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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

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*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please
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Annwyl Cyngorydd,

PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU CORFFORAETHOL

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Corfforaethol O Bell Trwy Timau Microsoft ar **Dydd Mercher, 1 Rhagfyr 2021** am **09:30**.

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant
Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.
3. Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion 3 - 16
I dderbyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cofnodion cyfarfod y 01 09 21
4. Monitro Cyllideb 2021-22 - Rhagolwg Refeniw Chwarter 2 17 - 46

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Gwahoddwyr:

Cynghorydd Huw David - Arweinydd
Cynghorydd Hywel Williams - Dirprwy Arweinydd
Cynghorydd Stuart Baldwin - Aelod Cabinet - Cymunedau
Cynghorydd Nicole Burnett - Aelod Cabinet - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar
Cynghorydd Dhanisha Patel - Aelod Cabinet - Lles a Chenedlaethau Dyfodol
Cynghorydd Charles Smith - Aelod Cabinet - Addysg ac Adfywio

Mark Shephard - Prif Weithredwr
Lindsay Harvey - Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd
Gill Lewis - Pennaeth Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid dros dro
Claire Marchant - Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles
Janine Nightingale - Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Cymunedau
Kelly Watson - Prif Swyddog, Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddio, AD a Pholisi Corfforaethol

5. Diweddariad Rhaglen Gwaith 47 - 62

6. Materion Brys

I ystyried unrhyw eitemau o fusnes y, oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig y cadeirydd o'r farn y dylid eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod fel mater o frys yn unol â Rhan 4 (pharagraff 4) o'r Rheolau Trefn y Cyngor yn y Cyfansoddiad.

Nodyn: Sylwch: Yn sgil yr angen i gadw pellter cymdeithasol, ni fydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei gynnal yn ei leoliad arferol. Yn hytrach, bydd hwn yn gyfarfod rhithwir a bydd Aelodau a Swyddogion yn mynychu o bell. Bydd y cyfarfod yn cael ei recordio i'w ddarlledu ar wefan y Cyngor cyn gynted ag sy'n ymarferol ar ôl y cyfarfod. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiwn am hyn, cysylltwch â cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yn ddiffuant

K Watson

Prif Swyddog, Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddio, AD a Pholisi Corfforaethol

Dosbarthiad:

Cynghowrwy

JPD Blundell
J Gebbie
DG Howells
M Jones

Cynghorwyr

RL Penhale-Thomas
KL Rowlands
RMI Shaw
JC Spanswick

Cynghorwyr

T Thomas
MC Voisey
A Williams
AJ Williams

Agenda Item 3

PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU CORFFORAETHOL - DYDD MERCHER, 1 MEDI 2021

COFNODION CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU CORFFORAETHOL A GYNHALIWDYD O BELL TRWY TIMAU MICROSOFT DYDD MERCHER, 1 MEDI 2021, AM 09:30

Presennol

Y Cynghorydd KL Rowlands – Cadeirydd

JPD Blundell
RMI Shaw

J Gebbie
T Thomas

M Jones
A Williams

RL Penhale-Thomas
AJ Williams

Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

DG Howells a/ac JC Spanswick

Swyddogion:

Lucy Beard
Jackie Davies
Lindsay Harvey
Meryl Lawrence
Gill Lewis
Claire Marchant
Zak Shell
Mark Shephard
Kelly Watson

Gwasanaethau Democraidd - Craffu
Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol Oedolion
Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd
Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democraidd - Craffu
Pennaeth Cyllid a Swyddog 151 Dros Dro
Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdogaeth
Prif Weithredwr
Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Rheoleiddio

Gwahoddedigion:

Cynghorydd Stuart Baldwin
Cynghorydd Nicole Burnett
Cynghorydd Huw David
Cynghorydd Charles Smith
Cynghorydd Hywel Williams

Cabinet Member Communities
Aelod Cabinet - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar
Arweinydd
Aelod Cabinet - Addysg ac Adfywio
Dirprwy Arweinydd

31. DATGAN DIDDORDEB

Dim

32. CADARNHAU COFNODION

CYTUNWYD:

Fod Cofnodion cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Trosolwg Corfforaethol a Sgrwtini dyddiedig 9 Mehefin 2021 yn cael eu cymeradwyo fel cofnod gwir a chywir.

33. MONITRO CYLLIDEB 2021-22 – RHAGOLWG REFENIW CHWARTER 1

Diweddarodd y Prif Swyddog Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid yr Aelodau ynglŷn â sefyllfa refeniw ariannol Y Cyngor ar gyfer chwarter un ar 30 Mehefin 2021 gan nodi fod amser wedi mynd heibio ers i hyn gael ei adrodd i'r Cabinet ym mis Gorffennaf ac y byddai'n tynnu sylw at rai o'r prif themâu.

Atgoffodd yr Aelodau fod y Cyngor, yng nghyfarfod 24 Chwefror 2021, wedi cymeradwyo cyllideb refeniw net o £298.956m ar gyfer 2021-22 ac mai dyma'r adroddiad cynnydd cyntaf yn wyneb y gyllideb honno. Roedd Tabl 1 yn cynnig crynodeb o'r wybodaeth ac

yn nodi'r sefyllfa debygol oedd yn dangos gorwariant tebygol o £1m er iddi atgoffa'r Aelodau fod adroddiad alldro yn cynnig darlun go wahanol ar y pryd yn bennaf oherwydd bod symiau sylweddol o arian Covid a grantiau ychwanegol a nododd y byddai Aelodau'n gweld heriau ariannol yn amlgu eu hunain mewn sawl cyllideb. Roedd hyn yn amlwg wrth symud 2^{il} Chwarter gyda heriau penodol o safbwynt Gofal Cymdeithasol i Oedolion ledled Cymru. Roedd yn awyddus i Aelodau ddeall fod yr heriau hynny yno o hyd, a'i bod yn bwysig fod Aelodau'n edrych ar yr heriau gwaelodol sylweddol oedd yn wynebu rhai o'r gwasanaethau ac yn osgoi meddwl bod y sefyllfa ariannol yn ymddangos yn dda iawn o ystyried yr adroddiad alldro.

Cyfeiriodd yr Aelodau at Dabl 1, gan nodi fod cronfa adfer Covid o £1m wedi'i sefydlu a'i defnyddio'n ofalus ar gynnig parcio graddol, codiadau incwm rhent graddol ar gyfer eiddo rhent BCBC, hepgor ffioedd chwaraeon, chwarae haf ayb., nad oedd modd hawlio'r un ohonynt yn erbyn cronfa caledi am nad oedd modd hawlio ar sail penderfyniadau lleol.

Roedd Tabl 2 yn rhoi syniad o hawliadau Covid, gan nodi fod heriau o hyd ar dreth y cyngor a'r cynllun lleihau'r dreth cyngor a disgwylir caledi ariannol wrth i ffyrlo fynd rhagddo. Roedd lleihad o 1% yn nhreth y cyngor sy'n gyfystyr â £1m a doedd dim cefnogaeth ar gael eto oddi wrth Lywodraeth Cymru (LIC). Nodwyd yn 4.1.13 fod cyflog a phrisiau'n dal yn anwadal ac nad oedd codiadau cyflog eto'n glir er bod rhai arwyddion y byddai rhywfaint o gyflog yr athrawon yn cael ei ariannu'n ganolog. Roedd chwyddiant yn dal i fod ar lefel gymharol uchel ac nad oedd hynny'n rhywbeth y cynlluniwyd ar ei gyfer felly roedd angen sicrhau fod digon o arian yn y gyllideb brisiau.

Roedd Tabl 3 yn nodi arbedion y flwyddyn flaenorol a gyflawnwyd yn bennaf er bod diffyg o £310k o hyd a oedd yn annhebygol o gael ei gyflenwi ac roedd angen rhoi ystyriaeth i hynny.

Roedd Tabl 4 ac Atodiad 2 yn dangos perfformiad y flwyddyn a oedd yn gryn llwyddiant ar sawl lefel o dan amodau anodd. Roedd pob arbediad yn debygol o gael eu cyflawni ar wahân i adleoli'r ganolfan ailgylchu a oedd wedi'i ohirio.

Roedd angen parhaus am arbedion dros gyfnod y Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig ar gyfer 2022-2023 tan 2025-2026 a nodwyd o flaen amcan y byddai angen £22m pellach yn ddibynnol ar lefel setliad LIC.

Roedd Paragraff 4.3 o'r adroddiad ymlaen yn cynnig manylion pellach yn ymwneud â phob Cyfarwyddiaeth.

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r Prif Swyddog Ariannol Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid am ei chyflwyniad ac aeth Aelodau'r Pwyllgor ati i holi'r canlynol:

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at y gronfa adfer Covid a gofyn a oedd yr adferiad arian hwn, e.e., y £35k a roddwyd i gostau parcio ceir, wedi bod yn llwyddiannus.

Eglurodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol er mwyn hybu nifer yr ymwelwyr, fel rhan o'r adferiad yn dilyn Covid, gwnaed cynnig tair awr yn rhad ac am ddim ym maes parcio'r Rhiw ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr a pharcio am ddim rhwng 12 a 3 o'r gloch yn Stryd John Street, Porthcawl. Yr hyn a oedd yn anhygoel o anodd ei wneud oedd amcangyfrif y nifer yn erbyn y norm gan nodi bod nifer yr ymwelwyr wedi gostwng yn ystod y pandemig i ddechrau ac er bod y niferoedd yn codi, doedd y lefelau arferol ddim wedi'u cyrraedd o hyd, felly roedd yn anodd iawn mesur y llwyddiant.

Holodd yr Aelod am ychydig mwy o fanylion ar y rhaniad yng nghyswllt y gronfa adfer Covid o £1m.

Cadarnhaodd y Prif Weithredwr ei fod yn deall fod y swm rhwng £100k - £120k yng nghyswllt costau chwaraeon a thua £18k i £20k yng nghyswllt y cynnig parcio ceir, er y gellid darparu manylion llawn i'r Pwyllgorau y dymument.

Eglurodd yr Arweinydd, yng nghyswllt y gweithgareddau chwarae dros yr haf, fod Y Cyngor wedi cynllunio buddsoddiad pellach er mwyn darparu amrediad cynhwysfawr o weithgareddau chwarae dros yr haf ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc ond yna, roedd LIC wedi darparu pedair gwaith y swm o nawdd a gynigiwyd fel arfer. Dyma enghraifft o ansicrwydd y gyllideb, gan nodi fod Y Cyngor yn parhau i bledio'u hachos gyda LIC am gyllid ar gyfer yr heriau ychwanegol hynny.

Awgrymodd y Prif Swyddog Ariannol Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid y gellid cylchdroi manylion y gyllideb adfer Covid ymysg Aelodau.

Holodd yr Aelod beth oedd y gwir ofynion o safbwynt hawlio ar gyfer colli incwm. Nododd fod llawer o'r £2.127m yn cael ei ddal neu yn yr arfaeth a gofynnodd a oedd hyn yn rhoi pwysau ar y Cyngor wrth i staff geisio coladu'r wybodaeth ofynnol ar gyfer LIC.

Cydnabu'r Prif Swyddog Ariannol Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid fod y ceisiadau Covid wedi bod yn bwysau mawr ac yn gofyn am lawer iawn o waith ychwanegol nid yn unig o safbwynt yr Adran Gyllid ond o safbwynt y Gyfarwyddiaeth hefyd, er bod gan Y Cyngor berthynas dda iawn â Swyddogion LIC yn nhermau eglurdeb o ran yr hyn y gellid ei hawlio ac o ganlyniad roedden nhw wedi bod yn hynod lwyddiannus wrth hawlio costau yn ôl. Mewn gwirionedd, roedd bron fel rhedeg dwy system ariannol e.e. costau Covid, colledion incwm Covid a cholledion yn nhreth y cyngor ac eraill mewn meysydd ar wahân.

Ar sail gohiriad yr oedd y £2m yn cael ei ddal, am fod Y Cyngor bellach wedi derbyn rhywfaint ohono, er nad oedd ganddi ffigur pendant wrth law ond roedd yn obeithiol y byddai'r rhan fwyaf ohono'n cael ei dderbyn. Ymysg y prif feysydd colledion incwm roedd Halo a hamdden a'r parcio ceir y crybwyllwyd eisoes. Roedd hi wedi bod yn bosib hawlio am barcio ceir y llynedd, ond doedd hynny ddim yn bosibl bellach.

Nododd Aelod fod tudalen 19 yr adroddiad yn cyfeirio at gyllideb net ar gyfer gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a thanwariant o dros £600k ond roedd tudalen 20 yn cyfeirio at swyddi gwag ac oedi o safbwynt gweithredu ailstrwythuro a gofynnodd am eglurhad pellach yn y cyswllt hwn.

Cydnabu'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles fod y sefyllfa o safbwynt gofal cartref a gofal a chymorth yn y cartref yn un anodd ei hegluro a'i deall. Roedd lefelau uchel o swyddi gwag o safbwynt y gwasanaeth mewnol gyda thrafodaethau'n seiliedig ar ailstrwythuro'n cael eu cynnal nawr. Doedd dim brys mawr, yn nhermau recriwtio ar gyfer y swyddi gwag mewnol, ac ychydig symud yn nhermau bod yn fwy hyblyg yng nghyswllt cytundebau mewnol. Roedd ambell her systemig hefyd a oedd angen mynd i'r afael â nhw. Ar yr un pryd, gwelwyd cynnydd sylweddol yn y galw am ofal a chymorth yn y cartref, gyda darparwyr o'r sector annibynnol yn darparu mwy o ofal a chymorth yn y cartref nag erioed o'r blaen. Serch hynny, doedd hynny'n dal ddim yn ddigon i gyflenwi'r anghenion a'r galw am wasanaethau gofal cartref er gwaetha'r symiau sylweddol o arian oedd yn cael eu buddsoddi ym maes gofal a chymorth yn y cartref.

Cadarnhaodd yr Aelod Cabinet Gofal Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar ei bod yn treulio'u hwythnosau'n edrych ar ffigyrau ac nad oedd cydbwysedd o fewn y gwasanaethau gofal, ac y byddai'n anodd iawn adfer y cydbwysedd hwnnw nes y gellid mynd i'r afael â'r mater yn ymwneud â'r gweithlu drwy recriwtio. Roedd angen ymateb i ofynion a thalu er mwyn sicrhau fod trigolion yn derbyn gofal, felly roedd blaenoriaethu atgyfnerthu'r gweithlu'n angenrheidiol.

Roedd yr Aelod yn deall y pwysau ym maes gofal yn y cartref ond holodd os oedd hwn yn bwysau sylweddol ar recriwtio mewn mannau eraill o fewn y Cyngor, gan ystyried dull ymateb cyngor-cyflawn, y byddai atchwanegiadau marchnad yn cael eu cynnig a gofynnwyd a oedd y Cyngor mewn sefyllfa i gynnig atchwanegiadau marchnad i staff gofal cartref.

Cydnabu'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol nad oedd gan Y Cyngor bolisi atchwanegiadau marchnad cyfredol er ei bod yn deall fod un yn cael ei ddatblygu ac y byddai'n cael ei gyflwyno'n hwyrach yn y flwyddyn i'w ystyried gan yr Aelodau. Nododd y byddai cyfarfod nesaf y SOSC2 ar 23 Medi yn ystyried, mewn manylder, y cynlluniau gweithredu yn ymwneud â gofal a chymorth yn y cartref. Roedd hyn yn her, nid yn unig ar hyd a lled Pen-y-bont ond ledled Cymru. Fel Cyfarwyddwr, dyma'r brif flaenoriaeth, ochr yn ochr â rhai materion yn ymwneud â'r gweithlu o fewn gwasanaethau plant. Dengys y gyllideb, ac roedd hwn yn adroddiad ar y gyllideb, nad oedd y gwariant yn y gyllideb yn cyd-fynd â'r meysydd lle'r oedd angen gwariant. Roedd sefyllfa'r gyllideb yn adlewyrchu rhai o'r heriau yn sefyllfa'r gwasanaeth cyffredinol ac un o'r dangosyddion llwyddiant wrth symud ymlaen fyddai os gellid sicrhau fod gwariant y gyllideb yn cyd-fynd yn well.

Holodd Aelod a fyddai gorwariant o recriwtio a llenwi'r swyddi i gyd?

Pwysleisiodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol fod Y Cyngor wedi gosod y gyllideb i gyflenwi a thalu am y gweithlu y gwerthuswyd fod eu hangen, er y byddai'n ceisio, yn unol â'r caniatâd perthnasol, i recriwtio mwy na'r angen yn y maes hwn. Byddai bod mewn sefyllfa lle'r oedd y gyllideb yn gytbwys yn debygol o olygu ymgyrch recriwtio lwyddiannus er y byddai hyn yn arwain at ychydig o orwario o bosibl. Yr hyn a fyddai wedyn yn edrych i gael ei wneud, o ran gwasanaeth a thelerau ariannol, oedd lleihau'r gwariant hwnnw ar gartrefi gofal i bobl hŷn yn arbennig, gan y gwelwyd bod nifer y bobl yr oedd eu hanghenion yn cael eu diwallu trwy leoliad cartref gofal, yn lleihau o un flwyddyn i'r llall. Un o'r risgiau a danlinellwyd gan Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru (AGC) yn eu hadroddiad blynyddol, oedd oherwydd yr heriau mewn gofal cartref y gallent weld pobl yn mynd i gartrefi gofal yn gynt yn hytrach nag yn hwyrach, ond ni welwyd hyn ac felly byddai'r Gwasanaeth yn edrych i ail-gydbwysu'r gyllideb honno er mwyn darparu mwy o ofal a chefnogaeth yn y cartref, yn unol â gofynion y mwyafrif o bobl.

Pwysleisiodd yr Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar y byddai gorwariant yn y meysydd gwasanaeth yma'n golygu arbedion yn yr ymyrraeth gofal uwch o ran pecynnau gofal ac y byddent yn hoffi gweld llawer mwy o fuddsoddiad yn y gwasanaethau ymyrraeth gynnar. Roedd angen sicrhau bod y cyllidebau cywir yn eu lle ar gyfer atal, oherwydd pan fyddai arian yn cael ei fuddsoddi felly, gellid gwrthbwysu costau yn nes ymlaen.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at 4.2.2 yng nghyswllt y cytundeb Halo gan oli sut oedd Y Cyngor yn mynd i barhau i gadw i'w sybsideiddio.

Eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, yn nhermau'r partneriaethau gyda Halo a'r partner ymddiriedaeth ddiwylliannol, fod y Cyngor wedi gweithio'n agos iawn gyda nhw drwy gydol y pandemig er mwyn rheoli sefyllfa heriol

o safbwynt darparwyr hamdden ac ymddiriedaeth ddiwylliannol, Roedd y Gwasanaeth wedi gweithio'n agos gyda'r tîm Cyllid a LIC er mwyn gwneud y mwyaf o'r hawliadau o ran caledi dan do ac yn agos gyda Halo o safbwynt eu cynlluniau ailgychwyn ac adfer, wrth i gyfyngiadau gael eu codi, i edrych ar sut i gynnal seiliau aelodaeth a'u cynlluniau ar gyfer cynyddu'r seiliau aelodaeth hynny wrth symud ymlaen. Yn nhermau llywodraethiant, roedd bwrdd ymgynghorol, gydag aelodau'r Cabinet yn aelodau ffyddlon ohono, er mwyn llunio a llywio cyfeiriad y gwasanaethau i'r dyfodol. Byddai'r Cyngor yn disgwyl i Halo ddychwelyd i'r un lefelau gweithredu a pherfformio ag y gwelwyd cyn-Covid ac i adeiladu ar y dysgu drwy'r pandemig, yn cynnwys lle gallent fod yn arloesol a chreadigol, a pharhau i wneud cynigion digidol ochr yn ochr â chynigion corfforol ac i ehangu'r mynediad i faes hamdden a gwasanaethau hamdden ledled y fwrdeistref sirol, gan fod hyn yn allweddol i iechyd a lles y boblogaeth. Yn olaf, i ystyried wedyn beth oedd effaith hynny ar y cytundeb yng nghyswllt y berthynas â'r cymorthdaliadau a'r buddsoddiad a gawsant gan y Cyngor.

Teimlai'r Aelod y byddai'n hynod broblematic ac yn rhywbeth yr oedd angen cadw llygad arno. Roedd hefyd yn bryder fod Halo wedi lleihau'r ddarpariaeth TGCh cyn y pandemig. Roedd yn gwerthfawrogi'r ffaith fod mwyn yn cael ei wneud ar-lein ond roedd yn pryderu ynglŷn â phobl fregus yn cael mynediad i'w ceisiadau ac yn teimlo y byddai problemau'n cynyddu i'r dyfodol.

Nododd Aelod fod y Prif Swyddog Ariannol Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid wedi briffio'r Aelodau fod Y Cyngor wedi £1m yn y Chwarter 1af, a bod galw uwch na'r cyffredin yn ystod yr 2il Chwarter, a fyddai'n gosod pwysau mawr ar y gyllideb. Cafodd Rheolaeth o'r Gyllideb ei ddisgrifio fel bod yn anwadal ac anrhagweladwy, oedd yn gwbl ddealladwy a bod LIC yn dal i ddarparu cyllid trwy grantiau, yn enwedig i gefnogi gwasanaethau oedolion. O ystyried hynny, dyna oedd gobaith ei gyflawni yn ystod yr ail chwarter, o gofio'r hyn a ddysgwyd o'r chwarter cyntaf.

Nid oedd Y Prif Swyddog Ariannol Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid yn rhagweld newid mawr yn nhermau chwarter dau, gydag anwadalrwydd yn parhau. Roedd setliad LIC yn debygol o fod yn hwyr unwaith eto, ac roedd hynny'n ffactor bwysig o safbwynt y Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig, ac roedd ffyrlo'n debygol o ddatblygu ym mis Medi, a fyddai'n rhoi syniad o'r pwysau ar y gostyngiad yn nhreth y cyngor. Pe bai hynny'n mynd yn ormodol efallai y byddai LIC yn ystyried cynnig rhywfaint o gefnogaeth. Efallai hefyd y byddai arwydd mwy pendant o gyfeiriad chwyddiant a'r cyfeiriad y byddai cyflogau'n debygol o fynd. Roedd yn anodd rhagweld beth allai ddigwydd yn ystod chwarteri tri a phedwar petai'r wlad yn mynd i gyfnod clo arall am y byddai hynny'n cael effaith ariannol sylweddol ar y gyllideb unwaith eto. Roedd angen rhai arbedion erbyn diwedd chwarter dau, felly ym mis Hydref, y gobaith oedd y byddai'n gallu tanlinellu rhai meysydd lle gellid sicrhau toriadau, am fod pwysau o fewn sawl gwasanaeth yn cynnwys addysg, cymunedau a thai yn enwedig, gyda chynnydd yn y lefelau digartrefedd. Roedd angen dod i benderfyniad hefyd ynglŷn ag o ble y gellid cymryd arian o'r cyllidebau, a oedd yn gynyddol anodd gan nad oedd neb yn awyddus i gwtogi ar wasanaethau. Pe na bai arbedion yn cael eu gwneud ac yn wyneb pwysau cynyddol newydd, mae'n bosib y byddai gwir heriau oherwydd yr anallu i ganfod ffynonellau arian eraill. Roedd y cronfeydd wrth gefn yn iach ac roedd y gronfa gyffredinol wrth gefn yn unol â'r lefelau disgwylidig, heb fod yn ormodol. Roedd cryn dipyn o'r arian mewn cronfeydd wrth gefn wedi'i glustnodi.

Yn y bôn, nid oedd y Prif Swyddog Ariannol Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid yn credu y gallai'r Cyngor ond gobeithio y byddai LIC yn cadarnhau setliad da. Roedd angen cynllunio arbedion, a gellid symud rhai ohonynt ymlaen flwyddyn yn ôl yr angen, am nad oedd amheuaeth y byddai setliadau'r dyfodol yn heriol.

Cydnabu'r Aelod fod cefnogaeth LIC yn allweddol yn hyn o beth a holodd pa fath o drafodaethau oedd yn mynd ymlaen yng nghyswllt sefyllfa'r Cyngor am ei fod yn teimlo'n siŵr mai'r un oedd y sefyllfa ledled Cymru.

Cydnabu'r Prif Swyddog Ariannol Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid fod rhai cynghorau'n wynebu sefyllfa ychydig yn waeth, fod rhai mewn sefyllfa ychydig yn well ond bod cysondeb mawr yng nghyswllt y pethau yr oeddent yn eu cael yn anodd ei hariannu ac roedd yr heriau wedi bod yn debyg iawn yn nhermau ceisiadau i'r gronfa galedi a cholled incwm. Roedd y Swyddogion S151 yn cyfarfod am yn ail wythnos, a bellach yn fisol gyda LIC a Chymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru (CLLIC), felly roedd cryn ryngweithio, ern ad oedd hynny'n golygu fod gan y swyddogion hynny unrhyw fewnwelediad i gynnwys cyllideb LIC yn y pen draw. Roedd pwysau sylweddol yn wynebu iechyd ledled Cymru yn ogystal â meysydd eraill e.e., adfywiad economaidd, ayb., felly dim ond un llais oedd llywodraeth leol o gwmpas y bwrdd, er ei fod yn llais cryf, gobeithio.

Cadarnhaodd yr Arweinydd fod sylwadau ar lefel wleidyddol yn adlewyrchu'r rhai a wnaed gan swyddogion S151 ledled Cymru ac ar hyn y bryd, oherwydd pwysau sylweddol ar ofal iechyd a chymdeithasol, oherwydd y cysylltiad agos rhyngddynt, roedd ef, yn ogystal ag arweinydd CLLIC yn cyfarfod â'r gweinidog iechyd yn wythnosol er mwyn trafod y pwysau digynsail ar ofal cymdeithasol gan bledio'r achos am fuddsoddiad hir dymor yn y system. Roedd y Gweinidog yn gwrando, ac yn bendant yn cydnabod rôl hanfodol gofal cymdeithasol a hefyd yn nhermau cynnal y GIG hefyd a byddai'n parhau i bwysleisio'r angen am fuddsoddiad mewn gwasanaethau lleol.

Holodd Aelod pa fath o drafodaethau oedd yn cael eu cynnal yn ymwneud â'r lleihad yn incwm treth y cyngor a gofynnodd a ellid sicrhau trafod hyn fel mater o flaenoriaeth

Cadarnhaodd yr Arweinydd fod y mater wedi'i godi a bod y Cyngor wedi derbyn cymorth ychwanegol oddi wrth LIC, ond roedd cydnabyddiaeth o hyd bod y pwysau hwnnw'n parhau. Roedd LIC wedi ymrwymo i adolygu'r ffordd roedd cyllid lleol yn cael ei godi, er bod hyn yn ddyhead tymor hir gan LIC, yn nhermau diwygio treth y cyngor.

Holodd yr Aelod os oedd unrhyw arwydd ar hyn o bryd o'r hyn y byddai'r Cyngor yn ei dderbyn yn nhermau cymorth.

Cadarnhaodd y Prif Swyddog Ariannol Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid mai na oedd yr ateb gonest, gyda chasgliadau treth y cyngor yn dal 1% yn llai ar hyn o bryd. Gosodwyd y gyfradd gasglu ar hanner canran yn is na'r arfer felly roedd hi'n obeithiol y byddai pethau'n gwella yn ystod yr ail chwarter. Roedd Y Cyngor hefyd wedi llwyddo i bresesu ambell wŷs a ohiriwyd yn ystod y flwyddyn Covid, er bod y gallu i gasglu dyledion wedi lleihau wrth i amser fynd heibio. Mae gobaith o hyd y bydd casgliadau'r flwyddyn ddiwethaf yn cynyddu drwy'r mecanwaith hwnnw, yn ogystal ag ychydig welliant y flwyddyn hon, gyda mis Medi a Hydref yn allweddol.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at COM19 gan holi os oedd unrhyw wybodaeth bellach am fod y naratif yn annelwig a'i fod yn ceisio deall sut oedd y ffigwr wedi mynd o fod yn felyn i goch.

Sicrhaodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol yr Aelodau fod yr adran yn aros o fewn y gyllideb. O ran y cynllun trwyddedu ar gyfer gwaith ffordd, roedd hyn yn rhagorol, gan fod ardaloedd eraill yn yr adran briffyrdd wedi

canolbwyntio arnynt i sicrhau bod y gyllideb yn aros ar y trywydd iawn. Yn y bôn, byddai'r cynllun hwn yn rhoi gwell rheolaeth dros waith ffordd allanol pan fyddai ymgwymerwyr statudol e.e., cwmnïau nwy, ac ati, yn dod draw i wneud gwaith ar y priffyrdd. Y gobaith yw y byddai hyn yn cynhyrchu ychydig arian, ond y prif bwrpas oedd rhoi gwell rheolaeth i'r Cyngor a chyfyngu ar yr amser y byddai ymgwymerwyr statudol yn treulio'n cyflawni gwaith ar y ffyrdd. Er bod hyn yn bodoli eisoes yn Lloegr, nid dyna'r sefyllfa yng Nghymru hyd yn hyn ac roedd angen newid yn neddfwriaeth LIG i ganiatáu i hyn ddigwydd. Er y byddai hyn yn parhau i gael ei ddilyn, byddai'n cymryd peth amser i'w gyflawni, er ei fod yn teimlo bod y Cyngor yn cyrraedd yno.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at dudalen 30, yng nghyswllt codiad cyflog, am 1.75% oedd cynnig y cyflogwyr, gan holi am ddiweddariad ar y sefyllfa a sut y byddai'r Cyngor yn lliniaru'r codiad hwnnw.

Dywedodd y Prif Swyddog Ariannol Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid nad oedd hi'n meddwl fod unrhyw beth wedi'i arwyddo'n derfynol o safbwynt cyflog athrawon ac eraill, ond fod y Cyngor wedi cyllidebu rhwng 1.75% a 2% yn y Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig, felly petai'n llai na 2% byddai hynny o fewn y gyllideb. Roedd rhyw arwydd y byddai LIG yn cyfrannu tuag at godiad cyflog athrawon, a fyddai'n rhywbeth i'w groesawu'n fawr iawn, a'r awgrym ar hyn o bryd yw y byddai'r Cyngor yn ariannu'r 1% ac y byddai LIC yn cyfrannu'r 0.75% arall, ern ad oedd hynny wedi'i gadarnhau'n ffurfiol eto a bod hynny ond ar gyfer rhan o'r flwyddyn am fod cyflog athrawon yn ymestyn dros ddwy flwyddyn ariannol. Serch hynny, roedd hi'n gymharol gyffyrddus fod y Cyngor wedi cyllidebu ar gyfer codiadau cyflog.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at COM1 gan egluro er ei fod yn sôn y gellid sicrhau £300k yn ystod 2021-22, roedd hi'n ymwybodol o drosglwyddiad asedau nad oeddent wedi symud ymlaen, felly roedd yn dymuno gwybod sut y byddai'r targed hwnnw'n cael ei gyflawni.

Eglurodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol yn gyntaf fod y £300k oedd targed arbedion y Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig yn hytrach na'r union swm a arbedwyd drwy drosglwyddiadau CAT. Rhoddodd drosolwg cryno i Aelodau o rai o'r trosglwyddiadau CAT llwyddiannus, a oedd ar sail barhaus, tra bod rhai ar drothwy, a byddent yn rhoi dadansoddiad llawn i'r Aelodau o'r rhai a oedd wedi trosglwyddo a'r rhai y gobeithiwyd y byddent yn cael eu cyflawni, i'r aelodau eu gweld. Cadarnhaodd fod person ychwanegol wedi'i recriwtio yn yr adran eiddo, er mwyn helpu gyda'r broses prydles ac roedd person arall newydd gael ei benodi i helpu â'r broses CAT yn ychwanegol at y Swyddog CAT. Roedd angen gwneud mwy i sicrhau fod y Gwasanaeth yn parhau i sicrhau'r £300k ar sail barhaus ac roedd angen i sicrhau fod y broses drosglwyddo CAT yn cadw i fynd. Doedd arbedion ddim yn gorffen ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn, a byddai angen nodi arbedion i'r dyfodol, ac yn ddibynnol ar nifer y trosglwyddiadau CAT llwyddiannus, gallai'r rhain wedyn gael eu cyfrif at ei gilydd i weld os oedd unrhyw arbedion eraill y gellid eu gwneud, petai'r rhif hwnnw'n fwy na'r £300k.

O ystyried yr adroddiad uchod, gofynnodd y Pwyllgor am y canlynol:

1. Dadansoddiad o'r gronfa adfer Covid i'w gylchdroi ymysg yr Aelodau.
2. Rhestr gyflawn a dadansoddiad o'r trosglwyddiadau CAT yn cynnwys y rhai y gobeithiwyd y byddent yn cael eu cyflawni i'w cylchdroi ymysg yr Aelodau.

CYTUNWYD: Fod y Pwyllgor yn nodi sefyllfa arfaethedig ar gyfer 2021-22.

34. **ADOLYGIAD Y PANEL YMCHWIL A GWERTHUSO CYLLIDEB**

Amlinellodd y Prif Swyddog Ariannol Interim Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid yr adroddiad ar yr adolygiad y Panel Ymchwil a Gwerthuso Cyllideb i'r Aelodau. Pwysleisiodd bwysigrwydd presenoldeb Aelodau er mwyn sicrhau fod cytundeb ar y cyd wrth symud ymlaen o safbwynt y Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig.

Nid oedd unrhyw gwestiwn gan yr Aelodau.

CYTUNWYD: Fod y Pwyllgor, wedi ystyried yr adroddiad, yn cefnogi'r adolygiad i rôl y Panel Ymchwil a Gwerthuso Cyllideb (PYGC).

35. **ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL Y GWASANAETHAU CYMDEITHASOL 2020/21**

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles brif themâu'r Adroddiad Blynyddol gan ddweud fod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf wedi ymwneud yn helaeth iawn â chreadigrwydd, cryn dipyn o arloesedd ond hefyd gryn dipyn o waith caled gan bobl ar draws yr holl system. Roedd diogelu wedi bod yn gonglfaen erioed, hyd yn oed yn ystod pandemig iechyd cyhoeddus, mae dinasyddion a chymunedau wedi cael eu heffeithio'n ddrwg a nifer o bobl wedi'u colli, ac roedd y darn adfer ac adnewyddu o safbwynt gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, fel rhan o'r ymateb hwnnw, yn mynd i fod yn bwysig dros ben. Roedd gwir angen amser a llonydd ar staff i wella ar eu cyflymder eu hunain, rhag wynebu'r risg o losgi allan, rhywbeth oedd i'w weld yn digwydd ar hyn o bryd am nad oedd pethau wedi arafu o gwbl, ac os rhywbeth, wedi dwysáu wrth symud tuag at ddau chwarter olaf y flwyddyn. Roedd gwasanaethau wedi addasu gan fabwysiadu ffyrdd newydd o weithio, fel y tanlinellwyd yn yr adroddiad. Roedd sefydlogi ac adfywio'n hanfodol yn ystod y chwe mis nesaf a chadarnhaodd y pwnt fod y gweithlu'n allweddol i'r llwyddiant hwn, gyda mwy o ddibyniaeth ar bob rhan o'r gweithlu nag erioed o'r blaen.

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles am gyflwyno'i hadroddiad a diolch i'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol a'i thîm am eu holl ymdrechion yn ystod blwyddyn heriol dros ben.

Diolchodd yr Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles a'i thîm am lunio'r adroddiad gan nodi, er gwaetha'r flwyddyn ofnadwy, fod cymaint o enghreifftiau da. Apeliodd ar i'r Aelodau oedd yn sgriwneiddio'r adroddiad i ganolbwyntio ar agweddau dynol yn nhermau ariannol a'r ffigyrau.

Pwysleisiodd Aelod y mater o staffio cyffredinol a gofyn beth oedd yr awdurdod lleol yn ei wneud i sicrhau staff.

Cydnabu Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles fod darn o waith cenedlaethol yn ymwneud â'r gweithlu, yn gweithio'n agos gyda LIC a chyda Gofal Cymdeithasol Cymru. Yn gyntaf, roedd hyn i hyrwyddo'r sector, yn ail i edrych ar y materion anodd iawn, megis gweithredu blaenoriaeth manifesto LIC o amgylch cyflog byw go iawn i weithwyr gofal ac yn drydydd i ystyried safonau proffesiynol, gan weithio'n agos iawn gyda Gofal Cymdeithasol Cymru, o ran cofrestru nid yn unig staff gwaith cymdeithasol proffesiynol, ond gweithwyr gofal. Roedd yn bwysig iawn fod Pen-y-bont yn chwarae rôl flaenllaw ar y llwyfan cenedlaethol ac yn cyfrannu at ac yn cyd-gynhyrchu polisi yn ôl yr angen. Roedd Pen-y-bont yn awyddus i hyrwyddo Pen-y-bont i fod mor llwyddiannus â phosibl wrth gadw a recriwtio'r gweithlu ym Mhen-y-bont. Cyfeiriodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles wedyn at y gwahanol gynlluniau gweithredu o

safbwynt recriwtio, ar gyfer y gweithlu gofal cymdeithasol ac yna'r gweithlu gwaith cymdeithasol.

Holodd yr Aelod beth fyddai'n digwydd pe na bai pobl yn cynnig eu hunain, a oedd yn bryder iddi. Oedd pobl yn cynnig eu hunain eisoes ac yn mynegi diddordeb yn yr hyn oedd yn cael ei rannu ac unrhyw hysbysebion swyddi.

Cydnabu Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles fod hyn yn anodd oherwydd eu bod yn cystadlu mewn maes gorlawn o safbwynt gweithwyr gofal cymdeithasol a'r gweithlu gwaith cymdeithasol wrth gychwyn o fan lle'r oedd llawer o bobl yn gyndyn o gynnig eu hunain i wneud y swyddi dan sylw. Nododd fod nifer go sylweddol o bobl wedi cynnig am swyddi gweithwyr cefnogi gofal iechyd ond nad oedd cymaint yn cynnig am swyddi gyda'r awdurdod lleol ym maes gofal na gweithio yn y sector annibynnol, felly roedd angen deall a gwneud popeth o fewn y cynllun gweithredu i sicrhau fod Pen-y-bont mor ddeniadol â phosibl. Roedd heriau yn y tymor byr ac roedd yr Awdurdod yn edrych ar y modd y sicrhawyd gweithwyr drwy asiantaethau, a allai achosi anawsterau, ond cyflawni dyletswyddau statudol o safbwynt gwaith cymdeithasol a'r gweithlu gofal cymdeithasol oedd bwysicaf. Roedd angen gwneud hynny yn y modd gorau posib nad oedd yn amharu ar y gweithlu wrth eu cefnogi ar yr un pryd. Sicrhau eu bod yn aros yn eu swyddi oedd y ffactor bwysicaf oll, ac ni ddylai hyn achosi mwy o heriau o safbwynt y gweithlu presennol. Cyfeiriodd at yr angen i edrych ar sut y gellir cefnogi anghenion pobl mewn ffyrdd gwahanol. Er enghraifft, roedd Pen-y-bont yn hynod lwyddiannus ym maes technoleg gynorthwyol a'r angen i barhau i hybu hynny ac edrych ar sut y mae'r angen a'r galw am wasanaethau'n cael eu rheoli yn y modd mwyaf effeithiol a chost effeithiol. Roedd hyn yn her wirioneddol ac roedd gwir angen dull cyngor cyfan a setiau o gamau gweithredu wedi'u halinio ynghylch yr hyn y gellid ei wneud yn lleol, yn rhanbarthol ac yn genedlaethol.

Eglurodd yr Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar nifer o faterion bod nifer o faterion yr oedd hi'n awyddus i ymhelaethu arnynt gan gynnwys diffyg graddfa gyflog genedlaethol ar gyfer gweithwyr cymdeithasol, a oedd yn hynod niweidiol i'r awdurdod lleol oherwydd nid yn unig y gystadleuaeth oddi wrth awdurdodau cyfagos, ond gydag awdurdodau ledled y DU, o safbwynt staff profiadol. Sicrhoedd yr Aelodau fod trafodaethau helaeth yn cael eu cynnal o fewn y gweithlu gofal a gofal cymdeithasol. Roedd angen dangos empathi â'r gweithlu am na ddylai pobl ddisgyn drwy'r cylch. Roedd angen i'r Cyngor gyflenwi ei anghenion statudol ac ar hyn o bryd, mae'r gweithlu'n gweithio'n daer i sicrhau hynny.

Holodd y Cadeirydd yr Aelodau os oedd ganddynt unrhyw gwestiynau pellach yn ymwneud â'r dystiolaeth a gyflwynwyd yn yr adroddiad, am ei bod hi'n ymwybodol y gallai sylwadau'r Aelodau helpu i gryfhau'r adroddiad.

Cydnabu Aelod ei fod yn hoffi fformat yr adroddiad gan ddangos ei edmygedd o waith yr adran gyfan yn ystod yr hyn a ddisgrifiwyd fel cyfnod heriol. Serch hynny, cydnabu nad oedd cydbwysedd o fewn y sir a bod ardaloedd oedd yn wynebu amddifadedd sylweddol o fewn y sir a holodd sut y byddai dyletswydd cymdeithasol-economaidd yn effeithio ar y gwaith nawr ac i'r dyfodol.

Eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles o safbwynt cymhwyso'r ddyletswydd gymdeithasol-economaidd, fel gyda llawer o afiechydon, nad oedd Covid wedi bod yn glefyd cydradd gyda rhai o'r cymunedau mwyaf difreintiedig wedi'u heffeithio'n fwyaf difrifol. O safbwynt gofal cymdeithasol, wrth edrych ar y gwasanaethau, roedd angen sicrhau dealltwriaeth lawn o'r ddyletswydd a'i bod yn cael ei gweithredu oherwydd y gall olygu atebion gwahanol mewn rhai rhannau o'r fwrdeistref sirol mewn cymhariaeth ag eraill. Mewn rhai

rhannau o'r fwrdeistref sirol, gallai hyn olygu canolbwyntio ar y set gywir o ymyriadau yn hytrach na chanolbwyntio'n unig ar gefnogi pobl o safbwynt eu cysylltu, ond hefyd gwneud gwaith datblygu cymunedol ymarferol lle'r oedd diffyg yn yr hyn oedd yn digwydd yn naturiol o fewn y cymunedau. Mewn rhannau eraill o'r fwrdeistref sirol, nid oedd angen i'r Cyngor gymryd rôl mor flaenllaw mewn gwirionedd, e.e. Grŵp Strategol Covid-19 Porthcawl, lle ddaeth y gymuned ei hun i'r adwy. Roedd y Cyngor yn rhan o grŵp oedd yn ymwneud ag anghydraddoldebau o safbwynt canlyniadau ac unrhyw anghydraddoldebau o ran cod post, gan edrych ar ymyriadau ar sail tystiolaeth er mwyn gallu ymdrin â'r materion yma yn y modd cywir.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at dudalen 91 yr adroddiad gan nodi fod y nifer o achosion wedi disgyn o 6810 i 4742 gan ofyn a oedd hyn yn ymwneud â Covid neu a oedd y Cyngor yn symud i'r cyfeiriad cywir a bod y nifer o achosion yn disgyn yn gyffredinol.

Eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol o safbwynt nifer yr achosion, ei bod hi'n flwyddyn anarferol iawn i edrych ar dueddiadau oherwydd bod cyfnodau yn ystod y flwyddyn pan oedd rhai o'r atgyfeirwyr arferol yn gweithredu'n wahanol, e.e., ysgolion, gofal sylfaenol, ymweliadau iechyd, ayb. Roedd normaleiddio'n dechrau dod i'r amlwg, wrth i wasanaethau ailddechrau yn ôl y disgwyl ac roedd ychydig angen a galw nad oedd yn dod i'r amlwg yn ddigon cynnar ac a oedd nawr yn rhoi pwysau ar wasanaethau. Ond y llynedd, roedd y galw'n amrywio yn dibynnu ar gyfnod y clo, ac roedd hynny'n effeithio ar os oedd atgyfeiriadau'n digwydd ai peidio.

Nododd yr Aelod fod nifer o blant ar y gofrestr diogelu plant wedi cynyddu o 165 i 201 gan holi os oedd cynnydd wedi bod oherwydd Covid.

Eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles o safbwynt y gofrestr diogelu plant a'r nifer o gofrestriadau, ei bod hi'n ddigon cyffyrddus â'r lefel. Roedd y Cyngor yn un o'r chwarteli uwch o ran nifer y plant ar y gofrestr diogelu plant yng Nghymru ac roedd ganddo hyder yn hynny o ran yr amddiffyniad a roddwyd i blant ar y gofrestr amddiffyn plant. Roedd yn hollol iawn a phriodol bod y gofrestr yn parhau i fod yn eithaf uchel ar hyn o bryd, o ystyried yr heriau yr oedd plant a theuluoedd wedi'u hwynebu ac o ystyried y ffaith y gallai fod ychydig oedi wedi bod wrth i blant a theuluoedd ddod ymlaen ac o ran y gallu bryd hynny i ymyrryd yn statudol â theuluoedd, ond roedd pob cam o dan y gofrestr amddiffyn plant yn wirfoddol.

Cyfeiriodd yr Aelod at dudalen 93 o'r adroddiad gan ofyn am eglurhad pellach o safbwynt y cyfanswm o 296 adroddiad o blant sy'n diflannu'n ystod y flwyddyn, a'r cyfanswm o 99 o blant sy'n diflannu yn ystod y flwyddyn.

Eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles fod proses yn cael ei gweithredu, pryd bynnag y byddai plentyn neu berson ifanc yn diflannu am gyfnod o amser, byddent yn gweithio'n agos â Heddlu De Cymru, gan ymwneud yn enwedig â sut i'w codio. Roedd rhai plant a phobl ifanc yn diflannu'n lled gyson a byddai rhai'n peri risgiau eithaf sylweddol iddynt hwy eu hunain, gyda'r mathau hynny o sefyllfaoedd yn cael eu rheoli mewn ffordd amlasiantaethol gan edrych ar gefnogaeth a beth oedd y cynllun rheoli risg yng nghyswllt y plentyn neu'r person ifanc hwnnw. Ni chredai fod unrhyw blant na phobl ifanc ar goll ar y pryd.

Cyfeiriodd yr Aelod at dudalen 99 gan nodi yng nghyswllt Maple Tree House fod nifer y plant oedd yno yn ystod y flwyddyn wedi disgyn o 22 i 9, gyda phlant sy'n cael eu rhoi mewn llety â gofal yn dal yr un nifer. Holodd os oedd y ffigyrau yma oherwydd Covid neu reswm arall a beth oedd y rheswm am symud y gwasanaeth presennol i ddarpariaeth bwrpasol.

Eglurodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles y byddai adleoli Maple Tree House Lles yn cynnig capasiti ychwanegol. O fewn y ddarpariaeth, roedd darpariaeth frys a darpariaeth tymor byr, a'r ddau beth yn hanfodol a'r ddau'n well o gael eu rheoli'n well ar wahân. Roedd angen adeilad gwell o lawer ar gyfer hynny, yn ogystal â lleoliad a fyddai hefyd yn gallu hwyluso cydleoliad gydag elfennau eraill o'r gwasanaethau lleoliad. Byddai hyn yn galluogi'r tîm maethu i ddod i adnabod y plant a'r bobl ifanc wrth iddynt fynd drwy'r asesiad manwl a thrylwyr yn yr uned asesu. Roedd rhai cynlluniau cyffrous ynglŷn â hyn er iddi nodi fod ychydig oedi wedi bod cyn gweithredu, er bod hyn yn flaenoriaeth wrth symud ymlaen.

Yn dilyn ymlaen o hyn, nododd yr Aelod, yn dilyn archwiliad o Maple Tree House, fod adroddiad yn y wasg wedi tynnu sylw at broblemau a bod angen gwella. Roedd hi'n siomedig nad oedd yr adroddiadau yn y wasg wedi adrodd ynglŷn ag unrhyw un o'r gwelliannau a gofynnodd am eglurhad ynghylch presenoldeb nid yn unig yn Maple Tree House, ond pob lleoliad gofal plant ac oedolion, yn enwedig gan nad oedd yr Aelodau'n gallu ymweld ar hyn o bryd.

Cydnabu Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles yr adroddiadau a dderbyniwyd gan y Cyngor. Rhoddodd sicrwydd i'r Aelodau ynghylch ymweliadau â lleoliadau a chadarnhaodd mai'r ddau unigolyn cyfrifol am gartrefi gofal mewnol oedd y Pennaeth Gofal Oedolion o safbwynt cartrefi gofal oedolion a'r Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol o safbwynt y ddarpariaeth ar gyfer plant. Roedd y ddau wedi parhau wrth y llyw drwy gydol y pandemig er mwyn ymgymryd â'u dyletswyddau unigol, oedd yn cynnwys ffocws cryf ar sicrhau ansawdd, gan gysylltu ag adnoddau. Serch hynny, ar adegau yn ystod y pandemig, roedd yn rhaid i hyn ddigwydd yn rhithiol gyda chofnodion helaeth, ond wrth i'r risgiau leihau, cynhaliwyd yr ymweliadau sicrhau ansawdd hynny wyneb yn wyneb fwyfwy, a nododd ei bod hi ei hun ac Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar wedi ymweld â'r lleoliadau eu hunain yn ddiweddar. Eglurodd y byddai'n gweithio ar y cyd â'r Aelodau o safbwynt ailgyflwyno rotas ymweld, am ei bod yn rhan hynod bwysig o'u gwaith o safbwynt cyflawni rhianta corfforaethol a chyfrifoldebau diogelu eraill.

Eglurodd o safbwynt Maple Tree House ei hun, nad oedd y Cyngor mewn unrhyw stad o ymyrraeth ffurfiol dan AGC ac y byddai'n parhau i adrodd yn ôl drwy'r pwyllgor rhianta corfforaethol. Roedd AGC wedi parhau i archwilio, o safbwynt rheolaethol, drwy gydol y flwyddyn ddiwethaf i wasanaethau wedi'u rheoleiddio ac wedi ymgymryd â gwiriad sicrhau ansawdd ddechrau mis Ebrill, gydag adroddiad i'w gyhoeddi yn yr hydref.

Sicrhaodd yr Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar yr Aelodau fod ymweliadau'n digwydd a bod yr un lefel o sgrwtini i'w weld hefyd. O safbwynt Maple Tree House, derbyniwyd adroddiad gan y pwyllgor rhianta corfforaethol, yn ymwneud ag archwiliad AGC, gyda diweddariad ar y gwelliannau a oedd wedi'u gwneud ac nad oedd y Cyngor o dan unrhyw fesurau arbennig. Roedd hi'n siomedig gyda'r adroddiadau a gofynnodd i'r Aelodau rannu'r cywiriad i'r wybodaeth.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at y polisi diogelu ar dudalen 42gan nodi fod tudalen 57, paragraff 2 yn datgan 'fel swyddog statudol, mae angen i mi adolygu, atgyfnerthu a chryfhau adnoddau diogelu', gan ofyn sut oedd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles yn awgrymu gwneud hynny.

Eglurodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles oherwydd bod hwn yn bolisi diogelu corfforaethol / cyngor cyfan fod angen sicrhau

fod y wybodaeth gywir yn cael ei dderbyn gan bob rhan o'r cyngor, a bod angen i bob cyfarwyddiaeth ddeall eu rhyngwyneb â diogelu a chyfrifoldebau diogelu. Er mwyn gwneud hynny roedd angen y trefniadau llywodraethu cywir. Un o'r pethau roedd hi'n edrych i wneud oedd sefydlu bwrdd diogelu corfforaethol fyddai'n gweithredu islaw'r CMB a'r CCMB, gan adrodd y wybodaeth gywir yn ymwneud â diogelu iddynt a chyda swyddog i gefnogi hynny.

Cydnabu'r Aelod hyn ond teimlai na ddylai'r cyfrifoldeb am ddiogelu gael ei gyfyngu i Swyddogion yn unig. Roedd gan Aelodau hefyd rôl i'w chwarae, nid yn unig i ymweld â chartrefi gofal, ond yn nhermau adolygu'r polisi corfforaethol yn ystod y broses sgrwtini, ac awgrymodd fod hyn yn rhywbeth y gellid ei ystyried wrth drafod gweithgareddau'r bwrdd diogelu.

Cytunodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles fod hyn yn fuddiol ac un o'r pethau o fewn y polisi diogelu newydd oedd y byddai adroddiad diogelu blynyddol yn cael ei gyflwyno i Aelodau yn ymwneud ag effeithiolrwydd diogelu corfforaethol. Byddai hyn yn tynnu llawer mwy o fanylion nag y llwyddodd i wneud drwy benawdau'r adroddiad blynyddol, effeithiolrwydd diogelu corfforaethol, a dyma fyddai un o ddyletswyddau allweddol y swyddogion newydd. Y peth arall sy'n cael ei ystyried ar y cyd, rhwng swyddogion y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles ac Addysg a Chymorth Cynnar, oedd sicrhau fod rhyw fath o hyfforddiant pellach ar gyfer Aelodau yn ymwneud â diogelu yn ystod y tymor nesaf ar gyfer Aelodau. Mae angen i hyn fod mewn cyd-destun penodol yng nghyswllt rôl yr Aelodau, yn hytrach nac e-ddysgu cyffredinol.

Pwysleisiodd yr Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar unwaith eto pa mor bwysig oedd hi i Aelodau etholedig fynychu bob hyfforddiant diogelu oedd ar gael yn enwedig rheini oedd yn gweithredu fel llywodraethwyr AAL, gan nad oedd yr hyfforddiant yn orfodol ar hyn o bryd.

CYTUNWYD: Fod y Pwyllgor wedi nodi cynnwys drafft Adroddiad Blynyddol 2020/21 Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol.

36. **ADRODDIAD SGRIWTINI BLYNYDDOL**

Cyflwynodd yr Uwch Swyddog Democrataidd – Sgrwtini ddrafft o'r Adroddiad Sgrwtini Blynyddol gan egluro mai diben yr adroddiad oedd cyflwyno drafft o'r Adroddiad Sgrwtini Blynyddol i'r pwyllgor oedd yn ymdrin â chyfnod o ddwy flynedd o 2019-20 a 2020-21. Roedd angen i Sgrwtini gyflwyno adroddiad blynyddol i'r Cyngor gydag adolygiad o sut roedd y swyddogaeth wedi gweithredu yn ystod y cyfnod blaenorol. Atodwyd y drafft o'r Adroddiad Sgrwtini Blynyddol fel Atodiad A ac roedd yn cyflwyno manylion yn ymwneud â'r heriau a chanlyniadau ar gyfer pwyllgorau a phaneli sgrwtini yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, yn ogystal ag adnabod rhai meysydd ffocws ar gyfer gwella er mwyn sicrhau fod sgrwtini'n parhau i ddatblygu i sicrhau canlyniadau cadarnhaol ar gyfer trigolion Pen-y-bont. Gofynnwyd i'r Pwyllgor ystyried p'un ai oedd yr adroddiad drafft a gasglwyd a'i baratoi gan y Tîm Sgrwtini'n adlewyrchu'r gwaith a wnaed gan y swyddogaeth sgrwtini yn ystod y ddwy flynedd ddiwethaf, cyn symud ymlaen, ar sail gwelliannau, i'r Cyngor.

Diolchodd Cadeiryddion COSC, SOSC1, SOSC2 a SOSC yr Uwch Swyddog Democrataidd – Swyddog Sgrwtini a Diogelwch am eu hadroddiad a'u gwaith caled, gan gydnabod effaith y swydd wag o fewn y tîm arnynt.

CYTUNWYD: Fod y Pwyllgor yn cefnogi'r Adroddiad Sgrwtini Blynyddol a atodwyd fel Atodiad A, o gywiro'r gwall sillafu, ar gyfer ei gyflwyno i ystyriaeth Y Cyngor.

37. DIWEDDARIAD RHAGLEN GWAITH BLAEN

Nid oedd unrhyw geisiadau i gynnwys gwybodaeth benodol yn yr Eitem ar gyfer y cyfarfod nesaf.

Nid oedd unrhyw Eitemau pellach i'w hystyried ar y Rhaglen Waith Blaen ar gyfer gweddill y calendr trefol o gyfarfodydd gan ddefnyddio'r ffurflen y cytunwyd arni, a gellid ailystyried hyn yn y cyfarfod nesaf.

CYTUNWYD: Fod y Pwyllgor wedi ystyried a chymeradwyo'i Rhaglen Waith Blaen yn Atodiad A; wedi nodi'r Rhaglen Waith Blaen ar gyfer y Pwyllgorau Trosolwg Pwnc a Sgriwtini i'w ystyried yn eu Cyfarfodydd Pwyllgor mis Gorffennaf penodol yn Atodiad B, C & D a nodi'r Daflen Argymhellion Gweithredu Monitro er mwyn tracio ymatebion i argymhellion y Pwyllgor a wnaed yn y cyfarfodydd blaenorol, Atodiad E.

38. EITEMAU BRYD

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 DECEMBER 2021

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

BUDGET MONITORING 2021-22 – QUARTER 2 REVENUE FORECAST

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the Council's revenue financial position as at 30th September 2021.

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 focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of 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** – 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.
- 2.2 The allocation of budget determines the extent to which the Council's well-being objectives can be delivered.
- #### 3. Background
- 3.1 On 24th February 2021, Council approved a net revenue budget of £298.956 million for 2021-22. As part of the Performance Management Framework, budget projections are reviewed regularly and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The delivery of agreed budget reductions is also kept under review and reported to Cabinet as part of this process.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Summary financial position at 30th September 2021

4.1.1 The Council's net revenue budget and projected outturn for 2021-22 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Comparison of budget against projected outturn at 30th September 2021

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2021-22 £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000	Projected Outturn Q2 2021-22 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend 2021-22 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 1 2021- 22 £'000
Directorate					
Education and Family Support	127,055	127,137	128,226	1,089	771
Social Services and Wellbeing Communities	74,043	74,053	74,524	471	(647)
Chief Executive's	28,137	28,321	28,008	(313)	624
	21,304	21,416	19,999	(1,417)	156
Total Directorate Budgets	250,539	250,927	250,757	(170)	904
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,329	7,329	8,329	1,000	0
Levies	7,783	7,797	7,775	(22)	0
Apprenticeship Levy	650	650	667	17	0
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	15,654	15,654	15,654	0	0
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	1,430	67	0
Repairs & Maintenance	670	670	570	(100)	0
Pension Related Costs	430	430	432	2	0
Other Council Wide Budgets	14,538	14,136	7,254	(6,882)	0
Total Council Wide Budgets	48,417	48,029	42,111	(5,918)	0
Appropriations to Earmarked Reserves	0	0	4,004	4,004	0
Total	298,956	298,956	296,872	(2,084)	904

4.1.2 The overall projected position at 30th September 2021 is a net under spend of £2.084 million comprising £170,000 net under spend on directorates and a £5.918 million net under spend on council wide budgets, offset by a net appropriation to earmarked reserves of £4.004 million. The projected position is based on:-

- Inclusion of reimbursed expenditure/loss of income to date on areas impacted by Covid-19 received from Welsh Government (WG).
- Exclusion of Covid-19 expenditure/loss of income claims that are currently on hold with WG at the time of writing this report.
- Exclusion of Covid-19 expenditure/loss of income claims that have not yet been submitted as they relate to quarters 3 and 4 of 2021-22.

- 4.1.3 The projected under spend on the Council budget at quarter 2 significantly masks the underlying budget pressures in some service areas that were reported in 2020-21 and still persist in 2021-22. The main financial pressures are in Home to School Transport, Social Services and Wellbeing, Homelessness and Waste.
- 4.1.4 The Home to School Transport budget has been supported in 2021-22 by a one-off MTFBS Budget Pressure of £1.210 million that was approved by Council in February 2021. The quarter 2 projections indicate further pressure of £577,000 on this budget, with additional procurement exercises due to commence shortly for taxis and minibuses which could put further pressure on the budget going into 2022-23, increasing the budget pressure to over £2 million.
- 4.1.5 It is forecast that the long-term impact of Covid-19, alongside the already known pressures of an ageing population, increasing dementia rates and more complex and challenging needs is going to result in increasing demands on already pressurised services in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. The underlying pressure on the budget at quarter 2 is masked by grant funding of £1.777 million from the Social Care Recovery Fund which has been announced by Welsh Government (WG) since quarter 1, along with under spends on staffing budgets due to difficulties in recruitment.
- 4.1.6 Whilst budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy budget setting process in February 2021 to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals, the Council has seen a significant increase in the provision of temporary accommodation. Secondly, further to the budget being approved for 2021-22, Welsh Government confirmed that the Covid Hardship Fund was to be extended into 2021-22, including support for temporary accommodation. Given the increase in provision and, as it is anticipated that the Hardship Fund will not be in place beyond 31st March 2022, the budget growth might be insufficient to meet the increase in demand going into 2022-23.
- 4.1.7 Waste tonnages increased in 2020-21, primarily due to lockdowns and more residents working from home in general and this trend is continuing into 2021-22. Support was received in 2020-21 and in the first half of 2021-22 from the WG Hardship Fund towards these increased costs. Support is continuing for the second half of 2021-22, albeit that funding is reduced to 50% of the increased costs. As it is anticipated that the Hardship Fund will not be in place beyond the 31st March 2022, the underlying budget pressure is likely to continue into 2022-23.

A detailed analysis of the more significant projected under and over spends is set out in section 4.3.

Covid-19

- 4.1.8 The UK was put into lockdown on 23rd March 2020 in an unprecedented step to attempt to limit the spread of coronavirus. A Covid-19 Hardship Fund was set up at an early stage by the Welsh Government to the value of £188.5 million which the Council was able to draw on for financial support. Bridgend successfully claimed over £15 million in expenditure claims and over £5.5 million in loss of income claims in 2020-21.

- 4.1.9 The Welsh Government allocated £206.6 million in its budget to the Hardship Fund to support local government for the first six months of 2021-22. In addition, £23.3 million was allocated to support free school meals during the school holidays. WG have recently confirmed a further allocation of £97.5 million for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year with revised principles for claims and tapering of support for social care uplifts and void payments. It is anticipated that the Hardship Fund will not be in place beyond 31st March 2022.
- 4.1.10 The Authority will continue to claim from the Hardship Fund against the eligible criteria and directorates will continue to capture costs incurred as a result of the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Updates will continue to be provided to Cabinet through the quarterly revenue budget monitoring reports throughout 2021-22.
- 4.1.11 Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CCMB) agreed to establish a £1 million Covid-19 Recovery Fund in 2020-21 to provide funding for conscious and proactive decisions aimed at boosting recovery that were unlikely to be paid for by WG. The balance on this fund has been carried into 2021-22 and CCMB have approved the use of this fund to support the free car parking offer for town centres to the end of January, a phased rental income increase for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) owned premises and the waiver of sports fees for the remainder of the 2020-21 season. Further proposals will be considered by CCMB during the remainder of 2021-22.

Estimated costs of the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic

- 4.1.12 Welsh Government has provided specific eligibility criteria for each of its funding streams, and all directorates have been made aware of them, and are capturing costs accordingly. Any Covid-19 costs which are not identified and claimed will need to be funded from the normal service budgets or established earmarked reserves. Claims submitted to date to Welsh Government, and the outcome of these claims, are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 – Covid-19 expenditure claims up to end of August 2021

Specific Hardship Fund	Claimed £'000	Paid £'000	On hold/ pending review £'000	Disallowed £'000
General	253	236	7	10
Homelessness	1,273	1,273	0	0
Free School Meals	99	0	99	0
Schools	498	496	0	1
Adult Social Services	2,600	1,789	811	0
Visitor Economy	24	24	0	0
Self Isolation Payments (SIP)/ Statutory Sick Pay Enhancements (SSP)	337	337	0	0
Total	5,084	4,155	918	11

4.1.13 The disallowed expenditure relates primarily to reimbursement of costs incurred by the Council in relation to ongoing home working arrangements and the provision of temporary outdoor structures at schools. Whilst the WG Hardship panel agreed that these costs may be additional and not within the Council's financial plans, they also felt that having such assets in place provides longer term benefits to local authorities. A contribution of 50% has therefore been agreed across Wales toward these costs for the first six months of 2021-22. WG have confirmed that these are no longer eligible to be claimed for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year. The claims not paid to date of £918,000 are mostly those pending review by the Social Care Panel (£811,000) and Free School Meal Panel (£99,000). As there is no certainty at the time of writing this report in relation to the outcome of the items placed on hold, the reimbursement of costs has not been assumed in the quarter 2 projections. Of the Adult Social Services claims pending review, £294,000 relates to reimbursement for Bridgend internal social care services, with the balance of £517,000 support for external providers. If the claims for internal social care provision and free school meals are successful, this would improve the quarter 2 projections by £393,000.

4.1.14 The Council has also submitted a claim for loss of income to the Welsh Government for the first quarter of 2021-22 totalling £567,000 as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Covid-19 loss of income for Quarter 1 2021-22

Directorate	Claimed (covers to end of Qtr 1)	Paid	On hold	Main areas
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Education and Family Support Directorate	48	48	0	£48k - School meal income
Schools	83	83	0	£52K - school meal income, £31K - loss of income from hire of school premises
Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate	303	303	0	£282k – contribution to Council's leisure service provider, £21k – dual use sites where facilities are managed for community use outside of school hours
Communities Directorate	129	129	0	£74k - Car Park Income, £36k pitch and pavilion hire, £10k – civil enforcement income
Chief Executive's Directorate	4	1	3	£3k – housing income, £1k – environmental health income
Total	567	564	3	

4.1.15 Of the total claim, £564,000 has been approved. £3,000 is currently on hold as WG have requested an updated position as part of the quarter 2 claim to see if this income has simply been delayed in being received. The quarter 2 loss of income claim is due to be submitted on the 22 October. As there is no certainty at the time of writing this report in relation to the outcome of this claim, the quarter 2 projections have excluded the estimates for this claim. There are two specific areas where loss of income is clearly identifiable at this stage of 2021-22 and will be included in future claims – Chief Executive’s loss of court cost income and registrars, land charges, licencing fees and public health fees (£384,000) and Social Services loss of dual use income (£48,000). If these claims are successful, the quarter 2 projections will improve by £432,000.

4.1.16 In addition to lost income from service provision, the Council is also likely to see a reduction in council tax income over the 2021-22 financial year as more people have suffered financial hardship through the pandemic and the furlough scheme comes to an end. Bridgend received £1.261 million from WG in 2020-21 in recognition of the reduced collection rates experienced by councils as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Recognising that recovery may be slow the Council reduced its own budgeted collection rate by 0.5% when it approved the council tax base in November 2020. A 1% reduction in the council tax income collection rate could result in an additional pressure to the Council of around £1 million. It is too early to provide a realistic indication of projected council tax for this financial year, but it will be monitored continuously throughout the year and reported accordingly.

4.1.17 Alongside the impact on Council Tax, the ending of the furlough scheme could also manifest itself in an increase in eligibility for council tax support. Support of £325,469 from WG was provided in 2020-21 towards the increased demand on the council tax reduction scheme due to the impact of Covid-19 on personal financial circumstances, however, no additional funding has yet been identified by Welsh Government for either reduced council tax income or increased council tax support.

Budget virements/technical adjustments

4.1.18 There have been a small number of budget virements and technical adjustments between budgets since the quarter 1 Revenue Forecast was presented to Cabinet in July. The budget position is reported on the assumption that these virements will be approved. The main virements and technical adjustments in quarter 2 are outlined below:

Budget Virements

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of funding from Parking Services (Communities Directorate) to CCTV Services (Chief Executive’s Directorate) to enable ongoing support at the Council car parks.	£11,916

Technical Adjustments

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of inflationary uplifts not confirmed when the MTFS is agreed that are held centrally until evidence of the uplift is provided by the service areas	£287,998

Pay/Price Inflation

4.1.19 When the budget for 2021-22 was set, directorates were provided with funding for known pay and price inflation. The remaining provision was retained centrally within Council wide budgets, to be allocated as further information was known about specific contractual price increases. The technical adjustments table above presents the start of the release of these budgets as and when evidence is provided by the service areas.

4.1.20 Inflationary pressures include those arising from specific contractual commitments and significant increases in staffing costs arising not only from the above inflation increases in the national living wage, the recently agreed pay award of 1.75% for Teachers, but also the ongoing discussions regarding the pay claim for National Joint Council (NJC) workers. Funding is due to be transferred shortly from centrally held budgets to reflect the uplift required for the confirmed Teachers' pay increase.

4.1.21 Inflation rates have fluctuated since the budget was set (CPI was 0.7% in February 2021, had increased to 2.1% by May 2021 and further increased to 3.2% in August). The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee has forecast inflation to rise slightly above 4% before Christmas, higher than earlier predictions, owing largely to developments in energy and goods prices. With the uncertainty around Brexit and Covid-19, and the possible economic fallout arising from these, the budget will need to be monitored closely during the remainder of the year.

Budget Reduction Proposals

4.1.22 The net budget for the financial year has been set assuming full implementation of the current year budget reduction requirements across the Council's budget, which amount to £1.760 million. Where proposals to meet this requirement have been delayed or are not achievable directorates have been tasked with identifying alternative proposals to meet their requirements such as vacancy management, or bringing forward alternative budget reduction proposals.

4.1.23 In February 2021 Council approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2021-22 to 2024-25. This identified the need to develop recurrent budget reduction proposals, based on the most likely scenario, amounting to £22.095 million over the next four years. An update MTFS report was presented to Cabinet in September 2021, outlining a number of financial pressures that the Council is still facing going forward, and the uncertainty over the financial settlement for 2022-23. Against that background it is essential that expenditure is kept within the overall approved budget and that longer term proposals continue to be developed so that the Council has as much flexibility as possible to meet the challenges which lie ahead.

4.1.24 At year end consideration will be given to requests from directors to carry forward any planned directorate under spends for specific purposes into the following year, in line with the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol, as long as these can be met from within the Council's cash limited budget for 2021-22. This is in line with the reports to Cabinet and Council on the MTFs, and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules. Similarly, consideration will be given to any budget over spends to determine whether these should be carried forward as a first call on the directorate budget for the following year. However, a decision will not be made until towards the end of the financial year when the overall outturn position is more definite.

4.2 Monitoring of Budget Reduction Proposals

Prior Year Budget Reductions

4.2.1 A report was presented to Cabinet on 22nd June 2021 on the Revenue Budget Outturn 2020-21. In the report it was highlighted that, for 2017-18 to 2019-20, there were £2.501 million of budget reduction proposals that were not met in full, with a total outstanding balance to be met of £709,000. In addition, of the 2020-21 budget reduction proposals of £2.413 million, it was reported that there was a total outstanding balance to be met of £342,000. Directors have been asked to identify if any of these proposals are still not likely to be achieved in full during the 2021-22 financial year, and to identify mitigating actions that will be undertaken to achieve them. All remaining outstanding prior year budget reductions are summarised in **Appendix 1** with a summary per directorate provided in Table 4.

Table 4 – Outstanding Prior Year Budget Reductions

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education and Family Support	344	344	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	185	40	145
Communities	1,847	1,772	125
TOTAL	2,376	2,106	270

4.2.2 Table 4 shows that of the £2.376 million outstanding reductions, £2.106 million is likely to be achieved by 2021-22 leaving a shortfall of £270,000. Proposals still not likely to be achieved include:

- SSW20 – savings from library and cultural facilities (£70,000). Covid-19 has impacted on the delivery of this saving and there is an ongoing impact on these budgets in relation to income levels achieved. Under spends are being held across the service area to mitigate any shortfall in the short term.
- SSW27 – income generation from mobile response and telecare charging (£75,000). Income levels have not increased to the level required to meet the budget reduction therefore the service area continues to seek to identify efficiencies to meet the shortfall in 2021-22.
- COM19 – Streetworks review (£100,000) due to delays in approval process with Welsh Government. The Highways network budget area is committed to stay within budget through the implementation phase.

Budget Reductions 2021-22

4.2.3 The budget approved for 2021-22 included budget reduction proposals totalling £1.760 million, which is broken down in **Appendix 2** and summarised in Table 5 below. The current position is a projected shortfall on the savings target of £65,000, or 3.7% of the overall reduction target.

Table 5 – Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2021-22

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education and Family Support	116	116	0
Schools	0	0	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	315	315	0
Communities	823	758	65
Chief Executive's	130	130	0
Council Wide Budgets	376	376	0
TOTAL	1,760	1,695	65

4.2.4 The most significant budget reduction proposal unlikely to be achieved in full is COM 2 – Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site (£60,000). The new site in Pyle will be opening once related junction and road improvement works have been completed with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2022-23.

- 4.2.5 **Appendix 2** identifies the projected amount of saving against these proposals in detail and action to be taken by the directorate to mitigate the shortfall. Directors continue to work with their staff to deliver their proposals or alternatives and this is reflected in the forecast outturn for the year.
- 4.2.6 As outlined in the MTFS reports to Cabinet and Council, MTFS Principle 7 states that *“Savings proposals are fully developed and include realistic delivery timescales prior to inclusion in the annual budget. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency Reserve will be maintained to mitigate against unforeseen delays”*. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve was established in 2016-17. This reserve has been used to meet specific budget reduction proposals in previous years on a one-off basis pending alternative measures. During the financial year, the Section 151 Officer will consider applications from Directorates to the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve to mitigate some of the shortfalls.
- 4.2.7 In the longer term, these proposals must be realised or must be met through alternative budget reduction proposals in order to deliver a balanced budget position. These will continue to be closely monitored and draw down from the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve will be made as part of the overall review of earmarked reserves during quarter 3 if required.

4.3 **Commentary on the financial position at 30th September 2021**

Financial position at 30th September 2021

A summary of the financial position for each main service area is attached as **Appendix 3** to this report and comments on the most significant variances are provided below.

4.3.1 **Education and Family Support Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2021-22 is £127.137 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £1.089 million at year end. Covid-19 expenditure included in this projection amounts to £99,000 – if this were to be successfully claimed from WG, the projection would improve to an over spend of £990,000. The main variances are:

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance	Over/ (under) specifically Covid-19 related
	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Support for Learners with Additional Learning Needs	2,575	3,190	615	23.9%	
Home to School Transport	6,728	7,305	577	8.6%	
Integrated Working and Family Support	1,385	1,329	(56)	-4.0%	
Health and Safety	388	326	(62)	-16.0%	

Schools' Delegated Budgets

Total funding delegated to schools in 2021-22 is £103.574 million.

The schools' delegated budget is reported as balanced as any under or over spend is automatically carried forward into the new financial year before being considered by the Corporate Director - Education and Family Support in line with the 'Guidance and Procedures on Managing Surplus School Balances'.

At the start of 2021-22, projections indicated an overall surplus balance for school delegated budgets of £5.241 million at year end. At quarter 2 this has reduced to a projected surplus of £4.18 million. There are 8 primary schools (13.5% of all schools) projecting a deficit balance at year end.

Central Education and Family Support Budgets

Support for Learners with Additional Learning Needs

- There is a projected over spend of £615,000 for Inclusion which primarily relates to the shortfall in recoupment income for other Local Authority (LA) placements at Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell. Whilst a budget pressure of £500,000 was agreed by Council as part of the MTFS in February 2021, there has been a further reduction in the number of other LA pupils in Bridgend schools. Whilst there were 20 at the end of 2020-21 this has reduced to 16 with an expectation this will reduce further to 13 from the Autumn Term due to increased demand from BCBC pupils.

Home to School Transport

- There is a projected over spend of £577,000 for Home to School Transport (HTST). This is on top of the underlying pressure on the HTST budget which has been supported by a one-off MTFS Budget Pressure of £1.210 million that was approved by Council in February 2021 to support the increased costs of HTST and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.
- In addition to the historic pressures, Cabinet and Corporate Management Board has recently determined that in order to ensure the safety of nursery pupils on school transport vehicles, those previously transported on big buses should be transported in either dedicated minibuses or taxis or in existing taxis and minibuses. This is an additional requirement for the 2021-22 school year onwards, and has increased costs annually by an estimated £170,000.
- School transport operators have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and have passed many of the risks associated with continuing to operate including for example, driver retention, relatively low paid jobs and ongoing insecurity in the market, on to the local authority. For example, the cost of drivers and escorts has increased significantly.
- A retendering exercise has also been completed on home to school transport contracts, principally big buses and minibuses with an annual increase of £752,000.
- A further procurement exercise has recently commenced for special taxis, taxis, and minibus contracts which could put further pressure on the HTST budget going into 2022-23.

Integrated Working and Family Support

- The projected under spend of £56,000 relates primarily to staff vacancies within the service and maximising grant income. The vacant posts are expected to be filled during the year and this is built into the current projection.

Health and Safety

- There is a projected under spend of £62,000 within the corporate Health and Safety service which is due to staff vacancy management. The service are actively recruiting to fill the vacant posts.

4.3.2 Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate

The Directorate's net budget for 2021-22 is £74.053 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £471,000 at year end. Covid-19 expenditure and loss of income included in this projection amount to £342,000 – if these were to be successfully claimed from WG, the projection would improve to an over spend of £129,000. In addition, since quarter 1, the directorate has been notified of £1.777 million in grant funding from the WG Social Care Recovery Fund. A spend plan for this funding is currently being finalised and any impact on budget projections are not yet included in this plan. The main variances are:

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance	Over/ (under) specifically COVID-19 related
	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Adult Social Care	49,452	49,351	(101)	-0.2%	294
Prevention & Wellbeing	5,230	5,190	(40)	-0.8%	48
Childrens Social Care	19,371	19,983	612	3.2%	

Adult Social Care

- There is projected net under spend of £101,000 on the Adult Social Care budget. The most significant variances contributing to this projected under spend are:-

ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget
	£'000
Care at Home for Older People	(792)
Care at Home for Physical Disabilities/Sensory Impairment	199
Residential Care - Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment	(107)
Care at Home for Learning Disabilities	716
Care at Home for Mental Health	317
Assessment and Care Management	(346)

- Care at Home for Older People – this includes domiciliary care services, local authority homecare services and the provision of direct payments. The projected under spend of £792,000 is primarily on the homecare budget due to staffing vacancies and delays in implementing a restructure due to Covid-19. The service has reviewed the contacts available within the service in an aim to improve workforce capacity.
- Care at Home for Physical Disabilities/Sensory Impairment – there is a projected net over spend of £199,000. This is primarily due to the projected over spend on Independent Domiciliary Care of £137,000 due to increased costs of packages of care. In addition, placements have increased from 72 at quarter 1 to 86 at quarter 2.
- Residential Care – Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment – the projected under spend of £107,000 is mainly due to a reduction in placements. This budget area will be closely monitored with a view to determining whether the under spend is recurring, with potential re-alignment to other budgets facing projected over spends within Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment service areas
- Care at Home for Learning Disabilities – there is a projected over spend of £716,000 mainly due to increased complexity of needs and the increase in the number of people receiving domiciliary care within a home setting or supported accommodation. External homecare saw an increase of 9 people receiving a service since quarter 1. Internal homecare has also seen an increase in staffing costs to cover sickness and shielding.
- Care at Home for Mental Health – the projected over spend of £317,000 is based on 37 current placements with an increasing number of placements requiring complex packages of support.
- Assessment and Care Management – there is a projected under spend of £346,000 across all service areas due to a continuing challenging recruitment environment for qualified social workers. Various recruitment activities have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts.

Prevention and Wellbeing

- The projected under spend of £40,000 is primarily due to maximisation of grant funding opportunities. The projection does not include any estimate for a contribution to the Council's leisure provider for the gross net loss of running the leisure services in 2021-22 due to Covid-19. A successful claim of £282,000 was made for quarter 1 through the WG Hardship loss of income fund (see Table 3) and claims will continue to be made for the remainder of 2021-22. Close monitoring of the impact of Covid-19 on leisure services beyond this point will be required and updates provided to Cabinet in future monitoring reports.
- Future claims of £48,000 are anticipated to the WG Hardship Fund relating to Dual-use income and if these are successful, will improve the position for prevention and wellbeing in 2021-22.

Childrens' Social Care

- There is projected net over spend of £612,000 on the Children's Social Care budget. This primarily relates to a projected over spend on the Care Experienced Children budget of £442,000. The Care Experienced population was 388 at the end of August compared with 391 at quarter 2
- At the end of quarter 1 there were 6 children in independent residential placements (in and out of authority) and 2 in BCBC 39 week local authority

education provision. The quarter 1 budget monitoring report indicated that additional places were being made after 30th June with searches underway due to the need to secure the right specialist provision to safely meet the needs children whose needs are increasing. At the end of quarter 2 the numbers have increased to 10 children in independent residential placements and 2 in BCBC local authority education provision. It is important to note that decisions on the accommodation, care and support needed for a child is always made in their best interest and that, overall, the number of residential placements made by BCBC remains low when benchmarked with other comparable authorities. As noted in the quarter 1 budget monitoring report, this budget area can be volatile and small changes in demand can result in relatively high costs being incurred. This has been realised in the last quarter with the projected under spend of £310,000 at quarter 1 changing to a projected over spend of £442,000.

4.3.3 Communities Directorate

The net budget for the Directorate for 2021-22 is £28.321 million. The current projection is an anticipated under spend of £313,000. Covid-19 expenditure included in this projection amounts to £80,000 – if this were to be successfully claimed from WG, the projection would improve to an under spend of £393,000. The main variances are:

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance	Over/ (under) specifically Covid-19 related
	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000
Development Control	-230	-10	220	-95.7%	
Waste Disposal & Collection	9,002	9,398	396	4.4%	80
Street Lighting	1,616	1,256	(360)	-22.3%	
Highways Services (DSO)	2,854	2,754	(100)	-3.5%	
Parking Services	(295)	(363)	(68)	-23.1%	
Engineering Services	85	-12	(97)	-114.1%	
Corporate Landlord	2691	2539	(152)	-5.6%	

Development Control

- The projected over spend in Development of £220,000 is primarily due to a forecast downturn in planning application income based on income to date and comparison with the 2020-21 outturn. Fee income is subject to considerable fluctuations between years, depending on number and types of applications and will require close monitoring for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year.

Waste Disposal and Collection

- There is a projected over spend of £396,000 on the Waste Disposal and Collection budget. £60,000 of this is due to the delay in the achievement of COM 2 - Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at the existing site. The new site will be opening once related junction and road improvement works have been completed with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational.
- The balance of the over spend is due to continued increased tonnages of residual waste being experienced by the service. Tonnages increased in 2020-21, primarily due to lockdowns and more residents working from home in

general and this trend is continuing into 2021-22. We have successfully claimed £71,233 from the WG Hardship fund to date and WG have indicated continuing support for increased tonnage as a result of homeworking, albeit that funding will be reduced to 50% of the increased costs for the second half of 2021-22. Claims will continue to be submitted, and if successful could improve the projections by up to £80,000.

Street Lighting

- There is a projected under spend of £360,000 on Street Lighting. Due to a change in energy providers in 2021-22, the kilowatt per hour charge decreased by 7% which, based specifically on the energy budget for street lighting, would lead to a reduction in costs of circa £63,000. £73,000 of the projected under spend is one-off due to financial profiling of the annual loan repayments. Finally, the LED replacement programme has generated the balance of the saving due to reduced energy consumption. Consideration will be given towards utilising some of this saving towards the 2022-23 MTFS budget reduction target and demonstrates a successful outcome of an invest to save programme within the Council.

Highways Services

- The projected under spend of £100,000 within Highways Services is primarily due to members of staff working on, and hence charging their time to, the SALIX capital scheme to enable the replacement of street lighting with new energy efficient LED units. This is not a recurring saving and is a reduced projection from the 2020-21 outturn of £244,000 as the SALIX Scheme completed in quarter 2 of 2021-22.

Parking Services

- The projected under spend on Parking Services is primarily due to a fortuitous upturn in car park income experienced during quarter 2 as a direct result of the popularity of the 'staycation' and a significant improvement on the income received in quarter 2 in 2020-21 when the country was in lockdown. The current under spend masks a pressure on the service area of £180,000 due to the current shortfall in staff car pass income due to the ongoing working from home principle. There is a potential for this to be a long term budget pressure for the service area.

Engineering Services

- The projected under spend of £97,000 within Engineering Services is primarily due to an increase in the level of fee earning jobs (grant funded/non grant funded projects) and the differing chargeable rates allowed on the schemes.

Corporate Landlord

- There is a projected under spend on the Corporate Landlord budget of £152,000. This primarily relates to staffing vacancies within the Strategic Asset Management team, however Corporate Landlord are actively recruiting to fill, or have already filled these vacancies.

4.3.4 Chief Executive's

The net budget for the Directorate for 2021-22 is £21.416 million. Current projections anticipate an under spend against this budget of £1.417 million. The

projections have improved since quarter 1 due to the successful claim of £1.273 million from the WG Hardship Fund within Housing and Homelessness. A further £1 million is anticipated to be spent on homelessness in the final two quarters of 2021-22 and claims will be made to support this expenditure. In addition, the projections do not include loss of income claims for other Chief Executive service areas that WG will be considering in the final quarters of 2021-22 which are estimated to be in the region of £384,000. If all of these claims are approved, the projections could further improve by £1.384 million.

The main variances are:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance	Over/ (under) specifically COVID-19 related £'000
Finance	3,696	3,576	(120)	-0.4%	184
HR and Organisational Development	1,912	1,810	(102)	-5.3%	
Partnerships	2,046	1,946	(100)	-4.9%	
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	4,938	5,136	198	4.0%	200
ICT	3,778	3,894	116	3.1%	
Housing & Homelessness	3,354	1,908	(1,446)	-43.1%	(1,273)

Finance

- Whilst there is a projected under spend of £120,000 in Finance, included in this projection is a shortfall of £184,000 relating to court cost income. WG have indicated that it is very difficult to assess accurately what might be recoverable for the whole year so they will review the data as part of the quarter 4 return and assess actual losses. The shortfall has been offset by staffing vacancies across Finance and Housing Benefits as the service is currently going through a restructure. The structure is anticipated to be populated in the second half of the 2021-22 financial year.

HR and Organisational Development

- There is a projected under spend of £102,000. This primarily relates to staffing and apprenticeship vacancies, however HR are actively recruiting to fill, or have already filled these vacancies.

Partnerships

- This service areas includes Transformation, Partnerships and Customer Services & Engagement. The projected under spend of £100,000 is primarily due to staff vacancies. Various recruitment activities have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts but appointments have been affected by Covid-19.

Legal, Democratic & Regulatory

- There is a projected over spend of £198,000. This is primarily due to lower than forecast levels of income received for registrars, land charges, licencing fees and public health fees. WG have indicated that it is very difficult to assess accurately what might be recoverable for the whole year so they will review the data as part of the quarter 4 return and assess actual losses. The projections could therefore improve at year end if future claims prove to be successful.

ICT

- There is a projected net over spend of £116,000 across ICT budgets. This has improved from the £340,000 projected over spend reported at quarter 1. Due to reduced printing activity ICT have been unable to recover the fixed costs of printers and photocopiers through the recharge to service departments. Consequently, reduced spend has been incurred on printing budgets across the service departments. Given the ongoing working from home principle for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year, an exercise will be undertaken to re-align budgets before the end of quarter 3 and the improved position in ICT reflects a proposed £150,000 realignment from service area budgets.

Housing & Homelessness

- Budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the MTFs budget setting process in February 2021 to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals, providing them with accommodation. The budget was approved prior to confirmation from WG that the Covid Hardship Fund was to be extended for the first six months of 2021-22. Table 2 sets out that successful claims of £1.273 million have been made to the WG Hardship Fund and these claims are the major contributor to the projected under spend within Housing and Homelessness. Anticipated spend for the second half of 2021-22 is circa £1 million. If future claims are successful, this will further significantly improve the projections for Housing in this financial year.
- The Council has seen a significant increase in the provision of temporary accommodation. At quarter 2, the service are providing temporary accommodation for 326 people from 196 households, compared with 74 households in temporary accommodation in March 2020. As it is anticipated that the Hardship Fund will not be in place beyond 31st March 2022, and given the significant increase in provision of temporary accommodation, the budget growth will be needed in full in 2022-23 to continue to provide support for homeless individuals, providing them with accommodation.

4.3.5 Council Wide budgets

This section includes budgets, provisions and services which are council wide, and not managed by an individual directorate. The budget for 2021-22 is £48.029 million. The projected outturn is £42.111 million, resulting in a projected under spend of £5.918 million. The main variances are detailed below:-

COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Capital Financing	7,329	8,329	1,000	13.6%
Other Council wide Budgets	14,136	7,254	(6,882)	-48.7%

Capital Financing

- The projected over spend on capital financing costs is due to utilising the budget in 2021-22 to pay off historic prudential borrowing costs, where feasible, which will have a long term revenue cost saving benefit for the Council.

Other Council wide Budgets

- Other Council wide budgets includes funding for pay, price and pension increases along with funding to deal with unexpected costs unforeseen when the budget was set.
- When the MTFS was approved in February 2021, the pay increases for NJC employees and teachers had not been finalised. Provision was made in the budget with an element of contingency built in. As noted in 4.1.20 the Teachers' pay award has recently been agreed. As WG have indicated that they will be providing a grant to contribute to this increase, this has been built into the projected under spend for 2021-22.
- There are ongoing discussions regarding the pay claim for National Joint Council (NJC) workers. Even a variance of 1% on the pay settlement of NJC staff alone can result in a swing of required funding of over £1 million per annum.
- Inflation rates have fluctuated since the budget was set (CPI was 0.7% in February 2021, had increased to 2.1% by May 2021 and further increased to 3.2% in August). The majority of the budget estimated for price inflation is retained centrally within Council wide budgets and allocated to directorates/schools as further information is known about specific contractual price increases e.g. for energy. Part of the under spend relates to projected reductions in requirements to allocate price budgets to service areas in-year as the Council has not seen the estimated increases in CPI impact on contractual arrangements to date in 2021-22. However, given the uncertainty of Brexit and Covid-19 at this point in the financial year, and the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee forecast for inflation referenced in 4.1.21 this will require close monitoring for the remainder of the financial year.
- A thorough review of the other Council wide budgets was undertaken during quarter 2 to assess the requirement for both historic and in-year allocations for pay and price increases, taking into account known pay increases, grant contributions received towards these pressures, and the known impact of inflationary uplifts on contractual arrangements, current negotiations on NJC pay claims and the uncertainty of inflationary uplifts in the short to medium term. Consequently, it is felt reasonable to assume that an element of this budget could be used to mitigate shortfalls in funding, or higher council tax increases in the MTFS 2022-23 and work will continue on identifying such an amount.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- There is currently a projected break even position on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme based on spend to date, however this is a demand led budget and take-up is difficult to predict. As noted in paragraph 4.1.17, the ending of the furlough scheme could also manifest itself in an increase in eligibility for council tax support. The final additional cost of this is difficult to predict as we have yet to see the impact of the end of the furlough scheme/newly unemployed and a likely increase in the number of benefit claimants. This budget will require close monitoring during 2021-22.

4.4 Review of Earmarked Reserves

- 4.4.1 The Council is required to maintain adequate financial reserves to meet the needs of the organisation. The MTFS includes the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol which sets out how the Council will determine and review the level of its

Council Fund balance and earmarked reserves. At quarter 2 a review of the particular pressures that were to be covered by earmarked reserves was undertaken and Directorates have drawn down funding.

4.4.2 There have been net additions of £4.341 million, the cumulative draw down by directorates is £1.166 million and £337,326 has been unwound, as shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6 – Usable Earmarked Reserves (Excluding Council Fund) – Quarter 2

Opening Balance 01 Apr 21	Reserve	Movement as at Quarter 2			Closing Balance 30 Sep 21
		Net Additions/ Reclassification	Unwound	Draw-down	
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Corporate Reserves:				
34,118	Capital Programme Contribution	4,295	(18)		38,396
6,103	Asset Management Reserves	-	(118)	(203)	5,782
7,556	Major Claims & Insurance Reserves	4		-	7,559
4,993	Service Reconfiguration	-		-	4,993
3,050	Change Management/Digital Transformation	-	(6)	(142)	2,902
2,000	Economic and Future Resilience Fund	-		-	2,000
57,819	Total Corporate Reserves	4,299	(143)	(344)	61,631
	Directorate Reserves:				
502	Education & Family Support	-	(12)		490
3,349	Social Services & Wellbeing	-	(42)	(90)	3,217
3,657	Communities	-	(141)	(96)	3,420
2,716	Chief Executives	42		(84)	2,674
10,224	Total Directorate Reserves	42	(195)	(270)	9,801
	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:				
1,961	Education & Family Support	-		(472)	1,490
594	Social Services & Wellbeing	-		-	594
2,532	Communities	-		(51)	2,481
1,228	Chief Executives	-		(30)	1,198
6,315	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:	-	-	(552)	5,763
8,490	School Balances	-		-	8,490
82,848	TOTAL RESERVES	4,341	(337)	(1,166)	85,685

4.4.3 The net appropriation to earmarked reserves during quarter 2 is £4.004 million (£4.341 million additions offset by £0.337 million that have been unwound).

4.4.4 Additions mainly relate to the Capital Programme Contribution reserve which was established to avoid the Council needing to borrow, which would result in consequential borrowing costs on the revenue budget, and will be used to fund schemes within the capital programme, both current and future capital pressures.

The main reserve that was unwound related to a balance of £100,000 included within a demolition reserve, specifically to be re-allocated to the Childrens Residential Accommodation Hub Capital project.

- 4.4.5 The capital programme contribution reserve supplements the funding we receive from WG and via capital receipts to fund our capital programme. Currently we have a balance of £38 million of funding in this reserve which constitutes 45% of our overall earmarked reserves balance. This will be used to fund a wide range of schemes in the capital programme.
- 4.4.6 The School balances reserve increased significantly to £8.490 million at the end of 2020-21 due to additional school grant funding announced late in 2020-21. As noted in paragraph 4.3.1 the quarter 2 projections indicate a projected overall surplus balance for school delegated budgets of £4.18 million at year end as this grant funding gets utilised in-year. This will reduce this reserve accordingly by year end.
- 4.4.7 A further review will be undertaken at quarter 3 when there is a clearer picture on pressures and projected year end balances.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 As required by section 3 (budgetary control) of the Financial Procedure Rules; Chief Officers in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member are expected to manage their services within the approved cash limited budget and to provide the Chief Finance Officer with such information as is required to facilitate and monitor budgetary control.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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. As the report is for information 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 These are reflected in the body of the report.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 The Committee is recommended to:
- note the projected revenue position for 2021-22.

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

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Background documents: Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports

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PRIOR YEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2021-22

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Revised RAG £000	Total amount of saving likely to be achieved by 21-22 £000	Reason why not achievable	Proposed Action in 2021-22 to achieve
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RAG STATUS KEY	
RED	Not likely to be achieved at all in this financial year or less than 25%.
AMBER	Reduction not likely to be achieved in full in financial year but greater than 25%
GREEN	Reduction likely to be achieved in full

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

EFS1 (2017-18)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		20		20	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A review is being undertaken by Welsh Government of the current statutory distances. Whilst we await the outcome of the review it is unlikely that any change to the statutory distances by WG will follow until 2022 at the earliest. The service area are currently developing an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
EFS2 (2017-18)	School transport route efficiencies.		40		40	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A review is being undertaken by Welsh Government of the current statutory distances. Whilst we await the outcome of the review it is unlikely that any change to the statutory distances by WG will follow until 2022 at the earliest. The service area are currently developing an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
EFS1 (2018-19)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		67		67	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A review is being undertaken by Welsh Government of the current statutory distances. Whilst we await the outcome of the review it is unlikely that any change to the statutory distances by WG will follow until 2022 at the earliest. The service area are currently developing an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
EFS27 (2018-19)	Review arrangements for Special Schools Home to School Transport with a view to achieving efficiency savings		75		75	A Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	The service area are currently developing an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
EFS 1 (2019-20)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		67		67	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A review is being undertaken by Welsh Government of the current statutory distances. Whilst we await the outcome of the review it is unlikely that any change to the statutory distances by WG will follow until 2022 at the earliest. The service area are currently developing an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
EFS 1 (2020-21)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		75		75	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A review is being undertaken by Welsh Government of the current statutory distances. Whilst we await the outcome of the review it is unlikely that any change to the statutory distances by WG will follow until 2022 at the earliest. The service area are currently developing an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
Total Education & Family Support Directorate			344		344		

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Revised RAG £000	Total amount of saving likely to be achieved by 21-22 £000	Reason why not achievable	Proposed Action in 2021-22 to achieve
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SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

SSW19	Further review of HALO partnership contract, including the Council taking over the management and payment of utility bills currently incurred by HALO. This will result in VAT efficiencies for HALO and contribute towards the reduction in the management fee		40		40	Detailed discussions and advice received from VAT consultants resulted in this budget reduction proposal not being able to be progressed.	Alternative savings have been found from changes to utility contracts – full savings should be achieved in 2021-22.
SSW20	Identify further savings from library and cultural facilities and related services including reviewing the numbers of facilities (libraries, community centres) and also reductions in services or opening hours.		70		0	Covid-19 has impacted on the delivery of this saving.	Close monitoring of the Leisure Services budgets will be required in 2021-22 to determine the potential for the Covid-19 pandemic to continue to impact on income levels achieved. Underspends will be held across the service area to mitigate any shortfalls in the short term.
SSW27	Increase income generation from mobile response and telecare charging		75		0	Income levels have not increased to meet the required budget reduction proposal.	Service area continues to seek to identify efficiencies to meet the shortfall in 2021-22.
	Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate		185		40		

COMMUNITIES

COM19 (2017-18)	Permitting Scheme road works net of existing income of £95,000		100		0	The Streetworks Review is due to be submitted shortly to WG for their final comments for approval before steps can be taken towards implementation.	The Highways network budget area is committed to stay within budget through the implementation phase with full savings anticipated in 2022-23.
COM 4 (2019-20)	Review of School Crossing Patrol service in line with GB standards		10		10	Budget re-alignment actioned within Traffic & Transport budgets in 2021-22.	No action required. Budget re-alignment actioned in 2021-22.
COM 26 (2019-20)	Investigate the introduction of charging to users of the Shopmobility facility in Bridgend Town Centre to reduce/remove the current level of subsidy		5		5	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	No action required.
COM 52 (2019-20)	Reductions to the budget for the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC) to be achieved through the current procurement being undertaken with Neath Port Talbot CBC for the provision of new operator arrangements for the MREC facility at Crumlyn Burrows		1,300		1,300	A Budget Pressure of £300,000 representing the shortfall for this Budget Reduction proposal was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021.	None required - historic shortfall in savings target addressed through a Council approved budget pressure
COM 55 (2019-20)	Increase charge for Green Waste Service from £28.30 per household to £38.30		25		25	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	No action required.
COM 26 (2020-21)	Investigate the introduction of charging to users of the Shopmobility facility in Bridgend Town Centre to reduce/remove the current level of subsidy		18		18	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	No action required.
COM51	The savings will be delivered in a number of ways including operational efficiencies, streamlined business processes, IT investment, improved procurement and contract management, and some deletions of vacant posts.		350		325	Level of savings identified as at 30 June 2021.	Service area continues to identify efficiencies to meet the shortfall in 2021-22.
COM 55 (2020-21)	Increase charge for Green Waste Service from £28.30 per household to £38.30		25		25	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	No action required.
COM96	WG National AHP Waste Programme - capital contribution from WG towards 7.5 tonne vehicle to collect AHP recycling		14		14	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	No action required.
	Total Communities Directorate		1,847		1,722		

GRAND TOTAL OUTSTANDING REDUCTIONS			2,376		2,106		
REDUCTIONS SHORTFALL					270		

MONITORING OF 2021-22 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2021-22 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2021-22 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
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EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

CENTRAL EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

EFS2	Removal of a vacant post within Cognition and Learning Team	Potential reduction in support for a vulnerable group, however it is anticipated that this has been mitigated by a change in working practices by the team as a result of the ALN reform	61	61	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
EFS3	Reconfiguration of the team providing support to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller learners to create a more efficient service	Whilst the impact is more on the management and leadership of the team, this may result in some slight reduction in the service offered to this vulnerable group but there will still be a service offering support	50	50	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
EFS4	Reduction in Central South Consortium (CSC) Budget of 1%	Reduction is achievable within the overall CSC budget and will be mainly achieved through efficiency savings	5	5	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
Total Education and Family Support			116	116	

SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

SSW1	Remodelling day service provision for older people and learning disability services	Full review of services which could mean alternative methods of service delivery	90	90	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
SSW2	Across Adults and Children's services embed and consolidate outcome focussed practice and commissioning for all service areas	This will support people to live their lives and will require our systems to be adapted to support the changes in practice. There will be a shift to embed outcome focussed practice which will have a focus on targeted prevention initiatives and by developing collaborative, long term relationships with providers as well as maximising the opportunities of the use of technology. this will be underpinned by planning accommodation, care and support together and listening to people who are experts in their own lives and acting upon what will make a difference.	225	225	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate			315	315	

MONITORING OF 2021-22 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2021-22 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2021-22 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
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COMMUNITIES

COM1	Transfer of pitches/pavilions through Community Asset Transfer. Increased charges for end-users to achieve full cost recovery for pitches/pavilions that do not transfer. Reduction of grass cut areas and areas within maintained parkland.	The savings identified will see the removal of the remaining seasonal operatives' budget with corresponding cuts to plant, equipment and materials. Where asset transfers occur the respective club (rugby, football, bowls and cricket etc) will be expected to fully fund the ongoing maintenance of the asset. The remaining parks budget will be used to maintain the Council's main parks, including children's play areas, highway grass cutting which is safety related, and to secure the ongoing site management and safety of the sites that will remain in Council ownership. the level of funding will also dictate the standard of open space maintenance and may result in a further reduction of grass cut areas if the proposed savings are not forthcoming through the asset transfer process.	300	300	The full saving in 2021-22 has been achieved as the seasonal operative budget has been capped at a level to ensure the Parks and Playing Fields expenditure does not exceed available budget. Successful CAT transfers have taken place to date, and will continue to be progressed by the CAT Officer.
COM2	Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site	Construction of the new site will mean that this saving will not be effective until 2021/22	60	0	New site in Pyle will be opening once related junction and road improvement works have been completed with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore saving will not be achieved in full in 2022-23.
COM5	The lease for Sunnyside House expires on 31/03/21 - savings will be made from this date.	No impact on service provision	309	309	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
COM6	One off capital payment for the fire suppression system required at Tondu. Revenue cost of system is included in the annual contract price with Kier.	Minimal impact. The fire system will be provided and if paid from the Capital Asset Management Fund as opposed to the revenue budget, the £60K per annum can be saved.	60	60	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
COM7	WG National AHP Waste Programme - capital contribution from WG towards 7.5 tonne vehicle to collect AHP recycling	A Contract Variation will be progressed with Kier to achieve the saving levels proposed based on a reduction in costs in relation to the current AHP vehicle that is leased.	19	14	New vehicle purchased part-way through 2021-22 therefore only partial saving achieved.
COM8	Reduction to energy budget for Street Lighting - savings due to replacement with more efficient LED	Reduction will have limited impact	75	75	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
Total Communities Directorate			823	758	

MONITORING OF 2021-22 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2021-22 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2021-22 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
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CHIEF EXECUTIVES

CEX1	Reduction of the ICT Telephony Budget	No impact on the communications infrastructure and maintenance	41	41	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
CEX2	Reduction of HR Staffing Budget	Reduction of a post and increased workload. Where possible savings will be made from vacant posts.	24	24	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
CEX3	Reduction of Finance staffing budgets	Reduction in capacity across the finance service following proposed restructure, which could impact on time taken to undertake functions. Will endeavour to make savings from vacant posts where possible	65	65	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
Total Chief Executive's Directorate			130	130	

CORPORATE / COUNCIL WIDE

CWD1	Reduction in insurance budget through on-going efficiencies in managing the insurance contract.	No impact as favourable insurance contract renewals have been achieved, however no mitigation available for potential increases to premiums in future years.	75	75	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
CWD2	Savings on building maintenance prudential borrowing budget	No impact - capital financing budget was utilised in 2019-20 to pay off prudential borrowing associated with Minor Works with a long term cost saving benefit for the Council.	120	120	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
CWD3	Reduce provision made for pay and prices following Chancellor's announcement of pay freeze, and lower than anticipated current inflation rate.	Impact will need to be kept under review, and may be risk depending on final pay awards agreed and inflation increases during the year.	181	181	Full saving should be achieved in 2021-22
Total Corporate / Council Wide			376	376	

GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS	1,760	1,695
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TOTAL BUDGET REDUCTION REQUIREMENT 1,760 1,760

REDUCTION SHORTFALL	0	65
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740	1,681
795	19
225	60
1,760	1,760

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2021-22			Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	Expenditure Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget			
	£000	£000	£000			
EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT						
School Delegated Budgets	124,876	(21,302)	103,574	103,574	-	0.0%
Learning	9,912	(2,398)	7,514	8,160	646	8.6%
Strategic Partnerships & Comm	25,800	(10,139)	15,661	16,166	505	3.2%
Health and Safety	390	(2)	388	326	(62)	-15.9%
TOTAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	160,978	(33,841)	127,137	128,226	1,089	0.9%
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
Adult Social Care	68,585	(19,133)	49,452	49,351	(101)	-0.2%
Prevention and Wellbeing	6,060	(830)	5,230	5,190	(40)	-0.8%
Childrens Social Care	20,428	(1,057)	19,371	19,983	612	3.2%
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	95,073	(21,020)	74,053	74,524	471	0.6%
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE						
Planning & Development Services	2,075	(1,523)	552	772	220	39.9%
Strategic Regeneration	2,032	(352)	1,680	1,680	-	0.0%
Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	6,920	(5,635)	1,285	1,236	(49)	-3.8%
Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	12,554	(1,578)	10,976	11,260	284	2.6%
Highways and Green Spaces	22,955	(12,086)	10,869	10,253	(616)	-5.7%
Director and Head of Operations - Communities	268	-	268	268	-	0.0%
Corporate Landlord	13,916	(11,225)	2,691	2,539	(152)	-5.6%
TOTAL COMMUNITIES	60,720	(32,399)	28,321	28,008	(313)	-1.1%
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S						
Chief Executive Unit	583	-	583	527	(56)	-9.6%
Finance	46,668	(42,972)	3,696	3,576	(120)	-3.2%
HR/OD	2,248	(336)	1,912	1,810	(102)	-5.3%
Partnerships	2,892	(846)	2,046	1,946	(100)	-4.9%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	5,916	(978)	4,938	5,136	198	4.0%
Elections	153	(49)	104	145	41	39.4%
ICT	5,055	(1,277)	3,778	3,894	116	3.1%
Housing & Homelessness	10,773	(7,419)	3,354	1,908	(1,446)	-43.1%
Business Support	1,116	(111)	1,005	1,057	52	5.2%
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	75,404	(53,988)	21,416	19,999	(1,417)	-6.6%
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	392,175	(141,248)	250,927	250,757	(170)	-0.1%
Council Wide Budgets	48,999	(970)	48,029	42,111	(5,918)	-12.3%
Appropriations to Earmarked Reserves				4,004	4,004	0.0%
NET BRIDGEND CBC	441,174	(142,218)	298,956	296,872	(2,084)	-0.7%

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 DECEMBER 2021

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES, HR AND CORPORATE POLICY

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Present the Committee with the Forward Work Programme (**Appendix A**) for this Committee for consideration and approval;
- b) Request any specific information the Committee identifies to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wish to attend;
- c) Request the Committee to identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.3;
- d) Present the Forward Work Programmes for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees attached as **Appendices B, C and D** following consideration in their respective June Committee meetings;
- e) Present the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet (**Appendix E**) to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at the previous meetings.

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 Council’s Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.
- 3.2 The Council’s Constitution also provides for each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee to propose items for the Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council’s Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework, for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to then prioritise and schedule.

Best Practice / Guidance

- 3.3 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny’s Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the forward work programme. In order to ‘lead and own the process’, it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee’s work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be coordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.
- 3.4 Forward Work Programmes need to be manageable to maximize the effective use of the limited time and resources of Scrutiny Committees. It is not possible to include every topic proposed. Successful Scrutiny is about looking at the right topic in the right way and Members need to be selective, while also being able to demonstrate clear arguments for including or excluding topics.
- 3.5 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) guide to work effective work programming ‘A Cunning Plan?’ makes the following reference to the importance of good work programming:

‘Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function. Done well it can help lay the foundations for targeted, incisive and timely work on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value. Done badly, scrutiny can end up wasting time and resources on issues where the impact of any work done is likely to be minimal.’

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Forward Work Programme

- 3.6 Following the approval of the schedule of Scrutiny Committee meeting dates at the Annual Meeting of Council on 19th May 2021, the scheduling of standing statutory reports to Scrutiny Committees upon: the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Performance, the Corporate Plan, Budget Monitoring, etc. were mapped to the appropriate meeting dates into a draft Forward Work Programme.

- 3.7 The draft Forward work programme for this Committee was prepared using a number of difference sources, including:
- Corporate Risk Assessment;
 - Directorate Business Plans;
 - Previous Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme report topics / Minutes;
 - Committee / Member proposed topics;
 - Policy Framework;
 - Cabinet Work Programme;
 - Discussions with Corporate Directors;
 - Performance Team regarding the timing of performance information.
- 3.8 There are items where there is a statutory duty for Policy Framework documents to be considered by Scrutiny, e.g. the MTFs including draft budget proposals scheduled for consideration in December 2021, following which the Committee will coordinate the conclusions and recommendations from each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in a report on the overall strategic overview of Cabinet's draft Budget proposals to the meeting of Cabinet in February 2022.
- 3.9 An effective FWP identifies the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear plan. However, at each meeting the Committee will have an opportunity to review this as the Forward Work Programme Update will be a standing item on the Agenda, detailing which items are scheduled for future meetings and be requested to clarify any information to be included in reports and the list of invitees. The FWP will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with updates from each SOSC FWP and any updated information gathered from FWP meetings with Corporate Directors.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Committee approved its Forward Work Programme at its meeting on 9th June 2021.
- 4.2 The Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programmes are also being reported to the Committee for coordination and oversight of the overall FWP, following consideration by their respective Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The SOSC FWP's will be included in the standing FWP Update report as updated by each SOSC meeting..

Identification of Further Items

- 4.3 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria Form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to ensure a strategic responsibility for Scrutiny and that its work benefits the Authority. There are a number of questions and processes that can help the Committee come to a decision on whether to include a referred topic, some of which are set out below:

Recommended Criteria for Selecting Scrutiny Topics:

PUBLIC INTEREST:	The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;
ABILITY TO CHANGE:	Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence, and which will result in a Cabinet decision being taken;
PERFORMANCE:	Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other agencies, are not performing well;
EXTENT:	Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the County Borough;
REPLICATION:	Work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Reasons to Reject Scrutiny Topics:

- The issue is already being addressed / being examined elsewhere and change is imminent.
- The topic would be better addressed elsewhere (and can be referred there).
- Scrutiny involvement would have limited / no impact upon outcomes.
- The topic may be sub-judice or prejudicial to the Council's interest.
- The topic is too broad to make a review realistic.
- New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected within the next year.
- The topic area is currently subject to inspection or has recently undergone substantial change.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a Local Authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.
- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.
- 4.7 The Forward Work Programme for COSC is attached as **Appendix A** for the Committee's consideration.

- 4.8 The Forward Work Programme for the SOSC 1, 2 and 3 are attached as **Appendices B, C and D**, for coordination and oversight of the overall Forward Work Programme.
- 4.9 The Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet for the previous meetings is attached as **Appendix E**, to track responses to the Committee's recommendations at the previous meetings.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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

- 7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery.
- Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet.
- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives.
- Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service, Elected Members and members of the public.
- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures that the public and stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider and approve the Forward Work Programme for the Committee attached as **Appendix A**;
- b) Identify any specific information the Committee wishes to be included in the report for the next two Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings, including invitees they wish to attend.
- c) Identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.3;
- d) Note the Forward Work Programmes for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees attached as **Appendices B, C and D**, following consideration in their respective June Committee meetings;
- e) Note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at the previous meetings as **Appendix E**.

Kelly Watson

CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES, HR AND CORPORATE POLICY

25 November 2021

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Background documents: None.

**Forward Work Programme 2021-22
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

APPENDIX A

Date of Meeting:	Report Topics:
Mon 5 th July 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revenue Budget Outturn 2020-21 - Council's Performance against its Wellbeing Objectives for 2020 -21 (Year End Performance)
Wed 1st September 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget Monitoring 2021-22 – Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast - Director of Social Services Annual report - Scrutiny Annual Report - BREP Review Report
Thurs 7 th October 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future Service Delivery Model - Update on the work of the Shared Regulatory Service
Wed 1 st December 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget Monitoring 2021-22 – Quarter 2 Revenue Forecast
Wed 12 th January 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Plan 2018-2023 reviewed for 2022-23 - Q2 Performance Report 2021-22 - Capital Strategy 2022-23 onwards
Wed 19 January 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 and Budget Proposals
Tues 1 February 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scrutiny and Budget Research and Evaluation Panel Recommendations on Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 and Draft Budget Consultation Process.
Wed 2 nd March 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget Monitoring 2021-22 – Quarter 3 Revenue Forecast - Employee Wellbeing
Date TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Safeguarding Report - Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) - Replacement Local Development Plan - Ethical Procurement - Shared Workspace - Future Service Delivery Model

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**Forward Work Programme
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1:**

APPENDIX B

<u>Date of Meeting:</u>	<u>Report Topics:</u>
Mon 14 th June 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination report; - Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel report; - Draft Outline Forward Work Programme
Mon 12 th July 2.30pm	Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (ALNET) Act 2018
Thurs 16 th Sep 9.30am	How Central South Consortium supports Bridgend Schools.
Mon 18 th Oct 2.30pm	New Curriculum for Wales
	School Governing Bodies
Thurs 20 th Jan 9.30am	Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals
Mon 14 th Mar 9.30am	Post Inspection Action Plan
TBA	How Schools coped with the Pandemic
	Youth Justice Service

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**Forward Work Programme
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2:**

APPENDIX C

<u>Date of Meeting:</u>	<u>Report Topics:</u>
Thurs 17 th June 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Domiciliary Care Inspection Report; - Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination report; - Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel report; - Draft Outline Forward Work Programme.
Thurs 15 th July 9.30am	Social Services and Wellbeing Strategic Programme <i>(followed by Thematic reports one to each meeting via a rolling programme as below)</i>
Thurs 23 rd Sep 9.30am	First Theme – Wellbeing * (including Partnerships****) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early help and Permanence Strategy - Re-commissioning Regulated Care and Support at Home
Wed 10 th Nov 9.30am	Second Theme – People - voice and control** (including Partnerships****) Embedding strength based practice in adult and children’s services
Fri 21 Jan 9.30am	Medium Term Financial Strategy & Budget Proposals
Wed 2 nd Feb 9.30am	Third theme – Prevention *** (including Partnerships****) Progress in delivering priorities for wellbeing, leisure and cultural services in Bridgend.
	Mental Health Strategy
TBA	Workforce including Stress related sickness – would like to include in this the SSWB workforce programme priorities of retention and recruitment, workforce planning (including reviews of skill mix) and career pathways and training and development

An explanation of the themes in the Forward Work Programme is provided overleaf.

Briefing Session requested:

Financial Assessments for all social care packages be arranged for Members of the Committee, to include what happens when the person does not have capacity and Health Board funded care and nursing care funding.

Explanation of the Four Themes:

The four themes included in the draft Forward Work Programme above are the key principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, which also form the foundation of Care Inspectorate Wales' inspection and performance review activity, and are set out below for Members' information:

* **Well-being** - To what extent are local authorities promoting well-being, ensuring people maintain their safety and achieve positive outcomes that matter to them? Including timely step down of children from local authority care, supporting older people to return home from hospital.

****People - voice and control** - How well are local authorities ensuring people, carers and practitioners are having their voices heard, making informed choices, and maintaining control over their lives? How is this balanced with the recommendations and requirements made by Public Health Wales and Welsh Government? Can the local authority demonstrate learning is used to inform new ways of working?

*****Prevention** - To what extent are local authorities successful in promoting prevention and reducing need for increased or formal support from statutory agencies? Including taking all necessary steps to support the upbringing of the child by the child's family and supporting people with mental health issues before they reach crisis.

******Partnerships** - To what extent are local authorities able to assure themselves the step change in opportunities for partnership working are positively exploited to maximise person-centred planning, ensure integrated service delivery and service sustainability. Opportunities include recent learning from digital advances, partnership working and ability of the health and social care system to advance at scale and pace and work towards a Healthier Wales.

<u>Date of Meeting:</u>	<u>Report Topics:</u>
Mon 28 th June 9.30am	Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel Draft Outline Forward Work Programme
Mon 19 th July 9.30am	Progress of the Bridgend 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy (Ultra Low Emission Vehicles) Update on the Waste Service Contract 2024
Wed 4 th Oct 9.30am	The Bridgend County Economic Futures Framework
Wed 24 th Nov 9.30am	Infrastructure Delivery (including roads, street lights, building and technology)
Mon 24 th Jan 9.30am	Medium Term Financial Strategy & Budget Proposals
Wed 16 th Feb 9.30am	Transport Projects in the County Borough
Date TBA	Changes in External Economic Funding - Economic Development
Date TBA	The introduction of the 20 mph speed limit and WG Pavement Parking Enforcement (following the surveying of streets and collation of information for potential Traffic Parking Orders, but before implementation)

The following Member Development Sessions are proposed:

Corporate Joint Committees Transport, Planning and Economic Development

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Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
21 April 2021	Sickness Absence related to Stress, Anxiety, Depression and Mental Health	The Committee concluded by making a number of recommendations and requests for Information.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – response and information circulated to Committee Members 29 June 2021
9 June 2021	Forward Work Programme	The Committee concluded by making a number of recommendations.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – response and information circulated to Committee Members 2 July 2021
5 July 2021	Forward Work Programme	The Committee requested Ethical Procurement to be added to the Forward Work Programme.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – added to the FWP with date to be confirmed.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
1 September 2021	Budget Monitoring 2021-22- Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	The Committee requested: 1. A breakdown of the Covid recovery fund be circulated to members.	Scrutiny / Interim Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change	To be provided.
		2. A full list and breakdown of CAT transfers including those that it was hoped would be achieved.	Scrutiny /Corporate Director - Communities	To be provided.
7 October 2021	Future Service Delivery Model	The Committee concluded by making a number of recommendations and requests for Information.	Scrutiny / Chief Executive	ACTIONED – response and information circulated to Committee Members 25 November 2021
	Shared Regulatory Services Update	The Committee concluded by making a number of recommendations and requests for Information.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, Human Resources and Corporate Policy	ACTIONED – response and information circulated to Committee Members 25 November 2021
	Forward Work Programme	The Committee requested a report upon Shared Workspace to be added to the Forward Work Programme.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – report added to the Committee’s Forward Work Programme.