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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



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Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

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

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Thursday, 14 July 2022

Dear Councillor,

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held remotely - via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, 20 July 2022** at **15:00**.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest from Members/Officers in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 5 - 22
To receive for approval the minutes of 15/06/2022
4. To receive announcements from:
(i) Mayor (or person presiding)
(ii) Members of the Cabinet
(iii) Chief Executive
5. To receive announcements by the Leader
6. Capital Programme Outturn 2021-22 and Quarter 1 2022-23 23 - 50
7. Market Stability Report 51 - 106
8. Size and Membership of the Standards Committee 107 - 110
9. Outcome of Survey of Meetings Timings 111 - 126
10. Information report for noting 127 - 132
11. To receive the following Questions from:

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1. Councillor Martin Williams to the Leader

Does the Leader agree that the Cabinet should reverse its policy of sports pitch full cost recovery for sports clubs and charitable events, ending the coercion of clubs and town & community councils into undertaking asset transfers or face pitch fee increases of up to 500%?

Furthermore, following cancelation of the policy does he agree to continue maintenance of Bridgend County Borough Council's sports facilities to a playable standard whilst it works with all teams in all sports, governing bodies and town & community councils to develop and implement a comprehensive sports and recreation strategy that works for all. Establishing Bridgend County Borough as the foremost local authority for sports and recreation within Wales?

2. Councillor Steven Bletsoe to The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

What criteria do BCBC use to determine that a person is designated as a "rough sleeper" in Bridgend County Borough. Could the cabinet member please detail how a person who is classed as a "rough sleeper" is registered and documented for official reporting purposes and could the cabinet member please give numbers of those designated as "rough sleepers" that were registered and documented as of September 2021, January 2022, April 2022 and the most up to date information (if later than April 2022).

3. Councillor Ross Thomas to the Cabinet Member Regeneration

What is the local authority doing to support town centre high streets across the county borough?

4. Councillor Alex Williams to The Leader

Will the Leader confirm whether or not he expects all of the commitments which were included in the Bridgend Labour Party's 2022 Local Government Election manifesto will be completed within the stated timescale and budget?

5. Councillor Della Hughes to the Cabinet Member Communities

What is BCBC doing to ensure that communities are not isolated by a lack of public transport provision?

12. Urgent Items

To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

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

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Councillors:

S Aspey

H T Bennett

Councillors

W R Goode

RM Granville

Councillors

E Richards

R J Smith

A R Berrow
F D Bletsoe
S J Bletsoe
JPD Blundell
E L P Caparros
N Clarke
RJ Collins
HJ David
C Davies
C L C Davies
P Davies
M J Evans
N Farr
P Ford
J Gebbie

H Griffiths
S J Griffiths
D T Harrison
M L Hughes
D M Hughes
RM James
P W Jenkins
M R John
M Jones
MJ Kearn
W J Kendall
M Lewis
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
RL Penhale-Thomas
J E Pratt

JC Spanswick
I M Spiller
T Thomas
JH Tildesley MBE
G Walter
A Wathan
A Williams
AJ Williams
HM Williams
I Williams
MJ Williams
R Williams
E D Winstanley
T Wood

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COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2022

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
ON WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2022 AT 15:00

Present

Councillor M Jones – Chairperson

S Aspey	H T Bennett	F D Bletsoe	S J Bletsoe
JPD Blundell	E L P Caparros	N Clarke	RJ Collins
HJ David	C Davies	C L C Davies	P Davies
M J Evans	N Farr	P Ford	J Gebbie
W R Goode	RM Granville	H Griffiths	S J Griffiths
D T Harrison	M L Hughes	D M Hughes	RM James
P W Jenkins	M R John	MJ Kearn	W J Kendall
M Lewis	J Llewellyn-Hopkins	RL Penhale-Thomas	J E Pratt
E Richards	R J Smith	JC Spanswick	I M Spiller
T Thomas	G Walter	A Wathan	A Williams
AJ Williams	HM Williams	I Williams	MJ Williams
R Williams	E D Winstanley	T Wood	

Apologies for Absence

A R Berrow and JH Tildesley MBE

Officers:

Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Michael Pitman	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Heidi Bennett – Item 6 – Prejudicial – Employee of an organisation that receives funding from BCBC

Cllr Colin Davies – item 7 – prejudicial – Wife is a senior manager at Coity Primary School

Cllr Jon Paul Blundell – Item 7 – Prejudicial – LEA Governor for Bryntirion Comprehensive School

Cllr Amanda Williams – Item 7 – Prejudicial – Chair of Governors for Coity Primary School and have been campaigning for an increase in capacity there.

Cllr Ian Williams – Item 7 – Personal – Children attend Bryntirion Comprehensive School and also a child who will be going into the school in September.

Cllr Martin Williams – Personal – item 7 – Daughter attends Coity Primary School

Cllr Maxine Lewis – Personal – item 9

21. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the 09/03/2022 and 18/05/2022 be approved as a true and accurate record.

22. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

The mayor's announcements were as follows:

I hope members enjoyed the recent Platinum Jubilee bank holiday, and that you all saw the well-deserved honour which was bestowed upon our council leader shortly before the celebrations took place.

I'm referring, of course, to the Order of the British Empire which has been presented to Councillor Huw David.

Councillor David was nominated for this award by the Welsh Local Government Association.

It was presented in recognition of the strong leadership that he has consistently demonstrated throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, both for the local authority and as the WLGA's Presiding Officer and Health and Social Services Spokesperson.

The OBE further acknowledges all of the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment that he has dedicated towards serving the local community, particularly during one of the most challenging periods we have ever faced in local government.

In commenting upon the award, Councillor David himself recognised how it reflects the efforts of everyone who has worked throughout the pandemic to ensure that services have been able to continue, and that vulnerable people have been able to receive essential care and support.

This is, of course, an exceptional achievement, and I am sure that members will want to join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Councillor David.

I am pleased to announce that it has been a very busy start to this Mayoral term.

The mayor's office is receiving several requests for support which is great and perhaps is indicative of life returning to some form of normality after the pandemic.

A selection of events I have attended include Bridgend College Fashion Show held in Cardiff.

This was a first for me, but an incredible experience to see creativity, talent, and hard work from students with an amazing talent.

Bridgend College can be very proud of the dynamic and successful creative arts department which supports students to flourish in whatever pathways they decide to pursue.

Can I thank my host for the evening Viv Buckley a member of staff?

The enthusiasm and commitment to develop the College not only through creative arts but with other subject matters throughout the county Borough is clearly palpable.

I joined the Bridgend Pernicious Anaemia Society where I met with some wonderful people who are experiencing extreme health difficulties in trying to negotiate life with a vitamin B12 deficiency.

The event was certainly inspiring where I was able to learn about not only the day-to-day difficulties that people must endure but the pioneering work that is being undertaken to support them.

Could I thank Karyl and Martyn Hooper once again for the invitation and their hospitality at the event.

Over the Queens Jubilee weekend, I was delighted to present commemorative coins to children at the Phillip Squire Community Centre at Coytrahen to celebrate The Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

There was an incredible event that involved the whole community coming together like many others to celebrate this incredible occasion.

Some 30 to 40 children received a commemorative coin which was some achievement for all those involved in arranging the event.

Congratulations to Mel James and all the team for putting on this event.

On Friday 10th June I was honoured and privileged to unveil a painting at the Princess of Wales hospital Bridgend. The event was reported that evening on ITN news.

The painting was commissioned by the Bridgend Disabled Random Act of Kindness Association in recognition of the incredible work hospital staff do to support the citizens of Bridgend and beyond.

It was very good to meet NHS staff, The Hospitals Executive, and the Chair of the Health Board.

The painting and plaque can be found in the corridor near to the main entrance and depicts the legendary Florence Nightingale with one of our current hospital staff members Sophie.

It was humbling to listen to Sophie's experiences of working as a nurse at the time of the pandemic. I am sure the whole chamber will join me in thanking all NHS staff and Mr Tom Weaver for arranging this special occasion.

Last weekend, I attended the Pen y Fai folk Dancing 50th Anniversary Dinner at the Heronston Hotel.

I was joined at the event by Cllr Tim Wood and his consort who were representing Bridgend Town Council.

It was a pleasure to experience the Welsh culture of dance, tradition, and friendship.

And yes, Cllr Wood and I joined many others in trying to negotiate the many intricate moves of traditional folk dancing on the dance floor.

Not for the faint hearted, but very enjoyable.

A very special event.

Thank you to everyone at Dawnswyr Gwerin PENYFAI.

Could I take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Mayor Cllr William Kendall and his consort for attending the Variety Show for Ukraine at the Heol y Cyw Welfare Hall that same weekend.

This event clashed with my commitment at the Heronston Hotel.

I understand that the evening was enjoyed by all, and funds raised will be donated to the Ukraine Disaster Fund.

Thank you to all those who organised this event.

And finally

I look forward to attending the Unsung Heroes Award Ceremony this coming Friday evening at the Grand Pavilion Porthcawl.

Announcements by the Deputy Leader:

We recently marked Carers Week in Bridgend County Borough with a series of events designed to highlight what support is available for local residents.

As an annual national campaign, Carers Week aims to raise awareness of caring issues, highlight the challenges that paid and unpaid carers face on a daily basis, and recognise their value to families and communities throughout the UK.

By definition, a carer can be any age, and is someone who supports a family member, partner or friend who cannot otherwise manage on their own.

We believe that there are approximately 18,000 adult carers and 2,000 young carers that we know about in Bridgend County Borough, although there are likely to be many more, most of whom will be juggling their caring responsibilities with work, education or family life.

If you are aware of someone who acts within a paid or unpaid caring capacity within your ward, members can help by ensuring they are aware that support and advice is available.

You can find out more about this and also full details on how Carers Week was marked by visiting the websites of the council, the Care Collective or the Bridgend Carers Centre.

Thank you.

Announcements by the Cabinet Member Resources:

Members may wish to remind their constituents of the need to remain vigilant for scams designed to convince householders to part with cash or hand over confidential information that could be used against them.

The criminals behind these scams were forced to become more creative at the height of the pandemic lockdown, and we are continuing to receive complaints and reports from concerned residents.

One of the most common scams involves a phone call advising householders that they are owed a refund on their council tax payments.

The scammers go on to ask for confidential bank account details in order to arrange for the rebate to be paid, but victims of this scam subsequently find that their bank accounts have been raided.

Similar scams exist in a variety of forms, and we also receive complaint from people who have been offered fake refunds on their water, electricity or gas bills.

Don't forget that Bridgend County Borough Council will never phone a householder out of the blue to ask them for their bank account details over the telephone.

Anyone who feels they may have fallen victim to such a scam should contact their bank immediately, and report it to police by calling 101.

More advice on protecting yourself against scams is available at the Shared Regulatory Services website.

Thank you.

Announcements by the Cabinet Member Regeneration:

Following the recent news that Rest Bay, Trecco Bay and Porthcawl Marina have all retained their prestigious Blue Flag awards, it is great to see that RNLI lifeguards are patrolling the local coastline once more.

The lifeguards have returned to Rest Bay along with a new initiative which enables visitors to scan a QR code to receive up to date information designed to make their trip to the beach even safer.

They already provide daily patrols at Coney Beach, Sandy Bay and Trecco Bay between 10am-6pm.

These patrols are jointly funded by Bridgend County Borough Council and Parkdean Resorts, with the RNLI covering additional costs through their national and local fundraising activities.

The RLNI will also be at the marina from 9am this Sunday to offer free lessons on maintaining personal lifejackets and demonstrate how to check for wear and tear, replace gas bottles and more.

Huge crowds are expected to visit the coast once more this summer, so it is good to know that the RLNI will be keeping a watchful eye.

Thank you.

Announcements by the Cabinet Member Communities:

I'd like to draw members' attention towards a new consultation which was launched earlier this week, and which I hope you will help encourage your constituents to take part in.

The Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy is asking people for their views on issues ranging from decarbonisation and climate change to the council's commitments and proposed initiatives for reducing the area's carbon footprint.

Bridgend County Borough Council declared its own climate emergency in June 2020 and set up a Climate Emergency Response programme to commit to the Net Zero 2030 target as an organisation.

As you know, our target is to achieve Net Zero Carbon status by 2030, and receiving people's views and ideas on how we can work towards this is an important part of the overall process.

We want this to be a partnership that everyone has a stake in, so I hope that you will help to make people aware.

The consultation will be live until 30 August 2022 and people can take part by visiting the council website, or contacting the Consultation team to request an alternative format.

Thank you.

Announcements by the Cabinet Member Education:

Members may be interested to know that preparations are underway for rolling out the new National Plan for Music Education to schools across Bridgend County Borough this autumn.

This Welsh Government initiative aims to ensure that no child will miss out on musical tuition or activities due to a lack of financial means.

Thanks to the support of the Bridgend Music Service, local children aged from three to sixteen will be able to benefit from the scheme from September 2022 onwards.

Music can play an important role in both increasing a child's confidence and supporting their general health and well-being.

This initiative will also help to protect local arts and culture in the county borough, and I hope that it will encourage young people to develop a greater interest in music while making it easier for them to try out different instruments that they may otherwise not have had access to.

Thank you.

Announcements by the Cabinet Member Education:

I am sure that members will be aware that the war in Ukraine has now been taking place for one hundred and twelve days, and that more than fifteen million people have been displaced.

As Bridgend County Borough Council is one of many local authorities who are playing their part in supporting the UK Government's 'Homes For Ukraine' scheme, I thought members may appreciate an update on the current position.

In brief, a corporate working group has been established to oversee our response, and has established processes to ensure that we are meeting all of the scheme's expectations.

Taff Housing has been commissioned to support the local implementation of the scheme as refugees leave the established Welsh 'welcome centres'.

They are recruiting a new team who can provide additional resource and deliver wrap-around support for families and hosts.

In the interim, we are meeting needs by utilising the skills of existing council staff who already provide support to Syrian and Afghan refugees.

So far, 64 local households have applied to the Home Office to act as hosts.

Out of more than 180 visa applications, 116 have been approved by the Home Office, and 65 are still awaiting approval.

A total of 59 Ukrainians have already arrived in Bridgend County Borough and are receiving full support, and we anticipate that this figure will soon rise to 64.

We also believe that the area could potentially attract a further 117 refugees in coming weeks and months.

Work is underway to identify new hosts who can support the initiative further, and so far, around 100 have been sourced and contacted.

To date, we have received interest from 18 hosts who are now in the process of completing property and background checks, and one offer has already been made.

Together with other participating councils, we are continuing to enquire about what the arrangements will be for supporting longer-term accommodation needs.

Currently, host arrangements are short-term in nature, and the 'thank you' payments last only 12 months.

We are still waiting to receive formal funding instructions from the Home Office or from Welsh Government, and are also seeking clarification over a number of ongoing operational issues.

These range from confirmation around health screening actions to establishing how we receive details on the needs of refugees who arrive via the Family Visa route.

Like all councils, we are facing huge demands upon both our housing and homelessness services, and must take a number of additional wider pressures into consideration, too.

Nevertheless, officers are investing a great deal of hard work into ensuring that we can offer our support to refugees of the conflict, and I am sure that members will want to extend their thanks and appreciation for this.

I will of course bring you further updates as the situation develops further.

Thank you.

23. **TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER**

The Leaders announcements were as follows:

Since announcing that the council wants to amend the designation for how almost 20 hectares in the Sandy Bay and Griffin Park area will be used to facilitate future stages of Porthcawl's regeneration, we have already received a lot of feedback.

While this is excellent and we continue to encourage people to study the proposals set out within both the Porthcawl Placemaking Strategy and the land appropriation plans, it has also resulted in some confusing and inaccurate assumptions, especially on social media.

I would like to just take this opportunity to clarify one or two points.

Firstly, some people are concerned that Griffin Park may become smaller or have houses built upon it, but the opposite is true.

Once the extension and the land previously used for the monster park have been added, the park would actually double in size from four to eight acres.

And far from building houses upon it, we want to retain this newly expanded Griffin Park, and ensure that it remains at the heart of the local community for future generations to enjoy.

Others have asked if Porthcawl is about to lose its tennis courts.

While the current location is required for an access route into the wider Sandy Bay development area, the proposal is to relocate the courts to a new spot, provide new all-weather facilities instead, and ensure that Porthcawl can benefit from high-quality tennis courts built to a modern standard.

We have also seen inaccurate housing statistics being quoted which miss the fact that we have already reduced the number of dwellings intended as part of the plans, especially at the nearby Salt Lake site where housing land has been reduced by a third to make way for an all-new seafront park.

This was introduced in direct response to feedback gathered through previous public consultation, and demonstrates how people's views are actively influencing what is taking place.

It is essential for people to study the proposals directly, and to consider what the potential benefits could be before having their say.

Full details of how you can do this online or by visiting Porthcawl Library are available at the council website.

Members may also be interested to know that the Home Office is inviting applications to a new fund which is designed to improve security measures at churches, mosques and other places of worship.

Known as the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme, it is open to all faith communities in England and Wales who feel that their place of worship is vulnerable to hate crime.

Examples of how the funding could be used include the installation CCTV cameras, security alarm systems, perimeter fencing and more.

All places of worship who feel they are vulnerable to hate crime are encouraged to apply, and further information is available at the Home office website.

The deadline for applications is 14 July 2022.

Thank you.

24. **REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2021-22**

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change presented a report which provided Council with an update on the Council's revenue financial performance for the year ended 31st March 2022, and sought approval for budget virements between £100,000 and £500,000, as required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

She explained that 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.

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change provided the summary financial position at 31st March 2022 and highlighted the many changes that occurred throughout the year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. She explained that 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 along with various other support payments throughout the quarters. Further details on these funds were at 4.1.1 of the report.

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change outlined two further significant changes which occurred between quarter 3 and quarter 4 of the year which were:

- the £1.151 million contribution from WG in March 2022 in recognition of the reduced council tax collection rates experienced by Councils in 2021-22, as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic, and;
- the one-off increase to the Revenue Support Grant of £2.703 million against the context of inflationary and service pressures, the ending of the WG Hardship Fund as well as continuation of decarbonising services and responding to the climate and nature emergency, increasing the Council's net budget from £298.956 million to £301.659 million for 2021-22 (Table 1).

She added that given the changes that have occurred which have resulted in a better financial position at the end of 2021-22, the Council was able to apply some of this funding to investments to support its residents. Details of this were at appendix 4 of the report. Section 4 of the report provided various tables highlighting Budget virements/technical adjustments, covid 19 cost claims as well as loss of income claims for the year 2021/2022.

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change stated that as outlined in previous monitoring reports during the year there were still £2.376 million of outstanding prior year budget reduction proposals that had not been met in full. Directors have been working to realise these savings during the 2021-22 financial year. A summary of the latest position is attached as Appendix 1. She added that Table 5 and Table 6 outlined

the prior year reductions as the budget reductions for year. Figures were broken down by directorate.

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change highlighted the net budget for each directorate and some key areas that contributed to the improved outturn position. Further details were at section 4.3 of the report.

The Cabinet Member Resources thanked the Chief Officer and the team for the hard work that had gone into drawing funds from various sources particularly the hardship fund, and this was something that should not be underestimated. He added that it was pleasing to see that the Council had ended the year in a financially secure position and the work by the WLGA on ensuring Local Governments were listened to by Welsh Government and have provided the necessary support.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- noted the revenue outturn position for 2021-22, and;
- approved the virements between £100,000 and £500,000 as outlined in paragraph 4.1.15

25. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change presented a report which sought approval from Council for a revised capital programme for 2021-22 to 2031-32 (Appendix A).

She explained that the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, contained detailed provisions for the capital finance and accounting controls, including the rules on the use of capital receipts and what is to be treated as capital expenditure. The Council's Capital Strategy, incorporating the Prudential Indicators for 2022-23, was approved by Council on 23 February 2022. On this date, Council also approved a capital programme covering the period 2021-22 to 2031-32 as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Since then, a review has been undertaken of available capital resources, taking into consideration uncommitted funding in the capital programme, the anticipated year end revenue position for 2021-22, the position on earmarked reserves and revenue budgets available for 2022-23. Further background was at section 3 of the report.

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change explained that the capital programme approved by Council in February 2022 for the period 2021-22 to 2031-32 totalled £230.174 million, of which £123.542 million is to be met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts and revenue contributions from earmarked reserves, with the remaining £106.632 million coming from external resources, including General Capital Grant. A number of proposals for new capital schemes have been received, and these have been considered and prioritised by Cabinet and Corporate Management Board, in line with the Council's Capital Strategy.

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change outlined the proposed new capital schemes as well as the funding of new capital schemes as indicated in Table 1 and Table 2 of the report. Some key areas were highlighted below:

- Telecare Transformation Project (£1,405,209)
- Cardiff Capital Region Metro Plus – Penprysg Road Bridge (£500,000)
- Community Asset Transfer (£500,000)
- Children's Playground Refurbishment (£500,000)

- Cosy Corner (£500,000)
- Highways Carriageway & Footway Refurbishment (£1,500,000)
- Unadopted Roads (£500,000)

Further details on these were at section 4 of the report.

The Cabinet Member Resources welcomed the report and stated the additions to the capital programme mentioned in Table one were exciting opportunities that were much needed. He added that some of these items were for known schemes whilst a number of them will require further reporting to cabinet and council.

A Member eluded to the figure in the report relating to outgoings to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal totalling £7.7 million. He asked that some clarification be provided on what the money would be used for. He also asked if after 2025 the payments to the CCRCDC would end, as there was no further reference of figures beyond this date.

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change explained that the £7.7 million was total spend in regards to schemes paid into or supported by the CCRCDC, not total money paid in. She added that she did not have the figures on what had been paid in to date but could gather than information and provide this to Members following the meeting.

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change explained that a number of the schemes provided regional benefits as well as local benefits. A number of the schemes listed in table 1 were local benefits that BCBC may not have been able to find the funds for, hence why they have only recently been earmarked. She further added that one of the key drives in CCRCDC is the job creation and transport links that funding will provide, and this was something that benefited the whole region.

The Corporate Director Communities outlined a number of specific areas that the CCRCDC funding provided support in. The Chief Executive also stated that a briefing session in the future would be beneficial for Members to gain a greater understand on the various elements that made up the CCRCDC.

A Member asked for clarification on the funds allocated to highways carriageway and footway refurbishment and what that meant for historical towns and villages in the Bridgend area.

The Corporate Director Communities explained this money would be allocated on a priority basis whereby evaluations were carried out throughout Bridgend and fed back into a technical database. . This was then evaluated and those roads that required significant repair would be dealt with first.

A Member asked for clarification on the Penprysg Road Bridge and what that involved as well as what kind of investment over the next few years this would require.

The Corporate Director Communities explained that £500,000 was to fund the detailed design of the Penprysg Bridge, which would also include an active travel bridge at the site of the level crossing. She added that we have been working with Network Rail and it had been agreed that as the bridges would be passing over a main railway line, they will be commissioned to progress the designs of the bridge for BCBC.

The Corporate Director Communities stated that the consultation was very successful and a lot of feedback was given including some minor concerns, about land take, She added that when we reached a more detailed position, the Council wanted to engage

with the community, to provide reassurance in that their views had been taken into account.

She also explained that this scheme would be submitted as part of a levelling up fund bid and the bridge was estimated to cost within the region of £25 to £30 million. It has been difficult to make detailed assessments on the full cost of the scheme due to it being a main line and site investigations can only be made when trains were not running. A large risk contingency has therefore been added. The LUF bid goes in on the 6th July 2022 and we will know if were successful sometime in the Autumn.

The Leader added a point regarding CCRC funding and that the South Wales Metro scheme was an example of a scheme that would not have gone ahead without the match funding from CCRC.

A Member was pleased to see the investment into Coety Primary School as it had been hard fought for and was much needed. He added that now that the recognition of the current school was there in that it was too small for the needs of the area, we would still be waiting until 2025 for the new school. He asked if it was possible to provide some temporary solutions at the current site to allow for the additional pupils until the new school was built.

The Member also asked in relation to the two-year-old school in Pencoed which is also in need of expansion, why this was not foreseen during the development stage.

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support stated that during the time these schools were being designed, Welsh Government only accepted projected pupil number from residential developments that have received planning permission at that time. Therefore, any further housing development in the area, as well as any current plans for developments that had not yet been approved, could not be included in the original assumption. At the time, the adopted supplementary planning guidance SPG16 which was applicable for Band A and used to calculate the size of the provision. In 2019, a review of pupil yield rates for the new housing developments demonstrated a significant demographic change in population and the SPG16 has since been updated to reflect the revised rates and has now been adopted by council.

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support added that in relation to the temporary solutions at Coety Primary School, he welcomed the suggestions and agreed to take the suggestions forward to the School Modernisation Programme Board for further consideration.

A Member asked in relation to table 1 of the report regarding the unadopted roads. He asked for clarification on what this would be used for. The Corporate Director Communities provided a detailed response on the process of adopting roads and how that funding would be incorporated into the process.

A Member expressed concerns that the funding would not bring forth many adopted roads, however he was hopeful that a strategy could be put in place to tackle this in the near future.

A Member asked with regards to the funding to improve play areas in the borough, was any of this money going to be used to improve accessibility as there are various children with complex needs who may not currently be able to access or use the play areas. He also asked for some clarification on the disparity between the figures in the report.

The Corporate Director Communities explained that there were 107 play areas in the borough which were in varying degrees of condition. Every year there was an annual

play assessment which looked at the suitability and condition of play areas and highlighted those that required investment. Last year BCBC pledged £800,000 for investment into play areas and a tender process was carried out. As there was an underspend from last years budget a further £500,000 has been added to the investment programme totalling just under £1.3million for 22/23

She added that not all play areas would be able to be brought up to a significant standard that would provide inclusion of all children with disabilities however the aim is to include as many aspects within the play areas that include as many children's needs as possible.

A Member mentioned that many roads and lanes in Maesteg appeared to be at an adoptable standard and sat parallel to roads that looked the same that were already adopted. He asked why these roads were not adopted if they were the same as an already adopted road in the next street over.

The Corporate Director Communities defined what the difference was between an adopted and an unadopted road. She explained that where roads were at an adoptable standard, then they would be adopted by the Council. If they were not adopted, there is a reason as to why, which could be minor works that were preventing that. She explained that unfortunately the borough historically had a large number of unadopted roads. It does take time to get roads up to an adoptable standard and the current financial resource of the Council would prevent all unadopted roads coming forward for adoption at this time. She added that if the member wished to put a referral in, we could take a look on site to see what the differences were between these roads to gain a greater understanding.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the revised Capital Programme for 2021-22 to 2031-32 (Appendix A).

26. **MULTI-LOCATION MEETINGS POLICY**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report which sought approval of Council for the Multi-Location Meetings Policy.

At the outset of the Covid-19 Pandemic in March 2020 the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 enabled local authorities to convene meetings by remote means.

The Monitoring Officer explained that under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, local authorities are required to put in place, and publish, arrangements for multi-location meetings, that is, formal meetings where meeting participants may not all be in the same physical place. Further background was at section 3 of the report.

The Monitoring Officer explained stated that the draft policy attached as Appendix 1 took into account of interim statutory guidance issued by Welsh Government (WG), which set out a number of guiding principles to be considered in developing multi-location meeting arrangements, as well as practical considerations.

She stated that since June 2020, the Council had held all of its meetings by remote means, previously through Skype for Business, and now Microsoft Teams. She highlighted the benefits that remote meetings had provided as indicated in section 4.3 of the report.

The Monitoring Officer stated that the Council would continue to use Microsoft Teams as its primary remote meeting platform. This will be used by Elected Members from their Council provided devices to ensure effective security. Non-Council devices may be used although the functionality available when using these “guest” devices may differ from that provided by the Council. Other participants are able to join meetings using links provided by the Council contained within the meeting invitation.

She added that works were ongoing in the Council Chamber to upgrade the systems to allow for hybrid meetings. It is anticipated that these works will be completed by the end of June which will allow training sessions and some meetings to take place, on a hybrid basis, in July, subject to Health and Safety guidance.

A Member welcomed the report and believed that many Members would agree that the hybrid approach allows for choice in methods for attending depending on what they prefer. He asked in relation to the voting software that this was much needed as the roll call method previously used was not fit for purpose, as it was time consuming. The Monitoring Officer agreed and this was something that was being looked at. Once the Council Chamber works were completed, we would look at methods of voting.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the policy attached as Appendix 1.

27. **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION FROM:**

Cllr Tim Thomas to the Cabinet Member – Resources

Question:

Will the Cabinet Member for Resources comment on what this Council is doing to tackle the cost-of-living crisis for County Borough residents?

Response:

The Council has provided support to residents in the County Borough via a number of different means in recent times and is continuing to do so now.

Discretionary Housing Payments

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) are paid from a cash-limited budget, provided by the Department of Works and Pension, and are intended to help people meet housing costs, usually where there is a shortfall between their Housing Benefit (HB), or housing element of Universal Credit (UC), and their rent. A DHP can only be awarded if the claimant is claiming HB, or UC with housing costs towards rental liability.

A DHP can be awarded for a rent deposit or rent in advance for a property that the claimant is yet to move into if they are already entitled to HB or UC at their present home, and also payments for past housing costs (including arrears of rent).

These payments are emergency payments and the council has to ensure that any payment reaches those who are most in need. The initial allocation of funding to Bridgend in the current year is £253,067.

We do promote these services via our own resources and also work with free advisory organisations such as CAB, who offer free advice to residents and promote this support.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme helps people on low incomes to pay their council tax. This support is provided via an application process and individuals can receive this help to pay their council tax whether or not they are receiving other benefits, working, unemployed, caring for an adult or child or retired.

The total financial support provided to individuals in Bridgend via this route is estimated to be £15 million in the current year. Currently 12,671 individuals or families are receiving financial support via this scheme.

Again, information on how to claim this support is available via our website.

Fuel Payments

During the last financial year, the Council acted as an agent for Welsh Government and paid the Winter Fuel bills monies. This scheme supported eligible households with the cost of heating their homes throughout the winter months and provided applicants with a one off £200 payment. The scheme was open to households where someone was claiming universal benefit, income support, working tax credits, means tested welfare benefits, income related job seekers allowance or employment and support allowance.

In total 8,649 payments were made, totalling £1,729,700

Cost of Living Scheme

The cost of living scheme is another Welsh government initiative which is being managed locally by this council. The scheme is intended to provide support as Wales recovers from the pandemic and support households to deal with the impact of increasing energy and other costs. The criteria for accessing the scheme has been set by Welsh government. Each eligible household within the county borough will receive a payment of £150.

The total funding allocated to Bridgend for the main part of this scheme is £7.514 million, with a further £1.236 million towards a discretionary scheme that the Council will also be administering, and the funding for both should be distributed by September 2022.

Business Rate Relief for businesses in the area

Support has been given to local businesses via the Small Business Rates Relief Schemes and the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme to ensure they can continue to trade to support the local economy and maintain employment levels in the County Borough.

Through the Small Business Rates Relief scheme 3187 businesses in Bridgend with a rateable value below £12,000 receive relief on a sliding scale of between 0% and 100% depending on their rateable value.

Currently there 267 are businesses that are benefiting from 50% Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief.

Council Tax 2022/2023

In setting the revenue budget for the current year, the Council agreed to a 0% Council Tax increase. Within the budget report it states clearly that the rationale for this was to support the citizens of Bridgend to deal with the rising cost of living, such as increased energy and food bills, other inflationary increases, mortgage interest rises and national insurance increases.

Free Parking

During the pandemic the council has had a generous parking offer of free parking for 3 hour in its primary car parks.

Grants

We have been providing capital grants across the County Borough for business and new home owners, to bridge the gap in being able to get on the property ladder or to allow businesses to operate differently.

Since March 2021, £371k in grant has been awarded to 23 new home owners in our Valley communities to enable them to get on to the property ladder and bring back into occupancy previously vacant residential properties in their local communities.

Almost £600k of capital grants were also given to 83 businesses across the County as a result of covid to invest in their premises and in outdoor spaces. The changes enabled businesses to remain viable and operational, and will support their business going forward.

Food Poverty

The community pantries were established as part of our RDP (LEADER) funded project on Sustainable Community Venues. The project was refocused at the beginning of the pandemic to provide relief to residents in terms of access to affordable food.

The aim of the pantries was to provide an affordable bag of food per week (£5/bag) and the income went directly to cover the costs of the food deliveries from FareShare Cymru and the membership fee each centre had to pay FairShare to be part of the scheme.

The remaining money went straight into the community centres to support their costs which supported the overall aims of the project to support community centres to thrive and continue to provide services to their communities.

The Council funded the pantries until October 2021 and it is now being delivered through a Community Interest Company who have secured funding from a number of other sources. This is a real success story for BCBC as not only was the project very successful in supporting communities in rural wards but it went on to continue post pilot phase and has created a CIC and associated jobs.

Up to October 2021 we supplied 6037 bags of food equating to approximately 53,750Kg of food.

In addition to the community pantries, the Council is helping to support the mobilisation of Welsh Government Big Bocs Bwyd scheme across the County Borough. The scheme supports a network of 'pay as you feel' shops based in converted shipping containers in school grounds. Called the Big Bocs Bwyd project, there will be 60 of these projects in situ across Wales by the end of 2022 and Bridgend Local Authority area has received the largest number of these projects in one county – 16 in total. These Big Bocs Bwyds provide affordable food, to both the school families and the wider communities.

The Council is part of the Food Poverty Network of providers, co-ordinated by BAVO, and has worked with BAVO to deliver a capital/revenue grant fund to support community organisations addressing concerns within their localities.

Employability Bridgend

Through the Employability Bridgend programme, the Council continues to provide training opportunities and assist our residents back into work through initiatives such as "Employability Bridgend" which supports disadvantaged participants across the whole Council, regardless of location, by offering a suite of interventions that aim to break patterns of multi-generational worklessness and poverty.

The schemes work closely with community venues, particularly with our new UK Community Fund project (Connect, Engage, Listen, Transform) CELT to ensure that we are providing services locally that meet a local need.

From April 2021 to end of March 2022, the Employability Team helped 954 people from Bridgend engage in the programme, including 84 people who were already in work being supported to improve their labour market position; 342 people have achieved qualifications and 556 have gone into work.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Tim Thomas:

Having had discussions with various constitutions who had budgeted for the Cost of Living payments, could the Cabinet Member Resources provide an apology for the delay in payments that had caused great concern for constituents.

Response:

The Cabinet Member Resources stated that the delay had been undesirable. However it was important to ensure due process was given and that the payments were made correctly to the people that needed them.

The Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change added that approximately 30,000 out of 50,000 payments have already been completed. However the process was being looked at to see if any further improvements could be made to speed the process up.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Maxine Lewis:

Was there any further funding available to assist in food poverty in Bridgend.

Response:

The Cabinet Member Resources stated that there was a discretionary element to the cost of living payment provided by Welsh Government and some of that would be used to support the food pantry.

Supplementary Question from Councillor Ross Penhale Thomas:

Could the Leader provide an update on the poverty truth commission suggestion that was put forward.

The Leader stated that not much progress had been made on this element due to the challenges that BCBC have had throughout the pandemic however he would speak to the officer involved and ensure an update was provided.

28. **URGENT ITEMS**

None

The meeting finished at 5:05pm

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 JULY 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2021-22 AND QUARTER 1 UPDATE 2022-23

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:-

- comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) 'The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities' (2021 edition)
- provide details of the capital outturn for 2021-22 (**Appendix A**)
- provide an update of the capital position for 2022-23 as at 30 June 2022 (**Appendix B**)
- seek approval for a revised capital programme for 2022-23 to 2031-32 (**Appendix C**)
- note the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2021-22 and 2022-23 (**Appendix D**)

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 for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – 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 Capital investment in the Council's assets is a key factor in meeting the Council's well-being objectives as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

3. Background

3.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, contain detailed provisions for the capital finance and accounting controls, including the rules on the use of capital receipts and what is to be treated as capital expenditure. They modify accounting practice in various ways to prevent adverse impacts on authorities' revenue resources.

3.2 As well as the legislation, the Council manages its Treasury Management and Capital activities in accordance with the following associated guidance:-

- CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice
- CIPFA's The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities
- Welsh Government (WG) revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments

3.3 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires Local Authorities to have in place a Capital Strategy which demonstrates that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability. To demonstrate that the Council has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out a number of Indicators that must be set and monitored each year. The Council's Capital Strategy, incorporating the Prudential Indicators for 2022-23, was approved by Council on 23 February 2022.

3.4 On 24 February 2021 Council approved a capital budget of £62.363 million for 2021-22 as part of a capital programme covering the period 2021-22 to 2030-31 and Council received regular updates and approved revisions through the year. Although Council approved new schemes for the 2022-23 capital programme in June 22, the programme for 2021-22 was last updated and approved by Council on 23 February 2022. This report provides an update on the following:

- Capital Programme outturn 2021-22
- Capital Programme monitoring quarter 1 2022-23
- A revised Capital Programme for 2022-23 to 2031-32
- Capital Strategy monitoring
- Prudential and other indicators

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Capital Programme Outturn Position 2021-22

4.1.1 This section of the report provides Members with an update on the Council's capital programme for 2021-22. The original budget approved by Council on 24

February 2021 has been revised and approved by Council during the year to incorporate budgets brought forward from 2020-21 and any new schemes and grant approvals. The programme for 2021-22, approved by Council in February 2022, totalled £50.082 million, of which £28.800 million is met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts, revenue contributions from earmarked reserves and borrowing, with the remaining £21.282 million coming from external resources.

4.1.2 **Appendix A** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2021-22 compared to the actual spend. Since the last report presented to Council in June 2022 there have been a few minor amendments to the 2021-22 Programme. The main changes are:

- new approvals of £2.306 million mainly as a result of new grant schemes from Welsh Government (WG) – these include £1.162 million for Free Schools Meals Capital, £0.250 million Transforming Towns for Maesteg Town Hall, £0.159 million Transforming Towns for Urban Centre Property Enhancement and £0.163 million Integrated Care Funding (ICF) for the Children’s Residential Hub. There has also been a £0.441 million revenue contribution to capital to fund the installation of upgraded ICT infrastructure in schools.
- £0.046 million funding brought back from 2022-23 to reflect updated spend profiles.

WG awarded the Council with £2.880 million grant towards Band B Land Purchase which, whilst not changing the total cost of the scheme, the funding profile has been changed to reflect this additional funding.

This brings the revised budget for 2021-22 to £52.434 million.

4.1.3 Total expenditure as at 31 March 2022 was £29.741 million which, after slippage of £21.252 million into 2022-23 and adjustments to grant funded schemes of £1.395 million, results in a total under spend of £0.046 million, which will be returned to Council funding. During the year a number of schemes have commenced but not been completed or have been moved wholly into 2022-23. These include the Children’s Residential Accommodation Hub, Cosy Corner, Bridgend’s capital contribution to City Deal, and Bridgend Heat Scheme. Slippage has arisen as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and also due to a number of other reasons, including delays in starting projects due to the need to undertake more detailed survey works, supply chain issues and ongoing discussions with funding bodies and other general programme delays.

4.1.4 Slippage forecast to be spent in 2022-23 of £21.252 million is required, the main schemes being;

- £2.260 million Llynfi Loan. The works were unable to be tendered until September 2021 following which only one tender was returned and this was substantially greater than envisaged and beyond that previously agreed by Welsh Government. A request for an extension

of time to allow for the retender and delivery of the works was therefore submitted to Welsh Government with ministerial approval being obtained in March 2022. Following the necessary subsequent revision to the engineering scope of works and to the works specification in order to reflect recent changes in legislation and ensure compliance, the works were retendered in May 2022. Welsh Government grants panel has now approved the revised project costs pending ministerial approval.

- £2.092 million School Capital Maintenance. Following the Council being awarded a School Capital Maintenance grant of £2.436 million in quarter 3, there have been a number of underspends due to internal and external resource availability, which have meant that the grant has been used to fund various other schemes in the capital programme, as allowed in the grant terms and conditions, and the retrospective earmarked reserve and capital receipts funding displaced and slipped for use in 2022-23.
- £2.028 million Land Purchase Band B. The land transactions in relation to the proposed new English-medium school to serve the traditional catchment areas of Corneli and Afon Y Felin Primary Schools, the replacement Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger and the replacement Heronsbridge School have not yet completed. All are progressing well. Currently the agreements are in the form of Option Agreements which are likely to delay the timing of the capital required to complete the purchases. This approach firmly aligns the acquisitions to the consultation processes attributed to these proposed school developments and reduces the financial risk profile considerably. We anticipate £0.678 million to be spent during 2022-23 with the remainder £1.350 million to be fully utilised in 2023-24.
- £1.677 million of funding for minor capital works has slipped due to delays in completing a number of schemes.
- £0.998 million Maesteg Town Hall. The scheme has slipped mainly due to the active realisation of the impact Covid-19 is having in the supply of materials and workforce. This has meant that lead in times for materials has been longer than anticipated and there is a reduction in available workforce.
- £0.797 million Welsh Medium Childcare provision at Ogmere. The scheme has slipped as a result of a retender necessitated by the demise of WRW Construction Limited (who had been the appointed contractor for the scheme).
- £0.553 million Economic Stimulus. A significant amount of resource was made available from Welsh Government to support the local economy as a result of the pandemic. This resource, and the requirement to deliver it efficiently to the business community, has meant that the funding can be rolled forward to 2022-23 to support

the economy as it looks to develop resilience following the pandemic and grow in future years.

- £0.484 million Welsh Medium Childcare provision at Bettws. The scheme was delayed due to additional drainage investigations and supply chain issues.

4.2 Capital Programme Quarter 1 Update 2022-23

4.2.1 This section of the report provides Members with an update on the Council's capital programme for 2022-23 since the budget was last approved by Council and incorporates any new schemes and grant approvals. The revised programme for 2022-23 currently totals £98.134 million, of which £59.148 million is met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts, revenue contributions from earmarked reserves and borrowing, with the remaining £38.986 million coming from external resources, including General Capital Grant. Table 1 below shows the capital programme for each Directorate from the June 2022 approved Council position to quarter 1:

Table 1 – Capital Programme per Directorate 2022-23

Directorate	Approved Council June 2022 £'000	Slippage Brought forward from 2021-22** £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virements £'000	Slippage to future years £'000	Revised Budget 2022-23 £'000
Education & Family Support	11,335	7,386	383	-	(1,350)	17,754
Social Services and Well-being	2,857	831	98	123	-	3,909
Communities	54,858	9,910	5,125	-	-	69,893
Chief Executive's	2,720	2,402	530	(123)	-	5,529
Council Wide	372	677	-	-	-	1,049
Total	72,142*	21,206	6,136	-	(1,350)	98,134

* Includes £0.184 million approved via delegated power subsequent to June Council

**£21.252 million from 2021-22 net of £0.046 million brought forward from 2022-23

4.2.2 Table 2 below summarises the current funding assumptions for the capital programme for 2022-23. The capital resources are managed to ensure that maximum financial benefit for the Council is achieved. This may include the realignment of funding to maximise government grants.

Table 2 – Capital Programme 2022-23 Resources

CAPITAL RESOURCES	£'000
<i>BCBC Resources:</i>	
Capital Receipts	20,084
Earmarked Reserves	21,376
Unsupported Borrowing	7,774
Supported Borrowing	3,953
Other Loans	4,306
Revenue Contribution	1,655
Total BCBC Resources	59,148
<i>External Resources:</i>	
WG General Capital Funding	8,282
Grants	30,704
Total External Resources	38,986
TOTAL RESOURCES	98,134

4.2.3 **Appendix B** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2022-23 compared to the projected spend at 30 June 2022.

4.2.4 There are a number of amendments to the capital programme for 2022-23, such as new and amended schemes, since the capital programme was last approved including:

Levelling Up Fund - £4.500 million

On 14 June 2022 Cabinet approved the request to submit two bids to the Levelling up Fund (LUF), part of the UK Government's new levelling up and community investment suite of programmes. The two bids are for the redevelopment of Porthcawl Grand Pavilion and the replacement of Penprysg Railway Bridge. The Grand Pavilion bid is principally to address the issues of risk to the building fabric that exist in the condition of the structure, but also, to invest in a redevelopment of the building to accommodate extended and improved arts, hospitality and workshop spaces. With regard to Penprysg Railway Bridge, the bridge will be replaced and a new fully accessible active travel bridge will be provided at the level crossing.

These are two large scale priority projects for the authority and it is acknowledged that the delivery of these projects will require significant financial and grant investment. The LUF requires a 10% match funding contribution for the projects. The cost and split of grant and match funding for the two schemes is as follows:

Scheme	Timescale	Levelling Up Funding (90%)	BCBC Match Funding (10%)	Total Cost
		£	£	£
Porthcawl Pavilion	2022-2025	17,998,200	1,999,800	19,998,000
Penprysg Railway Bridge	2022-2026	22,500,000	2,500,000	25,000,000
Total		40,498,200	4,499,800	44,998,000

The match funding requirement for the two projects is £4,499,800, for which funding has been set aside in earmarked reserves, and demonstration of a commitment to match fund the schemes is a requirement of the funding bids.

These projects have not yet been tendered, and it is only at this point that confirmation of total project costs and a detailed financial breakdown can be confirmed. It is anticipated that a decision on the application will be made in late Autumn 2022, so no capital funding will be spent in advance of an approval. The grant will only be included in the capital programme should the bids be approved. If they aren't, the associated match funding will be removed from the programme. Only once approval for the grant contribution has been given will any spend on the schemes be permitted. The Council will seek to secure match funding towards these schemes where possible, and where opportunities arise, to replace the Council's contribution.

Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B - £15.461 million

The second wave of Welsh Government's (WG) 21st Century Schools programme (recently renamed Sustainable Communities for Learning) began in April 2019. At that time WG produced a set of costs and size standards to support schemes. The WG grant intervention rates for capital schemes is 65% for mainstream schools, 75% for special schools and the capital costs associated with the revenue funded schemes (that is, Mutual Investment Model) funded at 65%. The remaining balances are funded by local authorities which will include any additional provision that is required over and above the size standards (for example, part-time nursery places).

The 2019 cost standard rates have been fixed since that time. However, following Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry has seen a significant increase in construction costs. WG has responded to this increase accordingly and has produced a set of revised cost standard rates. The revised rates have been applied to the local authority's Band B schemes, which has resulted in the need for an increased capital contribution in order to deliver the planned programme.

In addition, schemes will be required to demonstrate delivery of Net Zero Carbon in operation plus a 20% reduction on the amount of embodied carbon (that is, the carbon emitted through construction materials and the construction process). WG has advised that 100% of the additional costs to meet this commitment under this current wave of investment will be fully funded.

However, the additional costs required to deliver on local policy (for example, part-time nursery places) will need to be met by the local authority.

On 30 May 2022, WG confirmed the funding process in terms of the Mutual Investment Model Stage 1 capital design fees for the Bridgend West Primary Schools scheme. BCBC is required to contribute 35% of the cost of the stage 1 design fees, in addition to its one-off contributions to ICT and fixed furniture and equipment. Welsh Government will fund the remaining 65%. For Bridgend the design fees contribution is an additional £0.172 million, out of a total fee of £0.491 million, which is now built into the overall capital cost.

The revised capital budget for the programme is now £64.966 million, compared to £49.505 million previously. The increase in Welsh Government grant funding is £12.080 million, and approval is sought to increase the Council's capital contribution to the above programme by £3.381 million, for which funding has been set aside in earmarked reserves.

Active Travel Fund - £4.242 million

WG has awarded the Council with £4.242 million funding in relation to the Active Travel fund. The purpose of the Active Travel Fund is to increase levels of active travel, improve health and well-being, improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions, connect communities and improve active travel access to employment, education and key services, destinations and public transport. It will include an allocation for Pyle to Porthcawl (Phase1) and Bridgend to Pencoed (Phase 3), as well as various other smaller schemes.

Community Focused Schools - £0.930 million

WG has awarded the Council with £0.930 million funding to be used to safely adapt and effectively open schools outside traditional hours through a number of targeted small and medium scale capital investments, thus enabling community use of existing facilities.

Homelessness and Housing £0.530 million

To respond to increasing housing and homelessness cases it is proposed that the Council provides funding to Valleys to Coast (V2C) to support a refurbishment programme which will bring back into use 35 long term empty properties, or 'voids', which require significant investment. V2C has secured £2.1 million of grant funding from Welsh Government to undertake these works and the Council will provide match funding of £530,000, funded from a revenue contribution from existing housing budgets. V2C has confirmed that the properties will be available to the Council for nomination rights and to support those individuals and families in temporary accommodation. The properties will be refurbished to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standards with increased energy efficiency and, in some cases, will be extended and adapted to meet identified housing needs. The Council has received independent legal advice on this arrangement which has confirmed that this action is compliant with the Services of Public Economic Interest (SPEI) requirements. The appropriate legal agreements will be put in place before funding is released.

20mph Default Speed - £0.580 million

WG has awarded the Council with £0.580 million of funding to be used to support the roll out of a 20mph default speed limit on restricted roads across Wales.

Coychurch Crematorium Works - £0.096 million

The current capital budget for planned works is £0.569 million but an additional £0.096 million is required to meet the planned capital maintenance spending requirements as agreed by the Crematorium Joint Committee in their meeting on 4 March 2022. This will be funded by a revenue contribution from the crematorium budget.

Brilliant Basics - £0.065 million

WG has awarded the Council with £0.052 million of funding to enable the completion of the Porthcawl Cycle Scheme and for the Installation of Smart recycle bins. An additional £0.013 match funding is also required which will be met from within existing Strategic Regeneration Fund (SRF) revenue budgets.

Fleet - £0.042 million

To enable the purchase of one minibus for Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen (CCYD), funding of £0.042 million has been included in the capital programme in 2022-23, to be funded from a revenue contribution from the school budget.

4.2.5 A revised Capital Programme is included as **Appendix C**.

4.3 Prudential and Other Indicators 2022-23 Monitoring

4.3.1 In February 2022, Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2022-23, which included the Prudential Indicators 2022-23 to 2024-25 together with some local indicators.

4.3.2 The Capital Strategy is intended to give an overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future sustainability. To this end, a number of prudential indicators were included, and approved by Council. In line with the requirements of the Prudential Code, the Chief Finance Officer is required to establish procedures to monitor both performance against all forward-looking prudential indicators and the requirement specified.

4.3.3 **Appendix D** details the actual indicators for 2021-22, the estimated indicators for 2022-23 set out in the Council's Capital Strategy and the projected indicators for 2022-23 based on the revised Capital Programme. These show that the Council is operating in line with the approved limits.

4.4 Capital Strategy Monitoring

4.4.1 The Capital Strategy also requires the monitoring of non-treasury management investments and other long term liabilities. The Council does have an existing

investment portfolio which is 100% based within the County Borough and primarily the office and industrial sectors. The income streams are generally spread between the single and multi-let office investments on Bridgend Science Park, the multi-let industrial estates and the freehold ground rent investments. The total value of Investment Properties was £5.585 million at 31 March 2022.

- 4.4.2 The Council has a number of Other Long Term Liabilities which are included within the Capital Strategy, the most significant being the Maesteg School Private Finance Initiative (PFI). The Council has a PFI arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg. This forms a long-term liability for the Council which is £13.902 million at 31 March 2022. This is a 25 year agreement which will end during the 2033-34 financial year. Other long term liabilities totalling £0.227 million include lease arrangements for the Innovation Centre and the Council's Waste Contract.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 As required by Financial Procedure Rule 3.5.3 within the Council's Constitution, "The Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to Cabinet an update on the Capital Strategy and the Prudential Indicators."

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. Projects within the capital programme will be subject to the preparation of Equality Impact Assessments before proceeding. 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. 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. Specifically the development of a 10 year capital programme, which reflects the Council's affordability in terms of capital receipts and borrowing, supports the principle of sustainability over the long term.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The financial implications are outlined in the body of the report.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Council:
- notes the capital outturn for 2021-22 (**Appendix A**)

- notes the Council's Capital Programme 2022-23 Quarter 1 update to 30 June 2022 (**Appendix B**)
- approves the revised Capital Programme (**Appendix C**)
- notes the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2021-22 and 2022-23 (**Appendix D**)

Carys Lord
Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
July 2022

Contact Officer: Eilish Thomas
Finance Manager Financial Control, Closing and
Systems

Telephone: 01656 643359

E-mail: eilish.thomas@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Bridgend County Borough Council
Chief Executive's - Finance
Raven's Court
Brewery Lane
Bridgend
CF31 4AP

Background documents: None

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	Budget 21-22 (Council Feb 22) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage From 2022-23 £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000	Total Exp 2021-22 £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Slippage to 2022-23 £'000	Impact on Grant Funded Schemes £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
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Education & Family Support

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS BAND B	100				100	-	(100)	100		-
YSGOL BRYN CASTELL	92	61			153	62	(91)	91		-
LITCHARD PRIMARY SOLAR PANELS	43				43	39	(4)	-		(4)
MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL	98				98	19	(79)	79		-
BRYNMENYN PRIMARY	44				44	-	(44)	44		-
LAND PURCHASE BAND B SCHOOLS	4,910				4,910	2,882	(2,028)	2,028		-
GATEWAY TO THE VALLEYS SECONDARY SCHOOL	135	78			213	103	(110)	110		-
GARW VALLEY PRIMARY PROVISION	139				139	-	(139)	139		-
PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL	54				54	1	(53)	53		-
GARW VALLEY PRIMARY HIGHWAYS	30				30	-	(30)	30		-
PENCOED PRY SCH HIGHWAYS WORKS	56				56	-	(56)	56		-
BRYNMENYN SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORK	12				12	-	(12)	12		-
CCYD CLASSROOMS	30				30	28	(2)	-		(2)
ABERCERDIN PRIMARY HUB	300				300	13	(287)	287		-
YGG BRO OGWR	-			3	3	3	-			
CROESTY PRIMARY SCHOOL	15			(3)	12	2	(10)			(10)
CYNFFIG COMP CANOPY	42				42	42	-			
MINOR WORKS	36				36	16	(20)	20		
HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL	40				40	36	(4)	4		
MAES YR HAUL SOLAR PANELS	32				32	29	(3)	-		(3)
SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	208	127			335	127	(208)	208		
SCHOOLS MODERNISATION	60				60	7	(53)	53		
EDUCATION S106 SCHEMES	169				169	-	(169)	169		
SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINTENANCE GRANT	2,119	896			3,015	923	(2,092)	2,092		
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BETTWS	697				697	213	(484)	484		
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BRIDGEND	53				53	-	(53)	53		
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - OGMORE	857				857	60	(797)	797		
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - PORTHCAWL	53				53	-	(53)	53		
ICT - SCHOOL EQUIPMENT	40				40	40	-			
WELSH MEDIUM - HIGHWAYS	100				100	-	(100)	100		
BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE ALL WEATHER PITCH	324				324	-	(324)	324		
TOTAL Education & Family Support	10,888	1,162	-	-	12,050	4,645	(7,405)	7,386	-	(19)

Social Services and Wellbeing

BRIDGEND RECREATION	150				150	150	-	-		-
ACCESSIBILITY WORKS HALO/AWEN	150				150	139	(11)	11		
COMMUNITY CENTRES	280				280	54	(226)	226		
BRYNGARW PARK - ACCESS	49				49	26	(23)	23		-
BRYN Y CAE-UPGRADE HFE'S	40				40	-	(40)	40		-
TY CWM OGWR	340				340	9	(331)	331		
VARIOUS MINOR WORKS	163				163	28	(135)	135		-
TREM Y MOR - ACCOMODATION	175				175	171	(4)	4		-
BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	10				10	-	(10)	10		-
GLAN YR AFON CARE HOME	51				51	-	(51)	51		-
CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	114	40			154	154	-			-
HARTSHORN HOUSE REFURB	68				68	68	-			-
TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	1,590	40	-	-	1,630	799	(831)	831	-	-

	Budget 21-22 (Council Feb 22) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage From 2022-23 £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000	Total Exp 2021-22 £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Slippage to 2022-23 £'000	Impact on Grant Funded Schemes £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
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Communities
Street Scene

COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	100				100	10	(90)	90		
PARKS/PAVILIONS/COMMUNITY CENTRES CAT	580				580	267	(313)	313		-
ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	11				11	-	(11)	11		-
PORTHCAWL TOWN SEA DEFENCE	27				27	-	(27)	-		(27)
COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM WORKS	350				350	246	(104)	104		-
ACCESSIBILITY & ROAD SAFETY	148		98		246	246	-			
CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT CAR	8				8	-	(8)	8		-
ULTRA LOW EMISSIONS VEHICLES TRANSFORMATION FUND	462				462	119	(343)	343		
TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT	250				250	-	(250)	250		
FLEET TRANSITION-ULTRA LOW EMISSIONS VEHICLES	300				300	-	(300)	300		
TONDU WASTE DEPOT UPGRADE FIRE SAFETY	140				140	-	(140)	140		
RESILIENT ROADS FUND	475				475	475	-			
ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	200	15		12	227	227	-			-
PYLE TO PORTHCAWL ATR PHASE 1	348		(98)		250	29	(221)		(221)	
PENCOED TECH PARK ACT TRAVEL	1,841				1,841	1,734	(107)	-	(107)	-
HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	425	7			432	432	-	-		-
CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	255				255	255	-	-		-
ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	339				339	321	(18)	-	(18)	-
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	181	38			219	167	(52)	52		-
HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE GRANT	810				810	810	-	-		-
CARRIAGEWAY & FOOTWAYS RENEWAL	1,560	20			1,580	1,580	-	-		-
REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	388				388	372	(16)	16		-
BRIDGE STRENGTHENING A4061	51				51	27	(24)	24		-
COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	461				461	70	(391)	391		-
RIVER PROTECTION MEASURES	80	10			90	90	-	-		-
PYLE PARK AND RIDE METRO	180				180	108	(72)	-	(72)	-
PENPRYSG ROAD BRIDGE	150				150	85	(65)		(65)	-
SAFE ROUTES - COITY HIGHER	224				224	175	(49)	-	(49)	-
RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TC	28				28	4	(24)	24		-
FLEET VEHICLES	-			34	34	34	-			-
RELOCATE RECYCLING CENTRE	798	8			806	806	-			-
AHP WASTE	207				207	183	(24)	24		-
HEOL MOSTYN JUNCTION	540				540	371	(169)	169		-
CORNELLY CEMETERY EXT	66				66	22	(44)	44		-
PORTHCAWL CEMETERY EXT	19				19	16	(3)	3		-
STREET LIGHTING ENERGY SALIX	629				629	370	(259)	-	(259)	-
S106 HIGHWAYS SMALL SCHEMES	60				60	15	(45)	45		-
TOTAL Streetscene	12,691	98	-	46	12,835	9,666	(3,169)	2,351	(791)	(27)

Regeneration & Development

BRIDGEND BUSSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK	135		7		142	142	-			-
PORTHCAWL RESORT INVESTMENT FOCUS	70		(8)		62	41	(21)		(21)	-
COSY CORNER (PRIF)	150				150	124	(26)	26		-
EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	455		(19)		436	-	(436)	436		-
VRP - BRYNGARW PARK	164				164	164	-	-		-
VRP - PARK SLIP	75				75	55	(20)	-	(20)	-
URBAN CENTRE PROPERTY ENHANCE	687	159			846	846	-			-
PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	100				100	6	(94)	94		-
BERWYN CENTRE AND OGMORE VALE	183				183	133	(50)	-	(50)	-
COVID RECOVERY TOWN CENTRES	334				334	81	(253)	-	(253)	-
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT FUND	60				60	16	(44)	44		-
BRIDGEND COLLEGE RELOCATION	650		20		670	670	-			-
ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT (WG)	831				831	278	(553)	553		-
COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT P'CAWL	4,309				4,309	3,931	(378)	378		-
LLYNFI DEVELOPMENT SITE	2,260				2,260	-	(2,260)	2,260		-

	Budget 21-22 (Council Feb 22) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage From 2022-23 £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000	Total Exp 2021-22 £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Slippage to 2022-23 £'000	Impact on Grant Funded Schemes £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	390				390	40	(350)	350		-
MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	2,695	250			2,945	1,947	(998)	998		-
TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	74				74	32	(42)	42		-
PORTHCAWL THI	15	6			21	16	(5)	5		-
TOTAL Regeneration & Development	13,637	415	-	-	14,052	8,522	(5,530)	5,186	(344)	-
Corporate Landlord										
CORPORATE LANDLORD ENERGY EFFICIENCY SAVINGS	1,279				1,279	889	(390)	390		-
ENTERPRISE HUB INNOVATION CENTRE	100				100	47	(53)	53		-
RAVENS COURT	447				447	-	(447)	447		-
BRIDGEND MARKET	10				10	10	-			-
DDA WORKS	408				408	373	(35)	35		-
MINOR WORKS	295				295	25	(270)	270		-
FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	249				249	125	(124)	124		-
BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	531				531	64	(467)	467		-
NON OPERATIONAL ASSETS	480				480	-	(480)	480		-
EVERGREEN HALL	130				130	24	(106)	106		-
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	47				47	-	(47)	47		-
Total Corporate Landlord	3,976	-	-	-	3,976	1,557	(2,419)	2,419	-	-
TOTAL Communities	30,304	513	-	46	30,863	19,745	(11,118)	9,956	(1,135)	(27)
Chief Executive										
CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	173				173	-	(173)	173		-
TOTAL Corporate Capital Fund	173	-	-	-	173	-	(173)	173	-	-
MANDATORY DFG RELATED EXPENDITURE	1,992	123	(112)		2,003	1,680	(323)	323		-
TARGET HARDENING GRANTS	19		10		29	29	-			-
HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	118				118	-	(118)	118		-
EMPTY HOMES GRANTS-GRANTS ONLY	300				300	-	(300)	300		-
COMFORT SAFE & SECURITY GRANTS	4		4		8	8	-			-
WESTERN VALLEY EMPTY HOMES	260				260	-	(260)	-	(260)	-
DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS	200				200	-	(200)	200		-
EMERGENCY REPAIR LIFETIME GRANT	78		98		176	176	-			-
ENABLE-SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING GRANT	198	27			225	225	-			-
HEALTH & WELLBEING VILLAGE	480				480	-	(480)	480		-
TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	3,649	150	-	-	3,799	2,118	(1,681)	1,421	(260)	-
ICT INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT	450				450	152	(298)	298		-
CCTV SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	667				667	240	(427)	427		-
HWB SCHOOLS IT	305	441			746	690	(56)	56		-
WCCIS HARDWARE REFRESH	1,352				1,352	1,352	-			-
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	200				200	-	(200)	200		-
TOTAL ICT	2,974	441	-	-	3,415	2,434	(981)	981	-	-
UNALLOCATED	504	-	-	-	504	-	(504)	504		-
TOTAL Chief Executive	7,300	591	-	-	7,891	4,552	(3,339)	3,079	(260)	-
GRAND TOTAL	50,082	2,306	-	46	52,434	29,741	(22,693)	21,252	(1,395)	(46)

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Bridgend County Borough Council

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

QUARTER 1 TO 30 June 22

APPENDIX B

	Budget 22-23 (Council June 22)	2021-22 Slippage b/f	New Approvals and Adjustments	Virement	Slippage to Future Years	Revised Budget 2022- 23	Total Exp to date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) spend	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Education & Family Support

HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B	3,400	-		-		3,400	-	3,400	-	-
21st CENTURY SCHOOLS BAND B	2,771	100	(547)	-		2,324	-	2,324	-	
YSGOL BRYN CASTELL	-	91		(61)		30	9	30		
LLANGYNWYD WELSH COMP	50	-				50	-	50		
BRYNMENYN PRIMARY		44				44	-	44		
LAND PURCHASE BAND B SCHOOLS		2,028			(1,350)	678	-	678		
GATEWAY TO THE VALLEYS SEC SCH	-	110		(78)		32	(5)	32		
GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRY PROVIS.	-	139				139	1	139		
PENCOED PRIMARY		53				53	-	53		
GARW VALLEY PRIMARY HIGHWAYS		30				30	-	30		
PENCOED PRY SCH HIGHWAYS WORKS		56				56	-	56		
ABERCERDIN PRIMARY HUB	-	287				287	5	287		
BRYNTEG COMP ALL WEATHER PITCH		324				324	-	324		
BRYNMENYN SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORK		12				12	-	12		
MINOR WORKS	325	20		-		345	49	345	-	-
SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	-	208		(127)		81	7	81		
HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL	280	4				284	7	284		
SCHOOLS MODERNISATION	333	53		-		386	-	386	-	-
PENCOED PRIMARY	52					52	-	52	-	-
COETY PRIMARY	44	-				44	-	44	-	-
BRYNTIORION COMPREHENSIVE CLASSROOMS	650					650	-	650		
EDUCATION S106 SCHEMES		169				169	-	169		
MYNYDDCYNFFIGPRIMARYSCHOOL	-	79				79	0	79		
CEFN CRIBWR PRIMARY ALN	-					-	(11)	-		
SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINT GRANT	2,436	2,092		(896)		3,632	129	3,632	-	-
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BETTWS	-	484				484	101	484		
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BRIDGEND	497	53		-		550	-	550	-	-
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - OGMORE	-	797				797	6	797		
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - PORTHCAWL	497	53		-		550	-	550	-	-
EAST HUB - BRYNTEG COMP	-			-		-	0	-	-	-
WELSH MEDIUM - HIGHWAYS		100				100	-	100		
FREE SCHOOL MEALS				1,162		1,162	-	1,162		
COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS	-	-	930			930	-	930		
TOTAL Education & Family Support	11,335	7,386	383	-	(1,350)	17,754	301	17,754	-	-

Social Services and Wellbeing

BRYNGARW PARK - ACCESS	-	23				23	(21)	23	-	-
BRYN Y CAE-UPGRADE HFE'S		40				40	-	40		

	Budget 22-23 (Council June 22) £'000	2021-22 Slippage b/f £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage to Future Years £'000	Revised Budget 2022- 23 £'000	Total Exp to date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
TREM Y MOR - ACCOMODATION	-	4				4	1	4	-	-
TY CWM OGWR	-	331				331	0	331	-	
VARIOUS MINOR WORKS	-	135				135	11	135	-	-
BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS		10				10	-	10		
GLAN YR AFON CARE HOME		51				51	-	51		
CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	2,374	-		123		2,497	8	2,497	-	-
TELECARE TRANSFORMATION	483					483	-	483		
ACCESSIBILITY WORKS HALO/AWEN		11				11	-	11		
COMMUNITY CENTRES	-	226				226	-	226	-	
PORTHCAWL GRAND PAVILLION	-	-	98			98	-	98		
TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	2,857	831	98	123	-	3,909	(1)	3,909	-	-

Communities

Street Scene

COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	1,196	90				1,286	-	1,286	-	
PARKS/PAVILIONS/OTHER CAT	500	313				813	68	813	-	-
ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	-	11				11	-	11		
CITY DEAL	3,138	-				3,138	-	3,138	-	-
COYCHURCH CREM WORKS	465	104	96			665	-	665	-	-
ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY ROAD						-	(117)	-		
MINOR CROSSINGS	-		392			392	-	392		
REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	135	-				135	-	135	-	-
CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT CAR	30	8				38	-	38	-	-
20 MPH DEFAULT SPEED			580			580	-	580		
ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	136	(12)				124	7	124	-	-
PYLE TO PORTHCAWL	-		387			387	2	387		
PENCOED TECH PARK ACT TRAVEL	-		3,463			3,463	(63)	3,463	-	-
HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	340	-				340	(49)	340	-	-
CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	250	-				250	(8)	250	-	-
HEOL MOSTYN JUNCTION	-	169				169	(15)	169	-	
PROW CAPITAL IMP STRUCTURES	-	52				52	(12)	52	-	-
HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE GRANT	2,000	-				2,000	(75)	2,000	-	-
CARRIAGEWAY & FOOTWAYS RENEWAL	1,500					1,500	(283)	1,500	-	-
REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	400	16				416	24	416	-	-
BRIDGE STRENGTHENING A4061	-	24				24	-	24	-	-
COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	-	391				391	-	391	-	-
ULEVT FUND	-	343				343	5	343		
FLEET TRANSITION-ULEV	-	300				300	-	300		
TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT	-	250				250	-	250		
ULEV VEHICLES	320	-				320	-	320		
PORTHCAWL BUS STATION CCRMETRO	1,900	-				1,900	-	1,900		
PENPRYSG ROAD BRIDGE	735	-				735	(12)	735	-	-
RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TC	100	24				124	-	124	-	-
FLEET VEHICLES	1,376	(34)	42			1,384	85	1,384	-	-
AHP WASTE	-	24				24	18	24	-	-

	Budget 22-23 (Council June 22)	2021-22 Slippage b/f	New Approvals and Adjustments	Virement	Slippage to Future Years	Revised Budget 2022- 23	Total Exp to date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) spend	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
CORNELLY CEMETERY EXT	235	44				279	4	279		
PORTHCAWL CEMETERY EXT	180	3				183	1	183		
S106 HIGHWAYS SMALL SCHEMES	-	45				45	-	45		
ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	500	-				500	(15)	500	-	-
TONDU WASTE DEPOT UPGRADE FIRE	-	140				140	-	140		
BRIDGEND TO BRACKLA ACT TRAVEL	-					-	(14)	-	-	-
RIVER PROTECTION MEASURES	-					-	(49)	-	-	-
PYLE PARK AND RIDE METRO	-	-				-	2	-	-	-
SAFE ROUTES - COITY HIGHER	-					-	(6)	-	-	-
RELOCATE RECYCLING CENTRE	-	-				-	(56)	-	-	-
LEVELLING UP - PENPRYSG ROAD BRIDGE	-	-	100			100	-	100		
TOTAL Streetscene	15,436	2,305	5,060	-	-	22,801	(559)	22,801	-	-

Regeneration & Development

EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	-	436				436	-	436		
COSY CORNER (PRIF)	2,649	26				2,675	14	2,675	-	-
PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	3,398	94				3,492	-	3,492	-	-
ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT	-	553				553	-	553	-	-
COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT P'CAWL	2,150	378				2,528	593	2,528	-	-
EWENNY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	3,500	-				3,500	-	3,500		
ARBED PHASE 1 CESP	3,505	-				3,505	-	3,505		
LLYNFI DEVELOPMENT SITE		2,260				2,260	-	2,260		
BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	3,000	350				3,350	-	3,350	-	-
MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	2,976	998				3,974	337	3,974	-	-
TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	200	42				242	-	242	-	-
CAERAU HEAT SCHEME	5,904	-				5,904	-	5,904	-	-
PORTHCAWL THI	119	5				124	-	124	-	-
BRILLIANT BASICS	-	-	65			65	-	65		
COMM PROP ENHANCEMENT FUND	90	44				134	-	134		
BRDGND BUS SUP NETWORK	-	-				-	11	-		
TOTAL Regeneration & Development	27,491	5,186	65	-	-	32,742	954	32,742	-	-

Corporate Landlord

CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND	820	-				820	-	820	-	-
CORP LANDLORD ENERGY EFFIC SAV	-	390				390	2	390	-	-
ENTERPRISE HUB INNOVATION CENT	1,837	53				1,890	5	1,890	-	-
RAVENS COURT	-	447				447	0	447	-	-
RELOCATION OF REGISTRARS	-	-				-	-	-	-	-
DDA WORKS	-	35				35	7	35	-	-
MINOR WORKS	1,130	270				1,400	-	1,400	-	-
FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	-	124				124	22	124	-	-
BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	-	467				467	6	467	-	-
NON OPERATIONAL ASSETS		480				480	-	480		
WATERTON UPGRADE	8,144	-				8,144	-	8,144	-	-
EVERGREEN HALL	-	106				106	13	106	-	-

	Budget 22-23 (Council June 22) £'000	2021-22 Slippage b/f £'000	New Approvals and Adjustments £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage to Future Years £'000	Revised Budget 2022- 23 £'000	Total Exp to date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES		47				47	-	47		
Total Corporate Landlord	11,931	2,419	-	-	-	14,350	55	14,350	-	-
TOTAL Communities	54,858	9,910	5,125	-	-	69,893	450	69,893	-	-

Chief Executive

MANDATORY DFG RELATED EXPEND	1,750	323		(123)		1,950	240	1,950	-	-
TARGET HARDENING GRANTS	-					-	-	-	-	-
DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS	200	200				400	-	400		
HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	100	118				218	0	218	-	-
EMPTY HOMES GRANTS-GRANTS ONLY		300				300	-	300		
ENABL-SUP FOR IND LIVING GRANT	270	-				270	-	270	-	-
HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING			530			530	-	530	-	-
HEALTH & WELLBEING VILLAGE		480				480	-	480		
TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	2,320	1,421	530	(123)	-	4,148	240	4,148	-	-

ICT LAPTOP REPLACEMENT	-	-				-	-	-	-	-
ICT INFRA SUPPORT	400	298				698	299	698	-	-
HWB SCHOOLS IT	-	56				56	40	56		
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	-	200				200	-	200		
CCTV SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	-	427				427		427		
COMMUNITY CARE INFOR SYS	-	-				-	1	-		
TOTAL ICT	400	981	-	-	-	1,381	340	1,381	-	-

TOTAL Chief Executive	2,720	2,402	530	(123)	-	5,529	580	5,529	-	-
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Council Wide Capital Budgets

CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	200	173				373	-	373	-	-
UNALLOCATED	172	504				676	-	676	-	-
	372	677	-	-	-	1,049	-	1,049	-	-

GRAND TOTAL	72,142	21,206	6,136	-	(1,350)	98,134	1,331	98,134	-	-
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PRUDENTIAL AND OTHER INDICATORS 2021-22 and 2022-23

The Prudential Indicators are required to be set and approved by Council in accordance with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. Table 1 shows the 2021-22 actual capital expenditure, the capital programme approved by Council on 23 February 2022 and the latest projection for the current financial year which has incorporated slippage of schemes from 2021-22 together with any new grants and contributions or changes in the profile of funding.

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Council Fund services	29.741	69.979	97.654
Investment Properties	-	-	0.480
TOTAL	29.741	69.979	98.134

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or net financing requirement (borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the expenditure has been projected as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
External sources	18.152	26.078	38.986
Own resources	1.020	30.993	43.115
Net Financing Requirement	10.569	12.908	16.033
TOTAL	29.741	69.979	98.134

The net financing requirement or 'debt' is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). As well as MRP, the Council makes additional voluntary revenue contributions to pay off Prudential or Unsupported Borrowing. The total of these are shown in Table 3 below:-

Table 3: Replacement of debt finance

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	2.970	3.187	3.187
Additional Voluntary Revenue Provision	3.553	2.476	2.476
Total MRP & VRP	6.523	5.663	5.663
Other MRP on Long term Liabilities	0.801	0.863	0.863
Total Own Resources	7.324	6.526	6.526

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces by the MRP amount within the year. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's estimated CFR is as follows based on the movement on capital expenditure at quarter 1:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Capital Financing Requirement			
Opening CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	157.404	166.729	161.451
Opening PFI CFR	15.567	14.766	14.765
Total opening CFR	172.971	181.495	176.216
Movement in CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	4.046	13.286	10.371
Movement in PFI CFR	(0.801)	(0.863)	(0.863)
Total movement in CFR	3.245	12.423	9.508
Closing CFR	176.216	193.918	185.724
Movement in CFR represented by:			
Net financing need for year (Table 2 above)	10.569	18.949	16.033
Minimum and voluntary revenue provisions	(6.523)	(5.663)	(5.662)
MRP on PFI and other long term leases (Table 3)	(0.801)	(0.863)	(0.863)
Total movement	3.245	12.423	9.508

The capital borrowing need (Capital Financing Requirement) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This is known as Internal Borrowing. Projected levels of the Council's

total outstanding debt, which comprises of borrowing, PFI and Other Long Term Liabilities, are shown below compared with the Capital Financing Requirement:-

Table 5: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	118.864	123.052	117.835
Capital Financing Requirement	176.216	193.918	185.724

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 6: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 20) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Authorised limit – borrowing	170.000	170.000	170.000
Authorised limit – other long term liabilities	30.000	30.000	30.000
Authorised Limit Total	200.00	200.000	200.000
Operational boundary – borrowing	120.000	130.000	130.000
Operational boundary – other long term liabilities	25.000	25.000	25.000
Operational Boundary Limit Total	145.000	155.000	155.000
Total Borrowing and Long Term Liabilities	118.864	123.052	117.835

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The

net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

Table 7: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 20) £m	2022-23 Projection £m
Capital Financing Central	6.719	7.205	6.782
Other Financing costs	5.500	4.423	4.423
TOTAL FINANCING COSTS	12.219	11.628	11.204
Proportion of net revenue stream	4.49%	4.26%	4.10%

This shows that in 2021-22, 4.49% of our net revenue income was spent paying back the costs of capital expenditure.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 JULY 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

MARKET STABILITY REPORT

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Council with a brief overview of the Market Stability Report (MSR) as required under Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

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 Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to prepare and publish market stability reports and makes provision for regulations setting out the form these must take, matters to be included, and the prescribed period for carrying out market stability assessments as set out in the Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) and Regulated Services (Market Stability Reports) (Wales) Regulations 2021.
- 3.2 The Regulations also amend the Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015 so that the preparation and publication of market stability reports must be carried out on a regional footprint, with local authorities and Local Health Boards working together through Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs).

- 3.3 The Regulations require local authorities to produce market stability reports every five years, with the first reports aimed to be published by 1 June 2022. The Local Government Elections on the 5th May 2022 meant that it was not possible to gain approval of the MSR until new Councils were formed.
- 3.4 The report will help inform and shape the next five-year area plan, along with the 2022 Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) population needs assessment.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 In preparation for undertaking this report, local authorities carried out, in partnership with the Local Health Board and other RPB partners, an assessment of both:
- Sufficiency - an assessment of the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demand for social care as set out in the population needs assessment. and
 - Stability - an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support
- 4.2 The COVID19 pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge and has changed the type of demand and the way in which we deliver health and care. The impact on people who need care, and their carers is recognised as is the ongoing workforce pressures and market uncertainty.
- 4.3 In January 2021 the Welsh Government published a White Paper setting out their ambition to rebalance care and support providing a mixed economy ensuring there was not an over or under reliance on the private sector. The ambition sought to simplify current commissioning arrangements, strengthen quality and social value and actively manage the market through effective Partnership arrangements.
- 4.4 It should be further noted that the Programme for Government outlines the Welsh Governments commitment to 'eliminate private profit from care of looked after children' (Next Senedd term 2026-2031).
- 4.5 The diagram below illustrates the relationships between each of the different elements of the MSR how they will contribute towards the ongoing development of regional plans and commissioning strategies and statements.



* Statutory requirement under the 2014 Act.

Key Findings

4.6 The information contained within this section uses the key messages from the market stability report, and the recommendations will be further explored within the adult and children's boards within future work programmes.

4.7 Care Homes (Adults and Older People)

Key Messages

- All three local authorities are below the national average for care homes with nursing, which suggests a squeeze on supply and availability across the region.
- Difficulties highlighted in being able to find suitable placements in a timely manner and to match supply to changes in demand.
- At least half of all providers (49%) have occupancy of less than 85%, which is the level defined by Care Forum Wales as being "non-sustainable".
NB: These regional figures were provided at the point of drafting the MSR, where it is now reported in BCBC that current vacancy levels (7%) have returned close to those levels recorded pre-pandemic (5%).
- Current provision unable to meet the increasing need for respite care, particularly dementia care.
- Respite care for individuals with learning disabilities with older parents has also been identified as a particular problem.

- Where regional provision is unable to meet the needs of an individual, specialist complex provision may be identified out of county.
- There is no longer the capacity to deal with all patients discharged from hospital who may benefit from community support due to extreme pressure on community care/care and support at home.
- Thus resulting in people staying in hospital longer than necessary or become permanent in residential care.
- Fall in demand for general residential care as people are entering residential care with more complex needs and at a more advanced stage in their mental and/or physical health condition.
- At the provider level, finance is critical to the viability of individual (independent) care homes, their ability to invest in maintaining and improving homes and reconfiguring to meet the changing demand.
- A significant area of concern is the availability of Adult with Nursing Placements for those individuals who require specialist EMI (Elderly Mentally Infirm) nursing.
- Staff recruitment and retention of nurses and care workers is a challenge for many homes, particularly local authority-owned homes, reducing the regions capacity.

Recommendations

- Development of a consistent dataset covering the three local authorities.
- Develop and implement a consistent regional approach to measure the quality of the care homes.
- Enhance partnership working with providers.
- Action should be taken to remedy the under-utilisation of capacity in local-authority-owned homes.
- Increase the following types of provision:
 - Short-term/respite beds and/or respite unit(s).
 - Step-down care, facilitating recovery and assessment of needs outside the hospital environment.
 - Nursing and EMI nursing beds.

4.8 Adult Placements Shared Lives

Key Messages

- Each council has separate arrangements in place for the management of long-term and short-term placements, with local authorities reporting that provision is not sufficient to meet current and projected demand.
- The matching process between families and individuals needing support is complex and often lengthy, resulting in lengthy delays.
- The services delivered are adequate though increasing demand and a lack of choice negatively impacts the overall quality.
- These services have delivered annual savings and demonstrated positive outcomes for service users.
- The pandemic has resulted in issues for developing the service further, impacting on service capacity, low interest in new families to the scheme and client group scope.
- There is a lack of capacity for family placements, issues with matching individuals to families and long processing and waiting times.

- Local Shared Lives Schemes have provided excellent outcomes previously and provide a worthwhile service for young people across Cwm Taf Morgannwg

Recommendations

- Additional investment should be considered, if necessary, to overcome any delays caused by the pandemic.
- Review transition to adulthood arrangements, including 'When I'm Ready'.

4.9 Advocacy services (children)

Key messages

- Concerns about the availability and consistency of advocacy for children led to the introduction of a national approach to statutory advocacy services in 2017.
- Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP) are providing service across the three local authority areas.
- The quality of advocacy services provided to children and young people is of sufficient quality.
- The move to online and digital communications was embraced by both provider and many clients in receipt of service.
- Issue-Based Advocacy continues to be provided and has a high level of demand.
- Reported increases in demand for Advocacy for parent carers involved in child protection cases, and advocacy work undertaken within Parc Prison secure estate.

Recommendations

- Increase the capacity of advocacy across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region with a greater emphasis on co-producing and improving the opportunities for the voices of users to be heard.

4.10 Advocacy services (adults)

Key messages

- There is a growing demand for advocacy support services for adults and older people.
- Statutory (Regulated) Advocacy sits alongside, and is complementary to, non-statutory advocacy services. All commissioned providers deliver both statutory and non-statutory advocacy.
- There is suitable support available for eligible clients, the quality varies across the region from good to adequate, with the quality of the service adversely impacted by delays in response time.
- The restrictions introduced nationally due to the Coronavirus have had an impact in the number of people accessing the service.
- Organisations providing advocacy rely on a small group of trained advocates making the services fragile. Without increased capacity and client group scope this will remain an area of concern.

Recommendations

- There is room for further development on the Active Offer – work is underway in this area on a regional and local level to increase the number of active offers.
- A gap has been identified for advocacy for parents, which is non-statutory.

4.11 Care homes (children and young people)

Key messages

- All local authorities across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region have seen an increase over the past 4 years in residential care (although relatively stable in BCBC), but over the past 2 years RCT has started to see a decline.
- There has been a slight increase in vacancies across the sector, though vacancies remain very limited and lower within Cwm Taf Morgannwg than other regions across Wales.
- Consensus that the placements market is not providing sufficient appropriate places to fully meet children's needs at the point of need.
- To identify appropriate accommodation children and young people are often placed out of county or even country.
- Growing pressure on residential spend with increase in external providers, out of county placements, and even unregulated placements, on rare occasions.
- Gaps in provision identified include insufficient therapy services, inability to support sibling groups etc.. that could have a detrimental impact on the well-being of the child.
- Placement decision making appears to be heavily impacted by available supply as opposed to needs driven.
- The Welsh Government have published 'Removing Profit from the care of looked after children' Programme Board policy statement and affirmed commitment adding that plans to be in place to transition to not-for-profit foster and residential care in Wales'.
- Removing profit from children's residential sector may disincentivise providers to enter this market place and further exacerbate the lack of sufficient capacity within the current market.
- Require greater scope to develop more regional provision, including a focus on higher need groups, Family group, long terms, short break and emergency bed and family safeguarding, specialist fostering.
- Recruitment and retention are a challenge shared across social care and applies to both in-house and independent provision.
- A number of challenges identified in the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) include increase support for mental health and domestic abuse impacting on support services.
- Capacity issues in fostering are placing a strain on residential services, resulting in a shortage of beds.

Recommendations

- Increase the supply of registered Children's Homes for children, especially services with the ability to meet the needs of children with complex needs.

- Actions required to address the lack of integrated approach to residential care.
- Reduce the delays for safe accommodation.
- Workforce development need for skilled staff available to support young people in crisis.
- Action required to increase the supply of local authority foster carers. From a BCBC perspective, this will include appraising options for a specialist service
- Address the insufficient supply of not for profit.
- IFA (Independent Fostering Agency) placements particularly for children whose earlier experiences mean they need more skillful care (particularly 8+ yrs).

4.12 **Secure accommodation services**

Key messages

- Hillside Secure Children's Home in Neath is the only facility currently in Wales. The unit has capacity of 22 places shared between the Youth Justice Board (linked to offending), and Welsh local authorities for welfare purposes.
- Due to the few secure units (also few in England), they are used nationally, resulting in difficulties in securing a place.
- There is a national shortage (England and Wales) of secure placement, often leading to Local Authorities having to care for young people in settings that are not secure placements, despite them being assessed as meeting the threshold for secure provision.
- Secure accommodation is costly ,difficult to provide and recruiting and retaining skilled staff willing to work in a challenging environment is difficult.
- Placements are often out of area and can be prohibitive to be able to support a rehab back to family/residential/foster placement.

Recommendations

- Secure accommodation needs to be developed on a national level however new regional accommodation developments will help to meet lower-level needs.

4.13 **Adoption services**

Key messages

- CTM spans the footprint of 2 regional adoption collaborations.
- In general, children who are adopted achieve positive outcomes but the adoption process, from assessment, through matching and then placing children is often lengthy.
- There has been a slow decrease in the number of children being made subject of a placement order with an agreed plan of adoption.
- Children coming through with an agreed plan of adoption have increasingly complex needs, the main issues include exposure to significant drug and alcohol use during pregnancy, genetic conditions and disability issues as a result of non-accidental injury.

- There is insufficient adoption support for adopters who have more complex needs, exacerbated by up to 3 year waiting lists for neurodevelopmental assessments.
- There is a continuing need to identify and support suitable adoptive families for small children for whom it is not safe for them to grow up with a foster carer or relative
- Demand for adoption has now stabilised following a decrease in children requiring adoptive placements and emphasis placed upon preventative measures to enable children to remain at home.
- The primary concern continues to be the recruiting of adoptive families and establishing a sufficient selection ensuring choice when matching.

Recommendations

- Increase the availability of psychology
- Action required to reduce the waiting list for neuro developmental services.
- Introduction of an integrated therapeutic adoption support services
- Consider the development of a specialist support provision to provide bespoke support to learners in schools.
- Increase the use of TESSA (Therapeutic, Education and Support Services in Adoption) for adoptive families with greater needs.
- Development of sensory OT (Occupational Therapy) interventions as identified as a service gap by TESSA.

4.14 Residential family centres

Key messages

- There are only two registered residential family centres in the whole of Wales, one of which recently reopened after a closure. One of those centres is at Crossroads (Ty Seren) in Bridgend.
- Placements in residential family centres are less preferred, with parent and child foster placements seen as a better option as they can provide an assessment in a more 'natural setting'.
- This shift in preference is evident through the relatively low numbers placed from each of the local authorities in the region.
- Although numbers are low, placements are often out of area, making it difficult to step down back into the community, and impacting contact with family, siblings etc.
- Spot purchasing occasional places avoids committing resources to provision that may not be needed. However, it does mean that costs are likely to be high and placements likely to be distant.

Recommendations

- Insufficient need for residential family placements makes it difficult to justify commissioning a dedicated local centre.
- Increasing regional parent and child fostering capacity, either in house or commissioned from an IFA, would provide local capacity where commissioners have more influence in cost and quality.

4.15 Fostering services

Key messages

- There is increased difficulty in recruiting enough foster carers and the issue of authorities outside of the region purchasing placements has resulted in a shortage.
- There is also growing demand for more specialist foster placements, including:
 - Transitional foster carers
 - Children with autism
 - Children with learning disabilities
 - Young people who exhibit multiple risk-taking behaviours including substance misuse, risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and absconding
 - Parent and child placements; and
 - Welsh language foster placements.
- The increase in the number of children becoming looked after has subsequently made placing children in a local provision harder.
- These increased levels of demand for foster carers, both within the region and nationally, has resulted in further difficulties when securing appropriate placements for children.
- There is considerable uncertainty in the market with the commitment to eliminate 'for profit' provision and the impact of the pandemic impacting the ability to identify foster carers across the region.
- A growing area of concern for the region are foster carers who do not have the correct skills to support children, often resulting in them being placed in emergency/ bridging placements.

Recommendations

- Increasing in-house capacity to respond to the demand for foster carers will help address many of the issues identified above. From a BCBC perspective, this will include considering options in respect of a specialist support team, such as the MyST (My Support Team) team operating in the Gwent region.
- In addition to a new recruitment campaign, review and enhance the offer to foster carers to increase the likelihood of encouraging new foster carers.
- Introduce different commissioning models to encourage/ensure IFAs have tailored their offer to local requirements.
- Investment in preventative, respite and edge of care services can help reduce the need for children to be looked after away from their families.
- Engagement with IFA providers will be vital before and during the transition to a not-for-profit model to ensure that capacity isn't lost.

4.16 Domiciliary support services

Key messages

- The increase in the over 65 population and in particular the 85+ population presents an expected and unprecedented increase in demand on services.
- Demand for domiciliary care is likely to grow in the long term due to the aging population and the increasing numbers of people with dementia and other complex needs.

- Recruitment and retention have become increasingly challenging due to competition from other sectors and the pandemic and associated risks.
- This underlines the need to develop support and services that promote and maximise independence, ensuring the provision of acute and longer-term support is targeted to those in most need, including specialist support for children with disabilities and their families.
- The number of double handed calls has increased, reducing capacity and the requirement to upskill staff and provide more complex equipment.
- The number of urgent orders for complex equipment has increased significantly and continues to rise.
- The overall stability of the domiciliary care market in the region appears fragile and risks sufficiency in meeting demand and expectations based on current projections.
- There are opportunities to build on Community resilience models developed to support COVID response to create resourceful communities under a place-based approach.

Recommendations

- Commissioners and providers need to work together across the region to develop innovative sustainable services to meet needs.
- Investigate alternative, new models for recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce.
- In line with The Healthier Wales Action Plan (2019), continue to prioritise 'the shift from hospitals to communities and communities to homes', and emphasise the important role played by right-sizing community services to facilitate timely discharge.
- Processes and procedures for setting fees across the region should be reviewed to consider greater consistency and address issues relating to costs (e.g. national commitment to the Real Living Wage).

4.17 The full version of the MSR has been included to this report as Appendix 1, as well as a summary version of the MSR as Appendix 2.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 None

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 In order to comply with the statutory duties contained with the Equality Act 2010 and meet our Socio-economic duty in providing services which can improve inequality of outcome for people who face socio-economic disadvantage, an Equality Impact Assessment Screening (and subsequent full assessment, if deemed necessary) will be undertaken to assess the impact of taking forward any recommendations identified within the MSR.

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

7.1 Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, public bodies have a duty to consider the long-term impact of their decisions, and the MSR will help inform future regional commissioning strategies and priorities.

8. Financial implications

8.1 Demand from both an increasing ageing population and individuals with complex needs places significant challenges on the Council to meet this demand from within existing resources.

8.2 The report recognises that the way social care services are provided has changed over recent decades and is provided by a complex mix of independent, public, and voluntary sector provision. Whilst these are typically commissioned by statutory bodies elements can be purchased by people themselves, either using Direct Payments or their own funds if they do not qualify for state funded care.

8.3 The Market Stability Report therefore provides a strong platform for both regional and local market shaping to meet current and future needs.

8.4 This Market Stability Report is a crucial part within the relationship between local statutory partners and the care and support sector. The aim of the report is to understand the current market for health and care services and to identify future demand in the context of changing expectations and different models of service delivery.

9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 It is recommended that Council:

- Note the key messages and recommendations; and
- Endorse the Regional Market Stability report

Claire Marchant

Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing

June 2022

Contact officer: Pete Tyson
Group Manager – Commissioning

Telephone: (01656) 642667

Email: peter.tyson@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street,
Bridgend, CF31 4WR

Background documents:

None

Appendix 1



Market Stability
Report Summary Doc

Appendix 2



MSR summary -
V2.pdf



Cwm Taf Morgannwg

Bwrdd Partneriaeth Rhanbarthol | **Regional Partnership Board**

MARKET STABILITY REPORT (2022)

Executive Summary

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1.0 Introduction

Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to prepare and publish market stability reports and makes provision for regulations setting out the form these must take, matters to be included, and the prescribed period for carrying out market stability assessments as set out in the Partnership Arrangements (Amendment) and Regulated Services (Market Stability Reports) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

The Regulations also amend the Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015 so that the preparation and publication of market stability reports must be carried out on a regional footprint, with local authorities and Local Health Boards working together through Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs).

The Regulations require local authorities to produce market stability reports every five years, with the first reports published by **1 June 2022**. The reports will help inform and shape the next five-year area plan, along with the 2022 Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) population needs assessment.

In preparation for undertaking this report, local authorities carried out, in partnership with the Local Health Board and other RPB partners, an assessment of both:

- Sufficiency - an assessment of the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demand for social care as set out in the population needs assessment. and
- Stability - an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support.

2.0 Sufficiency assessment: Part A

Part A of this report provides a summary of the gaps and issues that have been identified when assessing the sufficiency of care and support services across Cwm Taf Morgannwg. The information is informed by the Population Needs Assessment and is presented across the prescribed priority groups for adults and older people and children and young people.

The summary highlights some of the key messages from the sufficiency assessment for each of the priority groups: -

Adults and older people

- The expected increase in older people is going to have a considerable effect on individuals, their communities and the services that provide care and support for them.
- Increased focus on delivering care and support within our communities could provide much needed capacity and reduce current national pressures on statutory services.
- With the data suggesting there are going to be more people living with dementia, chronic conditions and co-morbidities, the services that support them will have to adapt to the changes in demand.
- The national shortage of staff to deliver key social care and health services is having a significant impact on the capacity to meet growing domiciliary and residential care, which has seen an increase in demand during the pandemic.

Children and young people

- The pandemic has had a significant negative impact the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, this is evident through the increased demand for specialist services across the region.
- The need for more social opportunities for children with additional needs was raised as a gap during the engagement activities, with parents stating there was limited places to take their children where they would be safe.
- Between 2016-2019 the number of young people presenting as homeless and needing to access the local authority's final duty to secure accommodation increased sharply.
- The number of children looked after across CTM increased by 8.23% between March 2018 and March 2020, compared to a 12% increase across Wales.

Health and physical disabilities

- The reduction in services during the pandemic has seen a disproportionate negative impact for people with health and physical disabilities.
- All local authorities across the region recorded a significant increase in the number of falls requiring an ambulance, between 2018/19 and 2020/21 this increased by over 80%, with over 50% aged 80+.
- A lack of early intervention and preventative services (adults and children), based within communities, was highlighted as a gap that could prevent the escalation of need and the requirement of higher end/specialist services.

Learning disabilities and autism

- The lack of opportunities to engage in services within their communities was raised as a major gap in provision for people with a learning disability.
- The number of adults (18+) with autism is expected to increase slightly over the next 20 years (6%)
- An increase in mental health concerns for people with a learning disability and autism was highlighted during engagement with families and services.
- A lack of specialist mental health support for people with a learning disability or autism has resulted in many not receiving the support they require.
- Waiting times to access services, specifically in relation to a diagnosis of autism was one of the main concerns identified by the PNA.

Sensory loss

- With the ageing population we are likely to see an increase in the number of people with sensory loss over future years, increasing the demand for specialist support services as well as sensory friendly local provision.
- There has been a long-term lack of opportunities for people with sensory loss to engage with local community, reducing opportunities to make friends.
- A major service gap highlighted during the engagement activities was the lack of information available in appropriate formats, especially receiving information using British Sign Language

Mental health

- Children and young people, especially those with previous mental health issues, has further deteriorated during the pandemic.
- People are reporting gaps in services to support mental health across the spectrum.
- Research suggests that more people are now using substances and alcohol as a coping mechanism.
- The pandemic has had a significant impact on the ability to provide mental health support, which has subsequently increased the waiting times for children's and adult's services.
- A survey undertaken by Mind Cymru about the consequences the pandemic has had on mental health found that young people were most likely to be using negative coping mechanisms to deal with mental health issues.

Unpaid carers

- The predicated number of people providing unpaid care across Wales over the next 10 years is expected to increase by almost 5%.
- During the pandemic, young carers and young adult carers mental health has worsened, they are more worried about the future, more stressed, less connected, and their caring hours have increased.
- Services supporting carers are reporting a significant increase in the numbers accessing their services that are close to crisis point
- A consistent message highlighted by carers has been the difficulty in accessing the relevant information when they need it with many reporting that they are not aware of the services or support available to them.

Violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence

- Reports to children's services due to domestic violence increased during the pandemic, which is reflected across the region as the highest child protection re-registration rate.
- Nationally there was an increase in demand for victim support services, including a 65% increase in calls and contacts logged by the National Domestic Abuse Helpline between April and June 2020, compared with the first three months of the year.
- A lack of access to alternative, early intervention or preventative services was reported by both victims of domestic abuse and those provide the specialist support.
- A lack of support for marginalised communities was raised by a number of people during the engagement activities.

Secure estate

- Under 4% of people with no identified ACEs had been incarcerated, yet this rose to 38.5% of those with four or more ACEs.
- A review looking at the impact of covid on prisoners concluded that the cumulative effect of the pandemic on prisoners' well-being and rehabilitation was likely to be significant and far-reaching.

Dementia

- The number of people living with dementia across Cwm Taf Morgannwg is expected to increase by 62% by 2040.
- The increase in the number of people with dementia is going to increase the complexity of the populations needs and have a significant impact on the services required to support them.
- Research indicates that people with dementia have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, with the Office for National Statistics (2020) stating 49% of COVID-19 deaths in care homes and 25.6% of all COVID-19 deaths were people with dementia.

3.0 Stability assessment: Part B

Part B of this report provides an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support and the sufficiency to meet existing and projected demand.

The information contained within this section summarises the key messages from the market stability report for each of the regulated services as detailed in the Schedule to the 2016 Act.

Care homes (Adults and older people)

Key messages

- All three local authorities are below the national average for care homes with nursing, which suggests a squeeze on supply and availability across the region.
- Difficulties highlighted in being able to find suitable placements in a timely manner and to match supply to changes in demand.

- At least half of all providers (49%) have occupancy of less than 85%, which is the level defined by Care Forum Wales as being “non-sustainable”.
- Current provision unable to meet the increasing need for respite care, particularly dementia care.
- Respite care for individuals with learning disabilities with older parents has also been identified as a particular problem.
- Where regional provision is unable to meet the needs of an individual, specialist complex provision may be identified out of county.
- There is no longer the capacity to deal with all patients discharged from hospital who may benefit from community support due to extreme pressure on community care.
- Resulting in people staying in hospital longer than necessary or become permanent in residential care.
- Fall in demand for general residential care as people are entering residential care with more complex needs and at a more advanced stage in their mental and/or physical health condition.
- At the provider level, finance is critical to the viability of individual (independent) care homes, their ability to invest in maintaining and improving homes and reconfiguring to meet the changing demand.
- A significant area of concern is the availability of Adult with Nursing Placements for those individuals who require specialist EMI nursing.
- Staff recruitment and retention of nurses and care workers is a challenge for many homes, particularly local authority-owned homes, reducing the regions capacity.

Recommendations

1. Development of a consistent dataset covering the three local authorities.
2. Develop and implement a consistent regional approach to measure the quality of the care homes.

3. Enhance partnership working with providers.
4. Action should be taken to remedy the under-utilisation of capacity in local-authority-owned homes.
5. Increase the following types of provision:
 - (i) Short-term/respice beds and/or respice unit(s).
 - (ii) Step-down care, facilitating recovery and assessment of needs outside the hospital environment.
 - (iii) Nursing and EMI nursing beds.

Adults placement ('Shared lives') scheme

Key messages

- Each council have separate arrangements in place for the management of long-term and short-term placements, with local authorities reporting that provision is not sufficient to meet current and projected demand.
- The matching process between families and individuals needing support is complex and often lengthy, resulting in lengthy delays.
- The services delivered are adequate though increasing demand and a lack of choice negatively impacts the overall quality.
- These services have delivered annual savings and demonstrated positive outcomes for service users.
- The pandemic has resulted in issues for developing the service further, impacting on service capacity, low interest in new families to the scheme and client group scope.
- There is a lack of capacity for family placements, issues with matching individuals to families and long processing and waiting times.

Recommendations

1. Local Shared Lives Schemes have provided excellent outcomes previously and provide a worthwhile service for young people across Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
2. Additional investment should be considered, if necessary, to overcome any delays caused by the pandemic.
3. Transition to adulthood.

Advocacy services (children)

Key messages

- Concerns about the availability and consistency of advocacy for children led to the introduction of a national approach to statutory advocacy services in 2017.
- Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP), providing service across the three local authority areas.
- The quality of advocacy services provided to children and young people is of sufficient quality.
- The move to online and digital communications was embraced by both provider and many clients in receipt of service.
- Issue-Based Advocacy continues to be provided and has a high level of demand.
- Reported increases in demand for Advocacy for parent carers involved in child protection cases, and advocacy work undertaken within Parc Prison secure estate.

Recommendations

1. Increase the capacity of advocacy across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region with a greater emphasis on co-producing and improving the opportunities for the voices of users to be heard.

Advocacy services (adults)

Key messages

- There is a growing demand for advocacy support services for adults and older people.
- Statutory (Regulated) Advocacy sits alongside, and is complementary to, non-statutory advocacy services. All commissioned providers deliver both statutory and non-statutory advocacy.
- There is suitable support available for eligible clients, the quality varies across the region from good to adequate, with the quality of the service adversely impacted by delays in response time.
- The restrictions introduced nationally due to the Coronavirus has had an impact in the number of people accessing the service.
- Organisations providing advocacy rely on a small group of trained advocates making the services fragile. Without increased capacity and client group scope this will remain an area of concern.

Recommendations

1. There is room for further development on the Active Offer – work is underway in this area on a regional and local level to increase the number of active offers.
2. A gap has been identified for advocacy for parents, which is non-statutory.

Care homes (children and young people)

Key messages

- All local authorities across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region have seen an increase over the past 4 years in residential care, but over the past 2 years RCT has started to see a decline.
- There has been a slight increase in vacancies across the sector, though vacancies remain very limited and lower within Cwm Taf Morgannwg than other regions across Wales.
- Consensus that the placements market is not providing sufficient appropriate places to fully meet children's needs at the point of need.
- To identify appropriate accommodation children and young people are often placed out of county or even country.
- Growing pressure on residential spend with increase in external providers and out of county placements.
- Gaps in provision identified include insufficient therapy services, inability to support sibling groups etc.. that could have a detrimental impact on the well-being of the child.
- Placement decision making appears to be heavily impacted by available supply as opposed to needs driven.
- The Welsh Government have published 'Removing Profit from the care of looked after children' Programme Board policy statement and affirmed commitment adding that plans to be in place to transition to not-for-profit foster and residential care in Wales'.
- Removing profit from children's residential sector may disincentivise providers to enter this market place and further exacerbate the lack of sufficient capacity within the current market.
- Require greater scope to develop more regional provision, including a focus on higher need groups, Family group, long terms, short break and emergency bed and family safeguarding, specialist fostering.
- Recruitment and retention are a challenge shared across social care and applies to both in-house and independent provision.

- A number of challenges identified in the PNA include increase support for mental health and domestic abuse impacting on support services.
- Capacity issues in fostering are placing a strain on residential services, resulting in a shortage of beds.

Recommendations

1. Increase the supply of registered Children's Homes for children, especially services with the ability to meet the needs of children with complex needs.
2. Actions required to address the lack of integrated approach to residential care.
3. Reduce the delays for safe accommodation.
4. Workforce development need for skilled staff available to support young people in crisis.
5. Action required to increase the supply of local authority foster carers.
6. Address the insufficient supply of not for profit.
7. IFA placements particularly for children whose earlier experiences mean they need more skilful care (particularly 8+ yrs).

Secure accommodation services

Key messages

- Hillside Secure Children's Home in Neath is the only facility currently in Wales. The unit has capacity of 22 places shared between the Youth Justice Board (linked to offending), and Welsh local authorities for welfare purposes.
- Due to the few secure units (also few in England), they are used nationally, resulting in difficulties in securing a place.

- There is a national shortage (England and Wales) of secure placement, often leading to Local Authorities having to care for young people in settings that are not secure placements, despite them being assessed as meeting the threshold for secure provision.
- Secure accommodation is costly ,difficult to provide and recruiting and retaining skilled staff willing to work in a challenging environment is difficult.
- Placements are often out of area and can be prohibitive to be able to support a rehab back to family/residential/foster placement.

Recommendations

1. Secure accommodation needs to be developed on a national level however new regional accommodation developments will help to meet lower-level needs.

Adoption services

Key messages

- CTM spans the footprint of 2 regional adoption collaborations.
- In general, children who are adopted achieve positive outcomes but the adoption process, from assessment, through matching and then placing children is often lengthy.
- There has been a slow decrease in the number of children being made subject of a placement order with an agreed plan of adoption.
- Children coming through with an agreed plan of adoption have increasingly complex needs, the main issues include exposure to significant drug and alcohol use during pregnancy, genetic conditions and disability issues as a result of non-accidental injury.

- There is insufficient adoption support for adopters who have more complex needs, exacerbated by up to 3 year waiting lists for ND assessment.
- There is a continuing need to identify and support suitable adoptive families for small children for whom it is not safe for them to grow up with a foster carer or relative
- Demand for adoption has now stabilised following a decrease in children requiring adoptive placements and emphasis placed upon preventative measures to enable children to remain at home.
- The primary concern continues to be the recruiting of adoptive families and establishing a sufficient selection ensuring choice when matching.

Recommendations

1. Increase the availability of psychology
2. Action required to reduce the waiting list for neuro developmental services.
3. Introduction of an integrated therapeutic adoption support services (MAPPS is LA only).
4. Consider the development of a specialist support provision to provide bespoke support to learners in schools.
5. Increase the use of TESSA for adoptive families with greater needs.
6. Development of sensory OT interventions as identified as a service gap by TESSA.

Residential family centres

Key messages

- There are only two registered residential family centres in the whole of Wales, one of which recently reopened after a closure. One of those centres is at Crossroads (Ty Seren) in Bridgend.

- Placements in residential family centres are less preferred, with parent and child foster placements seen as a better option as they can provide an assessment in a more 'natural setting'.
- This shift in preference is evident through the relatively low numbers placed from each of the local authorities in the region.
- Although numbers are low, placements are often out of area, making it difficult to step down back into the community, and impacting contact with family, siblings etc.
- Spot purchasing occasional places avoids committing resources to provision that may not be needed. However, it does mean that costs are likely to be high and placements likely to be distant.

Recommendations

1. Insufficient need for residential family placements makes it difficult to justify commissioning a dedicated local centre.
2. Increasing regional parent and child fostering capacity, either in house or commissioned from an IFA, would provide local capacity where commissioners have more influence in cost and quality.

Fostering services

Key messages

- There is increased difficulty in recruiting enough foster carers and the issue of authorities outside of the region purchasing placements has resulted in a shortage.
- There is also growing demand for more specialist foster placements, including:
 - Transitional foster carers
 - Children with autism

- Children with learning disabilities
 - Young people who exhibit multiple risk-taking behaviours including substance misuse, risk of CSE and absconding
 - Parent and child placements; and
 - Welsh language foster placements.
- The increase in the number of children becoming looked after has subsequently made placing children in a local provision harder.
 - These increased levels of demand for foster carers, both within the region and nationally, has resulted in further difficulties when securing appropriate placements for children.
 - There is considerable uncertainty in the market with the commitment to eliminate 'for profit' provision and the impact of the pandemic impacting the ability to identify foster carers across the region.
 - A growing area of concern for the region are foster carers who do not have the correct skills to support children, often resulting in them being placed in emergency/ bridging placements.

Recommendations

1. Increasing in-house capacity to respond to the demand for foster carers will help address many of the issues identified above.
2. In addition to a new recruitment campaign, review and enhance the offer to foster carers to increase the likelihood of encouraging new foster carers.
3. Introduce different commissioning models to encourage/ensure IFAs have tailored their offer to local requirements.
4. Investment in preventative, respite and edge of care services can help reduce the need for children to be looked after away from their families.
5. Engagement with IFA providers will be vital before and during the transition to a not-for-profit model to ensure that capacity isn't lost.

Domiciliary support services

Key messages

- The increase in the over 65 population and in particular the 85+ population presents an expected and unprecedented increase in demand on services.
- Demand for domiciliary care is likely to grow in the long term due to the aging population and the increasing numbers of people with dementia and other complex needs.
- Recruitment and retention have become increasingly challenging due to competition from other sectors and the pandemic and associated risks.
- This underlines the need to develop support and services that promote and maximise independence, ensuring the provision of acute and longer-term support is targeted to those in most need, including specialist support for children with disabilities and their families.
- The number of double handed calls has increased, reducing capacity and the requirement to upskill staff and provide more complex equipment.
- The number of urgent orders for complex equipment has increased significantly and continues to rise.
- The overall stability of the domiciliary care market in the region appears fragile and risks sufficiency in meeting demand and expectations based on current projections.
- There are opportunities to build on Community resilience models developed to support COVID response to create resourceful communities under a place-based approach.

Recommendations

1. Increase in-house capacity to respond to the demand for foster carers.
2. A new recruitment campaign focusing on marketing and advertising may be required
3. Review and enhance the offer to foster carers to increase the likelihood of encouraging new foster carers.
4. Engagement with IFA providers offering placements across Cwm Taf Morgannwg before and during the transition to a not-for-profit model to ensure that capacity isn't lost.
5. Investment in preventative, respite and edge of care services can help reduce the need for children to be looked after away from their families.

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Cwm Taf Morgannwg

Bwrdd Partneriaeth Rhanbarthol | **Regional Partnership Board**

MARKET STABILITY REPORT (2022)

Executive Summary

version 1.0

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- Sufficiency - an assessment of the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demand for social care as set out in the population needs assessment. and
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2.0 Sufficiency assessment: Part A

Part A of this report provides a summary of the gaps and issues that have been identified when assessing the sufficiency of care and support services across Cwm Taf Morgannwg. The information is informed by the Population Needs Assessment and is presented across the prescribed priority groups for adults and older people and children and young people.

The summary highlights some of the key messages from the sufficiency assessment for each of the priority groups: -

Adults and older people

- The expected increase in older people is going to have a considerable effect on individuals, their communities and the services that provide care and support for them.
- Increased focus on delivering care and support within our communities could provide much needed capacity and reduce current national pressures on statutory services.
- With the data suggesting there are going to be more people living with dementia, chronic conditions and co-morbidities, the services that support them will have to adapt to the changes in demand.
- The national shortage of staff to deliver key social care and health services is having a significant impact on the capacity to meet growing domiciliary and residential care, which has seen an increase in demand during the pandemic.

Children and young people

- The pandemic has had a significant negative impact the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, this is evident through the increased demand for specialist services across the region.
- The need for more social opportunities for children with additional needs was raised as a gap during the engagement activities, with parents stating there was limited places to take their children where they would be safe.
- Between 2016-2019 the number of young people presenting as homeless and needing to access the local authority's final duty to secure accommodation increased sharply.
- The number of children looked after across CTM increased by 8.23% between March 2018 and March 2020, compared to a 12% increase across Wales.

Health and physical disabilities

- The reduction in services during the pandemic has seen a disproportionate negative impact for people with health and physical disabilities.
- All local authorities across the region recorded a significant increase in the number of falls requiring an ambulance, between 2018/19 and 2020/21 this increased by over 80%, with over 50% aged 80+.
- A lack of early intervention and preventative services (adults and children), based within communities, was highlighted as a gap that could prevent the escalation of need and the requirement of higher end/specialist services.

Learning disabilities and autism

- The lack of opportunities to engage in services within their communities was raised as a major gap in provision for people with a learning disability.
- The number of adults (18+) with autism is expected to increase slightly over the next 20 years (6%)
- An increase in mental health concerns for people with a learning disability and autism was highlighted during engagement with families and services.
- A lack of specialist mental health support for people with a learning disability or autism has resulted in many not receiving the support they require.
- Waiting times to access services, specifically in relation to a diagnosis of autism was one of the main concerns identified by the PNA.

Sensory loss

- With the ageing population we are likely to see an increase in the number of people with sensory loss over future years, increasing the demand for specialist support services as well as sensory friendly local provision.
- There has been a long-term lack of opportunities for people with sensory loss to engage with local community, reducing opportunities to make friends.
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- Children and young people, especially those with previous mental health issues, has further deteriorated during the pandemic.
- People are reporting gaps in services to support mental health across the spectrum.
- Research suggests that more people are now using substances and alcohol as a coping mechanism.
- The pandemic has had a significant impact on the ability to provide mental health support, which has subsequently increased the waiting times for children's and adult's services.
- A survey undertaken by Mind Cymru about the consequences the pandemic has had on mental health found that young people were most likely to be using negative coping mechanisms to deal with mental health issues.

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- The predicated number of people providing unpaid care across Wales over the next 10 years is expected to increase by almost 5%.
- During the pandemic, young carers and young adult carers mental health has worsened, they are more worried about the future, more stressed, less connected, and their caring hours have increased.
- Services supporting carers are reporting a significant increase in the numbers accessing their services that are close to crisis point
- A consistent message highlighted by carers has been the difficulty in accessing the relevant information when they need it with many reporting that they are not aware of the services or support available to them.

Violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence

- Reports to children's services due to domestic violence increased during the pandemic, which is reflected across the region as the highest child protection re-registration rate.
- Nationally there was an increase in demand for victim support services, including a 65% increase in calls and contacts logged by the National Domestic Abuse Helpline between April and June 2020, compared with the first three months of the year.
- A lack of access to alternative, early intervention or preventative services was reported by both victims of domestic abuse and those provide the specialist support.
- A lack of support for marginalised communities was raised by a number of people during the engagement activities.

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- Under 4% of people with no identified ACEs had been incarcerated, yet this rose to 38.5% of those with four or more ACEs.
- A review looking at the impact of covid on prisoners concluded that the cumulative effect of the pandemic on prisoners' well-being and rehabilitation was likely to be significant and far-reaching.

Dementia

- The number of people living with dementia across Cwm Taf Morgannwg is expected to increase by 62% by 2040.
- The increase in the number of people with dementia is going to increase the complexity of the populations needs and have a significant impact on the services required to support them.
- Research indicates that people with dementia have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, with the Office for National Statistics (2020) stating 49% of COVID-19 deaths in care homes and 25.6% of all COVID-19 deaths were people with dementia.

3.0 Stability assessment: Part B

Part B of this report provides an assessment of the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support and the sufficiency to meet existing and projected demand.

The information contained within this section summarises the key messages from the market stability report for each of the regulated services as detailed in the Schedule to the 2016 Act.

Care homes (Adults and older people)

Key messages

- All three local authorities are below the national average for care homes with nursing, which suggests a squeeze on supply and availability across the region.
- Difficulties highlighted in being able to find suitable placements in a timely manner and to match supply to changes in demand.

- At least half of all providers (49%) have occupancy of less than 85%, which is the level defined by Care Forum Wales as being “non-sustainable”.
- Current provision unable to meet the increasing need for respite care, particularly dementia care.
- Respite care for individuals with learning disabilities with older parents has also been identified as a particular problem.
- Where regional provision is unable to meet the needs of an individual, specialist complex provision may be identified out of county.
- There is no longer the capacity to deal with all patients discharged from hospital who may benefit from community support due to extreme pressure on community care.
- Resulting in people staying in hospital longer than necessary or become permanent in residential care.
- Fall in demand for general residential care as people are entering residential care with more complex needs and at a more advanced stage in their mental and/or physical health condition.
- At the provider level, finance is critical to the viability of individual (independent) care homes, their ability to invest in maintaining and improving homes and reconfiguring to meet the changing demand.
- A significant area of concern is the availability of Adult with Nursing Placements for those individuals who require specialist EMI nursing.
- Staff recruitment and retention of nurses and care workers is a challenge for many homes, particularly local authority-owned homes, reducing the regions capacity.

Recommendations

1. Development of a consistent dataset covering the three local authorities.
2. Develop and implement a consistent regional approach to measure the quality of the care homes.

3. Enhance partnership working with providers.
4. Action should be taken to remedy the under-utilisation of capacity in local-authority-owned homes.
5. Increase the following types of provision:
 - (i) Short-term/respice beds and/or respice unit(s).
 - (ii) Step-down care, facilitating recovery and assessment of needs outside the hospital environment.
 - (iii) Nursing and EMI nursing beds.

Adults placement ('Shared lives') scheme

Key messages

- Each council have separate arrangements in place for the management of long-term and short-term placements, with local authorities reporting that provision is not sufficient to meet current and projected demand.
- The matching process between families and individuals needing support is complex and often lengthy, resulting in lengthy delays.
- The services delivered are adequate though increasing demand and a lack of choice negatively impacts the overall quality.
- These services have delivered annual savings and demonstrated positive outcomes for service users.
- The pandemic has resulted in issues for developing the service further, impacting on service capacity, low interest in new families to the scheme and client group scope.
- There is a lack of capacity for family placements, issues with matching individuals to families and long processing and waiting times.

Recommendations

1. Local Shared Lives Schemes have provided excellent outcomes previously and provide a worthwhile service for young people across Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
2. Additional investment should be considered, if necessary, to overcome any delays caused by the pandemic.
3. Transition to adulthood.

Advocacy services (children)

Key messages

- Concerns about the availability and consistency of advocacy for children led to the introduction of a national approach to statutory advocacy services in 2017.
- Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP), providing service across the three local authority areas.
- The quality of advocacy services provided to children and young people is of sufficient quality.
- The move to online and digital communications was embraced by both provider and many clients in receipt of service.
- Issue-Based Advocacy continues to be provided and has a high level of demand.
- Reported increases in demand for Advocacy for parent carers involved in child protection cases, and advocacy work undertaken within Parc Prison secure estate.

Recommendations

1. Increase the capacity of advocacy across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region with a greater emphasis on co-producing and improving the opportunities for the voices of users to be heard.

Advocacy services (adults)

Key messages

- There is a growing demand for advocacy support services for adults and older people.
- Statutory (Regulated) Advocacy sits alongside, and is complementary to, non-statutory advocacy services. All commissioned providers deliver both statutory and non-statutory advocacy.
- There is suitable support available for eligible clients, the quality varies across the region from good to adequate, with the quality of the service adversely impacted by delays in response time.
- The restrictions introduced nationally due to the Coronavirus has had an impact in the number of people accessing the service.
- Organisations providing advocacy rely on a small group of trained advocates making the services fragile. Without increased capacity and client group scope this will remain an area of concern.

Recommendations

1. There is room for further development on the Active Offer – work is underway in this area on a regional and local level to increase the number of active offers.
2. A gap has been identified for advocacy for parents, which is non-statutory.

Care homes (children and young people)

Key messages

- All local authorities across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region have seen an increase over the past 4 years in residential care, but over the past 2 years RCT has started to see a decline.
- There has been a slight increase in vacancies across the sector, though vacancies remain very limited and lower within Cwm Taf Morgannwg than other regions across Wales.
- Consensus that the placements market is not providing sufficient appropriate places to fully meet children's needs at the point of need.
- To identify appropriate accommodation children and young people are often placed out of county or even country.
- Growing pressure on residential spend with increase in external providers and out of county placements.
- Gaps in provision identified include insufficient therapy services, inability to support sibling groups etc.. that could have a detrimental impact on the well-being of the child.
- Placement decision making appears to be heavily impacted by available supply as opposed to needs driven.
- The Welsh Government have published 'Removing Profit from the care of looked after children' Programme Board policy statement and affirmed commitment adding that plans to be in place to transition to not-for-profit foster and residential care in Wales'.
- Removing profit from children's residential sector may disincentivise providers to enter this market place and further exacerbate the lack of sufficient capacity within the current market.
- Require greater scope to develop more regional provision, including a focus on higher need groups, Family group, long terms, short break and emergency bed and family safeguarding, specialist fostering.
- Recruitment and retention are a challenge shared across social care and applies to both in-house and independent provision.

- A number of challenges identified in the PNA include increase support for mental health and domestic abuse impacting on support services.
- Capacity issues in fostering are placing a strain on residential services, resulting in a shortage of beds.

Recommendations

1. Increase the supply of registered Children's Homes for children, especially services with the ability to meet the needs of children with complex needs.
2. Actions required to address the lack of integrated approach to residential care.
3. Reduce the delays for safe accommodation.
4. Workforce development need for skilled staff available to support young people in crisis.
5. Action required to increase the supply of local authority foster carers.
6. Address the insufficient supply of not for profit.
7. IFA placements particularly for children whose earlier experiences mean they need more skilful care (particularly 8+ yrs).

Secure accommodation services

Key messages

- Hillside Secure Children's Home in Neath is the only facility currently in Wales. The unit has capacity of 22 places shared between the Youth Justice Board (linked to offending), and Welsh local authorities for welfare purposes.
- Due to the few secure units (also few in England), they are used nationally, resulting in difficulties in securing a place.

- There is a national shortage (England and Wales) of secure placement, often leading to Local Authorities having to care for young people in settings that are not secure placements, despite them being assessed as meeting the threshold for secure provision.
- Secure accommodation is costly ,difficult to provide and recruiting and retaining skilled staff willing to work in a challenging environment is difficult.
- Placements are often out of area and can be prohibitive to be able to support a rehab back to family/residential/foster placement.

Recommendations

1. Secure accommodation needs to be developed on a national level however new regional accommodation developments will help to meet lower-level needs.

Adoption services

Key messages

- CTM spans the footprint of 2 regional adoption collaborations.
- In general, children who are adopted achieve positive outcomes but the adoption process, from assessment, through matching and then placing children is often lengthy.
- There has been a slow decrease in the number of children being made subject of a placement order with an agreed plan of adoption.
- Children coming through with an agreed plan of adoption have increasingly complex needs, the main issues include exposure to significant drug and alcohol use during pregnancy, genetic conditions and disability issues as a result of non-accidental injury.

- There is insufficient adoption support for adopters who have more complex needs, exacerbated by up to 3 year waiting lists for ND assessment.
- There is a continuing need to identify and support suitable adoptive families for small children for whom it is not safe for them to grow up with a foster carer or relative
- Demand for adoption has now stabilised following a decrease in children requiring adoptive placements and emphasis placed upon preventative measures to enable children to remain at home.
- The primary concern continues to be the recruiting of adoptive families and establishing a sufficient selection ensuring choice when matching.

Recommendations

1. Increase the availability of psychology
2. Action required to reduce the waiting list for neuro developmental services.
3. Introduction of an integrated therapeutic adoption support services (MAPPS is LA only).
4. Consider the development of a specialist support provision to provide bespoke support to learners in schools.
5. Increase the use of TESSA for adoptive families with greater needs.
6. Development of sensory OT interventions as identified as a service gap by TESSA.

Residential family centres

Key messages

- There are only two registered residential family centres in the whole of Wales, one of which recently reopened after a closure. One of those centres is at Crossroads (Ty Seren) in Bridgend.

- Placements in residential family centres are less preferred, with parent and child foster placements seen as a better option as they can provide an assessment in a more 'natural setting'.
- This shift in preference is evident through the relatively low numbers placed from each of the local authorities in the region.
- Although numbers are low, placements are often out of area, making it difficult to step down back into the community, and impacting contact with family, siblings etc.
- Spot purchasing occasional places avoids committing resources to provision that may not be needed. However, it does mean that costs are likely to be high and placements likely to be distant.

Recommendations

1. Insufficient need for residential family placements makes it difficult to justify commissioning a dedicated local centre.
2. Increasing regional parent and child fostering capacity, either in house or commissioned from an IFA, would provide local capacity where commissioners have more influence in cost and quality.

Fostering services

Key messages

- There is increased difficulty in recruiting enough foster carers and the issue of authorities outside of the region purchasing placements has resulted in a shortage.
- There is also growing demand for more specialist foster placements, including:
 - Transitional foster carers
 - Children with autism

- Children with learning disabilities
 - Young people who exhibit multiple risk-taking behaviours including substance misuse, risk of CSE and absconding
 - Parent and child placements; and
 - Welsh language foster placements.
- The increase in the number of children becoming looked after has subsequently made placing children in a local provision harder.
 - These increased levels of demand for foster carers, both within the region and nationally, has resulted in further difficulties when securing appropriate placements for children.
 - There is considerable uncertainty in the market with the commitment to eliminate 'for profit' provision and the impact of the pandemic impacting the ability to identify foster carers across the region.
 - A growing area of concern for the region are foster carers who do not have the correct skills to support children, often resulting in them being placed in emergency/ bridging placements.

Recommendations

1. Increasing in-house capacity to respond to the demand for foster carers will help address many of the issues identified above.
2. In addition to a new recruitment campaign, review and enhance the offer to foster carers to increase the likelihood of encouraging new foster carers.
3. Introduce different commissioning models to encourage/ensure IFAs have tailor their offer to local requirements.
4. Investment in preventative, respite and edge of care services can help reduce the need for children to be looked after away from their families.
5. Engagement with IFA providers will be vital before and during the transition to a not-for-profit model to ensure that capacity isn't lost.

Domiciliary support services

Key messages

- The increase in the over 65 population and in particular the 85+ population presents an expected and unprecedented increase in demand on services.
- Demand for domiciliary care is likely to grow in the long term due to the aging population and the increasing numbers of people with dementia and other complex needs.
- Recruitment and retention have become increasingly challenging due to competition from other sectors and the pandemic and associated risks.
- This underlines the need to develop support and services that promote and maximise independence, ensuring the provision of acute and longer-term support is targeted to those in most need, including specialist support for children with disabilities and their families.
- The number of double handed calls has increased, reducing capacity and the requirement to upskill staff and provide more complex equipment.
- The number of urgent orders for complex equipment has increased significantly and continues to rise.
- The overall stability of the domiciliary care market in the region appears fragile and risks sufficiency in meeting demand and expectations based on current projections.
- There are opportunities to build on Community resilience models developed to support COVID response to create resourceful communities under a place-based approach.

Recommendations

1. Commissioners and providers need to work together across the region to develop innovative sustainable services to meet needs.
2. Investigate alternative, new models for recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce.
3. In line with The Healthier Wales Action Plan (2019), continue to prioritise 'the shift from hospitals to communities and communities to homes', and emphasise the important role played by right-sizing community services to facilitate timely discharge.
4. Processes and procedures for setting fee across the region should be reviewed to consider greater consistency and address issues relating to costs (e.g. national commitment to the Real Living Wage).

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 JULY 2022

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

SIZE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose an amendment to the size and membership of the Council's Standards Committee.

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

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

- **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 membership of Standards Committees shall consist of not less than five nor more than nine members in accordance with the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001, and shall not consist of persons other than members of the relevant authority, independent members (co-opted) or community committee members.
- 3.2 The Standards Committee of this Council has a current membership of seven members comprised as follows:
- Cllr M Williams (County Borough Member)
 - Cllr G Walter (County Borough Member)
 - Mr J Baker (Independent Member)
 - Mrs J Keily (Independent Member)
 - Mr C Jones OBE (Chair, Independent Member)
 - Mr P Clarke (Independent Member)
 - Cllr G Thomas (Town and Community Council Member).
- 3.3 As prescribed by Regulations, where the total number of members of the committee is an even number at least half that number shall be independent members or if an odd number, a majority of that number shall be independent members.
- 3.4 Independent Members are appointed for a period of not less than four and not more than six years and may be reappointed for a consecutive term. Members of local authorities who are Members of the Standards Committee will have a term of office

until the next ordinary local government election following their appointment. They may be reappointed for one further consecutive term.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 A meeting of the Standards Committee will only be quorate when at least three Members, including the Chairperson, are present; and at least half the Members present (including the Chairperson) are Independent Members. A quorum of the committee cannot therefore be constituted by the County Borough Members and Town and Community Council Member themselves as the majority should rest with the Independent Members. This places an unduly heavy burden on the Independent Members, and the committee being in danger of not having adequate or required numbers (a quorum) for meetings.
- 4.2 It is therefore proposed that the membership be increased to eight Members and an additional Independent Member (co-opted) appointed to the committee.
- 4.3 The Council has previously provided delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to oversee recruitment processes and appointment to the Standards Committee, and to report back to Council any successful appointment.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules; however the Standards Committee contributes to the maintenance of probity in the Council.

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. 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 In accordance with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report for 2022-23, the remuneration for Chairs of Standards Committees is £268 (4 hours and over), £134 (up to 4 hours) and for ordinary members of the Committee - £210 (4 hours and over) and £105 (up to 4 hours).
- 8.2 The changes to the remuneration of Elected Members for the 2022-23 financial year increased the financial commitment required from this Authority. Some of the cost was negated by members electing to forgo some or all of their salaries or choosing not to opt into the Local Government Pension Scheme. The additional costs are

being met from the centrally held provision for pay and price increases during the 2022-23 financial year.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- 9.1 approve the revised membership and size of the Standards Committee;
- 9.2 receive a further report following the recruitment process;
- 9.3 note that the Constitution will be amended to reflect the revised membership.

Contact Officer: Kelly Watson, Monitoring Officer

Telephone: 01656 643106

E-mail: Kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk

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

Background documents

None

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 JULY 2022

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

OUTCOME OF THE TIMINGS OF MEETINGS SURVEY

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the outcome of a survey that has been undertaken recently with all Members in respect of timings of meetings for Council and its Committees, and to seek approval to use the data from this survey to set timings of meetings from 1 September 2022.

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

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

3. Background

- 3.1 Section 6 (2) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, refers to local authorities having regard to statutory guidance in respect of the times and intervals at which meetings are held, in order to achieve a Programme of Meetings that is generally convenient to local Members, given their often differing yet demanding commitments.
- 3.2 At the Annual meeting of Council on 18 May 2022, Members approved a Programme of meetings for Council and Council Committees for the municipal year May 2022 – April 2023 and also noted the proposed programme of meetings for the municipal year May 2023 – April 2024.

- 3.3 Members agreed at the Annual meeting of Council that dates and start times for Committees would be initially set from May 2022 – August 2022 based on the times held during the last term of office in order to commence the Committee cycle. The survey would subsequently be undertaken with Members in order to obtain their preferences for start times which would be introduced from 1 September 2022.
- 3.4 The suggested choices of timings for meetings offered to Members as part of the survey, were 10.00am, 11.00am, 2.00pm, 4.00pm or other, enabling Members to propose a different time. An opportunity for members to provide additional comments was also included in the survey.
- 3.5 Members were requested to complete the survey and return it to Democratic Services by 1st July 2022.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The survey has now been undertaken. 41 Members and 6 Lay/Co-opted Members completed the survey the results of which are shown in the attached **Appendix 1**. This included a number of proposals for 'other' specific timings which were taken into account as part of the timing of meetings proposals.
- 4.2 There was a provision within the survey for Members to give additional comments regarding the survey. Common themes included work commitments, childcare arrangements and also evening commitments.

Appeals Panel, Appointments Committee and Rights of Way Sub-Committee

- 4.3 The Appeals Panel meetings are formed by 3 of the 12 Elected Members appointed to the Panel. These meetings are usually planned to take a full day and do not form part of the calendar of meetings. They are arranged to meet the requirements of the appellants, the supporting officers and the Elected Members.
- 4.4. Similarly, the Appointments Committee and the Rights of Way Sub-Committee are not scheduled in the programme of meetings as they meet on an ad-hoc basis when necessary and are arranged to meet the timetable of the recruitment process / application.
- 4.5 It is therefore proposed that meetings of the Appeals Panel, Appointments Committee and Rights of Way Sub-Committee be considered as ad-hoc and not be planned to start at a specific time.

Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee

- 4.6 The Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee is formed by Members from Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan Local Authorities. At each meeting the Joint Committee agree the date of the subsequent meeting therefore for the majority of these meetings there will be no time set as yet.

Cabinet Meetings

- 4.7 The timings of meetings of Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and the Cabinet

Committee - Corporate Parenting are the responsibility of Cabinet to consider and do not form part of this report.

Proposed Timings

- 4.8 In relation to all other Committees, the responses have been considered in respect of the calendar of meetings and the following proposals have been identified:

Council

- 4.8.1 The majority of responses received requested that the start time of the Council be 4pm. It is therefore proposed that the meeting time of Council re-scheduled to 4pm accordingly.

Democratic Services Committee

- 4.8.2 The majority of response indicated that the start time of Democratic Services Committee meetings should be at 10:00am. It is therefore proposed that meetings of the committee be re-scheduled to start at 10:00am accordingly.

Development Control Committee

- 4.8.3 The majority of responses indicated that the start time of Development Control Committee meetings should be 10:00am. It is proposed that meetings of the Development Control committee be re-scheduled to start at 10:00. Officers will revise the arrangements for Development Control Committee training and other procedures associated with the effective operation of the Committee to meet this proposed revision to the meeting timing.

Governance and Audit Committee

- 4.8.4 The majority of responses indicated that the start time of Governance and Audit Committee meetings should be at 10:00am. It is therefore proposed that meetings of the committee be re-scheduled to start at 10:00 accordingly.

Licensing Committee /Licensing Act 2003 Committee

- 4.8.5 The majority of responses indicated that the start time of the Licensing/Licensing Act 2003 Committee meetings should be at 10:00am. It is therefore proposed that the meetings of the Licensing Committee/Licensing Act 2003 Committee be scheduled to start at 10:00am accordingly.

Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committee

- 4.8.6 The majority of responses indicated that the start time of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee Sub-Committee meetings should be at 10:00am. These meetings deal with hearings under the Licensing Act 2003 and involve 3 Elected Members of the Licensing Act 2003 Committees. These meetings also involve outside agencies, members of the public and other stakeholders who may not always be locally based and therefore this start time will not always be appropriate. The members sitting in support of these meetings are consulted regarding their availability. It is therefore

proposed that attempts be made to try and schedule these at 10:00am with flexibility for alternative start times if necessary.

Licensing Sub-Committees

- 4.8.7 The majority of responses indicated that the start times of the Licensing Committee Sub-Committee meetings should be at 10:00am. It is therefore proposed that meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committees be scheduled for 10:00am accordingly.

Standards Committee

- 4.8.8 The majority of responses indicated that the start time of Standards Committee meetings should be at 10:00am. It is therefore proposed that meetings of the committee remain at 10:00am accordingly.

Town & Community Council Forum

- 4.8.9 The majority of responses indicated that the start time of meetings of the Town & Community Council Forum should be at 4pm. It is therefore proposed that meetings of the Town & Community Council Forum remain at 4pm.

Scrutiny Committees

4.8.10 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The majority of responses indicated that the start time of meetings of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) should be at 10:00am. It is therefore proposed that meetings of the COSC be re-scheduled to start at 10:00 accordingly.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1

The majority of responses indicated that the start time of meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (SOSC 1) should be at 11:00am. It is therefore proposed that meetings of the SOSC 1 be re-scheduled to start at 11:00am accordingly.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

The majority of responses indicated that the start time of meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (SOSC 2) should be at 10:00am. It is therefore proposed that meetings of the SOSC 2 be re-scheduled to start at 10:00am accordingly.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

The majority of responses indicated that the start time of meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 (SOSC 3) should be at 4pm. It is therefore proposed that meetings of the SOSC 3 be re-scheduled to start at 4pm accordingly.

Member Development

- 4.9 The majority of responses indicated that the preferred times for Member Development activities to be undertaken were 10:00am. It is understood however that this might not always be possible and does depend on the availability of training providers, particularly where these may be external. As such it is proposed that where possible, future Member Development activities will be scheduled for

10:00am, but given that there were a high number of respondents who also requested 2pm and 4pm, sessions will be alternated where necessary particularly where duplicate sessions are being held.

Programme of Meetings

- 4.10 The revised programme of meetings from September onwards is attached at **Appendix 2**. It should be noted that any changes to the proposed days of meetings may require further work to be undertaken to prevent conflicting meeting timings and take account of procedure for various committees in order to provide a workable programme of meetings.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 This report has no effect on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules.

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. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. 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. It is considered that there is no significant or unacceptable impact upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8.1 Financial implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Council:
- a) Note the outcome of the timings of meetings survey as detailed in **Appendix 1** of this report;
 - b) Approve the proposed Programme of Meetings from September 2022 as shown in **Appendix 2**, which has been compiled from the survey and developed using the rationale as outlined in this report.

K Watson
Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, Human Resources and Corporate
Policy and Monitoring Officer
14 July 2022

Contact Officer: R Keepins
Democratic Services Manager

Telephone: (01656) 643159

E-mail: Rachel.keepins@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

RESULTS OF TIMINGS OF MEETINGS SURVEY

APPENDIX 1

Committee	Members	Meeting start time					Other	Other proposed times	Proposed start time
		10am	11am	2pm	4pm				
Council	51	6	4	11	12	10	3pm/5pm/ 5.30pm/6pm	4pm	
Democratic Services Committee	11	4	2	0	3	1	5pm	10am	
Development Control Committee	18	6	1	5	3	1	6pm	10am	
Governance and Audit Committee (Lay member)	12(4 LM)	6	3	3	2	1	6pm	10am	
Licensing Committee	14	6	2	3	2	3	5pm/6pm	10am	
Licensing Sub-Committee A	7	5	1	2	2	2	5pm/6pm	10am	
Licensing Sub-Committee B	7	5	1	2	2	3	5pm/6pm	10am	
Standards Committee (Independent Members)	2 (4)	3	0	0	0	0	NA	10am	
Town & Community Council Forum	19	1	1	3	7	4	5pm/6pm	4pm	
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	12	6	2	2	2	2	5pm	10am	
Scrutiny Subject Committee 1 (Registered Reps)	12 (2)	3	5	2	2	2	5pm/6pm	11am	
Scrutiny Subject Committee 2	12	4	2	3	2	1	6pm	10am	
Scrutiny Subject Committee 3	12	2	2	1	3	2	9:30am/6pm	4pm	

Member Development

Preferred Times	10am	11am	2pm	4pm	Other
	12	6	8	8	5

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REVISED PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Appendix 2

September 2022

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 10:00	6 Licensing Sub-Committee (B) 10:00	7	8	9 Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee TBC
12 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 11:00	13 <i>Cabinet</i> TBC	14 Council 16:00	15 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 10:00	16
19	20	21	22 Governance and Audit Committee 10:00	23
26 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 16:00	27	28	29	30

October 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4 Licensing Sub-Committee (A) 10:00	5	6 Development Control Committee 10:00	7
10 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 11:00	11	12 <i>Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting TBC</i>	13 Governance and Audit Committee 10:00	14
17	18 <i>Cabinet TBC</i>	19 Council 16:00	20 Democratic Services Committee 10:00	21
24	25	26	27 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 10:00	28
31				

November 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Licensing Sub-Committee (B) 10:00	2 Licensing Committee 10:00	3 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 10:00	4
7	8	9	10 Governance and Audit Committee 10:00	11
14 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 16:00	15 <i>Cabinet TBC</i>	16 Council 16:00	17 Development Control Committee 10:00	18
21 Town and Community Council Forum 16:00	22	23 <i>Cabinet Committee Equalities TBC</i>	24 Standards Committee 10:00	25
28	29	30		

December 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 11:00	2
5	6 Licensing Sub-Committee (A) 10:00	7	8 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 10:00	9
12 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 16:00	13 <i>Cabinet</i> <i>TBC</i>	14 Council 16:00	15 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 10:00	16
19	20	21	22	23
26 BANK HOLIDAY	27 BANK HOLIDAY	28	29 Development Control Committee 10:00	30

January 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 BANK HOLIDAY	3 Licensing Sub-Committee (B) 10:00	4	5	6
9	10	11	12 <i>Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting</i> TBC	13
16	17 <i>Cabinet</i> TBC	18 Council 16:00	19 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 10:00	20
23	24 Licensing Sub-Committee (A) 10:00	25	26 Governance and Audit Committee 10:00	27
30	31 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 10:00			

February 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Licensing Committee 10:00	2	3
6	7 <i>Cabinet</i> <i>TBC</i>	8 Council 16:00	9 Development Control Committee 10:00	10
13	14	15	16 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 10:00	17
20 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 16:00	21 <i>Cabinet (Budget)</i> <i>TBC</i>	22	23 Democratic Services Committee 10:00	24
27	28 Licensing Sub-Committee (B) 10:00			

March 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Council (Budget) 16:00	2 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 10:00	3 Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee TBC
6 Town and Community Council Forum 16:00	7	8	9 Standards Committee 10:00	10
13 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 11:00	14 <i>Cabinet</i> TBC	15 Council 16:00	16	17
20 <i>Cabinet Committee Equalities</i> TBC	21	22	23 Development Control Committee 10:00	24
27 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 10:00	28 Licensing Sub-Committee (A) 10:00	29	30	31

April 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7 GOOD FRIDAY
10 BANK HOLIDAY	11 <i>Cabinet</i> <i>TBC</i>	12 Council 16:00	13	14
17 Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 16:00	18	19 <i>Cabinet Committee Corporate</i> <i>Parenting</i> <i>TBC</i>	20	21
24	25 Licensing Sub-Committee (B) 10:00	26	27 Governance and Audit Committee 10:00	28

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 JULY 2022

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

INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOTING

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the Information Report for noting that has been published since its last scheduled meeting.

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

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

- **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.

3. Background

- 3.1 At a previous meeting of Council, it was resolved to approve a revised procedure for the presentation to Council of Information Reports for noting.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Information Report

The following Information Report has been published since the last meeting of Council:-

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Published</u>
Urgent Delegated Decisions	14 July 2022

4.2 Availability of Document

The document has been circulated to Elected Members electronically via Email and placed on the Bridgend County Borough Council website. They are available from the above date of publication.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 This procedure has been adopted within the procedure rules of the Constitution.

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. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. 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. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That Council acknowledges the publication of the document listed in this report.

K Watson

Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

11 July 2022

Contact Officer: Andrew Rees
Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: (01656) 643147

**Chief Executives Directorate,
Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend**

Email: cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk

Background documents: None.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 JULY 2022

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

URGENT DELEGATED DECISIONS

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to report to Council delegated decisions executed as a matter of urgency under Scheme A 1.1 and Scheme B1 2.1 of the Scheme of Delegation of Functions.

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

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

3. Background

- 3.1 Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to Council in accordance with Paragraph 19 of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules which are to be found at Part 4 of the Constitution.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The urgent decisions taken and therefore by-passing the call-in procedure (as set out in paragraph 18 of Part 4 Rules of Procedure within the Constitution), are summarised below:-

Scheme A 1.1

WEL-CSC-22-060 - To approve the suspension of Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the requirement to competitively procure service provision and to enter into contractual arrangements with licensed Signs of Safety consultants and trainers for up to a 5-year period in urgent response to the critical incident being experienced within Children's Social Care

Scheme B1 2.1

CE-LEG-22-181 - To authorise additional expenditure from within the Capital Programme for the Cosy Corner Porthcawl scheme.

CE-FIN-22-003 - To transfer the Welsh Government's Household Support Fund allocation of £22,907.00 (revenue) to the Bridgend Foodbank, in line with guidance from Welsh Local Government Association, to be used to support the network of foodbanks across Bridgend County Borough.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 This report has no effect on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules.

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. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. 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. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications relating to the report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Council notes the report.

K Watson

Chief Officer - Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy & Monitoring Officer

11 July 2022

Contact officer: **Andrew Rees**
Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: (01656) 643147

Email: cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Democratic Services Section
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend

Background documents: The Council's Scheme of Delegation (of Functions)

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