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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



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

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

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



Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /
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Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Thursday, 15 June 2023

Dear Councillor,

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held Hybrid in the Council Chamber Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB /remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, 21 June 2023 at 16:00**.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest from Members/Officers in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 5 - 40
To receive for approval the minutes of 12/04/2023 and 17/05/2023
4. To receive announcements from:
(i) Mayor (or person presiding)
(ii) Members of the Cabinet
(iii) Chief Executive
5. To receive announcements by the Leader
6. Presentation by the Chief Commissioner of South Wales Police 41 - 42
7. Revenue Budget Outturn 2022-23 43 - 76
8. Capital Programme Outturn 2022-23 77 - 90
9. Treasury Management Outturn 2022-23 91 - 108
10. Licensing Act 2003 - Approval to publish Cumulative Impact Assessment -
Bridgend town centre 109 - 126

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11. Review Of Community Arrangements Of All Town & Community Councils 127 - 144

12. To receive the following Questions from

Cllr Eugene Caparros to the Leader

I am aware that Welsh Government are introducing legislation which will change the default speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in built up areas from the 17th of September this year. Whilst Members received a briefing on this in March this year, could you please outline the progress to date within BCBC, how the public consultation was received and whether we will be ready for the roll out of this legislation in Bridgend in September?

Cllr Tim Thomas to the Leader

Will the Leader briefly outline his policy proposals to adopt '15 minute towns' within the County Borough?

Cllr Maxine Lewis to the Cabinet Member - Housing, Planning and Regeneration

Where are we with the development of a Valleys Regeneration Strategy, as it is identified in the new corporate plan.

Cllr Ian Williams to the Cabinet Member - Community Safety and Wellbeing

Can the Cabinet Member please give me some indication as to what provision is being made in Bridgend for outdoor play and recreational facilities for older children in Bridgend County and when? At a meeting last December it was agreed to provide a play area in Newbridge Fields for older children but in a recent email I was told that this was not being taken forward at the moment but it could be an option in the future. Could I therefore ask when this important provision will take place?

Cllr Mark John to the Cabinet Member - Climate Change and Environment

Could I have a progress report on the Bridgend Heat Network.

13. Urgent Items

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

Note: This will be a Hybrid meeting and Members and Officers will be attending in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street Bridgend / Remotely via Microsoft Teams. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513 / 643696

Yours faithfully

K Watson

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

Councillors:

Councillors

Councillors

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

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

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

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COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 12 APRIL 2023

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 12 APRIL 2023 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor M Jones – Chairperson

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

Apologies for Absence

MJ Kearns, J Llewellyn-Hopkins, RL Penhale-Thomas and JH Tildesley MBE

Officers:

Nicola Echanis	Head of Education & Family Support
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Helen Hammond	
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Alex Rawlin	Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager
Zak Shell	Head of Neighbourhood Services
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services

118. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor H Bennett declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6 as a member of the Public Service Board and Regional Partnership Board, through her employment.

119. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the previous meetings of Council dated 1 March 2023 and 15 March 2023, were approved as true and accurate records, subject to an amendment being made to page 11 of the minutes of the 1 March, namely that on the top of the page where reference is made to 'the Trade Union Pay Claim for staff was unfair' that this be changed to 'fair'.

120. **TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:**

Mayor

I hope you all enjoyed the Easter holiday with family and friends.

It is a particular favourite time of the year for myself where I like to see sunlight and daffodils thriving across all our communities. A timely reminder that summer will soon be upon us.

Since our last full Council meeting, I have had the pleasure yet again of meeting some incredible and remarkable people within our County Borough.

Some examples included, the birthday celebrations for Mrs Helena Charles BEM who celebrated her 105 birthdays in her home community of Blaengarw. A truly remarkable lady who shared memories of a lifetime in the Garw Valley, Mrs Charles is probably our most senior person in the County Borough, but I am sure I will be corrected if this is not right.

I met the Ogmores Valley Suicide Awareness Group and had the pleasure of awarding its members a Mayors Certificate for their service to the community. The group were nominated for such an award by the Ogmores Valley Community Council.

It was a humbling experience to meet members of the group some of which had themselves experienced the collateral trauma of suicide. To listen to their experiences and witness at first hand their incredible focus and positivity to help others suffering from mental health issues was incredible.

It was also a particularly proud moment to attend the Declaration Ceremony of our new High Sheriff for Mid Glamorgan, Professor Jean White.

This was a very proud moment to witness the Declaration. I am sure the whole Chamber will join me in wishing Professor White the very best in her twelve-month term of office.

Could I also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing High Sheriff Maria Thomas for her support to the County Borough during her term of office. It was a pleasure to accompany and work with Maria at many civic events both within the County Borough and beyond.

I also had the privilege of welcoming Princess Anne Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal to the Bridgend Carers facility at Park Street Bridgend.

The event led by Helen Pitt manager of the Bridgend Carers Centre just demonstrates how vital a service the Bridgend Carers provide to unpaid carers. It was clear that unpaid carers make such a difference to our communities often in very difficult situations. The energy and pride within the centre were palpable.

A big thank you to all the team at Bridgend Carers. I am sure the whole chamber will continue to support your vital engagement and service to the most vulnerable.

Quite a unique experience and a first for me, was to be a guest of honour for a visit to the Dar-Ui-Isra Mosque at Wyeverne Road in Cardiff to share a Ramadam Meal.

This was an incredible experience, especially when I was asked to address the congregation.

I met so many lovely people and enjoyed the various presentations on the meaning of Ramadam which is a sacred time and a key celebration in the Islamic calendar.

I would like to personally thank Dr Yasim Khan for her hospitality and her company during our evening meal.

Finally, there are still some names missing from the Dragons List. It is a £1 to nominate a name for the Dragon, and all proceeds received will go towards the Mayor's Charity.

As your Mayor and Chair of full Council, I am asking you to please donate if you can.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Social Services

Members will be aware that Bridgend County Borough Council has a strong record of promoting the importance of foster care, and of our longstanding and ongoing efforts to recruit new foster carers.

We are about to take this to the next level by seeking to become an accredited Fostering Friendly Employer.

Created by the UK's leading fostering charity, Fostering Network, this is a standard which is presented to organisations that can demonstrate their support for both fostering and people who act as foster carers.

To support this, they have developed a programme which, upon completion, sees a participating organisation adopt a Fostering Friendly policy.

This ensures that staff who also act as foster carers can work flexibly where possible and can receive up to five days leave for foster care issues, such as helping a child settle into their new home, or to attend relevant training that supports them in their fostering role.

This is an important step for the Council to take as we need to lead by example and demonstrate to other employers and organisations that it is possible to be both an effective employee and an effective foster carer.

We also want to help break the myth that individuals are not allowed to work if they become a foster carer.

This move will support our own efforts in recruiting new foster carers who can offer children vital day-to-day support, love and stability, and act as a positive role model.

If members would like to know more, further details are available at the Foster Wales Bridgend website.

I would also like to repeat the offer to Members who attended the training in relation to Foster Care, so you can all have a t-shirt to wear to the gym etc, as this will promote and advertise Foster Care Wales. Foster Caring is such a rewarding experience and I would also encourage any member of the public to explore such an opportunity. I have found it extraordinarily rewarding 35 years on after taking on such a role.

Cabinet Member - Regeneration

Members will have noted the recent news coverage regarding the purchase by Welsh Government of key pieces of land in Porthcawl that are vital for the Council's regeneration of the waterfront area.

The sale has included the freehold interest in the Coney Beach Amusement Park site and the leasehold interest in an adjoining section of land known locally as the 'monster park' as it was previously used to exhibit sculptures of dinosaurs.

The significance of this, of course, is that it has freed up Council time and resources and has enabled us to focus more of our resources upon maximising the benefits of the regeneration.

As a result, we are seeking to increase the amount of affordable housing that will become available as part of this project.

The acquisition of the two sites means that the whole of the 20 hectare zone required for this phase of the regeneration has now been unlocked.

This is a major sign of confidence from Welsh Government, both in Porthcawl as a location and a community, and in the Council's plans for regeneration.

We will now be seeking to work in partnership with Welsh Government to regenerate the area in line with both the Local Development Plan and the Placemaking Strategy for Porthcawl.

I will bring you more news as this develops further.

Cabinet Member – Education

Members may be interested to know that a number of local schools have recently been assessed by inspectors from Estyn and praised for supporting local learners.

Afon y Felin, Brynmenyn and Corneli primary schools have all been inspected, and have all been deemed successful for demonstrating sufficient progress with no follow-up actions required.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, all schools were exempt from Estyn inspections for a two-year period which extended from March 2020 to February 2022.

While that was in effect, Estyn developed new inspection procedures which focus upon how well providers are supporting a child to learn, rather than using summative gradings used previously.

The current reporting format now uses one of four categories when inspecting a school, ie no follow up, Estyn review, significant improvement required, and special measures required.

I am sure that members will want to join me in congratulating the three schools on their inspection success.

I also want to congratulate nine year old Harri Evans from Plasnewydd Primary School for his successful poster design which is being used as the focal point of the Love It, Don't Trash It campaign in Maesteg.

Harri's design is being featured on posters, bin and lamppost signage throughout the Llynfi Valley to support the anti-littering campaign. His poster features the Grade II listed Maesteg Town Hall and the Llynfi River with a clear message not to discard litter irresponsibly, but to place it in one of the town's bins.

As part of the campaign, pupils have taken part in interactive workshops delivered by ADA Recycling as well as litter picks and science-based workshops facilitated by NatureQuest.

The 'Love It, Don't Trash It!' campaign has already proven to be a big success in areas such as Porthcawl, Brackla, the Ogmere Valley, the Garw Valley and Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribbwr.

I am sure that this will be just as successful in the Maesteg area, especially with Harri's poster to represent it.

Cabinet Member – Communities

We recently completed a clean-up of a 10-mile section of the A48 to remove litter that has been thrown from passing cars, and which has accumulated along the verge, in trees and roadside shrubbery.

Our staff collected more than 550 bags within the first two days collections alone.

By the end of the week, a total of 1,200 bags had been filled with discarded litter, the equivalent of 120 bags for every mile of road covered.

Our staff also removed almost three and a half tonnes of fly tipping from the route. This included sofas, chairs and other items of furniture to worn tyres, wooden pallets and builders' waste.

Because of the need to create a safe working environment, slow-moving impact protection vehicles had to be used and rolling sections of the route had to be shut down to a single lane, which meant that the cost of the clean-up was more than £6,000 pounds.

This money could have been better spent on providing other services if only people had chosen to take their litter home and dispose of it in a responsible manner.

As a result, the Council has used the exercise as an opportunity to publicise the utter futility of dropping litter, as people who do this, are ultimately hitting themselves and other taxpayers in the pocket.

At a time when budgets are being squeezed and the cost of living crisis is hitting hard, our message is for people to take responsibility for their own rubbish and recycling and not to let taxpayers pick up the bill for dealing with their mess.

This is an issue that we will be seeking to publicise further in future, and I will bring you more details soon.

Cabinet Member – Wellbeing and Future Generations

Recent media coverage has highlighted work that is taking place to improve local communities by brightening up hotspots for vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

This is being achieved by commissioning professional graffiti artists to paint uplifting scenes and images at each location, all designed to raise spirits and encourage a greater sense of community pride.

So far it has improved the look of subways located in areas such as Merthyr Mawr, Brackla and Broadlands, and while the media coverage to date has focused mainly upon

this aspect, I think Members may be interested to know that there is a more significant reason behind the work.

It all forms part of the Positive Messages campaign, a project which is seeking to combat hateful vandalism and divisive sloganeering by turning it into stunning art that all the community can enjoy.

Organised by our own Community Safety Partnership and the Western Bay Community Cohesion team, the project has involved working with Council staff to identify problem hotspots.

Suitable counter narratives have been developed in partnership with local groups such as the Bridgend Writers Circle, and replacement artwork has been designed by graffiti artists such as Another Day, Another Spray and THEW Creative.

For example, a central message of 'Hope' was chosen for the Merthyr Mawr subway, while 'nature' was selected for a subway in Brackla.

Both have made a massive difference to the local community and have drawn huge amounts of praise and attention for the positive, transformative impact that they are having.

Hate and division has no place in Bridgend County Borough, nor anywhere else.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this inspirational project a success and urge any Member who has not already done so to take a closer look.

Cabinet Member – Resources

I would once more ask Members to urge their constituents to remain vigilant for the latest scams seeking to convince householders to part with cash or hand over confidential information.

The pandemic lockdown saw the criminals behind these scams become increasingly creative and I regret to report that we are continuing to receive complaints and reports from concerned residents.

The most common scam continues to involve a fake phone call advising householders that they are owed a refund on their council tax payments.

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

We also receive complaints from people who have been offered fake refunds on their water, electricity or gas bills.

Bridgend County Borough Council will never phone a householder to ask them to provide bank account details over the telephone.

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

As always, more advice on how people can protect themselves against scams is available at the Shared Regulatory Services website.

Chief Executive

Members will recall that at the last meeting of full Council, you approved the new Corporate Plan for the period 2023 to 2028.

Following this, we took the plan away for further design and translation work, and to prepare it for a public launch.

I'm pleased to inform you that this has now been completed, and that we are preparing to publicly launch the new corporate plan next week.

Called 'Delivering Together', the plan showcases a fresh new approach for outlining how we intend to provide essential services, work alongside local people and partners, and carry out business over the next five years.

Specifically designed to be more accessible and easier for people to engage with, it has been produced using feedback from residents of all ages and backgrounds, users and providers of council services, elected members, partner organisations, other local authorities and more.

The new Corporate Plan for 2023-28 provides us with a clear, well-informed and relevant basis for ensuring that we can continue to provide essential services while meeting the numerous challenges that stand before us.

Over the next few weeks, we will be carrying out further publicity to highlight different aspects of the plan, including a social media campaign, and members will receive an email featuring more information and a hyperlink to the plan itself.

I hope that members will lend their support to this publicity campaign, and that you will encourage your constituents to access and read the plan, and to consider how they too can offer feedback and help shape how we deliver our services in future.

121. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER

You will have seen news reports about an illegal gathering over the Easter bank holiday weekend, at Kenfig Industrial Estate in Margam, which borders with the Bridgend County Borough. South Wales Police made a public order to direct people to leave the area.

For safety reasons, urgent road closures were put in place with people advised not to attend the gathering on foot or in vehicles.

Responding to an illegal gathering of this size and nature takes its toll on our emergency services, highways teams and clean-up crews, who were unexpectedly called out on Easter Sunday.

I would like to thank the local community for their patience and support along with colleagues at South Wales Police, Neath Port Talbot Council and other partner agencies who worked together to deal with the situation and ensure people left the site safely.

We were also notified over the weekend that a number of caravans had parked illegally at the Rest Bay playing fields in Porthcawl. We took swift action and in conjunction with South Wales Police, a notice was served requiring the caravans to leave the site. Under law, councils must follow a set process and are required to carry out social services assessments and confirm that there are no welfare issues before a notice can be served. As a result of this response, the caravans left the site on Monday.

New legislation from Welsh Government means that from 17 September 2023, the national speed limit will fall from 30mph to 20mph on restricted roads.

Members will know from the briefing that they received that the move aims to reduce road injuries, offer a safer environment to encourage cycling or walking, as well as lower noise pollution.

An online public engagement exercise is currently underway on local exemptions to the reduction from 30mph to 20mph and will remain open until 24 April.

I received a letter of comfort from the Deputy Minister for Climate Change at Welsh Government, Lee Waters, about funding for the implementation of the lower speed limit.

I also received confirmation that a planned consultation over the difficult issue of 'pavement parking' has been postponed until next year.

This follows feedback from Council Leaders advising that greater focus needs to firstly be placed upon the implementation of the new national speed limit requirements, and I am pleased to see that the deputy minister has listened to our concerns.

While parking on pavements is not currently illegal in Wales unless a vehicle is causing an obstruction, Scotland is in the process of banning the practice, and it is already illegal in London.

Charities such as Living Streets Cymru and the Royal National Institute for the Blind have long argued that keeping pavements clear of vehicles is essential for blind and partially sighted people, and also for those with mobility issues who may be forced out into the road to get around a vehicle.

We will bring you further details when the consultation is relaunched later in 2024.

In his letter the Minister also confirmed a short extension of the Bus Emergency Scheme to the end of the summer term. The meeting convened a meeting involving the WLGA, representatives of the bus industry, and Transport for Wales. It was agreed that the current Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) has run its course and is committed to working in partnership to find the best possible way forward.

Finally, the coronation of King Charles III is set to take place on Saturday 6 May, and a bank holiday has been declared to help mark the occasion on Monday 8 May.

Residents coming together to organise street parties marking royal or other national events has long been a British tradition, and the coronation will offer communities throughout Bridgend County Borough a great chance to get together and hold a celebration with neighbours.

To support residents who wish to do this, the Council has produced a step-by-step webpage offering practical advice designed to ensure that people can celebrate safely while also enabling key routes to remain open.

The webpage includes top tips that range from the benefits of planning early or making sure that first aid is available to applying for alcohol and entertainment licences or requesting a road closure.

While there is no charge for applying for a temporary road closure, members may want to remind residents that all applications must be submitted 10 working days before the date of the planned event.

Full details are available at the Council website.

122. **THE WELL-BEING PLAN FOR CWM TAF MORGANNWG**

The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose of which, was to seek approval from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) of the Well-being Plan for Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (PSB).

He confirmed that, changes to the health board footprint created the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board covering Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend local authority areas. It was agreed that the two PSBs covering that area, should merge to become a single PSB to reduce duplication and enable more effective joint working to improve well-being for people in the area.

He added that following publication of the Well-being Plan, Cwm Taf and Bridgend PSBs will merge to form Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board.

The Chief Executive advised that, the overarching theme of the Well-being Plan is 'A More Equal Cwm Taf Morgannwg' that drives every aspect of the Public Services Board's work. The Well-being Assessment informed that the communities in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf have a lot to be proud about. However, not all communities have fair access to opportunities and face different challenges that impact on well-being.

The Well-being Plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report has two objectives and these were outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

The Well-being Plan makes five commitments for the way the single PSB will work and these will be the core principles for the PSB that will guide and challenge activity throughout the PSB structure. These commitments were shown in paragraph 4.5 of the report.

The Chief Executive then alluded to the 12 week consultation that the final draft Plan had been subject to that included an on-line survey, which generated 238 responses.

The Chief Executive concluded his submission, by confirming that in addition to the Public Services Board collectively approving their well-being plan, the six statutory partners must also approve the plan for publication.

The statutory partners are:

- Bridgend County Borough Council,
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Services
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
- Natural Resources Wales

A member asked if there was a proposal for the Plan to be made fully accessible to all, as the copy before Council she noted, did not meet all the necessary accessibility requirements.

The Public Service Board (PSB) Officer confirmed that this would be the case, through the Council's Design Team.

A member making reference to the evidence base of the EIA, noted that the document reflected that there were 238 on-line survey responses in respect of the consultation process. There had also been further engagement sessions that took place at certain public visited establishments within the County Borough, including at Sarn Library. He asked what the attendance had been in respect of the latter.

The PSB Officer confirmed that she did not have the specific levels of attendance at each of the consultation sites, however, the results of all engagement sessions had been fed into the on-line survey. She added, that a more detailed report was planned to be prepared in respect of the engagement sessions undertaken as part of the overall wider consultation.

The Deputy Leader asked for some further details to be shared in respect of the governance arrangements for the PSB, to include details regarding accountability and finance arrangements. Members if furnished with this information, would have a better level of understanding who is responsible for what in the overall set-up.

The Chief Executive agreed that it would be useful to circulate some further information regarding the PSB to all members, including who is represented on this body in terms of organisations, stakeholders and statutory partners etc, including its terms of remit and aims and objectives.

A member made reference to the Welsh Language Standards and asked for some reassurance that the Plan supporting the PSB would be made available in a bi-lingual format.

The Leader advised that in line with all main BCBC strategic documents, that this would be produced in both welsh and english versions.

A member sought assurance that the PSB would align with certain other major plans and policies of the Council/its partners, such as for example, the Local Development Plan (LDP).

The Chief Executive confirmed that this would be the case.

For further debate on this item, please click [here](#)

RESOLVED: That Council approved the Well-being Plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report, for Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board.

123. **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FROM:**

Councillor Tim Wood to the Cabinet Member – Regeneration

During recent years BCBC has expended a significant sum of public money firstly holding a consultation then a report and investigation process into opening a small portion of Bridgend Town Centre back open to traffic.

This consultation back in 2016 had the highest public engagement in the history of this council and the public were resounding in their backing of this partial re-opening of the town centre.

As such, will the Cabinet Member for Regeneration agree that we as a council are here to serve the public, to be good stewards of the public purse and are here to encourage and sustain our town centres not hinder them.

So will the Cabinet Member for Regeneration detail to me their plans to make Bridgend Town Centre accessible to all?

Response

Following on from the Bridgend Town Centre Regeneration Masterplan 2021, there is a continued focus on fulfilling Bridgend's role as a destination and centre for retail, living, employment, education and heritage. To enable this, the Council has, for a number of years, been asked to consider de-pedestrianisation as a potential solution to increasing footfall in the town centre to support the local economy and create a more vibrant and inclusive town centre for residents and visitors alike.

We have indeed completed exercises over recent years in order to establish how access could be improved but have undoubtedly faced barriers along the way, not least a change in Welsh Government policies on Planning and Active Travel, but also a UK Government moratorium on De-pedestrianisation and active travel schemes to allow a review of national policy.

The current Bridgend Town Centre Accessibility Options Appraisal, focusses on improved town centre access and puts forward three potential options to address the issue, aiming to balance competing priorities for the diverse range of stakeholders within Bridgend town centre. Whilst previous studies have suggested options for de-pedestrianisation, this work provides a re-examination of the accessibility of the town centre involving a review of current planning policies such as Planning Policy WALES (Edition 11, February 2021) and the new Wales Transport Strategy, plus a review of the previous access studies undertaken.

An evaluation of the current traffic regulation order (TRO) has also undertaken in order to gain a better understanding of the approach needed to improve town centre access, including electronic bollard management, parking provision and the investigation of click and collect and delivery options.

We are now working with specialists at Atkins to thoroughly test and interrogate the viability of the three options and to determine the preferred option that can be taken forward to delivery stage, ensuring that projects are legally and technically feasible, as well as economically justifiable and worth further investment. In order to determine the preferred option, further extensive consultation will be undertaken with relevant BCBC departments, statutory bodies and elected members.

Options will also be appraised using an criteria assessment framework against key policy and legislation, which will include (but are not limited to):

- Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015
- Wales Transport Strategy 2021
- BCBC Local Development Plan & Local Transport Plan
- BCBC Corporate Wellbeing Plan
- Public Health Board Wellbeing Plan

As part of this stage, inclusive design considerations, urban design and public realm, market demand analysis, highway layout including track runs and visibility requirements, operational considerations, TRO requirements and risk register will also be identified and appraised.

We also have to consider a scheme which is financially deliverable for the authority and acknowledge that the funding landscape has changed in recent years, and as previous

work on this project has indicated, a comprehensive scheme would require significant external grant funding to ensure its deliverability.

It is envisaged that this report will be completed by Summer 2023, allowing the Authority to progress and deliver an agreed proposal that meets the needs and aspirations of key users and that enables the town centre to flourish and achieve its full potential.

Supplementary question from Councillor Wood

Traders were told this information in a Traders meeting a number of weeks ago, yet elected Members who cover this area are only being told now after a written question to Council. It has been 7 years since the consultation, so is it not now time to do what residents want and what other towns have done elsewhere in Wales. So, what assurance will you give me that this project will go ahead, given how many people have requested this and could Councillors be kept fully up to speed on events, as matters progress.

Response

The comprehensive response sets out the current position, though I would reiterate that a number of things have changed since 2016, not least Welsh Government Planning Policy. This has made it more difficult but not impossible to undertake what was originally surveyed. The commitment still exists to explore feasible options, though there is also at the same time, issues around affordability. So undoubtedly arising from conversations with Welsh Government, it is now much more difficult to secure external funding for this type of proposal than it was 7 years ago. The options therefore relate to what is both deliverable and affordable. We will keep members updated as matters progress going forward in relation to the three main options as well as looking to ensure that we maintain a safe environment also for those who reside in the area.

Second supplementary question from Councillor Steven Bletsoe

I would like to make the Cabinet aware that this weekend an elderly person was taken ill while at a restaurant in Bridgend town centre. They phoned for an ambulance and it was confirmed that this would take 8 hours to arrive, so it was suggested that a family member or friend should take him to hospital. The bollard operators subsequently failed to allow the transport entry into the town centre to collect the individual, which obviously put the persons health at serious risk. As this is the second time this has happened in the last 3 months in the town centre, could I have an undertaking from the political leadership of the authority that this matter is addressed before a serious situation such as this, turns into a tragic one.

Response (by the Leader)

I have not been made aware of this, but I will ensure I am updated accordingly and then take it up with both the relevant section in BCBC and the South Wales Police, as an issue of community safety.

Councillor Alex Williams to the Cabinet Member - Communities

Will the Cabinet member - Communities make a statement on the subsidies which BCBC currently provides to support those bus routes which have been deemed as commercially unviable; outline what consideration has been given to the reduction or complete withdrawal of these subsidies; and what analysis has been conducted on the potential ramifications of such a reduction or withdrawal in subsidies on people within the communities which were previously in receipt of subsidised routes?

Response

Current funding for bus services deemed non commercially viable is through Bus Services Support Grant (BSSG), which is allocated for regional services and community transport by Welsh Government. In the case of BCBC the bus services currently supported are:

Service 65 – Bridgend to Talbot Green via Heol y Cyw (Mon – Sat daytime)
Service 70 – Bridgend to Cymmer via Maesteg (Mon – Sat evenings)
Service X2 – Cardiff to Porthcawl via Bridgend (Mon – Sat evenings)

The allocation provided to BCBC by the Welsh Government for 2022/23 was £399,464 of which £95,000 was awarded to Bridgend Community Transport with the remainder to be spent on the region's core strategic bus network and associated services including cross boundary payments to other authorities.

An alternative identified related to Bridgend Community Transport, who have a registered 'Town Rider' provision that operates the whole Bridgend County Borough, in turn providing an alternative service for those residents who no longer had access to a scheduled bus service.

Whilst the BSSG funding described above remains in place, Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) funding is also provided by Welsh Government as a post pandemic support scheme for the industry. BES funding has been through several iterations and is not intended to continue indefinitely. Officers and members are engaging with Welsh Government, Transport for Wales and Bus Operators to understand the implications and potential way forward for all services (not just those previously subsidised) post the current format of BES funding.

Supplementary question from Councillor Williams

I thank the Cabinet Member for his response in which he mentioned support for Route 65, which operates from Bridgend to talbot Green via Heol-y-Cyw, the Ward which I represent. The Leader mentioned in his announcements the Bus Emergency Scheme and Members will be aware, that Council Leaders recently wrote to Welsh Government stating that local bus services are a lifeline for older and younger people, people with disabilities and low income households and that the loss of bus services would impact on individual wellbeing by restricting access to education, economic, health and leisure services, as well as to family and social contacts. However, the current administration started this so-called rationalisation of bus services by withdrawing subsidised groups in the last term of office, both in 2017 and 2019. This has culminated in a drip, drip effect of withdrawing subsidies to support core bus services, which serve to connect isolated communities. Recently we discussed our Net 2030 Strategy and an effective public transport system was cited as a factor which would have an essential role to play. Cabinet recently gave the go ahead for a multi-million pound Metrolink and bus terminus for Porthcawl and now they are at risk of having no buses to go there. In isolated communities such as Heol-y-Cyw and our valley locations with no Active Travel routes, people rely on bus services to remain connected with other communities. Furthermore, if we are to encourage people to get out of their cars, we need to maintain a regular and reliable local bus service to contribute to our aim of becoming a net zero local authority. So could the Cabinet member commit today for BCBC to find the transitional funding in order to subsidise the core bus network which serves our most isolated.

Response

The cuts that the Councillor refers to above were as a result of the austerity cuts of Central Government put on local authorities such as BCBC, whereby the Authority had to find collectively £70m in budget cuts in recent years. So cuts to bus services were imposed upon the Council as part of these wider savings. These have had to be made year on year, in order to reach a balanced budget. It was therefore impossible to make an accurate financial commitment to the future operation of bus services at this time, as we do not know the cost relating to subsidised routes following the subsidies that are currently in place now. Every service in the County Borough cannot operate commercially, so on that basis, every service requires a subsidy of some extent or another. We are discussing future possible options in respect of bus services with both the various operating companies and Welsh Government/Ministers. The Council is committed to taking public transport services forward and will do everything in its power to fulfil such commitment. However, this will require continued funding from both BCBC and Welsh Government funding, which is currently not in place after July of this year. So therefore, we cannot give a financial commitment at present along the lines of the Members request, though we can give an assurance with regards to the continuation of bus services within the County Borough.

Second supplementary question from Councillor Heidi Bennett

I echo some of the views expressed by the previous speaker. My Ward at Penyfai has been without a bus service since July 2022 and that has impacted negatively upon certain residents' wellbeing, leaving many feeling isolated and unable to access key services, which particularly effects our elderly population. Can the Cabinet Member clarify what is the Local Authority's response in relation to public transport provision and what is being done now to try and deliver a sustainable solution.

Response

Public transport is not a statutory service that a local authority is legally required to provide. What we have is a network of private companies operating bus services. While an argument could be made for BCBC providing such services, they are not empowered to provide them. However, it could also be argued that the Council should support the provision of these services for moral and economic reasons, in order to support local communities and to promote business in our towns. Issues regarding public transport, declined many, many years ago when bus de-regulation took place. We are though, continuing to try our best to contribute towards local bus services to support residents and visitors to the County Borough, in order to ensure as best we can, that we have a sustainable public transport network going forward.

Question from Councillor Tim Thomas to the Cabinet Member

What is the Cabinet Member doing to ensure that BCBC roads and highways are accessible for the elderly and disabled?

Response

Access and safety for all highway users is important, as such is considered for all new developments in the design standards being applied from the outset, with the highway authority as consultees in the planning process, making recommendations in relation to conditions to be applied to developments including improvements/inclusion of pedestrian infrastructure.

The Local Development Plan will see significant investment in the existing highway network as well as bringing new development that will be orientated towards providing well designed and safe active travel routes and easy accessibility of services in line with sound placemaking principles.

Once an application is approved and developers enter into agreement for the adoption of their development, designs are checked to ensure compliance with conditions and design standards this may include tactile paving for directing those with visual impairments, light controlled crossings with features such as audible/tactile indicators, dropped pedestrian crossings, pedestrian refuges, including of ramped access. Designs may be safety audited as a further consideration of compliance with relevant standards.

For existing highway infrastructure, where there is capital maintenance such as for the renewal of footways or inclusion active travel routes, there is consideration of introducing dropped kerbs which may benefit not only persons with a mobility issue but also other users (push chairs). In the case of active travel, the width of the existing footway may be widened, or new footway/cycle way created which again may be of benefit for all users. Such improvements link into other initiatives such as raised boarding kerbs at bus stops that have been installed to allow easier boarding of buses for wheelchair users and those with mobility issues. Support is also provided through concessionary travel for over 60's and applicants you qualify on the grounds of disability.

For those in receipt of a 'blue badge,' there are spaces provided both on and off street that are reserved/enforced for those specific users, as well as permitting parking at other locations subject to prevailing signage and guidance.

Whilst much has been achieved there is still much of the network that continue to be improved, improvement and maintenance is all subject to existing budgets and resources being available.

An example of what has been achieved in the past year alone is listed below:

201 No. Locations where kerbing has been altered to facilitate improved pedestrian access (funded by WG Active travel);

50 No. Locations where kerbing has been altered to facilitate improved pedestrian access (funded as part of a whole street footway renewal funded by BCBC capital);

11 No. Locations where new dropped kerbing has been introduced in isolation (funded by BCBC Capital);

2 No. Locations where dropped kerbs have been introduced as part of new developments

Supplementary question from Councillor Thomas

A fellow Ward member and myself, went on a walk in our area with local constituents, one of which was a wheelchair user, to learn about some of her experiences. Arising from this, I wrote a short report and copied in some of the relevant Senior Officers and Members, which I have not yet received a response to but hopefully I will soon. It was pleasing to see that accessibility has been considered for new builds through the planning system and in respect of Active Travel Routes also. My question is quite apt, given the Leaders statement about the consultation regarding parking on pavements. I am quite interested to know, what audits have the local authority undertaken, in order to look at the appropriateness of existing street furniture in order to check if it is appropriate and not obsolete for accessibility purposes for the disabled and elderly, as the Leader did cite walking in streets in the consultation and I believe that this is also a campaign aim of Walking Streets, as well as to ensure that such street furniture on our highways is appropriate.

Response

I will have to come back to the Councillor on the point of if audits of street furniture are carried out, however, Highway Inspectors do regularly carry out inspections of the highway network. I will come back to Members on the first point above.

The Cabinet Member – Communities asked the Member if he could re-send his report through to him so that he could address the points contained therein. If there were any specific issues or concerns along the lines contained in his question within his Ward, then again please share details of these including in respect of provision of accessible parking for the disabled, etc, though wider issues would also be looked at within the County Borough as a whole. I hope when street furniture is provided, these are assessed for the particular area they are provided within, so as not to just resolve one problem while possibly creating another. He stressed that BCBC was committed to both the elderly and disabled when it comes to accessibility for car parking on highways. It was added that we are aware of requests for street furniture that have been refused, as to provide these in specific areas may give rise to a problem of a different nature.

Second supplementary question from Councillor Melanie Evans

I note in the response above, that there are 264 locations referenced where there have been kerb alterations. Please could you elaborate on where these are, including reference to those dropped kerbs

Response

There are 201 locations for kerbing works through the Welsh Government Active Travel Initiative and the majority of these are in the Porthcawl area. There are 50 locations in 4 areas where there have been kerb operations/alterations, undertaken in order to improve pedestrian access and 11 locations where improvements have been made through BCBC Capital Funding. He gave examples of where these works had taken place in the County Borough, for the benefit of Members.

Question from Councillor Ian Williams to the Cabinet Member – Regeneration

Could the Cabinet Member - Regeneration please let me have an update on what measures are being taken to restore the many derelict buildings in our town centre and what is the timeline for this remediation?

Response

There are a variety of reasons for buildings falling into disrepair, and over the years BCBC has put significant emphasis and resource into programmes which have offered support and finance to renovate and revive vacant and underutilised buildings in our town centres.

The Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme operated from 2002 – 2020 and over that time awarded more than £5 million to 66 properties to bring forward major remediation. Through this scheme some of our most successful town centre projects have been completed, including the Elder Yard scheme, 2 Caroline street and the former Victoria Public House, in Bridgend, The Harlequin building, the Jennings buildings and nearing completion 37 The Esplanade (Former Apollo) in Porthcawl, to name but a few where all have thriving businesses operating from them, on the back of major capital investment from BCBC, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Cadw.

Similarly, our Transforming Towns programme has invested finance into schemes such as 11 Nolton Street (the former McDonald's building), Family Value building Commercial St Maesteg, and more recently Marble Steak House, all previously vacant and run down properties which via support and finance have been transformed. The Transforming Towns programme awarded £2,275m in grant in the last three years and will continue to work with property and business owners to offer significant support and finance to other properties across Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg going forward.

We understand that there are a number of challenging buildings across our towns which have a variety of barriers to enabling comprehensive renovation to come forward, and a willing partner is critical to allowing this to occur.

Some of our more challenging properties fall within our recent Vacant Property action plan. The plan, developed in conjunction with Welsh Government takes a more detailed approach at finding solutions to progressing work on specific properties. Last year cabinet underwent a training session with WG to understand how this agenda could be taken forward, accepting that the plan represents some of the most challenging properties, for which there is no quick win, and where the authority has made several previous attempts to engage with owners.

Within the plan, most of the buildings prioritised are in our town centres, but not exclusively and cover both commercial/social and residential.

The plan has 3 priorities and a series of actions.

Firstly, to identify the extent and location of long-term empty commercial and residential buildings and/or properties that have a detrimental impact on an area or local community.

This includes;

- A review current information available to BCBC from internal and external sources to establish background data
- Undertaking visual survey of key town centre areas, identifying properties with a negative impact on the street scene or an opportunity for a regeneration project.
- Prioritising a database of buildings using established risk assessment criteria used for empty homes.

Secondly, we aim to raise awareness among building owners, local businesses and estate agents, local members. This involves;

- Maintaining an index of vacant properties in town centres for marketing purposes
- Signposting vacant and derelict property owners to local architects / contractors who can assist with works.
- Provide advice on financial assistance available to owners & via estate agents.
- Engage with residential property owners to encourage them to bring their properties back into use through the provision of advice, support and encouragement.
- Explore the offer of free initial scoping pre- application advice preparation of development advice note for vacant buildings.

Thirdly, we need to consider the use of enforcement action using the full range of legislative options to deal with dilapidated or poor condition properties where an outcome cannot be achieved via cooperation. Enforcement is not taken lightly, and the legal process needs careful consideration. Preferably as part of a carrot and stick approach.

The most difficult buildings are supported by an Empty Properties Working Group, these buildings require a whole authority approach, and a financial commitment to pursue them. This group has principally looked at residential properties but has more recently considered action on commercial properties. For the domestic properties many of which are within our towns, we are continuing to work with the owners of these properties and a number of long-term empty properties have now been sold to new owners or are to be marketed for sale. Where necessary enforcement action is taken to address public health issues at the properties,

The Working group consists of advisors from Planning, Regeneration, Conservation, Housing Shared Regulatory Services, Legal and Finance.

Currently 20 buildings on the List and action including discussions with owners and enforcement action where necessary has progressed against 8 of those.

In addition to the work on identified properties, we have also carried out an updated survey of vacant churches and chapels at risk or in danger, these were principally located across the valley commercial areas, but hope to extend that to other towns to look at future end uses and partners when finance is available.

We are also looking to complete a review of all vacant properties across Bridgend Town centre to identify what owners and occupiers see as the barriers to ensuring their properties are occupied, to enable us to look at more bespoke engagement and assistance. Where renovation and capital investment is a principle barrier, we can ensure that the right support and finance is made available.

Supplementary question from Councillor Williams

I think some of the response was from a generic communication because my question was directly related to Bridgend town centre and the dilapidated state of far too many town centre buildings. I refer specifically to the Ranch at Nolton Street, which is both dangerous and an eyesore and has meant that the pavement has been fenced off there for nearly 3 years. It also has had a significant impact on nearby residents who are unable to sell their homes due to the disgraceful state of this building. The other property in question is No. 2 Ewenny Road which is one of the first buildings people see when accessing our town centre from Ewenny Road. This property has been empty for 35 years and nothing has been done by BCBC to make it habitable. I could also mention the York and Monroes, which is the first buildings seen by people when entering the town via the Bus Station. When will the Council consider using Compulsory purchase Orders (CPO's), to take ownership of these buildings, a course of action that has been used in Porthcawl.

Response

There are legal issues ongoing with the owner of the premises The Ranch, that prevent us from discussing this premises in an open Forum. I am aware that there are a number of buildings across the County Borough that need to be renovated and brought back in to a habitable standard and in support of this, we have an Empty Property Action Plan that we developed last year with Welsh Government and this is being updated and reviewed during the forthcoming summer period. The Monitoring Officer added that where there were legal proceedings ongoing in relation to properties, including the ones referred to by Councillor Williams, details of these could not be discussed in an open Forum such as Council. However, if any member wished seek information on specific properties for example, those situate in their Ward, then they could approach the relevant Officer outside of the meeting, where some level of detailed information would be able to be shared in respect of these on a confidential basis.

Supplementary question from Councillor F Bletsoe

It is good to hear that there are processes in place that can be used as exemplified today, however, I am aware that there are a considerable number of premises in a state of disrepair in Bridgend town that have not been subjected to such processes and because of this, there is an issue with the town looking degraded, especially when considering these properties are often left to decline for a number of years. So please could some progress be made here in some form or another of restoration works, in order that Bridgend is able to have an improved look.

Response

I do agree with what has been said and we can work with Officers to progress with improvement works to some of these properties where the owner or landlord etc, is prepared to work with the Council to this end. The Council does offer grants where applicable, to assist property owners improving these dilapidated properties through the undertaking of renovation works. The Deputy Leader added in respect of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO), that though the Council in certain situations could pursue these, these were costly so members needed to establish where the budget would come from to support the making of these Orders. It also should be borne in mind, that the process of a CPO could take a number of years to complete from start to finish, particularly if the owner of the property was unknown or did not wish to agree to the making of a CPO.

124. **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

The meeting closed at 17:44

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2023 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor M Jones – Chairperson

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

Apologies for Absence

RM James

Officers:

Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Laura Griffiths	Principal Solicitor
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Alex Rawlin	Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services

126. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

127. **TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR M JONES**

The Mayor gave the following outgoing speech.

'It has certainly been a privilege and honour to fulfil the role of Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend

Before I summarise this remarkable journey, I would like to tell you of an incredible event that was held here in the Council Chamber.

On the 14 April we held an adoptions ceremony in the Civic Offices. An event that ended an adoption process for special young people.

We can all recognise that the Councils Social Services Directorate has been under the spotlight recently, perhaps for some wrong reasons, but this event just illustrates the ongoing incredible work that is undertaken to support young children who perhaps have not had the best start in life.

Seven individual families visited the Council Chamber. Proud extended families who it was a pleasure to meet. The love and adoration shown to the children was palpable and watching them run around the Chamber, some of which sat in the Mayor's chair wearing the Mayoral chain with pride and making good use of this wooden gravel hammer was a joy to watch.

I have no hesitation in admitting that on some occasions whilst conducting the official business of the event I had difficulty in managing my own emotions.

Could I thank all those who were involved in this incredible event, especially our Director Clare Marchant and Cabinet Member / Deputy Leader Councillor Jane Gebbie, you have certainly made a difference, so congratulations to all.

It has been an incredible year. Being able to attend so many events both within the County Borough and beyond has been wonderful. Can I thank all those for inviting me to your special occasions?

From community events to schools and colleges, charitable events, to evening concerts and many award ceremonies. I was always greeted with politeness and appreciation.

If there is one message, I can convey to others is that this County Borough is enriched with incredible people who are both Proud and Positive. All too often the news / media concentrate on the negative aspects of modern life.

Perhaps, just perhaps, they could get out into communities and meet these incredible people who make a positive contribution to society. People who do not seek reward or recognition but get on with daily life to support others.

Our Annual Mayoral Awards process clearly identifies this positivity.

So, members continue to make those nominations, every ward, every town has that community champion.

The passing of Queen Elizabeth II was sudden and unexpected. A sad and solemn period for us all.

Bridgend County Borough like all other areas across the Commonwealth was in a state of mourning. I attended many church and cathedral services and witnessed at first hand the community respect that was shown to the late sovereign.

To read the proclamation to announce the passing of the longest reigning Monarch and to commence the beginning of the reign of a new King, King Charles III was an honour.

Representation from Town and Community Councils outside Civic Offices for the proclamation ceremony just illustrated the unique partnership and togetherness that exists within this fine County Borough.

Can I take this opportunity to thank Councillor Andrew James the Town Mayor of Maesteg for his friendship and invitation to many events in the Llynfi Valley

Likewise, to Councillor Leanne Lewis at Pencoed Town Council and Councillor Mark Chegwen at Porthcawl Town Council. Finally, also to Councillor Tim Wood Mayor of Bridgend Town Council and his consort Clare.

Councillor Wood and I, were able to attend many events together where we both had a shared desire to not only promote Bridgend Town but the whole of the County Borough. It was clear to me that Councillor Wood had great pride in the Town and Borough. Although I shudder with despair any video footage that may be available of our attempts to Folk Dance wearing our respective Chains of Office.

I deliberately set out to not proactively promote the Mayor's Charity this year. With an ever- increasing cost of living crisis with some families struggling to put food on the table it did not feel right to do so. I purposely set out to attend as many local charitable functions as I could to help promote Charities who support those most vulnerable.

However, we did raise the sum of over £2,500.00 which will be allocated to a Ukrainian based charity.

A big thank you to all those who donated, including to the Council Dragon where £130 was collected for charity following the guessing of its name, which was 'Dewi', as correctly selected by Councillor H Griffiths.

Also, many thanks to all the team who supported me during the previous year.

Rachel, Ruth, Nimi and the Benjamin Button of the Authority Mark Galvin. Apologies if I have missed anyone out.

There is one member of the team who is that vital cog in the support machine for myself

Roger Harrison who is not only the Mayoral Chauffeur but Personal Assistant, Organiser, Speech advisor and the person you need at your side whatever the event.

Mr Harrison is an asset to this Authority, his professionalism and attention to detail is recognised well beyond the boundary of the County Borough.

To all members in the Chamber whether virtual or otherwise who supported and allowed me to be your Mayor. I hope that I have been able to represent you with integrity, pride, and passion.

The Office of Mayor has many functions apart from Civic responsibilities, for me the necessity to maintain the integrity of this chamber is paramount, to ensure that all members can represent their wards whatever their political position and to contribute to a debate.

The whole purpose of this chamber surely is to work together, to provide public representation and put the citizen first when we try to do the very best for the County Borough.

I trust I have been able to facilitate this during my term of office. So once again thank you. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to be your Mayor for 2022/2023.

128. **TO ELECT THE MAYOR FOR THE PERIOD TO MAY 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 23(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor William Kendall be elected as Mayor for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

Councillor Kendall confirmed that his Consort would be his wife June Kendall.

129. **TO ELECT THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE PERIOD TO MAY 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Heather Griffiths be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

Councillor Griffiths confirmed that her Consort would be her husband David Griffiths.

130. **TO ELECT THE LEADER OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Councillor HJ David was nominated unopposed for Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor HJ David be elected as Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

The Leader thanked Members for the confidence that had been placed in him once more as Leader of the Authority and he assured Members, that he would continue to take this prestigious role very seriously as he had always done so in the past, so as to do the best he could for the BCB and the constituents who reside within its communities.

131. **THE LEADER TO INFORM COUNCIL OF THE MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED TO THE CABINET INCLUDING THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIOS.**

The Leader was pleased to confirm that the Bridgend County Borough Council Cabinet would comprise of the following Members:-

Councillor HJ David - Leader

Councillor J Gebbie – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health

Councillor HM Williams – Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor N Farr – Community Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Councillor JP Blundell – Cabinet Member for Education

Councillor JC Spanswick – Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Councillor R Goode – Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration

132. **PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which, was to propose a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council and Council Committees for May 2023 - April 2024 for approval (Appendix 1 to the report) and to note the proposed programme of meetings for the municipal year May 2024 – April 2025 (at Appendix 2).

She advised that the approval of the programme of ordinary meetings of Council and Council Committees is required in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed, that in order to assist with future planning, a draft programme of meetings for the 2024/25 Municipal Year was attached at Appendix 2 of the report for noting. This programme may be subject to some further amendments, prior to it being approved at next year's Annual Meeting of Council.

A Member noted that there was a typographical error at Appendix 2 to the report, where the July Council meeting was showing as commencing at 15:00 hours, where it should be 16:00. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that this would be amended.

The Member also noted that there were no Council meetings scheduled for December 2023 and December 2024, in the attached appendices.

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that these would look to be inserted in the Programme of Meetings in future, on dates that would not clash with any holiday periods at these times.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- a. Approved the proposed programme of Council meetings for 2023/24 set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- b. Approved the proposed programme of meetings of Council Committees for the same period, set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- c. Noted the provisional draft programme of meetings of Council and Council Committees for 2024/25 set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
- d. Noted the proposed dates of Cabinet, any Cabinet Committees and the Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee which were also set out in Appendix 1 and 2 to this report, for information purposes.

133. **APPOINTMENTS TO THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OTHER COUNCIL BODIES**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, its purpose being to seek Council approval for the appointment of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and such other Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and bodies as the Council considers appropriate, to deal with matters which are neither reserved to full Council nor are executive functions.

The report attached the following supporting Appendices:-

- Role, remit and functions of Committees and other Bodies of the Council – Appendix 1;
- The proposed political balance of Committees, etc – Appendix 2
- Proposed Committee structure – Appendix 3

Paragraph 4.11 of the report, recommended some changes to the Corporate Report Template that were now required for all Committee reports. These related to the incorporation of socio-economic duty and Welsh language implications, links to climate change, safeguarding and corporate parenting, as well as the inclusion of an executive summary, in order that the report reader and decision maker, can quickly acquaint themselves with the report's content. It was proposed that the new template is used for Committee reports from 18 May 2023, following today's meeting.

RESOLVED: That Council :-

- (1) Appointed the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and such other Committees as the Council considered appropriate to deal with matters which are neither reserved to the Council nor are executive functions;

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2023

- (2) Determined the size and terms of reference for those Committees as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (3) Determined the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (4) Determined which political groups represented at Council are entitled to make which appointments of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairpersons;
- (5) Received nominations and appointed Councillors to serve on each of the Committees, Panels and other bodies (as indicated), as attached as an Appendix to these minutes:-
 - Appeals Panel
 - Appointments Committee
 - Governance and Audit Committee
 - Democratic Services Committee
 - Development Control Committee
 - Licensing Committee
 - Licensing Act 2003 Committee
 - Town and Community Council Forum
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2
 - Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3
 - Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- (6) Received nominations and appointed the Chairpersons and Vice- Chairpersons of the following Committees, Panels and other bodies (as indicated), with it being noted that the Governance and Audit Committee at its first scheduled meeting will appoint a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, from its Lay Members:

Two nominations were received for the appointment of Chairperson of the Appeals Panel, that were both duly moved and seconded, namely Councillor H Bennett and Councillor N Clarke.

A vote was therefore conducted, the result of which was as follows:-

Councillor Bennett – 29 votes
Councillor Clarke – 18 votes
There were no abstentions

RESOLVED: That Councillor H Bennett be appointed as Chairperson of the Appeals Panel for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

The following further nominations were received:

Appeals Panel – Vice-Chairperson – Councillor E Caparros (unopposed)
Appointments Committee – Chairperson - Councillor HJ David and Vice-Chairperson – Councillor J Gebbie – (both unopposed)
Democratic Services Committee - Chairperson – Councillor T Thomas (unopposed)
Development Control Committee - Chairperson (**contested**) and Vice-Chairperson – Councillor S Griffiths (unopposed)

Licensing Committee and Licensing Act 2003 Committee – Chairperson – Councillor M Lewis and Vice-Chairperson Councillor R Williams (both unopposed)
Town and Community Council Forum – Chairperson – Councillor HJ David and Vice-Chairperson Councillor J Gebbie (both unopposed).

Two nominations were received for the appointment of Chairperson of the Development Control Committee, that were both duly moved and seconded, namely Councillor RM Granville and Councillor D Hughes.

A vote was therefore conducted, the result of which was as follows:-

Councillor RM Granville – 29 votes
Councillor D Hughes – 21 votes
There were no abstentions

RESOLVED: That Councillor RM Granville be appointed of the Development Control Committee for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

(7) Received nominations and appointed the Chairpersons of the following Overview and Scrutiny Committees in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4.3 of the report, as follows:

- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 – Councillor Alex Williams (unopposed)
- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 – Councillor F Bletsoe (unopposed)
- Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 – Councillor P Davies (unopposed).

134. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to seek Council's approval for the appointment of Members to the South Wales Police and Crime Panel, Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee and the South-East Wales Strategic Planning Group as set out in the report at Appendix 1, for the ensuing year, to May 2024.

The following nominations, both moved and duly seconded, for the appointment of a member to the Cardiff City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee were received:

Councillor P Davies and Councillor I Williams.

A vote was therefore conducted on this appointment, the result of which was as follows:

Councillor P Davies - 28 votes
Councillor I Williams - 22 votes
There were no abstentions

The following nominations, both moved and duly seconded, for the appointment of a Deputy member to the Cardiff City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee were received:

Councillor S Griffiths and Councillor T Thomas.

A vote was therefore conducted on this appointment, the result of which was as follows:

Councillor S Griffiths - 27 votes

Councillor T Thomas - 23 votes
There were no abstentions

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That Councillor P Davies be appointed as a member of the Cardiff City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee and Councillor S Griffiths be appointed as the Deputy Member.
 - (2) That Councillor J Llewellyn-Hopkins be appointed as a member of the South Wales Police and Crime Panel.
 - (3) That the Chairperson of the Development Control Committee (Councillor RM Granville) be appointed as a member of the South East Wales Strategic Planning.

135. **TO INVEST THE MAYOR OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR 2023/2024**

Following Council having approved the nomination of Councillor W Kendall as Mayor of Bridgend County Borough for the year 2023/2024, Councillor Kendall was invited by the outgoing Mayor, to formally accept the Office of Mayor. Councillor Kendall verbally accepted the office of Mayor and recited the following oath:–

“I William Kendall do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty the King, Charles the Third.”

Councillor M Jones extended his congratulations to the incoming Mayor.

The newly elected Mayor then gave the following speech.

‘I stand before you today with a profound sense of gratitude and as I accept the tremendous honour of being appointed Mayor of our County Borough. I appreciate the trust and confidence you have placed in me, and I promise to carry out my duties with dedication and integrity.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the outgoing Mayor not just as tribute to his outstanding service as Mayor but also my personal gratitude for the mentoring he has given me in my role as Deputy Mayor.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my gratitude to Roger Harrison who has provided faultless guidance on every occasion that it has been required.

I would also like to Thank the Democratic Services Team for their advice and counselling during my tenure as Deputy Mayor.

It is my privilege to announce the new Youth Mayor Ellie O’Connell and Deputy Youth Mayor Daisy Davies – congratulations to Ellie and Daisy in their roles.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce my nominated charity as Wales Air Ambulance

To the citizens of our County Borough, I am profoundly honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of serving as your mayor. I want to assure you that my tenure will be marked by transparency, inclusivity, and a steadfast commitment to serving the best interests of each and every one of you

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2023

I appreciate as elected Members we are all champions for Bridgend, county borough council all have responsibilities to voice residents' concerns and to help them realise their aspirations. As Mayor I will keep this at the forefront of every decision we take.

Thank you, and may we together make our County Borough an even better place to call home.

So to all, I say 'onwards with confidence'.

136. **TO INVEST THE MAYOR'S CONSORT**

The outgoing Mayor Councillor M Jones announced that it was his pleasure to confirm June Kendall as the incoming Mayor's Consort.

137. **TO INVEST THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR 2023/2024**

The outgoing Mayor Councillor M Jones confirmed that earlier Council had approved the nomination of Councillor H Griffiths as Deputy Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council for the year 2023-24. He therefore invited Councillor Griffiths to accept this offer in office.

Councillor Griffiths duly accepted the offer of Deputy Mayor with great pleasure, adding that she looked forward to supporting the newly elected Mayor, Councillor W Kendall as part of this honourable position she had been given.

138. **TO INVEST THE DEPUTY MAYOR'S CONSORT**

The outgoing Mayor Councillor M Jones announced that it was his further pleasure to confirm David Griffiths as the incoming Deputy Mayor's Consort.

The meeting closed at 17:16

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CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Appeals Panel			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Mark John	Bridgend County Independents	
2.	Anthony Berrow	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	Alan Wathan	Bridgend County Independents	
4.	Ross Thomas	Democratic Alliance	
5.	Norah Clarke	Democratic Alliance	
6.	Jeff Tildesley	Independent	
7.	Heidi Bennett	Labour	
8.	Eugene Caparros	Labour	
9.	Heather Griffiths	Labour	
10.	William Kendall	Labour	
11.	Maxine Lewis	Labour	
12.	Graham Walter	Labour	

Appointments Committee			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Ian Spiller	Bridgend County Independents	
2.	Tim Wood	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	Ross Thomas	Democratic Alliance	
4.	Malcolm James	Democratic Alliance	
5.	Huw David	Labour	
6.	Paul Davies	Labour	with relevant portfolio for post being recruited
7.	Jane Gebbie	Labour	
8.	Hywel Williams	Labour	

Governance and Audit Committee			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Steven Bletsoe	Bridgend County Independents	
2.	Martin Williams	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	Alex Williams	Democratic Alliance	
4.	Ellie Richards	Democratic Alliance	
5.	Colin Davies	Labour	
6.	Richard Granville	Labour	
7.	Simon Griffiths	Labour	
8.	Martin Hughes	Labour	
9.	Lay Member	Labour	
10.	Lay Member	Labour	
11.	Lay Member	Labour	
12.	Lay Member	Labour	

Democratic Services Committee			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Tim Thomas	Bridgend County Independents	Chair cannot be from majority group
2.	Ian Spiller	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	David Harrison	Bridgend County Independents	
4.	Steven Easterbrook	Bridgend County Independents	
5.	Malcolm James	Democratic Alliance	
6.	Robert Smith	Independent	
7.	Paula Ford	Labour	
8.	Richard Granville	Labour	
9.	Martin Hughes	Labour	
10.	Graham Walter	Labour	

11.	Elaine Winstanley	Labour	
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Development Control Committee			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Mark John	Bridgend County Independents	
2.	Alan Wathan	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	Anthony Berrow	Bridgend County Independents	
4.	David Harrison	Bridgend County Independents	
5.	Steven Easterbrook	Bridgend County Independents	
6.	Chris Davies	Democratic Alliance	
7.	Della Hughes	Democratic Alliance	
8.	Norah Clarke	Democratic Alliance	
9.	Jonathan Pratt	Conservative	
10.	Richard Collins	Labour	
11.	Colin Davies	Labour	
12.	Richard Granville	Labour	
13.	Heather Griffiths	Labour	
14.	Simon Griffiths	Labour	
15.	Martin Hughes	Labour	
16.	Mike Kearn	Labour	
17.	William Kendall	Labour	
18.	Richard Williams	Labour	

Licensing Committee & Licensing Act 2003 Committee			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Steven Bletsoe	Bridgend County Independents	
2.	Anthony Berrow	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	Steven Easterbrook	Bridgend County Independents	
4.	Malcolm James	Democratic Alliance	
5.	Philip Jenkins	Democratic Alliance	
6.	Jonathan Pratt	Conservative	
7.	Robert Smith	Independent	
8.	Heidi Bennett	Labour	
9.	Richard Collins	Labour	
10.	Heather Griffiths	Labour	
11.	Mike Kearn	Labour	
12.	Maxine Lewis	Labour	
13.	Johanna Llewellyn-Hopkins	Labour	
14.	Richard Williams	Labour	

Town & Community Council Forum			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Mark John	Bridgend County Independents	
2.	Martin Williams	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	Ian Spiller	Bridgend County Independents	
4.	Tim Wood	Bridgend County Independents	
5.	Steven Easterbrook	Bridgend County Independents	
6.	Chris Davies	Democratic Alliance	
7.	Philip Jenkins	Democratic Alliance	
8.	Jeff Tildesley	Independent	
9.	Robert Smith	Independent	
10.	Heidi Bennett	Labour	
11.	Colin Davies	Labour	
12.	Jane Gebbie	Labour	
13.	Melanie Evans	Labour	
14.	Paula Ford	Labour	

15.	Richard Granville	Labour	
16.	Martyn Jones	Labour	
17.	Richard Williams	Labour	
18.	Elaine Winstanley	Labour	
19.	Huw David	Labour	

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Amanda Williams	Bridgend County Independents	
2.	Ian Spiller	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	Tim Thomas	Bridgend County Independents	
4.	Alex Williams	Democratic Alliance	
5.	Della Hughes	Democratic Alliance	
6.	Jeff Tildesley	Independent	
7.	Richard Collins	Labour	
8.	Melanie Evans	Labour	
9.	Heather Griffiths	Labour	
10.	Martyn Jones	Labour	
11.	Johanna Llewellyn-Hopkins	Labour	
12.	Elaine Winstanley	Labour	

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Freya Bletsoe	Bridgend County Independents	
2.	Alan Wathan	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	Dave Harrison	Bridgend County Independents	
4.	Ross Thomas	Democratic Alliance	
5.	Della Hughes	Democratic Alliance	
6.	Sean Aspey	Independent	
7.	Eugene Caparros	Labour	
8.	Paul Davies	Labour	
9.	Paula Ford	Labour	
10.	Maxine Lewis	Labour	
11.	Johanna Llewellyn-Hopkins	Labour	
12.	Richard Williams	Labour	

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Steven Bletsoe	Bridgend County Independents	
2.	Ian Williams	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	Martin Williams	Bridgend County Independents	
4.	Norah Clarke	Democratic Alliance	
5.	Philip Jenkins	Democratic Alliance	
6.	Jonathan Pratt	Conservative	
7.	Colin Davies	Labour	
8.	Paul Davies	Labour	
9.	Melanie Evans	Labour	
10.	Mike Kearn	Labour	
11.	William Kendall	Labour	
12.	Graham Walter	Labour	

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee			
Ser	Councillor	Group	Notes
1.	Freya Bletsoe	Bridgend County Independents	
2.	Amanda Williams	Bridgend County Independents	
3.	Tim Thomas	Bridgend County Independents	
4.	Ross Thomas	Democratic Alliance	
5.	Alex Williams	Democratic Alliance	
6.	Heidi Bennett	Labour	
7.	Paul Davies	Labour	
8.	Richard Granville	Labour	
9.	Simon Griffiths	Labour	
10.	Martin Hughes	Labour	
11.	Martyn Jones	Labour	
12.	Graham Walter	Labour	

Standards Committee		
Councillor	Group	Notes
Graham Walter	Labour	
Martin Williams	Democratic Alliance	

- The Leader may not be a member of the above Committee;
- Not more than one Cabinet Member may be a member of the Committee;
- A County Borough Council Member can only be re-appointed for one further term;
- Membership is not subject to political balance requirements.
- To include in overall membership, 4 lay members and 1 Town/Community Councillor

<u>Committee/Panel</u>	<u>Current Chairperson</u>	<u>Current Vice Chairs*</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Appeals Panel	Cllr Heidi Bennett	Cllr Eugene Caparros	
Appointments Committee	Cllr Huw David	Cllr Jane Gebbie	
Democratic Services Committee	Cllr Tim Thomas		No Senior Salary allocated
Development Control Committee	Cllr Richard Granville	Cllr Simon Griffiths	
Licensing Committee	Maxine Lewis	Richard Williams	
Licensing Act 2003 Committee			
Standards Committee	Mr Cliff Jones		
Town and Community Council Forum	Cllr Huw David	Cllr Jane Gebbie	
Scrutiny Subject Committee 1	Cllr Alex Williams		
Scrutiny Subject Committee 2	Cllr Freya Bletsoe		
Scrutiny Subject Committee 3	Cllr Paul Davies		

* Vice Chairs are not remunerated

Not appointed by Council

Governance and Audit Committee			To be appointed by the Committee
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee			To be appointed by the Committee

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Agenda Item 6

Meeting of:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	21 JUNE 2023
Report Title:	PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL BY THE SOUTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Responsible Officer:	MARK GALVIN – SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER - COMMITTEES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	The report and accompanying presentation will update Council on the latest work of the South Wales Police.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of a presentation proposed to be delivered by representatives of South Wales Police.

2. Background

- 2.1 Council will be accustomed to receiving periodically in the past, presentations from its key partners and stakeholders.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 The presentation will be given to Council at its June meeting, by Mr Alun Michael, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.2 Further presentations will be scheduled periodically for future Council meetings from partner organisations and agencies.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 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.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

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

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That Council is recommended to note the presentation as referred to at paragraph 3.1 of the report.

Background documents

None.

Meeting of:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	21 JUNE 2023
Report Title:	REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2022-23
Report Owner/ Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE
Responsible Officer:	JOANNE NORMAN GROUP MANAGER – BUDGET MANAGEMENT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	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.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The net revenue budget for 2022-23 was £319.514 million. The overall outturn at 31st March 2023 is a net under spend of £2.057 million which has been transferred to earmarked reserves. • The overall under spend on the Council budget significantly masks underlying budget pressures in Social Services and Wellbeing, Homelessness and Home to School Transport. • Given the potential for significant funding being required to meet pay and price costs in 2023-24, along with any ongoing budget pressures arising as a result of the conflict in the Ukraine, any uncommitted funding in 2022-23 will be required to meet these pressures in the new financial year. • There are also potential pressures for 2023-24 on council tax collection and an increase in eligibility for council tax support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme due to the cost of living crisis. • During 2022-23 Directorates drew down funding from specific earmarked reserves. The final draw down from reserves was £18.910 million.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Council's revenue financial performance for the year ended 31st March 2023.

2. Background

2.1 On 23rd 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 (WG) on 21 December 2021. The Welsh Government announced its final settlement on 1st 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.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Summary financial position at 31st March 2023

3.1.1 The Council's net revenue budget and final outturn for 2022-23 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1- Comparison of budget against actual outturn at 31st March 2023

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2022-23 £'000	Current Budget 2022-23 £'000	Final Outturn Q4 2022-23 £'000	Final Over / (Under) Spend 2022-23 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 3 2022-23 £'000
Directorate					
Education and Family Support	131,430	138,368	138,245	(123)	795
Social Services and Wellbeing	78,434	85,387	96,255	10,868	9,421
Communities	28,995	31,040	30,601	(439)	(333)
Chief Executive's	21,895	23,498	21,446	(2,052)	(1,172)
Total Directorate Budgets	260,754	278,293	286,547	8,254	8,711
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,329	7,203	5,070	(2,133)	(722)
Levies	8,177	8,210	7,981	(229)	16
Apprenticeship Levy	650	650	741	91	0
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	16,054	14,885	(1,169)	(1,169)
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	1,671	308	(127)
Repairs & Maintenance	670	497	0	(497)	(200)
Pension Related Costs	430	430	427	(3)	0
Other Corporate Budgets	24,087	6,814	909	(5,905)	(5,778)
Total Corporate Budgets	58,760	41,221	31,684	(9,537)	(7,980)
Accrued Council Tax Income	0	0	(774)	(774)	0
Appropriation to Earmarked Reserves	0	0	2,057	2,057	0
Transfer to Council Fund	0	0	0		
Total	319,514	319,514	319,514	0	731

- 3.1.2 The overall outturn at 31st March 2023 is a net under spend of £2.057 million which has been utilised to create new earmarked reserves, primarily to supplement the Cost of Living Fund for known pressures in 2023-24. The under spend is small in comparison to the overall net budget for 2022-23 (0.6%), therefore no transfers have been made to the Council Fund, however, the closing balance of the Council Fund is still in line with Principle 9 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Total Directorate budgets provided a net over spend of £8.254 million, and council wide budgets a net under spend of £9.537 million. The outturn position also takes into account additional council tax income collected over budget of £774,000 during the financial year.
- 3.1.3 Further detail is provided on the movements since quarter 3 at individual directorate level and on council wide budgets in section 3.3.
- 3.1.4 The overall under spend on the Council budget significantly masks the underlying budget pressures in some services which were reported during the year and still persist. The main financial pressures are in the service areas of Social Services and Wellbeing, Homelessness and Home to School Transport (HtST). It should be noted that these budget areas can be volatile and small changes in demand can result in relatively high costs being incurred.
- 3.1.5 It is forecast that the long-term impact of Covid-19, alongside the already known pressures of an ageing population, increasing dementia rates and more complex and challenging needs is going to result in increasing demands on already pressurised services in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. In 2022-23 the Directorate experienced pressures of work to meet statutory duties against a backdrop of an exponential increase in demand in children's social care and an increase in the number of independent residential placements in Children's Services along with pressures in learning disabilities and older persons residential placements. Whilst budget growth of £8.174 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2023-24, the Directorate continues to see increases in demand and the budget growth confirmed for 2023-24 might be insufficient to meet the increase in demand going into 2023-24 and will require close monitoring. In addition, further consideration will need to be given by Council to the sustainable resource required specifically in Children's Services to improve the quality of outcomes for children and families in Bridgend.
- 3.1.6 Whilst budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) budget setting process in February 2021, to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals, the Council has seen a significant increase in the provision of temporary accommodation. Whilst the council received £3.546 million of grant funding from WG in 2022-23, £2.5 million was on a one-off basis. Given the increase in provision and reduced level of grant funding from WG in 2023-24, the budget growth of £700,000 confirmed for 2023-24 might be insufficient to meet the increase in demand going into 2023-24 and will again require close monitoring.
- 3.1.7 There is an over spend on Home to School Transport (HtST) of £1.316 million in 2022-23. This is on top of the underlying pressure on the HtST budget which was supported in 2022-23 by a MTFS Budget Pressure of £2.472 million, approved by Council in February 2022 to support historical budget pressures,

but also the additional requirement for the transportation of nursery pupils, alongside cost pressures arising from tender exercises. Several retendering exercises on HtST took place in 2022-23 with market conditions not being favourable due to high levels of inflation and shortage of drivers and escorts, with procurement exercises resulting in generally higher costs across many contracts.

- 3.1.8 In addition, given the potential for significant funding being required to meet pay and price costs in 2023-24, along with any ongoing budget pressures arising as a result of the conflict in the Ukraine, any uncommitted funding in 2022-23 will be required to meet these pressures in the new financial year. There are also potential pressures on council tax collection and an increase in eligibility for council tax support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (see paragraph 3.3.5) due to the cost of living crisis. Therefore, any uncommitted funding from other council wide budgets will be carried forward to meet those pressures in the new financial year. A budget pressure of £1.325 million was also approved by council in February to mitigate emerging pressures in 2023-24 which will be allocated in line with need and reported through quarterly monitoring reports.

Covid-19

- 3.1.9 The UK was put into lockdown in March 2020 in an unprecedented step to attempt to limit the spread of coronavirus. A Covid-19 Hardship fund was set up at an early stage by the Welsh Government which the Council was able to draw on for financial support. Bridgend successfully claimed over £16.444 million in expenditure and loss of income claims in 2021-22. In addition, WG recognised the need for homelessness accommodation to be secured in advance to continue the commitment to focus on support for homeless individuals, providing them with accommodation, and approved £1.479 million to cover these costs for the first six months of 2022-23.
- 3.1.10 The WG Hardship Fund ended on 31 March 2022 and, in recognition of this, 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 have been provided to Cabinet through the quarterly revenue budget monitoring reports for 2022-23 on this budget, with the final allocations in quarter 4 shown in 3.1.13. This budget has been allocated to the corporate pay and price budget in 2023-24 to contribute towards increases in inflation not seen for over a decade.
- 3.1.11 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 recovery fund was utilised in 2022-23 to support the free car parking offer for town centres to the end of 2022-23. The balance of £270,087 on the Covid-19 Recovery Fund will be carried into 2023-24 and will be used to support the free car parking offer for town centres whilst long-term options are considered.
- 3.1.12 Whilst the WG Hardship Fund ended on 31st March 2022, local authorities continued to administer four elements that were paid through the Hardship Fund on behalf of WG – self isolation payments (scheme ended June 2022), statutory

sick pay enhancement scheme (scheme ended August 2022), free school meal payments (scheme due to end at the end of the May Half Term Holiday 2023) and the winter fuel support scheme (scheme ended February 2023). WG Hardship Expenditure claims submitted to Welsh Government in 2022-23 in relation to these four schemes is shown in Table 2.

Table 2 – Covid-19 expenditure claims 2022-23

Specific Hardship fund	Claimed £'000
Self Isolation Payments (SIP)	635
Statutory Sick Pay Enhancements (SSP)	119
Free School Meals	1,795
Winter Fuel	3,708
TOTAL	6,256

Budget virements/technical adjustments

3.1.13 There have been no budget virements, but a large number of technical adjustments between budgets since the quarter 3 Revenue Forecast was presented to Cabinet in January 2023. The main technical adjustments in quarter 4 are outlined below:

Technical Adjustments

Service vired from / to	Amount
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of Teachers' pay award 2022-23 – additional pay award – net of grant of £1,571,862 from Welsh Government	£89,712
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of Youth Worker pay award 2022-23 covering September 2022 to March 2023 – confirmed end of December	£6,834
Allocation of funding to schools' delegated budgets in respect of term time worker pay award 2022-23 originally allocated to Education and Family Support Directorate in quarter 3	£17,180
Allocation of corporately held funding for Feasibility works in line with spend	£136,179
Allocation of corporately held funding for Revenue minor works in line with spend	£36,752
Allocation of one-off support to schools from the centrally held Covid-19 budget to cover costs of Maternity Shielding	£177,459
Allocation of one-off support to the Council's leisure provider from the centrally held Covid-19 budget to cover an ongoing loss of income experienced by Halo in running the leisure services due to Covid-19	£191,446

Pay/Price Inflation

- 3.1.14 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 outlines the final amounts released from these budgets during the last quarter, based upon confirmed pay awards and evidenced inflationary uplifts.

3.2 Monitoring of Budget Reduction Proposals

Prior Year Budget Reductions

- 3.2.1 As outlined in previous monitoring reports during the year, there were still £179,000 of outstanding prior year budget reduction proposals that had not been met in full. Directors have been working to realise these savings during the 2022-23 financial year. The latest position is attached as **Appendix 1** with a summary provided in Table 3.

Table 3 – Outstanding Prior Year Budget Reductions

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

- 3.2.2 Table 3 shows that of the £179,000 prior year budget proposals outstanding, £119,000 has been realised, leaving a shortfall of £60,000. The proposal still not achieved is COM 2 – Re-location of the community recycling centre from Tythegston to Pyle. The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open later in 2023, should the licence to operate be granted by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Both sites will be maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2024-25. The saving will therefore have to be met through alternative one-off efficiencies in 2023-24 in order to deliver a balanced budget position.

Budget Reductions 2022-23

- 3.2.3 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 year end position is a shortfall on the savings target of £176,000, or 27.9% of the overall reduction target.

Table 4 – Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2022-23

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education and Family Support	68	68	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	365	284	81
Communities	150	55	95
Chief Executive's	48	48	0
TOTAL	631	455	176

3.2.4 The most significant budget reduction proposals not achieved in full are:-

- SSWB 2 – remodelling of day service provision for older people and learning disability services (£81,000 shortfall). Efficiencies were identified and implemented in 2022-23 and work has continued to further develop the remodelling to enable the savings target to be met in full in 2023-24.
- 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. The saving will be met through alternative one off efficiencies in 2023-24 to deliver a balanced budget position.
- COM5 – commercially let a wing of Ravens Court to a partner organisation or business (£50,000 shortfall) – delay in progressing budget reduction proposal due to staffing vacancies. The appointment of a Senior Portfolio Surveyor will make this a priority in 2023-24, however the saving might not be made in full during the next financial year. If this is the case, the saving will be met through alternative one off efficiencies in order to deliver a balanced budget position.

3.2.5 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. It has not been used in 2022-23 to mitigate on-going shortfalls as service areas are committed to identify alternative one-off under spends in the service areas affected.

3.3 Commentary on the financial position at 31st March 2023

Financial position at 31st March 2023

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.

3.3.1 **Education and Family Support Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2022-23, including school delegated budgets, was £138.368 million and the actual outturn was £138.245 million, following planned draw down of £1.903 million from earmarked reserves, resulting in an under spend of £123,000. The main variances are:

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Family Support Group	3,078	2,388	(690)	-22.4%
Home-to-school transport	8,192	9,508	1,316	16.1%
Education and Family Support Directorate Support Unit	671	410	(261)	-38.9%
Catering Services	1,525	1,724	199	13.1%
Corporate health and safety	403	256	(147)	-36.5%
Vulnerable Groups Support Group	641	521	(120)	-18.7%
Historic pension and redundancy costs	983	780	(203)	-20.7%

Schools' delegated budgets

Total funding delegated to schools in 2022-23 was £117,607 million (including Post-16 grant funding of £7.012 million).

The schools' delegated budget is reported as balanced in any one year as any under spend or over spend is automatically carried forward, in line with Welsh Government legislation, 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' as set out in the Financial Scheme for Schools.

The year-end position for 2022-23 was:

- Net overall school balances totalled £14.228 million at the start of the financial year. During 2022-23 school balances decreased by £7.330 million to £6.898 million at the end of the financial year, representing 5.94% of the total funding allocated in 2022-23.
- Out of a total of 59 schools, there are 10 schools with a deficit balance (9 primary and 1 special school) and 32 schools (23 primary, 8 secondary, and 1 special

school) that have balances in excess of the statutory limits (£50,000 primary and £100,000 for secondary and special schools) in line with the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010. These balances will be analysed in line with the Council's agreed 'Guidance and Procedures on Managing Surplus School Balances'.

- A summary of the position for each sector and overall is provided below:-

	Balance brought forward	Funding allocated in 2022-23	Total Funding available	Actual Spend	Balance at year end
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Primary	6,994	52,828	59,822	56,947	2,875
Secondary	6,524	53,255	59,779	56,045	3,734
Special	710	11,524	12,234	11,945	289
Total	14,228	117,607	131,835	124,937	6,898

Central Education and Family Support Directorate budgets

Family Support

- The Family Support Group has an under spend of £690,000.
- A budget pressure of £188,000 was approved for 2022-23 to increase the provision of universal youth support (for example youth clubs) across the county borough and to improve the digital offer to young people. However, due to difficulties in sourcing suitable venues for the youth clubs, the setting up of these additional centres has been delayed. The service is working to progress these new centres in 2023-24, therefore the under spend should not be recurring in 2023-24.
- The Youth Justice Service has an under spend of £118,000 due to staff vacancies. The service is actively looking to recruit to the vacant posts, therefore the saving should not be recurring in 2023-24.
- The remainder of the under spend within the Family Support Group area is due to maximisation of grant funding - Children and Communities Grant (£230,000), Promoting Positive Engagement (£87,000), and the Turnaround Grant (£29,000).

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 attending our special schools requiring dedicated transport as bespoke packages of support. There have also been significant increased costs associated with the transportation of the current cohort of nursery pupils in dedicated minibuses and taxis. Several retendering exercises on home-to-school transport contracts have been required over the last year for vehicles of all types in line with contracts naturally ending and to ensure the local authority follows both procurement and Contract Procedure Rules. Market conditions are not favourable, and these procurement exercises have resulted in generally higher costs across many contracts in line with difficulties associated with the aftermath

of the pandemic, namely the shortage of drivers and escorts and increased fuel costs internationally.

- The HtST budget has a £1.316 million over spend, primarily as a result of the retendering exercises and additional support provided to suppliers in 2022-23 to reflect inflationary pressures in the market. Fuel prices have started to decrease, therefore close monitoring of this budget will be required to determine whether there continues to be a pressure on this service area in 2023-24.

Education and Family Support Directorate Support Unit (EDSU)

- The EDSU provides administrative support to the education and family support service and Schools. There is an under spend of £261,000 due to 10 vacant posts, 5 within EDSU and 5 within the Knowledge Management Team. Some of these posts were filled during the latter part of 2022-23, and the service area is actively seeking to fill the remaining vacant posts in 2023-24, therefore the under spend should not be recurring in 2023-24.

Catering Services

- The price of school meals remained the same in 2022-23 and demand for school meals also increased across all sectors. However, the over spend of £199,000 is primarily due to the service being unable to achieve full cost recovery due to the impact of high inflation on food purchases. The cost of food purchases will be closely monitored in 2023-24 to determine whether inflationary pressures continue to impact cost recovery in this service area.

Corporate Health and Safety Unit

- The under spend of £147,000 within the Corporate Health and Safety Unit primarily relates to staff vacancies. The service area is actively looking to recruit to the vacant posts therefore this saving should not be recurring in 2023-24.

Vulnerable Groups Support Group

- The under spend of £120,000 within the Vulnerable Groups Support Group budget is due to a combination of staff vacancies (£97,000) and maximisation of the Parenting Support Grant (£35,000). The service area is actively seeking to recruit to the vacant posts, therefore this saving should not be recurring in 2023-24.

Historic pension and redundancy costs

- The £203,000 under spend is due primarily to a reduction in redundancy costs requiring funding in 2022-23. Due to the reduction in schools in a deficit position since 2020-21, fewer staffing restructures have been required in 2022-23. There has also been a reduction in the costs of supporting historic employee pension costs - there will be an incremental reduction each year as members pass away. The budget will be monitored in 2023-24 to determine if any of these savings can be proposed for future MTFs savings.

3.3.2 **Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2022-23 was £85.387 million and the actual outturn was £96.255 million following planned draw down of £3.809 million from earmarked reserves, resulting in an over spend of £10.868 million. The over spend has increased since the projected over spend reported at quarter 3 of £9.421 million. This is mainly due to the pressures of work to meet statutory duties against a backdrop of an exponential increase in demand in children's social care and an increase in the number of independent residential placements in Children's Services, pressures in learning disabilities and within older persons residential placements.

The main reasons for the £10.868 million over spend are:-

- An exponential increase in need for children's social care as evidenced through increasing contacts, increasing numbers of assessments and high numbers of children on the child protection register. To keep the children safe and for the Council to meet statutory duties in respect of safeguarding children, there has been significant engagement of agency workforce to fill vacant posts and over the budgeted establishment– in particular this has placed pressure in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and Information, Advice and Assistance Service, safeguarding localities and the Care Experienced Children's Team and the Children's Social Work Team in children's social care. A business case is being developed to inform the level of workforce required to sustainably deliver safe services in a way that reduces need for statutory interventions. A significant review of learning disability services has also been undertaken which will set out recommendations from a service and financial perspective.
- There is also an increasing complexity of need in adults' and children's services with service over spends for key population groups, particularly care experienced children with more requiring residential placements, learning disability services with significant over spends in commissioned supported living and day opportunities, equipment and direct payment budgets and also services for older people. Some increased complexity can be attributed to the impact of extended covid lockdowns on physical and mental health, but they also reflect cost pressures experienced by providers.
- A reduction in specific grants previously available to social care services has also increased the pressure on core budgets in 2022-23. In 2021-22 significant one-off grant income was received such as the Social Care Recovery Fund (£2.916 million) and the Social Care Pressures Grant (£2.221 million). Whilst the Social Care Recovery Grant primarily funded one-off costs, the combined value of these grants (£5.137 million) supported pressures in 2021-22 and were primarily allocated to the following service areas:- Children's Social Care (£1.886 million), Learning Disabilities (£992,000), Prevention and Wellbeing (£617,000), Mental Health (£454,000) and Older People (£441,000).

In March 2023, as part of the budget setting process Council approved budget pressures of £8.174 million for the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate for 2023-24. This will cover areas such as Real Living Wage uplifts on commissioned contracts, demographic pressures, Children's Residential and Independent Residential Care, Learning Disabilities and increased demand and increased costs of commissioned services.

The most significant variances are:

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Adult Social Care	57,740	62,516	4,776	8.3%
Prevention and Wellbeing	6,048	5,850	(198)	-3.3%
Childrens Social Care	21,599	27,889	6,290	29.1%

Adult Social Care

There is a net over spend of £4.776 million on the Adult Social Care budget. The most significant variances contributing to this over spend were:-

ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget
	£'000
Learning Disabilities Home Care	1,826
Older People Residential Care	1,149
Learning Disabilities Residential Care	822
Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities	630
Equipment & Adaptions	460
Mental Health Home Care	415
Learning Disabilities Direct Payments	307
Assessment and Care Management	59
Mental Health Supported Accommodation	-219
Older People Home Care	-586

- Learning Disabilities Home Care – the over spend has decreased by £390,000 since quarter 3 due primarily to maximisation of Housing Support Grant (£208,000), and additional joint funding confirmed by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (£157,000). However, there is still an over spend of £1,826 million with the service seeing unprecedented demand. Firstly, the number of hours of care covered by home care services has increased as people have either opted to not return to, or are having a reduced service from, the internal day services provision following a review of their assessed need. Secondly, there has been an increase in the complexity of people’s needs – e.g. waking nights required rather than sleep-in nights which increases the cost of service delivery considerably. Thirdly, the service has experienced an increase in agency costs in internal homecare due to difficulty in recruiting.
- Older People Residential Care – the over spend of £1.149 million mainly relates to an increase in the number of care packages. It was reported in the quarter 2 revenue monitoring report that care packages had increased from 328 placements at quarter 1 to 345 placements at quarter 2. This increase has continued throughout the remainder of 2022-23, to reach 400 placements at quarter 4. In addition, all contributions towards residential care are financially assessed in

accordance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 but the average income received each year will vary in total depending on the financial position of the people needing care during the financial year – e.g. if there are a large number of people who have no savings or assets, and are therefore reliant on the local authority paying their contribution in full then this will decrease the overall average income received per person.

- Learning Disabilities Residential and Respite Care - there is an over spend of £822,000, increasing from the over spend of £584,000 projected at quarter 3. The increase is primarily due to one-off restructure costs in the Breakaway Respite Service. This service has undergone extensive remodelling to deal with increasing complex needs, emergency respite support and specialist support with a 24 hour support model when required. The underlying over spend is due to increased costs for existing placements within the residential and nursing service due to changing needs.
- Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities - the over spend of £630,000 mainly relates to placement numbers exceeding the available budget for externally commissioned day services (£449,000). 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 also has an over spend as people have not returned to internal day services, new people are taking up the vacant day services placements. Thirdly, transport costs are higher (£177,000) due to the service having to hire vehicles on a short term basis as the service has experienced delays in the delivery of replacement vehicles due to chassis parts being difficult to obtain. The delays, originally due to a backlog of orders from Covid but further impacted by the Ukraine war, are still being experienced so further pressures relating to vehicle hire are expected in 2023-24. Finally, whilst efficiencies were identified and implemented in 2022-23 in relation to the £115,000 MTFS saving relating to re-modelling of Day Services, work is continuing to further develop the remodelling to enable the savings target to be met in full in 2023-24 as reported in section 3.2.4. A plan has been formulated to achieve the remaining savings in 2023-24.
- Equipment & Adaptions - the over spend of £460,000 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 a comparable underlying pressure in this service area of £401,000 demonstrating this is an ongoing pressure, and one which will continue into 2023-24. Budget growth of £298,000 was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) budget setting process in March 2023 which will alleviate some of the pressure in 2023-24, however this budget will require close monitoring going forward.
- Mental Health Home Care - this includes supported living, short breaks and domiciliary care. The over spend of £415,000 is mainly due to supported living packages of care exceeding the available budget based on needs of people using the service. There are currently 38 placements, an increase of 3 placements since quarter 3, and whilst supported living packages of care have decreased slightly since the 40 reported in 2021-22, the one-off Social Care Pressures Grant funding received was utilised to offset a considerable element of the prior year over spend of £454,000.

- Learning Disabilities Direct Payments - there is an over spend of £307,000 as the service area has seen a shift to people choosing to opt for direct payments in line with the legal requirement for choice. 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.
- Assessment and Care Management – there is an over spend of £59,000 which is primarily due to the increased costs of having to rely on agency staffing in the Community 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 under spends in the following areas:-

- Mental Health Supported Accommodation - the £219,000 under spend primarily relates to maximisation of Innovation grant funding.
- Older People Home care – the under spend of £586,000 has improved by £646,000 from a projected over spend of £216,000 at quarter 3. This is mainly due to a reduction in the average hours of care being provided in Independent Domiciliary Care and Short Breaks placement costs (£256,000). Additional income of £318,000 was also received in quarter 4 relating to non-residential charges.

Prevention and Wellbeing

- The under spend of £198,000 is primarily due to the maximisation of grant funding opportunities (Transformation, Summer of Fun, Local Authority Partnership Agreement, Disability Sports and Families First grant). A payment of £190,000 was made to the Council's leisure provider to contribute towards the residual impact of running the leisure services in 2022-23 due to Covid-19. This was funded from the Council wide Covid-19 budget that was approved for 2022-23 specifically to meet ongoing budget pressures as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Children's Social Care

There is a net over spend of £6.290 million on the Children's Social Care budget, which is an increase on the projected net over spend of £5.123 million at quarter 3. The main reason for this is the increase in Independent Residential Care placements (£786,000).

The most significant variances contributing to this over spend were:-

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget £'000
Care Experienced Children	3,497
Commissioning & Social Work	2,414
Management & Administration	333

- The over spend of £3.497 million for care experienced children is due to a combination of factors:-
 - Children's Residential Services have an over spend of £582,000 mainly due to additional spend on agency staff of £721,000 as a result of the challenging recruitment market and need to staff services safely to meet the needs of children within Bridgend homes. This was offset by under spends on core staff budgets (£254,000).
 - The independent residential care budget (previously known as out of county) has an over spend of £2.419 million, an increase of £786,000 since quarter 3. Two further placements have been made in quarter 4 increasing the number of children currently placed in independent residential care to 24 compared with the 22 placements reported at quarter 3. The extent of the pressure on this budget is further demonstrated when comparing this with the 9 placements at quarter 4 in 2021-22. This is due to a number of factors, including high numbers of care experienced children, sufficient numbers of quality placements to meet needs including foster carers (in-house and independent) and children requiring specialist provision sometimes with high staffing ratios to keep them safe and protected. The average yearly placement cost is £130,000, however this can vary depending on the individual cases. 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.
 - A budget pressure of £650,000 for Independent Residential Care placements was approved by Council for the 2023-24 budget, however demand has increased from the basis upon which this pressure was calculated. The budget will require close monitoring during 2023-24. Additional in-house capacity will become operational in 2023-24 which should be more cost effective and achieve better outcomes for children.
 - There is an under spend on independent fostering agency placements (£194,000) and fostering placements (£19,000). This is due to a shortage of foster carers and hence alternative placement options being utilised, including in-house residential provision (£582,000 as noted above) and special guardianship orders, which ended the year on an over spend position of £335,000. These budgets will continue to be monitored closely in 2023-24 and budgets vired as appropriate.
 - The fostering team (who manage all the Fostering placements) have an over spend of £140,000, which has reduced from the quarter 3 projected over spend of £160,000. This is due to reduced use of agency staffing as management are actively trying to recruit permanent staff where possible, however this is proving to be a considerable challenge given the current recruitment market. Progress is however being made.
 - The placements team have an over spend of £123,000 primarily as they have had 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.
 - In terms of funding for budget pressures for 2023-24, Children's Services received over £2.533 million covering areas such as key personnel to strengthen leadership oversight which is a key finding for Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), Independent Residential Care placements which is a pressure area as noted above, Direct Payments for children with disabilities, support for the Information, Advice and Assistance Team which addresses some but not all the workforce pressures to keep the service safe and caseload at a reasonable level, and Children's Residential Services so the new in-house service has safe staffing levels and can

achieve CIW registration. This will alleviate some, but not all, key pressure areas in Children’s Services in the forthcoming financial year, and further consideration will need to be given by Council in future year budgets to the sustainable resource required to improve the quality of outcomes for children and families in Bridgend.

- Commissioning & Social Work – the over spend of £2.414 million is mainly due to having to continue to rely on agency staffing across all the children’s social work teams due to the need to resource child protection and safeguarding teams combined with ongoing recruitment challenges. A sustainability plan will be considered by Cabinet which will set out the level of workforce required to safely staff services which may present an ongoing budget pressure.. The outturn reflects 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 and ensure that statutory duties are met. Every opportunity is taken to convert agency arrangements into permanent employment where possible.
- Management & Administration – the over spend of £333,000 relates primarily to an increase in staffing costs, including agency costs, who are supporting key roles in Children’s Services. There has been a significant increase in children and young people referred for care and support and/or due to safeguarding concerns. In addition to the impact this has on the social work teams being required to discharge their statutory duties, there is also the impact on business support due to the pivotal role they play in ensuring statutory timescales and recording requirements are met.

3.3.3 Communities Directorate

The net budget for the Directorate for 2022-23 was £31.040 million and the actual outturn was £30.601 million following planned draw down of £2.965 million from earmarked reserves, resulting in an under spend of £439,000. The main variances are:

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Planning and Development	691	637	(54)	-7.8%
Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	1,665	1314	(351)	-21.1%
Waste Disposal & Collection	9,836	9,882	46	0.5%
Fleet Services	177	493	316	178.5%
Highways Services (DSO)	3,245	2,959	(286)	-8.8%
Engineering Services	101	(47)	(148)	-146.5%
Corporate Landlord	3,095	3,479	384	12.4%
Parks, Playing Fields & Bereavement	2,454	2,166	(288)	-11.7%

Planning and Development

- The under spend in planning and development of £54,000 is primarily due to an upturn in planning application income. Fee income is subject to considerable fluctuations between years, depending on number of types of applications. For example in 2020-21 the service generated a surplus of £14,000, and in 2021-22 a deficit of £249,000.

Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability

- The under spend of £351,000 is primarily due to staff vacancies in the Climate Response Change section. Various recruitment activities have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts, but appointments have been affected by challenging market conditions. Of the 5 vacant posts in 2022-23, 3 have now been filled and the service area is actively looking to recruit and fill the remaining 2 vacancies, therefore this saving will not be recurring in 2023-24.

Waste Disposal and Collection

- There is a net over spend of £46,000 on the waste disposal and collection budgets. This is made up of:
 - an under spend of £247,000 on the waste disposal budget. Whilst there has been a delay in the achievement of COM 2 – Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle of £60,000 (see para 3.2.2) this has been offset by 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 2022-23.
 - an over spend of £294,000 on the waste collection budget. This is primarily due to a one-off invoice from Kier to correct a historic undercharge relating to the application of inflationary costs to the contract.

Fleet Services

- There is an over spend on Fleet services of £316,000. The fleet services team operate on a break-even basis with re-charges for work undertaken on directorate, South Wales Police (SWP) 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 which is looking at productivity and maximising the provision provided by SWP and the Council and to review any overlap provided, to maximise productivity and to identify any possible efficiencies. A report outlining options in regard of the operating model and charging mechanisms is in the final stages of development in mitigating the budget position of fleet services. It is anticipated that this will be available in quarter 2 of 2023-24.

Highways Services

- There is an under spend within highways services of £286,000 which is partly due to staff vacancies as a result of recruitment difficulties. The following teams in particular are experiencing difficulties in recruiting – hazing (£78,000), and stores (£26,000). The balance of the under spend is due to core funded staff being utilised to support work on capital schemes – e.g. replacement of street lighting works. In these cases, the salary costs can be capitalised, thus generating one-off income for the service area.

Engineering Services

- There is an under spend on engineering services of £148,000. This is primarily due to an increase in the level of fee earning jobs (grant funded/non grant funded projects) and the differing chargeable rates allowed on the schemes.

Corporate Landlord

- There is an over spend of £384,000 against the Corporate Landlord service for 2022-23.
- There are shortfalls in income generated from properties run by the Council due to occupancy shortfall. These include:-

Property	Income Shortfall	Narrative
Science Park	£26,500	A review of each of the budget lines on this property is required as there has been a shortfall on service charges and commission/insurance as was the case for 2021-22
Innovation Centre	£124,500	The building was partly vacated ready to develop the enterprise hub. This project has since been aborted and the vacant units have not been filled
Bridgend Market	£113,000	Shortage in rental income due to a number of empty stalls

- The Corporate Landlord service has also incurred additional one-off costs of £82,000 net in respect of works undertaken as part of the Enterprise Hub Development Programme which are reflected in the outturn position. Officers are continuing to seek sources of funding to complete the physical development of the business units.

Parks, Playing Fields & Bereavement

- There is an under spend £288,000 on Parks, Playing Fields and Bereavement Services.
- £85,000 of this is within Bereavement services which is primarily due to an increase in burial income compared with budgeted income levels. It is anticipated that income levels will return to normal levels in 2023-24.
- The Parks budget has an under spend of £69,000 due to staff vacancies. The service area has successfully recruited to one of the vacant posts and is actively looking to recruit and fill the remaining vacancy, therefore this saving will not be recurring in 2023-24.
- The Playgrounds budget has an under spend of £116,000 due to staff vacancies (£92,000) and the corresponding under spend on supply budgets linked to these vacant posts (£24,000). The service area is actively looking to recruit to the vacant posts in 2023-24, therefore the saving should not be recurring in 2023-24.

3.3.4 Chief Executive's

The net budget for the Directorate for 2022-23 was £23.498 million and the actual outturn was £21.446 million following planned draw down of £2.631 million from earmarked reserves, resulting in an under spend of £2.052 million. The projected under spend at quarter 3 was £1.172 million. The main reason for the improved year end position was the receipt in quarter 4 of an increase to the 'No One Left Out' grant for homelessness from WG of £1.021 million.

The main variances are:-

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget	Actual outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	5,495	5,528	33	0.6%
ICT	4,052	4,341	289	7.1%
Housing & Homelessness	3,431	1,167	(2,264)	-66.0%
Elections	114	311	197	172.8%
Business Support	1,418	1,198	(220)	-15.5%
Partnerships	2,256	2,090	(166)	-7.4%

Legal, Democratic & Regulatory

- Whilst there is a small net over spend of £33,000 across Legal, Democratic and Regulatory services, legal fees continue to be a budget pressure as reported in the previous budget monitoring reports. The pressure experienced in 2021-22 on public and private law childcare cases, along with an increase in volume of complex cases that have required Senior Counsel, continued into 2022-23. The final over spend for legal fees for 2022-23 was £417,000 however this was supported by earmarked reserve draw down of £340,000 during the year to cover the continuing pressure in this service area.

ICT

- There is a net over spend of £289,000 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. A review will take place during 2023-24 and a budget realignment exercise undertaken to mitigate this from recurring. The under recovery of fixed costs and print room costs of £148,000 will continue to be monitored as to whether any future budget virements will need to be actioned in 2023-24. Additional costs of £35,000 were also incurred on postage budgets as a consequence of a combination of providing support for council wide staff working from home before the introduction of the hybrid working model and a general increase in postage costs. This will continue to be monitored in 2023-24 as part of the Future Service Delivery Model.

Housing & Homelessness

- There is an under spend of £2.264 million on Housing & Homelessness. This has improved from the projected under spend of £1.278 million reported at quarter 3 primarily due to additional grant funding and the delay in payment in relation to the V2C scheme (see below).
- 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' initial grant award of £1.046 million. During quarter 4 additional one-off funding of £1.021 million was provided by WG under the No One Left Out scheme to support the in-year housing pressures. Of the overall £3.546 million support provided by WG in 2022-23, £2.5 million is one-off.
- The actual spend on Homelessness accommodation in 2022-23 was £3.824 million.
- The accommodation costs have been offset against the combined WG funding of £3.546 million referred to above with the shortfall of £217,000 being covered by the budget growth of £2.192 million.
- The service area had planned to utilise part of the under spend against the core budget to fund a revenue contribution to capital of £530,000 for a refurbishment programme working with Valleys to Coast (V2C). V2C confirmed that the properties will be available to the Council for nomination rights and to support those individuals and families in temporary accommodation. The capital budget was approved by Council on 20 July 2022, however due to delays in completing the legal agreement, an earmarked reserve has been established to enable the project to go ahead in 2023-24.
- The accommodation spend is based on increased numbers of homeless households and individuals supported, from 187 households and 298 individuals (94 of these children) in March 2022 to 250 households and 479 individuals (179 of these children) in March 2023.
- The demand for accommodation is anticipated to continue into 2023-24. Council approved a budget pressure in the MTFs in March 2023 of £700,000 based on increased numbers of households and individuals supported with accommodation, increasing the core budget to £2.892 million. WG have confirmed £898,694 for the 'No one left out grant' in 2023-24 resulting in a total accommodation budget of £3.791 million in 2023-24. Given that the actual accommodation costs for 2022-23 were £3.824 million this budget will require close monitoring in the new financial year.

Elections

- An earmarked reserve of £116,000 was previously established to cover the costs of the local government elections in May 2022. The costs of the local elections and by-elections during 2022-23 exceeded the earmarked reserve, resulting in a one-off over spend of £197,000.

Business Support

- The under spend of £220,000 relates primarily to staff vacancies. The service area is actively looking to recruit and fill these vacancies therefore this saving will not be recurring in 2023-24.

Partnerships

- This service areas includes Transformation, Partnerships and Customer Services & Engagement. The under spend of £166,000 is primarily due to staff vacancies in the Customer Care section (£155,000). Various recruitment activities have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts, but appointments have been affected by challenging recruitment market conditions.

3.3.5 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 was £41.221 million and the actual outturn was £31.684 million, resulting in an under spend of £9.537 million.

The most significant variances were:-

COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Capital Financing Costs	7,203	5,070	(2,133)	-29.6%
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	16,054	14,885	(1,169)	-7.3%
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,671	308	22.6%
Repairs and Maintenance	497	-	(497)	-100.0%
Other Council Wide Budgets	6,814	960	(5,854)	-85.9%

Capital Financing Costs

- The under spend of £2.133 million 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. The additional interest from current investments is primarily due to the continuing increase in interest rates with the Bank of England confirming a further increase to 4.5% in May 2023, the highest it has been since 2008.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- There is an under spend of £1.169 million 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 is slightly lower than 2021-22 when the gross spend in this budget area was £15.239 million. However, the budget will be closely monitored in 2023-24 as it is possible that there could be an additional call on the scheme in view of the impact of the cost of living crisis on personal financial circumstances and a potential increase in the number of benefit claimants.

Insurance Premiums

- There is an over spend of £308,000 on the insurance budget as a result of increased insurance premiums and the value of claims settled in 2022-23. As a result of a recent procurement exercise, insurance premiums will be less in 2023-24. In addition, the value of claims settled is anticipated to be a one-off pressure, but the insurance budget will be monitored closely in 2023-24 and any early indication of any ongoing significant changes will be reported to Cabinet through the quarterly budget monitoring reports.

Repairs and Maintenance

- There is an under spend of £497,000 which is as a result of slippage on some minor works schemes and feasibility studies, which will now be completed in 2023-24. An earmarked reserve has been established to meet these costs in the next financial year.

Other Council Wide Budgets

- Other council wide budgets include funding for pay and price increases along with funding to deal with unexpected costs unforeseen when the budget was set. There is a net under spend of £5.905 million on other council wide budgets. The main areas contributing to this under spend are:-
 - Inflation rates have fluctuated since the budget was set – CPI was 6.2% when the budget was set in February 2022, had increased to 10.7% in November 2022, reducing slightly to 10.1% in the 12 months to March 2023. The majority of the budget estimated for price inflation is retained centrally within council wide budgets and allocated to directorates/schools as further information is known about specific contractual price increases – e.g for energy. The majority of the under spend relates to reductions in requirements to allocate price budgets to service areas in-year as the Council did not see the increases in CPI impact on contractual arrangements in 2022-23. However, even though CPI has fallen to 8.7% in April 2023, there is ongoing uncertainty around the impact of the war in the Ukraine and, along with the known energy cost increases in 2023-24, it is likely that the provision set aside in the MTFS for 2023-24 will need to be supplemented by any funding not committed from the council wide budgets this financial year.
 - There has also been a reduction in corporate support required to fund redundancy costs as, following the better than anticipated WG settlement for 2022-23, fewer budget savings had to be made. In addition, there was a lower than anticipated requirement against the £1 million MTFS Covid-19 pressure approved by Council in February 2022.

3.4 Review of Earmarked Reserves

- 3.4.1 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. During 2022-23 Directorates drew down funding from specific earmarked reserves and these were reported to Cabinet through the quarterly monitoring reports. The final draw down from reserves was £18.910 million and is summarised in Table 5 below. A more detailed breakdown of the movement on reserves is outlined in **Appendix 4**.

Table 5 – Draw Down from Earmarked Reserves during 2022-23

	Draw down from Earmarked Reserves 2022-23 £'000
Education & Family Support	1,903
Schools	7,330
Social Services & Wellbeing	3,809
Communities	2,965
Chief Executives	2,631
Council Wide	272
Total	18,910

3.4.2 The net under spend position of £2.057 million for 2022-23, as set out in 3.1.2, along with the unwinding of existing earmarked reserves, where no longer required, has enabled a limited amount of new earmarked reserves to be created at year end, the most significant being £1.3 million towards the Cost of Living Fund, £530,000 contribution to capital for a refurbishment programme working with Valleys to Coast (V2C) (see 3.3.4), £301,000 carry forward of minor works revenue projects and £114,000 feasibility studies unable to be completed in 2022-23 (see 3.3.5).

3.4.3 A full breakdown of the total movement on earmarked reserves at 31st March 2023 is provided in **Appendix 4**. Table 6 below summarises the final position on all useable reserves for the year, including the Council Fund.

Table 6 – Summary of Movement on Earmarked Reserves 2022-23

Opening Balance 1 April 2022 £'000	Reserve	Movement at Quarter 4		Closing Balance 31 March 2023 £'000
		Additions/ Reclassification £'000	Drawdown £'000	
10,110	Council Fund Balance	-	-	10,110
59,195	Council Wide Reserves	11,836	(10,299)	60,732
24,064	Directorate Reserves	4,139	(9,022)	19,181
9,245	Equalisation & Grant Reserves	1,247	(4,789)	5,703
14,228	School Balances	-	(7,330)	6,898
106,732	Total Earmarked Reserves	17,222	(31,440)	92,514
116,842	Total Reserves	17,222	(31,440)	102,624

3.4.4 In terms of financial reserves, the Council Fund balance represents 3.16% of the net revenue budget for 2022-23, or 4.84% of the net revenue budget, excluding schools. This aligns closely with MTFs Principle 9 which states that:-

The Council Fund balance should be set at a prudent but not excessive level. This will normally be maintained at a level of 5% of the Council's net budget, excluding schools.

3.4.5 A thorough review of earmarked reserves is being undertaken by Corporate Management Board during quarter 1 of 2023-24, including assessing the draw down profile and re-profiling of existing earmarked reserves against emerging risks for the Council as a whole. The results of this exercise will be reported in the quarter 1 budget monitoring report to Cabinet in July.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 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.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 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 well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. The allocation of budget determines the extent to which the Council's well-being objectives can be delivered. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 These are reflected in the body of the report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Council is recommended to:

- note the revenue outturn position for 2022-23.

Background documents:

Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports

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 achieved in 22-23 £000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed Action in 2023-24 to achieve
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RAG STATUS KEY

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

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 was undertaken during quarter 2 to identify a replacement saving for the original budget reduction proposal. A recurring saving on the Street Lighting Budget of £100,000 was identified as the LED replacement programme has generated savings due to reduced energy consumption. No further action required
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 later in 2023 should the licence to operate be granted by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). Both sites will be maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2024-25.	The saving will continue to be met through alternative one off efficiencies in 2023-24 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 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	Budget Reductions 2022-23 £'000	Value of Saving Achieved 2022-23 £'000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed action in 2023-24 to achieve
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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	68	Welsh Government changed the terms and conditions of the grant for this service area which impacted on the core budget and deliverability of this proposal. In 2022-23, the Education and Family Support Directorate identified alternative budget reduction proposals to replace this saving through a review of supplies and services budgets across the directorate.	None required - alternative saving identified and achieved in 2022-23
Total Education and Family Support			68	68		

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	200	Full saving achieved in 2022-23	None required - saving made in full 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	Efficiencies were identified and implemented in 2022-23, and work has continued to further develop the remodelling to enable the savings target to be met in full in 2023-24.	None required - 2023-24 will see the delivery of this saving target in full.
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	Full saving achieved in 2022-23	None required - saving made in full in 2022-23
Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate			365	284		

MONITORING OF 2022-23 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Page 1 Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2022-23 £'000	Value of Saving Achieved 2022-23 £'000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed action in 2023-24 to achieve
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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	Full saving achieved in 2022-23	None required - saving made in full 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	Full saving achieved in 2022-23	None required - saving made in full 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	Ongoing national research and debate surrounding composition of Household Food Waste Bags. Budget reduction proposal has been delayed until the outcome of the review is known to ensure any potential changes in legislation do not impact on the proposal. Changes to national composting standard is awaited.	The saving will be met through alternative one off efficiencies in 2023-24 to deliver a balanced budget position.
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	10	Staffing vacancies have delayed the implementation of this saving proposal, however the appointment of a Senior Portfolio Surveyor will make this a priority as we move forward.	This work has now commenced however the saving may not be fully achieved in 2023-24. If this is the case, the saving will be met through alternative one off efficiencies in order to deliver a balanced budget position.
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	Delay in progressing budget reduction proposal whilst the Future Service Delivery model was being developed.	This work has now commenced, with commercial agents engaged, however the saving may not be fully achieved in 2023-24. If this is the case, the saving will be met through alternative one off efficiencies in order to deliver a balanced budget position.
Total Communities Directorate			150	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	Full saving achieved in 2022-23	None required - saving made in full in 2022-23
Total Chief Executive's Directorate			48	48		

GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS	631	455
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REDUCTION SHORTFALL	176
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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	Budget Reductions 2022-23 £'000	Value of Saving Achieved 2022-23 £'000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed action in 2023-24 to achieve
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93	411
88	135
450	85
631	631

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2022-23			Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	Expenditure Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget			
	£'000	£'000	£'000			
EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT						
School Delegated Budgets	131,897	(21,302)	110,595	110,595	-	0.0%
Learner Support	7,915	(1,207)	6,708	6,632	(76)	-1.1%
Family Support	8,579	(5,501)	3,078	2,388	(690)	-22.4%
Business Support	15,402	(4,447)	10,955	11,982	1,027	9.4%
Schools Support	1,506	(837)	669	672	3	0.4%
School Modernisation	4,014	(214)	3,800	3,778	(22)	-0.6%
Vulnerable Groups Support	737	(96)	641	521	(120)	-18.7%
Other Education and Family Support	1,921	-	1,922	1,677	(245)	-12.7%
TOTAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	171,971	(33,604)	138,368	138,245	(123)	-0.1%
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
Adult Social Care	79,345	(21,605)	57,740	62,516	4,776	8.3%
Prevention and Wellbeing	7,021	(973)	6,048	5,850	(198)	-3.3%
Childrens Social Care	22,765	(1,166)	21,599	27,889	6,290	29.1%
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	109,131	(23,744)	85,387	96,255	10,868	12.7%
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE						
Planning & Development Services	2,336	(1,645)	691	637	(54)	-7.8%
Strategic Regeneration	3,106	(1,413)	1,693	1,692	(1)	-0.1%
Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	6,804	(5,139)	1,665	1,314	(351)	-21.1%
Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	13,489	(1,502)	11,987	12,025	38	0.3%
Highways and Green Spaces	23,682	(12,056)	11,626	11,178	(448)	-3.9%
Strategic Management	283	-	283	276	(7)	-2.5%
Corporate Landlord	12,634	(9,539)	3,095	3,479	384	12.4%
TOTAL COMMUNITIES	62,334	(31,294)	31,040	30,601	(439)	-1.4%
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S						
Chief Executive Unit	483	-	483	500	17	3.5%
Finance	47,127	(42,994)	4,133	4,128	(5)	-0.1%
HR/OD	2,514	(398)	2,116	2,183	67	3.2%
Partnerships	3,483	(1,227)	2,256	2,090	(166)	-7.4%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	6,445	(950)	5,495	5,528	33	0.6%
Elections	163	(49)	114	311	197	172.8%
ICT	5,340	(1,288)	4,052	4,341	289	7.1%
Housing & Homelessness	11,289	(7,858)	3,431	1,167	(2,264)	-66.0%
Business Support	1,529	(111)	1,418	1,198	(220)	-15.5%
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	78,373	(54,875)	23,498	21,446	(2,052)	-8.7%
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	421,809	(143,517)	278,293	286,547	8,254	3.0%
Council Wide Budgets	42,191	(970)	41,221	31,684	(9,537)	-23.1%
Accrued Council Tax Income				(774)	(774)	0.0%
Appropriations to / from Earmarked Reserves				2,057	2,057	0.0%
Transfer to Council Fund				-	-	0.0%
NET BRIDGEND CBC	464,000	(144,487)	319,514	319,514	-	0.0%

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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TOTAL MOVEMENT ON EARMARKED RESERVES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

Opening Balance 01 Apr 22	Reserve	Movement as at 31 March 2023		Closing Balance 31 Mar 23
		Net Additions/ Reclassification	Draw-down/ unwound	
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
	Corporate Reserves:			
912	Asset Management Plan	-	(146)	766
1,920	Building Maintenance Reserve	376	(527)	1,769
1,056	Capital Asset Management & Asbestos Fund	-	(606)	450
645	Capital Feasibility Fund	206	(220)	631
40,025	Capital Programme Contribution	9,646	(5,696)	43,975
1,114	Change Management	-	(230)	884
1,429	Digital Transformation, ICT & Finance Systems	775	(259)	1,945
800	Economic and Future Resilience Fund	-	-	800
2,160	Insurance Reserve	-	-	2,160
4,149	Major Claims Reserve	833	(1,902)	3,080
906	MTFS Budget Contingency	-	-	906
192	Property Disposal Strategy	-	(13)	179
3,593	Service Reconfiguration	-	(700)	2,893
294	Welfare Reform Bill	-	-	294
59,195	Total Corporate Reserves	11,836	(10,299)	60,732
	Directorate Reserves:			
5,970	City Deal Reserve	588	-	6,558
15,340	Directorate Issues	4,270	(8,099)	11,511
905	Highways Asset Management Reserve	(540)	(207)	158
578	Looked After Children	(167)	(98)	313
103	Porthcawl Regeneration	-	-	103
180	Property Reserve	-	(180)	-
11	Safe Routes to Schools	-	(11)	-
309	School Projects Reserve	-	(37)	272
669	Wellbeing Projects	(12)	(391)	266
24,065	Total Directorate Reserves	4,139	(9,023)	19,181
	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:			
25	Building Control Reserve	7	-	32
50	Civil Parking Enforcement	-	(34)	16
128	Election Costs	-	(128)	-
791	HWB Schools Infrastructure	402	(249)	944
5,888	IFRS Grants	838	(3,078)	3,648
153	Legal Fees	-	-	153
158	Local Development Plan	-	-	158
815	Special Regeneration Fund	-	(63)	752
1,236	Cost of Living Grant	-	(1,236)	-
9,244	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:	1,247	(4,788)	5,703
14,228	School Balances	-	(7,330)	6,898
106,732	TOTAL RESERVES	17,171	(31,440)	92,463

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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Meeting of:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	21 JUNE 2023
Report Title:	CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2022-23
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE
Responsible Officer:	NIGEL SMITH GROUP MANAGER – CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	Paragraph 3.5.3 of the Finance Procedure Rules requires that the Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to Cabinet and Council with an update on the Capital Strategy and the Prudential Indicators. This report fulfils that requirement. There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report provides details of the capital budgets and expenditure outturn for 2022-23 and provides explanations for the main variances. • Appendix A shows the budgets and outturn spend for the individual schemes in 2022-23. • Appendix B provides details of the actual prudential and other indicators for 2022-23.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s (CIPFA) ‘The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities’ (2021 edition) requirement to report performance against all forward looking indicators on a quarterly basis.
- provide details of the capital outturn for 2022-23 (**Appendix A**)
- note the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2022-23 (**Appendix B**)

2. Background

2.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, contain detailed provisions for the capital finance and accounting controls, including the rules on the use of capital receipts and what is to be treated as capital

expenditure. They modify accounting practice in various ways to prevent adverse impacts on authorities' revenue resources.

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

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

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

2.4 On 23 February 2022 Council approved a capital budget of £69.979 million for 2022-23 as part of a capital programme covering the period 2022-23 to 2031-32 and Council received regular updates and approved revisions through the year. The capital programme for 2022-23 was last updated and approved by Council on 1 March 2023.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 Capital Programme Outturn Position 2022-23

3.1.1 The original budget approved by Council on 23 February 2022 has been revised and approved by Council during the year to incorporate budgets brought forward from 2021-22 and any new schemes and grant approvals during 2022-23. The revised programme for 2022-23, approved by Council in March 2023 totalled £58.387 million, of which £21.855 million was to be met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts, revenue contributions from earmarked reserves and borrowing, with the remaining £36.532 million coming from external resources.

3.1.2 **Appendix A** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2022-23 compared to the actual spend. Since the last report presented to Council in March 2023 there have been a few minor amendments to the 2022-23 Programme. The main changes are:

- New approvals of £0.539 million, as a result of additional grant funded schemes including £0.357 million Safer Streets grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, £0.049 million Welsh Government grant for Zero Emission Vehicle/Charging Infrastructure, and £0.133 million revenue contributions as a result of revised expenditure profiles across a number of schemes.
- These additions are offset by two reductions in the programme of £0.120 million on the Free School Meals scheme and £0.060 million on the Community Focused

Schools scheme. This is as a result of some items of expenditure on the two schemes being deemed to be revenue in nature, and so expenditure as well as an equal amount of grant funding was transferred to revenue.

- £0.014 million funding has been brought forward from 2023-24 to reflect revised spend profiles.

This brings the revised budget for 2022-23 to £58.760 million.

3.1.3 Total expenditure as at 31 March 2023 was £29.230 million which, after slippage of £27.875 million into 2023-24, and adjustments to grant funded schemes of £0.860 million, results in a total under spend of £0.795 million. Of this, £0.639 million will be returned to the Council's capital funding provision to contribute to future capital projects. Slippage has arisen for a number of reasons, including delays in starting projects due to the need to undertake more detailed survey works, supply chain issues and ongoing discussions with funding bodies and other general programme delays.

3.1.4 Slippage forecast to be spent in 2023-24 of £27.875 million is required, the main schemes being:

- £0.591 million Universal Free School Meals. Delays in the procurement and tender process meant that there was a delay in the kitchen audits being completed, which assessed the equipment requirements for each school to enable them to roll out the universal free school meals programme. There have also been delays in arranging the installation of the new equipment with the contractor, as they are also working with four other Welsh authorities on their universal free school meals programmes.
- £0.703 million School Capital Maintenance Grant. Following the Council being awarded a School Capital Maintenance grant of £2.325 million in quarter 4, there have been a number of underspends due to capacity issues, which have meant that the grant has been used to fund various other schemes in the capital programme, as allowed in the grant terms and conditions, and the retrospective earmarked reserve and capital receipts funding displaced and slipped for use in 2023-24.
- £0.559 million Coychurch Crematorium. Delays in the procurement and tender process resulted in works on the Flower Court Extension not commencing until October 2022. Works are now expected to be completed in September 2023.
- £2.980 million Porthcawl Metro Link. The tender process for this scheme is not yet complete which, coupled with technical site issues, has led to a change in timescales, therefore the remaining budget is slipped for use in 2023-24.
- £0.788 million Cosy Corner. There have been slight delays in the programme timetable due to Welsh Water delays and re-programming implications as a result of the removal of asbestos from the site. The project will be completed in 2023-24.

- £0.764 million Coastal Risk Management. Works have taken longer than anticipated and there have also been some delays in receiving approvals from the designers of the scheme for revetment and grouting works. The scheme is now due for completion in June 2023.
- £3.493 million Ewenny Road Industrial Estate. Since the grant was confirmed there have been substantial delays associated with reaching an agreed funding contract with Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), which was required to ensure the agreement did not create any undue risk for Bridgend County Borough Council. Whilst a funding contract with CCR has now been agreed, the scheme requires planning permission before it can be implemented, and this element of the project has been delayed due to consultation comments from Natural Resource Wales and the resultant requirement for additional hydraulic modelling. The planning application is now expected to be determined by September 2023 with the grant funded infrastructure works to be tendered following any approval.
- £2.177 million Llynfi Development Site. The Council are currently in discussions with Welsh Government about the use of the funding, and updates will be provided in future capital reports once we have confirmation from WG about their requirements.
- £0.952 million Maesteg Town Hall Cultural Hub. During renovation works, large scale defective plaster and active dry rot were discovered within the core fabric of the building. This required remedial work to be undertaken before any further planned renovation works could take place, resulting in a lower spend in 2022-23 than anticipated.
- £1.115 million UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). UK Government were delayed in agreeing the South East Wales UKSPF agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. This has resulted in delays in funding agreements being made available for Bridgend County Borough Council. A proposal has been submitted to UK Government through their outlined 'credible plan' process, via Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, for the underspend from 2022-23 to be rolled forward into 2023-24.
- £0.773 million Capital Asset Management Fund. A £1.5 million capital fund was established in 2019-20 to meet the costs of capital works required to comply with any health and safety or other legislative requirements in respect of the Council's assets. Subsequently £0.5 million was transferred to revenue works, leaving £1 million for capital. There have been 2 approvals on this fund to date (£0.180 million Pencoed Complex Medical Needs provision in 2019-20 and £0.047 million Puffin Crossing Kenfig Hill 2022-23) and the balance will be carried forward to meet other unexpected health and safety works.
- £0.551 million Bryncethin Depot. With the depot rationalisation project at Park Afon Ewenny being impacted by changes to the Natural Resources Wales Flood mapping guidance, a number of proposed projects at Bryncethin to facilitate this wider project have been delayed primarily as a result of end user requirements being under review. These works included drainage and yard resurfacing works, exterior lighting upgrades and the creation of additional workshop areas. All works will proceed and are currently under specification review. A number of projects

have been completed including the roof replacement of Barn Two, essential electricity upgrading works and the installation of a vehicle washdown facility. The major project to replace the office roof and associated internal works to the main building, together with ventilation upgrades to Barn Two were unsuccessful at tender stage and as such these schemes are being re-tendered.

- £0.530 million Homelessness and Housing. The legal agreement between Valleys to Coast and the Council is being finalised, which will allow the £0.530 million to be paid over to Valleys to Coast to support the scheme which brought long term empty properties back into use.
- £0.844 million Affordable Housing. The Council are actively looking at opportunities in line with housing need, although the situation is extremely difficult at present in terms of availability of housing stock.
- £2.174 million Minor Works. Due to delays in completing a number of minor works schemes across all directorates, funding has been slipped for use in 2023-24.

3.2 Prudential and Other Indicators 2022-23 Monitoring

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

3.2.2 In February 2022, Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2022-23, which included the Prudential Indicators for 2022-23.

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

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty, and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services, and functions. This is an information report, therefore, it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no Climate Change implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no Safeguarding and Corporate Parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 These are reflected within the report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Council:

- notes the Capital outturn for 2022-23 (**Appendix A**)
- notes the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2022-23 (**Appendix B**)

Background documents

None

2022-23 OUTTURN REPORT

	Budget 22-23 (Council Mar 23)	New Approvals	Virement	Slippage From 2023-24	Revised Budget 2022-23	Total Expenditure 2022-23	Over / (Under) spend	Slippage to 2023-24	Impact on Grant Funded Schemes	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Education & Family Support

HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B SCHOOL	100				100	-	(100)	100		
SUSTAINABLE LEARNING FOR COMMUNITIES - BAND B SCHOOLS	732		(732)		-	-	-	-		
MYNYDD CYNFFIG REPLACEMENT	-		125		125	125	-	-		
YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO OGWR REPLACEMENT	-		12		12	12	-	-		
BRIDGEND WEST	-		595		595	595	-	-		
YSGOL BRYN CASTELL	30				30	9	(21)	-		(21)
YSGOL GYFUN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD	100				100	-	(100)	100		
GATEWAY TO THE VALLEYS SEC SCH	32				32	-	(32)	32		
GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRY PROVIS.	139				139	69	(70)	70		
PENCOED PRIMARY BAND A	53				53	-	(53)	53		
GARW VALLEY PRIMARY HIGHWAYS	30				30	-	(30)	30		
PENCOED PRY SCH HIGHWAYS WORKS	56				56	-	(56)	56		
ABERCERDIN PRIMARY HUB	20				20	10	(10)	10		
BRYNTEG COMP ALL WEATHER PITCH	20				20	4	(16)	16		
MINOR WORKS	404				404	149	(255)	255		
SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	10			3	13	13	-	-		
HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL	317		71		388	388	-	-		
SCHOOLS MODERNISATION	406		(18)		388	2	(386)	386		
PENCOED PRIMARY CLASSROOM EXTENSION	52				52	-	(52)	52		
COETY PRIMARY EXTENSION	44				44	-	(44)	44		
BRYNTIRION COMP SIX CLASSROOMS	150				150	120	(30)	30		
EDUCATION S106 SCHEMES	169				169	-	(169)	169		
MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY MOBILES	79				79	-	(79)	79		
SCHOOLS CAPITAL MAINTENANCE GRANT	2,004				2,004	1,301	(703)	703		
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - BETTWS	534		18		552	552	-	-		
WELSH MEDIUM GRANT - OGMORE	747				747	682	(65)	65		
WELSH MEDIUM - HIGHWAYS	100				100	78	(22)	22		
FREE SCHOOL MEALS	846	(120)			726	135	(591)	591		
COMMUNITY FOCUSED SCHOOLS	300	(60)			240	82	(158)	158		
ALN CAPITAL GRANT	897		(71)		826	690	(136)	-		(136)
Y G BRO OGWR MOBILE CLASSROOMS	50				50	21	(29)	29		
PORTHCAWL WELSH MEDIUM SEEDLING SCHOOL	370				370	-	(370)	370		
TOTAL Education & Family Support	8,791	(180)	-	3	8,614	5,037	(3,577)	3,420	-	(157)

Social Services & Wellbeing

BRYNGARW PARK - ACCESS	23				23	19	(4)			(4)
BRYN Y CAE-UPGRADE HFE'S	40				40	-	(40)	40		
TREM Y MOR - ACCOMODATION	4				4	1	(3)	-		(3)
TY CWM OGWR	331				331	290	(41)	41		
VARIOUS MINOR WORKS	135				135	25	(110)	110		
BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	10				10	-	(10)	10		
GLAN YR AFON CARE HOME	51				51	-	(51)			(51)
CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	2,831				2,831	2,387	(444)	444		
TELECARE TRANSFORMATION	318				318	117	(201)	201		
ACCESSIBILITY WORKS HALO/AWEN	11				11	11	-	-		
COMMUNITY CENTRES	226				226	29	(197)	197		
BRYNGARW HOUSE	30				30	22	(8)	8		
YSGOL BRYN CASTELL HARD COURTS	99				99	-	(99)	99		
TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	4,109	-	-	-	4,109	2,901	(1,208)	1,150	-	(58)

	Budget 22-23 (Council Mar 23)	New Approvals	Virement	Slippage From 2023-24	Revised Budget 2022-23	Total Expenditure 2022-23	Over / (Under) spend	Slippage to 2023-24	Impact on Grant Funded Schemes	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Communities**Street Scene**

COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	500				500	380	(120)	120		
PARKS/PAVILIONS/OTHER CAT	285				285	202	(83)	83		
ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	11				11	-	(11)	11		
CITY DEAL	132				132	-	(132)	132		
COYCHURCH CREM WORKS	1,385				1,385	826	(559)	559		
ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY ROAD	392		136		528	528	-	-		
REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	50				50	-	(50)	50		
20 MPH DEFAULT SPEED	580				580	198	(382)	382		
ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	124				124	86	(38)	38		
PYLE TO PORTHCAWL ATR PHASE 1	387				387	260	(127)	-	(127)	
PENCOED TECH PARK ACT TRAVEL	3,463		(136)		3,327	2,904	(423)	-	(423)	
HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	160				160	114	(46)	46		
CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	250	5			255	255	-	-		
ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS HEOL MOSTYN	169				169	1	(168)	168		
PROW CAPITAL IMP STRUCTURES	108		40		148	129	(19)	19		
HIGHWAYS REFURBISHMENT	2,000	26			2,026	2,026	-	-		
CARRIAGEWAY & FOOTWAYS RENEWAL	1,500	34			1,534	1,534	-	-		
REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING / RIVER PROTECTION	432		(65)		367	367	-	-		
RIVER PROTECTION MEASURES	-	3	65		68	68	-	-		
BRIDGE STRENGTHENING A4061	24				24	2	(22)	22		
COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	591		(40)		551	67	(484)	484		
ULTRA LOW EMISSIONS VEHICLE TRANSFORMATION FUND	643		(300)		343	245	(98)	-	(98)	
ULTRA LOW EMISSIONS VEHICLE TRANSFORMATION FUND 2	-	28	300		328	29	(299)	299		
FLEET TRANSITION-ULTRA LOW VEHICLE EMISSIONS	300				300	80	(220)	220		
TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT	250	5			255	255	-	-		
ULTRA LOW EMISSIONS VEHICLES	320	21			341	77	(264)	264		
PORTHCAWL BUS STATION CCRMETRO	3,039				3,039	59	(2,980)	2,980		
PENPRYSG ROAD BRIDGE	-			11	11	11	-	-		
RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TC	24				24	15	(9)	9		
FLEET VEHICLES	684				684	265	(419)	419		
RELOCATE RECYCLING CENTRE	5	1			6	6	-	-		
AHP WASTE	24				24	18	(6)	6		
CORNELLY CEMETERY EXT	279				279	62	(217)	217		
PORTHCAWL CEMETERY EXT	183				183	6	(177)	177		
S106 HIGHWAYS SMALL SCHEMES	45				45	3	(42)	42		
UNADOPTED ROADS	100				100	67	(33)	33		
TONDU WASTE DEPOT UPGRADE FIRE	140				140	123	(17)	17		
PUFFIN CROSSING KENFIG HILL	93				93	79	(14)	14		
TOTAL Streetscene	18,672	123	-	11	18,806	11,347	(7,459)	6,811	(648)	-

Regeneration & Development

BRIDGEND BUSSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK	58		16		74	74	-	-		-
COSY CORNER (PRIF)	2,433				2,433	1,645	(788)	788		-
ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT (WG)	500		(16)		484	-	(484)	484		-
COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT P'CAWL	2,528				2,528	1,764	(764)	764		-
EWENNY ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	3,500				3,500	7	(3,493)	3,493		-
ARBED PHASE 1 CESP	14				14	12	(2)	2		-
LLYNFI DEVELOPMENT SITE	2,177				2,177	-	(2,177)	2,177		-
BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	500				500	38	(462)	462		-
MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	2,869				2,869	1,917	(952)	952		-
TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	242				242	60	(182)	182		-
BRILLIANT BASICS	65				65	45	(20)	-	(16)	(4)
CWM TAFF NATURE NETWORK	230				230	21	(209)	209		-
URBAN CENTRE PROPERTY ENHANCE	241				241	190	(51)	51		-

	Budget 22-23 (Council Mar 23)	New Approvals	Virement	Slippage From 2023-24	Revised Budget 2022-23	Total Expenditure 2022-23	Over / (Under) spend	Slippage to 2023-24	Impact on Grant Funded Schemes	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
SHARED PROSPERITY FUND	1,115				1,115	-	(1,115)	1,115		-
TOTAL Regeneration & Development	16,472	-	-	-	16,472	5,773	(10,699)	10,679	(16)	(4)

Corporate Landlord

CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND	773				773	-	(773)	773		-
ENTERPRISE HUB INNOVATION CENT	-				-	(393)	(393)	-		(393)
CORP LANDLORD ENERGY EFFIC SAV	390				390	238	(152)	-		(152)
RAVENS COURT	7				7	1	(6)	6		-
DDA WORKS	327	30			357	275	(82)	82		-
MINOR WORKS	430				430	63	(367)	367		-
FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	239				239	129	(110)	110		-
BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	908				908	357	(551)	551		-
NON OPERATIONAL ASSETS	480				480	-	(480)	480		-
EVERGREEN HALL	106				106	17	(89)	89		-
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	47				47	-	(47)	47		-
Total Corporate Landlord	3,707	30	-	-	3,737	687	(3,050)	2,505	-	(545)

TOTAL Communities	38,851	153	-	11	39,015	17,807	(21,208)	19,995	(664)	(549)
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Chief Executive**Corporate Capital Fund**

CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	373				373	-	(373)	373		-
TOTAL Corporate Capital Fund	373	-	-	-	373	-	(373)	373		-

Housing /Homelessness

MANDATORY DFG RELATED EXPEND	1,934		(22)		1,912	1,652	(260)	260		-
TARGET HARDENING GRANTS	16		14		30	30	-	-		-
DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS	400				400	271	(129)	129		-
HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	218				218	3	(215)	215		-
VALLEYS TASKFORCE EMPTY PROPERTIES GRANT	300				300	74	(226)		(195)	(31)
COMFORT SAFE & SECURITY GRANTS	-		8		8	8	-	-		-
ENABLE GRANT	270				270	269	(1)	-	(1)	-
HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING	530				530	-	(530)	530		-
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	844				844	-	(844)	844		-
TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	4,512	-	-	-	4,512	2,307	(2,205)	1,978	(196)	(31)

ICT

INVESTMENT IN ICT	698				698	332	(366)	366		-
HWB SCHOOLS IT	126	29			155	155	-	-		-
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	20				20	20	-	-		-
CCTV SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT	427	357			784	671	(113)	113		-
TOTAL ICT	1,271	386	-	-	1,657	1,178	(479)	479	-	-

UNALLOCATED	480	-	-	-	480	-	(480)	480		-
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TOTAL Chief Executive	6,636	386	-	-	7,022	3,485	(3,537)	3,310	(196)	(31)
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GRAND TOTAL	58,387	359	-	14	58,760	29,230	(29,530)	27,875	(860)	(795)
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PRUDENTIAL AND OTHER INDICATORS 2021-22 and 2022-23

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

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2021-22	2022-23	2022-23
	Actual	Estimate	Actual
	£m	(Council Feb 22)	£m
	£m	£m	£m
Council Fund services	29.741	69.979	29.230
TOTAL	29.741	69.979	29.230

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

Table 2: Capital financing

	2021-22	2022-23	2022-23
	Actual	Estimate	Actual
	£m	(Council Feb 22)	£m
	£m	£m	£m
External sources	18.152	26.078	22.192
Own resources	1.020	30.993	0.227
Net Financing Requirement	10.569	12.908	6.811
TOTAL	29.741	69.979	29.230

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

Table 3: Replacement of debt finance

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Actual £m
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	2.970	3.187	2.917
Additional Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP)	3.553	2.476	2.132
Total MRP & VRP	6.523	5.663	5.049
Other MRP on Long term Liabilities	0.801	0.863	0.863
Total Own Resources	7.324	6.526	5.912

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

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate £m	2022-23 Actual £m
Capital Financing Requirement			
Opening CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	157.404	166.729	161.451
Opening PFI CFR	15.567	14.766	14.765
Total opening CFR	172.971	181.495	176.216
Movement in CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	4.046	13.286	1.761
Movement in PFI CFR	(0.801)	(0.863)	(0.862)
Total movement in CFR	3.245	12.423	0.899
Closing CFR	176.216	193.918	177.115
Movement in CFR represented by:			
Net financing need for year (Table 2 above)	10.569	18.949	6.811
Minimum and voluntary revenue provisions	(6.523)	(5.663)	(5.049)
MRP on PFI and other long term leases (Table 3)	(0.801)	(0.863)	(0.863)
Total movement	3.245	12.423	0.899

The capital borrowing need (Capital Financing Requirement) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This is known as Internal Borrowing. Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt, which comprises of borrowing, PFI and Other Long Term Liabilities, are shown below compared with the Capital Financing Requirement:

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

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Actual £m
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	118.864	123.052	119.820
Capital Financing Requirement	176.216	193.918	177.115

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen, the Council complied with the requirement for 2022-23.

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

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

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Actual £m
Authorised limit – borrowing	170.000	170.000	170.000
Authorised limit – other long term liabilities	30.000	30.000	30.000
Authorised Limit Total	200.00	200.000	200.000
Operational boundary – borrowing	120.000	130.000	130.000
Operational boundary – other long term liabilities	25.000	25.000	25.000
Operational Boundary Limit Total	145.000	155.000	155.000
Total Borrowing and Long Term Liabilities	118.864	123.052	119.820

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

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

	2021-22 Actual £m	2022-23 Estimate (Council Feb 22) £m	2022-23 Actual £m
Capital Financing Central	6.719	7.205	5.060
Other Financing costs	5.500	4.423	4.079
TOTAL FINANCING COSTS	12.219	11.628	9.139
Proportion of net revenue stream	4.49%	4.26%	3.34%

This shows that in 2022-23, 3.34% of the Council's net revenue income was spent on paying back the costs of capital.

Meeting of:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	21 JUNE 2023
Report Title:	TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2022-23
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE
Responsible Officer:	NIGEL SMITH, GROUP MANAGER – CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	Para 22.5 of the Financial Procedure Rules requires the Chief Finance Officer to prepare an annual report to Council summarising borrowing and investment activity and indicating compliance with any statutory or Council approved guidelines.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report provides the outturn position for Treasury Management activities for the year ending 31 March 2023. • It confirms that the Council has complied with the statutory and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s Code of Practice. • As at 31 March 2023 the Council had £99.93 million of long term borrowing, £114.06 million of other long term liabilities, primarily Private Finance Initiative, and £74.50 million of treasury investments. • The average interest rate of debt as at 31 March 2023 (excluding Salix borrowing which is interest free) was 4.69% and for investments 2.55%. • The Council is required to set and report against Treasury Management Indicators, details of which are included in Appendix A. These show that the Council operated within the approved limits throughout the year.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s (CIPFA’s) ‘Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice’ (the TM Code) to report an overview of treasury activities for the preceding financial year.
- Report on the actual Treasury Management Indicators for 2022-23.

2. Background

- 2.1 Treasury Management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council is exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.
- 2.2 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 edition (the TM Code), which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) before the start of each financial year and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report. The TM Code also requires the Council to set a number of Treasury Management Indicators, which are forward looking parameters, and enable the Council to measure and manage its exposure to treasury management risks, and these are included in **Appendix A** to this report. In addition, Welsh Government (WG) issued revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments in November 2019 that requires the Council to approve an Investment Strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the TM Code and the Welsh Government Guidance.
- 2.3 In 2021 CIPFA published an updated version of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code). The updated Prudential Code includes a requirement for Local Authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, which is a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The definition of investments in the revised 2021 Prudential Code covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the authority holds primarily for financial return. The Council's Capital Strategy 2022-23 complied with CIPFA's requirement and included the Prudential Indicators along with the details regarding the Council's non-treasury investments. The Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy should be read in conjunction with each other as they are interlinked, as borrowing and investments are directly impacted upon by capital plans and both were approved together by Council on 23 February 2022.
- 2.4 The Council's treasury management advisors are Arlingclose. The current services provided to the Council include:
- advice and guidance on relevant policies, strategies and reports
 - advice on investment decisions
 - notification of credit ratings and changes
 - other information on credit quality
 - advice on debt management decisions
 - accounting advice
 - reports on treasury performance
 - forecasts of interest rates
 - training courses.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 External Context – Economic Background

- 3.1.1 During 2022-23 the war in Ukraine continued to keep global inflation above central bank targets and the UK economic outlook remained relatively weak with the chance of a mild recession. The economic backdrop during January to March 2023 continued to be characterised by high energy and commodity prices, high inflation, and the associated impact on household budgets and spending.
- 3.1.2 Central Bank rhetoric and actions remained consistent with combatting inflation. The Bank of England, US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank all increased interest rates over the period, even in the face of potential economic slowdowns in those regions.
- 3.1.3 The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose to 10.1% in the 12 months to March 2023. This was an increase from 5.5% at the start of the financial year, but slightly down from February 2023 which was 10.4%, At its highest CPI reached 11.1% in October 2022. Whilst fuel costs have seen some reductions, food, recreation and culture costs have contributed to higher inflation.
- 3.1.4 Following the decision by the current UK government to reverse some of the support to household energy bills announced under the previous administration, further support in the form of a cap on what energy suppliers could charge households was announced in the March 2023 Budget to run from April until the end of June 2023. Before the announcement, typical household bills had been due to rise to £3,000 a year from April.
- 3.1.5 The labour market remained tight albeit with some ongoing evidence of potential loosening at the end of the period. The unemployment rate for January to March 2023 increased by 0.1% on the quarter to 3.9%. The increase in unemployment was driven by people unemployed for over 12 months.
- 3.1.6 The bank rate in the UK started the year at 0.75% and increased 8 times during the year to 4.25% as at 31 March 2023. This was as a result of continued higher than expected inflation rate compared to the Bank of England's target set by the Government to keep inflation at 2%.

3.2 Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Lending Facility Advice, Revised CIPFA Codes

- 3.2.1 The Council continues to undertake its duties in line with the current guidance for the PWLB lending facility, which was significantly revised by HM Treasury in August 2021. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield, or financial return, will not be able to access the PWLB except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management.
- 3.2.2 The Council's treasury management activities are undertaken in line with CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code for Capital Finance and CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services - Code of Practice. The key changes in the two codes are around

permitted reasons to borrow, knowledge and skills, and the management of non-treasury investments. In line with CIPFA requirements the Codes will be fully implemented in the 2023-24 financial year. To comply with the Prudential Code authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. The Prudential Code also states it is not prudent for local authorities to make investment or spending decisions that will increase the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority. Existing commercial investments are not required to be sold, however, authorities with existing commercial investments who expect to need to borrow should review the options for exiting these investments. The Council will implement in full the requirements of the code when reporting the 2023-24 financial year activities.

3.3 Treasury Management Outturn 2022-23

3.3.1 The Council has complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements during 2022-23. The TMS 2022-23 was approved by Council on 23 February 2022 with the half year report presented to Council on 16 November 2022. Quarterly reports were also presented to Cabinet and the Governance and Audit Committee for scrutiny during 2022-23.

3.3.2 A summary of the treasury management activities for 2022-23 is shown in **Appendix A**. The Council's external debt and investment position for 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 is shown in Table 1 below, and more detail is provided in **Appendix A** Section 2 - Borrowing Strategy and Outturn, and Section 3 - Investment Strategy and Outturn. As in the previous year, the Council secured small amounts of Salix interest free loans over a period of between 2 and 10 years for specific energy efficiency schemes. No other long term debt (of more than 1 year) was taken out, and no debt rescheduling was undertaken as there were no significant savings to be made. However, should the opportunity arise to reschedule any loans at a preferential rate, this would be done. Favourable cash flows have provided surplus funds for investment and the balance on investments at 31 March 2023 was £74.50 million, with an average interest rate of 2.55%. The total of balances held has decreased in comparison to those held at 31 March 2022, when the balance held was £84.07 million, however the weighted average interest rate has increased in comparison to 2.55% as compared with 0.43% for the previous year. Table 4 in **Appendix A** details the movement of the investments by counterparty types and shows the average balances, interest received, original duration and interest rates for 2022-23.

Table 1: Council's external debt and investment position 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Principal 01/04/2022 £m	Average rate 01/04/2022 %	Principal 31/03/2023 £m	Average rate 31/03/2023 %
External Long-Term Borrowing				
Public Works Loan Board	77.62	4.70	77.62	4.70
Lender's Option Borrower's Option	19.25	4.65	19.25	4.65
Salix Loans	2.68	0.00	3.06	0.00
Total External Borrowing	99.55	4.69*	99.93	4.69*
Other Long-Term Liabilities (LTL)				
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)*	14.77		13.90	
Other LTL	0.39		0.23	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	15.16		14.13	
TOTAL Gross External Debt	114.71		114.06	
Treasury Investments				
Local Authorities	45.50	0.54	53.00	4.05
Debt Management Office	30.20	0.37	7.50	2.19
Banks	8.37	0.53	14.00	3.94
TOTAL Treasury Investments	84.07	0.43	74.50	2.55
NET DEBT	30.64		39.56	

* Excluding Salix loans, which are interest free

** PFI for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg with 11 years remaining term

- 3.3.3 The £19.25 million under external long-term borrowing in Table 1 above relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which have a maturity date of 2054, though these may be rescheduled in advance of this maturity date. The LOBO rate and term may vary in the future depending on the prevailing rates at one of the bi-annual trigger points (these being July and January) and, as a result, the Council being given the option to accept the increase or repay the loan without incurring a penalty. There have been significant interest rate rises over the last year, with an expectation that they may rise further thus the lender could still exercise this option in a future interest rate environment.
- 3.3.4 The Total Other Long Term Liabilities figure of £14.13 million at 31 March 2023 includes £13.90 million for the Council's Private Finance initiative (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg. The other long term liability is the relates to the provision of vehicles for the waste contract, which will end on 31 March 2024.
- 3.3.5 Both the TM Code and Welsh Government (WG) Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return. Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard and Poor's to ensure that this lies within the Councils' agreed minimum credit rating.
- 3.3.6 The Council defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- (A3 for Moody's) or higher and the Council does not invest in any organisation below this level. **Appendix B** shows the equivalence table for credit ratings for Fitch, Moody's, and Standard and Poor's and explains the different investment grades.

3.3.7 There was one long-term investment (original duration of 12 months or more) outstanding at 31 March 2023 for £5 million with Medway Council. This investment is for a period of 2 years and will mature in July 2024. All other investments at 31 March 2023 were short term deposits including instant access and notice accounts.

3.3.8 The Treasury Management Code requires the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management Indicators. The indicators either summarise the expected activity or introduce limits upon the activity. Details of the estimates for 2022-23 set out in the Council's TMS compared to the actual at year end are shown in **Appendix A** and these show that the Council operated within the approved limits throughout the year.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

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

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 The Climate Change implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the environment because of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon Safeguarding and Corporate parenting because of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The financial implications are reflected within the report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Council:

- Note the annual treasury activities for 2022-23
- Note the actual Treasury Management Indicators for 2022-23 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23.

Background documents

None

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SUMMARY OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 2022-23

1. External Debt and Investment Position

On 31 March 2023, the Council held £99.93 million of external long-term borrowing and £74.50 million of investments. The Council’s external debt and investment position for 1 April to 31 March 2023 is shown below in Table 1; more detail is provided in section 3 - Borrowing Strategy and Outturn - and section 4 - Investment Strategy and Outturn. The debt position includes Salix loans which are interest free and were formally show as Long Term Liabilities.

Table 1: External debt and investment position 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	Principal 01/04/2022 £m	Average rate 01/04/2022 %	Principal 31/03/2023 £m	Average rate 31/03/2023 %
External Long-Term Borrowing				
Public Works Loan Board	77.62	4.70	77.62	4.70
Lender’s Option Borrower’s Option	19.25	4.65	19.25	4.65
Salix Loans	2.68	0.00	3.06	0.00
Total External Borrowing	99.55	4.69*	99.93	4.69*
Other Long-Term Liabilities (LTL)				
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)*	14.77		13.90	
Other LTL	0.39		0.23	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	15.16		14.13	
TOTAL Gross External Debt	114.71		114.06	
Treasury Investments				
Local Authorities	45.50	0.54	53.00	4.05
Debt Management Office	30.20	0.37	7.50	2.19
Banks	8.37	0.53	14.00	3.94
TOTAL Treasury Investments	84.07	0.43	74.50	2.55
NET DEBT	30.64		39.56	

* Excluding Salix loans, which are interest free

** PFI for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg with 11 years remaining term

Where a Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside revenue resources to repay that debt in later years and this amount charged to revenue is called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2008 requires the Council to produce and approve an annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement before the start of the financial year that details the methodology for the MRP charge and this is detailed in the Council’s Capital Strategy. The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Council’s current strategy is to delay the need to borrow externally by temporarily using cash it holds for other purposes such as earmarked reserves. This is known as internal borrowing. This strategy is prudent as investment returns are low and counterparty risk is relatively high. Going forward, the CFR is forecast to increase from 2022- 23 levels due to the amount of prudential borrowing in the

capital programme in future years. The Loans CFR (which excludes PFI & Other Long Term Liabilities) as at 31 March 2023 was £163.21 million as shown in Table 2 below.

The liability benchmark measures the Council's projected net debt requirement plus a short-term liquidity allowance in the form of minimum cash and investment balances. The purpose of the benchmark is to set the level of risk which the Council regards as its balanced or normal position. The liability benchmark, or level of debt, as at 31 March 2023 was £32.29 million, which is lower than the estimate within the Treasury Management Strategy (TMS). Long-term borrowing as at 31 March 2023 was £99.93 million. As the Council has available reserves it can use them to fund capital expenditure in the short term, which is a prudent approach to managing its cash resources. Table 2 below has been produced using actual capital spend and usable reserves for the 2022-23 financial year. Reserves are higher than had been expected due to slippage in the capital programme and contributions to new and existing reserves during the year. The Loans CFR ignores cash balances and may be too high if the authority benefits from long term positive cash flows which this Council does benefit from. The benchmark assumes that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £10 million at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

Table 2: Liability benchmark

	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Estimate TMS	2022-23 Actual
	£m	£m	£m
Loans Capital Financing Requirement	162.31	180.02	163.21
Less: Usable reserves	(141.69)	(76.29)	(140.93)
Plus: actual/minimum investments	10.00	10.00	10.00
Liability Benchmark	30.62	113.73	32.29

2. Borrowing Strategy and Outturn for 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

At 31 March 2023, the Council held £99.93 million of long-term loans. The TMS 2022-23 forecast that the Council would need to borrow £9.36 million in 2022-23 however, as a result of both slippage in the capital programme and the level of reserves during the year, the Council did not need to take out new borrowing during 2022-23. Long-term borrowing increased slightly, but this was as a result of schemes funded via Salix interest free borrowing. The amounts are relatively low and have repayment periods of up to 10 years. More detail on forecast capital spend is provided in the Capital Strategy 2022-23 which was approved by Council on 23 February 2022 and the Capital Monitoring outturn report to Cabinet on 20 June 2023.

The Council's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans, should the Council's long-term plans change, is a secondary objective. The major objectives followed in 2022-23 were:

- To minimise the revenue costs of debt
- To manage the Council's debt maturity profile i.e. to leave no one future year with a high level of repayments that could cause problems in re-borrowing
- To secure funding in any one year at the cheapest cost commensurate with future risk
- To monitor and review the level of variable interest rate loans in order to take greater advantage of interest rate movements
- To reschedule debt if appropriate, in order to take advantage of potential savings as interest rates change
- To optimise the use of all capital resources including borrowing, both supported and unsupported, usable capital receipts, revenue contributions to capital and grants and contributions.

Given the impact of high inflation on the economy and public finances in general, as well as affecting local governments spending ability, and the uncertainty going forward in the financial market, the Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. There continues to be increasing uncertainty over future interest rates which increases the risks associated with treasury activity. As a result, the Council will take a cautious approach to its treasury management strategy.

The Council's primary objective for the management of its debt is to ensure its long-term affordability. The majority of its loans have therefore been borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) at long term fixed rates of interest, but we will also investigate other sources of finance, such as Welsh Government and local authority loans and bank loans that may be available at more favourable rates. Following the increase in the numbers of local authorities taking out PWLB loans to buy commercial properties for yield, a UK government consultation by HM Treasury issued revised lending terms for PWLB borrowing by local authorities in November 2020. As a condition of accessing the PWLB, local authorities will be asked to confirm that there is no intention to buy investment assets primarily for yield in the current or next two financial years. Local authorities' Section 151 Officers, or equivalent, will be required to confirm that capital expenditure plans are current and that the plans are within acceptable use of the PWLB. Whilst this in itself does not preclude the Council from investing in commercial activities, investing in assets for yield would preclude the Council from accessing PWLB borrowing. In December 2021, CIPFA published a new edition of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. A significant change to the Code is that, in order to comply with the Code, an authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. It goes further to clarify that "it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending that will increase the capital financing requirement, and so lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority and where any financial returns are either related to the financial viability of the project in question or otherwise incidental to the primary purpose".

The last time the Council took out long term borrowing was £5 million from the PWLB in March 2012. Should there be a need to borrow it is likely to be from

the PWLB. For estimate purposes it has been assumed that this would be over 30 years. The Council may also take short term loans (normally for up to one month) to cover unexpected cash flow shortages. Market conditions have meant that there has been no rescheduling of the Council's long-term borrowing during 2022-23. The loan portfolio will continue to be reviewed for any potential savings as a result of any loan rescheduling in conjunction with the Council's Treasury Management advisors.

The £19.25 million in Table 1 above relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which have a maturity date of 2054, however these may be re-scheduled in advance of this maturity date. The LOBO rate and term may vary in the future depending upon the prevailing market rates, the lender exercising their option to increase rates at one of the bi-annual trigger points (the trigger dates being July and January) and, therefore, the Council being given the option to accept the increase or to repay the loan without incurring a penalty. The lender did not exercise their option on 20 January 2023 and the next trigger point is 21 July 2023. There still may be a chance that the lender may exercise their option as interest rates are still expected to rise, therefore, an element of refinancing risk remains. The Council would take the option to repay these loans at no cost if it has the opportunity to do so in the future. The current average interest rate for these LOBO's is 4.65% compared to the PWLB Loans average interest rate of 4.70%. The premiums payable to renegotiate the Council's Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) continues to be cost prohibitive. The Treasury Management indicator shown in Table 3 below is for the Maturity Structure of Borrowing and is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk with respect to the maturity of the Council's external borrowing and has been set to allow for the possible restructuring of long-term debt where this is expected to lead to an overall saving or reduction in risk. It is the amount of projected borrowing maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing set out in the TMS 2022-23 and the outturn for 2022-23 are:

Table 3 Treasury management Indicator maturity Structure of Borrowing 2022-23

	TMS 2022-23 Upper limit %	TMS 2022-23 Lower limit %	Actual 31/03/2023 %
Under 12 months	50	-	19.67
Over 12 months and within 24 months	25	-	5.98
Over 24 months and within 5 years	25	-	9.04
Over 5 years and within 10 years	40	-	15.75
Over 10 years and within 20 years	50	-	13.15
20 years and above	60	25	36.42

The 19.67% shown in Table 3 above includes the £19.25 million LOBO loans which may be re-scheduled in advance of their maturity date of 2054, as detailed above. The TM Code requires the maturity of LOBO loans to be shown as the earliest date on which the lender can require payment, i.e. the option/call dates in 2023-24, so the maturity date is actually uncertain but is shown in the "Under 12 months" category as per the TM Code. The short-term element of

the Salix loans calculated at £0.4 million is also reflected within the 19.67%.

3. Investment Strategy and Outturn 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, balancing the risk of incurring losses from defaults against receiving unsuitably low investment income.

The major objectives during 2022-23 were:

- Maintain capital security
- Maintain liquidity so funds are available when expenditure is needed
- Achieve a yield on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity

The Annual Investment Strategy incorporated in the Council's TMS 2022-23 includes the credit ratings defined for each category of investments and the liquidity of investments. The Council's investments have historically been placed in mainly local and central government and short-term bank and building society unsecured deposits. However, investments may be made with any public or private sector organisations that meet the minimum credit criteria and investment limits specified in the Investment Strategy. During the year the majority of the Council's surplus cash has been invested in Money Market Funds, Debt Management Office (DMO) and with other local authorities, but the Council will continue to look at investment options in line with the limits detailed in the Investment Strategy. The Council takes into account updated advice from its advisors before making any investment decisions.

The Council holds surplus funds representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves and as shown in Table 1 above, the balance on investments at 31 March 2023 was £74.50 million with an average investment return rate at that date of 2.55%.

Table 4 details these investments by counterparty type. The weighted average investment rate for investments over the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 was 1.65%.

Table 4: Investments Profile 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Investment Counterparty Category	Balance 01 April 2022	Investments raised	Investments Repaid	Balance 31 March 2023	Investment Income received*	Average original duration of the investment	Weighted average investment balance Ap 2022 – Mar 2023	Weighted average interest rate Apr 2022 – Mar 2023
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£'000	Days	£m	%
Government DMO	30.20	435.10	457.80	7.50	575.90	21	29.36	1.93
Local Authorities	45.50	63.00	55.50	53.00	129.44	276	43.39	1.21
Banks (fixed maturity)	3.00	18.00	18.00	3.00	46.58	36	3.00	2.28
Banks instant access/notice account	5.38	90.70	85.09	11.01	80.55	-	7.96	1.39
Money Market Funds	-	44.95	44.95	-	462.65	-	21.82	2.16
Total/average	84.08	651.75	661.34	74.51	1,295.12	83	105.53	1.65

* actual income received in year including accruals

The Treasury Management indicator shown below in Table 5 is for Principal Sums Invested for periods longer than a year. Where the Council invests, or plans to invest, for periods longer than a year, an upper limit is set for each forward financial year period for the maturing of such investments. The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of long-term investments. The limit on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end are set out in the TMS 2022-23.

Table 5: Treasury Management Indicator Principal Sums Invested for periods longer than a year

Price Risk Indicator	TMS 2022-23 £m	Actual 31/03/23 £m
Limit on principal invested beyond financial year-end	15	5

All investments longer than 365 days (non-specified) will be made with a cautious approach to cash flow requirements and advice from Arlingclose will be sought as necessary.

There was only one investment for a period longer than a year (original duration of 12 months or more) outstanding at 31 March 2023. This was with Medway Council and is due to be repaid in July 2024. All other investments at 31 March 2023 were short term deposits including Local Authorities, Government Debt

Management Office (DMO) and instant access and notice accounts. Table 6 details these investments by counterparty type based on the remaining maturity period at 31 March 2023:

Table 6: Investments Outstanding Maturity Profile 31 March 2023

Counterparty Category	Instant Access £m	Deposits maturing within 1 month £m	Deposits maturing within 2-3 months £m	Deposits maturing within 4-12 months £m	TOTAL £m
Government DMO	7.50	-	-	-	7.50
Local Authorities	-	4.00	44.00	5.00	53.00
Banks	8.00	3.00	3.00	-	14.00
Total	15.50	7.00	47.00	5.00	74.50

Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from a selection of external rating agencies to ensure that this lies within the Council's agreed minimum credit rating. Where available the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be considered. **Appendix B** shows the equivalence table for credit ratings for three of the main rating agencies: Fitch, Moody's, and Standard & Poor's, and explains the different investment grades. The Council defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher.

The pie chart below summarises Table 6 by credit ratings and shows the £74.50 million of investments at 31 March 2023 by percentage. Most local authorities do not have credit ratings, whilst the remainder of the investments all had a credit rating of A or above. The Debt Management Office (DMO) is the UK sovereign government and rated AA as at 31 March 2023.



4. Interest Rate Exposure – Borrowing and Investments

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. Short term and variable rate loans expose the Council to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the Treasury Management indicator in Table 7 below to manage Interest Rate Exposures.

Table 7: Treasury Management Indicator Interest Rate Exposures

Interest Rate Risk Indicator	Indicator 2022-23 £'000	Actual 31/03/23 £'000
One year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	(537)	(553)
One year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	726	745

This has been set as an indicator (not a limit) to measure the net impact over one year on the revenue account of both a 1% rise and a 1% fall in all interest rates for borrowing net of treasury investments. This is calculated at a point in time on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at rates 1% higher or lower than they would otherwise have been on their maturity dates and that the treasury investment and borrowing portfolios remain unchanged over the coming year.

The figures for the 1% fall in interest rates indicator are not the same figures as the 1% rise in interest rates (but reversed) as the borrowing relates to variable LOBO loans where it is assumed that the lender would not exercise their option if there was a fall in interest rates. All other borrowing does not have a rate reset in the next year and is with the PWLB at fixed rates.

Table 8: Interest Expenditure & Receipts

A comparison of interest expenditure against income for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 is shown below

	2022/23 £'000
Interest expenditure payable on long term borrowing	4,538
Interest income received in period	(1,761)
Net interest cost	2,777

The figures in the table above include accrued interest. Actual payments may occur after this date.

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Meeting of:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	21 JUNE 2023
Report Title:	LICENSING ACT 2003 APPROVAL TO PUBLISH CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES, HR AND CORPORATE POLICY
Responsible Officer:	WILLIAM LANE OPERATIONAL MANAGER SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	The report content has no direct effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	<p>The Council is the licensing authority responsible for the regulation of premises which offer alcohol, regulated entertainment and the provision of late night refreshment.</p> <p>The Council, as licensing authority must publish a Statement of Licensing Policy setting out how it intends to approach the granting of licences including specific policies on areas, or types of premises where appropriate.</p> <p>On 18 December 2019, the Council approved a special policy in respect of Bridgend Town Centre to address Crime and Disorder. The evidence for the policy was contained within a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) and this is now up for a statutory triennial review.</p>

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Council to approve the publication of a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) to cover Bridgend Town Centre. This matter was reported to Cabinet for noting on 20 June 2023. The approval of a CIA is a Council function.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council must carry out its functions with a view to promoting the licensing objectives set out in the Licensing Act 2003

- The prevention of Crime and Disorder
 - The prevention of Public Nuisance
 - Public Safety
 - The protection of Children from Harm
- 2.2 The licensing authority must prepare and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy setting out how it will exercise its functions under the Act. A Statement of Licensing Policy can be tailored to address specific concerns about the impact of licensed premises. Cumulative Impact is the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of having a number of licensed premises concentrated in one area.
- 2.3 At their meeting on 18 December 2019 Council approved the publication of a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) for Bridgend town centre to inform decision making within the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy. The CIA expired in December 2022.
- 2.4 The processes for adopting a CIA are set out in the Home Office guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003. The CIA is a separate entity within the main Statement of Licensing Policy, the latter being approved for a five year period in December 2019. The Council must review the CIA at least every three years.
- 2.5 A CIA assesses various issues relating to the impact of licensed premises including crime and disorder, public nuisance, littering and other negative impacts on particular areas and sets out the evidence on which the Council basis its decision to publish a CIA.
- 2.6 The effect of publishing a CIA is significant and it makes it clear to prospective applicants, that the licensing authority is of the opinion that the number of venues in a specified area is such that it is likely that granting further licences would be inconsistent with the authority's duty to promote the licensing objectives.
- 2.7 A CIA may apply to all types of premises and club premises certificates, and to the grant or major variation of an authorisation. It does not apply to Temporary Event Notices.
- 2.8 A copy of the CIA for 2019 to 2022 is attached at **Appendix A**. A review commenced in 2022 and South Wales Police has requested that the CIA remain in its current form, details of which are attached at **Appendix B**. Premises names have been removed from the Appendix.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 A review commenced following a request from South Wales Police. It included a statutory consultation as required by Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 and a public consultation. The consultation took place between 14 December 2022 and 8 March 2023. The purpose of the consultation was to gather evidence on the problems being experienced to inform the adoption of a CIA for the next three year period. Given that a CIA has the potential to prevent any new licensed premises in an area, the Council must set out the evidential basis for adopting such a policy. It must be satisfied that the number of licensed premises in Bridgend Town Centre

has reached such a critical point that granting further licences would be inconsistent with the authority's duty to promote the licensing objectives.

3.2 The CIA currently applies to the following Bridgend town centre streets

- Market Street
- Derwen Road
- Wyndham Street
- Nolton Street ((from its junction with Ewenny Road, to its junction with Merthyr Mawr Road, but not the area between Merthyr Mawr Road and the junction with Court Road Bridgend).

3.3 The South Wales Police request included data in relation to crime and disorder and concludes:

“We have seen a 34% increase in crime demand and reporting across all categories of Night Time Economy (NTE) crime/demand detailed within the report pre COVID. Post COVID, figures are generally lower which is to be expected as we emerged from lockdown.”

3.4 The first review of the CIA has taken place following an unprecedented period on the operation of licensed premises as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. It is acknowledged that this has had an impact on the statistics provided. The response to the public consultation was also disappointing with only seven responses received (all from members of the public); two respondents were not in favour of retaining the CIA. One replied that there were:

“issues 10-15 years ago however the number of licensed premises in Bridgend has declined significantly in recent years. Those that remain are, in many cases, struggling for viability as evidence by the high turnover of licensees.”

3.5 The respondents cited anti-social behaviour, violent behaviour littering and street fouling/lavatory provision as their main concerns.

3.6 All types of premises were referred to as being contributory to problems and in both the day and night time economies.

3.7 Smoking and drinking outside, street drinking and town centre investment were also referenced in the responses.

3.8 The format of a CIA is that it should be evidential, setting out the statistics and evidence of problems obtained through local consultation. A draft CIA is attached as **Appendix C**. It includes the South Wales Police data comprising recorded crime in the area, and occurrences within the area.

3.9 Part of the report includes the “Night-Time Economy – Recorded Crime (1800 to 0559 hrs)” as follows:

3.10 During the night-time economy, crime incidents increased 34.7% (98 to 132) between the periods Feb -July 19 and Aug 19 – Jan 20. However, there was a reduction in incidents between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22 of -33.7% decreasing from 98 to 65 incidents.

- 3.11 On Market Street, the number of crimes increased by 53.3% [24] between Feb - July 19 and Aug 19-Jan 20, however this number decreased by 31.1% [14] between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22.”
- 3.12 The data broadly shows increases in recorded crime prior to Covid, but a decrease in 2022 even though premises were re-opened. This pattern is reflected in the figures for all occurrences in the Night Time economy area.
- 3.13 For the Night-Time Economy – All Occurrences (Crime and Non-Crime, 1800 to 0559 hrs), South Wales Police report that:
- 3.14 “During the night-time economy, there was an overall increase in occurrences between the periods Feb to July 19 and Aug 19 to Jan 20 of 17.9% (196 to 231 incidents).
- 3.15 Between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22 there was a decrease in overall occurrences of -34.7% (196 to 128).
- 3.16 Market Street saw a 13.8% increase in night-time economy occurrences between the periods Feb to July 19 and Aug 19 to Jan 20 of 13 occurrences. However, between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22 occurrences decreased by 36.2% (34 occurrences).”
- 3.17 It is the view of South Wales Police that: “There is every likelihood that this legacy increase will resume and as such Police will support the continuance of the Cumulative Impact Area to ensure criminal conduct and disorderly conduct is minimised in Bridgend Town Centre.”
- 3.18 A summary of the public consultation is also included within the draft CIA.
- 3.19 Having regard to the request and the evidence collated, the Council is requested to approve the following option in response to the police request:
- a) To determine that there is sufficient evidence within the CIA to adopt and publish from date of approval to the expiry of the current Statement of Licensing Policy in December 2024. A further review will be aligned with the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy. Pre Covid statistics showed an increase in crime and disorder and this option would allow for a full year of statistics to be provided to show a better picture of the night time economy and crime and disorder post-Covid.
- 3.20 If Council is minded to approve this option the next review will include a call for evidence to show which types of premises are causing the most concern, and which premises would be considered as not having a negative impact on the area. This will assist applicants in understanding the types of venues which the authority consider may not add to negative cumulative impact.
- 3.21 In conclusion, the Home Office statutory guidance highlights that a CIA is not absolute. The underlying principle of decision making remains that the

circumstances of each application must be considered on its merits and that if no relevant representations are made on an application, the licensing authority may grant applications that are unlikely to add to the negative cumulative impact on the licensing objectives. If a CIA is in place, an applicant will be expected to address cumulative impact in the operating schedule within an application.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

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

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no Climate Change Implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no Financial Implications arising from the report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Council is requested to approve the publication of a CIA for Bridgend Town Centre to run from 21 June 2023 to the expiry of the current Statement of Licensing Policy in December 2024. The CIA to have effect in the following streets:

Market Street

Derwen Road

Wyndham Street

Nolton Street (from its junction with Ewenny Road, to its junction with Merthyr Mawr Road, but not the area between Merthyr Mawr Road and the junction with Court Road Bridgend).

Background documents

None

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Cumulative Impact Assessment Bridgend Town Centre

Background

The Council area contains a mix of urban and rural communities, and has a population of approximately 139,178. (Source data: ONS website Table KSI01UK 2011 Census).

The main towns are Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl. The population of Bridgend is approximately 15,000 living within a two mile distance of the town (source: Bridgend Town Council).

Some town centre streets are pedestrianised. Since the inception of the Licensing Act 2003 in November 2005, Derwen Road, Market Street, Wyndham Street and Nolton Street have been the subject of a special policy to mitigate the cumulative impact of licensed premises.

Reasons for the Policy

The cumulative impact of large numbers of licensed premises undermines the licensing objectives of:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Public Safety

Evidence

The main factor in formulating the assessment is the evidence submitted by the South Wales Police. The SWP report identifies that

“It remains that there is still a saturation of licensed premises in this relatively small geographical area, within this area there are two premises licensed until 4am and one premise licensed until 4.30am which provides a high level of footfall at this early hour.”

For information only, the following is a list of premises in the four streets mentioned, showing the latest time for the licensable activity shown (late night refreshment or sale of alcohol). It is a summary only and the premises are not all open or able to trade as indicated in the SWP report. The two premises mentioned in the report are highlighted:

Latest time for licensable activity (source Council Licensing database) in named town centre streets

Late Night Refreshment	Nolton Street	0300
Sale of alcohol (tables and chairs) small venue	Nolton Street	0200
Late Night Refreshment	Wyndham Street	0100
Late Night Refreshment and alcohol (restaurant)	Market Street	0100
Nightclub (closed)	Wyndham Street	0200
Nightclub	Market Street	0400

Late Night Refreshment	Wyndham Street	0400
Night Club	Market Street	0300
Takeaway	Wyndham Street	0230
Bar	Nolton Street	0130
Pub	Nolton Street	0200
Late Night Refreshment (restaurant)	Wyndham Street	0200
Music Venue	Queen Street	0400
Late Night Refreshment (Restaurant)	Nolton Street	0100
Late Night Refreshment	Derwen Road	0300
Late Night Refreshment and alcohol (restaurant)	Nolton Street	0200
Late Night Refreshment	Nolton Street	0100
Bar	Dunraven Place	0100
Pub	Nolton Street	0100
Nightclub	Derwen Road	0430
Pub	Dunraven Place	0100
Pub	Market Street	0100
Nightclub	Market Street	0400
Pub	Nolton Street	0100
Pub	Queen Street	0200

The South Wales Police state within the report that the Cumulative Impact Policy has had a direct bearing on the reduction of recorded crime within the town centre and reported anti-social behaviour.

Other evidence considered

The statutory consultation also included a questionnaire to help identify additional issues which could impact on the retention of the Cumulative Impact Policy.

Regard should be given to the very small sample replies – fifteen but the summary of responses is as follows:

Who replied

Members of the public – 50%

Other interested parties – 43% (Includes elected representatives at County, town and community level)

Licence holders – 7%

Issues identified

93 % of respondents stated that the Council should retain the Cumulative Impact Policy for Bridgend town centre.

The top issues of concern by response in the town centre:

- Anti social behaviour (12)/92%

- Littering (12)/92%
- On street drinking (7)/54%
- Violent behaviour (7)/54%
- Street fouling/lavatory provision (6)/46%
- Concentration of drinkers (6)/46%
- Criminal activities (3)/23%
- Street cleansing (1)/8%

69% said that this affected them in the day and night time economies whilst 31% said that it applied to the night time economy only.

Takeaways were said to be the most problematic premises followed by pubs and clubs, whilst off licences and restaurants were said to be causing the least problem.

Narrative responses on the negative impact of licensed premises included the following:

- The licensed hours are too late into the evening which adds risks to public due to lower police numbers and more time to drink
- No physical evidence however it was heard recently that it is safer to go to Cardiff on a night out than Bridgend. About 2 years ago a friend was attacked when trying to get into a taxi.
- Congregations of drunks and drug takers near the *****especially during the daytime.
- Take always in town have always a problem with revellers late at night buying food and disposing of empty wrappers and containers after eating contents. Another problem has been people leaving licensed premises carrying either full or half full beer glasses. You often see a number of empty glasses left on the pavement, walls etc. these are a hazard and could be fatal for anyone who may come into contact them.
- littering outside of the pubs and clubs. On street drinking during the day with cans bought from the off licence.

Other measures considered

- Pubwatch Scheme
- Public Space Protection Order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which provides the Police with the power to require a person in the designated area not to drink alcohol or to surrender any alcohol or alcohol containers (other than sealed containers) in their possession.
- Provision of CCTV in public areas
- Enforcement powers available to the Police, Licensing Officers and Trading Standards Officers under the Licensing Act 2003

Conclusion

The Licensing Authority is satisfied that in the Cumulative Impact Area there is evidence to support the continuation of the Cumulative Impact Policy and, after taking into consideration other existing initiatives, that it is proportionate and the most effective measure to address the problems identified.

Application of the policy

Having regard to the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, Bridgend Council has consulted upon the issue of cumulative impact in Bridgend Town Centre. It has taken into account the views of the South Wales Police and other respondents and has adopted a Cumulative Impact Policy in respect of Derwen Road, Market Street, Wyndham Street, and Nolton Street (from its junction with Ewenny Road, to its junction with Merthyr Mawr Road, but not the area between Merthyr Mawr Road and the junction with Court Road Bridgend).

Regard will also be given that where relevant representations are received for a premises adjoining or in close proximity to the Cumulative Impact Policy area, and where those representations raise a material impact on the area then the policy will be applied if the Licensing Authority reasonably judges that to grant the particular application would add to the cumulative impact being suffered in the defined area.

This document should be read in conjunction with Bridgend County Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2019-2024.

The Cumulative Impact Policy applies to applications for the grant and full variation of Premises Licences. It does not apply to Club Premises Certificates or Temporary Event Notices.

When the policy applies it creates a rebuttable presumption that where relevant representations have been received the application will be refused or subject to certain limitations unless the applicant can successfully demonstrate that the premises will not add to the negative cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives.

Applicants are expected to address the effects of the Cumulative Impact Policy within the Operating Schedule. They are expected to clearly demonstrate how the operation of the premises would not add to the negative cumulative impact being experienced in the area.

The Cumulative Impact Policy is not absolute. The circumstances of each application will be considered on its merits and the Licensing Authority will grant licences that are unlikely to add to the negative cumulative impact on the licensing objectives.

V1 2019

Cumulative Impact Assessment Bridgend Town Centre - SWP report.

South Wales Police have reviewed crime and occurrence levels within the following streets which form part of the cumulative impact area within Bridgend Town Centre.

- Market Street
- Derwen Road
- Wyndham Street
- Nolton Road

The review period includes a 12-month period prior to the covid lock down and a six-month period post lockdown.

Data periods are:

- 1 Feb 19 – July 19 – Pre Covid
- 2 Aug 19- Jan 20 – Pre Covid
- 3 Feb 21 – July 22 – Post Covid

And aims to identify demand from licensed premises within the cumulative impact area.

This report will focus on the Night-time economy period between 18:00 hrs -05.59 hrs and report police demand during these hours.

Night-Time Economy – Recorded Crime (1800 to 0559 hrs)

During the night-time economy, crime incidents increased 34.7% (98 to 132) between the periods Feb -July 19 and Aug 19 – Jan 20. However, there was a reduction in incidents between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22 of -33.7% decreasing from 98 to 65 incidents.

On Market Street, the number of crimes increased by 53.3% [24] between Feb - July 19 and Aug 19- Jan 20, however this number decreased by 31.1% [14] between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22.

Night-Time Economy – All Occurrences (Crime and Non-Crime, 1800 to 0559 hrs)

During the night-time economy, there was an overall increase in occurrences between the periods Feb to July 19 and Aug 19-Jan 20 of 17.9% (196 to 231 incidents).

Between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22 there was a decrease in overall occurrences of -34.7% (196 to 128).

Market Street saw a 13.8% increase in night-time economy occurrences between the periods Feb to July 19 and Aug 19-Jan 20 of 13 occurrences. However, between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22 occurrences decreased by 36.2% (34 occurrences).

6 Month Overview - All Crime and Occurrences (Night-Time Economy 1800 to 0559 hrs)			
All Crime and Occurrences	Feb 19 to July 19	Aug 19 to Jan 20	Feb 22 to July 22
DERWEN ROAD	44	34	11
MARKET STREET	94	107	60
NOLTON STREET	19	26	17
WYNDHAM STREET	39	64	40
Grand Total	196	231	128

Night-Time Economy – Recorded Crime (1800 to 0559 hrs)

During the night-time economy, crime incidents increased 34.7% (98 to 132) between the periods Feb - July 19 and Aug 19 – Jan 20. However, there was a reduction in incidents between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22 of -33.7% decreasing from 98 to 65 incidents.

On Market Street, the number of crimes increased by 53.3% [24] between Feb - July 19 and Aug 19-Jan 20, however this number decreased by 31.1% [14] between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22.

6 Month Overview - Recorded Crime (Night-Time Economy 1800 to 0559 hrs)			
All Crime and Occurrences	Feb 19 to July 19	Aug 19 to Jan 20	Feb 22 to July 22
DERWEN ROAD	29	16	5
MARKET STREET	45	69	31
NOLTON STREET	6	13	7
WYNDHAM STREET	18	34	22
Grand Total	98	132	65

Night-Time Economy – Recorded Crime (1800 to 0559 hrs) – Market Street

Violence Against the Person offences accounted for the highest number of total crimes on Market Street as well as the greatest increase in occurrences between the periods Feb - July 19 and Aug 19-Jan 20 (+10).

Drug offences saw the greatest decrease in occurrences on Market Street between Feb - July 19 and Feb - July 22 with -13.

6 Month Overview - Recorded Crime (Night-Time Economy 1800 to 0559 hrs)			
MARKET STREET			
Recorded Crime	Feb 19 to July 19	Aug 19 to Jan 20	Feb 22 to July 22

ASB- Nuisance	3	7	3
Drugs	18	21	5
Violence Against the Person	21	31	17
Sexual Offences	0	1	0
Burglary	0	0	1
Theft & Handling	0	3	2
Damage	2	4	0
Miscellaneous	1	1	1
Domestic Incident	0	0	1
Road Related Offence	0	1	1
Grand Total	45	69	31

The non-notifiable offence of being Drunk & Disorderly has followed the general trend, increasing from 4 incidents in Feb - July 19 to 7 in August 19-January 20 but decreasing to 3 incidents in February - July 22.

6 Month Overview – Non-Notifiable Offence (Drunk & Disorderly) - (Night-Time Economy 1800 to 0559 hrs)			
MARKET STREET			
	Feb 19 to July 19	Aug 19 to Jan 20	Feb 22 to July 22
Drunk and Disorderly	4	7	3

Night-Time Economy – Occurrences per Premises (1800 to 0559 hrs) – Market Street

The greatest number of occurrences committed at licensed premises were seen between August 19 and January 20, with 62 incidents.

The fewest number of occurrences were committed in the February to July 22 period, with 37 incidents. However, this period also saw the highest percentage of incidents committed at licensed premises when compared with the total number of incidents committed across that timeframe, at 61.7%.

The greatest number of occurrences were reported at Premises A, which saw 79 incidents across the three time periods.

6 Month Overview - All Occurrences - Premises - (Night-Time Economy 1800 to 0559 hrs)			
MARKET STREET			
	Feb 19 to July 19	Aug 19 to Jan 20	Feb 22 to July 22
Premises A	27	35	17
Premises B	1	0	0
Premises C	19	25	14
Premises D	0	2	5
Premises E	0	0	1
Total at Licensed Premises	47	62	37

Classification – Official

Total all Occurrences	94	107	60
% Licensed Premises	50.0%	57.9%	61.7%

Key Findings

The number of occurrences in Market Street increased by 10.5% between the periods Feb to July 19 and Aug 19 to Jan 20.

It showed a decrease of 31.5% between Feb to July 19 and Feb - July 22.

The rate of increase in crime occurrences on Market Street was higher during the Night-Time Economy between the periods Feb - July 19 and Aug 19-Jan 20, increasing by 53.3%.

Between the periods Feb to July 19 and Feb to July 22, crime occurrences during the Night-Time Economy reduced by 31.1%.

Licensed premises saw fewer numbers of occurrences between February 22 and July 22 [37] than in Feb 19-July 19 [47] and Aug 19-Jan 20 [62].

Licensed premises saw fewer numbers of occurrences between February 22 and July 22 [37] than in Feb 19-July 19 [47] and Aug 19-Jan 20 [62].

- Premises A was the licensed premises with the highest number of incidents.

Peak days/times for offences on Market Street [Feb 22-July 22]

- Sat/Sun 00:00am-04:00am, peaking at 01:00am.

We have seen a 34% increase in crime demand and reporting across all categories of NTE crime/demand detailed within the report pre COVID.

Post COVID, figures are generally lower which is to be expected as we emerged from lockdown.

There is every likelihood that this legacy increase will resume and as such Police will support the continuance of the Cumulative Impact Area to ensure criminal conduct and disorderly conduct is minimised in Bridgend Town Centre.

Insp Mike Rudall
3418
Dated 20th Sep 2022

Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Bridgend Town Centre

Background

The Council area contains a mix of urban and rural communities, and has a population of approximately 139,178. (Source data: ONS website Table KSI01UK 2011 Census).

The main towns are Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl. The population of Bridgend is approximately 15,000 living within a two mile distance of the town (source: Bridgend Town Council).

Some town centre streets are pedestrianised. Since the inception of the Licensing Act 2003 in November 2005, Derwen Road, Market Street, Wyndham Street and Nolton Street have been the subject of a special policy to mitigate the negative cumulative impact of licensed premises.

Reasons for the CIA

The cumulative impact of large numbers of licensed premises undermines the licensing objectives of:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Public Safety
- The protection of children from harm

Evidence

The main evidence was submitted by South Wales Police (SWP). The Police are acknowledged by the Home Office as the lead Responsible Authority to the licensing authority for crime and disorder. The SWP report identifies that

“We have seen a 34% increase in crime demand and reporting across all categories of NTE crime/demand detailed within the report pre COVID.

Post COVID, figures are generally lower which is to be expected as we emerged from lockdown.

There is every likelihood that this legacy increase will resume and as such Police will support the continuance of the Cumulative Impact Area to ensure criminal conduct and disorderly conduct is minimised in Bridgend Town Centre.”

Numbers of licensed premises

Desktop review of streets in the four designated streets currently within the CIA area 2023. There has not been a decrease in the number of premises open after 0300 hours for the sale of alcohol. All licences in force as at March 2023

Street	Predominant activity	Sale of alcohol latest terminal hour or Late Night Refreshment (not

		necessarily operating throughout Monday to Sunday with these hours)
Market Street	Night Club	0300
Market Street	Restaurant	0100
Market Street	Night Club	0400
Market Street	Convenience Store	1800
Market Street	Cafe	2230
Market Street	Night Club	0400
Market Street	Public House	0100
Wyndham Street	Coffee Shop Restaurant	2300
Wyndham Street	Restaurant	0000
Wyndham Street	Late Night Refreshment	0400
Wyndham Street	Restaurant	0100
Wyndham Street	Late Night Refreshment	0400
Wyndham Street	Late Night Refreshment	0230
Wyndham Street	Night Club/Late Night Refreshment	0400/0430
Wyndham Street	Restaurant	0200
Wyndham Street	Late Night Refreshment	0230
Derwen Road	Nightclub	0430
Derwen Road	Late Night Refreshment	0300
Nolton Street*	Restaurant	0100
Nolton Street*	Restaurant	0200
Nolton Street*	Public House	0100
Nolton Street*	Late Night Refreshment	0300
Nolton Street*	Public House	0200
Nolton Street*	Restaurant	2330
Nolton Street*	Late Night Refreshment	0000
Nolton Street*	Public House	0100

*CIA only applies to Nolton Street (from its junction with Ewenny Road, to its junction with Merthyr Mawr Road)

Other evidence considered

The statutory consultation also included a questionnaire to help identify additional issues of concern in the town centre.

Regard should be given to the very small sample replies and the responses were as follows:

Of the seven responses, all of which were submitted by members of the public, were in favour of the Council retaining a CIA. Two respondents were not in favour. One replied that there were:

“issues 10-15 years ago however the number of licensed premises in Bridgend has declined significantly in recent years. Those that remain are, in many cases, struggling for viability as evidence by the high turnover of licensees”.

The respondents cited anti-social behaviour, violent behaviour littering and street fouling/lavatory provision as the main concern.

All types of premises were referred to as being contributory to problems and in the day and night time economies.

Smoking and drinking outside, street drinking and town centre investment were mentioned in the comments' section.

Other measures considered

- Pubwatch Scheme
- Public Space Protection Order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which provides the Police with the power to require a person in the designated area not to drink alcohol or to surrender any alcohol or alcohol containers (other than sealed containers) in their possession.
- Provision of CCTV in public areas
- Enforcement powers available to the Police, Licensing Officers and Trading Standards Officers under the Licensing Act 2003
- Introduction of pilot taxi marshals scheme

Conclusion

The Licensing Authority is satisfied that there is evidence to support the adoption and publication of a CIA in the named streets in Bridgend Town Centre. Having taken into consideration other existing initiatives, it believes that it is proportionate and the most effective measure to address the problems identified. However, the impact of Covid on crime and occurrences in the night time economy cannot be discounted. For that reason, the Council will review this policy sooner than the recommended three year period, to align with the next review of the Statement of Licensing Policy due by the end of 2024.

Application of the policy

Having regard to the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, Bridgend Council has consulted upon the issue of cumulative impact in Bridgend Town Centre. It has taken into account the views of the South Wales Police and other respondents and has adopted a CIA in respect of Derwen Road, Market Street, Wyndham Street, and Nolton Street (from its junction with Ewenny Road, to its junction with Merthyr Mawr Road, but not the area between Merthyr Mawr Road and the junction with Court Road Bridgend).

Regard will also be given that where relevant representations are received for a premises adjoining or in close proximity to the CIA area, and where those representations raise a material impact on the area then the CIA will apply if the

licensing authority reasonably judges that to grant the particular application would be inconsistent with its inconsistent with its duty to promote the licensing objectives.

This CIA should be read in conjunction with Bridgend County Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2019-2024.

The CIA applies to applications for the grant and full variation of Premises Licences. It does not apply to Club Premises Certificates or Temporary Event Notices.

Applicants are expected to address the effects of cumulative impact within the Operating Schedule. They are expected to clearly demonstrate how the operation of the premises would not add to the negative cumulative impact being experienced in the area.

The CIA is not absolute. The circumstances of each application will be considered on its merits and the Licensing Authority will grant licences that are unlikely to add to the negative cumulative impact on the licensing objectives.

V2 2023

DRAFT

Meeting of:	COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	21 JUNE 2023
Report Title:	REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS OF ALL TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Responsible Officer:	GARY ENNIS GROUP MANAGER BUSINESS SUPPORT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	THERE IS NO EFFECT UPON THE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PROCEDURE RULES
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is asked to adopt the Terms of Reference for a Community Arrangements Review of all Town & Community councils under Section 25 of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013. • The review will consider creating, merging, altering or abolishing communities; the naming of communities; and the electoral arrangements for communities - council size; number of councillors, and community warding. • 3 stages to the review – Initial consultation phase, draft recommendations report with further period of consultation, and a final recommendation report with a final period of representations to be made to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LD&BCW). • Changes to Communities will take effect from the Local Elections in May 2027. • A member Panel to be set up to review the responses from the Initial consultation; agree the draft recommendations; review any responses to the draft report; and agree the final recommendations for Council to approve and submit to the LD&BCW.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve the Terms of Reference for a review of Community Arrangements of all Town & Community Councils in the Bridgend council area and set up a Member Panel to oversee the review.

2. Background

- 2.1 The review and implementation of Bridgend Council's ward boundaries and electoral arrangements, by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LD&BCW), was implemented for the May 2022 Local Elections.
- 2.2 The LD&BCW review also included some consequential changes in two Community Councils: Brackla Community Council and Porthcawl Town Council; and these were also implemented for the May 2022 Local Elections.
- 2.3 The Council also undertook a review of the electoral arrangements in Coity Higher Community Council following a formal request from the Community Council, which was also implemented in time for the May 2022 Local Elections.
- 2.4 A review of Community Arrangements is a legal process whereby the Council will consult with those living in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. This means making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, have a say in how their local communities are represented.
- 2.5 The last full Community review was finalised in 2009 and would normally follow a 10-year cycle. The delays to the completion of the Bridgend Electoral Review and the pandemic resulted in insufficient time to undertake a full review in time for the Local Elections in May 2022.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 Reviews must be carried out in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013. Section 25 covers the changes to boundaries and any consequential changes to electoral arrangements; and Section 31 only covers changes to electoral arrangements. The Council must undertake a Section 25 review first and, if necessary, follow up with a Section 31 review.
- 3.2 Any review of Boundaries must reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. A review offers an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries tied to ground features, and to remove any anomalous boundaries that exist.
- 3.2 A review can consider one or more of the following options:
 - creating, merging, altering or abolishing communities;
 - the naming of communities and the style of new communities and the creation of town councils;
 - the electoral arrangements for communities (for instance, the council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and community warding);
 - grouping communities under a common community council or de-grouping communities
- 3.3 Whilst having a Terms of Reference for the review is not a statutory requirement, it is certainly best practice. It sets out the scope of the review, and includes a

timetable for carrying out the review, including dates for public consultation. The proposed Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix 1.

- 3.4 It is recognised that the development of strong, sustainable communities depends on residents' active participation in decision making in respect of the governance arrangements of community councils. The council is therefore committed to engaging effectively with the diverse communities it serves and to enabling local people to participate meaningfully in the creation of effective community governance arrangements where all people feel able to take an active part in influencing service delivery. The timetable in the Terms of Reference includes key consultation periods to allow plenty of time for responses to be received.
- 3.5 The adoption of the Terms of Reference by Council will commence the review. If Council chooses to accept the final recommendations of the review, concluded after public consultation, it will be necessary to submit the recommendations to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales which, following a final 6 week period for representations, will prepare an Order to implement the changes.
- 3.6 To support the effective review of responses to the consultation exercises and agree the draft proposals, it is proposed to create a Member Panel that is both geographical and politically balanced. The purpose of the Panel will be to consider the responses to the initial consultation, agree the draft recommendations, consider any responses to the consultation on the draft recommendations, and agree the final recommendations to be approved by Council.
- 3.7 It is proposed that Council delegate the determination of Members to sit on the Panel to Group Leaders, with the Panel having 9 Members (5 Labour Members and 4 Opposition Members), including representation from the 4 towns and 3 valleys.
- 3.8 Any changes to the arrangement of communities will take effect at the next scheduled Town and Community elections in May 2027.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

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

6. Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 There are no Climate Change Implications from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this review for the Council; any work will be undertaken within existing budgets.

9. Recommendations

9.1 To adopt Terms of Reference for a Community Arrangements Review of all Town & Community Councils in the Bridgend Council area.

9.2 To set up a Community Review Member Panel to review responses to the consultation and agree the draft and final proposals for any changes. The Member Panel will make their recommendations to Council for final approval.

9.3 That Council delegate the membership of the Panel to the Group Leaders to determine.

Background documents

None



Bridgend County Borough Council
Review of Community Arrangements
Terms of Reference



Bridgend County Borough Council
Review of Community Arrangements
Terms of Reference

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Introduction

The legislation that covers community reviews is the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the 2013 Act). Under the 2013 Act, the council has a duty to monitor the communities in its area and, where appropriate, the electoral arrangements of such communities for the purposes of considering whether to make or recommend changes. These changes are brought about by means of community boundaries reviews and community electoral reviews.

Bridgend County Borough Council is conducting a community boundaries review which will be carried out under section 25 of the 2013 Act and addresses only the communities in the Council's area.

The review will begin in June 2023 with the aim of completing the review in the autumn of 2024.

This document provides an overview and supporting information about the Council's review.

Aims of the review

At the conclusion of a community boundaries review under section 25 of the 2013 Act, the Council may recommend changes to community boundaries it considers appropriate.

The review will consider the need to create, abolish and/or amend the current town and community council areas. This includes the grouping or de-grouping of communities as well as the naming of each community. Where the councils are warded – split into areas for separate representation on the council – the review will look at the current boundaries of the wards, and whether these require alterations.

The Council is required to ensure that any proposed arrangements are reflective of the identities and interests of the communities themselves. Where proposed changes to boundaries are recommended, the review will also take into consideration the number of councillors representing the individual wards, or the community itself.

The review of the town and community councils will aim to ensure that any proposals put forward by the Council achieve effective and convenient local government for the electors that the proposals will represent. The Council will aim to achieve this within the parameters set out in the 2013 Act.

This review will also look to take into consideration any future developments that may change the levels of representation within the community, or even change the boundaries themselves.

Why undertake this review?

Section 25 of the 2013 Act requires all principal authorities in Wales to keep under review the towns and communities within its area. The last review was completed by the LDBCW on behalf of the Council and implemented in 2009. To maintain its legal responsibilities, the Council will commence the review, with a view to having proposals finalised and approved in time for the next Local Elections due in 2027.

The purpose of the review is to ensure that town and community councils within the Bridgend County Borough area are well aligned with these new arrangements, so we will look to rectify any obvious anomalies where practicable.

Following the recent review of the electoral arrangements at county borough council level by LDBCW, several changes were made to the electoral arrangements of Bridgend County Borough Council. This included the reduction in the number of County Borough councillors from 54 to 51 and the merging and renaming of several borough wards. In addition, consequential changes were also made to the wards and electoral arrangements within Porthcawl Town Council and Brackla Community Council. There was also a review of the electoral arrangements of Coity Higher Community Council that amended the number of Community Councillors in each ward. All of these changes will still form part of this review.

Who will undertake the review?

The Council itself will be responsible for conducting the review. This review will be open for consultation, and the Council welcomes and encourages a range of views from as many stakeholders as possible, to ensure that all areas of the county borough are represented, and the changes reflect this.

Scope of the review

This review will only consider boundary changes to communities in the Council's area and any consequential changes to electoral arrangements from these boundary changes.

Where there are no boundary changes recommended to an existing community, the Council will carry out a separate Section 31 review under the 2013 Act, following the conclusion of this review. A Section 31 review only considers changes to electoral arrangements.

Consequential changes

Consequential changes of the review may include the renaming, merging or creation of wards or councils. The number of councillors may also change, depending on the electorate numbers within the wards and councils.

Implementing any changes

Where changes are proposed to boundaries and any consequential changes to electoral arrangements, these will be submitted to LDBCW who will be the Order-making body.

Timeline of the review

There is no fixed timetable in legislation to conduct a review. The only requirements placed upon the Council are set out in the 2013 Act is to ensure effective consultation is carried out as part of the review. It is recognised that this needs to be done in a timely manner to allow for the LDBCW, if necessary, to carry out a principal area electoral review in time for the 2027 elections to ensure coterminous boundaries between electoral wards and community wards/boundaries

There is also no legal requirement for the Council to produce a Terms of Reference (ToR) as part of the review. However, the Council considers that having a ToR will lead to a more transparent decision-making process.

It is worth noting that Wales does not have any scheduled elections until the Police and Crime Commissioner election in May 2024. However, due to the changes in the Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022, there is now no set date for a general election – only that it must be called before January 2025. Should an election be called during our proposed timeline, this may cause a delay as the Election Office’s priority will then be delivering the election. This would not however, delay our proposed implementation date for the 2027 Local Elections.

Timetable for Review

Stage		Period	Start	End
Report to Council	Council approves the principle of the community review and the Terms of Reference		15/06/2023	
Publish Terms of Reference	Terms of Reference published for 2 weeks, and stakeholders notified of the commencement of the review.	2 weeks	16/06/2023	01/07/2023
Initial investigation and consultation	Initial submissions invited from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town and Community Councils • BCBC Members • Members of Parliament • Senedd Members • Local Groups and interested parties, local public and voluntary organisations. 	3 months	01/07/2023	30/09/2023
Consider Submissions and draft report	Consider results of investigation and all representations received and write draft proposals report.	4 months	01/10/2023	31/01/2024
Publish draft recommendations	Publish draft recommendations for further consultation with all consultees as above.	3 months	01/02/2024	30/04/2024
Consider all representations received and write report	Consider results of all submissions and representations received and write final recommendations report.	4 months	01/05/2024	31/08/2024
Report to Council	Endorsement at full council.		September 2024	
Final recommendations submitted to LDBCW	Report published and submitted to LDBCW.		September 2024	6 Weeks
Formal Orders made for implementation at Local Elections in May 2027	Order made after 6 weeks from submitting report to LDBCW to allow for any final representations.		October / November 2024	

Consultation

The review should be conducted transparently so that local people and other stakeholders are made aware of the potential outcomes and decisions that may affect them, as well as the reasons for those decisions. These ToR lay out the aims of the review and the legislation behind it.

The Council must comply with the following legal requirements:

- The Council is legally required to consult local government electors within the area(s) under review, as well as any person, body or other stakeholder group with an interest in the outcome of the review.
- The Council will also identify any other stakeholders it feels may have an interest in the review, and will contact them directly to invite them to submit their views at any and all stages of the review
- The Council must take account of any representations received and demonstrate that these have been duly and appropriately considered
- Prior to the publication of any draft recommendations, the Council will consider any representations received and record the deliberations around these

Review documentation, including these ToR, will be made available on the Bridgend County Borough Council website, and will be distributed to Town and Community Councils.

Following the publication of the ToR, the Council will invite stakeholders to make representations on changes that in their opinion would lead to a more effective and convenient local government.

Examples of initial representations could include:

- More relevant names for communities and/or community wards
- Boundary anomalies, for example: where the existing boundary cuts through a new development
- Complete new boundaries and communities
- Merging or abolition of communities and/or community wards
- Proposed levels of representation for new and existing communities and/or wards

All representations for the initial proposals must be submitted to the Council in accordance with the above proposed timeline. All representations received will be looked at and considered when preparing the draft proposals for publication.

Once the draft proposals are finalised and agreed with the Community Review Member Panel, the council will undertake a further consultation period. Again, all representations received during this second period of consultation will be looked at and considered when preparing the final proposals. These will then be submitted to the Council for approval. Following the Council's approval, the final proposals will be submitted to the LDBCW.

Making representation

The Council will be inviting stakeholders to make representations based on the criteria set out in this ToR. Stakeholders can submit representations for the whole of Bridgend County Borough, a community or town council, or just a ward within a community or town. These will need to be evidence-based arguments to all the council to consider when formulating and drafting the proposals.

Representations can be made at both the initial and draft report consultation phases as well as within 6 weeks of the Final report being published and submitted to the LDBCW.

Terms of Reference (ToR) to be used during the review

The Council will apply the following factors to the decision-making process as part of this review.

Consultation

The Council will ensure that all stakeholders will be provided with the relevant information they may need to better understand the processes involved in the review.

Statistics

The Council will use population statistics based upon the Electoral Register as published on 01/12/2022. The Electoral Register published on this date will be active throughout the review and will be replaced by a new register published on 01/12/2023. The monthly updates that occur between January – September will also be considered.

Projected forecast statistics will also be considered, as supplied by the Council's planning department. Should the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) be finalised prior to the publication of the draft proposals of this review, the Council will also consider the projected development plans contained within the LDP.

Communities and Electoral Arrangements

It is accepted that there is not necessarily an ideal fixed size for a town or community. However, the community will need to be of a large enough size to make it viable as an administrative unit of local government and able to support any future collaboration with the Council. The Council will ensure that any changes to Town or Community Councils will be based on elements that reflect the identity and interests of that council.

When considering the boundaries between communities, the Council will ensure that – where possible – the boundaries will be easily identifiable for stakeholders and will consider the various influences within a community area.

The Council will consider all representations it receives as part of the review as part of the decision-making process. The decision on whether or not to adopt a particular recommendation will be that of the Council. The Council will disregard any representations that are not in the interests of the wider local community.

The Council will not abolish an existing community or community ward without providing alternative arrangements for electors within that area to ensure they continue to receive representation at a local government level.

Should the Council make changes to existing communities or community wards, it will – where possible – ensure that any changes do not upset perceived historic traditions. However, the Council may consider making changes to existing arrangements where changes – such as population shifts, or additional development – may have led to or potentially lead to a different community identity for that area.

In setting the boundaries of the town and communities, the Council will also take into consideration the boundaries at County Borough level. Although a review has recently been undertaken at County Borough level, the Council will make recommendations – if necessary – to the LGBCW to look at the County Borough boundaries, if a change in a town or community could potentially affect these.

There is no legislation that dictates a minimum or maximum size of a community in Wales. In England, legislation was introduced relating to Community Governance Reviews, which recommend that an area with over 1,000 electors should have its own community. However, there is no upper limit for separate communities to be created. The Council must still consider local ties and community identity. Also, the National Association for Local Councils have provided supplementary guidance to English local authorities conducting reviews, recommending that a community should have no fewer than seven councillors in order to carry out its statutory responsibilities effectively.

Based on this, the Council will seek to:

- Ensure that a community is created with no fewer than 1,000 electors
- Consider strong, evidence-based arguments to create a community that has fewer than 1,000 electors, and more than 400 electors
- Will not create a community for less than 400 electors
- Ensure that each community that is created is represented by a minimum of 7 councillors

The Council accepts that it will not be able to apply a ‘one size fits all’ approach during this review. However, the Council also believes that a consistent approach needs to be applied to the levels of representation that communities and community wards will provide.

As such, the Council will categorise the towns or communities created as part of this review into three categories: urban, rural, and mixed. They can be defined as follows:

- Rural: A community where there is no dense area of population, and the electorate is spread throughout the area within the boundaries that have been defined for that community
- Urban: A community where the electorate is densely populated within the boundaries that have been defined for that community
- Mixed: A predominately rural area that contains a pocket of dense population within the boundaries that have been defined for that community

Community Wards

Once an area has been identified as a community, the Council will then consider the suitability of warding that area.

Warding is the division of a community into smaller areas for the purpose of electing councillors. The review will consider the number and boundaries of any potential wards, as well as the number of councillors to be elected for each ward, and the names of the wards themselves.

The Council will ensure that the boundaries of any community ward shall be completely contained within the boundary for the community area in which the ward is situated.

When determining the boundaries between community wards, the Council will consider community identity and community interests in the area. The Council will also consider whether any ties or links between communities would potentially be broken by the placing of a ward boundary. However, the Council will also consider the benefits of merging existing community wards and what positives this may bring to the community area – particularly in terms of increasing their voice within the community.

In urban communities, if the Council decided that the community needs to be warded, the Council will ensure that whole streets are contained within a single ward where possible. The Council will not place boundaries along roads, splitting opposite sides of the streets between wards for example.

Electorate / ward data

There are two templates that may be followed when looking at the ratio of councillors to electors.

The National Association of Local Councils published guidance in 1988, suggesting the following councillor/elector ratio:

Electors	Councillors	Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7	10,400	17
1,400	8	11,900	18
2,000	9	13,500	19
2,700	10	15,200	20
3,500	11	17,000	21
4,400	12	18,900	22
5,400	13	20,900	23
6,500	14	23,000	24
7,700	15	Over 23,000	25
9,000	16		

In 1992, the Aston Business School published the following levels of representation:

Electorate	Councillor Allocation
Less than 500	5 – 8
501 – 2,500	6 – 12
2,501 – 10,000	9 – 16
10,001 – 20,000	13 – 27
Greater than 20,000	13 - 31

Looking at current electoral arrangements when applying these ratios would result in the following councillor allocation at each town and community council:

Town / Community Council	Town / Community Ward	Current Ward Electorate	Current Town / Community Seats	NLAC Seats	Ashton Seats
Brackla Community Council	Brackla West	1,963	12	16	9 - 16
	Brackla West Central	2,615			
	Brackla East Central	1,779			
	Brackla East	2,232			
Coychurch Lower Community Council		1,120	7	8	6 - 12
Merthyr Mawr Community Council		234	7	7	5 - 8
Laleston Community Council	Cefn Glas 1	1,899	13	17	9 - 16
	Cefn Glas 2	1,389			
	Laleston / Bryntirion	6,656			
Bridgend Town Council	Newcastle	4,364	19	18	13 - 27
	Morfa	3,454			
	Oldcastle	3,890			
Coity Higher Community Council	Coity	3,453	13	15	9 - 16
	Litchard	2,135			
	Pendre	1,788			
Cornelly Community Council		5,507	9	14	9 - 16
Porthcawl Town Council	Newton	2,098	18	19	13 - 27
	Nottage	2,471			
	East Central	4,319			
	West Central	2,264			
	Rest Bay	2,216			

Town / Community Council	Town / Community Ward	Current Ward Electorate	Current Town / Community Seats	NLAC Seats	Ashton Seats
Pyle Community Council		5,507	9	14	9 - 16
Cefn Cribwr Community Council		1,187	10	8	6 - 12
Newcastle Higher Community Council	Pen-y-fai	1,832	12	11	9 - 16
	Aberkenfig	1,536			
Llangynwyd Lower Community Council		381	7	7	5 - 8
Garw Valley Community Council	Bettws	1,606	13	14	9 - 16
	Blaengarw	1,371			
	Llangeinor	928			
	Pontycymmer	1,821			
Llangynwyd Middle Community Council	Cwmfelin	1,090	12	10	6 - 12
	Pontrydyccyff	1,231			
Ogmore Valley Community Council	Blackmill	1,137	15	14	9 - 16
	Evanstown	723			
	Nant-y-moel	1,793			
	Ogmore Vale	2,384			
St Bride's Minor Community Council	Bryncethin	1,293	13	13	9 - 16
	Bryncoch	1,811			
	Sarn	1,846			
Ynysawdre Community Council	Brynmenyn	1,213	10	11	9 - 16
	Sarn	1,536			
Maesteg Town Council	Nantyffyllon	2,250	17	19	13 - 27
	Caerau	2,625			
	East	3,734			
	West	4,384			
Pencoed Town Council	Felindre	2,107	13	15	9 - 16
	Hendre	3,245			
	Penprysg	1,811			
Coychurch Higher Community Council		718	7	7	6 - 12

The Council's Planning department have also provided details of housing development sites around Bridgend. This will be taken into account when looking at draft reports and proposals, with further confirmation from planning on the proposed sites being provided later this year.

Sites Already with Planning Permission

<i>Town / Community Councils</i>	<i>Town / Community Ward</i>	<i>Residential Units</i>	<i>Est. Additional Population</i>	<i>Est Additional Electorate</i>
Bridgend Town Council	Newcastle Ward	201	464	372
Bridgend Town Council	Oldcastle Ward	10	23	19
Coychurch Lower Community Council		39	90	72
Maesteg Town Council	Caerau Ward	56	129	104
Newcastle Higher Community Council	Aberkenfig Ward	275	633	507
Pencoed Town Council	Felindre Ward	36	84	68
Porthcawl Town Council	Porthcawl East Central Ward	89	206	165
Porthcawl Town Council	Newton Ward	68	158	127
Pyle Community Council		21	49	40
St. Bride's Minor Community Council	Bryncoch Ward	9	21	17
Ynysawdre Community Council	Tondu Ward	165	380	305

Proposed Deposit LDP Allocations

<i>Town / Community Councils</i>	<i>Town / Community Ward</i>	<i>Residential Units</i>	<i>Est. Additional Population</i>	<i>Est Additional Electorate</i>
Bridgend Town Council	Oldcastle Ward	363	835	668
Cornelly Community Council		970	2231	1785
Laleston Community Council	Laleston/Bryntirion Ward	830	1909	1528
Llangynwyd Middle Community	Pontrhydydyff Ward	372	856	686
Merthyr Mawr Community Council		533	1227	983
Pencoed Town Council	Felindre Ward	804	1850	1480
Porthcawl Town Council	Porthcawl East Central Ward	780	1794	1436

How to contact us

Should you wish to submit a written representation for this review, please send them to:

Election Office
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Alternatively, you can email your submission to: CGR@Bridgend.gov.uk

Key documents are reports for this review will also be published online, via the Council's website.

Should you require any further information, or need clarification on the review process, please contact:

Election Office
Telephone: 01656 643116
Email: CGR@Bridgend.gov.uk

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