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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 643148  
Ask for / Gofynnwch am: Mr Mark Anthony Galvin

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

**Date / Dyddiad: 6 January 2015**

Dear Councillor,

**TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM**

A meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum will be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend on **Monday, 12 January 2015 at 4.00 pm.**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence (to include reasons, where appropriate) from Members/Officers
2. Declarations of interest  
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 1 September 2008
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 10  
To receive for approval the Minutes of a meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum dated 27 October 2014
4. Rural Development Programme 11 - 18
5. Unadopted Streets and Lanes 19 - 22
6. Schedule of Agenda items 23 - 26
7. Urgent Items  
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 urgency

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Yours faithfully

**P A Jolley**

Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services

**Distribution:**

Councillors:

S Aspey  
M Butcher  
PA Davies  
E Dodd  
EM Hughes  
RD Jenkins  
HE Morgan

Councillors

MEJ Nott OBE  
DG Owen  
G Phillips  
CL Reeves  
M Reeves  
D Sage  
CE Smith

Councillors

RL Thomas  
HJ Townsend  
DBF White  
R Williams  
M Winter

Town/Community Councillor Representatives:

|                  |   |             |                   |   |                   |
|------------------|---|-------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Brackla          | - | C Jones     | Llangynwyd Middle | - | L M Jones         |
| Bridgend         | - | R D L Burns | Maesteg           | - | P W Jenkins       |
| Cefn Cribbwr     | - | J B Johnson | Merthyr Mawr      | - | A Y Morgan        |
| Coity Higher     | - | A Davies    | Newcastle Higher  | - | M C Wilkins       |
| Cornelly         | - | S Bennett   | Ogmore Valley     | - | M Jenkins         |
| Coychurch Higher | - | N Oram      | Pencoed           | - | R J Hancock OBE   |
| Coychurch Lower  | - | B Nash      | Porthcawl         | - | D Newton-Williams |
| Garw Valley      | - | T Jenkins   | Pyle              | - | M Kearns          |
| Laleston         | - | T Berrow    | St Brides Minor   | - | Y Nott            |
| Llangynwyd Lower | - | M Jones     | Ynysawdre         | - | J Lamberts        |

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND ON MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2014 AT 4.00PM

Present:-

Councillor M E J Nott OBE - Leader in the Chair

| <u>Councillors</u> | <u>Councillors</u> | <u>Councillors</u> | <u>Councillors</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| M W Butcher        | E M Hughes         | C E Smith          | D B F White        |
| P A Davies         | H E Morgan         | R Thomas           | R Williams         |
| E Dodd             | G Phillips         | H J Townsend       | M Winter           |

Town and Community Councillors:

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Brackla           | - C Jones           |
| Bridgend Town     | - R D L Burns       |
| Coity Higher      | - A Davies          |
| Coychurch Higher  | - N Oram            |
| Coychurch Lower   | - B Nash            |
| Garw Valley       | - T Jenkins         |
| Laleston          | - B Davies          |
| Llangynwyd Middle | - C Griffiths       |
| Maesteg           | - P W Jenkins       |
| Merthyr Mawr      | - W Willis          |
| Ogmore Valley     | - M Jenkins         |
| Pencoed           | - J McCarthy        |
| Porthcawl         | - D Newton-Williams |
| Pyle              | - M Kearns          |

Officers:

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| D Mepham   | - Chief Executive                                 |
| N Young    | - Corporate Director - Resources                  |
| M Shephard | - Corporate Director - Communities                |
| K Mulcahy  | - Group Manager - Highways                        |
| G P Jones  | - Head of Democratic Services                     |
| A Rees     | - Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees |

67 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Councillor RJ Hancock OBE | - Holiday          |
| Councillor A Morgan       | - Holiday          |
| Councillor Y Nott         | - Other commitment |
| Councillor C Reeves       | - Work commitment  |
| Councillor M Reeves       | - Work commitment  |
| Councillor D Sage         | - In Hospital      |

68 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

69 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum of 14 July 2014 be approved as a true and accurate record.

70 PRESENTATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Leader informed the Forum that he had agreed to the Chief Executive making a presentation to the Forum on the subject of Local Government reorganisation.

The Chief Executive made a presentation to the Forum on proposals on the future of local government in Wales. He stated that the Williams Commission had been set up to look at public services in Wales, how they could be improved, simplified, be more transparent and give greater value for money. The Welsh Government had introduced proposals via a White Paper to reduce the number of Councils from 22 to 12, with the preference based on the recommendations of the Williams Commission. The Welsh Government had sought to encourage voluntary mergers and the extension of existing council terms to May 2018 and would introduce a Bill in January 2015 to deal with enabling voluntary mergers.

The Chief Executive informed the Forum that the Welsh Government's proposed preferred model, which is based on the Williams Commission proposals would see Bridgend merging with Neath Port Talbot Council. However, the Welsh Government had also invited expressions of interest by the end of November from Councils wishing to merge earlier through voluntary mergers. He stated that Bridgend County Borough Council is in a unique position geographically in South Wales in that it straddles both South East and South West Wales. He informed the Forum that Bridgend had historically looked towards the South East, but had also developed strong links with Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Councils to the West through the Western Bay Partnership, which relates to Social Care Services. In considering a merger, the Council would need to consider service considerations such as the economy and development; education; social care; other partners and the impact on Council Tax.

The Chief Executive informed the Forum of the strong links which the Council had developed with local authorities in South East Wales, to its relationship with the Cardiff City region in terms of travel to work, housing regeneration and transport links. The Chief Executive stated that whilst there is a Swansea City region, the Council had not been part of that.

The Chief Executive informed the Forum that on balance a merger to the East would be more beneficial due to the Central South Consortium. The school systems in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan were the same school systems with sixth form education, as opposed to Neath Port Talbot which had a tertiary model of education. He stated that the Council has a priority to improve schools and on balance a merger to the east was more beneficial.

The Chief Executive informed the Forum that the Council had adopted a model of children's and adult social care being in separate directorates, however this was not a common model as Neath Port Talbot and the Vale of Glamorgan had combined social care directorates. He stated that the Council is part of the Health and Social Care integration with Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Councils and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, known as the Western Bay Region and it had through the Western Bay Programme developed Community Health, Bridgend Hospital and locality approaches and on balance in terms of social care a merger to the east would be more beneficial. The Chief Executive informed the Forum that in terms of Policing, Criminal Justice and Community Safety and the Fire Service a merger to the east would be more beneficial. In terms of policing, the Council was part of the same BCU with the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend was part of the South Wales Fire Authority, whereas if it merged to the West it would be part of an area

where there was a different Fire Authority however, in terms of health provision, a merger to the West would be more beneficial as the ABMU Health Board served Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Councils.

The Chief Executive illustrated the potential impact on council tax band D figures of a merger to the East and West and that according to very raw data it would suggest that a merger to the East would be more beneficial to council tax payers.

A Member of the Forum commented that the recommendations of the Williams Commission were contrary to the analysis of the Officers for a preferred voluntary merger to the East. The Chief Executive informed the Forum that the proposals by the Williams Commission were based on health board boundaries across Wales; however this Council's boundary was part of the Police and Fire authority's boundaries which Neath Port Talbot and Swansea were not part of. The Leader informed the Forum that the Williams Commission proposals were predicated on Health Authority boundaries but there were no proposals to change existing local authority boundaries.

A Member of the Forum expressed concern at the potential impact of local government reorganisation on funding organisations in the third sector. The Chief Executive informed the Forum that there did not seem an obvious driver for a merger to either East or West in terms of working with the third sector, however there was a need to ensure whichever model was eventually implemented that the Council could work with the third sector.

The Leader informed the Forum that the Welsh Government did not have any proposals to alter the boundaries of existing local authorities and there would be whole mergers. A Member of the Forum considered that the consensus of opinion in Maesteg would be for a preference to merge to the West due to its proximity to Neath and Port Talbot. The Leader informed the Forum that there would be a period of consultation for the merger proposals.

A Member of the Forum expressed concern at the impact on Health and Social Services should a merger take place towards the East. The Chief Executive informed the Forum that there is already in existence a health and social care integration agenda and that the Health Boards could adapt and change as local government changed.

Concern was expressed by a Member of the Forum at the possibility of over complicating collaboration and that there was already in existence substantial collaboration to the West with the Western Bay Health and Social Care programme which had seen economies of scale being achieved. The Chief Executive informed the Forum that the Council had two distinct footprints and there was a need to balance what was best for Bridgend.

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

The Corporate Director - Resources reported on the impact of budget reductions in the last three years which was £19.776m, equating to 7.75% of its current budget. Until 2014-15, the level of savings was considered to be largely manageable within services, without wide scale redundancies or reductions in services. However, in recent years the financial situation had changed and the savings target had increased dramatically.

The Corporate Director - Resources reported that the savings target for 2014-15 is £11.274m, which includes a number of changes in service delivery, including the transfer of services to the independent sector, policy changes in respect of eligibility for Adult Social Care Services and the introduction of fees and charges for services which were previously provided free of charge or at a subsidised rate. The Corporate Director - Resources informed the Forum that the Medium Term Financial Strategy was predicated on the assumption that the Council would be required to make savings of £36m over the period 2014-15 to 2017-18. However, the Council had been advised by the Minister for Local

Government and Government Business that it would be advisable for the Council to plan for a cut in funding of -4.5% for each of those years, which equated to a savings target of £50m over the four year period. This equated to 29.4% of the 2014-15 budget excluding schools. The Corporate Director - Resources illustrated the savings target required to be made by the Council over the four year period.

The Corporate Director - Resources reported that the Council was restricted in terms of applying savings targets in a number of areas, namely school budgets; 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 and a further 12.2% of the budget funding debt repayment, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the transfers of council tax to precepting authorities, all of which were unavoidable.

The Corporate Director - Resources reported that Directors had been requested to identify additional savings to meet the required revised savings targets, which was the subject of discussion with Cabinet on which savings proposals would go forward for public consultation. She stated that there was still a gap for both 2015-16 and 2016-17, with very few options proposed for future years and a number of savings proposals were deemed to be at risk of being achieved. These proposals were inherently difficult to deliver as they affect the level or quality of service the Council will provide. A number of proposals require periods of consultation, especially where policy changes are proposed which would result in a time lag between consultation and implementation and would also involve changes to the way services were being delivered and the rationalisation of service provision. Proposals include a transfer of services to third parties, a reduction in provision to the statutory minimum and decisions about whether or not to provide the service at all, where there was no statutory duty to do so. She stated that Directors were exploring alternative ways of delivering services in order to present the public and service users with different options for meeting their requirements. The Corporate Director - Resources indicated that there would be a much smaller very different looking Council, with a much greater emphasis on statutory responsibilities and a commissioning approach.

The Corporate Director - Resources reported on the challenges facing the Council's Directorates and outlined the services identified in each Directorate as potential areas where Town and Community Councils may be able to support and work with the Council on meeting the budget reductions and at the same time endeavouring to ensure continuity of provision for residents.

The Corporate Director - Resources reported that there would be a need to engage with the public and Town and Community Councils to determine whether there are opportunities to support these services either financially or through consideration of alternative management arrangements. She stated that the Council wanted to fully engage with the public on proposed savings and to identify those areas deemed to be a priority for local communities and that a formal public consultation will take place during October and November with all stakeholder groups. Methods of engagement would include a consultation document, an on-line budget simulator and the use of social media. The results of the consultation would inform the draft budget to be presented to Cabinet in December.

The Corporate Director - Resources informed the Forum that a letter would be sent to all Town and Community Councils on areas where they may want to consider working with the Council to provide services in the future.

A Member of the Forum questioned whether the Council would consider Town and Community Councils match funding services on a revenue basis as well as a capital basis and that a 5% increase in the precept by Town and Community Councils would generate additional revenue which could be used to match fund services. The Corporate Director - Resources said that the level of precept was for each TCC, but that if all agreed that they

wanted to use an element of their precept to match fund council revenue that she would consider such a proposal from Town and Community Councils. However she explained that in respect of available Council resources it was a zero sum game so there was no guarantee that match funding could be made available.

A Member of the Forum questioned that with the possibility of councils merging voluntarily would cuts in services be not so stringent. The Corporate Director - Resources informed the Forum that the Williams Commission had identified savings from the reorganisation, but that it was important to recognise that the savings quoted were much less than the savings requirement anticipated by the Council over the next four financial years.. She also stated that austerity measures would be in place in the public sector for the foreseeable future

A Member of the Forum expressed concern at the lack of progress in the transfer of Brackla Community Centre from Bridgend County Borough Council to Brackla Community Council. The Corporate Director - Communities informed the Forum that the transfer of Brackla Community Centre to Brackla Community Council was being progressed.

In response to a question from the Forum, the Corporate Director - Resources stated that letters would be sent to all Town and Community Councils prior to precepts being set. The Corporate Director - Communities stated that officers would commit to meeting with Town and Community Councils before they had set their precepts and that a point of contact for liaising with Town and Community Councils was required.

RESOLVED: That the Forum noted the report.

72 20 MPH LIMITS AND ZONES

The Group Manager - Highway Services reported on the current status of 20 miles per hour limits and zones in the County Borough and on the potential implementation of further schemes.

He reported that local authorities can introduce speed limits of 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70 miles per hour and more recently 20 miles per hour. He stated that there were a number of organisations which advocate blanket lower speed limits and the wider use of 20 miles per hour limits combined with rigorous police enforcement would satisfy casualty reduction targets. The use of 20 miles per hour limits needed to be balanced with other considerations, namely guidance on the enforcement of 20 miles per hour speed limit/zones, which indicated that general compliance needed to be achieved without excessive reliance on enforcement.

The Group Manager - Highway Services informed the Forum that within the County Borough there are some eleven 20 miles per hour zones and one 20 mile per hour speed limited funded through the Welsh Government and Council grants.

The Group Manager - Highway Services reported that current guidance allowed highway authorities to implement 20 mile per hour speed limits and zones where appropriate, particularly in residential areas, which was encouraged and supported by the Welsh Government. He stated that in order for 20 miles per hour speed limits and zones to be successful they should ideally be self-enforcing and in introducing such schemes highway authorities should take account of the level of police enforcement were required before installing either of these measures and must always formally consult the Police when considering their use. Research had indicated that 20 miles per hour speed limits should only be used where vehicle speeds were 24 miles per hour or below or where traffic calming measures were planned as part of the speed management strategy.

The Group Manager - Highway Services informed the Forum that whilst there was evidence that 20 miles per hour zones introduced in conjunction with speed reducing features were

effective in reducing collisions and speeds, there was an evidence gap on the effectiveness of 20 miles per hour speed limits. He stated that the design and treatment of new housing estates sought to design the road layouts to naturally lower speeds by type of road geometry and the introduction of chicanes to change the perception of the driver and naturally promote lower speeds.

The Group Manager - Highway Services reported that in order to influence driver behaviour on existing streets it meant that physical traffic calming measures such as chicanes, build outs or speed cushions were usually required and the cost of introducing such measures was to ensure that a length of road was engineered to promote and maintain a lower average speed could run into tens and thousands of pounds.

The Group Manager - Highway Services reported that the rate at which the Council was able to address requests for new 20 miles per hour schemes was largely based on available funding and that road safety grants from the Welsh Government were prioritised on the basis of individual road safety records. He stated that it was not always the case that requests for 20 miles per hour zones coincide with casualty locations and as such bids to the Welsh Government for funding of 20 miles per hour zones with a low or nil casualty rate were not successful when prioritised against areas with higher collision rates.

A Member of the Forum expressed concern at the saturation of parked cars during the day time at the Coity Fields Estate and stated that a car had collided with a child and believed that a 20 miles per hour zone would be more beneficial in that area than traffic calming measures. The Group Manager - Highway Services informed the Forum that parked vehicles tended to slow drivers down during the day and that he would ask his traffic officers to investigate the concerns raised and confirmed whether measures were needed in that area.

A Member of the Forum believed that the imposition of 20 miles per hour limits in Broadlands had not deterred speeding traffic and that the Police would not enforce the speed limit in that area.

The Group Manager - Highway Services informed the Forum that speed limits are prescribed and that there were also advisory limits in place, however, the majority of motorists adhered to speed limits. He also informed the Forum that where speed limits were advisory that they would not generally be accompanied with traffic regulation features.

RESOLVED: That the Forum noted the report.

### 73 ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

The Head of Democratic Services reported that 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. He stated that the Leader of the Council had been appointed as the Council's Armed Forces Champion with the Council establishing its Community Covenant on 22 November 2013.

The Armed Forces Community Covenant was signed by 32 supporting organisations and with the signing of the Covenant, provided access to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme. The fund supported local projects which brought together the civilian and armed forces communities, strengthening ties and mutual understanding. Local authorities could bid for grant funding for projects which deliver tangible results and meet the overall aims of the scheme for sums between £100 to £250,000 (although larger bids may also be considered in exceptional circumstances). The Armed Forces Community Covenant Steering Group known as the Bridgehead Group, had been set up to develop an action plan and to consider applications for grant funding, prior to their submission to the Ministry of Defence.



The Head of Democratic Services highlighted the achievements of the County Borough Council in developing the Armed Forces Community Covenant. He stated that the Authority had worked in partnership with Bridgend Town Council and the Bridgend Veterans Association to deliver an enhanced Armed Forces Day event on 28 June 2014. The event had proved to be a great success with the average footfall in the Town Centre on the day of the event being increased by 2,500 people. The majority of Town and Community Councils had signed the Covenant with the remainder making arrangements to sign up in the near future and approximately 200 members of the public had signed the Covenant to show their support for the Armed Forces. Participating organisations had been circulated a questionnaire to identify other outcomes they had achieved from the event, which would be collated into a post event report to be made available in due course.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that the main challenge faced by the County Borough to develop the support and services needed to meet the requirements of the Covenant and of the veterans was to identify the veterans and the specific needs they have. Proud and independent veterans or ex-service personnel often prevented them asking for help and support, whilst the MOD due to the constraints of the Data Protection Act could not identify to the Authority those service personnel who were leaving the armed forces and relocating to the area.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that during the Armed Forces Day Event an information 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 and to date a total of 42 completed forms had been returned. The data collected from these forms would be added to the Council's database and email addresses passed over to the support organisations identified on the form for follow up. Other key issues identified included Health and Wellbeing; Education (the consideration of non-standard school holidays for the children of serving personnel); Housing and Homelessness and retraining and employment.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that with the possibility of grant funding available from the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme, there were opportunities for local organisations and community groups to identify projects to support veterans and communities within the County Borough. He highlighted successful examples in Hampshire and in Gateshead.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that with the current high profile of the Armed Forces and the commitment of the signatories of the Armed Forces Community Covenant, it was hoped that the momentum of the Covenant which had been generated recently could be 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.

A Member of the Forum informed that Bridgend Town Council had set up a military advisory group and asked whether the County Borough Council would continue to provide legal support in implementing stopping up orders for temporary road closures. The Head of Democratic Services informed the Forum that the Council would support where it can with stopping up orders, subject to the availability of resources.

A Member of the Forum questioned the mechanism for applying for funding. The Head of Democratic Services informed the Forum that an application was submitted by an

organisation for funding, who would run the project and oversee it, and the Bridgehead Group would receive a report on the outcome of the project.

RESOLVED: That the Forum noted the report.

74 SCHEDULE OF AGENDA ITEMS

The Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees presented a report on behalf of the Monitoring Officer, which informed the Forum of requests for items to be presented at future meetings and in addition, a report would be presented to the next meeting of the Forum on Democratic Diversity which would be presented by the Council's Diversity Champion. It was also intended to change the date of the next meeting of the Forum to due to the proximity of the current date to the New Year holiday

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

The meeting closed at 5.37pm.

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

12 JANUARY 2015

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

#### RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

##### 1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Forum on the outcome of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 and provide an update on progress with proposals for the 2014-2020 programme.

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

- 2.1 This report covers an area of work that contributes to the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) priorities of People in Bridgend County to benefit from a stronger and more prosperous economy and Bridgend County is a great place to live, work and visit. The area of work covered in this report also contributes to the Corporate Improvement Plan priorities of working together to develop the local economy and working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 The RDP for Wales forms part of the European Commission's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The RDP 2007-2013 ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. There is now a further 7-year programme 2014-2020 available to Bridgend County as an eligible area.
- 3.2 The RDP 2007-2013 had 4 major components:
- Axis 1 – improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sections
  - Axis 2 – improving the environment and countryside (all Natura 2000 sites are eligible for funding)
  - Axis 3 – improving the quality of life in rural areas and the diversification of the rural economy
  - Axis 4 – sets out the LEADER<sup>1</sup> programme methodology rather than specific areas of activity. LEADER is an established approach to community led regeneration projects that responds to local needs
- 3.3 Bridgend County Borough has 21 wards outlined in table 1 below, with a population of 53,584, classified as "rural" as detailed below. **For many, RDP funding through Axis 3 and 4 is the only source of regeneration funding available through the Council.**

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<sup>1</sup> The name LEADER comes from the French abbreviation for 'Liaison Entre Actions pour le Developement de L'Economie Rurale' (which roughly translates to 'links between actions for developing the rural economy').

**Table 1: Bridgend County Rural Wards**

|            |                                     |             |             |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Aberkenfig | Bryntirion, Laleston & Merthyr Mawr | Hendre      | Ogmore Vale |
| Betws      | Cefn Cribwr                         | Llangeinor  | Penprysg    |
| Blackmill  | Coity                               | Llangynwyd  | Pontycymmer |
| Blaengarw  | Cornelly                            | Nant-y-Moel | Sarn        |
| Bryncethin | Felindre                            | Newton      | Ynysawdre   |
| Bryncoch   |                                     |             |             |

3.4 Axis 3 and Axis 4 were implemented through the Rural Partnership and the Local Action Group (LAG), chaired by the Deputy Leader.

3.5 An overview of the impact of that programme and its alignment to Corporate Priorities can be seen in table 2 below. A pen picture of each can be seen in **Appendix 1**.

**Table 2: RDP 2007-2014 alignment to Corporate priorities**

| SIP/ Corporate Priorities   | RDP Impacts   |
|---|---|
| People in Bridgend County benefit from a stronger and more prosperous economy<br>Working together to develop the local economy        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of Centres of Rural Enterprise</li> <li>• New micro-enterprises</li> <li>• New social enterprises</li> <li>• New jobs</li> <li>• Financial support to existing micro-enterprises</li> <li>• Diversification of rural businesses</li> <li>• New training opportunities</li> <li>• Investment in community renewable energy schemes</li> </ul>   |
| Bridgend County is a great place to live, work and visit<br>Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial support for management and development of BCBC and community assets</li> <li>• Enhancement of community venues and facilities</li> <li>• Business support services for local food producers, to facilitate economic growth through access to supply chains and joint marketing</li> <li>• Establishment of community growing schemes to address food poverty and improve access to healthy food</li> <li>• Financial support for rural events</li> </ul> |

3.6 The financial value of the 2007-2013 programme can be seen in table 3 below:

**Table 3: RDP 2007-2014 financial value**

| Financial make up     | Value          | %       |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------|
| RDF                   | £ 4,479,297.15 | 31.96%  |
| Private match funding | £ 435,794.13   | 7.97%   |
| BCEC match funding    | £ 549,912.91   | 10.06%  |
| Total                 | £ 5,465,004.10 | 100.00% |

3.7 For every £1 of BCBC contribution, £9 is drawn down via RDP and private match funding. The RDP programme therefore currently represents a significant return on investment, with an intervention rate of 1:9.

#### 4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Welsh Government (WG) commenced the development of the RDP 2014-2020 alongside the other main European funding programmes in 2012, and has set out a broad framework of thematic options for the next RDP. These are:

- Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains
- Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services
- Renewable energy at a community level
- Exploitation of digital technology
- Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources

4.2 Following approval to operate a Local Action Group and act as lead body, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) submitted a Local Development Strategy and proposals for delivering LEADER funds for the period 2014-2020 by the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

4.3 During the period June-September 2014 the consultation on the development of a LDS has involved:

- Review of existing research, consultation and evaluations undertaken by the current programme;
- Community Councils and Elected Members informed of the process and invited to contribute;
- An evening event to raise awareness of the current programme's achievements and lessons learnt was attended by 100 people from rural Bridgend and partner organisations;
- Consultation held at a wide range of thematic network meetings, including, Bridgend Local Food Network, Bridgend's Heritage Network, Bridgend Countryside Volunteers Network, plus community and rural events;
- Discussions held with local policy leads;
- A thematic SWOT analysis and community needs analysis developed and discussed with the LAG and Rural Partnership;
- Stakeholder event held with partner organisations representing the local community and members of the LAG and Rural Partnership to look at the priorities identified and develop the planned actions;
- Stakeholder meeting held with BCBC colleagues delivering across other regeneration and community programmes;
- Independent scrutiny by an external agent; and
- Peer review by a neighbouring Local Authority

- 4.4 This process has led to the creation of an LDS with the following aim and objectives:

**Table 4: LDS 2014-2020 aim and objectives**

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Achieve self-sustaining, diverse and vibrant rural communities.</b></p>   |
| <p><b><i>A place to live - Creating self-sustaining rural communities</i></b></p> <p>SO1.1: To facilitate the identification and prioritisation of rural community needs and aspirations focused on sustainable futures and innovation in economic rural development.</p> <p>SO1.2: To implement a pilot suite of innovative projects in rural communities, based on identified needs and aspirations, with the aim of developing sustainable rural services, exploring new ways of providing non-statutory services, and strengthening economic rural development.</p> <p>SO1.3: To implement a pilot package of rural heritage activities that use an integrated community development approach to research, interpretation, upskilling, upgrading, conservation and co-operation, in order to contribute to rural Bridgend's 'sense of place' and to increase the business and employment potential of the heritage economy.</p> <p>SO1.4: To implement a pilot package of 'Our Green Spaces' projects, working with community groups, volunteers and agencies to strengthen the potential economic benefit between the area's natural assets and community wellbeing, tourism and environmental sustainability.</p> |
| <p><b><i>A place to visit - Developing diversified rural enterprises</i></b></p> <p>SO2.1: To implement a pilot package of innovative activities that facilitate access to, and demand for, rural products and experiences that link producers with the hospitality sector to contribute to an integrated visitor economy.</p> <p>SO2.2: To implement joint-marketing initiatives with rural enterprises, communities and partners that promote a coherent offer of rural Bridgend and maximise the potential to tap into business, family, cultural and heritage visitor economy markets.</p> <p>SO2.3: To facilitate activities that lead to the development of, and sustainability of, a range of visitor accommodation and attractions that exceed customer expectations and cement a perception of rural Bridgend as a 'great place to visit'.</p>   |
| <p><b><i>A place to work - Supporting vibrant rural economies</i></b></p> <p>SO3.1: To facilitate activities that identify the extent and effects of outward commuting and migration from Bridgend's rural communities, and pilot innovative interventions that create opportunities for community-based earning.</p> <p>SO3.2: To identify options for renewable energy opportunities and work with stakeholders to develop a green economy for rural</p>  |

Bridgend.

SO3.3: To facilitate activities that identify diversification and entrepreneurship options in rural communities, and pilot innovative interventions that create opportunities for non-agricultural sustainable development.

SO3.4: To increase the use of digital technology among rural businesses and communities to maximise productivity, sales and marketing profile.

4.5 As part of the RDP 2014-2020 the Bridgend LAG will be made up of a cross-section of local communities and LAG members include representatives from, among others, local authorities, business groups, third sector organisations and environmental bodies. This will bring together a large knowledge base of skills and ensure an equitable coverage of interests.

4.6 There are three themes that cut across the whole of the LDS and its action plan:

- Equal Opportunities and Gender Mainstreaming
- Sustainable Development
- Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion

In addition, full consideration will be given to the Welsh language in order to promote and facilitate its use throughout all programme activity.

4.7 There are legal implications for the Council arising from the approval of the LDS. Acceptance of the funding offer will require the Council, as Lead Body, to enter into a funding contract with the Welsh Government. Where resources are allocated to third party for the delivery of activities in line with the LDS via a commissioning process, the Council's Contract Procedure Rules will be followed and action will be in line with WG and EU guidelines.

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

5.1 None.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 An EIA has been carried out and the programme has low impact on equalities.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 Eligible Town and Community Councils could consider setting aside some resource as potential match-funding for RDP projects they may wish to pursue in their areas.

## **8. Recommendation**

8.1 The Forum is recommended to note the contents of this report.

**MARK SHEPHARD**  
**Corporate Director Communities**

**5<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

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CF31 4WB

### **Background documents**

Local Development Strategy (Draft) Submitted to Welsh Government 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.



## Appendix 1: RDP 2007-2014 impacts pen pictures

| Impact   | Detail   |
|--|--|
| Establishment of Centres of Rural Enterprise     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first Centre of Rural Enterprise which is a hub for media and technology micro businesses funded through Green Shoots is based within the Sony complex in Pencoed. The Centre provides excellent premises- small business units, business support, networking opportunities and transport links as well as the prestige and support that comes with being based at the Sony UK Technology Centre. The Centre was officially opened by the Minister for Natural Resources and Food Alun Davies. Janice Gregory AM, Darren Mepham CE, Cllr Mike Gregory and Sir Howard Stringer – former Chair of Sony UK also attended. Currently, six out of the ten units created are occupied and Sony have continued interest in the remaining four.</li> <li>The second Centre of Rural Enterprise is situated in the Garw Valley and is due to open in January 2014. Based in an old Church Hall which has been totally renovated to a very high standard, the project will provide small business units and facilities for health and fitness micro enterprises.</li> </ul> |
| New micro-enterprises                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26 individuals have been financially supported to create a new micro enterprise</li> <li>24 of the 32 existing micro-enterprises we have financially supported have been trading less than 2 years</li> <li>16 individuals have been advised or assisted to support the creation of micro-enterprises</li> </ul>  |
| New jobs   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 new micro enterprise jobs have been created through funding and support from Green Shoots covering a diverse range of sectors. Two thirds of those jobs created were for females and most jobs went to people aged 25-49.</li> <li>The value per job created currently stands at £2,160.65 which represents even better value than the Local Investment Fund (LIF).</li> </ul>   |
| Financial support to existing micro-enterprises  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32 existing micro-enterprises have been financially supported. Most businesses supported under the project were owned by males and the majority of business owners were aged 25-49</li> </ul> <p>A further 5 micro-enterprises have been supported through the 'Let's innovate' fund</p>  |
| Diversification of rural businesses              | <p>Through the 'Let's innovate' fund some examples include:</p> <p>The New House Inn Pub has been funded to trial a community parcel drop off service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Welsh Caravans were funded to develop and install a compost water heating system to compliment a solar thermal system.</li> <li>Wiggleys Fun Farm was financially supported to create a nature trail through Wiggley Woods using digital technology, an outdoor classroom and wildlife habitat areas.</li> <li>The Prince of Wales Inn was funded to tell the story of the history of the Prince of Wales Inn pub and local area through a series of six short films available through an app.</li> </ul>  |
| New training opportunities                       | <p>Through the RDP over 300 people have received training in a wide range of skills. This has included skills relating to natural resource management, business development and project management.</p>  |
| Investment in community renewable energy schemes | <p>Through the Innovation Fund the Community of Evanstown have received funding for a project to produce a feasibility study and design for the potential for Hydro Electricity from the Ogwr Fach in Evanstown from TGV (The Green Valley organisation).</p>  |
| Development of Bridgend Local Food Network       | <p>The Bridgend Local Food Network brings Bridgend producers together to promote local produce, identify and pursue existing and new market opportunities for each other, as well as sharing best practices and pooling resources.</p> <p>The local food network holds local produce markets twice a year and is currently supporting the trial of a local food app by supplying their produce for the trial. The aim of the project is to encourage families to source and cook local food with the help of a smartphone app.</p>   |
| Enhancement                                      | <p>The programme has supported the development of 14 community venues or site</p>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| of community venues and financial support for management and development of BCBC and community assets | throughout the County Borough. Examples include:<br>Llangynwyd Community Association<br>Gilead Church Community Centre<br>Heol y Cyw Growing Group<br>Coytrahen Community Centre<br>Tondu Wesley Centre<br>Ogmore Washeries site  |
| Establishment of community growing schemes  | Community Foodie has developed and implemented a successful programme of support for the establishment of community gardens across Bridgend. It has advised and assisted 13 individuals, 8 groups and financially supported 8 projects, 1 of which is operating as a social enterprise.   |
| Financial support for rural events  | Through the reach events budget 15 rural events have been supported ranging from heritage events to promote the local history of the Borough, to mountain bike and horse riding events which promote the use of bike tracks and bridleway in the valleys of Bridgend. Events in local parks and nature reserves have also been supported to promote the use of these areas and outdoor skills. Examples include Feastival, Bushwaka and Love2Walk |

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

#### TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2015

#### UNADOPTED STREETS AND LANES

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise the current Council Policy for the adoption of Back Lanes and Private Streets.

##### 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 Improvement.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 The issue of unadopted streets/ back lanes is an historical matter with developers not entering into agreements with local authorities over the future maintenance of streets and access ways, which in some circumstances were to a substandard construction.
- 3.2 This means that if a back lane or street is not adopted then it is the responsibility of the residents / owners to fund the upkeep.
- 3.3 Should they wish an Authority to take on the future liability and maintenance, then they would have to bring the infrastructure up to a level that would meet the requirements of the Highway Authority.
- 3.4 The Highway Authority's principal means of having private streets brought up to a standard is to operate the provisions of the Private Street Works Code, i.e. Sections 203 to 237 of Part XI of the Highways Act 1980.
- 3.5 The Council's Policy with respect to private streets and back lanes was agreed at the Council's Highways, Planning and Transportation Committee of 18<sup>th</sup> September 1996. The Policy relates to 22 private streets and 37 back lanes. However this number is far below the potential extent of private streets that exist within the Borough.

- 3.6 It was resolved by Members that a rolling programme of making-up private streets and back lanes under the Private Street Works Code would be implemented, subject to available funding to cover the Council's contribution to such schemes which was determined to be as follows:

"A 50% contribution be made towards frontage apportionment charges and 75% towards rear and flank frontage apportionment charges on private streets."

"A contribution of 100% be made towards all frontage charges on rear lanes in order to simplify the process of adopting non-maintainable lanes and encourage utilisation of lanes to garage vehicles which will reduce parking on the main highway and increase the level of security for such garaged vehicles"

- 3.7 Furthermore, it was reported to the meeting that the criteria for selecting/prioritising these private streets should be as follows:

1. The number of premises that will benefit from the works.
2. The benefits that will be derived by encouraging householders to utilise a rear lane to garage their vehicles in terms of fewer vehicles parked on the main highway and increased security for vehicles garaged.
3. The length of time the street/lane has been in a non-maintainable condition.
4. Status of main highway to which the private street/lane connects.
5. Whether or not a large portion of the frontage on a particular lane/street is vacant land.
6. The extent of off-site surface water drainage.

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

- 4.1 Regrettably, the rolling programme of "making-up" private streets and back lanes under the Private Street Works Code is dependent on available budget resources. In subsequent financial years it was not possible to allocate funding and, therefore, further work to prioritise schemes in accordance with the Council's adopted criteria has not as yet been embarked upon by Bridgend County Borough Council. Given the current financial pressures this situation is unlikely to change in the medium term.

- 4.2 Consequently, the private streets will remain the responsibility of the frontagers, i.e. residents etc., until a Private Street Works scheme is completed in accordance with current rules whereupon the street will be adopted as a highway maintainable at the public expense.

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

5.1 None identified

**6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 None identified

**7. Financial Implications**

7.1 Adoption of private streets is dependent upon funding availability.

**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 Manger Highway Services  
Background documents: None

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# Agenda Item 6

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

12 JANUARY 2015

#### 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 arising from this 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**

**30 December 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 |
| 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   |
| Possible areas for collaborative working between BCBC and Town/Community Councils | Town and Community Council Forum                      | Corporate Director – Communities & Corporate Director - Resources                   | Report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum   |
| Effects of budget cuts and the impact of these upon key services                  | Pencoed Town Council                                  | Corporate Director - Resources  | 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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