

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET,
BRIDGEND ON WEDNESDAY, 16 JULY 2014 AT 3.00 PM**

Present

Councillor G Thomas – Chairperson

D Sage	HJ David	M Gregory	MEJ Nott OBE
JH Tildesley MBE	PJ White	E Dodd	M Winter
E Venables	S Aspey	M Butcher	N Clarke
G Davies	GW Davies MBE	PA Davies	DK Edwards
EP Foley	EM Hughes	RM James	PN John
B Jones	CL Jones	M Jones	RC Jones
DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	JR McCarthy	HE Morgan
AD Owen	DG Owen	G Phillips	DR Pugh
CE Rees	CE Smith	M Thomas	RL Thomas
HJ Townsend	KJ Watts	C Westwood	DBF White
HM Williams	R Williams	LC Morgan	RE Young
CA Green			

Officers:

Darren Mephram	Chief Executive
Andrew Jolley	Corporate Director Operational & Partnership Services
Deborah McMillan	Corporate Director Education & Family Support
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities

369. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Members for the reasons so stated:-

Councillor L Ellis	- Hospital appointment
Councillor E P Foley	- Hospital appointment
Councillor C J James	- Unwell
Councillor P James	- Caring
Councillor R D Jenkins	- Hospital appointment
Councillor C Reeves	- Holiday
Councillor M Reeves	- Holiday
Councillor J C Spanswick	- Holiday

S Cooper - Corporate Director - Wellbeing	- Leave
N Young - Corporate Director - Resources and Section 151 Officer	- Unwell

370. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

371. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Council of 11 June 2014 were approved as a true and accurate record subject to the initial E being added to Councillor N Clarke's name under the list of Members present.

372. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION TO THE LEADER/MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Mayor announced with great pleasure that he intended to host a Poppy Appeal Concert concern featuring talented local musicians at the Sony Theatre on 8 November 2014. He stated that the concert is being organised by Councillor D B F White and Major Wayne Morgan who had put together a commemorative programme which reflected on the tragic events of World War 1 and also includes a lighter hearted view of times past. He stated that tickets are £7.50 with profits going to the Bridgend Poppy Appeal. He hoped that Members would support this unique event which the next day would be followed immediately by the Annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service.

The Mayor also announced that he had recently viewed the impressive exhibition commemorating the World War 1 Centennial which is currently running in the Customer Service Centre. He stated that the displays were being changed on a regular basis and feature contributions from local heritage groups as well as historian Roy Meredith, items from Porthcawl Museum's collection and banners featuring the work of local poet Tom Weaver. Residents were being asked to send in stories about their own family members of the conflict and these were being compiled and published on line on the Bridgend Heritage website. He stated that the Reach Rural Development Team would be pleased to receive materials and memories for the exhibition.

The Mayor extended his congratulations to pupils of Tondu Primary which was the only school from the County Borough to participate at the Treorchy Eisteddfod. Pupil Benjamin Lock won his heats in the piano and violin and Keira Hill won the Disney song class for 3 to 5 year olds. Meanwhile Rhydian Jenkins from Ysgol Gyfun Cymraeg Llangynwyd was a winner at the Urdd Eisteddfod and can now add a win at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod to his achievements.

The Mayor congratulated Morgan Rowling, Leighton Greenslade and Paul Taylor of Pontycymmer Bowling Club who had represented Wales at the British Isles Triples Competition in Leamington Spa where they beat teams from England and Jersey. He also informed that Paul Taylor had played for Wales in the international series last month and had been selected to play in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games at Glasgow.

373. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

374. CABINET MEMBERS` ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1) Cabinet Member - Resources

The Cabinet Member - Resources announced the following pre-Council presentation:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
17 September 2014	Delivery of Convergence Projects

He also announced the following Member Development sessions:-

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 16 JULY 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
17 July 2014	Round Robin Event
September 2014	Effective Ward Leadership and Advocacy Training for Councillors.

The Cabinet Member - Resources informed Council that 20 Members had now confirmed their intention to attend the Leadership Academy being provided by the WLGA. The dates, times and venues for the Academy sessions to be held in Bridgend had been placed in Members calendars and confirmation was awaited from the WLGA that places were available for those Members wishing to attend the week-end Academy sessions in Swansea. Further details would be forwarded to participating Members in due course,

The Cabinet Member - Resources also announced that all Members should have received their 2013/14 annual report template with attendance and Member development statistics added. The intention is to publish all reports on the Council's website by 30 September 2014 with a return date to Democratic Services of the beginning of September so that they can be prepared for publication.

The Cabinet Member - Resources also announced that today's meeting of Council would be the last meeting which Janet Smith - Head of Finance and Performance would be attending prior to her retirement. He informed Members that Mrs Smith had commenced work with the former Ogwr Borough Council in 1977 qualifying as a CIPFA accountant in 1994. Prior to Government reorganisation, Mrs Smith was seconded to the former Mid Glamorgan County Council where she worked on the disaggregation of budgets and on Local Government reorganisation became Group Accountant for Bridgend County Borough Council followed by being appointed to the post of Head of Revenues. Mrs Smith was appointed to the post of Chief Accountant in 2004 and in 2011 appointed to her current position of Head of Finance and Performance. He stated that during Mrs Smith's 37 year career in Local Government she had ensured the financial stability of the Council and would be greatly missed. He congratulated her on her long service to Bridgend County Borough Council and wished her well in her retirement.

Mrs Smith responded by wishing the Council well in the future.

The Leaders of the Independent Alliance and Independent Annibynwr Groups also thanked Mrs Smith for her service to the Council and the advice which she provided Members with and wish her a long and happy retirement.

(2) Cabinet Member - Communities

The Cabinet Member - Communities congratulated the staff at the Coychurch Crematorium on being awarded the Green Flag Award in the category of Parks and Open Spaces.

(3) Cabinet Member - Children and Young People

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People announced that to maximise turnout, the Young Carers Conference had been rearranged to 30

September 2014 at the Heronston Hotel between 5.00pm and 7.30pm. He stated that the event was being organised in partnership with the ABMU Health Board and the Bridgend Young Carers Project. The event was being organised in partnership with the ABMU Health Board and the Bridgend

Young Carers Project and was aimed at any one working with young people and children who are carers and it was hoped that there would be staff from the schools, the college and the health sector as well as Members present.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People informed Council that the Bridgend Girls Games 2014 had been held at the Recreation Centre to inspire and motivate the girls of Bridgend to participate in sport and which had proven to be a big success. The girls only event organised by the Active Young People Team, Sport Wales and Sony UK attracted over 500 participants from eight Bridgend secondary schools. He stated that girls experienced Zumba, body attack, street rugby, street hockey, street games, circuits and girls power fitness workshop.

He also informed Members that the Deputy Minister, Vaughan Gething had officially opened the Sarn Flying Start Centre and Blackmill Flying Start Centre this morning, in the presence of the Leader and the Mayor, which was the latest phase in the Council's planned expansion. He was also delighted that the Welsh Government had approved the Authority's bid for additional funding for the Lewistown Flying Start Scheme which would be completed by March 2015. He stated that the programme is giving children from birth until nursery the best start in life and he reminded Members of the free family fun days, organised by the Flying Start Team next week in Plas Newydd, Bettws, Brackla, Wildmill and Cefn Glas.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People informed Members that the Maesteg Comprehensive School had started a ground breaking educational partnership with Bridgend Ford. The venture aimed to build on the school's success in the Formula 1 Challenge for schools in the UK, which it had won on two occasions. The Plant would be working with pupils to develop their STEM skills in the next stage, the F24 Challenge. The school will have access to an engineer from the Plant, Anna Stephens who would be able to offer first-hand experience and inspire engineers of the future in particular girls.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People also congratulated Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen after receiving their third Green Flag in February. It had become the first secondary school in Bridgend to achieve the prestigious Platinum Award, which is an achievement for all staff and pupils but in particular the student members of the Eco School Committee.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People finally congratulated the students of Brynteg Comprehensive School who reached the national finals of the ESU (English Speaking Union) performing Shakespeare competition by winning the Welsh heats and along with Ysgol Bryntawe, were flying the flag for Wales and competing against pupils from across the UK including 12 of the top independent schools. He stated that Brynteg and the County Borough can be very proud that Evan Laidler won the coveted overall grand prize of Best Overall Performance with expert judges describing his powerful rendition of a "Once more unto the breach" speech from Henry V as truly rousing.

375. CHIEF EXECUTIVES` ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chief Executive expressed his personal thanks and that of the Corporate Management Board to Janet Smith for her service to the Council and wished her well in her retirement.

He also announced the appointment of Mr Randal Hemmingway to the post of Head of Finance and ICT he would be commencing his duties with the Council in October. In the interim Gill Lewis of the WLGA had been seconded to the role of Deputy Section 151 Officer on a part time basis and was formerly the Council's external auditor. Ms Lewis would be advising Council in the Section 151 role and developing the Medium Term Financial Strategy prior to the return of the Corporate Director - Resources.

He also informed Members that the Council had also appointed Mr Lee Jones as Head of Regulatory Services following a rigorous selection process. He further informed Members that the selection process for the posts of Head of Adult Social Care and Head of Neighbourhood Services was underway.

376. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Monitoring Officer announced that Councillor P A Davies would replace Councillor C E Rees as a Member of the Town and Community Councils Forum.

377. LEADERS REPORT

The Leader also extended his good wishes to Janet Smith on her retirement and wished her well for the future.

The Leader announced that work had commenced on the all new Coity Primary at the Park Derwen Housing Development and that the First Minister had been hosted for the official opening of Pen y Fai Church in Wales Primary. He stated that there had been many challenges which had stood in the way of delivering this new school and now the community of Penyfai had the kind of first rate educational facilities that local children deserve. He stated that it represented a milestone in the Council's school modernisation programme and he thanked everyone who had played a part in making it a reality, including the children, teachers, governors, Council officers and the Welsh Government. He looked forward to seeing the new Coity Primary School take shape.

The Leader requested that Members spread the word amongst constituents about the importance of individual electoral registration, which represented the biggest shake up in electoral practice for over 80 years and was being rolled out across England and Wales to make voting safer and more secure. Whereas in the past a single household representative would confirm that the electoral details for an address, the new system now required each eligible voter at that address to register individually. He stated that completing the process is easy by means of an on-line register to vote form. There would be further publicity about the new process, but in the meantime requested that Members make sure constituents are aware of the new system.

The Leader referred to recent news articles about a National Trust competition where people were asked to nominate their favourite special place. The winner was due to be announced at next month's eisteddfod and he drew Members attention to the fact that the County Borough had made the top 20 three times at Merthyr Mawr, Rest Bay and Porthcawl. The top spot was yet to be revealed but the three entries featuring prominently in the list demonstrated the high regard that people have for the County Borough.

378. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION FOR THE EXECUTIVE

Question from Councillor R C Jones to the Cabinet Member - Children and Young People

“Recent studies have shown that in some schools in Wales, negative body image issues are holding back children, particularly girls, from taking part in sports. For many girls there is a vicious circle in the relationship between body image and physical activity, and this lack of confidence can create a barrier to participation. Does BCBC recognise the importance of educating youngsters about healthy body image? What steps are being taken to make sure teenagers are not subject to intimidation or humiliation when taking part in school sports? What are BCBC doing to encourage girls to participate fully in school sports?”

Response from the Cabinet Member - Children and Young People to Councillor R C Jones

Bridgend County Borough Council firmly recognises the need for children and young people to be physically active and that issues such as body image and self-esteem have an influence on their engagement. We have been consulting with young people for several years and this has highlighted the lower participation rates of girls and the barriers they identify.

Our ‘girl power’ development programme is supported by Sport Wales and Bridgend now has a County ‘Girls Sport Network’ run by girls and for girls. Additionally Bridgend CBC has supported the development of local networks in secondary schools that now influence the design and promotion of activities and have even influenced changes to PE kit to minimise embarrassment.

Bridgend CBC has commissioned body image workshops and has also trained 12 girls and 8 teachers to act as mentors on improving confidence and self-esteem.

Girls are highly represented within the sports leadership programme operated by Bridgend CBC with 63% of leaders being female. During July, a two day event designed specifically for girls and enhancing body image and self-esteem attracted 500 girls from 7 secondary schools. The Bridgend County Sport Plan has £23,000 committed to increasing opportunities during 2014/15 and will establish 6 girls led social enterprises, 25 new leaders and over 600 programme participants. We have also secured investment (4000) from ‘Us Girls’ to develop doorstep opportunities to be active for girls.

The National School Sports survey highlights that there remains more to be done in regard making PE and school sport a more comfortable experience that contributes to a healthy lifestyle. This is particularly true at secondary school age and is representative of the national picture. Increasing the choice of activities and recognising the importance of friendship groups are important considerations.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People also informed the Council that the County Youth Service provide a range of sport to tackle the issue of negative body image not just with girls but with boys as well. An excellent counselling service is delivered where girls and boys can receive support and informal sessions are also delivered through out-reach and in youth clubs to enable young people to discuss issues around body image. The Youth Service also encourages participation in sports and active life styles.

The Cabinet Member - Children and Young People also informed Council that many schools actively encourage girls to take part in PE by offering facilities that will attract female pupils, for example Porthcawl Comprehensive where they hold female only gym sessions, whereby the girls are allowed to wear long tracksuit bottoms and the windows had been screened to offer privacy.

All schools deliver personal and social education (PSE) and followed the PSE framework for 7 - 19 year olds in Wales. There are five themes and the health and emotional wellbeing theme relates to active lifestyles and will cover body image issues.

Councillor Jones thanked the Cabinet Member - Children and Young People for the detailed response and requested that Members be kept informed of latest developments which encourage girls to participate in sports and active life styles.

379. PUBLIC PROTECTION DEPARTMENT HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2014-15

The Deputy Leader sought approval of the Health and Safety Plan 2014/15. He stated that the Health and Safety Team have a duty to produce a plan for the Health and Safety Executive, which was produced in line with national guidelines but to reflect the demographics of the County Borough. He outlined the service aims and as in previous years the aims will be met by a programme of work. The Health and Safety Executive set out campaign topics each year which were then incorporated into this service plan, along with the risk based inspections and the need to respond to problems as they occur or are identified through inspection.

The Deputy Leader informed Council that there was pressure on resources across the Public Protection Department which had resulted in a review of the services that can be delivered with reduced capacity, based on risk. The inspection of high risk premises, accident investigations and service requests from members of the public are considered to be high priority and would be maintained. However, there was no longer the capacity to fully participate in the pro-active national project work, which, though desirable and beneficial was not the highest priority compared to previous years.

Priorities would include targeted programmed health and safety inspections. High risk businesses were routinely inspected, including associated re-visits and where necessary to check compliance of work schedules and/or legal notices issued. In addition, the Local Authority will endeavour to participate in national and local project work concentrated on areas of evidential concern where resources permit.

The Deputy Leader also informed Council that investigation of notified workplace accidents, ill health and dangerous occurrences would be investigated as well as unacceptable management or working practices and poor welfare conditions. In relation to public entertainment licensing, consultation and inspections would be undertaken in respect of applications in relation to crowds of more than 450 persons. In relation to registration this would involve processing applications, undertaking inspections, dealing with complaints, offering advice concerning tattooists, acupuncture practitioners, electrolysis and ear piercing. It would also involve the registration of cooling towers. The Department would also be involved in the implementation of Smoke Free Premises etc (Wales) Regulations 2007 and working in partnership with the HSE.

The Deputy Leader informed Council that following on from last year's project, it was hoped that the Model Bye-Laws (Wales) for Acupuncture, Tattooing, Semi-Permanent Skin Colouring, Cosmetic Piercing and Electrolysis would be successfully adopted by the Council. It was then intended to ensure compliance by all businesses to their requirements by a programme of visits and re-visits.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the Health and Safety Service Plan 2014/15.

380. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY S151 OFFICER

The Chief Executive sought approval to appoint Gill Lewis as the Deputy Section 151 Officer on the retirement of the present office holder who was due to retire at the end of July. He stated that the appointment is normally made by the Section 151 Officer, however the post holder was unavailable to make the appointment and Council was requested to make that appointment.

RESOLVED: That Council appoint Gill Lewis as Deputy Section 151 Officer on the retirement of the present office holder.

381. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2014-15 TO 2018-19

The Head and Finance and Performance submitted a report, the purpose of which was to present to Council an update on the implications for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) following revision of funding assumptions for 2015-2016 to 2018-2019.

She reported that the MTFS funding projections for 2014-15 to 2017-18, which were reported to Council in February 2014, were based on information available at that time, including potential percentage changes in Aggregate External Finance (AEF). The worst case scenario was that an estimated £44m would be required to fund the budget gap, whilst the best required £23m over this period; however the MTFS was predicated on the Most Likely Scenario of £36m. The Head of Finance and Performance informed Council that following the Comprehensive Spending Review; the Welsh Government revenue budget was reduced by -0.1% in 2014-15 and -0.4% in 2015-16. It was the intention of the Welsh Ministers to protect funding for the National Health Service, schools and universal benefits and as a consequence Welsh councils were told to expect English style reductions to their settlements in 2014-15 and 2015-16. The Head of Finance and Performance stated that the final Local Government Settlement showed a reduction of Aggregate External Finance (AEF) of -0.3% which were indicative and subject to change as a result of further UK budget revisions. No figures were given for 2016-17 and 2017-18 and in view of the macro-economic and fiscal projections and in the absence of other information, the MTFS assumed reductions in AEF of -4% for 2016-17 and -2% for 2017-18. She stated that the MTFS which was reported to Cabinet on 24 June 2014 was based on a reduction in funding from Welsh Government of -4% for each of the years 2015-16 to 2017-18. The Minister for Local Government and Government Business has subsequently advised that whilst the 2015-16 indicative settlement allowed for a reduction in funding of -1.5%, councils should consider in their planning assumptions how to respond to a reduction of as much as -4.5%. The Head of Finance and Performance advised the Council to plan for a reduction in funding of -4.5% for each of the years 2015-16 to 2018-19 which, would result in a budget shortfall of £12.4m in 2015-16 with a need to find recurrent savings of £50m over the period 2015-16 to 2018-19. This excluded the impact of unknown but likely cuts to specific grants, the uncertainty of the value of protection for schools budgets and the impact on services of new legislation such as the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and collaborative arrangements.

The Head and Finance and Performance also reported that the Council would enter into negotiations on the proposed pay award for 2014-15 for NJC employees, which would add a recurrent amount of £1.170m to the base budget based on the proposed pay award. The Council would still try and limit job losses, but would inevitably be greater in number than previously anticipated.

The Head and Finance and Performance reported that one savings proposal, namely COM1, MREC of £750k was recorded as red in status and this amount would be held centrally within the inflation provision to mitigate the risk of the saving not being achieved. Discussions were taking place with Neath Port Talbot Council but due to changes in the timescale for the procurement this saving would not be achieved in 2014-15 and the value of savings for future years also needed to be re-profiled. The Communities Directorate was in the process of developing alternative achievable savings proposals to be reported to Cabinet in September.

The Head and Finance and Performance also informed Council that the budget savings proposals to transfer homecare hours to the independent sector (ASC1) amounting to £164k was still achievable in full in 2014-15, but would reduce in 2015-16 and 2016-17. The Wellbeing Directorate would identify as part of the general budget savings review, alternative savings proposals to meet any shortfall in future years.

The Head and Finance and Performance outlined the funding assumptions and budget savings required in the MTFs approved by Council in February 2014 compared to the revised funding projections and also outlined the revised forecast budget shortfall for the Council.

The Head and Finance and Performance informed Council that for each of the future years up to 2018-19 it had been assumed that the commitment by the Welsh Government to protect schools budgets could be by as much as 0.6% per annum based on the change in the Welsh Government budget for 2015-16, but as yet this had not yet been quantified or confirmed it was impossible to predict the Welsh Government budget beyond the current Comprehensive Spending Review. On this basis, it had been assumed that schools would absorb all salary related and price inflation relating to delegated school budgets and consequently the budget savings required could be higher than predicted.

The Head and Finance and Performance reported on the value of budget savings identified to date and the current budget shortfall based on the revised funding assumptions, which meant that assuming that all budget savings proposals identified were achievable, there was a current forecast budget shortfall of £16.2m for the period 2015-16 to 2017-18, with a further £11.8m required for 2018-19. She stated that the immediate focus must be on delivering the identified budget savings proposals, including substitute proposals in the 2014-15 budget and in particular recurrent budget savings of £12.4m to achieve a balanced budget for 2015-16. The Head and Finance and Performance informed Council that options to deliver savings on a prioritised basis from 2016-17 to 2018-19 would be explored over the coming months, which would mean that savings would not fall equally across all services and would inevitably shape the future the type and volume of services which the Council would be able to provide in the future.

The Head and Finance and Performance reported that the financial position faced by the Council was extremely challenging, with the immediate concern being the impact that the continued national fiscal tightening would have on services in the longer term as the level of services required would impact on the type and level of services the Council can provide. There was no alternative but to deliver the budget savings proposals as setting a balanced budget is a legal requirement and the use of reserves to fund recurring expenditure was unsustainable.

The Head and Finance and Performance reported that the Council would be required to identify £12.4m of budget savings to achieve a balanced budget for 2015-16 and £50m over the period 2015-15 to 2018-19. It was imperative that a balanced budget was achieved and essential that revenue service expenditure and capital expenditure was

contained within the identified budgets for the current year. In addition to the statutory requirement to set a balanced budget, the Council's Chief Financial Officer must report on the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of proposed and this must form a part of the Council's budget consideration and decision making. This included identifying risks associated with identified savings, the implications and contingency plans if savings were not delivered as planned and as such it was essential that the savings put forward are deliverable or where they are at risk contingency plans are produced.

A member of Council referred to the robustness of the budget and the risks associated with the identified savings and questioned whether contingencies were in place. The Head and Finance and Performance informed Council that savings for 2014-15 were being monitored on a regular basis with the majority of savings on track and whilst it was too early to predict expenditure in 2015-16 there would be a contingency plan in place.

A Member of the Council expressed concern that the Communities Directorate had been the continuing focus of having to make cuts in expenditure which could place the services it provides at risk.

Members of the Council congratulated the Head and Finance and Performance and her team on basing the MTFS on a reduction of AEF of -3.0%, as if it had based the MTFS on the indicative AEF allocation of -1.5% the Council would be looking at having to make greater savings.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Approve and adopt the revised MTFS for 2015-16 to 2018-19;
- (2) Noted the impact of the proposed pay award for 2014-15;
- (3) Note the actions being taken in relation to the MREC and Homecare budget savings proposals for 2014-15.

382. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013-14 TO 2023-24

The Head and Finance and Performance sought approval for a revised capital programme for 2013-14 to 2023-24. This was required to reflect additional funding required to support some projects and to re-profile spend across financial years following slippage in 2013-14. Changes were also required to the Capital Programme to reflect changes to funding profiles for various schemes, in that the Welsh Government had now confirmed the funding for the 21st Century Schools Programme to be met from the Local Government Borrowing Initiative and that which would be met from the capital grant. Changes were also required to reflect re-allocations of Special Regeneration Funding (SRF) to/from specific projects within the overall annual SRF allocation and recognised new schemes in the programme such as Vibrant and Viable places.

The Head and Finance and Performance informed the Council that the Capital Programme included an SRF annual allocation of £540k up to and including 2016-17, which provides flexibility in the Capital Programme to enable the Council to take advantage of and maximise external funding opportunities, mitigate funding shortfalls which can occur between grant bid and offers stages and provide some contingency for additional spending pressures on regeneration projects.

The Head and Finance and Performance reported that the Quarter 3 monitoring report presented to Cabinet on 4 February 2014 identified a number of schemes which had variances compared to budget and which had since been revised. The total expenditure on capital on 2013-14 was £36.912m, £2,398m less than budget, of this, £2.221m was

proposed to be carried forward into 2014-15, resulting in an underspend of £177k. Only £65k was required, resulting in an under-spend of £135k. Two of the projects included in the Quarter 3 monitoring report were in relation to Porthcawl Harbour and Maesteg Town Centre Regeneration. In relation to the Porthcawl Harbour development the original budget approved for the project was £3.350m, the current projected spend was £3.867m as a result of additional costs of early warning notices issued by the contractor and other unforeseen works. Negotiations with the contractor were on-going and it was not possible to provide a definitive outturn figure at this point, however the budget had been revised to £3.872m, due to the reduction of grant funding along with a revenue contribution towards flood damage works and a proposal to use £300k from capital receipts, including those generated from the sale of the Jennings building to meet the balance. The Internal Audit Section was currently reviewing this project and would provide a report to the Audit Committee in September.

The Head and Finance and Performance reported that the regeneration of Maesteg Town Centre commenced in 2003-4 comprising four phases, some of which ran concurrently over the period. The total budget for all four phases was £7.611m with estimated expenditure to be £7.387m. Expenditure of phases one to three resulted in an underspend of £97k which was transferred to phase four of the project which was nearing completion. The project costs for phase four was projected to be £2.812m, resulting in an underspend of £127k which would be carried forward in the capital programme to meet future match funding arrangements for regeneration projects.

The Head and Finance and Performance reported that the capital programme for 2014-15 had been amended to take into account the funding of the 21st Century Schools Programme. There are some new schemes which had been included within the programme following the approval of external funding, in particular a Welsh Government grant of £0.335m for the payment of land compensation payments and the approval of £5.98m from the Vibrant and Viable Places regeneration scheme to enhance Bridgend town centre. The Head and Finance and Performance informed Council that a budget of £600k had been included in the capital programme for the replacement of the roof at Bridgend Market, following a recent tender process it had been determined that the full cost of the works, including fees would be approximately £700k and consequently the budget had been increased by £100k to meet the full cost. The Head and Finance and Performance also reported that in order that the Council can act swiftly when property investment opportunities present themselves it was proposed that £1m is allocated within the capital programme for 2014-15 for this purpose, which would be subject to annual review, to maximise income generating opportunities with the aim of alleviating pressure on the revenue budget.

The Head and Finance and Performance also informed the Council that funding was included in the Council Programme of £500k in respect of improvements to office accommodation to progress the Maximisation Space and Technology Programme. Work was due to progress on the building works, but additional funding of £300k was required to enable works to be advanced on the fourth floor and on the first floor in order to escalate the programme, including aiding partnership working on the ground floor. It would also enable Sunnyside to be vacated to generate a capital receipt.

The Head and Finance and Performance reported that some projects in the capital programme had been re-profiled across financial years and outlined the most significant variations.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the revised Capital Programme.

383. SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT - 2013-14

The Chief Executive presented the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2013-14 for approval and requested that Council note the judgements reached locally about social care services in Bridgend. The report, which was the fifth annual report of the Director of Social Services, was based on the Authority's self- assessment of the performance and the delivery of social services.

The Chief Executive reported that the aim of the report was to provide the Council and people living in Bridgend with an overview as to how well social care is delivered and aimed to highlight the progress made during the year and to identify where improvements were needed during 2014-15. He stated that the preparation of the report involved a detailed analysis, based on evidence of the services that are delivered. The report had been presented to a Joint Scrutiny Panel made up of representatives of the Health and Wellbeing and Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committees, who had provided valuable feedback on the draft report.

The Chief Executive reported that the report is in four parts, the first part provided an overview of Bridgend and summarised the main achievements in 2013-14 and priorities for social services in 2014-15. The second and third sections provide more detail about the two main service areas, namely Safeguarding and Family Support and Adult Social Care. In preparing the report, two fundamental questions were considered:-

- Are there effective arrangements in place to safeguard children and adults to promote their welfare and voice and their independence and social inclusion;
- Can performance be sustained and improved.

The Chief Executive informed Council that Parts two and three of the report indicate that the arrangements in both Children and Adult Services were generally sound although there is always room for improvement and mistakes did sometimes occur. Services were generally effective in meeting the needs of people who required the support of social care.

The Chief Executive also reported that the CSSIW acknowledged that Bridgend had made good progress in addressing last year's areas for development and the report set out the key areas of progress and highlighted risks. He stated that there is now was a permanent Corporate Management Board structure in place and the Corporate Director - Wellbeing is a social services professional who holds national and regional roles and was able to influence and inform good practice and policy in Social Services. Additionally, the Council is currently recruiting a number of heads of service including that of Head of Adult Social Care. He also informed Council that the number of Looked After Children and those on the register continued to increase and that the Children's Directorate was driving forward a whole system approach to supporting Looked After Children and keeping families together. The Looked After Children Placement and Permanency Strategy had a clear focus on supporting families to stay together wherever it was safe to do so thereby minimising the need for children to become looked after. This strategy together with the early intervention and prevention strategy should have a positive effect on outcomes for Looked After Children which reflect the analysis of performance and try to address the increasingly challenging context, both financial and demographic on Safeguarding and Family Support and Adult Social Care.

In response to a question from the Council, the Head of Safeguarding and Family Support stated that focus on priorities for Looked After Children would be maintained and plans would be set that would be monitored to address issues affecting Looked After Children. He stated that steps were taken to improve the confidence and competence of social workers. He also stated that in relation to teenage pregnancies the County Borough had one of the highest rates in Wales; however it was promoting education through its Youth Service and also prioritising Looked After Children who may become pregnant and all foster carers were trained in family planning issues. He also informed Council that the Western Bay Region was seeing an increase in teenage pregnancies, which was heavily influenced by demographics, poverty and drugs and substance and alcohol misuse. However the Council was one of the highest performing in Wales in conducting Looked After Children Reviews and also performs strongly on permanency plans.

RESOLVED: That the Director of Social Services Annual Report for 2013-14 be approved.

384. BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT/GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (SPG) AND NATURE CONSERVATION (SINC) REVIEW

The Group Manager Development reported on the outcome of the consultation exercise on the draft Biodiversity and Development: A Green Infrastructure Approach Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and the draft Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation Review (SINC) and sought the Council's agreement of the proposed amendments to the draft document and adopt the amended versions as SPG and an evidence base to the Bridgend Local Development Plan (LDP).

He stated that the Development Control Committee at its meeting on 12 December 2013 had approved draft SPG 19 - Biodiversity and Development: A Green Infrastructure Approach and the Draft Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) Review as the basis for public consultation and authorised officers to make appropriate arrangements for public consultation and to receive a further report on the outcome of the consultation process.

The Group Manager Development reported that the Development Control Committee at its meeting on 29 May 2014 resolved to consider the representations received during public consultation, endorse the suggested reasoned responses, decisions and changes to the SPG and SINC and recommended that Council adopt the document as Supplementary Planning Guidance and an evidence base to the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan.

He reported that by the end of the eight week public consultation period, eleven individuals and external organisations had submitted comments on the draft SPG and SINC Review (seven to the SPG and four to the SINC Review). He stated that two of the representations were received after the consultation period had ended. In response the Council had produced consultation reports to the representations received and which outlined any changes made to the documents. He informed Members that the late representations had been considered and responded to in the consultation report, although Council was not obliged to endorse those representations.

The Group Manager Development reported that Council was requested to consider each of the representations received, approve the suggested reasoned response, decisions and actions and proposed changes to the document, then adopt the SPG and SINC report for publication.

The Group Manager Development also informed Council that the SPG was the first of a suite of 'Green Infrastructure' led SPG which would collectively contribute to driving forward this important agenda. He stated that the SINC review is intrinsically linked to the SPG as an evidence base and will also inform the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Review.

Members of the Council commended the officers on the clarity of the Supplementary Planning Guidance and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation Review documents.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Considered the representations received and approved the suggested reasoned responses, decisions and changes to the draft Biodiversity and Development: A Green Infrastructure Approach Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- (2) Considered the representations received and approved the suggested reasoned responses, decisions and changes to the draft SINC Review.
- (3) Approved the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) Review as an evidence base to the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan and relevant SPG.
- (4) Adopted SPG 19 - Biodiversity and Development: A Green Infrastructure Approach (as amended) as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan.

385. DEPARTURE PLANNING APPLICATION - P/13/938/FUL

The Group Manager Development reported that the Development Control Committee at its meeting on 26 June 2014 had considered planning application P/13/938/FUL as a departure from the Development Plan. The Development Control Committee resolved not to refuse permission and the application had been referred to Council requesting the grant of planning permission subject to conditions.

The Group Manager Development reported that the application is to include a parcel of land to the rear of 29-34 Cwrt Pant yr Awel, within the curtilage of 30 Cwrt Pant yr Awel, Blackmill Road, Lewistown. He stated that the parcel of land which was the subject of the application had been cleared and now included a gravelled area with a small domestic shed, greenhouse and a number of flower beds. The majority of the land subject to the application was located within the designated settlement boundary and defined by Policy PLA1 of the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan and was therefore acceptable in principle. However, some of the land (the extended garden curtilage directly behind 30 Cwrt Pant yr Awel) extended marginally beyond the settlement boundary. Accordingly the application had been advertised as being out of accord with the Local Development Plan. The existing shed and greenhouse was screened by the boundary fencing of the adjacent neighbouring properties, however they were partially visible from the adjacent community route and subject to conditions. It was considered that the development did not have such a significant impact on the visual or residential amenities of the area as to warrant a refusal.

The Group Manager Development reported that this retrospective application was recommended for approval because the development complies with Council policy and

did not adversely affect privacy or visual amenities nor so significantly harms neighbours' amenities as to warrant refusal.

A Member of the Council requested that plans be displayed at future meetings of the Council when it considers departure applications.

RESOLVED: That Council approve planning application P/13/938/FUL subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) Within 1 month of the date of this consent full details of a landscaping scheme/landscape maintenance plan along the rear boundary of the site shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The agreed landscaping works shall be carried out within the next planting season (November 2014 - March 2015) in accordance with the agreed schedule.

Reason: To maintain and improve the appearance of the area in the interests of visual amenity, and to promote nature conservation.

- (2) If within a period of three years from the date of the planting of any tree that tree or any tree planted in replacement for it, is removed, uprooted or destroyed or dies, or becomes, in the opinion of the local planning authority, seriously damaged or defective another tree of the same species and size as that originally planted shall be planted at the same place, unless the local planning authority gives its written consent to any variation.

Reason: To maintain and improve the appearance of the area in the interests of visual amenity, and to promote nature conservation.

- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2013 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification), no further development which would be permitted under Article 3 and Class E of Part 1 to Schedule 2 of the Order shall be carried out within the curtilage of the revised curtilage of the dwelling, known as 30 Cwrt Pant yr Awel, without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of visual and residential amenities.

(Councillor N Clarke requested it be noted that she had voted against the proposal).

386. **AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE RULES**

The Monitoring Officer reported on proposed amendments to the consultation relating to the process of appointing, dismissing and conducting disciplinary investigations of certain officers of the Authority.

He stated that the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(Amendments)(Wales) Regulations 2014 which came into force on 1 July 2014 and amended the 2006 Regulations relating to the process for appointing, dismissing and conducting disciplinary action against certain officers of authorities, impose new requirements for procedures for determining the level of remuneration to be paid to chief officers.

Under the 2014 Regulations, the role of Head of Democratic Services will be accorded the same status as the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer in regard to the process under which authorities can take disciplinary action against them and how any allegation is to be dealt with. Further amendments were made to extend the protection given by officers in relation to whom disciplinary action is proposed, where the officer was, but at the time of the proposed disciplinary action no longer is, an officer with protected status and the alleged misconduct, or, as the case may be, the reason for the proposal for dismissal, occurred during the period where the officer was an officer with protected status.

The Monitoring Officer also reported that under the 2006 Regulations, where an authority now proposes to appoint a chief officer and it was proposed to pay the chief officer annual remuneration of £100,000 or more, the post be publicly advertised. Additional provision was made in the 2014 Regulations relating to remuneration of chief officer's pay and any decision to determine or vary the remuneration of chief officers must be made by Council, without the possibility of delegating it to a committee of the Council. The posts of Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services were now added to the list of those who were not subject to appointment or dismissal by the Head of Paid Service (or another officer designated to them) and whose appointment or dismissal should be conducted by a committee and that any committee or sub-committee of the authority charged with this responsibility must include at least one member of the executive.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the amendments to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules within the Constitution.

387. **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE FOSTERING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services reported on proposals for the development of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel which would consider how community resilience might be fostered in local communities, particularly in response to the welfare reform agenda, and sought approval for three overview and scrutiny committee members and one reserve member to sit on the Joint Panel.

He reported that the Welsh Government had administered the Scrutiny Development Fund which had allowed local authorities to submit bids in order to undertake projects which contribute to the development of Overview and Scrutiny practice across Wales. Officers from Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend had developed a bid in relation to Fostering Community Resilience. It was proposed that Swansea would be the lead authority and the Panel would work with Governance International, who had experience in the field of community resilience and co-production. He stated that the Project Initiation Document (PID) which had been signed off by the Leader and Chief Executive would shortly be submitted to the Welsh Government for their approval. Council was requested to nominate three members and one reserve member to sit on the Joint Panel in accordance with requirements of the Project Initiation Document. The Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services informed Council that whilst there was no requirement for the Panel to be politically balanced, it was suggested that it would be

beneficial for the Panel to have cross party representation. It was suggested that the nominees be as follows:-

- Two Labour members of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, one of whom should be the Chairperson.
- One Labour member of the Community Renewal and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- One Independent Alliance member from any Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- One Independent Annibynwyr member as reserve member.

RESOLVED: That:-

- (1) The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services be advised of the nominations of the Labour Group to sit on the Fostering Community Resilience Joint Scrutiny Panel;
- (2) That Councillor C A Green be nominated the Independent Alliance Member to sit on the Fostering Community Resilience Joint Scrutiny Panel.
- (3) That the Independent Annibynwyr Group advise the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services of the reserve member to sit on the Fostering Community Resilience Joint Scrutiny Panel.

388. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER TO THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services sought approval for the appointment of Mr Kevin Pascoe as a non-voting co-optee to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He stated that Mr Pascoe had consistently sat on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 2005, as a Registered Representative and since 2013 as a Co-opted Member. He had been an active member of the Committee during that time and had taken part in a number of Research and Evaluation Panel investigations and had considerable knowledge, particularly in relation to education and school performance matters, which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would like to continue to have access to.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of Mr Kevin Pascoe as a non-voting co-optee of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee until the next local government election be approved.

389. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - OFFICER GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

The Monitoring Officer sought approval of proposed amendments to the constitution which reflect changes to the procedures for the notification, authorisation and registration of officer gifts and hospitality.

He reported that following an internal audit of officer gifts and hospitality, improvements of the current system of notification and registration were proposed which would enable a consistent approach to be undertaken and subsequently enhancing the assurance provided by the process. To provide consistency across the Authority the process of notification and registration of gifts and hospitality would now be undertaken by the Monitoring Officer. He stated that employees who are offered gift or hospitality are to

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notify the Monitoring Officer using the appropriate form within 28 days of any offer being made and request authorisation from the Monitoring Officer to accept the gift. To facilitate this change it was proposed that Paragraph 12 of Part 5 of the Constitution be amended.

RESOLVED: That Paragraph 12 of Part 5 of the Constitution relating to the Code of Conduct for Council Employees be amended as shown in Paragraph 4.4 of the report.

390. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which to inform Council of the information reports which had been published since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That Council acknowledge the publication of the documents listed in the report:-

<u>Title</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Date Published</u>
Wales Audit Office Annual Improvement Report (AIR) on Bridgend County Borough Council May 2014	Chief Executive	14 July 2014
Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2013-14	Section 151 Officer	14 July 2014

391. URGENT ITEMS

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm