to promote opportunities for participation.</p>	<p>Schools would better deliver the full curriculum which would include Welsh, its culture, heritage and sport. Community use of facilities would help inform the design ensuring the facilities are accessible.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<p>It is likely that certain materials specified may be sourced outside of Wales, thereby supporting the global economy.</p>	<p>In order to minimise any negative impact, we would seek to ensure that the majority of materials are available from Welsh suppliers.</p>

Section 3 Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts			
Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age:	Yes	No	Ensure improved school environment for pupils
Gender reassignment:	No	No	N/A
Marriage or civil partnership:	No	No	N/A
Pregnancy or maternity:	No	No	N/A
Race:	No	No	N/A
Religion or Belief:	No	No	N/A
Race:	No	No	N/A
Sex:	No	No	N/A
Welsh Language:	Yes	No	Potentially additional Welsh-medium places available in schools, which will help in the promotion of the Welsh-language

Section 4 Identify decision meeting for Project/activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decision taken by Executive Members and/or Chief Officers	
Cabinet	
Compiling Officers Name:	Project Manager
Compiling Officers Job Title:	Schools Project Manager
Date completed:	11 th December 2020 (updated 14 March 2021)

Appendix 11

List of stakeholders

- ▶ The Governing Body, parents, staff, carers, guardians and pupils of Afon y Felin Primary, Corneli Primary and Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr
- ▶ Other schools within the cluster/area
- ▶ Neighbouring authorities
- ▶ The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- ▶ Welsh Ministers
- ▶ Welsh Government
- ▶ Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Estyn
- ▶ Teaching and support staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
- ▶ South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- ▶ Town and Community Councils representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Independent or voluntary nursery providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin

- ▶ BCBC Childcare team/Children and Young People's Partnership and/or Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present
- ▶ Cabinet Members
- ▶ Corporate Management Board
- ▶ Ward Members
- ▶ BCBC Group Manager, Inclusion

- ▶ CAMHS, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
Primary Mental Health Team, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.

- ▶ Speech and Language Therapy Service, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.

- ▶ Paediatricians, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.

- ▶ Occupational Therapy (OT) NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.

- ▶ Physiotherapy Service: NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.

- ▶ Educational Psychologists. Educational Psychology Service, Bridgend County Borough Council.

- ▶ Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council

- ▶ SNAP Cymru

- ▶ Barnardo's Cymru

- ▶ Welsh Language Commissioner

This page is intentionally left blank