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



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

Legal and Regulatory Services /  
**Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol**  
Direct line / Deialu uniongyrchol: 01656 643147  
Ask for / Gofynnwch am: Andrew Rees

Our ref / Ein cyf:  
Your ref / Eich cyf:

**Date / Dyddiad:** 24 Hydref 2014

Dear Councillor,

**TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM**

A meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum will be held in Council Chamber, Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB on **Dydd Llun, 27 Hydref 2014 at 4.00 pm.**

**AGENDA**

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb  
To receive apologies for absence (to include reasons, where appropriate) from Members/Officers.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant  
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1st September 2008.
3. Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion 3 - 6  
To receive for approval the minutes of a meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum held on 14 July 2014.
4. Impact of the Budget Reductions Outlined in the Medium Term Financial Strategy on the Delivery of Key Services 7 - 12
5. 20 Mph Limits and Zones 13 - 18
6. Armed Forces Community Covenant 19 - 22
7. Schedule of Agenda items 23 - 26
8. Materion Brys  
To consider any other item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Rule 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

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urgency.

Yours faithfully

**P A Jolley**

Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services

**Distribution:**

Councillors:

S Aspey  
M Butcher  
PA Davies  
E Dodd  
EM Hughes  
HE Morgan  
MEJ Nott OBE

Councillors

DG Owen  
G Phillips  
DR Pugh  
CL Reeves  
M Reeves  
D Sage  
CE Smith

Councillors

RL Thomas  
HJ Townsend  
DBF White  
R Williams  
M Winter

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON MONDAY, 14 JULY 2014 AT 4.00PM

Present:-

Councillor D Sage - Deputy Leader in the Chair

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
M W Butcher	E M Hughes	C L Reeves	R L Thomas
P A Davies	H E Morgan	M Reeves	H J Townsend
E Dodd	G Phillips	C E Smith	

Town and Community Councillors:

- Brackla - C Jones
- Coity Higher - J Brett
- Coychurch Higher - N Oram
- Coychurch Lower - B Nash
- Garw Valley - T Jenkins
- Maesteg - P W Jenkins
- Merthyr Mawr - A Y Morgan
- Newcastle Higher - M C Wilkins
- Ogmore Valley - M Jenkins
- Porthcawl - D Newton-Williams
- St Brides Minor - Y Nott and E Jones (observer)

Officers:

- A Godsall - Traffic and Transportation Manager
- G P Jones - Head of Democratic Services

59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

- Councillor RJ Hancock OBE - Work commitments
- Councillor M Kearns - Holiday
- Councillor M E J Nott OBE - Other Council Business
- Councillor A Davies -
- Councillor R Williams - Family commitments
- K Mulcahy - Family bereavement

60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

61 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum of 8 April 2014 be approved as a true and accurate record.

62 SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME

The Traffic and Transportation Manager presented a report which updated the Town and Community Council Forum on the operation of the Shopmobility Scheme in Bridgend Town

Centre. He advised that contrary to recent press reports that it was not the intention of the Council to cease the shopmobility service when the Vibrant and Viable Places regeneration of Bridgend Town Centre was commenced.

He explained that the Shopmobility scheme was operated by Bridgend County Borough Council from the Rhiw multi storey car park. The service provided mobility devices to members of the public who needed help with their mobility when visiting the town centre. To utilise the Shopmobility facilities customers were required to join the scheme for which there was no charge. Once registered, customers tendered a £2 deposit for the use of the apparatus and on its return the £2 deposit was refunded if requested.

The service received a donation of £10,000 from Bridgend Town Council but still had a projected shortfall of £6,994 which was subsidised by Bridgend County Borough Council. There were various costs associated with the facility which included; the office space, rates and utilities, IT and management and support, all of which were absorbed in the Car Park management costs. Some staff costs were also not apparent, for example when staff were absent due to sickness or annual leave, or on Saturdays when the actual shopmobility staff did not work, their shifts were covered by Council Staff from other areas within the Communities Directorate.

In order to reduce the ongoing financial deficit and subsidies, various options are being considered as to how the service could become more sustainable. Suggestions included:

- Potential to introduce a member registration fee
- Introduce a charge for equipment hire
- Seek contributions from other local town and community councils
- Seek external involvement to provide and develop the scheme
- Seek other service providers to deliver mobility and other services.

It was explained that within Bridgend Town Centre there are aspirations to regenerate the area around the Rhiw Car Park. Following the recent approval by the Welsh Government of the Council's Vibrant and Viable Places Grant proposals it is anticipated that the existing Rhiw multi-storey car park will be demolished and the site redeveloped. This will have significant implications for the Shopmobility Scheme both during the construction period and with regard to the development of a new car park. The impact of such changes needed to be considered within the timing of changes to the shopmobility provision. Any new or revised Shopmobility Scheme will need to be either designed into the new car park or sited elsewhere. This was particularly important if external providers were to be included in the provision of this service.

Members welcomed the news that the Shopmobility scheme would be continuing and requested clarification that the proposals to develop other contributions to fund the scheme be discussed with a range of stakeholders including all Town and Community Councils. He suggested that a survey be carried out identifying where within the Borough of Bridgend the services users lived so that a picture of where contributions could be forthcoming.

Some members were concerned that contributions from other Town and Community Councils would be considered another blow to traders in their own areas. This funding would be seen as councils funding constituents not to use their local businesses. It was suggested that a small increase in the business rates or a subsidy from the Bridgend town centre traders be considered as an alternative.

The Chairperson advised that Bridgend town centre traders were involved in discussions regarding the vibrant and viable places redevelopment and the provision of the shopmobility service. He added that the business rates were set by the Welsh Government who received the income from those rates. It was hoped that the responsibility for business rates would be devolved to Local Authorities in the future.

Members indicated that some Town and Community Council made contributions to the Shop Mobility Scheme but were unsure if this was still the case. The Chairperson advised that he would write to all Councils requesting if they would be willing to contribute to the scheme.

RESOLVED: That the Forum noted the content of the report.

63 SUPPORTED LOCAL BUS SERVICES

The Traffic and Transportation Manager presented a report outlining the current status of local commercial and subsidised bus services operating in Bridgend County Borough and highlighted the current and potential future impacts to these services following changes in local subsidies including BSSG (Bus Services Support Grant)

Within the County Borough public transport operators provided some 34 services operated on a commercial basis every day of the week. These commercial services paid for themselves and require no additional funding. The Authority subsidised a further 22 local bus service contracts operating between Monday and Saturday and provided support for its community transport operator and cross border services. Funding for these the services and Community Transport was provided by a Welsh Government Grant, known as Bus Services Support Grant (BSSG). Bridgend County Borough Council provided additional funding to support these subsidised services.

The reduction of funding from Welsh Government has required local Authorities to make significant savings for the 2014-17 financial years leading to Bridgend County Borough Council approved a budget reduction of £50,000 in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for supported bus services. To minimise the impact of this budget reduction discussions with the bus operating companies identified that the removal of subsidy from Sunday services could be mitigated by the majority of services being run on a commercial basis. These changes were implemented on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 with the details of the changes being shown in Appendix 1 of the report.

Any future review would seek to minimise impacts by not only taking into account the value for money aspect of the provision but also its relationship to deprivation factors. A full list of subsidies and services was shown at Appendix 2 of the report. These will be subject to ongoing review as further financial savings may be required over the next few years.

Members expressed their concerns about losing services. This was particularly important for those young and unemployed people who were dependent on bus services as the train service was considered ineffective. It was suggested that this would limit the opportunities for those looking for or maintaining employment across the borough.

Members also highlighted the benefits of the community transport service provided by OTED Ltd which included a Sunday service in the Garw Valley and enabled hospital visits for the elderly.

It was also identified that the bus companies needed to be realistic with their timetables and schedule as a number of buses from a single company were often seen at the same time travelling in the same direction with few if any passengers. It was requested that further details of the usage of these services and routes be provided so that the impact of any reductions to services could be identified.

RESOLVED: That the Forum noted the content of the report.

64 ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

The Chairperson advised that Councillor M E J Nott OBE who was the Armed Forces Champion was unable to attend this meeting but wished to be in attendance for consideration of this report. He had requested that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Forum.

RESOLVED: That the Forum deferred this item to its next meeting

65 TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE GRANTS

The Head of Democratic Services presented a report which provided an update to the Forum of the progress being made in respect of the grant funding for the development of Town and Community Councils internet presence.

He advised the Forum that the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013, included a requirement for Town and Community Councils (TCCs) to make information available electronically to members of the public. This was intended to enhance their profile and increase the awareness and involvement of constituents in the democratic and decision making processes. The Welsh Government designated Bridgend County Borough Council as the administrator of grant monies to be made available to TCCs in their area to assist in the development of their websites. Bridgend County Borough Council prepared an agreement which detailed how the £500 grant available to each TCC can be used and claimed.

Copies of the grant agreement were sent to each TCC for signing before being returned to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC). Once received the individual TCC would be able to claim the £500 grant funding. It was explained that a claim for grant funding could be made for any appropriate expenditure incurred from 1 April 2012 until 31 March 2015 in the creation or enhancement of a TCCs web presence. This could include, equipment, IT training or Website maintenance or hosting facilities.

The Forum was advised that seven grant agreements had been returned to BCBC enabling claims to be made. Two claims had been submitted and the grant funding paid accordingly. All Town and Community Councils were requested to ensure that they complete the grant agreement previously circulated and make any appropriate claims as soon as possible.

Members expressed their concerns regarding the establishment of their websites and the requirement for the all of content to be translated into Welsh. The Head of Democratic Services advised that public bodies were expected to have the content of their websites provided in the Welsh Language. However, he explained that Bridgend County Borough Council operated a Welsh Language Scheme which identified those types of webpages and content that needed full Welsh Language translations to be made available. This had been agreed. It was requested that a copy of the scheme be provided to each TCC to enable them to develop their own scheme.

RESOLVED: That the Forum noted the report.

66 SCHEDULE OF AGENDA ITEMS

The Head of Democratic Services presented a report on behalf of the Monitoring Officer, which informed the Forum of requests for items to be presented at future meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Forum noted the report and the items to be considered at future meetings.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS FORUM

27 OCTOBER 2014

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES

#### IMPACT OF THE BUDGET REDUCTIONS OUTLINED IN THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY ON THE DELIVERY OF KEY SERVICES

#### 1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Town and Community Councils of the impact of budget reductions in previous and future years on the Council's ability to deliver key services.

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities.

- 2.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) identifies the Council's resource priorities for the next four financial years and underpins its ability to deliver its corporate priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan.

#### 3. Background.

- 3.1 The Council has absorbed a significant level of budget reductions in the last three years, 2012-13 to 2014-15, equating to 7.75% of its current budget, as outlined in the table below:

	£000	
2012-13	4,796	
2013-14	3,706	
2014-15	11,274	
<b>Total Reductions</b>	<b>19,776</b>	
Current Budget	255,131	7.75%

Until 2014-15 the level of savings were considered to be largely manageable within services, without wide-scale redundancies or reductions in services. However, in recent years the financial situation has changed and the savings target has increased dramatically.

#### 4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The savings target for 2014-15 is £11.274 million and includes a number of changes in service delivery, including transfer of services to the independent sector, such as homecare and shared lives services, policy changes in respect of eligibility for adult social care services, and the introduction of fees and charges for services previously provided free of charge or at a subsidised rate.

4.2 The MTFS approved by Council in February 2014 was predicated on the assumption that Council would be required to make savings of £36 million over the period 2014-15 to 2017-18. However, On 16 July Cabinet was advised that the assumptions underlying the MTFS had been revised following receipt of a letter from the Minister for Local Government and Government Business, in which she indicated that it would be advisable to plan for a cut in funding of - 4.5% for each of the years 2015-16 to 2018-19. This equated to a savings target of £50 million over the 4 year period for this authority. This equates to 19.6% of the 2014-15 budget, or 29.4% excluding schools. The savings targets for each of the four financial years is as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>£000</b>
2015-16	12,417
2016-17	13,460
2017-18	12,175
2018-19	11,798
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,850</b>

4.3 There are a number of areas where the Council is restricted in terms of applying these savings targets, namely:

- The Welsh Government is still mindful to protect school budgets at a level of 1% above the change in the Welsh Government budget. School budgets currently equate to £84.7 million and account for 33% of the Council's total budget.
- In addition, there are significant legislative and demographic pressures within adult social care, as a result of an ageing population, which restrict the extent to which these services can be reduced. The adult social care budget currently accounts for a further 15% of the total budget.
- A further 12.2% of the budget funds debt repayment, the council tax reduction scheme and transfers of council tax to precepting authorities such as the police and fire service, all of which are unavoidable.

The consequence is that this place additional pressures on other services to meet a disproportionately higher level of savings.

4.4 Directors have been requested to identify additional savings to meet the revised savings targets, and are currently in discussion with Cabinet on which savings proposals will go forward for public consultation. However, there is still a gap for both 2015-16 and 2016-17, with very few options proposed for future years, and a number of the savings proposals are deemed to be at risk of being achieved. These proposals are inherently difficult to deliver as they affect the level or quality of service that the Council will provide. A number of proposals require periods of consultation, especially where policy changes are proposed, and this results in a time lag between consultation and implementation.

4.5 A number of the proposals will involve changes to the way in which services are being delivered, and rationalisation of service provision. Proposals include



transfer of services to third party providers, reduction in provision to the statutory minimum and decisions about whether or not to provide the service at all, particularly where there is no statutory duty to do so. Directors are exploring alternative ways of delivering services in order to present the public and users of the service with different options for meeting their requirements. The outcome will be a much smaller, very different looking Council, with a much greater emphasis on statutory responsibilities and a commissioning approach.

- 4.6 In terms of specific activities and challenges facing the Council's departments, the following services have been identified as potential areas where Town and Community Councils may be able to support and work with the Council on meeting the budget reductions, but at the same time endeavouring to ensure continuity of provision for residents:

#### Children's Directorate

A new vision for a National Youth Work Strategy' set out the Governments overall vision for change in the way the services for young people are delivered. These were proposed in the consultation paper published in June 2013. The Government is clear in that it wants Youth Services be a significant and strategically connected partner in our drive to engage and support all young people in education, training and employment.

The Council is facing significant challenges in financial terms and through the national settlement and reductions in funding. Budget decisions have been based on a set of core principles that include Supporting the Vulnerable. As set out in our Youth Service review, our aim is to make best use of the resources we have available and continue to work together with our partners and communities to ensure young people have opportunities to help them to grow up to be successful adults.

The youth service review will explore future delivery of open access universal youth provision through youth clubs, and it is our intention to explore a range of options for the future delivery of these services by third parties, including the third and voluntary sectors.

#### Wellbeing Directorate

The wellbeing directorate comprises two main functions: adult social care and sport, play and active wellbeing. The directorate seeks to promote independence; wellbeing and choice that will support individuals achieve their full potential. We want to enable people to be more independent and live fulfilled and active lives in ordinary settings within their own communities.

The aim is to develop new models of support that will maximize the opportunity for people to be active citizens and less reliant on traditional social services. In order to achieve this it will be critical that we are able to give individuals more effective advice and information so that they will be able to have greater control and choice over their own lives. This will involve developing a range of different options and stronger connections with local communities.

## Communities Directorate

There are a number of budget reduction proposals within the Medium Term Financial Strategy relating to the Communities Directorate that will affect local communities directly. In particular there are proposals relating to:

- Public conveniences
- School crossing patrols
- Car parking, including blue badge holders
- Grounds maintenance, including parks pavilions
- Street cleaning and other highways services
- Tourism, arts and culture

Going forward there will be a need to engage with the public and members of Town and Community Councils to determine whether there are opportunities to support these services either financially or through consideration of alternative management arrangements.

- 4.7 The Council wants to fully engage with the public on proposed savings, and to identify those areas deemed to be a priority for the local communities, in advance of a move towards budgeting based on agreed priorities from 2016-17. A formal public consultation will take place during October and November, involving a wide range of engagement methods and targeting all of the main stakeholder groups. Methods of engagement will include a consultation document, an on-line budget simulator and use of social media. The results of the consultation will inform the draft budget to be presented to Cabinet in December.

### **5. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules.**

- 5.1 The budget setting process is outlined within the Council's Constitution and Financial Procedure Rules.

### **6. Equality Impact Assessment.**

- 6.1 All budget reduction proposals identified within the MTFS are subject to separate Equality Impact Assessments.

### **7. Financial Implications.**

- 7.1 These are identified within the report.

### **8. Recommendation.**

- 8.1 The Town and Community Council Forum are asked to note the report.

**Ness Young  
Corporate Director Resources**

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Group Manager, Financial Planning and Budget Management.

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**Background documents**

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-15 to 2017-18 – Council 19 February 2014  
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-16 to 2018-19 update – Cabinet 16 September 2014

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

### TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

#### 20 MPH LIMITS AND ZONES

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline the current status of 20mph limits and zones in Bridgend County Borough and to discuss the potential implementation of further schemes.

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report is consistent with the corporate aims as detailed in the Bridgend County Borough Council Corporate Plan, in particular the improvement priority to develop the local economy.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 From the non-car user perspective, excessive speed or driving inappropriately for the prevailing conditions (even if within a signed limit) is one of their main safety concerns.
- 3.2 In managing speed local authorities can introduce speed limits of 30,40,50,60 and 70 mph and more recently 20mph.
- 3.3 There are multiple organisations that advocate blanket lower speed limits. Wider use of 20mph limits combined with rigorous police enforcement would certainly satisfy casualty reduction targets. Their use, however, needs to be balanced with other considerations including the Association of Chief Police Officers guidance on enforcement of 20 mph speed limits/ zones, which indicates that general compliance needs to be achieved without excessive reliance on enforcement.
- 3.4 Within the county borough there are some eleven 20mph zones and one 20mph speed limit which have been funded through Welsh Government and Bridgend County Borough grants. **See Appendix A for list of locations.**

#### **4. Current Situation**

- 4.1 Current guidance is that Highway Authorities may implement 20mph speed limits and zones where appropriate, particularly in residential areas, and this is encouraged and supported by the Welsh Government. Such limits may either be full time or restricted to specified hours of the day.
- 4.2 It is recognized that in order to be successful 20mph speed limits and zones should ideally be self-enforcing leading to compliant vehicle speeds. In introducing such schemes Highway Authorities should take account of the level of police enforcement required before installing either of these measures and must always formally consult the police when considering their use.
- 4.2 Research indicates that 20mph speed limits should only be used where mean vehicle speeds are 24mph or below or where traffic calming measures are planned as part of the speed management strategy.
- 4.3 The Department for Transport (DfT) has commissioned research into the effectiveness of 20mph speed limits (due to report back in 2017) in order to “support and inform future policy development on 20mph speed limits and zones”. Whilst there is evidence that 20mph zones that are introduced in conjunction with speed reducing features are effective in reducing collisions and speeds, there is an evidence gap on the effectiveness of 20mph speed limits.
- 4.4 The design and treatment of new housing estates seeks to design the roads layouts for naturally lower speeds by tighter road geometry and features that change the perception of the driver and naturally promote lower speeds.
- 4.5 In consideration of current guidance it is not normal practice to introduce signing only schemes within untreated residential areas as compliance with the limit may not be realised and may not garner the support of police enforcement.
- 4.6 To influence driver behavior on existing streets means that physical traffic calming measures such as chicanes, build outs or speed cushions are usually required . The cost of introducing such measures to ensure that a length of road is engineered to promote and maintain a lower average speed can run into tens of thousands of pounds.
- 4.7 The rate at which the Council is able to address requests for new 20MPH schemes is largely based upon available funding. Current road safety grants from Welsh Government are prioritised on the basis of individual roads road safety records. It is not always the case that requests for 20mph zones coincide with casualty locations, and as such bids to Welsh Government for funding of 20mph zones with a low

or nil casualty record are not successful when prioritised against areas with higher collision rates across Wales.

**5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

5.1 The content of this report does not propose any effect upon Policy or Procedure

**6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 The content of this report does not propose any changes to current practice.

**7. Financial Implications**

7.1 None identified

**8. Recommendation**

8.1 It is recommended that the contents of this report are noted

**MARK SHEPHARD  
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**

Contact Officer: Kevin Mulcahy : Group Manager Highway Services, Communities Directorate, Telephone 01656 642535  
Background documents: None

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## **Appendix A**

Whitethorn Drive, Brackla  
Coed Castell, Brackla  
Church Acre, Brackla  
Underwood Place, Brackla  
Parc Celyn, Pencoed  
Dol Gorwel, North Cornelly  
Joslin Road, Litchard  
Heol Yr Eglwys, Penyfai  
Tyn-y-Coed, Sarn  
Heol-yr-Ysgol, Ynysawdre  
Broadlands Estate  
Ffordd Dysgu, Maesteg

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

14 JULY 2014

#### REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

#### ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT (AFCC)

##### 1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Town and Community Council Forum on the AFCC and the support for our Armed Forces Community.

##### 2. Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

- 2.1 The report relates to the corporate priority of working together to make the best use of our resources by improving the way we communicate and engage with our Armed Forces Community.

##### 3. Background.

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a local level agreement with the Armed Forces, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces.
- 3.2 On 13 April 2013 Councillor MEJ Nott OBE was appointed as the Bridgend's Armed Forces Champion with Bridgend County Borough Council establishing its Armed Forces Community Covenant on 22 November 2013. The Bridgend Covenant was signed by 32 supporting individuals organisations including South Wales Police, ABMU, local Assembly Members and Members of Parliament and veterans organisations.
- 3.3 The signing of the covenant also provided access to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme. This fund supports local projects that bring together the civilian and Armed Forces communities, strengthening ties and mutual understanding. Local authorities (and any part of the local community, e.g. volunteer groups, charities, schools) can bid for grant funding for projects that deliver tangible results and meet the overall aims of the scheme. Applications are invited for sums from £100 - £250,000 (although larger bids may also be considered in exceptional circumstances).
- 3.4 An AFCC steering group known as the Bridgehead Group, has been set up which is working to develop the action plan and meets to consider applications for the AFCC grant funding prior to their submission to the MoD.

##### 4. Current situation / proposal.

###### 4.1 Achievements

- 4.1.1 BCBC has been involved in developing the AFCC within the County Borough. Achievements have included:

- The establishment of an Armed Forces Webpage on the BCBC website
- Council tax reduction war disabled pension and war widows pensions are disregarded when calculating income.
- Working with Registered Social Landlords regarding the housing needs of the armed forces community. Ensure that BCBC and RSLs meet the Government requirements for prioritising current and former members of the armed forces for re-housing
- Encourage the recognition of the Armed Forces through such activities as Freedom of the Borough, Homecoming, Remembrance Parades, Armed Forces Day

4.1.2 The Authority has worked in partnership with Bridgend Town Council and the Bridgend Veterans Association to deliver an enhanced Armed Forces Day event which was held on 28 June 2014. The event consisted of:

- The signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant by the Mayors and Chairs of the Town and Community Councils within the Borough. The public were also invited to sign the covenant to show their support.
- A Parade through Bridgend Town Centre and a ceremony to celebrate the commitment of our Armed Forces
- Static Military Displays and information stands from a range of organisations providing support services to our Armed Forces Community
- A concert held in the Bowls Hall for veterans, service personnel and dignitaries

4.1.3 The event was a great success with:

- the average footfall in the Town Centre on the day of the event being increased by 2500 people.
- the majority of Town and Community Councils signed the Covenant with the remainder making arrangements to sign up in the near future.
- approximately 200 members of the public signing the covenant to show their support for the Armed Forces.

4.1.4 Participating organisations have been circulated a questionnaire to identify other outcomes that they have achieved from the event. These will be collated into a post event report which will be made available in due course.

## 4.2 Challenges

4.2.1 The main challenge faced by the Borough to develop the support and services needed to meet the requirements of the covenant and of the veterans themselves is to identify the veterans and the specific needs they have.

4.2.2 Being proud and independent veterans or ex-servicemen or women often prevents these individuals from asking for help and support. The MoD due to the constraints of the Data Protection Act cannot identify to the Authority those service personnel who are leaving the Armed Forces and relocating to the area.

4.2.3 During the Armed Forces Day event an Information Request questionnaire was developed which invited veterans and ex-service personnel and their families to identify themselves and their support needs. The request also provided an opportunity for the individual to permit their personal details to be shared with the support organisations. There were a total of 42 completed forms returned. A

number of forms were taken to be distributed in the Maesteg and Porthcawl areas for subsequent completion.

4.2.4 The data collected from these forms will be added to the BCBC database and the email addresses will be passed to the support organisations identified on the form for follow up.

4.2.5 Other key issues that have been identified include:

- Health and wellbeing
- Education - consideration of non-standard school holidays for the children of serving personnel.
- Housing and homelessness
- Re-training and employment

#### 4.3 Opportunities

4.3.1 With the possibility of grant funding available from the AFCC grant scheme, local organisations and community groups have the opportunity to identify projects which will support veterans and the communities within the borough.

4.3.2 Examples of successful bids include:

- a. A Hampshire based community interest company and social enterprise, 'seen2help', was able to obtain £135,000 from the Grant Scheme to fund their virtual employment agency.
- b. using a combination of funding an Outreach Officer has been employed by Gateshead Council since October 2012 as a single point of contact for queries and requests from the Armed Forces Community.

4.3.3 Further details on the criteria for grant bids and the bidding process can be found on the Armed Forces Community Covenant Page on the BCBC website.

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/democracy/community-covenant-grant-scheme.aspx>

#### 4.4 The Way Forward

4.4.1 With the current high profile of the Armed Forces and the commitment of the signatories of the Armed Forces Community Covenant it is hoped that the momentum of the covenant that has been generated recently can built upon to:

- Continue to identify the veterans and ex-service personnel within the county Borough
- improve the understanding of the support and services needed by them
- identify suitable projects which can be developed and grant bids submitted from organisations across the Borough to support.
- develop or adapt services to ensure the needs of the veterans can be met.
- ensure that we work together to provide support for our Armed Forces Community.

**5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.**

5.1 There is no direct effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules, as a result of the provisions and recommendations of this report

**6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equality implications attached to this report.

**7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications in respect of this report

**8. Recommendation:**

8.1 The Town and Community Council Forum are requested to note the content of the report and how the Armed Forces Community Covenant can be progressed within the County Borough

**Mr P A Jolley**

**Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer**

**8 July 2014**

**Contact Officer:** **Mr Gary Jones**  
Head of Democratic Services

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**Background documents: None**

# Agenda Item 7

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

27 OCTOBER 2014

#### REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

#### SCHEDULE OF AGENDA ITEMS

**1. Purpose of Report.**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Town and Community Council Forum of the requests for items to be presented to future meetings.

**2. Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priority.**

2.1 The report relates to the Corporate Priority working together to make the best use of our resources by improving the way we communicate and engage with citizens.

**3. Background.**

3.1 As agreed at a meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum held on 29 October 2007 an information report would be presented to subsequent meetings that would:

- indicate the items requested for inclusion by the individual Town and Community Councils; and
- Provide a schedule for the presentation of those items.

**4. Current situation / proposal.**

4.1 The current list of requests and schedule of agenda items to be presented are set out in Appendix A to this report.

**5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.**

5.1 There is no direct effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules, as a result of the provisions and recommendations of this report

**6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equality implications attached to this report.

**7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications regarding the report.

**8. Recommendation:**

8.1 That the Town & Community Council Forum notes the contents of this report.

**Mr P A Jolley**

**Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer**

**15 October 2014**

**Contact Officer:** **Mr Mark Galvin**  
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

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**Background documents: None**



**TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM - SCHEDULE OF AGENDA ITEMS**

The following table shows the requests for agenda items scheduled to be presented to the Forum.

<b>Topic for Consideration</b>	<b>Requested by Town/Community Council or Officer</b>	<b>Officer who compiles report <u>or</u> responds to the Town/Community Council</b>	<b>Date to be presented to Forum, or alternative recommended course of action</b>
Update on the Williams Report	Pencoed Town Council	Chief Executive	Report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum
Rural Economic Development	Laleston Community Council	Corporate Director - Communities	Report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum
Adoption of rear lanes	Maesteg Town Council	Corporate Director - Communities	Report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum.
Replacement of Affordable Housing due to Demolition of properties by V2C	Maesteg Town Council	Corporate Director - Communities	Report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum
Youth Service Review	N/A	Corporate Director - Children	Report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum

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