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



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Annwyl Cyngorydd,

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

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Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Dydd Gwener, 21 Hydref 2022

PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU CORFFORAETHOL

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Corfforaethol Hybrid yn Siambr y Cyngor,
Swyddfeydd Dinesig/o bell - trwy Timau Microsoft ar **Dydd Iau, 27 Hydref 2022 am 10:00.**

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant
Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau /
Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y
Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.
3. Monitro Cyllideb 2022-23 Rhagolwg Refeniw Chwarter 2 5 - 32

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Gwahoddwyr:

Cynghorydd Huw David – Arweinydd y Cyngor
Cynghorydd Jane Gebbie – Dirprwy Arweinydd y Cyngor ac Aelod Cabinet - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar
Cynghorydd Hywel Williams – Aelod Cabinet - Adnoddau
Cynghorydd Jon-Paul Blundell - Aelod Cabinet – Addysg
Cynghorydd John Spanswick - Aelod Cabinet – Cymunedau
Cynghorydd Neelo Farr – Aelod Cabinet – Adfywio
Cynghorydd Rhys Goode - Aelod Cabinet - Llês a Chenedlaethau Dyfodol

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

4. Llety Dros Dro 33 - 38

Gwahoddwyr:

Cynghorydd Rhys Goode - Aelod Cabinet - Llês a Chenedlaethau Dyfodol

Carys Lord - Pennaeth Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid

Martin Morgans - Pennaeth Gwasanaeth - Perfformiad a Gwasanaethau Partneriaeth
Lynne Berry - Rheolwr Grŵp Adfywio Tai a Chymuned
Joanne Ginn - Rheolwr Atebion Tai
Ryan Jones - Rheolwr Comisiynu Tai Strategol

5. Casgliadau/Argymhellion

6. Diweddariad Rhaglen Gwaith 39 - 80

7. Materion Brys

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

Nodyn: Sylwch: Oherwydd rhesymau iechyd a diogelwch ni fydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei gynnal yn ei leoliad arferol. Bydd hwn yn gyfarfod rhithwir a bydd Aelodau a Swyddogion yn mynychu o bell. Bydd y cyfarfod cael ei recordio i'w drosglwyddo drwy wefan y Cyngor. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiwn am hyn, cysylltwch â cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yn ddiffuant

K Watson

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

Dosbarthiad:

Cynghowrwyr

H T Bennett
F D Bletsoe
P Davies
RM Granville

Cynghorwyr

S J Griffiths
M L Hughes
M Jones
RL Penhale-Thomas

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G Walter
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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 OCTOBER 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

BUDGET MONITORING 2022-23 – QUARTER 2 REVENUE FORECAST

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on the Council's revenue financial position as at 30 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 of all people in the county borough.
 2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.
- 2.2 The allocation of budget determines the extent to which the Council's well-being objectives can be delivered.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 23 February 2022, Council approved a net revenue budget of £319.510 million for 2022-23 based on the provisional local government settlement received from Welsh Government on 21 December 2021. The Welsh Government announced its final settlement on the 1 March 2022 and as a result of a technical adjustment, there was an increase in the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for the Council of £4,336, increasing the net revenue budget for 2022-23 to £319.514 million. As part of the Performance Management Framework, budget projections are reviewed regularly and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The delivery of agreed budget reductions is also kept under review and reported to Cabinet as part of this process.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Summary financial position at 30 September 2022

4.1.1 The Council's net revenue budget and projected year end spend for 2022-23 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1- Comparison of budget against projected year end spend at 30 September 2022

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2022-23 £'000	Revised Budget 2022-23 £'000	Projected Year end spend Q2 2022-23 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend 2022-23 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 1 2022-23 £'000
Directorate					
Education and Family Support	131,430	132,319	132,102	(217)	407
Social Services and Wellbeing	78,434	82,327	89,826	7,499	1,548
Communities	28,995	29,851	29,325	(526)	(459)
Chief Executive's	21,895	22,515	21,857	(658)	(607)
Total Directorate Budgets	260,754	267,012	273,110	6,098	889
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,329	7,291	6,853	(438)	0
Levies	8,177	8,210	8,210	0	0
Apprenticeship Levy	650	650	650	0	0
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	16,054	15,154	(900)	(754)
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	1,225	(138)	0
Repairs & Maintenance	670	670	470	(200)	0
Pension Related Costs	430	430	430	0	0
Other Corporate Budgets	24,087	17,834	16,845	(989)	(880)
Total Council Wide Budgets	58,760	52,502	49,837	(2,665)	(1,634)
Total	319,514	319,514	322,947	3,433	(745)

4.1.2 The overall projected position at 30 September 2022 is a net over spend of £3.433 million comprising £6.098 million net over spend on directorates and a net under spend of £2.665 million on Council wide budgets. As the projected position is currently an overall over spend position, there have been no appropriations to earmarked reserves. A detailed analysis of the more significant projected under and over spends is set out in section 4.3.

4.1.3 It is too early in the financial year to provide a realistic indication of projected council tax for this financial year, and whether the Council is likely to see a reduction in council tax income over the 2022-23 financial year as more people are facing financial hardship as a result of the current cost of living crisis. A 1% reduction in the council tax income collection rate could result in an additional pressure to the Council of around £1 million. Council tax collection rates will be monitored continuously throughout the year and reported accordingly.

Covid-19

- 4.1.4 Following the UK going into lockdown in March 2020, to limit the spread of coronavirus, the Welsh Government established a Covid-19 Hardship Fund to enable the Council to draw on for financial support. Some additional funding has been made available to support the Council in 2022-23, including for homelessness (£1.479 million) and to cover free school meals during holiday periods. With the WG Hardship Fund ending on 31 March 2022, a budget pressure of £1 million was approved by Council for 2022-23 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to meet ongoing budget pressures, both in respect of additional cost pressures and ongoing loss of income. Updates will continue to be provided to Cabinet through the quarterly revenue budget monitoring reports throughout 2022-23.
- 4.1.5 Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CCMB) agreed to establish a one-off £1 million Covid-19 Recovery Fund in 2020-21 to provide funding for conscious and proactive decisions aimed at boosting recovery that were unlikely to be paid for by WG through the Hardship Fund. The balance on this fund has been carried into 2022-23 and CCMB have approved the use of this fund to support the free car parking offer for town centres to the end of 2022-23. Further proposals will be considered by CCMB during 2022-23.
- 4.1.6 Whilst the WG Hardship Fund ended on the 31 March 2022, local authorities continue to administer four elements that were paid through the Hardship Fund on behalf of WG – self isolation payments (to end of June 2022), statutory sick pay enhancement scheme (to end of August 2022), free school meal payments (to end of February half term 2023) and the winter fuel support scheme. Table 2 summarises the amounts claimed to date in 2022-23. The £184,000 reflects the latest claim that is pending review by WG with no issues anticipated in the settlement of the claim.

Table 2 – Covid related claims to Welsh Government - Quarter 2 2022-23

Specific Hardship fund	Claimed £'000	Pending review £'000
Self Isolation Payments (SIP)	635	3
Statutory Sick Pay Enhancements (SSP)	114	20
Free School Meals	1,047	161
TOTAL	1,795	184

Budget virements/technical adjustments

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

Budget Virements

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of funding from Corporate Covid-19 budget to Chief Executive's Directorate to provide additional support to meet increased channel shift pressures as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic	£73,824
One-off contribution from Corporate Contingency to fund transport and air quality monitoring within the Park Street AQMA	£8,863

Technical Adjustments

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of inflationary uplifts not confirmed when the Medium Term Financial Strategy was agreed that are held centrally until evidence of the uplift is provided by the service areas	£892,777

Pay/Price Inflation

- 4.1.8 When the budget for 2022-23 was set, very little funding was allocated to directorates for pay and price inflation, as most had not been determined for the forthcoming year. The majority of the provision was retained centrally within Council wide budgets, to be allocated as further information was known about specific contractual price increases. The technical adjustments table above presents the amount released from these budgets as and when evidence is provided by the service areas.
- 4.1.9 Inflationary pressures released in quarter 1 included increases in staffing costs arising from the above inflation increases in the national living wage and the implementation of the real living wage. Once the outcome of the latest consultation exercises and ballots regarding pay claims for Teachers' pay, National Joint Council (NJC) and for Joint Negotiation Committee (JNC) for Chief Officers is known, the budgetary impact will be reported to Cabinet in future revenue monitoring reports. Even a variance of 1% on the pay settlement of NJC staff alone can result in a swing of required funding of over £1 million per annum.
- 4.1.10 In addition, in recent months the Council has experienced additional costs not only as a result of the pandemic, but also rising costs resulting from Brexit, the impact of the war in the Ukraine, and increases in inflation not seen for over a decade.
- 4.1.11 There is a risk that there may not be sufficient funding available within these budgets for any unexpected major pay/price inflation increases. Inflation rates have also fluctuated since the budget was set - CPI was 6.2% in February 2022 and had increased to 9.9% in August 2022. In comparison it was 3.2% in August 2021. With these uncertainties the budget will need to be monitored closely during the remainder of the year.

Budget Reduction Proposals

- 4.1.12 The net budget for the financial year has been set assuming full implementation of the current year budget reduction requirements across the Council's budget, which amount to £631,000. Where proposals to meet this requirement have been delayed or are not achievable directorates have been tasked with identifying alternative proposals to meet their requirements such as vacancy management or bringing forward alternative budget reduction proposals.
- 4.1.13 In February 2022 Council approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2022-23 to 2025-26. This identified the need to develop recurrent budget reduction proposals, based on the most likely scenario, amounting to £21.029 million over the next four years. Against that background it is essential that expenditure is kept within the overall approved budget and that longer term proposals continue to be developed so that the Council has as much flexibility as possible to meet the challenges which lie ahead.
- 4.1.14 At year end consideration will be given to requests from directors to carry forward any planned directorate under spends for specific purposes into the following year, in line with the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol, as long as these can be met from within the Council's cash limited budget for 2022-23. This is in line with the reports to Cabinet and Council on the MTFs, and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules. Similarly, consideration will be given to any budget over spends to determine whether these should be carried forward as a first call on the directorate budget for the following year. Finally, outstanding prudential borrowing will be repaid, where possible, to reduce future capital financing charges. However, a decision will not be made until towards the end of the financial year when the overall year end position is more definite.

4.2 Monitoring of Budget Reduction Proposals

Prior Year Budget Reductions

- 4.2.1 A report was presented to Cabinet on 14 June 2022 on the Revenue Budget Outturn 2021-22. In the report it was highlighted that, for 2017-18 to 2020-21, there were £2.376 million of budget reduction proposals that were not met in full, with a total outstanding balance to be met of £100,000. In addition, of the 2021-22 budget reduction proposals of £1.760 million, it was reported that there was a total outstanding balance to be met of £65,000. Directors have been asked to identify if any of these proposals are still not likely to be achieved in full during the 2022-23 financial year, and to identify mitigating actions that will be undertaken to achieve them. All remaining outstanding prior year budget reductions are summarised in **Appendix 1** with a summary per directorate provided in Table 3.

Table 3 – Outstanding Prior Year Budget Reductions

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	£'000	£'000	£'000
Communities	179	119	60

Note: The total budget reductions required in Table 3 represents the original budget reduction target of £179,000 - £14,000 of the proposal was achieved in 2021-22 leaving £165,000 to be achieved in 2022-23.

- 4.2.2 Table 3 shows that of the £179,000 outstanding reductions, £119,000 is likely to be achieved in 2022-23 leaving a shortfall of £60,000. The proposal still not likely to be achieved is COM 2 – Re-location of community recycling centre from Tythegston to Pyle. The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open in 2022-23, with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2023-24. The saving will therefore have to be met through alternative one-off efficiencies in 2022-23 in order to deliver a balanced budget position.
- 4.2.3 At quarter 1 it was reported that COM19 – permitting scheme (£100,000) was unlikely to be achieved due to delays in the approval process with Welsh Government. A review of the budgets within the Communities Directorate took place during quarter 2 to identify a replacement saving for this budget reduction alongside attempts continuing to be made to make contact with the appropriate officers in WG to gain a formal response on the submission. A recurring saving on the street lighting budget of £100,000 has been identified as the LED replacement programme has generated savings due to reduced energy consumption and has replaced the saving from the permitting scheme.
- 4.2.4 As outlined in the MTFS reports to Cabinet and Council, MTFS Principle 7 states that “Savings proposals are fully developed and include realistic delivery timescales prior to inclusion in the annual budget. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency Reserve will be maintained to mitigate against unforeseen delays”. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve was established in 2016-17. This reserve has been used to meet specific budget reduction proposals in previous years on a one-off basis pending alternative measures. During the financial year, the Section 151 Officer will consider applications from Directorates to the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve to mitigate some of the shortfalls.

Budget Reductions 2022-23

- 4.2.5 The budget approved for 2022-23 included budget reduction proposals totalling £631,000, which is broken down in **Appendix 2** and summarised in Table 4 below. The current position is that £253,000 has been achieved to date, with an overall projected shortfall on the savings target by year end of £244,000, or 38.7% of the overall reduction target.

Table 4 – Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2022-23

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Achieved to date	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education and Family Support	68	0	0	68
Social Services and Wellbeing	365	160	284	81
Communities	150	45	55	95
Chief Executive's	48	48	48	0
TOTAL	631	253	387	244

4.2.6 The most significant budget reduction proposals unlikely to be achieved in full are:-

- EFS1 – Rationalisation of adult community learning service (£68,000 shortfall). WG have changed the terms and conditions of the grant for this service area which has impacted on the core budget and deliverability of this proposal. The Education and Family Support Directorate are working on alternative budget reduction proposals to replace this saving which will be reported to Cabinet in the quarter 3 revenue monitoring report.
- SSWB 2 – remodelling of day service provision for older people and learning disability services (£81,000 shortfall). Efficiencies have been identified, however work is ongoing to further develop the remodelling to meet the savings target in full.
- COM 3 – change the composition of household food waste bags (£35,000 shortfall). Budget reduction proposal has been delayed due to ongoing national research and debate surrounding composition of household food waste bags, to ensure any potential changes in legislation do not impact on the proposal.
- COM5 – commercially let a wing of Ravens Court to a partner organisation or business (£50,000 shortfall) – delay in progressing budget reduction proposal whilst the future service delivery model is being developed.

4.2.7 **Appendix 2** identifies the value of the saving target that has been achieved to the 30 September 2022, along with the projected amount of saving likely to be achieved against these proposals by year end in detail and action to be taken by the directorate to mitigate the shortfall. Directors continue to work with their staff to deliver their proposals or alternatives and this is reflected in the forecast year end spend. During the financial year the Section 151 Officer will also consider applications from directorates to the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve to mitigate some of the shortfalls.

4.2.8 In the longer term, these proposals must be realised or must be met through alternative budget reduction proposals in order to deliver a balanced budget position. These will continue to be closely monitored and draw down from the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve will be made as part of the overall review of earmarked reserves during quarter 3 if required.

4.3 Commentary on the financial position at 30th September 2022

Financial position at 30th September 2022

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

4.3.1 **Education and Family Support Directorate**

The net budget for the Education and Family Support Directorate, including school delegated budgets, for 2022-23 is £132.319 million. Current projections indicate an under spend of £217,000 at year end. The main variances are:

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected Year end spend	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Adult Community Learning	43	167	125	290.7%
Family Support	2,902	2,525	(377)	-13.0%
Home-to-school transport	8,040	8,181	141	1.75%
Catering Services	1,145	1,233	88	7.7%
Corporate health and safety	385	335	(50)	-13.0%

Schools' delegated budgets

Total funding delegated to schools in 2022-23 is £105.897 million.

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

At the start of 2022-23, projections indicated an overall surplus balance for school delegated budgets of £3.473 million at year end. At quarter 2 this has reduced slightly to a £3.123 million projected surplus. There are 7 primary schools and 1 secondary school (14% of all schools) projecting a deficit balance at year end.

Central Education and Family Support Directorate budgets

Adult Community Learning

- The adult community learning budget has a £68,000 MTFS budget reduction proposal for 2022-23 which related to the removal of the council subsidised support to adult learners. Subsequent to this proposal, Welsh Government has changed the terms and conditions of the grant for this service area which has impacted on the core budget and deliverability of this proposal. The Education and Family Support Directorate is working on alternative budget reduction proposals to replace this saving which will be reported to Cabinet in the quarter 3 budget monitoring report.

Family Support

- The projected under spend of £377,000 primarily relates to staff vacancy management and maximisation of grant funding. The service area are actively looking to recruit to the vacant posts in 2022-23, therefore the saving should not be recurring in 2023-24.

Home-to-school transport (HtST)

- A MTFs budget pressure of £2.472 million was approved by Council in February 2022 to support the increased costs of HtST reported in 2021-22. These included the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for pupils with additional learning needs, transportation of nursery pupils in either dedicated minibuses or taxis, and a retendering exercise on home-to-school transport contracts, principally big buses and minibuses. A further procurement exercise was also undertaken at the end of 2021-22 for special taxis, taxis and minibus contracts which was anticipated to put further pressure on the HtST budget in 2022-23.
- The HtST budget is currently projecting a £141,000 over spend primarily relating to increased costs for those pupils with additional learning needs.
- It should also be noted that school transport providers are being significantly impacted by the fuel inflationary increases and are in discussion with the local authority with regard to the sharing of the risks and costs associated with continuing to operate.
- The HtST will require close monitoring for the remainder of 2022-23 given the pressures continuing to be faced by the service area.

Catering Services

- The projected over spend of £88,000 in catering services has reduced from the projected over spend at quarter 1 of £154,000 due to support provided from the central price inflation budget towards the increase in the cost of food. This budget area will continue to be closely monitored in 2022-23 with the potential for further support from the central price inflation budget if inflationary pressures continue in this service area.

Corporate Health and Safety Unit

- The projected under spend of £50,000 within the corporate health and safety unit primarily relates to staff vacancy management. The vacant posts are expected to be filled in 2022-23 therefore this saving should not be recurring in 2023-24.

4.3.2 Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate

The Directorate's net budget for 2022-23 is £82.327 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £7.499 million at year end. This is a significant shift compared to the 2021-22 outturn position of a £5.931 million under spend and the projected over spend reported at quarter 1 of £1.548 million. The first reason for this was the significant grant income received in 2021-22, including one-off grants totalling around £5.137 million such as the Social Care Recovery Fund and the Social Care Pressures Grant. The second contributory factor for the projected over spend in 2022-23 is due to challenges in recruiting to permanent vacancies in some key teams. In particular, in order to meet the Authority's statutory safeguarding responsibilities in children's social care, the numbers of workers engaged to meet statutory duties and keep caseloads at safe levels due to increased levels of need are above the agreed establishment. Independent experts are supporting the development of a business case to set out what is needed going forward for there to

be sustainable ability to meet need within budget. The third area of pressure is due to the volume and complexity of need for statutory social care services from the vulnerable population of the county borough. Bridgend has a growing population and there are more people with statutory care and support needs post Covid pandemic. Overspends are evident in learning disability services, mental health services and services for older people. There are increasing numbers of children who require residential accommodation, care and support which is resulting in a significant budget pressure in that area. There are significant risks across many parts of the social services budget. The budget has been dependent for many years on short term grant funding to meet statutory duties with underlying deficits. Uncertainty about grant funding combined with increasing volume and complexity are resulting in the overspends evident below.

The main variances are :

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected year end spend	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Adult Social Care	55,748	59,125	3,377	6.1%
Prevention and Wellbeing	5,528	5,355	(173)	-3.1%
Childrens Social Care	21,051	25,346	4,295	20.4%

Adult Social Care

There is projected net over spend of £3.377 million on the Adult Social Care budget. The most significant variances contributing to this projected over spend are:-

ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget
	£'000
Learning Disabilities Home Care	1,548
Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities	482
Older People Residential Care	426
Mental Health Home Care	394
Equipment & Adaptions	358
Learning Disabilities Direct Payments	345
Learning Disabilities Residential Care	265
Assessment and Care Management	118
Mental Health Supported Accommodation	(243)
Mental Health Residential Care	(171)
Administrative and Central Services	(156)

The most significant projected over spends are:-

- Learning Disabilities Home Care – the overall over spend of £1.548 million is due to a combination of factors. Firstly, the number of hours of care covered by home care services has increased as clients have either opted to not return or are having a reduced service within internal day services provision. Secondly, there has been an

increase in the complexity of cases – e.g. waking nights required rather than sleep-in nights which increases the cost of service delivery considerably. There is an unrepresented demand on the service at present, and this is not expected to decrease going forward.

- Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities – the over spend of £482,000 mainly relates to placement numbers exceeding the available budget for externally commissioned day services (£407,000). Placement numbers are similar to those in 2021-22, however the pressure was offset in the prior year by one-off grant income of £302,000. Secondly, whilst the learning disabilities home care budget is projecting an over spend as clients have not returned to internal day services, new clients are taking up the vacant day services placements, The service are actively looking to move service users back to in-house day services provision which should result in a reduction to this cost pressure going forward. Finally, whilst efficiencies have been identified in relation to the £115,000 MTFs saving relating to re-modelling of day services, work is ongoing to further develop the remodelling to meet the savings target and therefore it will not be met in full in 2022-23 as reported in section 4.2.6.
- Older People Residential Care – the projected over spend of £426,000 is primarily due to an increase in the additional number of care packages, an increase from 328 placements at quarter 1 to 345 placements at quarter 2.
- Mental Health Home Care – this includes supported living, short breaks and domiciliary care. The projected £394,000 over spend is primarily due to supported living packages of care exceeding the available budget. Placement numbers have increased further since quarter 1 from 34 to 37. Whilst supported living packages of care have decreased slightly since the 40 reported in 2021-22, the Social Care Pressures Grant funding was utilised to offset a considerable element of the prior year over spend of £454,000.
- Equipment & Adaptions – the projected over spend of £358,000 is because of continuing demand for equipment due to the need to support individuals in line with Welsh Government's rehabilitation and recovery model. The outturn for 2021-22 saw an underlying pressure in this service area of £401,000.
- Learning Disabilities Direct Payments – there is a projected over spend of £345,000 as the service area has seen a shift to clients choosing to opt for direct payments rather than utilising traditional methods of care and support. This shift does not necessarily result in under spends in other service area budgets as there is currently significant demand for social services support across the directorate. In addition, there has also been a notable change in the complexity of cases, with a small number of high cost, high complexity placements.
- Learning Disabilities Residential and Respite Care – there is a projected over spend at quarter 2 of £265,000, increasing from the over spend of £127,000 projected at quarter 1. This is firstly due to an increase in respite provision for 3 existing placements, along with a reduction in Health funding for another existing placement. In addition, the Breakaway respite service have successfully recruited to vacant posts, whereas the service had been reporting an under spend of £109,000 at quarter 1 due to it being anticipated that these vacancies would continue to remain unfilled due to the challenging recruitment environment.
- Assessment and Care Management – there is a projected over spend of £118,000 which is primarily due to the increased costs of having to rely on agency staffing in the older people network teams. Various recruitment activities and initiatives have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts, but appointments have been affected by the acute lack of availability of staff and increasing demands across the care sector.

These are partially offset by the projected under spends in the following areas:-

- Mental Health Supported Accommodation – the projected £243,000 under spend primarily relates to maximisation of Innovation grant funding.
- Mental Health Residential Care – the projected under spend of £171,000 is primarily due to a reduction in placements when compared with historic levels, albeit that placement numbers have increased slightly since quarter 1 from 45 to 48. The reason for the overall reduction in placements is primarily due to alternative service solutions being provided that were more suitable for people and adaptable to Covid-19 circumstances. If these alternative solutions continue to prove beneficial then budgets could be vired within mental health to areas that are experiencing pressures as a result of the medium to long term impact of the pandemic on individuals.
- Administrative & Central Services – there is a projected under spend of £156,000 which is primarily due to staffing vacancies as the service is currently going through a restructure. The structure is anticipated to have been populated by the final quarter of 2022-23.

Prevention and Wellbeing

- The projected under spend of £173,000 is primarily due to the maximisation of grant funding opportunities (Transformation, Summer of Fun, Local Authority Partnership Agreement, Disability Sports) The projection does not include any estimate for a contribution to the Council's leisure provider for any residual impact of running the leisure services in 2022-23 due to Covid-19. Close monitoring of the impact of Covid-19 on leisure services beyond this point will be required and updates provided to Cabinet in future monitoring reports.

Children's Social Care

There is projected net over spend of £4.295 million on the Children's Social Care budget. The most significant variances contributing to this projected over spend are:-

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000
Care Experienced Children	1,489
Commissioning & Social Work	2,513
Management & Administration	276

- The projected over spend of £1.489 million for care experienced children is due to a combination of factors:-
 - Children's residential services are projecting an over spend of £287,000 mainly due to additional staffing requirements for complex behaviours and increased agency costs as a result of the challenging recruitment market.
 - The out of county residential care budget has a projected over spend of £917,000, an increase of £304,000 since quarter 1. There are currently 16 children in out of authority placements, an increase from 13 placements since 31 March 2022. It should be noted that this budget area can be volatile and small changes in

- demand/complexity can result in relatively high costs being incurred. The budget is being closely monitored to ensure that the projected spend is effectively managed.
- There is a projected under spend on independent fostering agency placements (£268,000) and fostering placements (£356,000). This is due to alternative placement options being utilised, including in-house residential provision (£287,000 as noted above) and special guardianship orders, which are projecting an over spend of £267,000. These budgets will be monitored closely in 2022-23 and budgets vired as appropriate.
 - The fostering team (who manage all the fostering placements) are projecting an over spend of £371,000 due to increased use of agency staffing. Management are actively trying to recruit permanent staff where possible, however this is proving to be a considerable challenge given the current recruitment market.
 - The care experienced children's placements team are projecting an over spend of £218,000 primarily as they are having to rely on agency staff. Various recruitment activities and initiatives have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts, but appointments have been affected by the acute lack of availability of staff and increasing demands across the care sector.
- Commissioning & Social Work – the projected over spend of £2.513 million is mainly due to having to continue to rely on agency staffing across all the children's social work teams due to the ongoing recruitment challenges, acute lack of availability of staff and increasing demands across the care sector. The projections reflect the ongoing permanent staff recruitment issues and reliance on agency staff for the foreseeable future. Agency staff are being utilised where possible to limit the impact on service delivery.
 - Management & Administration – the projected over spend of £276,000 relates primarily to an increase in staffing costs (mostly agency staff - £265,000) who are supporting key roles in children's services. The implications on support services of meeting statutory duties for increased numbers of children who are open on a care and support basis, or on the child protection register is clear. Statutory safeguarding meetings have to be minuted and communicated in a timely way. This was a key area for improvement highlighted by Care Inspectorate Wales.

4.3.3 Communities Directorate

The net budget for the Directorate for 2022-23 is £29.851 million. The current projection is an anticipated under spend of £526,000. The main variances are:

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected year end spend	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Planning and Development	591	923	332	56.2%
Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	1,613	1,472	(141)	-8.7%
Waste Disposal & Collection	9,829	9,610	(219)	-2.2%
Fleet Services	98	308	210	214.3%
Highways Services (DSO)	3,089	2,789	(300)	-9.7%
Street Lighting	1,522	1,493	(29)	-1.9%
Engineering Services	101	(46)	(147)	-145.5%

Planning and Development

- The projected over spend in planning and development of £332,000 is primarily due to a forecast downturn in planning application income based on income to date and comparison with the 2021-22 outturn. Fee income is subject to considerable fluctuations between years, depending on number of types of applications and will require close monitoring for the remainder of the 2022-23 financial year.

Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability

- The projected under spend of £141,000 is due to a combination of maximising grant funding and staff vacancy management. The decarbonisation, energy management and sustainability teams in particular are experiencing difficulties in recruiting. The service area are actively seeking to recruit to these vacancies therefore it is not a recurring saving.

Waste Disposal and Collection

- There is a projected under spend of £219,000 on the waste disposal and collection budget. This is primarily due to a reduction in the disposal fee of residual waste at the Material Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC) and a slight reduction in the tonnage figures in since April, as people started to shift away from home-working. Close monitoring of this budget will continue in 2022-23 to see if the downward trend continues.

Fleet Services

- There is a projected over spend on Fleet services of £210,000. The fleet services team operate on a break-even basis with re-charges for work undertaken on directorate, South Wales Police and the general public's vehicles generating income to support staffing and overhead costs. Productivity continues to be impacted by long term sickness as well as recruitment and retention difficulties. A review of the service is currently being undertaken to address the projected over spend as this has continued into 2022-23.

Highways Services

- There is a projected under spend within highways services of £300,000 which is due primarily to staff vacancy management (£248,000) as a result of recruitment difficulties. The following teams in particular are experiencing difficulties in recruiting – hazing (£46,000), construction (£152,000) and stores (£28,000). The balance of the projected under spend is due to core funded staff being utilised to support work on capital schemes – e.g. replacement of street lighting works (£40,000). In these cases, the salary costs can be capitalised, thus generating one-off income for the service area.

Street Lighting

- At quarter 1 a £225,000 projected under spend was reported against the street lighting energy budget as a result of savings generated by the LED replacement programme due to reduced energy consumption. This has reduced to a projected under spend of £29,000 at quarter 2. As indicated in 4.2.2, £100,000 of the saving generated from the energy savings has been utilised to replace the historic MTFs Permitting Scheme saving proposal. The remaining reduction in the projected under spend is due to additional street lighting maintenance being undertaken.

Engineering Services

- There is a projected under spend on engineering services of £147,000. This is primarily to an increase in the level of fee earning jobs (grant funded/non grant funded projects) and the differing chargeable rates allowed on the schemes.

4.3.4 Chief Executive's

The net budget for the Directorate for 2022-23 is £22.515 million. Current projections anticipate an under spend against this budget of £658,000. The main variances are:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget	Projected year end spend	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	5,368	5,415	47	0.9%
ICT	3,912	4,138	225	5.8%
Housing & Homelessness	3,375	2,497	(878)	-26.0%
Business Support	1,313	1,214	(99)	-7.5%

Legal, Democratic & Regulatory

- The projected over spend of £47,000 mainly relates to projected shortfalls in licensing fee income levels within regulatory services, although this has improved since the £126,000 reported in quarter 1 due to improved income projections in registration services. Registration services has seen an increase both in the number of registered births and deaths in 2022-23.
- Legal fees continue to be a budget pressure as reported in quarter 1. The current projected over spend for legal fees for 2022-23 is £298,000 however this is supported by an earmarked reserve created at the end of 2021-22 to cover the continuing pressure in this service area.

ICT

- There is a projected net over spend of £225,000 across ICT budgets. As highlighted in 2021-22, due to reduced printing activity ICT have been unable to cover the fixed costs of printers and photocopiers through the re-charge to service departments. Consequently, reduced spend will have been incurred on printing budgets across the service departments and included in the projections for individual service areas. In quarter 2 of 2021-22 a one-off budget virement of £150,000 was undertaken to align budgets. The implementation of the future service delivery model will continue to be monitored as to whether another one-off budget virement will be actioned in 2022-23.

Housing & Homelessness

- There is a projected under spend of £878,000 on Housing & Homelessness.
- Budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the MTFs Budget setting process in February 2021 to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals providing them with accommodation. The budget was approved prior to confirmation from WG that the Covid Hardship Fund was to be extended through 2021-22.

- Despite the Hardship fund not being in place for 2022-23, WG recognised the need for homelessness accommodation to be secured in advance to continue the commitment to focus on support for homeless individuals and approved £1.479 million to cover these costs for the first six months of 2022-23. In addition, the accommodation element of the Hardship Fund was replaced in 2022-23 by a WG ‘Homelessness – No One Left Out’ grant funding of £1.046 million.
- Spend on Homelessness accommodation in 2022-23 is projected to be in the region of £3.703 million, against the combined WG funding of £2.525 million referred to above. The shortfall of £1.178 million is covered by the budget growth of £2.192 million, and the under spend against the core budget has enabled the service to fund a revenue contribution to capital of £530,000 for a refurbishment programme working with Valleys to Coast (V2C) in order to bring properties back into use for nomination rights and homelessness cases. This capital budget was approved by Council on 20 June 2022.
- The projected accommodation spend is based on increased numbers of households and individuals supported, from 196 households and 326 individuals in September 2021 to 220 households and 401 individuals in September 2022. The remaining projected under spend from the budget growth of £484,000 will be closely monitored in line with any further changes in support required for homelessness accommodation.
- Other accommodation income is projected to exceed budget by £262,000 which is mainly due to additional housing benefit received from clients in homelessness accommodation.

Business Support

- The projected under spend of £99,000 in business support relates primarily to staffing vacancies due to the challenging recruitment environment – the department are actively trying to recruit to these vacancies.

4.3.5 Council Wide budgets

This section includes budgets, provisions and services which are council wide, and not managed by an individual directorate. The net budget for 2022-23 is £52.502 million. Current projections anticipate an under spend against this budget of £2.665 million. The main variances are:-

COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget	Projected year end spend	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Capital Financing Costs	7,291	6,853	(438)	-6.0%
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	15,154	(900)	-5.6%
Other Corporate Budgets	17,834	16,845	(989)	-5.6%

Capital Financing Costs

- The projected under spend of £438,000 mainly relates to interest paid and received due to a combination of lower borrowing than anticipated as the Council uses its own internal resources to finance schemes, and additional interest from current investments.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- There is a projected under spend of £900,000 on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This is a demand led budget and take-up is difficult to predict with an increase of £400,000 included within the budget for 2022-23 in anticipation of increased demand. Take up has remained similar, at present, to 2021-22 when the gross spend in this budget area was £15.239 million. The budget will be closely monitored in 2022-23 as there could be an additional call on the scheme in view of the impact of the cost of living crisis on personal financial circumstances with the potential for an increase in the number of benefit claimants.

Other Corporate Budgets

- As referred to in paragraph 4.1.8 to 4.1.11, due to the ongoing discussions regarding pay claims, the risk of unexpected major price inflation increases along with rising costs resulting from Brexit and the impact of the war in Ukraine, at this point in the financial year, it is prudent to assume that the majority of Council wide budgets will be fully spent by the year end. However it is anticipated that there will be a reduction in corporate support required to fund potential redundancy costs as, following the better than anticipated WG settlement for 2022-23, fewer budget reduction proposals had to be made. In addition, there is currently a lower than anticipated requirement against the £1m MTFs Covid-19 pressure approved by Council in February 2022.

4.4 Review of Earmarked Reserves

- 4.4.1 The Council is required to maintain adequate financial reserves to meet the needs of the organisation. The MTFs includes the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol which sets out how the Council will determine and review the level of its Council Fund balance and earmarked reserves. At quarter 2 a review of the particular pressures that were to be covered by earmarked reserves was undertaken and Directorates have drawn down funding.
- 4.4.2 Given the overall projected over spend at quarter 2 as set out in 4.1.2, there have been no additions to earmarked reserves. The cumulative draw down by directorates is £2.845 million as shown in Table 5 below. The majority of draw down from earmarked reserves takes place in the later stages of the financial year, especially on capital and grant funded schemes. In addition, school balances are not adjusted until the year end – an overall reduction in year of £9.371 million on school balances is currently projected.

Table 5 – Usable Earmarked Reserves (Excluding Council Fund) – Quarter 2

Opening Balance 01 Apr 22	Reserve	Movement as at Quarter 2			Closing Balance 30 Sep 22
		Net Additions/ Reclassification	Draw-down	Unwound	
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Corporate Reserves:				
45,994	Capital Programme Contribution	-	-	-	45,994
4,725	Asset Management Reserves	105	(19)	-	4,811
6,310	Major Claims & Insurance Reserves	-	-	-	6,310
3,593	Service Reconfiguration	-	-	-	3,593
2,543	Change Management/Digital Transformation	-	(158)	-	2,385
2,000	Economic and Future Resilience Fund	-	-	-	2,000
65,165	Total Corporate Reserves	105	(177)	-	65,093
	Directorate Reserves:				
841	Education & Family Support	-	-	-	841
8,870	Social Services & Wellbeing	-	(679)	-	8,191
4,245	Communities	(105)	(54)	-	4,086
4,139	Chief Executives	-	(198)	-	3,941
18,095	Total Directorate Reserves	(105)	(931)	-	17,059
	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:				
3,283	Education & Family Support	-	(1,450)	-	1,833
350	Social Services & Wellbeing	-	-	-	350
3,800	Communities	-	(287)	-	3,513
575	Chief Executives	-	-	-	575
8,008	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:	-	(1,737)	-	6,271
12,494	School Balances	-	-	-	12,494
103,762	TOTAL RESERVES	-	(2,845)	-	100,917

4.4.3 The capital programme contribution reserve supplements the funding we receive from WG and via capital receipts to fund our capital programme. Currently we have a balance of £45.994 million of funding in this reserve which constitutes 45.6% of our overall earmarked reserves balance. This will be used to fund a wide range of schemes in the capital programme.

4.4.4 The School balances reserve increased significantly to £12.494 million at the end of 2021-22 due to additional school grant funding announced late in 2021-22. As noted in paragraph 4.3.1 the quarter 2 projections indicate a projected overall surplus balance for school delegated budgets of £3.123 million at year end as this grant funding gets utilised in-year. This will reduce this reserve accordingly by year end.

4.4.5 A further review of earmarked reserves will be undertaken at quarter 3 when there is a clearer picture on pressures and projected year end balances.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

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

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

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

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 These are reflected in the body of the report.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the report upon the projected revenue position for 2022-23.

Carys Lord
Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
21 October 2022

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Background documents: Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports
MTFS Report to Council – 23 February 2022

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PRIOR YEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2022-23

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Revised RAG £000	Total amount of saving likely to be achieved by 22-23 £000	Reason why not achievable	Proposed Action in 2022-23 to achieve
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RAG STATUS KEY

RED	Not likely to be achieved at all in this financial year or less than 25%.
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AMBER	Reduction not likely to be achieved in full in financial year but greater than 25%
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GREEN	Reduction likely to be achieved in full
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COMMUNITIES

COM19 (2017-18)	Permitting Scheme road works net of existing income of £95,000		100		100	A response from Welsh Government is still outstanding in consideration of the business case for the Permitting Scheme. Attempts continue to be made to make contact with the appropriate officers to gain a formal response on the submission. However, an alternative saving has been identified from with the Communities Directorate.	A review of the budgets within the Communities Directorate has been undertaken to identify a replacement saving for the original budget reduction proposal. A recurring saving on the Street Lighting Budget of £100,000 has been identified as the LED replacement programme has generated savings due to reduced energy consumption.
COM 2 (2021-22)	Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site		60		0	The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open in 2022-23, with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2023-24.	The saving will be met through alternative one off efficiencies in 2022-23 to deliver a balanced budget position.
COM 7 (2021-22)	WG National AHP Waste Programme - capital contribution from WG towards 7.5 tonne vehicle to collect AHP recycling		19		19	New vehicle purchased part-way through 2021-22 therefore only partial saving achieved in prior year.	No action required - saving will be made in full in 2022-23.
Total Communities Directorate			179		119		
GRAND TOTAL OUTSTANDING REDUCTIONS			179		119		
REDUCTIONS SHORTFALL					60		

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MONITORING OF 2022-23 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2022-23 £'000	Value achieved to date 2022-23 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2022-23 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
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EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

CENTRAL EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

EFS1	Rationalisation of Adult Community Learning Service	Remove the council subsidised support to adult learners although there are other providers - e.g. College. Less opportunity for adults to gain new skills.	68	0	0	Welsh Government have changed the terms and conditions of the grant for this service area which has impacted on the core budget and deliverability of this proposal. The Education and Family Support Directorate are working on alternative budget reduction proposals to replace this saving which will be reported to Cabinet in the quarter 3 budget monitoring report
Total Education and Family Support			68	0	0	

SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

SSW1	Across Adults and Children's services embed and consolidate outcome focussed practice and commissioning for all services areas.	This will support people to live their lives and will require our systems to be adapted to support the changes in practice. There will be a shift to embed outcome focussed practice which will have a focus on targeted prevention initiatives and by developing collaborative, long term relationships with providers as well as maximising the opportunities of the use of technology. This will be underpinned by planning accommodation, care and support together and listening to people who are experts in their own lives and acting upon what will make a difference.	200	76	200	Full saving should be achieved in 2022-23
SSW2	Remodelling day service provision for older people and learning disability services	The recent experience of the pandemic has enabled the service to find new ways of working and the service are proposing to review and refine the operating model for day time opportunities.	115	34	34	Efficiencies have been identified, however work is ongoing to further develop the remodelling to meet the savings target in full.

MONITORING OF 2022-23 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2022-23 £'000	Value achieved to date 2022-23 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2022-23 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
SSW3	Remodelling Supported Living Services	A review of the service provision and alternative delivery models based on the current and predicted needs of individuals	50	50	50	Full saving achieved in 2022-23
Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate			365	160	284	

COMMUNITIES

COM1	Strategic Regeneration Fund - reduction to annual allocation	The reduction to the Strategic Regeneration Fund will directly impact on the Council's ability to provide match-funding, through which to lever other external funding. There will be no funding for feasibility or development work, on which to prepare bids for funding. Also potential for a loss of private sector investment as a result of inability to engage productively with developers and present Bridgend County in a positive light.	20	20	20	Full saving achieved in 2022-23
COM2	Cessation of Tourism contract with AMA Associates an external Public Relations Company who promote Bridgend with a range of publishers.	News coverage about Bridgend County will reduce and this potentially would have implications for visitor numbers and the local economy.	25	25	25	Full saving achieved in 2022-23
COM3	Change the composition of Household Food Waste bags	The current bags cause issues with bio-degrading due to the speed of the food waste digestion process. Change the supply of bags to remove this issue.	35	0	0	Ongoing national research and debate surrounding composition of Household Food Waste Bags. Budget reduction proposal delayed until outcome of review known to ensure any potential changes in legislation do not impact on the proposal.
COM4	Remove Business in Focus from running Enterprise Centres in Bridgend	This would be dependent on Corporate Landlord picking up the responsibilities and ensuring a higher rate of occupancy of the units to remove voids.	20	0	10	Staffing vacancies have delayed the implementation of this saving proposal, however the recent appointment of a Senior Portfolio Surveyor will make this a priority as we move forward.

MONITORING OF 2022-23 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Proposed 2022-23 £'000	Value achieved to date 2022-23 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2022-23 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
COM5	Commercially let a wing of Ravens Court to a partner organisation or business.	Savings would be predicated on reduction in utilities from not occupying the space and rental income	50	0	0	Delay in progressing budget reduction proposal whilst the Future Service Delivery model is being developed.
	Total Communities Directorate		150	45	55	

CHIEF EXECUTIVES

CEX2	Efficiency saving targeting supplies and services budgets across the Chief Executive's Directorate	Limited impact as review has identified small historic underspends against this budget category	48	48	48	Full saving should be achieved in 2022-23
	Total Chief Executive's Directorate		48	48	48	

GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS		631	253	387
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REDUCTION SHORTFALL				244
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73	143	343
158	110	135
400	0	153
631	253	631

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2022-23			Projected Year end spend £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
	Expenditure Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget			
	£'000	£'000	£'000			
EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT						
School Delegated Budgets	127,199	(21,302)	105,897	105,897	-	0.0%
Learner Support	7,552	(1,207)	6,345	6,395	50	0.8%
Family Support	8,403	(5,501)	2,902	2,525	(377)	-13.0%
Business Support	14,794	(4,447)	10,347	10,422	75	0.7%
Schools Support	1,485	(837)	648	649	1	0.2%
School Modernisation	3,914	(214)	3,700	3,796	96	2.6%
Vulnerable Groups Support	709	(96)	613	577	(36)	-5.9%
Other Education and Family Support	1,976	(110)	1,867	1,841	(26)	-1.4%
TOTAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	166,032	(33,714)	132,319	132,102	(217)	-0.2%
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
Adult Social Care	77,496	(21,748)	55,748	59,125	3,377	6.1%
Prevention and Wellbeing	6,358	(830)	5,528	5,355	(173)	-3.1%
Childrens Social Care	22,217	(1,166)	21,051	25,346	4,295	20.4%
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	106,071	(23,744)	82,327	89,826	7,499	9.1%
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE						
Planning & Development Services	2,236	(1,645)	591	923	332	56.2%
Strategic Regeneration	2,922	(1,259)	1,663	1,643	(20)	-1.2%
Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	6,351	(4,738)	1,613	1,472	(141)	-8.7%
Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	13,345	(1,502)	11,843	11,604	(239)	-2.0%
Highways and Green Spaces	23,049	(12,007)	11,042	10,666	(376)	-3.4%
Director and Head of Operations - Communities	274	-	274	274	-	0.0%
Corporate Landlord	13,727	(10,902)	2,825	2,743	(82)	-2.9%
TOTAL COMMUNITIES	61,904	(32,053)	29,851	29,325	(526)	-1.8%
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S						
Chief Executive Unit	481	-	481	489	8	1.7%
Finance	46,835	(42,994)	3,841	3,778	(63)	-1.6%
HR/OD	2,400	(398)	2,002	2,077	75	3.7%
Partnerships	3,344	(1,227)	2,117	2,087	(30)	-1.4%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	6,318	(950)	5,368	5,415	47	0.9%
Elections	155	(49)	106	163	57	53.8%
ICT	5,200	(1,288)	3,912	4,137	225	5.8%
Housing & Homelessness	4,406	(1,031)	3,375	2,497	(878)	-26.0%
Business Support	1,424	(111)	1,313	1,214	(99)	-7.5%
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	70,563	(48,048)	22,515	21,857	(658)	-2.9%
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	404,570	(137,559)	267,012	273,110	6,098	2.3%
Council Wide Budgets	53,472	(970)	52,502	49,837	(2,665)	-5.1%
NET BRIDGEND CBC	458,042	(138,529)	319,514	322,947	3,433	1.1%

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 OCTOBER 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the provision of temporary accommodation within Bridgend County Borough Council.

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. **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.
2. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 In March 2020, an emergency homelessness response was put in place by Welsh Government (WG) in recognition of the potential impact that Covid-19 could have on people who were homeless, especially people who were rough sleeping. Welsh Government amended its guidance in relation to homelessness and introduced an 'All In' approach and directed local authorities that no-one was to be without accommodation due to the public health imperative. WG introduced a Guidance Note which extended the definition of 'vulnerable' with regards to the 'priority need' criteria set out in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. In effect this made all homeless persons eligible for an offer of temporary accommodation.
- 3.2 This required the Housing Service to secure additional units of accommodation on an emergency and immediate basis as pre Covid the Council had only 87 units of temporary accommodation placements and the use of floor space provision for emergency purposes. To respond to the crisis the service made arrangements with local hotels to secure accommodation. At the time, these hotels were the only ones

that remained open and had the capacity and willingness to provide such accommodation. It was expected that the use of these hotels would be for the short term only. Short block booking arrangements were entered into as part of the Council's emergency response to the pandemic. WG provided funding via the covid Hardship Grant.

- 3.3 At the end of that first tranche of bookings, which varied in duration subject to presenting needs and grant funding availability, the pandemic and its public health restrictions remained in place and tranches of 6 monthly bookings were required. WG was consulted at many stages during this period and encouraged block booking arrangements in advance which could be claimed from the WG Hardship Grant. Additional units, such as self contained holiday lets were also required to meet ongoing demands, including from families. Service Level Agreements (SLA's) between the hotels / other accommodation providers and the Housing Service were agreed. This was continued on the expectation that services would, within a short period of time, revert to pre covid conditions and therefore this arrangement would not need to be continued for a long period. New Service Level Agreements were therefore entered into with hotels covering 6 months block booking at a time which expired on 30th September 2022.
- 3.4 Subsequently, whilst the emergency pandemic state has rescinded, the housing service remains in a critical position and WG's emergency change to the definition of 'priority need' is continuing, with WG intent on amending primary legislation to continue the extension of the priority need definition, as highlighted above. These changes are due to come into effect on 24th October 2022. As such the additional placements the Council is required to make will continue to be a statutory duty. The tourism accommodation initially taken on a short term basis has become key in the Council's ability to meet its legal duties, without which the Council may face the risk of legal challenge from applicants. This is not a position that was predictable at the start of the arrangements with the hotels.
- 3.5 The additional expenditure incurred to meet these demands has, to date, been largely funded by the WG Hardship Grant and costs and funding received is outlined below. (Accommodation costs also include additional items such as security costs)

Table 1 – Temporary Accommodation costs

	Financial Year	Temporary Accommodation costs	Grants received
		£'000	£'000
Pre Pandemic	2019-20	135	25
Pandemic	2020-21	2,292	2,082
	2021-22	3,130	2,794
	To date 2022-23	2,035	1,479
	Projected 2022-23	4,233	2,525

- 3.6 Despite the Hardship Grant not being in place for 2022-23, WG recognised the need for homelessness accommodation to be secured in advance to continue the commitment to focus on support for homeless individuals and £1.479 million has

successfully been claimed from WG to cover these costs for the first six months of 2022-23. In addition, the accommodation element of the Hardship Grant was replaced in 2022-23 by a WG 'Homelessness - No One Left Out' grant funding of £1.046 million which will be claimed in the remainder of 2022-23. The combined value of WG support in 2022-23 is therefore £2.525 million.

- 3.7 In addition, budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy setting process in February 2021 to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals providing them with accommodation. The core budget, combined with the WG funding highlighted in paragraph 3.6 totals £4.717 million resulting in a projected under spend in 2022-23 of £484,000 against the projected accommodation costs of £4.233 million. However, requests for support can change and this budget will be closely monitored for the remainder of this financial year. Without the WG funding, there would currently be a projected over spend of £2.041 million.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Housing Service has been under extreme pressure due to unprecedented demand for the service - in the 12 months to 25th May 2022, there were 1,656 household applications constituting 2,553 people including 658 children. The weekly rolling average for applications is 35 per week. Between Monday 3rd October and Sunday 9th October 2022 there were 39 applications.
- 4.2 In addition, the service has had to work within the context of constant change and unknown outcomes. WG has introduced a number of policy changes over recent months. These changes include the development and implementation of a Transitional Rapid Rehousing Plan (TRRP) to move people from hotels into other forms of suitable accommodation, new guidance on the definition of 'suitability of accommodation', and a requirement for a Homelessness Strategy.
- 4.3 Work on developing the Transitional Rapid Rehousing Plan is currently on-going and is hand in hand with the development of a Homelessness Strategy. These draft documents will be reported to Cabinet in the near future seeking approval to undertake formal public consultation. Although demand for temporary accommodation remains unpredictable the service is working to a position that meets WG requirements and where block booking of hotels for long periods would need to be reduced.
- 4.4 With the arrangements due to terminate on 30 September 2022, informal engagement with temporary accommodation providers was initiated from July 2022. This engagement was to determine whether the providers could continue to support the service under the remit of the previous Service Level Agreements. The providers were supportive and requested that accommodation be block booked initially for 6 months and in exceptional cases for 12 months. Due to the death of Her Majesty the Queen and all committee meetings being cancelled during the period of state mourning, an urgent delegated decision was made giving approval to suspend the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in order to enter into further Service Level Agreements to secure temporary accommodation to meet the Council's ongoing statutory duty. The Chairpersons of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees agreed that the decision proposed was reasonable in all the

circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency and not subject to call-in.

4.5 Whilst most arrangements for this provision were secured successfully and the relevant Service Level Agreements were agreed, one supplier was unable to meet the requirements of the Council and the arrangement could not be renewed. As such, alternative arrangements had to be made urgently for 38 households. The Council's partner organisations such as the Wallich, Pobl and Registered Social Landlords supported the service to free up spaces within current projects, and ensured that some nominations waiting for completion were fulfilled, to allow us to move residents from the hotel into these spaces. Staff from the Wallich and Pobl supported the residents during the transfer process.

4.6 All 38 households were provided with offers of alternative accommodation. Some chose to make their own arrangements and the result is as follows:-

21 were provided with alternative temporary accommodation-

In the private sector

In Registered Social Landlord properties

In housing projects such as Brynmenyn Hostel, ABBA (Alternative to Bed and Breakfast Accommodation), Kerrigan Project

6 were provided with permanent accommodation

5 made their own arrangements with family/friends

1 required hospital admission

5 chose not to take up the offer of accommodation made

4.7 Although the arrangement with this particular provider ceased, the Service continues to rely on the private sector, tourism sector, established housing projects, and in hotels and B+B's throughout the County as temporary accommodation whilst alternative solutions are found. The Service also continues to work with Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) to secure permanent accommodation.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

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

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

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

- A prosperous Wales

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

Long term	Providing temporary accommodation for people who are homeless whilst seeking a permanent solution
Preventative	Through a person centred approach preventing individuals and families being without accommodation
Involvement	Supporting people through this process and providing accommodation and outreach support if required through Housing Services
Integration	Ensure individuals have accommodation
Collaboration	Working in partnership with a range of providers

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The projected costs of temporary accommodation in 2022-23 are £4.233 million. There is a core budget of £2.192 million for this accommodation. Additionally, WG funding of £2.525 million has been awarded in 2022-23 towards these costs, without which the service would have a projected over spend of £2.041 million.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the work being undertaken in relation to providing temporary accommodation in Bridgend County Borough Council and consider and make comments upon the report.

Carys Lord
CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

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Background documents: None

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 OCTOBER 2022

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

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

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

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

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

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

communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.
- 3.2 The Council's Constitution also provides for each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee to propose items for the Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework, for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have oversight and refer any cross cutting topics to a Scrutiny Committee.

Best Practice / Guidance

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

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

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Forward Work Programme

- 3.6 Following the approval of the schedule of Scrutiny Committee meeting dates at the Annual Meeting of Council on 18th May 2022, the standing statutory reports to this Scrutiny Committees upon: the Corporate Plan the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Performance, the Corporate Plan, the Medium Term Financial Strategy

(MTFS) and Budget, Performance and Budget Monitoring, etc. were mapped to the appropriate timely meeting dates into a draft Forward Work Programme.

- 3.7 The draft Forward work programme for this Committee was prepared using a number of difference sources, including:
- Corporate Risk Assessment;
 - Directorate Business Plans;
 - Previous Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme report topics / Minutes;
 - Committee / Member proposed topics;
 - Policy Framework;
 - Cabinet Work Programme;
 - Discussions with Corporate Directors;
 - Performance Team regarding the timing of performance information.
- 3.8 There are items where there is a statutory duty for Policy Framework documents to be considered by Scrutiny, e.g. the MTFS including draft budget proposals scheduled for consideration in December 2022, following which the Committee will coordinate the conclusions and recommendations from each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in a report on the overall strategic overview of Cabinet's draft Budget proposals to the meeting of Cabinet in February 2023.
- 3.9 An effective FWP identifies the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear plan. However, at each meeting the Committee will have an opportunity to review this as the Forward Work Programme Update will be a standing item on the Agenda, detailing which items are scheduled for future meetings and be requested to clarify any information to be included in reports and the list of invitees. The FWP will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with updates from each SOSC FWP and any updated information gathered from FWP meetings with Corporate Directors.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Committee approved its Forward Work Programme at its meeting on 30th June 2022 and has reviewed and added to it at subsequent meetings.
- 4.2 The Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programmes and Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheets are also being reported to the Committee for coordination and oversight of the overall FWP, following consideration by their respective Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The SOSC FWP's and Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheets will be included in the standing FWP Update report as updated by each SOSC meeting.

Identification of Further Items

- 4.3 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria Form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to ensure a strategic responsibility for Scrutiny and that its work benefits the Authority. There are a

number of questions and processes that can help the Committee come to a decision on whether to include a referred topic, some of which are set out below:

Recommended Criteria for Selecting Scrutiny Topics:

PUBLIC INTEREST:	The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;
ABILITY TO CHANGE:	Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence, and add value to;
PERFORMANCE:	Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council is not performing well;
EXTENT:	Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the County Borough; or a large number of the Authority's service users or its population;
REPLICATION:	Work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Reasons to Reject Scrutiny Topics:

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

Corporate Parenting

- 4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a Local Authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek, for children in public care, the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.
- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.

- 4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.
- 4.7 The Forward Work Programme for COSC is attached as **Appendix A** for the Committee's consideration.
- 4.8 The Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet for the previous meetings is attached as **Appendix B**, to track responses to the Committee's recommendations at the previous meetings.
- 4.9 The Forward Work Programmes for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees are attached as **Appendices C, D and E** for coordination and oversight of the overall Forward Work Programme.
- 4.10 The Monitoring Action Sheets for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees are attached as **Appendices F, G and H** to track responses to recommendations made at their respective previous Committee meetings.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

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

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

- 7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:
- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery.
 - Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet.

- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives.
- Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service and Elected Members.
- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures that the public and stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

8. Financial implications

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

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

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

Kelly Watson
Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
 21 October 2022

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Background documents: None.

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**Forward Work Programme 2022-23
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

APPENDIX A

Date of Meeting:	Report Topics:
Thursday 30 June 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of Chairperson report; - Revenue Budget Outturn 2021-22 - Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination report; - Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel report; - Draft Forward Work Programme
Thursday 21 July 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget Monitoring 2022-23 – Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast - Council’s Performance against its Wellbeing Objectives for 2021 - 22 (Year End Performance) - Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel report
Monday 5 September 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22
Thursday 27 October 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget Monitoring 2022-23 – Quarter 2 Revenue Forecast - Temporary Accommodation
Monday 14 November 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing / Homelessness Report to include RSL and third sector invitees <p>NB. Proposed combined meeting of COSC and SOSC 3</p>
Thursday 15 December 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-27 and Budget Proposals * - Q2 Performance Report 2022-23 - Progress on the Performance of Disabled Facilities Grants - Cost of Living Payment Scheme Rollout
Tuesday 31 January 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scrutiny Recommendations on Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-27 and Draft Budget Consultation Process - New Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 - Capital Strategy 2023 – 24 onwards - Budget Monitoring 2022-23 - Quarter 3 Revenue Forecast
Thursday 2 March 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workforce, Recruitment and Retention

*If the Budget Settlement is received late as in previous years, the scrutiny of the Draft MTFs and Budget Proposals will need to be moved to meeting dates to be convened after Cabinet in January 2023.

Dependent upon the above there may need to request a meeting be scheduled in the first half of February to redistribute topics and this can be kept under review.

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CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
30 June 2022	Call-in of Cabinet Decision: Recycling and Waste Service Post 2024	<p>The Committee concluded that the Decision would not be referred back to Cabinet but made a number of recommendations:</p> <p>a) That any future consideration of the Waste contract be presented to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a suitable time so as to enable pre-decision scrutiny and effective input into any forthcoming decision. The Committee requested that this incorporate any specialist advice that is commissioned for the future waste service model, before referring on to Cabinet, as mentioned at paragraph 9.5 of the Cabinet report;</p> <p>b) That going forward, contingency measures as well as a deeper look at other possible options for waste</p>	Scrutiny / Cabinet	Recommendations formally reported to Cabinet 18 October 2022 for consideration and response to be provided to COSC.

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<p>service provision is fully and openly considered and deliberated;</p> <p>c) That the other options that were considered in order for Cabinet to arrive at the current decision for a short-term waste contract from 2024 to 2026, be published in the public domain to ensure full openness and transparency.</p>		
30 June 2022	Revenue Budget Outturn 2021-22	The Committee requested information be provided on the nature and source of insurance claims in 2021-22.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 2 September 2022.
30 June 2022	Revenue Budget Outturn 2021-22	The Committee requested information be provided demonstrating the Revenue Reserves held by Directorate.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 2 September 2022.

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
21 July 2022	Budget Monitoring 2022-23 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	The Committee highlighted the impact of the volatility of the price of fuel on services, providers and the Council budget and recommended the need to be mindful of this going forward when scrutinising related reports.	Scrutiny / Committee Members	ONGOING - Recommendation to be actioned by the Scrutiny Team and the Committee.
21 July 2022	Budget Monitoring 2022-23 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	The Committee requested information regarding current recruitment issues, vacancy rates and data regarding repeat advertisements for job vacancies.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer Legal, Regulatory and Human Resources	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 21 October 2022.
21 July 2022	Budget Monitoring 2022-23 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast	The Committee requested the total amount of projected schools' deficit budget for 2022-2023.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 21 July 2022.
21 July 2022	Council Performance Against its Commitments for the Year 2021-22	The Committee recommended that the narrative for Welsh Government PAM/015 (PSR002) in Appendix A regarding Disabled Facilities Grants be expanded to	Scrutiny / Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 21 October 2022.

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		clarify that it included all persons/groups.		
21 July 2022	Council Performance Against its Commitments for the Year 2021-22	The Committee requested a written response regarding the lengthy process of compelling property owners to bring their empty properties into reuse to include real case examples and timescales.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change / Head of Performance & Partnerships	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 21 October 2022.
21 July 2022	Council Performance Against its Commitments for the Year 2021-22	The Committee requested updated literature regarding Bridgend’s promotion of foster care recruitment.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
5 September 2022	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021-22	<p>The Committee recommended that the Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) should include data and graphics to demonstrate the impact of staffing pressures on the Directorate. (b) make reference to the Corporate Risk Register 	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	ACTIONED - Recommendations circulated. Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing acknowledged and reflected recommendations (b) and (c) in an amended Report formally reported to Council on 19 October 2022 and confirmed that recommendation (a) would be

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<p>when referring to the Critical Incident instigated in 2022.</p> <p>(c) should reflect not only the increase in demand on Social Care but also the complexity and nature of referrals being made (particularly in Children's Social Care).</p>		<p>incorporated, as far as possible, into Director of Social Services Annual Report 2022-23.</p>
<p>5 September 2022</p>	<p>Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021-22</p>	<p>The Committee recommended that they write a letter, in support of the Deputy Leader, to the Welsh Government Minister for Social Services regarding budgetary pressures.</p>	<p>Scrutiny / Chair of COSC</p>	<p>Scrutiny team liaising with Chair of COSC re: letter.</p>
<p>5 September 2022</p>	<p>Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021-22</p>	<p>The Committee requested a written response regarding the Adult, Children and Wellbeing Quality Standards detailing the up to date/current position on each of the 'Next Steps' outlined in the Report.</p>	<p>Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.</p>
<p>5 September 2022</p>		<p>The Committee requested a copy of the letter sent by the Deputy</p>	<p>Scrutiny / Deputy Leader and</p>	<p>ACTIONED – response and</p>

APPENDIX B

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021-22	Leader to the Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Social Services regarding workforce concerns.	Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help	information circulated 21 October 2022.
5 September 2022	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021-22	The Committee requested Information regarding the Discharge Hub at the Princess of Wales Hospital and information on how Care and Repair support the service.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing / Head of Adult Social Care	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
5 September 2022	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021-22	The Committee requested information on the innovative ways in which the Council is recruiting staff.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
5 September 2022	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021-22	The Committee requested confirmation of whether Social Services plan to engage primary school children in survey work to set wellbeing baselines for the Council's review of play sufficiency, as they had done with the secondary school children.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing / Group Manager Sports and Physical Activity	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.

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

APPENDIX C

<u>Date of Meeting:</u>	<u>Report Topics:</u>
Monday 4 July 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination report; - Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel report; - Draft Outline Forward Work Programme
Monday 12 September 2.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting postponed for national period of mourning - Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding
Monday 10 October 11am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
Thursday 1 December 11am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-27 and Inflationary Pressures * - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
Thursday 19 January 11am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curriculum for Wales and the New Framework for Evaluation, Improvement and Accountability
Monday 13 March 11am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Help Service Pressures
Date to be scheduled	Upgrading of older school facilities that are not being replaced under School Modernisation and improving their energy efficiency in line with the 2030 Decarbonisation Agenda.
Date to be scheduled	English Language Schools' catchment areas / capacity.

* If the Budget Settlement is received late as in recent years, the scrutiny of the Draft MTFs and Budget Proposals will need to be moved to the meeting on 19 January 2023.

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<u>Date of Meeting:</u>	<u>Report Topics:</u>
Mon 11 July 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination report; - Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel report; - Draft Outline Forward Work Programme.
Thurs 15 September 10am	<p>Meeting postponed for national period of mourning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Performance Evaluation Report Of Childrens Social Care Services 23 - 27 May 2022 — Summary of Adult Services Inspection Reports
Thurs 3 November 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Early Intervention to Reduce Care Experienced Children and Key Pressures including Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA), Early Help and Edge of Care. - Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Performance Evaluation Report Of Childrens Social Care Services 23 - 27 May 2022 — Annual Report – Safeguarding of Children and Adults.
Thurs 8 December 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-27 and Budget Proposals * - Learning Disabilities Action Plan - Annual Report - Safeguarding of Children and Adults. - Early Intervention to Reduce Care Experienced Children and Key Pressures including Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA), Early Help and Edge of Care - Summary of Adult Services Inspection Reports
Thurs 16 February 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Working with Cwm Taf University Health Board. - Delays in Adult Social Care Packages - Support for Young Carers and Adult Carers
Mon 27 March 10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention and Wellbeing, Leisure (Halo) and Cultural Trusts (Awen) and Further Integration with BAVO. - Adult Mental Health
Date to be scheduled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post 18 Housing and Financial Support for Care Experienced Children

* If the Budget Settlement is received late as in previous years, the scrutiny of the Draft MTFS and Budget Proposals will need to be moved to a meeting date to be convened after Cabinet in January 2023.

<u>Date of Meeting:</u>	<u>Report Topics:</u>
Monday 18 July 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination - Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel - Draft Outline Forward Work Programme
Monday 26 September 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared Prosperity Fund - Levelling Up Fund
Monday 14 November 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Joint Committees Regional Responsibilities - Housing / Homelessness Report to include RSL and third sector invitees <p>NB. Proposed combined meeting of SOSC 3 and COSC</p>
Monday 12 December 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-24 to 2026-27 and Budget Proposals * - Corporate Joint Committees Regional Responsibilities
Monday 20 February 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report upon Porthcawl Regeneration to include Porthcawl Regeneration projects, the PRIF (Porthcawl Resort Investment forecast), Cosy Corner and the Grand Pavilion. - Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy Local - Biodiversity Action Plan
Monday 17 April 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy Local - Biodiversity Action Plan move - Future Waste Services Work Streams
Date to be scheduled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A report upon accessible playground equipment in play areas and access to play areas, parks and playing field pavilions, for the disabled community across the County Borough, and the latest Assessment and Action Plan in accordance with Equalities legislation. (Cross Directorate Report)

* If the Budget Settlement is received late as in recent years, the scrutiny of the Draft MTFs and Budget Proposals will need to be moved to a meeting date to be convened after Cabinet in January 2023.

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Subject Overview & Scrutiny Committee 1

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
4 July 2022	Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination	Councillor Tim Thomas was nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy	ACTIONED – Membership of Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee updated and formally reported to Cabinet 19 July 2022.
4 July 2022	Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Richard Collins was nominated to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – Membership of Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel updated and initial Briefing session arrangements underway.
4 July 2022	Forward Work Programme Update	With regard to the Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding report scheduled for the meeting on 12 September, the Committee wished to look at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil wellbeing from an attendance perspective and support in schools from Education Welfare Officers; 	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support	ACTIONED - Feedback provided to Corporate Director – Education and Family Support to include focussed aspects in the scope of this report.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Free school meal programme is being rolled out in schools across the county borough. • What support schools are getting particularly for care experienced children and are there effective lines of communication between schools and social services support. • In relation to increased referrals to Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the way in which referrals from schools to IAA are dealt with and the support in the team (and requested representatives from IAA / CAMHS in relation to pupil attendance /safeguarding), for the September report. 		
4 July 2022	Forward Work Programme Update	<p>The Committee recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing be revisited within a suitable time frame to monitor progress and support. • Sight of the Corporate Management Dashboard for the Education Directorate on a quarterly basis at the appropriate time. • The Committee requested that Pupil Wellbeing be included and monitored as part of the Directorate Performance Dashboard in future. 	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support	Acknowledgement of Recommendations circulated requesting response received and information being collated - to be provided.

10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee Recommended that the Local Authority considers whether it can make safeguarding training mandatory for School Governors.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support / Group Manager Vulnerable Groups Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee Recommended that the Local Authority conduct a review of school pickup times by contracted transport providers and the impact on the safeguarding and well-being of pupils and staff.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support / Group Manager, Business Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee Recommended that the consistency of schools' links visits by Police Liaison Officers be escalated to ensure contact and input with all schools.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support / Group Manager Vulnerable Groups Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee Recommended that concern is expressed regarding communication delay when headteachers made safeguarding referrals and were	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing /	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.

		waiting to receive information that they needed to receive quickly.	Deputy Head of Children's Social Care	
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee Recommended that the positives of wellbeing support in schools be shared across the county borough as best practice.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee Recommended that the Corporate Director - Education and Family Support be requested to raise at the next Regional Partnership Board meeting the need for consistent community communication from the Health Board and a consistent message to schools for communicating with parents regarding Covid, to clarify the rules for whether pupils should attend.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee Recommended that the human resource challenges are addressed to enable provision of breakfasts in all schools, to meet the national legislative obligations set out by Welsh Government.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support / Group Manager, Business Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions,	The Committee Recommended that concern is expressed regarding grants for	Scrutiny / Corporate	Recommendations circulated

	Health and Safeguarding	school uniforms being monetary rather than voucher where the money is not being spent on uniforms, due to the cost-of-living pressures and children were attending school in old clothing or not in uniform.	Director – Education and Family Support	requesting response - to be provided.
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee requested a response on what wellbeing support was available for pupils taking examinations and what support and information pupils could access regarding the War in Ukraine.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support / Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee requested the consistent themes / concerns regarding exclusions and pupil non-attendance in secondary schools in more granular detail and the support mechanism in place to support the families.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support / Group Manager Vulnerable Groups Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee requested information regarding individual Schools' waiting lists for counselling.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support / Group Manager - Family Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.

10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee requested exclusions data represented by percentage of pupil population per school / area.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support / Group Manager Vulnerable Groups Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
10 Oct 2022	Pupil Attendance, Exclusions, Health and Safeguarding	The Committee requested data regarding the extent of behaviour linked to undiagnosed mental health and ADHD, to include the waiting times for ADHD diagnosis and CAMHS.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director – Education and Family Support / Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
11 July 2022	Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination	Councillor Alan Wathan was nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy	ACTIONED – Membership of Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee updated and formally reported to Cabinet 19 July 2022.
11 July 2022	Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Paula Ford was nominated to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – Membership of Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel updated and initial Briefing session arrangements underway.
11 July 2022	Forward Work Programme Update	The Chairperson proposed that a glossary of acronyms would assist Members.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED - response and information circulated to Members.

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Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
18 July 2022	Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination	Councillor Jonathan Pratt was nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy	ACTIONED – Membership of Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee updated and formally reported to Cabinet 19 July 2022.
18 July 2022	Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Colin Davies was nominated to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – Membership of Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel updated and initial Briefing session arrangements underway.
18 July 2022	Forward Work Programme Update	The Committee requested the following representatives be invited for the following reports scheduled for the September meeting:	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – Requested Invitees have been invited to attend the September meeting of the Committee.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the Shared Prosperity Fund report, the appropriate lead Officers. - For the Levelling Up Fund report, the appropriate lead Officers and a representative of Awen Cultural Trust, as management of the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. 		
26 Sept 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee Recommended that concern is expressed over the risks involved of both insufficient funds to complete the project in addition to achieving the project proposals within the allocated time.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
26 Sept 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee Recommended that further concern is expressed regarding the lack of resources and expertise within the Directorate and its ability to cope with the additional work associated with the project. Members did not agree that it was appropriate to transfer staff	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<p>from other roles and projects as this would be counterproductive. The Committee also noted that the landscape for Local Authorities applying for funding is changing with timescales being very limited and criteria issued at a late stage in the process, meaning the Authority has a narrow timeframe to develop and formalise substantial bids. The Committee therefore recommended that priority needs to be given to resources within the Communities directorate to ensure that not only is it able to successfully take forward this project, but to ensure that the infrastructures are in place to enable the Authority to be best placed to apply and make the most of any future funding opportunities. As well as a strategic plan being developed, Members recommend that potential projects underneath this be drafted so that when the opportunity arises, they already have the basis for the application.</p>		

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
12 Sept 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	<p>The Committee Recommended that strong concerns are expressed over the poor return that Bridgend County Borough had received in their allocation from the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and the unfairness around the funding mechanism behind this. The Committee therefore agreed to write directly to those within the UK Government responsible for the SPF to highlight the issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The fact that the allocation does not take into account that Bridgend is one of the fastest growing areas in Wales; b. The limited time the Authority has had to both put together proposals and then to utilise the fund and achieve its aims, is unreasonable and potentially puts the project and public funds at risk. <p>The Committee requested that this letter be copied to both local</p>	Scrutiny / Chair of SOSC 3	Scrutiny requested contact details for the letter and will liaise with Chair of SOSC 3.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		MPs; Dr Jamie Wallis and Chris Elmore.		
12 Sept 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee requested a copy of any presentation made to the Town and Community Council Forum on Bridgend's Local Investment Plan proposals.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
12 Sept 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee requested further information on how claims will be processed by RCT as the Lead Authority as well as detail on the reporting and accountability process.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
12 Sept 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee requested further detail on the project proposals when available including breakdowns of the funding within each proposal.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
			Resources & Sustainability	
12 Sept 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee requested clarification as to whether there would be clawback on the funds should the outputs as set out in the proposals, not be achieved.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
12 Sept 2022	Levelling Up Fund	The Committee Recommended similarly to the discussions around the SPF, concern is again expressed over the tight timescales surrounding the applications for the Levelling Up Fund as well as the timescales to complete the projects, particularly if there was no extension allowed. The Penprysg Railway Bridge was particularly at risk due to the level of work that this would involve to complete.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager Planning & Development Services	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
12 Sept 2022	Levelling Up Fund	The Committee Recommended that they strongly supported the	Scrutiny / Corporate	Recommendations circulated

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<p>work around alternative or temporary arrangements and locations during the interim period of the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl being closed. Particular emphasis, however, was placed on making sure Porthcawl would not lose footfall and revenue. Members requested feedback on these plans and mitigating measures when available but furthermore recommended that as part of this work, a feasibility study be undertaken on the potential for a temporary facility being put in place in Porthcawl whilst the Pavilion is closed. The proposal was made to explore the option of utilising the Section 106 aspect of the development contract in relation to mitigate the impact of the building closure on the community.</p>	<p>Director, Communities / Group Manager Strategic Regeneration</p>	<p>requesting response - to be provided.</p>
<p>12 Sept 2022</p>	<p>Levelling Up Fund</p>	<p>The Committee requested the timeframe for the completion of the Maesteg Town Hall project. Concerns were raised about whether the Town Hall would be</p>	<p>Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities /</p>	<p>Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.</p>

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		completed before the Grand Pavilion closed for redevelopment. Members also requested information on what this meant for Awen revenue.	Group Manager Strategic Regeneration	
12 Sept 2022	Levelling Up Fund	The Committee requested Further information (including a possible feasibility study requested in the above recommendations) on any proposed temporary facility and alternative arrangements whilst the Pavilion is closed.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager Strategic Regeneration	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
12 Sept 2022	Levelling Up Fund	Concerns were expressed regarding the Penprysg Railway Bridge around funding, completion and the potential impact of heavy traffic in the area. The Committee requested a briefing paper once the project had been approved, illustrating the plans that were to be put in place to monitor and mitigate the impact of traffic on both sides of the proposed bridge. On the subject of parking in Porthcawl linked to redevelopment projects such as the Grand Pavilion and	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager Planning & Development Services	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<p>the aim to increase footfall in the area, the Committee were advised of a Parking study that was currently taking place in Porthcawl as part of its Regeneration and Placemaking plans. The Committee requested that they be involved in the development of a Strategic Transport Plan for Porthcawl and that this be added to the Committee's FWP.</p>		
<p>12 Sept 2022</p>	<p>Forward Work Programme Update</p>	<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expressed concern that taxis are only permitted to use the one DVSA accredited MOT station appointed by BCBC and that if the vehicle fails, the fixing work cannot be done there so the vehicle has to be booked in to another garage to get the fixing work completed, then rebooked in to the permitted MOT station for an additional fee and a further test, which can result in taxi's being off the road for longer, higher costs and a significant loss of earnings. The 	<p>Scrutiny / Licensing Committee</p>	<p>ACTIONED – referred to Chair of Licensing Committee and Bridgend's Licensing Officer. Acknowledgement received from Operational Manager Neighbourhood Services – Vale of Glamorgan that a paper would be brought to the relevant Licensing Committee on this topic for discussion and approval for further research on alternatives.</p>

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<p>garage is also very busy with testing of South Wales Police and BCBC vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - referred to other Local Authorities, e.g. Cardiff allowing the use of any DVSA accredited MOT station which makes things easier for operators and fairer for all DVSA registered MOT stations. - expressed concern about the potential further impact this may be having locally regarding the shortness of availability of taxis in the County Borough generally and particularly later at night. - queried how performance / reliability of taxi's was monitored through licence renewals or otherwise and how the Authority reviews cancellations, late night cancellations, availability after hours and what is being done to enable improvement and a reliable taxi fleet. <p>The Committee referred the topic to the Licensing Committee for consideration and action.</p>		

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