

Public Document Pack  
**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)  
643147/643148  
Ask for / Gofynnwch am: Andrew Rees

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

**Date / Dyddiad:** Wednesday, 18 November 2015

Dear Councillor,

**CABINET**

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held in Committee Rooms 1/2/3, Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB on **Tuesday, 24 November 2015 at 2.30 pm.**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence from Members / Officers for the reasons so stated.
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 5 - 8  
To receive for approval the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of 27 October 2015.
4. Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales Performance Evaluation Report 2014/15 9 - 30  
To present to Cabinet, the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) Performance Evaluation Report 2014/15 and request that Cabinet note the judgements reached locally about social care services in Bridgend.
5. Regional Economic Development Cardiff Capital Region City Deals 31 - 36  
To update Cabinet on the progress of the ten South East Wales local authorities, in partnership with the Welsh Government, in developing and securing a City Deal with the UK Government.
6. Caerau Housing Renewal Area: Group Repair Programme 2015/17 37 - 38  
To seek the approval of Cabinet for the future Group Repair Programme for 2015/2017.

Tel/Ffôn: 01656 643643

SMS Messaging/Negeseuon SMS: 07581 157014

Fax/Facs: 01656 668126

Twitter@bridgendCBC

Email/Ebost: [talktous@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:talktous@bridgend.gov.uk)

Website/Gwefan: [www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk)

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7. Budget Monitoring Quarter 2 2015-16 39 - 72  
To provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's financial position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
8. Regional Strategic Framework For South East Wales and Draft European Project Prospectus 73 - 78  
To provide an update on the Regional Strategic Framework for south-east Wales and project prospectus for the 2014 – 2020 European funding programmes.
9. Proposed Introduction of a Road Works Permit Scheme 79 - 82  
To propose changes to the current method of street work management from its current noticing method to that of a permit scheme and to seek authorisation from Cabinet to commence consultation on this proposal and subject to that consultation seek authorisation from Welsh Assembly Government to authorise such a scheme within Bridgend County Borough.
10. Draft Local Housing Strategy 2016-2018 83 - 118  
To seek Cabinet approval to begin formal consultation on the draft Local Housing Strategy 2016-2018.
11. Appointment of Local Authority Governors 119 - 122  
To seek approval from Cabinet for the appointment of Local Authority governors to the school governing bodies listed.
12. Inspire 2 Achieve and Inspire 2 Work - A European Funded Operation Between Regional Partners - Blaenau Gwent CBC (Lead Beneficiary) and Bridgend CBC (Joint Beneficiary) 123 - 128  
To seek approval from Cabinet to deliver a joint regional project with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council funded through the European Social Fund (ESF) under Priority 3 – Youth Employment and Attainment.
13. Webcasting of Council Meetings 129 - 132  
To update Cabinet regarding the progress that has been made in respect of the implementation of webcasting for meetings of Cabinet, Council and its Committees.
14. Information Reports 133 - 180  
To inform Cabinet of the Information Reports and minutes of Joint Committees which have been published since its last scheduled meeting.
15. Urgent Items  
To consider any items of business that by reason of special circumstances the chairperson is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with paragraph 2.4 (e) of the Cabinet Procedure Rules within the Constitution.

Yours faithfully

**P A Jolley**

Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services

**Distribution:**

Councillors:

MEJ Nott OBE

HJ David

M Gregory

Councillors

CE Smith

HJ Townsend

PJ White

Councillors

HM Williams

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 1/2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2015 AT 2.30 PM

Present

Councillor MEJ Nott OBE – Leader (and Chair)

Councillors:

HJ David  
M Gregory  
CE Smith  
HJ Townsend  
PJ White  
HM Williams

Officers:

Darren Mepham	Chief Executive
Zak Shell	Head of Neighbourhood Services
Michelle Hatcher	Group Manager - Inclusion
Sue Cooper	Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing
Andrew Jolley	Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Sarah Kingsbury	Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development

780. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following Officers:-

Ness Young – Annual leave  
Mark Shephard – Annual leave  
Deborah McMillan – Annual leave

781. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

782. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of Cabinet dated 6 October 2015 be approved as a true and accurate record.

783. ADDITIONAL ANNUAL LEAVE PURCHASE SCHEME POLICY (PILOT)

The Corporate Director – Resources submitted a report, which informed Cabinet of the proposed introduction of a Policy which allows employees to purchase additional annual leave, and to request authorisation to implement the Policy.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development referred to the Scheme which was attached at Appendix A to the report, and she advised that this had been agreed with the relevant Trade Unions and would assist employees in achieving a more effective work life balance.

The Leader sought clarification from the Officer that in terms of full time staff, the number of days that they could purchase under the salary sacrifice arrangement was either 5 or 10 days.

The Head of Human Resources and Organisational and Development confirmed that this was the case.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved a pilot of the Additional Annual Leave policy and agreed to an implementation date of 1 January 2016.

784. MEALS AT HOME

The Leader advised those present that this report had been withdrawn.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agreed to withdraw the report, and await a more detailed report outlining further potential options in respect of the service moving forward.

785. SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PROCESS FOR PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACT FOR BRYNMENYN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Chief Executive presented a report in relation to the above on behalf of the Corporate Director Education and Transformation, the purpose of which, was to inform Cabinet of the proposed appointment of a Project Manager and Cost Manager for the procurement project for the new Brynmenyn Primary School; to seek authority for the Corporate Director – Education and Transformation to determine the appropriate form of contract for the design and build process for the new school, based on the recommendation of the Project and Cost Manager, and to authorise the invitation of tenders for the design and construction of the new school, in accordance with the terms of the SEWSCAP Framework.

The report gave some background information, following which, the Chief Executive advised that Cross Directorate meetings have been held to determine the best way forward regarding the design and construction of the school. Officers have agreed that the preferred option would be to utilise the existing, South East Wales Schools Capital Procurement Framework (SEWSCAP).

He explained that the framework offers the Council a shortlist of 5 contractors who will be invited to submit tenders for the scheme. It was proposed to appoint the successful Contractor for the design of the new school, using an NEC3 Contract.

Paragraph 4.4 of the report then outlined the two Options the Council could consider in terms of this Contract, ie Option A lump sum, or Option C target cost. As a dedicated Project Manager and Cost Manager were required to look after the Council's interest in the Project and manage the NEC Contract on a day to day basis, a separate appointment process would be undertaken to appoint suitably qualified persons to manage the Contract.

The Chief Executive culminated his submission by advising of the reports financial implications shown in paragraphs 7 of the report.

The Deputy Leader confirmed that the proposals in the report conformed with the Council's School Modernisation Programme. He also stated that the Framework offered

the Council a shortlist of 5 Contractors who were interested in the Scheme, and who would be invited to tender for this. He added that the proposal to both enlarge and re-locate Brynmenyn Primary school from its existing site to the site adjacent to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, would relieve pressure on primary school places in the Valleys Gateway area, particularly at the existing school in Brynmenyn which had reached its capacity in terms of Pupil Admission Numbers. The Deputy Leader further added, that utilising SEWSCAP offered the Authority not only some financial flexibility, but also this framework had been used successfully for the procurement of Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen and the new Coety Primary school at Parc Derwen, by way of agreement. The route seeking to be achieved, would also secure best value in terms of the procurement process to secure a Contractor for the changes being proposed.

The Cabinet Member – Communities asked if there was any provision in respect of the proposals for the successful Contractor to employ local people to support the Project, particularly in the form of apprenticeships.

The Leader confirmed that this route had been followed in the procurement of Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen school, and such a proviso he felt could be similarly followed with the Scheme subject of the report.

The Cabinet Member – Children’s Social Services and Equalities added that if employing local people where possible was considered, including through apprenticeships, then it would also be beneficial she felt if these included Looked After Children that had progressed through the system.

The Chief Executive confirmed that these proposals could be looked at.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet:-

- (1) Noted the proposed appointment of a Project Manager and Cost Manager for the project;
- (2) Authorised the Corporate Director - Education and Transformation to determine the appropriate form of contract for the design and build process, based on the recommendation of the appointed Project and Cost Manager;
- (3) Approved the use of the SEWSCAP Framework and authorised the invitation of tenders for the design and construction of the new Brynmenyn Primary School, in accordance with the terms of that Framework;
- (4) Noted that an update report advising of the outcome of the tender process and seeking approval to award a contract for the design and construction of the new Brynmenyn Primary School will be presented to Cabinet.

**786. INFORMATION REPORTS**

The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services presented a report, the purpose of which was to inform Cabinet of the Information Reports which had been published since the last meeting.

The Deputy Leader congratulated Porthcawl Primary School on receiving a very positive Estyn Inspection report with current performance and prospects for improvement both judged as “good”.

**CABINET - TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2015**

The Deputy Leader also noted that the school had recently been made a specialist Training Hub by the Central South Education Consortium Service, to share its best practice in literacy with other schools across the region.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet acknowledged the publication of the documents listed in the report.

787. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm



## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

#### CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE WALES PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT 2014/15

##### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To present to Cabinet, the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) Performance Evaluation Report 2014/15 and request that Cabinet note the judgements reached locally about social care services in Bridgend.

##### **2.0 Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/Other Corporate Priority**

1.2 This report links to almost all of the Council's priorities:

- Working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent;
- Working with children and families to tackle problems early;
- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement;
- Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles;
- Working together to make the best use of our resources.

##### **3.0 Background**

3.1 Following an announcement by the Deputy Minister for Social Services in November 2007 to end the local authority joint review programme, including the annual performance evaluation, the Chief Inspector of the Care and Social Services Inspectorate, Wales (CSSIW) put in place new arrangements for the inspection, evaluation and review of local authority social services.

3.2 The CSSIW framework provides the foundations of the Council's duty to report on the whole circle of care from commissioning, contracting, assessment, care management to service provision.

3.3 The analysis and review of the 22 local authorities will feed into CSSIW's overall analysis of social services and social care in Wales to inform policy and Ministerial advice.

3.4 Cabinet will be aware of the recent WAO corporate assessment and the CSSIW performance evaluation will form part of that.

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

4.1 The Corporate Director of Social Services and Wellbeing presented the sixth Annual Social Services report, for 2014/15, to Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

4.2 CSSIW has taken account of the available sources of evidence, including the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services and the underpinning evidence supplied to them in support of that report. They have also considered the evidence available from inspections, reviews and investigations, including that available from their work in regulated settings. The report has also been informed by the views of other audit and inspection bodies. The report is attached at **Appendix 1**.

4.3 The Performance Evaluation report sets out the areas of progress during 2014/15 and areas for improvement in social services for Bridgend County Borough Council for the year 2015/16. The report was published on the CSSIW website on 30 October 2015.

4.3.1 There are specific areas highlighted as good practice and other areas identified for improvement and follow up. These are listed below:

Good Practice:

- Remodelling of adult social care to include further development of the community resource team and Better@Home scheme;
- Creation of a transformation team to ensure key objectives are delivered on;
- Reduction in the numbers of children looked after;
- Introduction of safeguarding hubs;
- Strengthened Cabinet support for social services.

Areas for improvement and follow-up:

- The ongoing implementation of the service changes in readiness for the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014;
- The progress made towards the implementation of the extra care model;
- To bring the district nursing services into the integrated referral management centre;
- Improve access to quality information, advice and assistance;
- Improvement of review performance and outcomes;
- Redesign of looked after children provision for adolescents with complex needs and challenging behaviour;
- Monitor the re-referrals rate;
- Monitoring of LAC reduction strategy.

4.4 Work will shortly begin on gathering evidence for the 2015/16 self-assessment, but is likely that, in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, the process will change for subsequent years.

## **5.0 Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

5.1 There is no impact on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

## **6. Equality impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equality implications in this report.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications the report highlights service areas which are facing financial pressures.

**8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note the CSSIW Performance Evaluation Report 2014/15 attached as **Appendix 1**.

**9. Contact officer**

Susan Cooper  
Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing  
Tel: 01656 642251  
Email: susan.cooper@bridgend.gov.uk

**10. Background Documents**

None

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# Performance Evaluation Report 2014–15

Bridgend County Borough Council  
Social Services

This report sets out the key areas of progress and areas for improvement in Bridgend County Borough Council Social Services for the year 2014–15

# **Annual Review and Evaluation of Performance 2014 - 2015**

**Local Authority: Bridgend County Borough Council**

**This report sets out CSSIW's evaluation of Bridgend County Borough Council's performance in delivering its social services functions.**

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. The council remains realistic about the challenges posed by the need to deliver improving services within the context of reducing financial resources. This has accelerated the drive to greater efficiency, improving strategic partnership working, more integrated services and a growing commitment to regional commissioning which aligns with the preparations for the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.
- 1.2. In October 2014, the council appointed a new head of adult social care and this has provided additional leadership capacity for the council's challenges. The director of wellbeing also assumed line management responsibility for children's social services and overall line management of children's safeguarding, in January 2015, alongside a corporate restructure. Children's services continues to manage its performance in an efficient and effective manner.
- 1.3. Within adult social care, the council's remodelling and transformation programme continues to be the central foundation for strengthening the prevention and wellbeing agenda across Bridgend, and regionally across the Western Bay Health and Social Care Collaboration (Western Bay). The current climate of austerity and demographic change continues to contribute to the challenge of delivering quality support and services. Despite these challenges, adult social care remains committed to modernising in order to make social care sustainable and proportionate in the future.
- 1.4. The transformation programme has been structured around the strategic priorities held within the corporate improvement plan, which provides the framework for the changes needed for the council to be aligned to the expectations of the new Act. This has been fully outlined within the director's annual report.

- 1.5. The Western Bay regional programme continues to develop. The principle objective is to work across the wide range of local authority social services in the counties of Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea, and through organisational boundaries to progress the integration of health and social care. The Western Bay established a partnership forum which provides strategic overview. Leadership currently comprises the three leaders of the three local authorities, relevant portfolio holders, the chairman of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMUHB) and non-executive members and the chief executives of the councils and the health board.

## 2. Response to last year's areas for improvement

Identified improvement last year	Progress in 2014-15
To continue to make progress with the work on developing new models of care and support in adults services	The remodelling programme continues to be the framework for taking forward the transformation of adult services. This included the development of a local community coordinator model under the prevention and wellbeing agenda, a number of learning disabilities projects, the development of planning and service design for the remodelling of residential care in older people and the remodelling of home care services. Also development of a tender for supported living and a review of the meals at home service.
Make progress with the work on a local dementia plan	This is currently out for consultation on a local joint strategy and delivery plan for dementia services.
Bring district nursing services into the integrated referral management centre	This was delayed in 2014/15 due to a number of factors, and a plan is in place for this to be completed in 2015/16.
Develop a quality assurance framework across Western Bay to ensure that mental health commissioning is consistent and effective	A regional quality framework has been developed across Western Bay to be approved in 2015/16. A mental health brokerage system is in place under the contracting and procurement board.



To increase awareness across the sector of the requirements of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)	The council has worked with providers to raise awareness regarding their responsibilities within the DoLS process.
Continue to monitor absence levels in adults services	There is a continued focus on the monitoring and management of sickness absence. Actions have included targeted training in key areas, quality assurance of absence review meetings and focused monthly sickness meetings.
A system of effective case files audit and supervision across both adults and children's services. Monitor the impact on senior practitioners of carrying complex caseloads due to the relative inexperience of newly recruited social workers	Focus has been on the new ways of working informed by the practice audit. Targeted evaluation of case files and peer review system in place for mental health files.
To continue to develop the strong corporate and political support to drive modernisation and to respond effectively to the requirements of the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014	Robust infrastructure in place for corporate and political support to drive modernisation and to respond effectively to the requirements of the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

### 3. Visits and inspections undertaken during the year

3.1. Site visits provide CSSIW with an opportunity to speak with people who the services, their families and staff who manage and work in the services. During 2014/15, site visits were made to:

#### Children's services

- Assessment team
- Fostering and adoption teams
- Placement team
- Safeguarding hub – Y Dderwen

- Sunnybank Residential Home.

### **Adults services**

- Carers Centre - community café
- Llys Ton extra care scheme
- Bridgend day centre
- Learning disability projects.

3.2. CSSIW also met with senior officers of the council throughout the year to review social services performance and discuss progress with the areas for improvement, identified in last year's performance evaluation. The council were helpful in their engagement with us and readily facilitated access to enable site visits to take place.

3.3. CSSIW carried out follow up work on the recommendations from the national inspection looking at safeguarding and care planning of looked after children and care leavers, who exhibit vulnerable or risky behaviours. The inspection found a number of positives as well as highlighting some areas for improvement. Progress on the areas for improvement is monitored through CSSIW's annual performance evaluation process, specific follow up work and engagement with the council. The council has responded well, producing a detailed action plan which during the course of the year has been actively worked toward, with good progress having been made.

### **4. Areas for follow up by CSSIW next year**

- 4.1. A number of specific areas for improvement have been identified in the body of this report. The council's progress in relation to these will be discussed with the council during regular engagement meetings in the coming year. Specific areas for follow up will include:
- The ongoing implementation of the service changes in readiness for the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act
  - The progress made towards the implementation of the extra care model.

## **5. CSSIW inspection and review plan for 2015 -16**

5.1. CSSIW is also undertaking the following national thematic inspections and services in Bridgend may be selected for fieldwork:

- National review of domiciliary care
- National review of services for people with learning disabilities
- National review of care planning for looked after children.

## **6. The extent to which the experiences and outcomes for people who need care and support are improving their wellbeing**

### **Adults**

#### **Overview**

- 6.1. Ongoing progress continues to be made in the council's remodelling programme which aligns with the preparations for the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. The appointment of a new head of adult social care in October 2014 has provided additional leadership and capacity to drive forward the transformation agenda.
- 6.2. The council is well placed to implement the Act and is aligned with the strategic direction of Western Bay. There has been much focus on the preparation required for the implementation of the Act, including the development of a high quality information and advice service to the public through the creation of a "one stop shop." This manages general inquiries and enables them to respond to people who need assessment and intervention in line with the expectation of the new legislation.
- 6.3. The council works effectively with its partners to safeguard and protect vulnerable people in Bridgend. Since moving to the regional safeguarding boards, the council has ensured local accountability and governance by the creation of a local, multi-agency safeguarding operational group and the heads of service ensure that safeguarding issues are standard agenda items at divisional management meetings. The council has developed a corporate safeguarding policy and is in the process of identifying a number of safeguarding champions from across the council through the heads of service group.
- 6.4. The safeguarding team provides advice, support and guidance on a range of safeguarding queries, including threshold decisions in

safeguarding alerts, and risk assessments within complex case management. Over the last year the council reports a change in the trend of safeguarding alerts and safeguarding referrals, reflecting a more proportionate and risk based response. Less serious situations are being more appropriately managed through safeguarding, care management or provider agency arrangements. The more serious concerns continue to be handled by the formal multi-agency framework set out in all-Wales guidance.

- 6.5. Three contract monitoring officers are part of the safeguarding team; this enables them to undertake more preventative work with the provider sector. Effective support and monitoring arrangements help providers to improve their performance and to achieve better outcomes for service users. During this year the council has worked well in partnership with CSSIW in addressing poor provider performance particularly through implementation of the escalating concerns process, which in one case promoted the safeguarding of vulnerable individuals. It is worthy to note the good working relationships between the council, the health board and regulator.
- 6.6. The council is enabling people with learning disabilities to live more independent fulfilling lives and continues to implement the recommendations from the Alder review. Progress throughout the year has been made in the development of social enterprises, and increased community project work. Progress has also been made in working with the supported people team in supporting users with new tenancy models and the completion of an effective and comprehensive resettlement programme for users. This has enabled people to move out of two large care homes into supported living opportunities. The development of supported living arrangements in partnership with the independent sector is progressing with local housing and support providers developing plans for two schemes designed to enable people to achieve greater independence. A number of site visits have taken place where CSSIW has observed good working relationships with partner agencies.
- 6.7. The council is looking at ways to implement its vision for mental health services over the next three years. The council is currently consulting on the Mental Health Commissioning and Delivery Plan for people who require mental health services, which will have five priorities including improved service provision and improved access to better information. The council sees dementia care as a priority and this is reflected in the development of its local plan. Whilst some work has progressed it

is felt to be patchy and further work is now necessary.

- 6.8. The council has an effective system in place for addressing Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) applications, ensuring that risks are managed, timescales are adhered to and that legislative compliance is monitored. It introduced a new DoLS database as part of its action plan following a review in April 2014 by CSSIW and the Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW) of DoLS across Wales. The action plan was developed by the safeguarding manager to improve outcomes for people and the service area going forward, working with partner agencies, including the independent mental capacity advocate service and provider agencies. Due to the significant increase in DoLS applications, from 12 in 2013/14 to 325 in 2014/15, this has proved an invaluable asset in providing timely information for senior managers. The numbers of DoLS applications and authorisations granted are monitored on a monthly basis and a quarterly report is prepared for scrutiny by the Western Bay safeguarding adults board.
- 6.9. Engagement with and support of carers has improved with an appointment of a carers development officer late in 2013 which has been critical in involving carers as equal partners in care. Central to the development of the carers information and consultation strategy has been a wide range of engagement activities undertaken with carers. As a result, their input has provided clear direction to the services and support arrangements developed during 2014/15.
- 6.10. There has been significant progress of the remodelling programme for homecare, residential care and learning disabilities. In relation to homecare, it was previously reported that the council planned to tender 4,400 hours of internal support to the independent sector. However, the tender was unsuccessful and the contract could not be awarded. A "lessons learnt" exercise was undertaken within the council in procurement in order to ascertain the reasons behind the market's inability to respond.
- 6.11. The council's performance in reviewing the needs of adults receiving a service has dipped slightly this year from 83% in 2013/14 to 79% in 2014/15. This could be due to the impact of receiving an increased referral rate of 17% in the last year. Performance in delayed transfers of care remains steady which is an indicator of good performance and clear evidence of the council's effective partnership working in this area.

## **Key National Priorities (adults)**

### **Preventative and early intervention services**

- 6.12. The council's transformation agenda has been driven for the past few years by the remodelling adult social care board which has overseen the planning of new models of service delivery into implementation phase. This includes the redevelopment of residential care for older people into an extra care service model, the remodelling of the home care provision and the transformation of traditional learning disabilities services. In addition, work has started on prevention and wellbeing responsibilities in preparation for the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act. Two consultation exercises are underway: one for mental health and another for dementia services. Significant development has been evidenced in integrated services with health, including building a robust community resources team and key developments in services for carers.
- 6.13. The integrated referral management centre continues to develop. It has consolidated the first contact arrangements for adult social care and the community resource team, with an established duty professionals system. The council recognises that further work is necessary to ensure that this becomes truly a single point of access for all integrated community health and social care services. However, the service has reduced duplication in the referral management system ensuring that people's requests for advice, signposting and assessment are more effectively responded to.
- 6.14. The council is continuing to enable people to live more independently in the community, which, despite an increased demand for services during 2014/15, is evidence of the effectiveness of its early intervention and prevention strategy. The appointment of a senior nurse in 2014 has enabled the in-reach nurse referral pathway to facilitate transfers from secondary care into the district nursing service, within the community integrated networks. The service received 7,058 referrals, an increase of 1,021 (17%) on the previous year. There was an increase on the previous year of 6% in people supported in the community. Of these, 32% were between the ages of 18 and 64, and 68% were over 65 years. The number of people receiving a reablement service was 411; whilst 2,299 received a telecare package and 761 people were supported in long term residential care.
- 6.15. The council partly attributes its success to new initiatives and

positive work carried out by the community resource team with increased specialist services such as speech and language therapy, medicine's management and dietetic support. The team has enabled greater and faster access to these services, established the mobile response team to a 24-hour, seven day a week service, and has successfully established the first phase of Better@home, a service which facilitates faster hospital discharge whilst the person waits for a commencement date of their ongoing support package.

6.16. A priority for the Western Bay collaboration has been the development of prevention and wellbeing services and funding has been identified to take forward local community co-ordination across the region. This approach will support people who are vulnerable through disability, mental health issues, age, frailty or social isolation to pursue their own vision of what is a good life for them. It draws on individuals' strengths and resilience and focusses on the outcomes that make a real and lasting difference to people's lives. This service sits outside statutory services, with initial focus on the Llynfi Valley to develop this as a pilot project before it can be developed in other areas of the borough. Consultation has already commenced with the voluntary sector to focus this piece of work and link in with existing community resources and networks.

6.17. The council's telecare service continues to develop and provide more support to people at home. At year end there were 1,759 people using the telecare mobile response service. The telecare service is utilised during the day to support people receiving the early nurse-led clinical response service. All potential service users have a specialist assessment by an occupational therapist: the service includes a 24/7 mobile response team. The team are trained and registered domiciliary care workers who have specialist equipment to move people who have fallen and can also undertake personal care if required.

### **Areas of progress**

- Remodelling of adult social care to include further development of the community resource team and Better@Home scheme
- Creation of a transformation team to ensure key objectives is delivered on.

### **Areas for improvement**

- To bring the district nursing services into the integrated referral management centre

- Improve access to quality information, advice and assistance.

## **Children and young people**

### **Overview**

- 6.18. Children's services has an established leadership and management structure with a clear plan that focus on delivering preventative services to support children and families within their communities. The council commenced restructuring its five safeguarding teams in preparation for co-location with the early prevention and intensive family support service, within one of three safeguarding hubs. Management capacity has been strengthened with the introduction of the new roles of deputy team managers and increasing the number of senior practitioners. The council hopes this will facilitate greater support, supervision and mentoring to front line social workers. This is particularly important at a time when the council still has relatively high numbers of newly qualified social workers, resulting in senior practitioners having to carry the more complex workloads.
- 6.19. All child protection cases were allocated to qualified social workers and movements in the Child Protection Register demonstrates significant child protection activity throughout the year. Performance in holding initial child protection case conferences within 15 working days of the strategy discussion has improved from 88% the previous year to 92% during 2014/15, and 88% of initial core groups were held within 10 working days of the initial child protection case conference. There was further improvement from the previous year in conducting reviews of children on the child protection register within statutory timescales to almost 100%.
- 6.20. When initial assessments are undertaken, the council monitors the percentage of assessments where children are seen alone by the social worker. In 2014/15, this was over 50%. The council states that the primary reasons that children were not seen alone as part of the initial assessment resulted from the fact that the children were either too young or they refused to meet with the social worker alone. As a significant number of this year's initial assessments were in respect of children under two, and it is understandable why this performance indicator has dipped slightly compared to the previous year.
- 6.21. The percentage of referrals that were re-referrals within 12 months rose from 13% the previous year to just over 20% in 2014/15. The council is currently analysing potential reasons for this increase. Early analysis suggests that the increase results from closing



children in need cases that had been open for prolonged periods where re-referrals were subsequently made. Re-referrals to children's social care services have historically been very low in comparison with other councils.

- 6.22. During 2014/15, 63% of core assessments were completed within prescribed timescales which the council acknowledge is a dip in performance compared to the previous year. The increased pressure placed on frontline safeguarding teams as a result of increased contacts being made to the service has inevitably impacted on social workers' ability to complete all core assessments within statutory timescales. This will be an area of priority for the council this year, and will be an area for further monitoring by CSSIW in the coming year.
- 6.23. Within the council the group manager for disability, transition and case management retains the strategic lead for the development of services for disabled children and young people. The council continues to provide a range of services for this area which include short breaks, day centre provision and a complex needs play scheme.
- 6.24. Whilst the council works to ensure that the voice of the child is considered at assessment and review of service provision, it does not have specific arrangements in place outside of these arrangements.
- 6.25. The recruitment and retention of experienced registered social workers remains a priority during 2014/15 as it was the previous year. Recruitment practices within have been improved along with a rolling advertising campaign to target experienced social workers. This has had limited success with majority of posts being filled by newly qualified staff.

### **Key national priorities**

#### **Preventative and early intervention services**

- 6.26. The assessment team operates during normal office hours. It receives contacts and referrals from members of the public and professionals in respect of safeguarding and child welfare matters. The council received an increased number of referrals in 2014/15 from 1,302 the previous year to 4,619 referrals. The significant increase of referrals made to the service is felt by the council to be as a direct consequence of South Wales Police withdrawing from the programme of joint screening of all police referrals made to the service. Ultimately, this has placed considerable pressure on the assessment team.

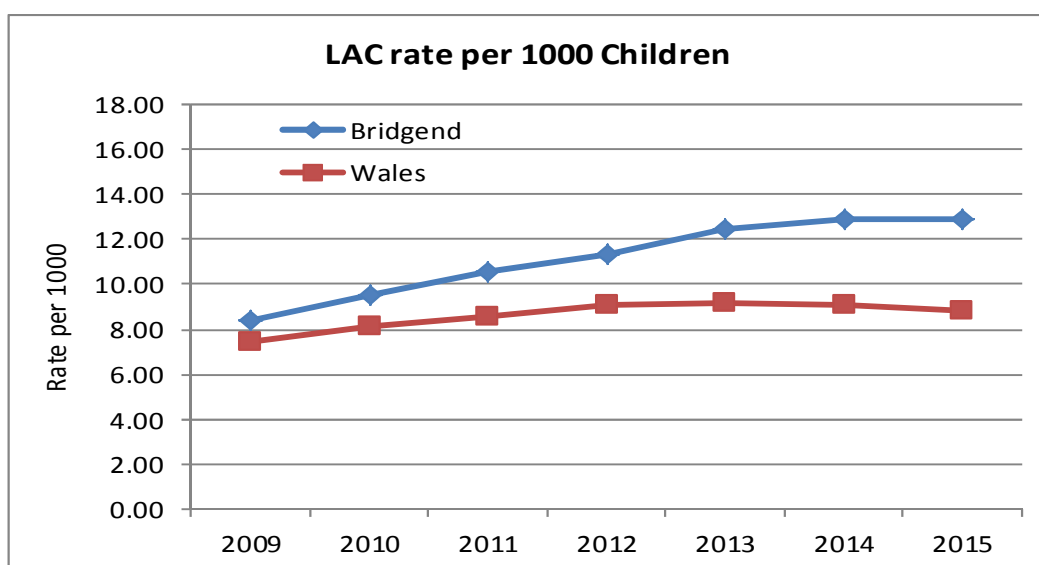
- 6.27. The council comments that investment in prevention and early intervention initiatives in Bridgend has provided challenges given the different grant funding schemes. Whilst many services are still relatively new, it is recognised that there is now a need to organise these more effectively to make more robust links between the approaches to children at different tiers of need. In recent years there has been some significant investment and commitment to prevention and early intervention within Bridgend, especially in respect of connecting families, the intensive family support service (which it also delivers on behalf of other authorities in Western Bay), rapid response team and Families First funded initiatives. The restructure of the family intervention service should enable work with families to be more joined up, with work being undertaken on a multi-agency basis.
- 6.28. Connecting Families has continued with participation events inviting a service users' participation group to share their views and offer ideas for further development. In 2014/15, the service worked with 60 families. Of these, the Connecting Families' edge of care service provided support to 24 families, with a total of 46 children/young people prevented from becoming looked after.

### **Looked after children**

- 6.29. Children's services has seen a significant increase in the number of safeguarding referrals and family support. In spite of this, the council reports that the numbers of both looked after children (LAC) and children placed on the Child Protection Register have reduced. Pressure on the front line teams has been influenced by high numbers of reported incidences of domestic violence where children have been present, parental substance misuse and the associated neglect of children.
- 6.30. The council has developed a permanency strategy which aims to safely reduce the numbers of looked after children. Despite this strategy, numbers remain high and the safe reduction of children looked after continues to be a priority for the council. The number of children on the Child Protection Register also fell from 179 last year, to 125 on the 31 March 2015, a 30% reduction. This area remains a priority and the council recognises that continued reduction of looked after children will be a challenge into the future.
- 6.31. Last year, whilst significant improvement had been made in relation to the performance around statutory visits made to looked after children within timescale, it was acknowledged that further improvement was required. Whilst the council are reassured that the vast majority of visits have been undertaken regularly and

children are being seen, there remains an issue in terms of visits being promptly written up due to social workers' competing work pressures. During 2014/15 performance did improve and just over 76% of statutory visits took place in accordance with regulations.

- 6.32. There is evidence that the council may not be meeting the needs of children and young people with a variety of complex needs and behaviours which challenge. It now needs to consider in its strategic development whether its current residential provision is able to respond to the challenges that can be displayed by some young people. During the past year CSSIW has received a number of applications to vary the conditions of registration of the council's residential provision, to either increase the number of children that can be accommodated or admit young people outside of the registration category. This was as a result of the need to respond to emergency situations.
- 6.33. CSSIW undertook an inspection of the council's fostering service in early 2015. Whilst good practice was identified, the need to appoint to the position of team manager is critical. The impact of having no dedicated manager in place during the year has destabilised the team and impacted on its performance.



- 6.34. In relation to looked after children, children's services implemented a refreshed placements and permanency strategy during the year, aimed at safely reducing the number of looked after children. This strategy, along with the launch of the new prevention and early help strategy has influenced a steady reduction in the number of children looked after during the year, from 412 in April 2014 to 390 in March 2015, a reduction of 5.3%.

## Areas of progress

- Reduction in the numbers of children looked after
- Introduction of safeguarding hubs.

## Areas for improvement

- Improvement of review performance and outcomes
- Redesign of looked after children provision for adolescents with complex needs and challenging behaviour
- Monitor the re-referrals rate
- Monitoring of LAC reduction strategy.

## **7. The extent to which leadership, governance and direction for the council is promoting improvement in outcomes and wellbeing for people who need care and support**

- 7.1. The council has experienced significant changes within the senior management team. These changes have provided additional leadership capacity to meet the challenges ahead for the council in line with the expectations of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act. The early help and prevention services remained under the director of education who also took on responsibility for transformation, and was tasked with exploring ways to creatively and flexibly deliver services, develop effective commissioning and increase work with the third sector. Both directors are part of the corporate team led by the chief executive. They ensure close working relationships, with the director of social services and wellbeing being accountable as the statutory director for social services
- 7.2. The council has recognised the significant demographic and service demand pressures facing both children's and adult services and has identified savings elsewhere to allocate additional money to social services budgets.
- 7.3. To ensure consistency of delivery and a quality service to people accessing social care, the council has developed a performance management framework. It was formally introduced early in 2014 and it defines the council's performance management cycle, and identifies responsibility and accountability for each stage of this process. It is the mechanism through which the directors report into the corporate performance assessment process. The council

acknowledges that this has helped improve internal performance management processes, clearly linking the council's corporate plan to the directorate business plan, and the remodelling adult social care programme of transformation. Good oversight and reporting arrangements are in place with monthly performance management meetings, chaired by the corporate director and attended by the heads of service, group managers, performance management officers, and finance and Human Resources officers.

- 7.4. In its review of the corporate safeguarding arrangements in the council, the Wales Audit Office states that:

*“The council has various systems in place to monitor, review and challenge performance, including an annual safeguarding report, which sets out wider information related to safeguarding activity, timeliness and capacity. In addition, we found evidence of Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee directly influencing safeguarding policies and strategies.”*

- 7.5. During the last 12 months, further work has been undertaken by the commissioning team, finance and partner agencies, who have all worked closely with service providers in order to ensure that there are transparent mechanisms in place to discuss costs and performance with providers. All regulated services are monitored on an annual basis against the domiciliary care standards and residential/nursing fees quality standards. This provides service users and carers with an understanding of the expectations placed on commissioned services to adhere to the required standards of care, driving forward better outcomes for individuals.
- 7.6. The contract monitoring officers undertake announced and unannounced visits to domiciliary care providers and residential/nursing homes. To support this monitoring, there is an established programme of elected members' rota visits which included 13 independent sector adult establishments in 2014/15. During 2014/15, it was agreed to pilot visits to service users receiving home care from both the council and from independent care providers.
- 7.7. Since May 2015 political support for social care has been strengthened by two cabinet members for social services, one for children's services and one for adult social care. The dedicated cabinet member for children's services, including education, assumes the role of chair of the council's corporate parenting committee. Further scrutiny and challenge on the range and quality of services has been provided by the children and young people's overview and scrutiny committee and through the council's

corporate performance assessment processes.

- 7.8. Children's services does not have a dedicated commissioning and contracting team as services are predominantly commissioned by individual service areas, rather than offering a centralised approach. However, the council offers an outcome focussed commissioning model and toolkit to support commissioners and ensure best practice. A commissioning project support officer advises individual services on commissioning, procurement practices and contractual preparations, as well as providing a contract monitoring function for reviewing the services of third sector providers. This year the officer has been embedded within the equivalent team within the social services and wellbeing directorate to maximise resources, and allow opportunities for a more joined up approach to commissioning and contracting.

#### **Areas of progress**

- Strengthened cabinet support for social services.

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Cabinet on the progress of the ten South East Wales local authorities, in partnership with the Welsh Government, in developing and securing a City Deal with the UK Government.

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

- 2.1 The Cardiff Capital Region City Deals support the current Corporate Priority 1: Working together to develop the local economy. and the proposed revised priority of Supporting a Successful Economy.

##### 3. Background.

- 3.1. There have been a series of reports and initiatives which look to develop the economic prospects of South East Wales by taking forward the concept of cities working with their region to drive growth by harnessing all of the assets and opportunities. The reports/initiatives referred to are:

- Cardiff Capital Region – Powering the Welsh Economy
- Cardiff County Council – City Deal
- Great Western Cities

- 3.2 The changing global economy requires local authorities and other stakeholders to change the way they respond to supporting the local economy. The growth of the City Region concept provides an approach which is being used elsewhere in the UK and Europe.

- 3.3 Bridgend is a part of the Cardiff Capital region and on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Cabinet authorised participation in discussions that take forward the Capital City Region concept and the Great Western Cities initiative including the contribution of up to £47,000 towards the preparation of a City Deal bid for Cardiff and South East Wales. Cabinet further supported the preparation of a regional growth plan, based on an update to the South East Wales Strategic Framework

- 3.4 Bridgend County is potentially well placed to benefit from and contribute to a City Deal because of its:
- importance to the Cardiff capital region in terms of its diversity, commuting patterns, sector profile, and high employment growth;
  - strength as a business location for new and existing business that want to capitalise on its location/accessibility, availability of prestige employment sites, and environment;

- attractive environment and diverse mix of both urban and rural living.

3.5 A City Deal could generate major infrastructural investment especially in rapid transport systems (e.g. rail electrification, Metro) and help to strengthen Bridgend County Borough's attractiveness as a location to live, work and invest in new opportunities.

#### 4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 The 10 South East Wales local authorities are still at the early stages of negotiating a Cardiff Capital Region City Deal with the UK and Welsh Governments. Progress has been made in shaping a City Deal comparable with the City Deal agreed between the 8 local authorities of the Glasgow City Region, the Scottish and UK Governments.

4.2 The Cardiff Capital City Region has presented a £1.28 billion City Deal submission to the UK Treasury, supported by the First Minister of the Welsh Government committing to principles and outlining plans for the development of a possible City Deal.

4.3 The basis of the City Deal submission is that productivity per capita in Wales is the lowest in the UK, and if this is to improve we need to adopt a new approach to improving the economic outcomes in South East Wales, that will enable much higher levels of investment to be made. A City Deal and Infrastructure Fund could provide a mechanism to help the Region unlock its growth potential through targeted investment. Without this type of investment, infrastructure bottlenecks in housing and transport created by population growth, along with skills gaps will stifle the Region's economic growth. The Cardiff Capital Region has set itself the ambitious target of a 5% per annum permanent improvement in the fiscal bottom line (ie Gross Value Added (GVA)<sup>1</sup> over an initial 10 year programme, equating to net increases in GVA of £200m per annum.

4.4 The proposal from the Cardiff Capital Region (attached at **Appendix 1**) outlines the following key points that will form the basis of any City Deal with the Treasury to deliver the ambitious economic growth target:

- **Connectivity** – a historical legacy of under investment in infrastructure has left South East Wales lagging behind the rest of the UK. It is accepted that connectivity has a significant impact on the economic performance of an area, particularly in terms of transport. To address this, the Cardiff Capital Region is seeking to:
  - Provide dedicated and pooled resources to deliver a City Region Infrastructure Fund;
  - Improve coordination of city regional transport investment.
- **Digital** – digital technology is widely recognised as an enabler of productivity and driver of innovation and international trade. A recent Office of National Statistics paper shows that Wales has the lowest turnover in the digital sector in the UK, and the slowest rate of increase over the past 5 years. There is a need to improve the infrastructure, skills and support for the digital agenda in the Region. To address this, the Cardiff Capital Region is seeking to regionalise

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<sup>1</sup> Gross Value Added is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.



resources to deliver a programme to invest in infrastructure, skills and sector development, so that Cardiff Capital Region can compete with the most digitally connected city-regions in the world;

- **Innovation** – Investment in innovation in the Region, despite a skilled workforce and high performing universities has also remained low in the Region. Innovate UK expenditure in Wales is less than a third of the average UK per head figure, and government expenditure on research and development in Wales stands at 1%, a third of the expected pro-rata spend. To address this the Cardiff Capital Region seeks to:
  - Designate the Cardiff Capital Region as an “Innovation Zone”;
  - Provide risk capital for new ideas through an Innovation Investment Fund;
  - Establish a catapult centre for the Region where some of the best businesses, scientists and engineers work side by side on research and development transforming high potential ideas into new products and services to generate economic growth.
- **Skills** – Whilst the Region benefits from a skilled workforce, too many people are in low paid employment or on benefits. If activity rates in the Region were to rise to the UK average, this would lead to an additional 31,000 local people entering the labour market. To address this the Cardiff Capital Region seeks to:
  - Develop a regional strategic plan for employment and skills based on evidence of need coupled with a mechanism to align skills funding, advice and support to meet the demands of the regional economy, delivering better outcomes for industry and those in the labour market;
  - Create a regional “Skills Innovation Hub” to connect industry to education, employment and skills initiatives;
  - Create a network of academies with industry, to co-design, develop and deliver programmes in response to demand from industry.
- **Business Support** – We propose to regionalise local resources in respect of business development, marketing and tourism with a dedicated fund for promotion.

4.5 To support the delivery of the above, the Cardiff Capital Region will also seek new powers and fiscal flexibilities. This will include exploring:

- Establishing Regional Strategic Planning arrangements that ensure that development takes place on a complementary basis for all in the city-region;
- A Programme of Tax Increment Finance (TIF) projects, funded by additional NNDR (National Non-Domestic Rates Revenue) tax revenue gains from economic development activities, agreed by the Capital City Region and overseen by Welsh Government;
- The creation of a Regional Investment Fund that will provide funding and finance for regeneration activities across South East Wales;
- The ability to lever Supplementary Business Rates to support investment.

4.6 The Joint Letter from the ten South East Wales local authorities, supported by the First Minister, to HM Treasury proposes a £1.28 billion fund over ten years with the following contributions:

- £580 million from Welsh Government;
- £120 million from the 10 local authorities;
- £580 million from UK Government.

- 4.7 These figures form the basis of an initial conversation with HM Treasury and reflect the high level of ambition of the ten local authorities of the Cardiff City Region.
- 4.8 The City Deal concept is predicated upon a Payment by Results (PbR) approach and local authorities borrowing on behalf of the UK Government the funding required for it to invest £580 million. So under the £1.28 billion fund scenario the UK Government contribution of £580 million would be borrowed by the ten local authorities and funded by the UK Government over thirty five years, with potentially 15% or more of the total to be repaid in the first five years (eg through investment in infrastructure) and the remaining 85% to be repaid to the local authorities on the achievement of the economic (ie GVA) targets set.
- 4.9 Under this scenario the Welsh Government would also provide £580 million contribution to the Fund and the assumption is that this would be in the form of additional capital investment or capital grant and not predicated on a PbR approach. The model also assumes that the ten local authorities would make a capital contribution to the Fund of £120 million, which for this council would amount to £10.8 million if based on a population share.
- 4.9 The Capital City Region is working with KPMG to model a range of funding scenarios to understand the capital and interest costs resting on each of the ten local authorities. For Bridgend County Borough Council, using the above scenario it is estimated that the peak borrowing cost will be approximately 2.1 million per annum in 2026, with a total annual revenue costs to serve the borrowing over the thirty five years at around £35 million. However it is important to note that this is but one possible scenario and at this stage no commitment has been given by any party.

### **Next Steps**

- 4.9 The City Deal process is a lengthy process and in some cities it has taken up to 18 months to secure the deal. The Joint Letter from the 10 South East Wales council leaders, supported by the First Minister, to the HM Treasury committing to the principles and setting out outline plans for the development of a deal is the first step in the process.
- 4.10 The next steps are to focus on the three key foundations of the City Deal:
- **Real Economy Prioritisation** - prioritising projects by their impact on increasing jobs and economic output;
  - **Establishing Governance and Metrics** – Programme agreed based on the performance of projects against the key metrics;
  - **Establishing Funding Parameters** – Agreeing baseline budgets, payment by results and “self-help” funding where local authorities contribute extra funding from a variety of sources to fund specific projects.
- 4.11 Over the period to spring 2016, the local authorities working with Welsh Government will develop, analyse and economically model a range of projects to come up with a short list of strong performing projects in GVA terms to be identified. Final decisions on these projects will be made by the 10 local authorities in partnership with Welsh Government in July 2016.

4.12 In parallel to the development of the projects will be the development and finalisation of the governance, oversight and monitoring arrangements that will be used to deliver and implement the programme. The Cardiff Capital Region local authorities will seek to finalise the City Deal over the summer, with an announcement by the early autumn.

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

5.1 None.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 The City Deal is currently in its infancy and no decisions have yet been taken on areas of investment. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as City Deal decisions are brought forward in the future.

## **7. Financial Implications.**

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report which is for information only.

7.2 A South East Wales City Deal would bring significant financial implications for this Council. Under the £1.28 million scenario outlined above there would be a requirement for the Council to find around £10.8 million as its capital contribution (based on population share) in the first ten years of the Fund and around £35 million (peaking at £2.1 million per annum in 2026) revenue over the 35 years of the Fund financing period. At this point the Council has made no budgetary provision for these costs which would need to be found in future budget planning rounds, taking account of the Council's current and future Medium Term Financial Strategy.

7.3 It is also important for members to be aware that City Deals have added financial risks as the capital investment made by the UK Government would be based on achieving agreed economic growth targets. In a worst case scenario, complete failure to achieve the economic targets could result in the ten local authorities having to meet the cost of 85% of the UK Government capital contribution on top of the associated borrowing costs (ie a total of nearly £80 million for this Council over 35 years). This risk needs to be set against the potential benefit to the county borough in respect of the economic gains that should be achieved from the investment.

7.4 As the City Deal developments and negotiations continue, further information will be made available to Members on the potential financial risks and rewards and no commitments will be made without the necessary Cabinet and Council approvals.

## **8. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Note the progress to date and the estimated timescales to get the full agreement of all parties to complete the City Deal;
- Note that a further update report will be presented to Cabinet in the New Year.

**Darren Mepham**  
**Chief Executive**

**Contact Officer:** Darren Mepham (Chief Executive)  
**Telephone:** (01656) 643227  
**E-mail:** [Darren.Mepham@Bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:Darren.Mepham@Bridgend.gov.uk)  
**Postal Address:** Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

**Background documents:**

Powering the Welsh Economy: A Report by Cardiff Capital Region Board dated December 2014.  
Letter and Supporting Information from the Cardiff Capital Region to the UK Government.

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### CAERAU HOUSING RENEWAL AREA: GROUP REPAIR PROGRAMME 2015/2017

#### 1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek the approval of Cabinet for the future Group Repair Programme for 2015/2017.

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

- 2.1 The implementation of this scheme will help to address the Council's Corporate Plan priorities of "Working together to make the best use of our resources" and "Working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent".

#### 3. Background.

- 3.1 The Caerau Ward was declared a Housing Renewal Area in September 2006, with a lifespan of the Renewal Area being 10 years so the Renewal Area will expire during the financial year 2016/17. Over the past 9 years £6,148,000 Specific Capital Grant investment from the WG has been spent improving properties and undertaking various environmental schemes within the Caerau Ward.

- 3.2 The main purpose of the Housing Renewal Programme from a regeneration perspective is to:

- reverse the process of decline;
- improve housing and general amenities in an area;
- engender pride of people towards their homes and environments;
- increase (market) confidence;
- encourage employment opportunities locally; and
- improve people's quality of life.

#### 4. Current Situation/Proposal

- 4.1 The programme of Group Repair Schemes from 2013/17 was approved by Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and the Authority has been awarded £416,659 Specific Capital Grant (SCG) from WG to spend in 2015/17 whilst completing the works within the programme.
- 4.2 In 2009 a block of properties in Greenfield Terrace was identified as being eligible for Group Repair Scheme works at the same time as Pleasant View, which is the adjoining street. At the time of identification the new Caerau Primary School was being developed on the land adjacent to Pleasant View and Greenfield Terrace and it was not deemed technically feasible to commence works at the same time as this would have caused an obstruction to the main access route to the new school site.

4.3 Highway improvements involving pedestrian and highway works were being undertaken to provide a new access route to the school during this period which resulted in Greenfield Terrace being the only access to the new school as other routes were not accessible. As a result the properties could not be programmed for the Group Repair Scheme works at the same time, as scaffolding and contractors vehicles would have obstructed the only access to the site.

4.4 There is sufficient funding available within the SCG from WG to complete the works at Greenfield Terrace in addition to the Group Repair Schemes previously agreed by Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in the current and next financial years.

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

5.1 None.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There is a requirement on local authorities in Wales to comply with WG condition to receive Renewal Area funding, and there is no impact on any of the Council's Equalities duties at this stage. Where the Authority is involved in the determination and delivery of the scheme it will do so in accordance with its Equality duties and undertake Equality Impact Assessments where appropriate and required.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 The works planned for 2015/17 will be in accordance with the conditions associated with the SCG award by WG.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the inclusion of Greenfield Terrace in the Group Repair Programme for 2015/17.

Darren Mepham  
Chief Executive  
24<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Contact Officer:** Angie Bowen  
Group Manager Housing & Community Regeneration

**Telephone:** (01656) 643501

**E-mail:** [angie.bowen@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:angie.bowen@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Postal Address:** Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB

**Background documents:** None

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

### CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

#### BUDGET MONITORING – QUARTER 2 2015-16

#### 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's financial position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

#### 2. Connections to Corporate Improvement Objectives and Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The budget monitoring report provides an overview of the current financial position and projected outturn for the year against the budget approved by Council in February 2015. The allocation of budget determines the extent to which the corporate improvement priorities can be delivered.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015, Council approved a net revenue budget of £252.201 million for 2015-16, along with a capital programme for the year of £36.441 million, which was revised in October 2015 to £40.223 million. As part of the Performance Management Framework, budget projections are reviewed regularly and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The drawdown of ear marked reserves and the delivery of agreed budget reductions is also kept under review and reported to Cabinet as part of this process.

#### 4.0 Current Situation

#### 4.1 Summary financial position at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

- 4.1.1 The Council's net revenue budget and projected outturn for 2015-16 is shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1- Comparison of budget against projected outturn at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Directorate/Divisions	Revised Budget 2015-16 £'000	Projected Outturn 2015-16 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 2 2015-16 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 1 2015-16 £'000
<b>Directorate</b>				
Education and Transformation	105,860	105,639	(221)	7
Social Services and Wellbeing	61,944	61,937	(7)	60
Communities	24,988	25,092	104	145
Resources	14,510	14,177	(333)	(79)
Legal & Regulatory Services	6,065	5,951	(114)	(140)
<b>Total Directorate Budgets</b>	<b>213,367</b>	<b>212,796</b>	<b>(571)</b>	<b>(7)</b>
<b>Council Wide Budgets</b>				
Capital Financing	10,315	10,315	0	0
Precepts and Levies	6,913	6,913	0	0
Repairs and Maintenance	1,100	1,100	0	(100)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	14,254	13,869	(385)	0
Insurance Costs	1,637	1,637	0	0
Other Corporate Budgets	4,615	4,225	(390)	0
<b>Total Council Wide Budgets</b>	<b>38,834</b>	<b>38,059</b>	<b>(775)</b>	<b>(100)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>252,201</b>	<b>250,855</b>	<b>(1,346)</b>	<b>(107)</b>

4.1.2 The overall projected position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 is an under spend of £1.346 million, comprising £571,000 net under spend on directorates and £775,000 under spend on corporate budgets. A detailed analysis of the more significant projected under and over spends is set out in section 4.3, but the main contributors are projected under spends on the Education and Transformation, Resources and Legal and Regulatory Services directorates, a projected over spend on the Communities directorate, and a projected under spend on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) and other corporate budgets.

4.1.3 The budget was set on the assumption of full implementation of the current year budget reduction requirements across the Council's budget which amount to £11.225 million. However, where proposals to meet this requirement have been delayed or are not achievable directorates have been tasked with identifying alternative proposals to meet their requirements such as vacancy management, or bringing forward alternative budget reduction proposals.

4.1.4 In February 2015 Council approved the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2015-16 to 2018-19, and this was further updated in a report to Cabinet in July 2015 to include the 2019-20 financial year. This identified the need to develop recurrent budget reduction proposals amounting to around £49.6 million over the



next four years. Against that background it is essential that expenditure is kept within the overall approved budget and that longer term proposals continue to be developed so that the Council has as much flexibility as possible to meet the challenges which lie ahead.

- 4.1.5 At year end consideration will be given to requests from directors to carry forward any planned directorate under spends for specific purposes into the following year, in line with the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol, as long as these can be met from within the Council's cash limited budget for 2015-16. This is in line with the reports to Cabinet and Council on the MTFs, and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules. Similarly, consideration will be given to any over spends to determine whether these should be carried forward as a first call on the directorate budget for the following year. Finally, outstanding prudential borrowing will be repaid, where possible, to reduce future capital financing charges. However, a decision will not be made until towards the end of the financial year when the overall outturn position is more definite.
- 4.1.6 In previous years the Council's actual collection rate for council tax income has exceeded its assumed rate. Council tax is currently set on an assumed collection rate of 97%, so any additional income collected will generate further funding to contribute towards the options outlined in paragraph 4.1.5 above.

## 4.2 Monitoring of Budget Reduction Proposals

- 4.2.1 The budget approved for 2015-16 included budget reduction proposals of £11.225 million, which is broken down in Appendix 1 and summarised with a RAG status in Table 2 below. At the half year stage 83% of the proposals are green and 17% are either amber or red, which is an improvement on the position at same point in 2014-15.

**Table 2 – Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2015-16**

DIRECTORATE	GREEN		AMBER		RED		TOTAL	
	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%	£'000	%
Education and Transformation	2,411	98.4%	40	1.6%	0	0.0%	2,451	21.8%
Social Services and Wellbeing	2,772	78.4%	357	10.1%	405	11.5%	3,534	31.5%
Communities	1,366	54.9%	497	20.0%	625	25.1%	2,488	22.2%
Resources	1,153	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1,153	10.3%
Legal and Regulatory Services	554	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	554	4.9%
Corporate	1,045	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1,045	9.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,301</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>11,225</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- 4.2.2 Eight of the proposals are currently RED, totalling £1,030,000. Five are in the Communities Directorate (total £625,000) and relate to ongoing delays in the MREC project (£300,000), budget reductions in respect of car parking charges, pending a review of car parking provision (£60,000), review of public conveniences (£50,000), the introduction of charges for blue badge holders (£165,000) and the budget reduction proposal in respect of black bags (£50,000). The other three proposals are in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate, relating to the delay in the Learning Disabilities Tender (£220,000), the Reprovision and Remodelling of

Shared Lives (£135,000) and the reduction in the costs of sickness in the Wellbeing Directorate, totalling £50,000.

4.2.3 Five of the savings proposals are AMBER, totalling £894,000. The most significant are:

- Review of Grounds Maintenance and Bereavement Services (£437,000) – a delay in the restructure of the service has led the Communities Directorate to consider alternative savings to meet the shortfall.
- Review of school crossing patrol service (£60,000) – due to the processes required to be undertaken to implement this saving, it is unlikely that the full saving will be achieved in 2015-16.
- Focus local authority homecare on specialist and complex care (£307,000) – this is unlikely to be achieved in full in 2015-16, so the directorate is considering alternative savings to meet the shortfall.

4.2.4 Directors continue to work with their staff to deliver their proposals or alternatives and this is reflected in the forecast outturn for the year.

### 4.3 Commentary on the financial position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

A summary of the financial position for each main service area is attached as Appendix 2 to this report and comments on the most significant variances are provided below, along with draw down on earmarked reserves to date.

#### 4.3.1 Education and Transformation Directorate

The net budget for the Directorate for 2015-16 is £105.860 million. Current projections indicate an under spend of £221,000 at year end. The main variances are:

EDUCATION & TRANSFORMATION DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Projected Outturn	Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Local Authority Special Needs Services	644	542	(102)	-15.8%
Schools Based Special Educational Needs	2,558	2,379	(179)	-7.0%
Inter Authority Recoupment / OOC Placements	426	316	(110)	-25.8%
Strategic Management	272	348	76	27.9%

#### Local Authority Responsibility Special Educational Needs Services

- There is a projected under spend of £102,000 on the budget as a result of vacancies held in anticipation of budget reductions in 2016-17. These will not be reoccurrent under spends.

#### School Based Special Educational Needs

- The under spend of £179,000 is a combination of vacancies across specialist bases in schools and reduced spend on one-to-one support for pupils during

the summer term, as a result of higher than anticipated contributions from schools, in line with the Financial Scheme for Schools. The under spend arising from vacancies will not reoccur in 2016-17.

#### Inter-Authority Recoupment / Out of County (OOC) Placements

- There is currently an under spend of £78,000 projected on the education budget for out of county placements, due to a reduction in the number of placements from 32 in March 2015 to 28 currently. Alongside this, the authority is projecting an additional £32,000 income in respect of pupils from other local authorities attending this authority's schools.

#### Strategic Management

- The projected over spend on Strategic Management relates to the apportionment of the Remodelling of the Children's Residential Care budget reduction (£200,000) between Education and Transformation and Social Services and Wellbeing directorates, following the transfer for Safeguarding and Family Support to the Social Services and Wellbeing directorate. The service will meet this reduction in 2015-16 through savings in other areas of the directorate budget and will find alternative reductions in 2016-17 to meet this on a reoccurring basis.

### 4.3.2 Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate

The Directorate's net budget for 2015-16 is £61.944 million. Current projections indicate an under spend of £7,000 at year end, after draw down of £200,000 from earmarked reserves for remodelling of adult social care (£53,000), Looked After Children strategy (£47,000), Homecare and meals at home (£66,000) and residual job evaluation costs on safeguarding (£34,000). The main variances are:

<b>SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>	<b>Variance Over/(under) budget</b>	<b>% Variance</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	
Learning Disabilities Residential Care	1,487	1,647	160	10.8%
Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities	3,389	3,276	(113)	-3.3%
Looked After Children	10,923	10,726	(197)	-1.8%
Family Support Services	978	836	(142)	-14.5%
Other Child and Family Support Services	725	941	216	29.8%

#### Learning Disabilities Residential Care

- A projected over spend of £160,000 is likely as a result of the provision of 3 additional residential placements in the first half of the financial year. These placements have since reduced to 2, and will continue into the new financial year. The directorate will re-align budgets in 2016-17 to meet this pressure.

#### Learning Disabilities Day Opportunities

- There is currently a projected under spend of £113,000 on the day opportunities budget as a consequence of staff vacancies within the service, part of which is held in anticipation of budget reductions in 2016-17. The under spend on these posts will not reoccur in 2016-17.

#### Looked After Children

- There is a projected under spend of £197,000 on looked after children following a reduction in the number of independent fostering agency placements, with 80 placements forecast by the end of the year, compared to 92 as at March 2015. The current number of LAC is 376 compared to 390 at the end of March 2015.

#### Family Support Services

- There is a projected under spend of £142,000, partly as a result of under-utilised direct payments (£77,000), which have been re-claimed, and partly due to under spends on salary budgets and residence orders, which have reduced from 26 in 2014-15 to 23 in this financial year. A reoccurrent budget pressure allocation of £400,000 for direct payments was approved by Council in February 2015 for 2015-16 onwards. As there is a projected under spend on this budget currently, the position will be reviewed at year end to determine future on-going requirement of this pressure.

#### Other Child and Family Support Services

- There is a projected over spend of £216,000 on adoption following the establishment of the regional adoption service. A one-off budget pressure was agreed by Council to meet the needs of this service for 2015-16, but given the current overall forecast outturn for the directorate this is not currently required. The Business Case for the service highlighted that the cost of the service would reduce in year 2 on the assumption that the number of adoptions in Bridgend would be lower than in the other two authorities. If numbers of adoptions remain at the current level then the cost will not reduce and the budget will have to be re-aligned with the LAC budget, which should reduce accordingly.

#### **4.3.3 Communities Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2015-16 is £24.988 million and the current projection is an anticipated over spend of £104,000 after draw down of £192,000 from earmarked reserves. The earmarked reserve draw down relates to the Cultural Trust (£93,000), Car Parking Strategy (£2,000), redundancy costs (£69,000) and Depot feasibility spend (£28,000). This also takes into account draw down of the one-off budget pressure of £135,000 in respect of the costs of increased tonnage at the MREC. The main variances are:

<b>COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>	<b>Variance Over/(under) budget</b>	<b>% Variance</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	
Housing Options, Strategy & Homelessness	940	770	(170)	-18.1%
Waste Disposal	5,333	5,474	141	2.6%
Street Lighting	1,630	1,480	(150)	-9.2%
Transport and Engineering	861	982	121	14.1%

#### Housing Options, Strategy and Homelessness

- There is a projected under spend on this area of £170,000. This is as a result of a projected under spend on bed and breakfast costs, alongside vacancy management savings in the housing service (£130,000), in addition to a projected under spend of £40,000 relating to a non-staffing efficiency saving identified in advance of budget reductions in 2016-17.

#### Waste Disposal

- The MREC procurement is ongoing so the £300,000 budget reduction target in 2015-16 will not be achieved in 2016-17. There are also additional costs incurred at the MREC due to additional tonnage, but this has been mitigated by the one-off budget pressure (£135,000) agreed for 2015-16 and savings from the interim Anaerobic Digestion procurement project, which commenced in August 2015.

#### Street Lighting

- There is a projected under spend on street lighting of £150,000. This relates to a budget reduction proposal for 2016-17, which has been brought forward in order to offset non-achievement of 2015-16 budget reductions.

#### Transport and Engineering

- There is a projected overall over spend of £121,000 on transport and engineering due to delays in the implementation of car park budget reductions for 2015-16 (£225,000), such as charging blue badge holders, and staff car parking charges, which has been partly offset by higher income than anticipated on the engineering service. There will be a loss of income at the Rhiw car park during the Vibrant and Viable construction works, but an earmarked reserve has been established to meet this shortfall and will be drawn down when the actual cost is known.

#### 4.3.4 Resources Directorate

The net budget for the Directorate for 2015-16 is £14.510 million and current projections anticipate an under spend against this budget of £333,000 after draw down of £34,000 from earmarked reserves in respect of Change Fund projects. The main variances are:

<b>RESOURCES DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>	<b>Variance Over/(under) budget</b>	<b>% Variance</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	
Property Services	1,677	1,655	(22)	-1.3%
HR & Organisational Development	3,918	3,740	(178)	-4.5%
Finance: Bank Charges and Audit Fees	899	735	(164)	-18.2%
ICT	4,150	4,139	(11)	-0.3%

#### Property Services

- The under spend relates to a combination of an under spend on staffing (£122,000), due to vacancy management in preparation for future MTFS budget reductions, partly offset by an over spend relating to voids on non-operational assets (£136,000). The under spend arising from vacancies will not reoccur in 2016-17.

#### HR and Organisational Development

- The under spend of £178,000 relates to vacancy management in preparation for future MTFS budget reductions. These under spends will not reoccur in 2016-17.

#### Finance: Bank Charges and Audit Fees

- The under spend of £164,000 comprises an underspend of £50,000 on internal audit fees, as a result of staffing vacancies, £35,000 relating to lower than anticipated bank charges under the new banking contract, and £95,000 relating to reduced external audit fees, based on current spend profile. This is partially offset by lower than anticipated income from re-charged bank fees.

#### ICT

- The under spend relates to vacancy management in preparation for future MTFS budget reductions. These under spends will not reoccur in 2016-17.

### **4.3.5 Legal and Regulatory Services Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2015-16 is £6.065 million and current projections anticipate an under spend against this budget of £114,000, after draw down of £34,000 from earmarked reserves in respect of legal and administrative support from the Change Fund, and £100,000 in respect of land litigation charges. The main variances are:

<b>LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>Projected Outturn</b>	<b>Variance Over/(under) budget</b>	<b>% Variance</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	
Regulatory Services	1,631	1,573	(58)	-3.6%
Procurement	288	277	(11)	-3.8%
Partnerships	353	323	(30)	-8.5%

### Regulatory Services

- The Joint Regulatory Service, which came into existence in May, is currently projecting an under spend, as a result of vacancies held whilst the new structure is being populated. The new structure is expected to be implemented from November.

### Procurement

- The under spend relates to vacancy management in preparation for future MTFS budget reductions. These under spends will not reoccur in 2016-17.

### Partnerships

- The under spend relates to vacancy management in preparation for future MTFS budget reductions. These under spends will not reoccur in 2016-17.

## 4.3.6 Council Wide budgets

This section of the accounts includes budgets, provisions and services which are council wide, and not managed by an individual directorate. The budget is £38.834 million and the projected outturn is £38.059 million, resulting in a projected under spend of £775,000. The main variances are detailed below:

<b>CORPORATE BUDGETS</b>	<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>Outturn</b>	<b>Variance Over/(under) budget</b>	<b>% Variance</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	14,254	13,869	(385)	-2.7%
Other Corporate Budgets	4,615	4,225	(390)	-8.5%

### Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- The under spend of £385,000 is a result of lower demand than forecast for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This a demand led budget which is based on full take up, but actual take up is not known until year end.

### Other Corporate Budgets

- The under spend of £390,000 is a combination of:
  - o Less demand from Directorates to meet in year pay pressures, including superannuation and National Insurance increases, as staff numbers reduce.
  - o Lower than expected in-year cost of implementing auto enrolment for new entrants. This cost is due to increase incrementally as the Council works towards September 2017 by which time all eligible employees must be enrolled in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

It should be noted that this projection could change significantly during the financial year, depending on the total cost of redundancies incurred during the financial year, the extent of inclement weather, inflationary changes, and demands on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

These budgets have been reviewed as part of the MTFS 2016-17 to 2019-20 and will be subject to significant reductions over the life of the MTFS.

#### **4.4 Capital programme monitoring**

4.4.1 This section of the report provides Members with an update of the Council's capital programme for 2015-16. The original budget approved by Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 was revised and approved by Council in July, and again in October to incorporate budgets carried forward from 2014-15 and any new schemes and grant approvals. The revised programme totalled £40.223 million. The current capital programme budget for 2015-16 totals £40.252 million of which £23.967 million is BCBC resources with the remaining £16.285 million coming from external grants. The main reasons for the difference between the October programme and the current programme are:

- £30,000 Transfer of minor works scheme from capital programme to revenue, which is reported outside the capital programme.
- £59,000 Additional Welsh Government funding for Coity By-Pass Land compensation scheme.

4.4.2 Appendix 3 provides details of the larger schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2015-16 compared to the projected spend. Commentary is provided detailing any issues associated with these projects.

4.4.3 As at quarter 2 there is projected under spend of £70,000 against budget and slippage against the revised budget of £1.659 million which will be carried forward into 2016-17. The main schemes affected are:

- Vibrant and Viable Places scheme, following a revised financial profile on the scheme from contractors. Approval from Welsh Government will be required.
- Tondu Primary Temporary Accommodation, following completion of the scheme, resulting in slippage of £29,000 transferring to future school modernisation projects.

4.4.4 At this point in the financial year, and following discussions with directorates, it is assumed that all other projects will be in line with the revised budget as set out in Appendix 3. However, this will depend upon any inclement weather experienced during the last two quarters, which may place additional pressure on project timescales.

#### **4.5 Review of Earmarked reserves**

The Council is required to maintain adequate financial reserves to meet the needs of the organisation. The MTFS includes the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol which sets out how the Council will determine and review the level of its



Council Fund balance and Earmarked Reserves. A quarter 2 review of the particular pressures that were to be covered by earmarked reserves was undertaken, but earmarked reserves were not drawn down if the Directorate could absorb these pressures from forecast under spends elsewhere within their budgets. This will again be reviewed at quarter 3 as per the Protocol.

During the first half of 2015-16, Directorates drew down £236,000 of funding from their Directorate specific earmarked reserves that were created as part of the 2014-15 year-end process and £1.793 million from Corporate Reserves including the Major Claims Reserve. These are detailed in the table below:

<b>Opening Balance 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015</b>	<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Movement as at Qtr 2</b>	<b>Closing Balance 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015</b>
<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	Corporate Reserves:-		
	Communities	(124)	
	Education & Transformation	-	
	LARS	(34)	
	Resources	(34)	
	Social Services & Wellbeing	(133)	
	Non-Directorate	(1,468)	
<b>31,709</b>	<b>Total Corporate Reserve</b>	<b>(1,793)</b>	<b>29,916</b>
	Directorate Earmarked Reserves:-		
978	Communities	(69)	909
995	Education & Transformation	-	995
692	LARS	(100)	592
360	Resources	-	360
600	Social Services & Wellbeing	(67)	533
<b>3,625</b>	<b>Total Directorate Reserves</b>	<b>(236)</b>	<b>3,389</b>
<b>35,334</b>	<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>(2,029)</b>	<b>33,305</b>

A full breakdown of total movement on earmarked reserves at 30<sup>th</sup> September is provided in Appendix 4.

## **5.0 Effect upon policy framework & procedural rules**

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

## **6.0 Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no implications in this report.

## **7.0 Financial implications**

7.1 These are reflected in the body of the report.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

Cabinet is requested to note the projected revenue and capital outturn position for 2015-16.

**Ness Young**  
**Corporate Director Resources**  
**November 2015**

### **Contact Officer**

Deborah Exton – Group Manager – Financial Planning and Budget Management ext 3604

e-mail: [deborah.exton@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.exton@bridgend.gov.uk)

### **Background Papers**

Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports  
Report to Council 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015  
Report to Council 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015

# Budget Reduction Proposals 2015-16

Ref.	Links to Population Outcome	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original 2015-16 £000	Current RAG Status (RAG)
<b><u>IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY</u></b>			<b><u>CATEGORIES</u></b>		
<p><b>IP1</b> - Developing the local economy  <b>IP2</b> -Raising aspirations and driving up educational achievement  <b>IP3</b> -Supporting young people &amp; families  <b>IP4</b> -Helping the vulnerable and older people to stay independent  <b>IP5</b> -Encouraging healthy lifestyles to reduce health inequalities  <b>IP6</b> -Making Best Use of Resources</p> <p><b>OBAU</b> -Other Business as Usual</p>			<p><b>BUR</b>- Making Best Use of Resources  <b>MSR</b>- Managed Service Reductions  <b>CST</b> - Collaboration and Transformation  <b>PC</b> - Policy Changes</p>		
<b><u>EDUCATION &amp; TRANSFORMATION</u></b>					
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
CH3	Corporate Business	BUR	Retender Learner Transport contracts	400	
CH4	Corporate Business	MSR	Rationalise Special Education Needs transport	100	
CH9	Wise	BUR	School transport route efficiencies	200	
CH10	Wise	MSR	Realign On-Track with multi-agency community team provision	100	
CH12	Healthy & Wise	MSR	Reduction catering service budget	200	
CH13A	Corporate Business	BUR	Staff Restructures - Business Support functions	310	
CH17,23,24	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Remodel integrated working and family support service	545	

## Budget Reduction Proposals 2015-16

Ref.	Links to Population Outcome	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original 2015-16 £000	Current RAG Status (RAG)
CH18	Wise	MSR	Review provision of the County Music Service	40	
CH19	Wise	BUR	Accommodation costs in relation to Youth Service currently based at Tondu	80	
CH20	Corporate Business	BUR	Review all temp posts across the directorate/Vacancy Management	100	
CH26	Wise	BUR	Propose for schools to fund all copyright licenses	50	
CH28	Wise	BUR	Remodel Childcare team	72	
CH32 (previously part of RES16)	Corporate Business	BUR	Review of the Corporate Project Group	84	
			<b>Total Education and Transformation central</b>	<b>2,281</b>	
<b>SCHOOLS</b>					
CH11	Wise	BUR	Progress School modernisation programme which includes rationalisation of nursery provision	170	
			<b>Total Schools</b>	<b>170</b>	

## Budget Reduction Proposals 2015-16

Ref.	Links to Population Outcome	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original 2015-16 £000	Current RAG Status (RAG)
			<b>Total Education &amp; Transformation Directorate</b>	<b>2,451</b>	

### SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

#### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

ASC1	Healthy & Wise	CST	Focus local authority homecare on specialist and complex care	307	
ASC2	Healthy & Wise	CST	Support increased independence through enablement and progression in Learning Disability services	220	
ASC3	Healthy & Wise	PC	Link the work on the new assessment framework to the new national eligibility criteria as part of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act ensuring timely	1,399	
ASC4	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Consolidation of Adult Day Services premises	20	
ASC5	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Service efficiencies - work related schemes	67	

## Budget Reduction Proposals 2015-16

Ref.	Links to Population Outcome	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original 2015-16 £000	Current RAG Status (RAG)
ASC6	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Management, Admin and Training Implement measures to achieve 7% and 5% across the 2 years	215	
ASC7	Healthy & Wise	CST	Reprovision and remodelling of Shared Lives	135	
ASC8	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Reduction in sickness across services	50	
ASC9	Healthy & Wise	MSR	Review CHC-eligible cases to secure appropriate contribution to packages of care	70	
ASC10	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Develop income stream for specialist Mental Health placements at Glyn Cynffig	15	
ASC11	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Income Generation at Ael Y Bryn	95	
ASC12	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Continued efficiencies within LD Day Services	35	
ASC13	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Remodel Meals at Home service.	122	
ASC15	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Achieve transport efficiencies	37	
<b>Total Adult Social Care</b>				<b>2,787</b>	

### SAFEGUARDING AND FAMILY SUPPORT

CH22	Healthy and Wise	PC	Remodelling of Childrens Residential Care	200	
CH27	Wise	BUR	Remodel and restructure safeguarding management arrangements	50	
CH13B	Corporate Business	BUR	Staff Restructures - Business Support functions	170	
CH20B	Corporate Business	BUR	Review all temp posts across the directorate/Vacancy Management	50	

## Budget Reduction Proposals 2015-16

Ref.	Links to Population Outcome	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original 2015-16 £000	Current RAG Status (RAG)
			<b>Total Safeguarding and Family Support</b>	<b>470</b>	
<b>SPORTS , PLAY &amp; ACTIVE WELLBEING</b>					
HL1	Healthy	CST	Reduction in costs relating to sport, play and leisure	30	
HL3	Healthy	CST	Continued savings associated with the Halo leisure partnership	247	
			<b>Total Sports , Play &amp; Active wellbeing</b>	<b>277</b>	
			<b>Total Social Services &amp; Wellbeing Directorate</b>	<b>3,534</b>	
<b>COMMUNITIES</b>					
COM1	Corporate Business	BUR	Procure by competitive tendering and in accordance with the provisions of a MOU between BCBC and NPTCBC, a contractor to operate and managing the MREC	300	
COM3	Wealthy	BUR	Reduce net running costs of Bridgend Bus Station by reviewing service provision	40	
COM4	Place	BUR	Review staffing structures within the Communities Directorate to identify possible savings	544	

## Budget Reduction Proposals 2015-16

APPENDIX 1

Ref.	Links to Population Outcome	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original 2015-16 £000	Current RAG Status (RAG)
COM5	Corporate Business	CST	Savings anticipated from proposed collaboration with SWP on a joint vehicle maintenance facility	75	
COM6	Corporate Business	MSR	Review of public conveniences	50	
COM7	Place	MSR	Review of Grounds Maintenance & Bereavement Services	437	
COM8	Corporate Business	BUR	Review of car parking charges - staff and long/short term stay car parks	60	
COM9	Corporate Business	BUR	Review of Highways maintenance/DLO Services	308	
COM10	Place	BUR	Public to purchase their own black refuse bags to an appropriate specification.	50	
COM11	Place	BUR	Implementation of charging for Blue Badge Holders for Car Parking	165	
COM12	Place	BUR	Review of staffing structures within Housing & Regeneration	40	
COM13	Place	BUR	Review of School Crossing Patrol service in line with GB standards.	60	
COM14	Place	BUR	Bereavement services - implement fee strategy to remove BCBC current subsidy	52	
COM15	Corporate Business	BUR	Staffing restructures in Elections	46	
COM16	Place	MSR	Review of supported bus services	120	
HL1	Healthy & Wise	CST	Transfer of management and operation of Bryngarw House	56	
HL2	Corporate Business	MSR	Reduction in arts development capacity	60	



## Budget Reduction Proposals 2015-16

APPENDIX 1

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Ref.	Links to Population Outcome	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original 2015-16 £000	Current RAG Status (RAG)
HL3	Healthy & Wise	BUR	Efficiencies in Pyle Hub operation	25	
<b>Total Communities Directorate</b>				<b>2,488</b>	

### RESOURCES

#### **FINANCE AND ICT**

RES1	Corporate Business	BUR	Reduce size of Finance and Accountancy team	119	
RES2	Corporate Business	BUR	Re-negotiate banking contract, cash collection and cash payment contracts.	35	
RES4	Corporate Business	CST	Renegotiated Internal Audit Partnership contributions to Vale of Glamorgan Council	20	
RES5	Corporate Business	BUR	Staffing Restructures Revenues, and Financial Assessments Services /Vacancy Management	163	
RES6	Corporate Business	BUR	Review charges for Receiverships and improved recovery of Housing Benefits overpayments	30	
RES7	Corporate Business	BUR	Reduce the size of the ICT service	52	
RES9	Corporate Business	BUR	Introduction of % charge for credit card payments made to the Council	19	
<b>Total Finance and ICT</b>				<b>438</b>	

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

## Budget Reduction Proposals 2015-16

APPENDIX 1

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Ref.	Links to Population Outcome	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original 2015-16 £000	Current RAG Status (RAG)
RES12	Corporate Business	CST	Reduce CCTV & Customer Services Operations	30	
RES13	Corporate Business	BUR	Reduce the size of the HR, OD and Communications teams	164	
RES14	Corporate Business	BUR	Reduction in corporate training budget	20	
RES15	Corporate Business	BUR	Move from paper to electronic versions only of the County Bulletin and Bridgenders	3	
RES16	Corporate Business	BUR	Review of Business Support Unit	26	
			<b>Total Human Resources</b>	<b>243</b>	
<b>PROPERTY (ESTATES AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT)</b>					
RES18	Corporate Business	BUR	Review of cleaning service	100	
RES19	Corporate Business	BUR	Increase in the fees and charges for non-operational property	25	
RES20	Corporate Business	BUR	Review of the Facilities Management service	79	
RES21	Corporate Business	BUR	Office Accommodation -closure of office buildings	120	
RES23	Corporate Business	BUR	Staffing Restructure - Built Environment	148	
			<b>Total Property</b>	<b>472</b>	
			<b>Total Resources Directorate</b>	<b>1,153</b>	

## Budget Reduction Proposals 2015-16

APPENDIX 1

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Ref.	Links to Population Outcome	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Original 2015-16 £000	Current RAG Status (RAG)
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### LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES

LRS1	Wealthy / Healthy	CST	Public Protection Collaboration	286	
LRS2	Corporate Business	BUR	Restructure of Legal & Democratic, Registration, Procurement, Performance & Partnership Services. Fundamental review of how services are delivered	268	
<b>Total LARS</b>				<b>554</b>	

### CORPORATE / COUNCIL WIDE

CS1	Corporate Business	BUR	Rationalise and reduce voluntary sector funding by 10%	78	
CS2	Corporate Business	BUR	Target reductions in administrative support linked to EDM	250	
CS3	Corporate Business	BUR	Transfer of revenue funding to prudential borrowing to finance minor capital works	50	
CS5	Corporate Business	BUR	Review capital financing budgets	200	
CS6		PC	Cease the pensioners' council tax relief scheme	193	
CS7	Corporate Business	PC	Reduction in Fire Service Precept	102	
CS8	Corporate Business	BUR	Carbon Reduction costs for schools to be met from protected Individual Schools Budget	72	
CS9	Corporate Business	BUR	Reductions in Insurance Premiums	100	

**Budget Reduction Proposals 2015-16**

<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Links to Population Outcome</b>	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Budget Reduction Proposal</b>	<b>Original 2015-16 £000</b>	<b>Current RAG Status (RAG)</b>
<b>Total Corporate / Council Wide</b>				<b>1,045</b>	
			<b>GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS</b>	<b>11,225</b>	

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2015-16			Projected Outturn	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	Expenditure Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget			
	£000	£000	£000			
<b>EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION DIRECTORATE</b>						
Learning	10,867	(2,893)	7,973	7,641	(332)	-4.2%
Strategic Partnerships & Comm	126,246	(28,610)	97,636	97,800	164	0.2%
Contingent Provision	25	-	25	26	1	0.0%
Transformation	225	-	225	172	(53)	
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION</b>	<b>137,363</b>	<b>(31,503)</b>	<b>105,860</b>	<b>105,639</b>	<b>(221)</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE</b>						
Adult Social Care	56,011	(14,881)	41,130	41,148	18	0.0%
Sport, Play and Active Wellbeing	3,687	(941)	2,746	2,745	(1)	0.0%
Safeguarding & Family Support	19,060	(991)	18,068	18,044	(24)	-0.1%
<b>TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING</b>	<b>78,757</b>	<b>(16,813)</b>	<b>61,944</b>	<b>61,937</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE</b>						
Regeneration & Development	9,641	(6,060)	3,581	3,331	(250)	-7.0%
Street Scene	34,684	(17,227)	17,457	17,866	409	2.3%
Directorate Support/Contingent Provision	594	-	594	589	(5)	-0.8%
Culture	4,251	(1,025)	3,227	3,177	(50)	-1.5%
Elections	129	-	129	129	-	0.0%
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>49,299</b>	<b>(24,311)</b>	<b>24,988</b>	<b>25,092</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
<b>RESOURCES DIRECTORATE</b>						
Chief Executive	658	-	658	658	-	0.0%
Finance and ICT	61,361	(53,830)	7,531	7,398	(133)	-1.8%
Human Resources	4,438	(520)	3,918	3,740	(178)	-4.5%
Property	4,668	(2,993)	1,677	1,655	(22)	-1.3%
Built Environment	4,531	(3,805)	726	726	-	
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>75,657</b>	<b>(61,148)</b>	<b>14,510</b>	<b>14,177</b>	<b>(333)</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>
<b>LEGAL &amp; REGULATORY SERVICES DIRECTORATE</b>						
Legal Services	2,490	(259)	2,231	2,231	-	0.0%
Democratic Services	1,562	(0)	1,562	1,547	(15)	-1.0%
Regulatory Services	2,108	(477)	1,631	1,573	(58)	-3.6%
Procurement	289	(1)	288	277	(11)	-3.8%
Performance and Partnerships	353	-	353	323	(30)	-8.5%
<b>TOTAL LEGAL &amp; REGULATORY SERVICES</b>	<b>6,802</b>	<b>(737)</b>	<b>6,065</b>	<b>5,951</b>	<b>(114)</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS</b>	<b>347,877</b>	<b>(134,512)</b>	<b>213,367</b>	<b>212,796</b>	<b>(571)</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
Council Wide Budgets	40,774	(1,940)	38,834	38,059	(775)	-2.0%
<b>NET BRIDGEND CBC</b>	<b>388,651</b>	<b>(136,452)</b>	<b>252,201</b>	<b>250,855</b>	<b>(1,346)</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>

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Main Scheme	Whole Scheme Budget £'000	Total Costs to 31.3.2015 £'000	Council Oct '15 Budget 2014-15 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Qtr 2 Budget 2015-16 £'000	Total Expd to Date 2015-16 £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Slippage Requested £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000	Comments
<b>Education &amp; Transformation</b>												
Pen Y Fai Primary School	7,239	6,765	474			474	0	474	0		0	
Mynydd Cynffig Primary School Extension	400	2	10			10	0	10	0		0	
Y Dderwen Comprehensive School	39,488	39,278	210			210	30	210	0		0	
Coety/Parc Derwen Primary School	8,660	3,051	5,405			5,405	2,333	5,405	0		0	
Tondu Primary School Temporary Accommodation	382	353	29			29	0	0	-29	29	0	Remainder of original budget to be carried forward into 2016-17 and transferred to School Modernisation budget for future allocation.
West Park Primary School Temporary Accommodation	250	0	250			250	10	250	0		0	
Ogmore Comprehensive Additional Learning Needs	4,043	3,149	894			894	579	894	0		0	
Garw Valley South Primary Provision	10,000	315	969			969	118	969	0		0	
Pencoed Primary School	8,250	0	1,061			1,061	1	1,061	0		0	
Gateway to the Valleys Primary Provision	8,846	18	1,040			1,040	14	1,040	0		0	
Flying Start Provision	966	685	281			281	0	281	0		0	
Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger	200	192	8			8	1	1	-7	7	0	Remainder of original budget to be carried forward into 2016-17 and transferred to School Modernisation budget for future allocation.

Main Scheme	Whole Scheme Budget £'000	Total Costs to 31.3.2015 £'000	Council Oct '15 Budget 2014-15 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Qtr 2 Budget 2015-16 £'000	Total Expd to Date 2015-16 £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Slippage Requested £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000	Comments
Ysgol Bro Ogwr	300	276	24			24	0	1	-23	23	0	Remainder of original budget to be carried forward into 2016-17 and transferred to School Modernisation budget for future allocation.
Schools Modernisation Retentions	707	0	0			0	0	0	0		0	
Studio 34, Pyle	74	0	74			74	0	74	0		0	
Litchard Primary School	3,165	2,995	170			170	0	170	0		0	
Children's Directorate Minor Works	1,518	0	1,332		186	1,518	588	1,518	0		0	
<b>Total Edcn &amp; Transformation</b>	<b>94,488</b>	<b>57,079</b>	<b>12,231</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>12,417</b>	<b>3,674</b>	<b>12,358</b>	<b>-59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Soc Serv &amp; Wellbeing</b>												
<b>Adult Social Care</b>												
Celtic Court Purchase and Refurbishment	2,411	1,202	1,209			1,209	839	1,209	0		0	
Adult Social Care Minor works	132	0	80		52	132	0	132	0		0	
Care Standards Act	307	218	89			89	21	89	0		0	
Sports Facilities	87	0	87			87	0	87	0		0	
Glan yr Afon Resource Centre	153	0	143		10	153	2	153	0		0	
<b>Total SSWB</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Communities</b>												
<b>Street Scene</b>												
Highways Maintenance(Capital ised Repairs)	200	0	200			200	0	200	0		0	
Transportation Minor Works(Capitalised Repairs)	250	0	250			250	0	250	0		0	
Coity By Pass Land Compensation	480	421	0	59		59	59	59	0		0	All expenditure incurred to be funded by Welsh Government grant.



Main Scheme	Whole Scheme Budget £'000	Total Costs to 31.3.2015 £'000	Council Oct '15 Budget 2014-15 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Qtr 2 Budget 2015-16 £'000	Total Expd to Date 2015-16 £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Slippage Requested £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000	Comments
Local Govt Borrowing Initiative (Highways Infrastructure & Street Lighting)	7,885	6,837	1,048			1,048	536	1,048	0		0	
Road Safety	241	0	241			241	14	241	0		0	
Unadopted Highways	50	0	50			50	0	50	0		0	
Fleet Vehicles	283		283			283	79	283	0		0	
Joint Vehicle Maintenance Lift Ramp	46	0	46			46	0	46	0		0	
Parks Pavilions	1,059	72	10			10	7	10	0		0	
Playground at Ffordd yr Eglwys	75	0	75			75	0	75	0		0	
Highways Street Infrastructure	1,250		1,250			1,250	775	1,250	0		0	
Residents Parking Bridgend Town Centre	152	16	136			136	3	136	0		0	
Street Scene Minor Works	14	0	14			14	11	14	0		0	
Bridgend Recreation Car Park	115	0	115			115	0	115	0		0	
Transport Grant Schemes	1,038	0	1,038			1,038	27	1,038	0		0	
Coychurch New Cremators	1,060	220	840			840	2	840	0		0	
Asda Link Land Compensation	45	26	19			19	16	19	0		0	
<b>Regeneration &amp; Development</b>												
Bridgend Digital	126	105	21			21	0	21	0		0	
Bridgend Town Centre Infrastructure Programme	167	0	182		-15	167	0	167	0		0	The original minor works allocation for THIs, approved by Corporate Property Group, included an allocation for Porthcawl THI scheme, which has now been re-allocated to the specific scheme.
Bridgend Townscape Heritage Initiative	2,357	1,916	381			381	37	381	0		0	

Main Scheme	Whole Scheme Budget £'000	Total Costs to 31.3.2015 £'000	Council Oct '15 Budget 2014-15 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Qtr 2 Budget 2015-16 £'000	Total Expd to Date 2015-16 £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Slippage Requested £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000	Comments
Maesteg Townscape Heritage Initiative	2,161	2,149	12			12	0	12	0		0	
Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative	969	61	598		15	613	50	613	0		0	Minor Works budget allocation from Corporate Property Group.
Bridgend Town Centre	8,790	8,695	95			95	88	95	0		0	
Maesteg Town Centre Regeneration Phase 4	2,802	2,751	51			51	0	51	0		0	
South East Wales Local Investment Fund	2,152	2,032	138		-138	0	0	0	0		0	The South East Wales Local Investment Fund is the name of the external grant scheme which was completed in June 2015. This scheme was match funded by BCBC via the Bridgend Business Support Framework budget, for which the remaining budget is reported separately.
Bridgend Business Support Framework	138	0	0		138	138	34	138	0		0	Budget vired from South East Wales Local Investment scheme.
Porthcawl Coastal Defence	174		174			174	0	174	0		0	
Vibrant and Viable Places	9,606	630	4,267			4,267	231	2,967	-1,300	1,300	0	Vibrant and Viable scheme is likely to be underspent in 2015-16 due to delays in appointing the contractor. Approval to slip funding into 2016-17 will need to be requested from Welsh Government.
Shop mobility	105	0	105			105	56	105	0		0	
Commercial Improvement Areas	110		110			110	45	110	0		0	
Community Economic Development	505	483	22			22	22	22	0		0	

Main Scheme	Whole Scheme Budget £'000	Total Costs to 31.3.2015 £'000	Council Oct '15 Budget 2014-15 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Qtr 2 Budget 2015-16 £'000	Total Expd to Date 2015-16 £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Slippage Requested £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000	Comments
Housing Renewal Area	774	0	774			774	52	774	0		0	
Housing Renewal/Disabled Facilities Grants	3,337		3,337			3,337	844	3,337	0		0	
Porthcawl Rest Bay Waterside Cycle	281	0	33			33	1	33	0		0	
Bryngarw House	28		28			28	2	28	0		0	
Healthy Living Minor Works	52	0	25		27	52	6	52	0		0	
Berwyn Centre	200	0	200			200	0	200	0		0	
<b>Total Communities</b>	<b>49,077</b>	<b>26,414</b>	<b>16,168</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16,254</b>	<b>2,997</b>	<b>14,954</b>	<b>-1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Resources</b>												
Minor Works	197		602	-30	-375	197	0	197	0		0	Corporate Property Group approved additional minor works allocation to directorate schemes.
Upgrading Industrial Estates	40		40			40	21	40	0		0	
Fire Precautions	222	0	122		100	222	33	222	0		0	
DDA Works	150		150			150	75	150	0		0	
Maximising Space and Technology / BCP	1,605	875	597			597	338	527	-70		-70	Scheme is expected to be completed below revised budget allocation.
Community Care Information System	6,584	3,840	2,744			2,744	2,744	2,744	0		0	
Relocation of Depot Facilities	4,436	60	4,376			4,376	29	4,376	0		0	Scheme is unlikely to utilise full budget in current year, awaiting revised financial projection.
Bridgend Market	20		20			20	0	20	0		0	
Non-operational assets	1,000	520	480			480	0	480	0		0	
Investment in ICT	300		300			300	0	0	-300	300	0	Scheme is currently expecting to commence in 2016-17.
Community Projects	458	310	148			148	49	148	0		0	
Agile Working - Rationalisation of Admin Estate	1,217	0	637			637	0	637	0		0	
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>16,229</b>	<b>5,605</b>	<b>10,216</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>-275</b>	<b>9,911</b>	<b>3,289</b>	<b>9,541</b>	<b>-370</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>-70</b>	

	Whole Scheme Budget £'000	Total Costs to 31.3.2015 £'000	Council Oct '15 Budget 2014-15 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Qtr 2 Budget 2015-16 £'000	Total Expd to Date 2015-16 £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) Spend £'000	Slippage Requested £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000	Comments
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>162,884</b>	<b>90,518</b>	<b>40,223</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,252</b>	<b>10,822</b>	<b>38,523</b>	<b>-1,729</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>-70</b>	

**APPENDIX 4**

**TOTAL MOVEMENT ON EARMARKED RESERVES AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

<b>Opening Balance 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 £'000</b>	<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Movement as at Quarter 2 £'000</b>	<b>Closing Balance 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 £'000</b>
	<b>Corporate Reserves:-</b>		
10,531	Major Claims Reserve	(51)	10,480
3,177	Insurance Reserve	-	3,177
210	Waste Management Contract	-	210
1,044	Treasury Management Reserve	(1,044)	-
300	Welfare Reform Bill	-	300
702	Asset Management Plan	-	702
300	Building Maintenance Reserve	-	300
627	Capital feasibility fund	(29)	598
115	DDA Emergency Works	-	115
6,434	Capital Programme Contribution	(51)	6,383
4,749	Service Reconfiguration	(223)	4,526
2,398	Change Management	(262)	2,136
861	ICT & Finance Systems	-	861
261	Invest to save / Joint projects	(133)	128
<b>31,709</b>	<b>Total Corporate Reserves</b>	<b>(1,793)</b>	<b>29,916</b>
	<b>Directorate Reserves:-</b>		
555	Car Parking Strategy	-	555
600	Wellbeing Projects	(67)	533
31	Connecting Families	-	31
1,490	Directorate Issues	(169)	1,321
824	Looked After Children	-	824
125	Porthcawl regeneration	-	125
<b>3,625</b>	<b>Total Directorate Reserves</b>	<b>(236)</b>	<b>3,389</b>
<b>35,334</b>	<b>Total Usable Reserves</b>	<b>(2,029)</b>	<b>33,305</b>

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

#### REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SOUTH EAST WALES AND DRAFT EUROPEAN PROJECT PROSPECTUS

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the Regional Strategic Framework for south-east Wales and project prospectus for the 2014 – 2020 European funding programmes.

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

- 2.1 The Regional Strategic Framework for South East Wales (“Delivering A Future With Prosperity”) and the European project prospectus for 2014 - 2020 directly support the Council’s corporate priority themes as follows:

- Corporate Plan 2013 – 2017: Priority One – Working Together To Develop The Local Economy;
- Corporate Plan 2013 – 2017: Priority Two – Working Together To Raise Ambitions and Drive Up Educational Achievement.

- 2.2 The 2014 - 2020 European programmes will also be particularly important in providing funding opportunities to help meet the priorities within “Fit for the Future”, the 2008 – 2021 regeneration strategy for Bridgend County.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013, Cabinet endorsed the Regional Strategic Framework, as recommended by the South East Wales Regional Partnership Board, and a draft European project prospectus.

- 3.2 The Regional Strategic Framework (“Delivering A Future With Prosperity”) set out a vision for economic development in south-east Wales of **“a thriving region, visible internationally and distinctively Welsh”** delivered through the strategic priorities of:

- place;
- business support and development;
- people and skills.

- 3.3 The regional project prospectus outlined a series of collaborative proposals for economic development activity with a view to seeking funding support from the next round of European programmes 2014 – 2020. It was developed through task groups involving officers from each of the ten local authorities in South East Wales under the direction of the South-East Wales Directors of Environment and Regeneration (SEWDER). The SEWDER task groups were tasked with continuing

work to refine and prioritise the proposals across the following themes:

- business support and development;
- social enterprise;
- renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- transport
- ICT;
- urban regeneration;
- skills, worklessness, and young people;
- rural development

3.4 For this programming period 2014 – 2020, around £1.7 billion of EU grant aid is available to the West Wales and Valleys area for business support, infrastructure, low-carbon economy, and labour market interventions. The new EU Structural Fund programmes will support economic growth and jobs and strategic interventions will be delivered through a mix of national and regional projects.

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

4.1 The Regional Strategic Framework features agreed priorities to complement and support Welsh Government policies and programmes in relation to tackling poverty, developing skills, implementing physical regeneration initiatives, and securing business development, affordable housing, efficient and accessible transport, and excellent connectivity in its widest sense.

4.2 Since December 2013, SEWDER have sought to develop the strategic priorities within the Regional Strategic Framework, and have contributed to a number of key activities, including:

- identifying priority business clusters for support;
- preparation of an economic baseline study;
- establishment of the cross-sectoral South-East Wales Learning, Skills and Innovation Partnership;
- development of a regional employment and skills plan;
- production of a prospectus of renewable energy projects for local investment;
- assessing regional priorities for EU-funded national projects.

4.3 SEWDER have also been considering how the Regional Strategic Framework could influence the direction and priorities of other major regional initiatives, including the Cardiff City Region and City Deal. This was the subject of a report to Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015. At this meeting, Cabinet endorsed the preparation of a regional growth plan, based on an update of the South-East Wales Regional Framework, to contribute to the current Cardiff Capital Region/City Deal initiatives.

4.4 Based on its endorsement by all 10 individual authorities, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and local authorities have worked with the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) to embed the strategic priorities of the Regional



Strategic Framework into the future European programmes 2014 – 2020 by linking them to the key economic opportunities identified in the south-east Wales regional chapter of WEFO’s Economic Prioritisation Framework.

4.5 With regard to the development of the European project prospectus, **Appendix 1** summarises regional proposals being taken forward for European funding support as a result of the work of the SEWDER task groups. Overall, the European project prospectus has been progressed in part with mixed outcomes, as set out below:

- a package of employment support projects are being taken forward for European Social Fund (ESF) grant aid with Bridges Into Work 2 being the first local government approval under the 2014 – 2020 EU programmes and the Inspire 2 Achieve and Inspire 2 Work projects close to approval;
- the Bridgend local development strategy under the Rural Development Plan (RDP) for Wales has been approved with a funding allocation of £1.886 million;
- Bridgend County projects have been prioritised for support under Visit Wales’s Attractor Destinations programme and Welsh Government’s Building for the Future programme;
- WEFO has turned down the Local Investment Fund (LIF) and South-East Wales Community Economic Development (SEWCED) programme for continuation funding from the EU Structural Funds to support local businesses and social enterprises;
- regional transport proposals are in place but are not to be submitted to WEFO because transport elements of the European programmes are to be delivered through Welsh Government operations;
- no collaborative regional proposals for ICT or energy could be identified for submission (although Bridgend CBC is submitting its own application for the Smart Systems and Heat initiative as a pilot project).

4.6 Within this Council, a cross-directorate working group led by the Corporate Director Communities and facilitated by the Regeneration Funding Team will continue to co-ordinate the development and delivery of European-funded projects to ensure that they build on the successful delivery of current regeneration programmes and link to strategic priorities at both a regional and local level.

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

5.1 This report raises no specific issues for the Council’s policy framework and procedure rules. Future implementation of the Regional Strategic Framework and the development of collaborative projects would be subject to addressing the Council’s corporate priorities and complying with its procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no Equality Impact Assessment Implications as a result of this work.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 Whilst there are no immediate financial implications as a result of this report, the relevant Corporate Director will report back to Cabinet on the collaborative projects

in Appendix 1 as and when appropriate.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1 Endorse the progress in developing the Regional Strategic Framework for South-East Wales and the European Project Prospectus, including the collaborative projects set out in Appendix 1.
- 8.2 Authorise Council officers to continue working up the collaborative project applications for European funding support under the 2014 – 2020 programmes, and the relevant Corporate Director to report back to Cabinet as and when appropriate.

**Mark Shephard**  
**Corporate Director Communities**  
**10<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Contact Officer:** Mark Halliwell  
Manager Regeneration Funding

**Telephone:** (01656) 815329

**E-mail:** mark.halliwell@bridgend.gov.uk

**Postal Address** Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB

### **Background documents**

1. Regional Strategic Framework for South-East Wales and Draft European Project Prospectus, Report of Corporate Director Communities, Cabinet, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013;
2. Delivering A Future With Prosperity, South-East Wales Regional Strategic Framework, WLGA South-East Wales Regional Partnership Board, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013;
3. European Programmes 2014 – 2020: South-East Wales Region, WLGA South-East Wales Regional Partnership Board, October 2013;
4. Regional Economic Development Cardiff Capital Region City Deals, Report of Corporate Director Communities, Cabinet, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

## APPENDIX 1: LOCAL GOVERNMENT EUROPEAN FUNDING PROPOSALS – SOUTH EAST WALES

Fund	Title	Project Description	Lead Beneficiary	Local Partner	Status of Application
ESF	Bridges Into Work 2	Engage, support and prepare the economically inactive, including the long-term unemployed, in the most deprived areas outside of the Communities First cluster areas, to acquire the appropriate skills to become job ready and gain sustainable employment. ESF allocation of £0.973 million to Bridgend CBC.	Torfaen CBC	Bridgend CBC	Approved
ESF	Inspire 2 Work	To provide tailored support for young people aged 16 – 24 with complex needs to address and overcome barriers. This will result in young people gaining valuable qualifications, entering further learning and ultimately gaining employment.	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Bridgend CBC	Business plan
ESF	Inspire 2 Achieve	Early intervention targeted at those most at risk of becoming NEET across the 11 - 24 age range, building on the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. Will also provide individually tailored support to young people with learning disabilities/ASD that will address barriers to engagement and social inclusion, increase participation in learning, volunteering and employment opportunities (formerly Real Opportunities).	Blaenau Gwent CBC	Bridgend CBC	Business plan
ERDF	Smart Systems & Heat	Delivery of two demonstration projects to test the technological and economic feasibility of local energy systems to reduce energy use, cut carbon emissions, and keep residents warm and comfortable. Project is part of a UK government-sponsored pilot programme to be delivered in Bridgend county, Newcastle and Greater Manchester.	Bridgend CBC	Bridgend CBC	Pre-plan discussions
ERDF	Attractor Destinations	Delivery of a small number of regionally prioritised strategic tourism infrastructure projects to help raise the quality and perception of destinations in Wales and encourage business investment and employment growth within the region's tourism sector. Porthcawl package agreed as one of three priorities for south-east Wales.	Visit Wales	Bridgend CBC	Business plan
ERDF	Building for the Future	Assist in the regeneration of town centres through acquisition, refurbishment or re-development of unused buildings/land whilst creating jobs and growth and contributing to tackling poverty agenda. Cambrian House/Wyndham House (Bridgend) and Maesteg town hall received high priority rating as part of south east Wales programme.	Welsh Government	Bridgend CBC	Business plan
EAFRD	LEADER (RDP)	Delivery of new Local Development Strategy (with RDP funding allocation of £1.886) to be overseen by the <i>reach</i> Local Action Group (LAG) comprising local community members representing the public, private and voluntary sectors. <i>reach</i> LAG will work with rural communities in the eligible areas of Bridgend county to develop projects meeting the objectives of the Local Development Strategy.	Bridgend CBC	Reach LAG	Approved

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES

##### PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF A ROAD WORKS PERMIT SCHEME

#### 1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 Street works management helps to create a safe highway environment for all its users and seeks to reduce delays to the travelling public by controlling excavations and works within the highway.
- 1.2 With ever increasing challenges to council budgets a more sustainable means of delivering this service has been under consideration.
- 1.3 It is therefore the purpose of this report to propose changes to the current method of street work management from its current noticing method to that of a permit scheme and to seek authorisation from Cabinet to commence consultation on this proposal and subject to that consultation seek authorisation from Welsh Assembly Government to authorise such a scheme within Bridgend County Borough.

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

- 2.1 Is part of the Corporate Improvement Plan 2013-17 (Reviewed 2015-16) Priority One – Working together to develop the local economy.
- 2.2 The plan indicates that it wants town centres, business premises and transport and communication networks that cater for the needs of residents, businesses and visitors, to ensure access to employment opportunities that are varied and secure in the long-term by March 2017.
- 2.3 The plan indicates that it will:
  - continue to implement key regeneration projects and programmes to enhance and develop our economy;
  - ensure that the borough can compete on a regional level for jobs, attracting further investment from new and existing businesses and supporting entrepreneurs;
  - work with public transport providers and communities to improve transport links;
  - implement Rights of Way, cycleways and community routes to provide alternatives to vehicle and public transport;
  - undertake highway works to improve the overall highway network and safety; and
  - continue to attract tourists to the area to sustain the economy.
- 2.4 Works undertaken on the highway impact on the transport network and can impact on the economic vitality of businesses and as such a means of controlling such works are required in support of the Corporate Plan objectives. The Authority also

has a statutory duty to co-ordinate works in the highway and manage the highway network effectively in accordance with The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and The Traffic Management Act 2004.

### **3. Background.**

- 3.1 The Traffic Management Act (TMA) Network Management duty requires local authorities through their Network Management Plan and the Traffic Manager to proactively minimise traffic congestion. The ability of people and goods to move freely and meeting the everyday needs of business and citizens depends largely on the road network. The control of works on the highway facilitates this to occur and the permit scheme approach will address, in a robust and positive way, the major cause of road congestion that results from the reduction in the capacity of the highway brought about by road works.
- 1.2 All road works to some extent reduce the width of the street available to traffic, pedestrians and other users. They can also inconvenience businesses, local residents and highway safety in general, if not effectively monitored. The scale of disruption and nuisance will depend on the type of activity and the sensitivity of the traffic-flow of the particular street in question. In all cases, public tolerance is strained when one set of road works is quickly followed by another or remains in place longer than necessary, or when the Highway Authority resurfaces the street and it is promptly dug up by a utility company for further disruptive road works. Key significant employment industries in Bridgend such as Ford, CGI, Logica and the Bridgend Designer outlet rely on a free flowing highway infrastructure and the impact of the network not being managed effectively could be significant for these major local employers.
- 1.3 The move to the permit scheme approach enables Councils to sustainably ensure the critical management and co-ordination of road works more proactively than using the more reactive “noticing” regime (New Roads and Street Works Act 1991) NRSWA in the context of key budget challenges. The Permit Scheme brings with it a responsibility to use additional powers to enable an Authority to better manage its network, minimise disruption to its users, and improve the efficiency and reliability of the transport network as one of its strategic transport objectives on behalf of the Authority and its stakeholders. This is key to a transport infrastructure that supports economic growth and attracts investment.
- 3.2 It is recognised that the Authority needs to change the way it carries out its activities in order to provide services in a more sustainable way. Monitoring street works activities relies heavily on the resources being available to inspect works on the highway, the provision of this resource without the support of a Permit Scheme will be unsustainable given the level of savings the highways budget will have to deliver in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Without this support the inevitable result will be uncontrolled works being carried out on the highway network of Bridgend with increasing frequency. With the potential for substandard works to be missed and resulting accidents, claims and reactive repair costs having to be borne by the Authority.

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

- 4.1 The TMA includes provision for Permit schemes to enhance the management and coordination of network activities. Reduction of congestion is one of the key challenges for transport today, at both national and local levels. At the time of writing, the uptake of permit schemes within English Authorities stands at 84 out of the 156 authorities having now adopted street works permitting schemes.
- 4.2 The current system as employed by Bridgend CBC under the NRSWA has only limited influence over how works are executed through the current coordination process and noticing process, with a cost burden to process the notices and no mechanism to charge for the administration of the processes. This leads to a less proactive and robust service than a Permit Scheme would be able to provide and given the financial pressures being exerted on Local Authorities a permitting scheme is identified as providing the opportunity both to manage the highway network more efficiently and at the same time ensuring sustainability.
- 4.3 A permit scheme in its simplest terms seeks parity between the way it deals with all works promoters with both Utility companies and the Highway authority needing to apply for a permit to occupy the road. The Permit Authority can impose appropriate conditions attached to the permit thereby stipulating requirements in order to minimize disruption and congestion. If a body takes possession of the road without seeking a permit or breaching a condition, then it would be subject to a fixed penalty. A series of key performance indicators would also be produced and shared with any other permit scheme member and all statutory undertakers.
- 4.4 As the scheme is aimed at being self-financing, the charges to be determined must be carefully calculated as profits are not permitted under the Traffic Management Act 2004 . Any financial surplus may be subject to repayment through mechanisms such as rebates or discounted permits. Surpluses are also ring-fenced and should only be used for activities identified by the permit scheme for network management purposes. In adopting such a scheme it must be realised that the works undertaker may decide to pass the cost of the permits onto their customers either directly or indirectly. However, the potential benefits to the public and economy are significant due to the increased powers and resources made available to the council that choose to run a permit scheme. Studies undertaken in other permit scheme areas have also shown that proportionally the cost that could actually be passed onto utility company customers as the result of a permit scheme being put into place is very small.
- 4.5 In moving forward to the delivery of a successful Permit Scheme, a process of stakeholder consultation needs to be entered into with organisations such as the statutory undertakers, the emergency services, The Passenger Transport Authority and other organisations that the authority deem appropriate to include in the consultation process. Such consultees could for example include; the Freight Haulage Association, Confederation of British Industries and key groups representing vulnerable individuals who use BCBC highways among others. This consultation will seek to explain the Bridgend proposal and also invite responses from the participant organisations as to elements such as the conditions attached to permits granted within the proposed scheme.

- 4.6 Once this consultation has been completed the Authority would be in a position to consider submission of its business case to Welsh Government for determination.
- 4.7 If approved it will be necessary that additional specialist staff and software will be needed to manage the Permit Scheme which are reclaimable against the scheme and would be included in the cost neutral business case for such a scheme .

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

- 5.1 The Traffic Management Act (TMA) Network Management duty requires local authorities through their Network Management Plan and the Traffic Manager to proactively minimise traffic congestion. The permit scheme approach will address, in a robust and positive way, the major cause of road congestion that results from the reduction in the capacity of the highway brought about by road works.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 An EIA is to be completed as the stakeholder engagement process is undertaken.

## **7. Financial Implications.**

A business case will be required to support the Permit Scheme with a full Value For Money exercise undertaken. This will be assessed and requires approval by Welsh Government before the scheme can be introduced. The business case will need to demonstrate that the Permit Scheme will be cost neutral to Bridgend Council. The business case will be developed by external consultants supported by funding from the Corporate Change Management Programme.

## **8. Recommendation.**

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet approve the advancement of the scheme to stakeholder engagement.
2. That following the stakeholder consultation a further report is presented to Cabinet prior to the business case being submitted to the Welsh Government for approval.

**MARK SHEPHARD**  
**CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

**Contact Officer: Kevin Mulcahy, Group Manager Highways**  
**Telephone: (01656) 642535**

**E-mail: kevin.mulcahy@bridgend.gov.uk**



## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

##### DRAFT LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY 2016-2018

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to begin formal consultation on the draft Local Housing Strategy 2016-2018 (attached at Appendix 1).

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

- 2.1 The implementation of this Strategy will help to address the following emerging Corporate Priorities:

- Supporting a successful economy;
- Helping people to be more self-reliant; and
- Making smarter use of resources.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, local authorities have a strategic role to play in the functioning of the local housing market. The principle way this can be delivered is through a Local Housing Strategy (LHS). The intention is for local authorities to play a lead role in developing an approach to housing across all tenures and ensure the delivery of more integrated housing and related services to meet local need.
- 3.2 The strategic housing function incorporates an enabling role, with the local authority working in partnership with other public, private and third sector organisations to deliver suitable housing and to develop innovative solutions to address local housing needs.
- 3.3 The Local Housing Strategy sets out the locally agreed, long term vision for housing and it provides a statement of local strategic housing-related priorities and outcomes, set against a framework of national legislation, plans and strategies.
- 3.4 The current Local Housing Strategy has been in place since 2009 and requires revision in order to take account of new legislation introduced by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

#### 4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The purpose of the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is to set out clearly a vision for housing within County Borough of Bridgend, and the key priorities through which

it is to be delivered. The LHS must be as responsive as possible to the challenges ahead, enabling the key housing objectives to be delivered in light of the political, economic, social, technological, legal and environmental influences on the housing sector in the County Borough.

- 4.2 A number of new requirements have been placed on local authorities as a result of the new Housing (Wales) Act 2014. By 2018, the Council will have undertaken a Local Housing Market Assessment, a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and prepared a Homelessness Strategy, as a result of the Act. For this reason, it is proposed that this LHS is a relatively short-term strategy, covering the period 2016 to 2018, after which it can be reviewed in the light of these assessments. It may also be possible to incorporate the Homelessness Strategy into the LHS from 2018, subject to guidance from Welsh Government.
- 4.3 A draft LHS for 2016 to 2018 is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.4 The proposed housing vision for the County Borough of Bridgend is as follows:  
“To ensure that Bridgend County is a place that people want to live in, where there is a choice of good quality, affordable, and sustainable housing, appropriate to the needs of each household”.
- 4.5 The vision will be delivered through five proposed housing priorities to allow resources and work streams to be targeted, and to define how the Council will work with partners in the public, private and voluntary sector.
- 4.6 The five proposed priorities are listed below together with the areas of focus identified to meet those priorities.

**Priority 1 – Take reasonable steps to help prevent homelessness**

- Providing a holistic housing solutions service
- Providing financial inclusion advice
- Improving partnership working with the private sector
- Increasing accommodation options
- Developing a homelessness strategy
- Developing a holistic approach to dealing with domestic abuse

**Priority 2 – Make the best use of existing homes**

- Bringing empty properties back into use
- Working with partners to maximise the use of existing stock
- Promoting energy efficiency
- Improving the conditions of private sector housing

**Priority 3 - Work with partners to deliver the right type of new housing**

- Undertaking a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)
- Undertaking a Gypsy and Traveler Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)
- Maximising the new intermediate rented housing
- Ensuring there is provision for low cost home ownership

- Maximising the use of Social Housing Grant and other grants
- Making best use of Section 106 Agreements to facilitate new accommodation and regeneration
- Ensuring the right type and size of new housing is built
- Ensuring there are appropriate services in place

**Priority 4 – Help vulnerable people stay as independent, safe and secure as possible in accommodation that best meets their needs**

- Ensuring that the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan is designed to meet the needs of vulnerable people
- Developing a single access point into supported housing (Gateway)
- Redevelopment of the Council's homelessness hostel
- Developing older person Housing
- Providing appropriate adaptations in the home
- Addressing poverty
- Reducing fuel poverty
- Delivering community cohesion

**Priority 5 – Create sustainable town centres through housing led regeneration**

- Encouraging the regeneration of Bridgend town centre and periphery
- Encouraging the regeneration of Porthcawl town centre and periphery
- Encourage the regeneration of Maesteg town centre and periphery
- Working with housing association partners to deliver regeneration
- Promoting brownfield regeneration over greenfield new build

4.7 In line with good practice, it is proposed to consult with key stakeholders, for example, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), housing developers, housing and other third sector/voluntary groups and other statutory organisations to ensure the strategy is relevant, comprehensive, and will facilitate future partnership working.

4.8 It is further proposed to consult with the public through a questionnaire which will be publicised via a press release on the Council web pages and on the Bridgend Housing Options web pages. Hard copies of the Strategy and the questionnaire will be provided in libraries and Council Offices. The public will therefore be able to feedback online or in writing. Staff will be available to assist those members of the public who may have difficulty in accessing the consultation.

4.9 The consultation period will last for 12 weeks.

4.10 Following this consultation, a final draft Local Housing Strategy will then be reported back to Cabinet.

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

5.1 None.

**6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the consultation on

the Local Housing Strategy. In particular, the views of specialist housing and support providers will be sought, to assess its relevance to the Council's public equality duties and potential impact on protected equality characteristics.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 In addition to the well publicised new duties on local authorities in relation to homelessness prevention, the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 has imposed new duties in relation to the strategic housing function. For example, there is a requirement to produce a Local Housing Market Assessment every two years, and to prepare a Homelessness Strategy. These duties will impose an inescapable financial burden on the Council, and while some funding has been provided by Welsh Government to assist in homelessness prevention, no additional resources are being made available for the enhanced strategic housing requirements. Historically, the Housing and Community Regeneration Service has made a significant contribution to savings targets in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, and staffing levels are no longer sufficient to enable this work to be carried out in-house. The cost of undertaking additional assessments and strategy development, and the impact of this on departmental budgets will therefore have to be closely monitored going forward.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 Cabinet is recommended to:-

8.1.1 Note the additional requirements placed on the Authority in relation to its strategic housing function, as a result of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and the funding pressures arising from this in future years;

8.1.2 Approve that formal consultation takes place on the draft Local Housing Strategy, attached at Appendix 1;

8.1.3 Note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet following the consultation exercise.

**MARK SHEPHARD**  
**CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES**

**12.11.2015**

**Contact Officer:** Martin Ridgeway  
Housing Strategy Team Leader

**Telephone:** (01656) 643527

**E-mail:** [martin.ridgeway@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:martin.ridgeway@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Postal Address** Housing & Community Regeneration  
Communities Directorate  
Bridgend County Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Angel Street

Bridgend  
CF31 4WB

**Background documents**

None

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**Bridgend County Borough Council**  
**Local Housing Strategy 2016 – 2018**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

The purpose of this Local Housing Strategy is to respond to the housing needs of the County Borough by setting out the vision and direction for housing over the next 2 years. The strategy comes at a time of change and upheaval and addresses a number of the most significant challenges facing the Council and its partners and our communities. The strategy deliberately covers a relatively narrow timeframe, to allow for a comprehensive review to take account of the rapidly changing legislative environment, and housing market. It is our intention to incorporate the homelessness strategy within the housing strategy, when this becomes a legislative requirement in 2018.

The global economic crisis has had a severe impact on the housing sector over recent years, while the recession and the unequal recovery have been accompanied by reductions in the level of public spending which are set to continue for a number of years. At the same time, household incomes have fallen, while energy, food and transport costs have all added to the cost of living. This is compounded by welfare reform, which is estimated to have taken £55 million out of the local economy.

In this context, ensuring that the quantity and quality of housing meets the needs and aspirations of Bridgend County residents will be a considerable undertaking. Many of the challenges set out in this strategy reflect much wider social and economic issues.

Creating and sustaining strong, vibrant communities, and re-vitalising our town centres to ensure they are attractive places to live and work, requires the commitment and resources of a range of public and private sector agencies and, crucially, local people. Working in partnership to deliver housing services and to develop innovative solutions to address local housing needs is therefore an imperative.

The strategy sets out five key housing priorities, which will contribute to improving the quality of life for people within the county. These priorities underpin our work and the work of all our partners.

We want to ensure social inclusion and equality of access to services is at the forefront of everything we do. Therefore, the final strategy will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to ensure it does not adversely affect or discriminate against any equality group, and to consider how the strategy may help to promote equality of opportunity in the county. Through the consultation process, we will be seeking the input of residents, stakeholders and partners, into the EIA.

## **2.0 National and local plans and strategies**

In developing this Local Housing Strategy, the requirements and guidance of the following national and local plans and strategies have been considered:

### **National plans and strategies:**

- The National Housing Strategy for Wales: Improving Lives and Communities: Homes in Wales 2010
- Ten Year Homelessness Plan for Wales 2009-19
- Vibrant and Viable Places: New Regeneration Framework 2013
- Programme for Government 2011 - 2016
- Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Renting Homes (Wales) Bill 2014
- Community Cohesion National Delivery Plan 2014-2016
- Wales Housing Management Standard for Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour 2008
- Supporting People Programme Grant Guidance Wales June 2013

### **Local plans and strategies:**

- Bridgend County Together Single Integrated Plan 2013-18
- Corporate Plan 2016-20
- Local Development Plan 2006-21
- Strategic Equality Plan 2012-15

The Local Housing Strategy is also underpinned by a number of other Bridgend Council housing strategies and policies. These are:

- Private Sector Housing Renewal & Disabled Adaptations Policy 2015
- Social Housing Allocation Policy
- Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan 2014-17
- Adult Social Care Commissioning Plan 2010-20

### **3.0 Understanding the housing picture in Bridgend**

The County Borough of Bridgend occupies a key location in South Wales, mid-way between Cardiff and Swansea. It has a population of 141,200<sup>1</sup> with 59,300<sup>2</sup> households. In 2014 there were estimated to be more people aged 65 and over (19.9%) living in Wales than children aged 0 to 15 (17.9%)<sup>3</sup>. The profile of the population in Bridgend has followed a similar pattern, and there are projected to be large increases in the number of single person and lone parent family households<sup>4</sup>.

The population of Bridgend County has grown from 128,700 in 2001 to over 139,200 in 2011. This 8.2% rise was the largest for any Local Authority in Wales except Cardiff. The population of Bridgend County is projected to increase by 11,600 people (8.3%) to over 151,000 between 2011 and 2036. The largest increase is projected in the older age bands.

The County Borough area can be identified in two parts. The southern part is a well-populated coastal belt including the town of Bridgend and the coastal town of Porthcawl, together with the M4 Motorway.

The northern part is a more rural, hilly and less accessible area, with three major valleys running north-south, the most westerly containing the town of Maesteg. There are major differences in house prices and economic conditions between the southern and northern areas.

There are an estimated 62,462 homes in the County Borough. Approximately 70% of these are owner occupied, 16% privately owned, and the remaining 14% rented from a housing association.<sup>5</sup> In September 2003 the Council transferred its housing stock to Valleys to Coast Housing Association and therefore is no longer a social landlord and does not own any houses, flats or sheltered housing.

There are three housing market areas in the County Borough, namely; North consisting of Ogmere, Garw & Upper Llynfi Valley and Western Settlements (the lowest house prices); West consisting of Porthcawl and Rural (the highest house prices) and East consisting of Bridgend, Pencoed & Hinterland<sup>6</sup>.

The most expensive area was Coychurch (£295,050) and the least expensive was Lewistown (£46,000)<sup>7</sup>.

In 2014/15 most property sales in the County Borough involved semi-detached properties which sold for an average price of £136,931. Detached properties sold for

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<sup>1</sup> Welsh Government 2014 Mid-year Population Estimates for Wales

<sup>2</sup> Welsh Government Household Estimates for Wales, mid-2013

<sup>3</sup> Welsh Government 2014 Mid-year Population Estimates for Wales

<sup>4</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012

<sup>5</sup> Welsh Government Dwelling Stock Estimates for Wales 2013-14

<sup>6</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices-in-Bridgend-County-of.html>

an average price of £225,736, while terraced properties sold for £99,580. Bridgend, with an overall average price of £150,834 was more expensive than nearby Rhondda Cynon Taff (£116,816) and Neath Port Talbot (£116,121), but was cheaper than the Vale Of Glamorgan (£220,280). During the last year, sold prices in Bridgend were up 5% on the previous year and 6% up on 2007 when the average house price was £141,670<sup>8</sup>.

The average rental price in the County Borough is £641 per calendar month and the median rental price £569 per calendar month<sup>9</sup>. Based on an average household income of £25,009, households need to spend 31% of their income on housing costs, which is higher than the 25% used in the standard model, but more in line with alternative thresholds that have been recorded by some households in the private rented sector in the County Borough, and have also been found to occur in other parts of Wales<sup>10</sup>.

There is an estimated annual requirement of 1,762 affordable units per year throughout the County Borough, however, by assuming that households are able to afford to spend a greater proportion of their household income on housing costs, and by accepting that the private rented sector via Local Housing Allowance is a short-term solution to housing those requiring affordable housing, the estimated annual requirement reduces to 292 units per year<sup>11</sup>.

There are 8,635 social housing properties in the County Borough. These consist of 92 bedsits, 1759 one beds, 3307 two beds, 3347 three beds, 124 four beds and a small number of four, five and six beds. 466 of these social housing properties are sheltered housing units specifically allocated to older persons. In addition, there is an Extra Care Housing scheme in Kenfig Hill called Llys Ton consisting of 31 two beds and 8 one bed flats. Extra care is primarily for people aged 50 or over, who have a need for housing related support or more suitable housing and a need for help with personal care<sup>12</sup>.

There are currently 1,293 applicants on the Bridgend Common Housing Register. 870 of these applicants require a one bed, 214 require a two bed, 121 require a three bed and the remainder require a four bed or larger<sup>13</sup>. With 67% of applicants requiring a one bed and 17% requiring a two bed, there is a clear need for smaller one and two bedroom accommodation, especially as there have only been 151 allocations to a one bed social housing property in the past twelve months. However, this need should be balanced with the need to provide and develop larger sustainable accommodation that meets the needs of households as they grow.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices-in-Bridgend-County-of.html>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.home.co.uk/for\\_rent/bridgend/current\\_rents?location=bridgend](http://www.home.co.uk/for_rent/bridgend/current_rents?location=bridgend) as at 04-11-15

<sup>10</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012

<sup>11</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012

<sup>12</sup> Bridgend Social Housing Stock in 2015

<sup>13</sup> Bridgend Common Housing Register as at 04-11-15

Over the past five years homelessness presentations have been falling in the County Borough. In 2008/09 there were 1014 presentations which fell to 346 in 2012/13. However, in 2013/14 there was an increase with 369 and this increase has continued into 2014/15 with 488 presentations. This may be as a result of a number of factors including an ongoing legacy of economic downturn and austerity. During this time there has been an increasing focus on the prevention of homelessness, and this must continue with renewed vigour if the increase in presentations continues.

Private sector dwellings in the County Borough are in a poor condition with 60.8% of requiring urgent repairs while 72% require basic repairs. The average cost per dwelling of urgent repairs (i.e. those needing to be done within the next year) was £1,226. The average cost per dwelling of basic repairs (i.e. all work needing to be done within the next five years) was £2,144<sup>14</sup>.

Households are defined as in fuel poverty if they need to spend more than 10% of their income on all household fuel use, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime. Overall, 6,826 private sector households in the County Borough are in fuel poverty, representing 13.4% of private sector households. Households in the private rented sector are most likely to be fuel poor, with 30.7% of those in the private rented sector in fuel poverty. In terms of household type, lone parent households are particularly likely to be fuel poor with almost 40% of these households in fuel poverty<sup>15</sup>.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 identified two wards (three Lower Super Output Areas) in the County Borough that rank within the top 100 most deprived wards in Wales. The most deprived ward identified was Caerau in the Llynfi Valley (the fifth most deprived Lower Super Output Area in Wales). The Caerau ward including the village of Nantfyllon was declared a Housing Renewal Area in 2006 for a ten year period. Caerau is a Communities First Cluster area.

As at year ending June 2015, 7.1% of population of people of working age in the County Borough were unemployed. This was slightly higher than Wales as a whole which was 6.7% and higher than the UK rate of 5.7%.

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<sup>14</sup> Bridgend County Borough council Private Sector House Stock Condition Survey 2009

<sup>15</sup> Bridgend County Borough council Private Sector House Stock Condition Survey 2009

## 4.0 The challenges ahead

These external influences that will impact on the delivery of the strategy are as follows:

### Political

- **Government austerity measures** – these include welfare reform and the ongoing cuts in funding for local authorities, reducing the support available to help households to maintain their existing and future housing, and increasing homelessness presentations.
- **The proposed Local Government Reorganisation** – the uncertainty of the shaping of the future political landscape could have an impact on service delivery.
- **Welsh Government funding changes** – lower levels of Social Housing Grant for building new homes will mean new, innovative ways of financing affordable housing will have to be explored.

### Economic

- **Household Income** – Government austerity measures could result in a considerable reduction in the level of financial support to many of the most financially deprived households in Bridgend. It should be noted, however, that older people have been largely protected from welfare reform changes, in contrast to young people and adults of working age.
- **Housing Supply** – as the Council transferred its housing stock to Valleys to Coast Housing Association in 2003, it no longer builds new affordable housing. There is a greater reliance on partner organisations, including the private sector, to meet this need.
- **Housing Stock** – the requirement of housing association partners to bring all housing stock up to Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) is a costly exercise, especially non-traditional housing e.g. steel framed. In addition, there are considerable costs in maintaining ageing housing stock.

### Social

- **Increasing population** – an increasing older population will have to be encouraged to take proactive steps to move into suitable housing as needs change, particularly older owner-occupiers with equity in their properties. Some of the older housing stock is unable to be adapted at a reasonable cost.
- **Household makeup** – the majority of households requiring social housing are single persons, resulting in a greater demand for smaller properties. Bridgend has relatively low levels of such accommodation.
- **Homelessness** – with strengthened duties in the new Housing (Wales) Act 2014 it is expected that there will be a greater demand on resources in preventing and relieving homelessness.

- **Supporting People** – The Supporting People budget for Wales for 2015/16 of £124.4m represents a 7.4% overall reduction on the previous year. The SPPG allocation for Bridgend for 2015/16 is £5,816,385.26 which represents a reduction of 5.45% in funding. This trend is expected to continue increasing pressure on vulnerable groups that require support.

## Technological

- **Digital exclusion** – with the introduction of Universal Credit and “Digital by Default” there is a greater need to ensure people are not digitally excluded.
- **Digital technology** - has the potential to deliver efficiencies in the way vulnerable people are supported to maintain their tenancies.
- **Social media** – with the increased use of social media there is also the risk of an increase in online crime and offending behaviour.

## Legal

- **Housing (Wales) Act 2014** – there is a new strengthened duty on local authorities to take reasonable steps to prevent and relieve homelessness, with an emphasis on prevention and service user engagement.
- **Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014** – there is greater emphases on ensuring services are more person centred, promoting independence and reducing reliance on more intensive services.
- **Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015** – there is a new strengthened duty on local authorities to prevent, protect and support victims as early as possible.

## Environmental

- **Property condition** – as properties age they can become more costly to maintain, often falling into disrepair with associated health consequences for the owners.
- **Empty Homes** – empty homes are a wasted resource and are often left in a poor state of repair which can lead to graffiti, vandalism and other forms of anti-social behaviour. They can also have a negative impact on the look and feel of a community.
- **Fuel Poverty** – poor housing can be extremely energy inefficient. Households on low incomes have difficult choices to be made in terms of heating their homes or spending their income on other necessities.

In light of the budgetary constrictions facing all local authorities, which impact on all residents, partners and stakeholders, it is vital to focus on:

- Partnership working, especially with the private rented sector;
- Collaborative working across a local, regional and national level;

- Shifting the balance back onto individual and families, to take proactive steps to manage their housing needs as they change; and
- Making the best use of the resources we have.

With this in mind, the strategy has been developed in partnership with internal Council partners, housing associations, private sector landlords, and the third sector.

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## 5.0 Our achievements

We have already come a long way in meeting the challenges ahead, and it is important to reflect on recent achievements since the last Local Housing Strategy was introduced in 2009.

- 640 affordable housing units delivered.
- 1,298 Disabled Facilities Grants delivered.
- 317 empty properties brought back into use.
- The number of households presenting as homeless reduced from 665 in 2009/10 to 488 in 2014/15, a reduction of 27%. In addition, the number of households for whom homelessness was prevented increased from 113 to 178 in the same period, an increase of 58%.
- A significant reduction in the spend on bed & breakfast accommodation from £710,175 in 2009/10 to £226,962 in 2014/15.
- The development of a Common Housing Register and Social Housing Allocation Policy that ensures that allocation is driven by housing need. The Accessible Homes Register has also been made part of the Common Housing Register.
- Area renewal investment of over £6.1m in the Caerau ward.
- Housing Options Website which includes an online waiting time calculator that enables people to get an estimate of how long they may have to wait for social rented accommodation, together with the ability for private sector landlords to advertise their available properties.
- The adoption of the Local Development Plan in 2013.
- Successfully obtained Welsh Government “Vibrant & Viable Places” funding of £5.978m to regenerate the Bridgend Town Centre.
- Capital grant funding of £116,000 from Welsh Government for the development of a domestic abuse one stop shop located within the Civic Offices.
- £27m of Social Housing Grant (SHG), including an additional £1.1 million to deliver smaller social housing properties, to negate the effects of the welfare reforms.
- Opened Ty Ogwr which provides 16 units of supported temporary accommodation and support and training opportunities for single homeless persons.
- Opened the Kerrigan Project to provide 5 units of supported accommodation for persons who are vulnerable and need a high level of support.
- Recommissioned Supporting People services including the provision of a holistic domestic abuse service and the learning disability service, which account for almost half of the Supporting People budget.

## **6.0 Our vision and key housing priorities**

Our vision is:

**“To ensure that Bridgend County is a place that people want to live in, where there is a choice of good quality, affordable, and sustainable housing, appropriate to the needs of each household”.**

Taking reasonable steps to help prevent homelessness is fundamental to the housing vision, especially in light of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

The housing vision for Bridgend will be delivered through five housing priorities. Setting out the housing priorities allows resources and work streams to be directed towards these priorities and enable the Council to focus work with partners in the public, private and voluntary sector to achieve them.

### **Our Priorities**

- Priority 1      Take reasonable steps to help prevent homelessness
- Priority 2      Make the best use of existing homes
- Priority 3      Work with partners to deliver the right type of new housing
- Priority 4      Help vulnerable people stay as independent, safe and secure as possible in accommodation that meets their needs
- Priority 5      Create sustainable town centres through housing led regeneration

## Priority 1

### Take reasonable steps to help prevent homelessness

#### Why is this important?

*The Welsh Government is committed to improving housing services and support<sup>16</sup>.*

Homelessness is defined as when a person “has no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere which is available for his or her occupation and which that person has a legal right to occupy. A person is also homeless if he or she has accommodation but cannot secure entry to it, or the accommodation is a moveable structure, vehicle or vessel or adapted for human habitation (such as a caravan or house boat) and there is no place where it can be placed in order to provide accommodation. A person who has accommodation is to be treated as homeless where it would not be reasonable for him or her to continue to occupy that accommodation”<sup>17</sup>.

Reasons for homelessness include; lack of security of tenure with parents, relatives or friends; breakdown of relationship with partner (sometimes as a result of domestic abuse); violence or harassment; mortgage or rent arrears; loss of rented or tied accommodation; current property unaffordable or unsuitable and; being discharged from prison, care, hospital or the armed forces.

Many people address their own homelessness without recourse to Council support. For example, young people remain at home to save money for a deposit on a rented flat; older people downsize and move closer to services; people seek help to find alternative properties from letting agents if their landlord seeks repossession. We need to encourage more people who can do so, to manage their housing needs for themselves, and become more self-reliant.

However, homelessness is not always a housing issue. Many people who already have secure accommodation are unable to sustain it because of issues such as mental or physical illness, a disability, or substance misuse.

It is important to prevent or relieve homelessness for those who are unable help themselves, because being homeless or threatened with homelessness can have a major impact on a person’s and / or their family’s quality of life, especially their health. It can hinder a person’s ability to obtain or sustain employment, or access education and training opportunities. These factors can also have an adverse impact on the economy and increase pressure on local authorities’ services.

Being homeless or threatened with homelessness can sometimes lead to offending behaviours which increases the burden on the resources of other services, such as the Police and the Prison Service, and has wider implications on our communities.

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<sup>16</sup> Programme for Government 2011 - 2016

<sup>17</sup> Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on the Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness 2015

Homeless people are also significantly disadvantaged in terms of access to services, especially mainstream healthcare services such as a GP. However, when street homeless persons do access healthcare services it is usually at a more critical stage which places an even greater burden on limited healthcare services.

A key challenge of the Welsh Government is ensuring that everyone can receive the help they need to prevent them from becoming homeless<sup>18</sup>. To achieve this, housing services need to be easily accessible, readily available, and designed around and responsive to the needs of the people who use them. This requires a renewed focus on the assessment of needs of persons who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and should be used as the basis for personal housing plans, with the goals of addressing any related support needs and securing stable housing circumstances. Taking reasonable steps to help prevent homelessness can empower people to have more choice, make their own decisions and retain control of their lives. This is both the responsibility of the homeless person and the Local Authority.

The Supporting People Programme commissions and provides housing-related support “to help vulnerable people develop or maintain the skills and confidence necessary to live as independently as possible. It has housing, and preventing homelessness or people living in inappropriate institutional settings, at its core. Support can be offered to anyone eligible, regardless of their tenure”<sup>19</sup>. The programme requires that local authorities should ensure that, where appropriate, preventing homelessness is a distinct service aim.

Therefore, prevention through early identification and intervention is a housing priority for the Local Authority, rather than attempting to relieve the homelessness after it has occurred. The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities “to help to prevent applicants who are threatened with homelessness from becoming homeless”. However, where homelessness cannot be prevented, the amount of distress, deprivation and disadvantage that can be caused should be kept to an absolute minimum.

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 also requires all local authorities to carry out a homelessness review and formulate a homelessness strategy based on the results of the review. The Act stipulates that the homelessness strategy must be adopted in 2018.

Preventing youth homelessness has a role to play in this, as does tackling poverty and social exclusion. Financial exclusion is a major cause of poverty and deprivation, and often results in homelessness because of the ability to obtain or maintain accommodation e.g. rent and mortgage payments, and the ability to sustain accommodation e.g. paying bills.

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<sup>18</sup> Ten Year Homelessness Plan for Wales 2009 – 2019

<sup>19</sup> Supporting People Programme Grant Guidance Wales June 2013

## What will we focus on?

- **Providing a holistic housing solutions service** – we will provide an all-encompassing housing solutions service that delivers comprehensive sustainable housing solutions that are tailored to the individual's needs and circumstances. The service will be easily accessible, widely publicised and somewhere people can go for the right advice, support and assistance with any housing related issue. A holistic service will enable improved access to housing solutions such as the private rented sector.
- **Providing financial inclusion advice** – we will refer and signpost to financial inclusion and debt management services to ensure that households are able to secure and retain their accommodation. All housing organisations have a role to play in this early intervention, in particular those that are landlords in the County Borough.
- **Improving partnership working with the private rented sector** – key to preventing homelessness is having a range of accommodation options and the private rented sector is a crucial and increasing element in the provision of housing. Bridgend has developed one of the largest landlords' forums in Wales and we will continue to work with the Forum landlords to expand the availability of private rented sector properties.

The duty to licence and register private sector landlords and their properties introduced by the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, will encourage partnership working and improve standards in the private rented sector for both the tenant and the landlord. The Council will actively promote this legal requirement.

We will work more closely with landlords to improve their perception and understanding of vulnerable and homeless people. Likewise it is important to market the private rented sector so it is the 'tenure of choice' rather than the last resort, to relieve the demand for social housing.

- **Increasing accommodation options** – in particular for those groups for whom insufficient accommodation is available such as for younger persons. We will seek to actively encourage tenants to consider the benefits of shared accommodation, in particular those persons under the age of 35 who receive a reduced rate of Local Housing Allowance and for whom other options could be unaffordable.

We will look to develop innovative housing options to facilitate the successful transition of young people leaving care, into independent accommodation, with support.

- **Developing a homelessness strategy** – we will undertake a homelessness review to examine the activities that contribute to the achievement of the prevention of homelessness. This will take into consideration the levels, and likely future levels of homelessness, the accommodation and support that are available for people who are or who may become homeless, and the resources available to the local authority and its partners. The review will enable more detailed objectives and actions to be identified when developing the homelessness strategy, in order to contribute to the prevention of homelessness.
- **Developing a holistic approach to dealing with domestic abuse** – we have commissioned an inclusive Domestic Abuse Information and Advice Service that assesses risk and danger for service users, provides emergency accommodation as a last resort, and additional advice and support to remain at home, where appropriate. We will continue to ensure that this service adapts to the needs of service users.

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## Priority 2

### Make the best use of existing homes

#### Why is this important?

*The Welsh Government is committed to improving the quality of housing<sup>20</sup>.*

There are an estimated 62,462 homes in the County Borough. The private rented sector makes up 16% of these homes, which is slightly higher than Wales as a whole where the private rented sector makes up 14% of homes. 70% of homes in the County Borough are owner occupied and 14% are social rented from a housing association<sup>21</sup>. With a limited supply of social rented housing in the County Borough and affordability often being a barrier to home ownership (the average house price being £150,834<sup>22</sup> and the average household income being £25,009<sup>23</sup>), many households are reliant on the private rented sector to meet their housing needs.

Bridgend has over 1100 homes<sup>24</sup> being empty for six months or more at any time and although this is the average level, when compared to the rest of Wales, the number is still too high. Whilst it is accepted that there are homes waiting to be rented or sold, it is the longer term empty homes that are the most urgent to deal with, homes which may be derelict, unfit, severely neglected and in need of substantial repairs. Problematic empty homes become a focus for vandalism, arson, illegal waste, drug and alcohol abuse and other criminal activity as well as being a wasted asset.

Poor quality and poorly maintained housing can have a detrimental impact on the health and wellbeing of occupants and on the quality of life in an area. 60.8% of private sector dwellings in the County Borough require urgent repairs while 72% require basic repairs. The average cost per dwelling of urgent repairs (i.e. those needing to be done within the next year) was £1,226. The average cost per dwelling of basic repairs (i.e. all work needing to be done within the next five years) was £2,144<sup>25</sup>.

It is estimated that a total of 5,864 households in the County Borough are living in unsuitable housing, with overcrowding and support needs / mobility needs being the greatest reason for the home being unsuitable. However, it is likely that some of the unsuitability can be resolved in the current accommodation without a need to move<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> Programme for Government 2011 - 2016

<sup>21</sup> Welsh Government Dwelling Stock Estimates 2013-14

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices-in-Bridgend-County-of.html>

<sup>23</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012

<sup>24</sup> National Performance Indicator 2015-16

<sup>25</sup> Bridgend County Borough council Private Sector House Stock Condition Survey 2009

<sup>26</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012

## What will we focus on?

- **Bringing empty properties back into use** – By bringing an empty property back into use it will; increase the supply of good quality affordable housing; contribute to strong balanced housing markets and community sustainability; give owners choice by improving sales potential or providing rental income rather than allowing properties to become wasted assets; and reduce the risk of vandalism, arson or squatting and the fear of crime. We will continue to promote the take up of empty homes grants and loans schemes.
- **Working with partners to maximise the use of existing stock** – we will seek to actively encourage landlords to make better use of their existing stock, such as creating single person shared housing from the conversion of their empty or difficult to let properties. This will also increase the level of suitable, affordable accommodation to assist in meeting the duties of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

We will explore the re-letting of existing social rented homes as intermediate rent which would diversify the housing mix available in an area and provide greater rental income for private landlords and Housing Associations<sup>27</sup>.

- **Promoting energy efficiency** – improving the condition of housing through more energy efficient measures can improve energy efficiency ratings and thus lower running costs for households. Energy efficient homes can also reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which can help to tackle climate change, exemplifying sustainable development in practice. We will promote energy efficiency measures to households in the County Borough.
- **Improving the conditions of private sector housing** – we will seek to encourage private sector properties to be brought up to a satisfactory standard of repair where possible and economically viable, through the Private Sector Housing Renewal and Disabled Adaptations Policy.

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<sup>27</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012



## Priority 3

### Work with partners to deliver the right type of new housing

#### Why is this important?

*The Welsh Government is committed to increasing the supply and choice<sup>28</sup>.*

The housing market is a major driver of the economy. New house building not only increases the supply of good quality housing, it also creates jobs and generates revenue. We are committed to facilitating more housing in a choice of tenures, types, sizes and locations that meet local needs and is affordable for our residents. This includes social rented housing, intermediate rented housing and low cost home ownership, but could also include specialist accommodation such as extra care housing.

Local Authorities play a key role in stimulating growth in the housing market. Delivering the right type of new housing, in terms of tenure and dwelling size, is essential in order to meet housing need. Providing a sufficient range of accommodation is also essential to adequately house each household type and balance the housing stock. It is anticipated that there are an estimated 7,250 inadequately housed households in the County Borough, the majority being single pensioners and lone parents (the number of lone parent households and single person households is expected to increase)<sup>29</sup>.

The challenge is to deliver the right homes in the right places. In terms of affordable housing, it is important that authorities have an appreciation of the demand for different dwelling sizes and types of housing (i.e. intermediate and social rented) in relation to supply so that an appropriate mix can be negotiated on new sites<sup>30</sup>.

An analysis of the gaps between each tenure shows that there is a large rental gap between the social rented sector and private rented sector, more so in the West and the East of the County Borough than in the North. This indicates that intermediate housing priced within this gap, and set at or below the appropriate Local Housing Allowance, could potentially be useful for a number of households<sup>31</sup>. Intermediate housing is "housing at prices and rents above those of social rent but below market prices or rents"<sup>32</sup>.

There is an estimated annual requirement of 1,762 affordable units per year throughout the County Borough, however, if we assume that households are able to afford to spend a greater proportion of their household income on housing costs, and accept that the private rented sector via Local Housing Allowance is a short-term

<sup>28</sup> Programme for Government 2011 - 2016

<sup>29</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012

<sup>30</sup> Technical Advice Note 2 (TAN2) Planning and Affordable Housing 2006

<sup>31</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012

<sup>32</sup> Technical Advice Note 2 (TAN2) Planning and Affordable Housing 2006

solution to housing those requiring affordable housing, the estimated annual requirement reduces to 292 units per year<sup>33</sup>.

The Bridgend Local Development Plan makes provision for the development of 9,690 new dwellings in Bridgend County Borough up to 2021 to accommodate the anticipated population growth. Of these new dwellings “an appropriate mix of dwelling size, type and tenure including approximately 1,370 units of affordable housing will be delivered through the planning system to meet the needs of the County Borough”<sup>34</sup>.

However, demand on the Bridgend Common Housing Register consistently shows the need for more smaller (one and two bedroom) accommodation and there are concerns with regard to the limited supply of these properties; this is likely to be exacerbated by the potential impact of universal credit and direct payments to households, rather than housing benefit/ rent payments being made direct to landlords.

### **What will we focus on?**

- **Undertaking a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)** – in line with Welsh Government guidance we will undertake a biennial LHMA in order to provide robust housing evidence that will inform future local housing and planning strategies and policies.
- **Undertaking a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)** – delivering the right type of new housing is not just about building new homes. The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requires all local authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. “An understanding of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation issues is essential to make properly planned provision and avoid the problems associated with ad hoc or unauthorised provision”<sup>35</sup>. Historically, Bridgend has been a place through which gypsies and travellers pass en route, along the A48. We have also successfully met need by permitting settled accommodation and permanent pitches through the planning system, enabling better integration of gypsies and travellers with permanent residents, and we believe this to be a good solution for Bridgend. We will take forward the recommendations of the GTAA and seek to meet evidenced future needs in a similar way.
- **Maximising new intermediate rented housing** – we will pursue the development of intermediate rented housing. A number of households could afford intermediate rent at 70% - 80% of the average market rent<sup>36</sup>. The Welsh

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<sup>33</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012

<sup>34</sup> Bridgend Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 p.57

<sup>35</sup> Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments May 2015

<sup>36</sup> Bridgend County Borough Council Local Housing Market Assessment Update 2012

Government's "Rent First" model could be particularly beneficial at providing rented housing at intermediate rents, giving tenants the opportunity to buy their home outright in the future.

- **Ensuring there is provision for low cost home ownership** – we will continue to explore varied models of provision to help people to be able to purchase their own home, especially first time buyers.
- **Maximising the use of Social Housing Grant (SHG) and other grants** – the development of social rented housing in Wales has traditionally been supported by public subsidy in the form of SHG, although the reducing availability of SHG has meant that alternative funding models for affordable housing are increasingly being utilised in many areas. We will seek to maximise the level of SHG and other housing grants together with exploring new and innovative forms of finance in order to increase the numbers of new social and affordable housing.
- **Making best use of Section 106 Agreements to facilitate new accommodation and regeneration** – “Where a local need is demonstrated, the Council will expect an appropriate element of 'affordable housing' to be provided on sites capable of accommodating 5 or more dwellings or exceeding 0.15 hectares in size”<sup>37</sup>. We will continue to maximise the provision of affordable housing on sites. However, where developers cannot provide the required proportion of affordable housing on new developments, monetary payments in lieu of housing provision will be used to develop new affordable housing elsewhere.
- **Ensuring the right type and size of new housing is built** – 67% of applicants on the Bridgend Common Housing Register require a one bed property. Therefore, our focus of development will be to provide small to medium sized properties. However, to ensure sustainability of new developments an appropriate mix will be determined on a site by site basis to reflect the needs of the community.
- **Ensuring there are appropriate services in place** – in determining new social and affordable developments we will ensure that the long term sustainability is addressed. We will ensure that new housing is developed where there are sufficient services, such as access to transport, GPs, health services, schools, shops and access to employment and training.

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<sup>37</sup> Bridgend Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 p.61

## Priority 4

### Help vulnerable people stay as independent, safe and secure as possible in accommodation that meets their needs

#### Why is this important?

*The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring people receive the help they need to live fulfilled lives<sup>38</sup>.*

The Supporting People Programme funds housing related support to help vulnerable people live as independently as possible, for a number of groups, including;

- People fleeing domestic violence
- People with learning disabilities
- People with mental health problems
- People with substance misuse issues
- People with complex needs including ex-offenders
- Vulnerable single young people who require support
- Homeless or potentially homeless people who require support
- Single and teenage parents
- Older people

The pressure on the Supporting People Programme is expected to continue for the foreseeable future which means that plans for the commissioning of new services are likely to be limited and the focus will be on value-for-money efficiencies and innovative support services in order to maximise the impact of the Programme.

Services and support need to be person-centred and focused on the outcomes each individual wants to achieve, building on the strengths and capacity each person can bring. Maximising each person's independence and keeping them connected to their families and communities, where possible, delaying their reliance on more intensive and costly interventions is paramount.<sup>39</sup>

The population is ageing<sup>40</sup> and we need to enable old people to be as self-reliant as possible. Being in the right kind of housing has a huge part to play in this and as our resources diminish, there will be an increasing requirement for older people, supported by their families, to plan appropriately for old age. Together with our partners, we have a key role to play in facilitating the delivery of more accessible accommodation, suitable for an ageing population. Historically, we have been used to thinking about this in terms of smaller accommodation, but in future, we may also need to think about larger family accommodation, with separate but linked older

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<sup>38</sup> Programme for Government 2011 - 2016

<sup>39</sup> Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

<sup>40</sup> Welsh Government 2014 Mid-year Population Estimates for Wales

person's accommodation, i.e. the 'granny flat'. The Private Sector Housing Renewal & Disabled Adaptations Policy recognises that people wish to remain as independent as possible in their own homes and therefore makes provision for financial assistance in order to carry out both minor and large scale adaptation works.

Addressing poverty and deprivation is fundamental in helping vulnerable people stay as independent as possible in accommodation that best meets their needs. Welfare reforms can have a major impact on young people living in low income households and poor housing and worklessness impact on the lives of people in the most disadvantaged areas.

A clear link has been shown between levels of deprivation and the health of the population, as people in deprived areas tend to age quicker, develop diseases earlier and die younger. Qualitative evidence of the extent to which the population of the County Borough suffers from poor health is provided in the Authority's Local Housing Market Assessment 2009. The highest categories of households needing support are shown as those having a physical disability, medical condition, and frail older people. Promoting good health, both mental and physical can, therefore prevent more intensive and costly services.

The promotion of good wellbeing, for example, access to green spaces, access to parks, local shops, and transport (for employment) can help mitigate poor mental and physical health. The availability of such amenities is important for all areas of the County Borough and not just for those that have higher levels of deprivation. Ensuring that people are not fearful of accessing public space and facilities in their communities and can enjoy their own home environment without fear of disturbance or harassment is also essential.

We live in increasingly diverse communities where both ethnic and generational differences are present. Our communities consist of people with different experiences, cultures and backgrounds, and it is important that we live alongside each other with mutual understanding and respect. This is often referred to as community cohesion.

A cohesive community is one where hostility, prejudice and discrimination are not accepted, where everyone has a strong sense of belonging, and most importantly, where everyone is safe<sup>41</sup>, within and between communities.

The Welsh Government specifically wants to<sup>42</sup>:

- Address the level of crime and fear of crime
- Address harm associated with substance misuse
- Address and prevent of young offending
- Improve safety in communities

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<sup>41</sup> Community Cohesion National Delivery Plan 2011 - 2016

<sup>42</sup> Programme for Government 2011 - 2016

- Improve the resilience of communities

Bridgend is a low crime area and has seen significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour since 2009; however we continue to work to address levels of crime and anti-social behaviour through early engagement and effective partnership working.

Not all anti-social behaviour is criminal in its nature, however all anti-social behaviour increases fear of crime and reduces their confidence that crime is being tackled. Whilst addressing anti-social behaviour is not solely a housing issue, as a key member of the Community Safety Partnership, we need to jointly monitor, share views, resources, engage and build trust with communities, promote positive behaviour and respond to anti-social issues appropriately.<sup>43</sup>

### What will we focus on?

- **Ensuring the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan (LCP) is designed to meet the needs of vulnerable people** – we will review the LCP to ensure that appropriate housing related support services are commissioned to meet the spectrum of needs of vulnerable people, in order to help them to attain and retain the skills and confidence to obtain and sustain accommodation. We will recommission services to achieve greater value for money whilst providing a level of support to enable those supported to gain greater independence.
- **Developing a single access point into supported housing (The Gateway)** - it has been recognised that a more co-ordinated approach to allocating supported housing vacancies is required to ensure that the needs of individuals are better matched to placements. We will develop a single access point into supported housing, floating support services and move-on to independent accommodation.
- **Redevelopment of the Council's homelessness hostel** – the current homelessness hostel is approaching the end of its useful operable life in its current form; repair costs are mounting and in order to bring it up to modern standards, considerable expenditure will be required. We will seek, in partnership with housing association partners, to pursue the re-provision of the hostel to ensure that it meets modern standards and is flexible for the changing needs and requirements of those requiring emergency accommodation.
- **Developing older person housing** – Bridgend has an increasing population of older persons for whom suitable accommodation is in limited supply. In line with local and national policy we will seek to enable older persons to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible in their own homes. In this we recognise the need to develop flexible services to ensure the most effective use

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<sup>43</sup> The Wales Housing Management Standard for Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour 2008

of the resources available. We will seek to develop suitable older person accommodation to meet these needs, such as the provision of Extra Care housing, similar to that already provided at the Llys Ton Extra Care scheme in Kenfig Hill.

- **Providing appropriate adaptations in the home** – The Private Sector Housing Renewal and Disabled Adaptations Policy sets out the assistance provided by the Council and its partners to address poor and hazardous housing conditions and to enable the homes of disabled and elderly people to be adapted to meet their needs. We will review the assistance we provide to ensure it is appropriate and suitable to meet the needs of households accessing our services so that they can remain in their own homes and maximise their independence.
- **Addressing poverty** – we will seek to promote and maximise financial inclusion and digital inclusion, to raise the aspirations of communities and give them opportunities they may not have had i.e. employment and training opportunities, confidence raising, basic skills support. We will utilise programmes such as Communities First, Families First, Flying Start to assist in tackling persistent poverty and the causes of poverty – this also links with “take reasonable steps to prevent homelessness” housing priority.
- **Reducing fuel poverty** – the high cost of energy can make a real difference to people on low incomes. We will raise awareness and educate households so they can help themselves and understand the tools they need to manage their energy consumption, for example, smart meters or shopping around for the best energy prices.
- **Delivering community cohesion** – we will work towards delivering the outcomes of the national Community Cohesion Plan by increasing awareness of cohesion issues such as hate crime and anti-social behaviour. We will work towards increased reporting of these issues when they occur, and seek to break down misconceptions, tackle negative stereotypes and build good relationships. We will ensure effective cohesion that reflects the diversity of the County Borough through our policies and services.

## Priority 5

### Create sustainable town centres through housing led regeneration

#### Why is this important?

*The Welsh Government is committed to support housing-led regeneration in communities<sup>44</sup>.*

Housing, whatever the tenure, is a major contributor to physical and community regeneration. Town centre living is a marker of urban renaissance. Evidence suggests that the growth of town centre living reflects underlying performance and accelerates it. Town centre living is part of a package of regeneration measures: flats, shops, offices, public space.

New housing can help to improve town centres, central neighbourhoods become safer and more vibrant and town centre residents help blur the edges between the daytime and evening economies. Residents in town centres help the local service economy, particularly restaurants and bars and although they make up a relatively small share of total spending, they help attract more businesses into the area, and with them, more visitors. Bridgend town centre in particular has a number of vacant properties which could be better utilised and help to portray a more positive image of the town centre.

There are also some wider catalyst effects of such housing on the labour and investment markets. Renewed town centres help graduate retention and support the growth of key sectors that rely on a supply of skilled workers. Investor interest is also informed by economic progress and projections of future growth.

There is scope to maximise the development of town centres for key workers and prospective first time buyers, however developers should provide a mix of flats and larger, family-friendly housing around the edges of the core town centres to ensure longer term sustainability of the area.

Equidistant between Cardiff and Swansea, Bridgend town centre is an investment priority for regeneration and has recently received £5.9m under the Welsh Government's Vibrant and Viable Places Programme. The funds will be supported by public and private investment and will be used to develop the Rhiw Gateway in partnership with a housing association. The Rhiw Gateway has four elements:

- delivery of affordable town centre homes;
- improvement of temporary and permanent parking to help the Town Centre to compete with out-of-town retail parks;

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<sup>44</sup> Programme for Government 2011 - 2016



- improvements to the traditional indoor market, which will help support local jobs and small businesses; and
- a new retail/community/arts space.

A mixed use regeneration scheme is planned on the waterfront in Porthcawl. The scheme will involve 1050 new dwellings for the whole of the Porthcawl Waterfront up to 2021, with an additional 300 dwellings anticipated to be delivered beyond this. New retail, leisure and commercial development is also proposed.

There is an outline planning consent which includes 20% affordable housing in Phase 1 of the scheme.

In Maesteg, a mixed use regeneration scheme is being developed on the former Revlon factory site, involving over 100 new homes and retail and commercial uses. Added to this, work is underway, supported by a Welsh Government loan, to remediate land for housing uses.

### **What will we focus on?**

- **Encouraging the regeneration of Bridgend town centre and its periphery –** we will support the Vibrant & Viable Places Programme by seeking to increase the supply and standards of housing in Bridgend town centre, through the encouragement of new developments and the conversion of existing units, in partnership with housing associations and the private sector. In particular, we will work in partnership to target corporately identified properties in the town centre and utilise available funding to enhance its viability and vitality, for example by bringing empty flats above shops back into use via the Homes in Towns Grant (HITs).
- **Encouraging the regeneration of Porthcawl town centre and its periphery -** the regeneration of Porthcawl town centre and its periphery, and in particular the coastal frontage, is a key element in the future development of the area as a sustainable seaside resort. This will be achieved through a combination of quality design of buildings and the surrounding environment, comprising residential, leisure, cultural, tourism and retail uses. We will seek to encourage the development of housing both in the private sector and through local housing association developments. We will continue to promote the take up of empty homes grants and loans schemes.
- **Encouraging the regeneration of Maesteg town centre and its periphery –** Building on the work undertaken to regenerate the Maesteg market and town centre we will continue to support this regeneration through encouraging the private sector and housing associations where a housing need is identified. Our focus will be on the Ewenny Road, Llynderw School and western plateau sites. We will also continue to promote the take up of empty homes grants and loans schemes.

- **Working closely with housing association partners** – Bridgend has a good record of partnership working and innovation when it comes to housing development and has a strong history of attracting additional finance and income for housing development and investment in the County Borough. We will encourage our partner housing associations to produce more affordable homes within the town centre areas through various sources of funding, including Social Housing Grant and Section 106 contributions.
- **Promoting brownfield regeneration over greenfield new build** – the reuse of brownfield and under-utilised land is viewed as key to creating a more sustainable pattern of development. We will seek to promote the development of land within urban areas, especially on previously developed brownfield sites, before considering the development of greenfield sites<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Bridgend Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021

## **7.0 Monitoring progress**

The Regeneration and Development Business Plan will specify the actions and performance indicators, which will contribute towards achieving the priorities within this strategy. The business plan is prepared on a 3 year cycle and updated each year. The actions within the plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis, and those of corporate importance will be reported to Cabinet through the quarterly Corporate Performance Assessment.

The Community, Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CEL) will receive regular updates on performance against key indicators and project milestones.

The strategy will be reviewed in 2018, following the production of the Local Housing Market Assessment, to ensure that it reflects the housing needs of the borough.

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

#### REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

#### APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for the appointment of Local Authority (LA) governors to the school governing bodies listed in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 below.

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

- 2.1 The work of LA governors supports the raising of educational standards and the well-being of children, young people and their local communities. In particular, their work contributes to the corporate priority:
- Working together to raise ambition and drive up educational achievement.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 In accordance with the council's 'Guidance on the appointment of local education authority governors' approved by Cabinet on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007 , an officer panel from the Children's Directorate met on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to consider applications received for current and forthcoming vacancies of LA Governors on governing bodies (see 4.1, 4.2 & Appendix A). The officer panel scrutinised all application forms.

##### 4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 For the 10 schools below, the 11 applicants met the approved criteria for appointment as LA governors and there was no competition for any of the vacancies. Therefore, the recommended appointments are:

Pastor David Rhodes	Blaengarw Primary School
Mrs Christine Lynne Wake	Brynmenyn Primary School
Gareth Pope	Brynmenyn Primary School
Michelle Hatcher	Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen
Pastor Paul Evans	Corneli Primary School
Cllr Clive James	Cynffig Comprehensive School
Cllr Clive James	Mynydd Cynffig Primary School
Miss Jane Hughes	Oldcastle Primary School
Cllr Alexander Owen	Pencoed Primary School
Cllr Sean Aspey	Porthcawl Comprehensive School
Mrs Elizabeth Blake	West Park Primary School

- 4.2 There was competition, however, for vacancies at two schools. The officer panel scrutinised the applications received and recommended the following appointments:

NAME OF SCHOOL	APPLICANTS
Llangynwyd Primary	Mr Fadhel Abedalkarim Mr John Keith Waldin
In line with the Council's selection criteria, it was agreed to recommend Mr John Keith Waldin based on his attendance record at governing body meetings in the previous two years.	

NAME OF SCHOOL	APPLICANTS
Archbishop McGrath	Mr Kevin Pascoe Cllr Hailey Townsend
In line with the Council's selection criteria, it was agreed to recommend Cllr Hailey Townsend based on her being the local ward member for part of the school's catchment area.	

- 4.3 Subject to the above appointments being approved, there are still 18 vacancies that need to be filled (see Appendix A).

## 5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the Policy Framework or Procedure rules.

## 6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An assessment of the appointment of Local Authority governors shows that there are no equalities issues related to this report.

## 7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

## 8. Recommendation

- 8.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the appointments listed in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2.

**Deborah McMillan**  
**Director of Education and Transformation**  
**October 2015**

**Contact Officer:** Sarah-Jayne James  
Governor Support Officer

**Telephone:** (01656) 642650

**E-mail:** Sarah-Jayne.James@bridgend.gov.uk

**Postal Address** Children's Directorate  
Bridgend County Borough Council  
Sunnyside  
Bridgend  
CF31 4AR

**Background documents**

- Bridgend County Borough Council's 'Guidance on the appointment of local education authority governors', approved by Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007. .
- The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005.

## List of LA Governor vacancies up until December 2015

<b>NAME OF SCHOOL</b>	<b>List of Current &amp; Forthcoming Vacancies</b>
<b>BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE</b>	1
<b>YGG LLANGYNWYD</b>	1
<b>AFON Y FELIN PRIMARY</b>	1
<b>BETWS PRIMARY</b>	1
<b>BRYNTIRION INFANTS</b>	2
<b>FFALDAU PRIMARY</b>	1
<b>NANTYMOEL PRIMARY</b>	1
<b>OLDCASTLE PRIMARY</b>	2
<b>PENYFAI PRIMARY</b>	2
<b>PORTHCAWL PRIMARY</b>	1
<b>ST MARYS PRIMARY</b>	1 (from December)
<b>ST ROBERTS PRIMARY</b>	1
<b>YSGOL CWM GARW</b>	1
<b>YSGOL BRO OGWR</b>	1
<b>YSGOL Y FERCH O'R SGER</b>	1
<b>TOTAL VACANCIES</b>	<b>18</b>



## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

**INSPIRE 2 ACHIEVE & INSPIRE 2 WORK IS A JOINT OPERATION BETWEEN REGIONAL PARTNERS BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (LEAD BENEFICIARY) AND BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (JOINT BENEFICIARY) FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval from Cabinet to deliver a joint regional project with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council funded through the European Social Fund (ESF) under Priority 3 – Youth Employment and Attainment.

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

- 2.1 The proposed Inspire operations contribute to the following corporate priorities of the council: -
- Working together to develop the local economy
  - Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement
  - Working with children and families to tackle problems early
  - Working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 In December 2013, Cabinet authorised Council officers to continue working on collaborative proposals in more detail with a view to submitting project applications for European funding support under the 2014 – 2020 programmes.
- 3.2 In December 2014, Welsh Government published *ESF West Wales and the Valleys Operational Programme*, developed around three inter-related Priority Axes which will deliver complementary action in support of the overall aims and objectives of the ESF programmes in Wales, which are:
- Priority Axis 1 - Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment;
  - Priority Axis 2 - Skills for Growth;
  - Priority Axis 3 - Youth Employment and Attainment
- 3.3 In January 2015, Bridgend County Borough Council began preliminary discussions about a regional collaboration, initially through the Specialist European Team (SET) and later including the Engagement and Progression Coordinator and 14 – 19 Curriculum Coordinator. The aim of this collaboration was to develop a project to meet the specific objectives set out under ESF Priority 3 – Youth Employment and Attainment.

- 3.4 There are two strands to the proposal, Inspire 2 Achieve and Inspire 2 Work. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is the Lead Beneficiary for both strands of the operation; however, due to the nature of the work being developed under each proposal, the joint beneficiaries differ, as illustrated by the table below:

<b>Inspire 2 Achieve</b>	
<b>Beneficiary Status</b>	<b>Name of Beneficiary</b>
Lead	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Joint	Bridgend County Borough Council
	Caerphilly County Borough Council
	Coleg y Cymoedd
	Coleg Gwent
	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
	College Merthyr Tydfil
	Torfaen County Borough Council
	Careers Wales

<b>Inspire 2 Work</b>	
<b>Beneficiary Status</b>	<b>Name of Beneficiary</b>
Lead	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Joint	Bridgend County Borough Council
	Bridgend College
	Caerphilly County Borough Council
	Coleg y Cymoedd
	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
	Torfaen County Borough Council

- 3.5 Both Inspire operations have been developed to align with the work already implemented within each authority under the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (YE&PF), which supports the identification, tracking and mapping of services and outcomes for young people from education into employment. This alignment will ensure a consistent approach when supporting young people at risk of becoming Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET).

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

##### Inspire 2 Achieve

- 4.1 The proposal for Inspire 2 Achieve (I2A) is to seek a three year operation, to contribute to ESF Priority 3 Youth Employment and Attainment; The specific objective is to reduce the number of young people aged 11- 24 at risk of becoming Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET).
- 4.2 Inspire 2 Achieve is designed to identify and address the needs of those most at risk of disengagement, and support them to reintegrate into mainstream education provision or alternative curriculum models. Throughout the course of the funding, the operation will target early intervention for those most at risk across the 11 – 24 year old age range and aim to work with a total of 1110 participants, broken down as follows:

- 11 – 16 year olds at most risk of becoming NEET (as identified through Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) Early Identification process) (*660 young people*).
  - 16 – 18 year olds at most risk of becoming NEET (as identified through the Careers Wales 5 Tier Model of Engagement) (*400 young people*).
  - Vulnerable 19 – 24 year olds e.g. young parents, care leavers or young offenders (as identified through partnership forums made up of statutory, voluntary and third sector organisations) (*50 young people*).
- 4.3 As part of the I2A operation, the proposal is for a combined team of 5 full time staff to be employed solely through ESF grant funding. The team will be made up of:
- 1 x Finance, Quality and Performance Officer (split 50% between each Inspire operation)
  - 1 x Administrator (split 50% between each Inspire operation)
  - 1 x Senior Engagement Worker
  - 1 x Psychology Support Worker
  - 2 x Life Skills and Participation Worker
  - 1 x Senior Post-16 Lead Worker
  - 5 x Post-16 Lead Worker
- 4.4 The I2A operation has a clear focus on retention of those identified as ‘at risk’ within education, which is aligned to the successful work already being delivered by the authority under the Youth Engagement & Progression Framework. The inclusion of I2A staff will ensure interventions aimed at identifying individual barriers and supportive actions to reduce risk will continue into post-16 education, employment and training providers. There are a number of partners that will benefit from the Inspire projects and these include schools, FE colleges and Careers Wales.
- 4.5 As a joint beneficiary Bridgend County Borough Council through the I2A operation will contribute towards regional level common result indicators, which are:
- Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11 – 24) gaining qualifications upon leaving
  - Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11 – 24) in education or training upon leaving
  - Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11 – 24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving
- 4.6 More recently, the I2A operation has agreed to include within its delivery plans the former Real Opportunities (young people identified as most at risk who have Additional Learning Needs and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorder) and Careers Wales ‘Activate your Potential’ (young people 11 – 16 years old requiring work related/focused activities) operations. It is not anticipated that a separate model of delivery will be adopted, although specialist support will now be provided where necessary. The integration of these two operations into I2A has enhanced the support available to participants, whilst removing duplication and competition between the three operations.

Inspire 2 Work

- 4.7 The proposal for Inspire 2 Work (I2W) is to seek a three year operation, to contribute to ESF Priority 3 Youth Employment and Attainment; The specific objective is to reduce the number of 16 – 24 year olds who are NEET.
- 4.8 I2W is designed to identify and address the needs of NEET 16 -24 year olds and bring about their sustainable integration into the labour market, thereby contributing to a reduction in youth unemployment. Over the course of the operation, the proposal is to work with a total of 375 participants, broken down as follows:
- 16 – 18 year olds who are NEET (as identified through the Careers Wales 5 Tier Model of Engagement) (150 young people)
  - 19 – 24 year olds who are NEET – (225 young people)
- 4.9 As part of the I2W operation, the proposal is for a combined team of 5 full time staff to be employed solely through ESF grant funding. The team will be made up of:
- 1 x Finance, Quality and Performance Officer (split 50% between each Inspire operation)
  - 1 x Administrator (split 50% between each Inspire operation)
  - 1 x Work Experience Coordinator
  - 1 x Basic Skills Officer
  - 1 x Employment Liaison Officer
- 4.10 This operation will target unemployed and economically inactive young people from across Bridgend, offering a person-centred approach to determine barriers to sustained engagement in the labour market. The person-centred approach will allow individuals who are ready to work and those who are further away from the labour market to receive appropriate support.
- 4.11 As a joint beneficiary, Bridgend County Borough Council through the I2W project will contribute towards regional level common result indicators, which are:
- NEET Participants (16 - 24 years old) gaining qualifications upon leaving
  - NEET Participants (16 - 24 years old) in education/training upon leaving
  - NEET Participants (16 - 24 years old) in entering employment upon leaving

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

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 No Equality Impact Assessment has been completed to date.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Project costs for the additional staff detailed in sections 4.3 and 4.9 will be fully funded through the European Social Fund, however, there will also be contributions made to the salaries of a number of existing staff involved with the management of the two operations and associated staff, for the duration of the project. These will be:

- 50% contribution towards the annual salary of the Central Hub Manager
- 50% contribution towards the annual salary of the Engagement and Progression Coordinator (EPC)
- 25% contribution towards the annual salary of the Families First and ESF Finance Coordinator

7.2 The Central Hub Manager post and EPC role are integral to ongoing service delivery contributions, and therefore will not be put forward as savings for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). As with previous EU funded programmes, there is a requirement for funding from Families First to match the funding from ESF monies. For the two delivery strands of the operation, this is sourced from:

#### Inspire 2 Achieve

	15/16 £	16/17 £	17/18 £	18/19 £	TOTAL £
Families First	36,106	86,654	-		122,760
Education Improvement Grant (EIG)	48,141	115,539	115,539	57,769	336,988
TOTAL MATCH CONTRIBUTION	84,247	202,193	115,539	57,769	459,748

The Welsh Government, Families First Grant is only approved currently until March 2016. However, there is a planned extension until March 2017. This will be confirmed later this year.

The Education Improvement Grant (EIG) is proposed to be delegated to schools from 2016/17 onwards; however Head teachers have pledged their support to continue the funding of the roles through the EIG as these roles have a critical role in reducing the number of NEETS in the borough.

#### Inspire 2 Work

	15/16 £	16/17 £	17/18 £	18/19 £	TOTAL £
Youth Strategy Grant	36,106	86,654	86,654	43,327	252,741

The Welsh Government Youth Work Support Grant is currently approved up to March 2016. However this grant is planned for an annual renewal for the duration of the Inspire 2 Work operation.

There is a risk to the authority that some of the match funding streams detailed above could be reduced or removed. Should this materialise, the directorate will consider alternative funding sources.

Families First staff included within the delivery model of Inspire 2 Work will transfer to the ESF project from April 2017.

7.3 Through the European Community's "Simplified Cost" model, the project will be able to claim up to 40% on its direct eligible staff costs to meet all other costs. This will provide the authority with additional funding to meet other Project related costs that occur outside of direct salary costs. However, fundamental to this ability to claim

40% overhead on the project will be meeting the staff budgeted costs throughout the project.

- 7.4 In line with other EU funded programmes, the statutory redundancy costs relating to the period during which staff are employed in the delivery of the project will be met from within project funds. Where contracts for the project extend beyond project delivery dates, any associated non-statutory redundancy/compensatory payments will have to be met from outside of the ESF allocated funds.

## **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 Cabinet is recommended to authorise the Corporate Director, Education and Transformation to continue with the proposed delivery plan for the Inspire operations in Bridgend, and in consultation with the Corporate Director, Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services, to enter into the necessary agreements with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (Lead Beneficiary) and Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) on behalf of the Council.

**Contact Officer:** Owen Shepherd  
Engagement and Progression Coordinator

**Telephone:** (01656) 642697

**E-mail:** [owen.shepherd@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:owen.shepherd@bridgend.gov.uk)

### **Background documents:**

ESF West Wales and the Valleys Operational Programme

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

### REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES

#### WEBCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet regarding the progress that has been made in respect of the implementation of webcasting for meetings of Cabinet, Council and its Committees.

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

- 2.1.1 The development of a live webcasting facility will enable greater engagement with the public, meet the requirements of the “On Balance: Diversifying Democracy in Local Government in Wales” report. Webcasting will also meet some of the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and assist in the delivery of all Corporate Priorities.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 A webcast is a transmission of audio and video over the Internet, akin to a television programme, enabling the public to watch meetings from any location with internet access.
- 3.2 It has been identified that the following benefits can be achieved from the broadcasting of public meetings. These include:
- Transparent governance and accountability
  - Citizen engagement and understanding of the democratic process for example understanding of planning decisions
  - Enables the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 requirement for engaging public in Scrutiny
  - Incentive for high standards of member attendance, engagement and conduct at meetings
  - Effective means of communicating to officers and other members information and decisions. Archived meetings could also be a useful part of officer induction and training.
  - Opportunities for members to learn from peer observation and inform potential candidates about their role to encourage democratic renewal.
- 3.3 On 30 April 2014, Council approved the recording and broadcasting of meetings and approved initial proposals to take forward the webcasting of meetings

#### 4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 In July 2014, Elected Members attended the Webcasting Member Development sessions provided by the WLGA. These sessions provided Elected Members and officers with background on the aims and intentions of webcasting and highlighted its potential benefits and pitfalls.
- 4.2 Council agreed that to reduce the cost of implementation and operation, the Council Chamber would be used for all webcasts. As a result, work was carried out to improve the displays and update some of the presentation systems within the Council Chamber. In November 2014 a pilot webcast took place as a proof of concept.
- 4.3 Information identified during the Member development sessions and the webcasting pilot was added to the requirements for the provision of a webcasting service for the Authority.
- 4.4 Quotes were invited to provide 150 hours of webcasts over a 3 year period. A number of quotes were received and assessed on a 60% quality and 40% cost basis.
- 4.5 The supplier was awarded the contract and the implementation plans have been put in place. These include the installation of the webcasting control system in October 2015 which will allow the Democratic Services Team to set up, record and manage webcasts. The hours available for webcasting can be used at the discretion of the Authority over the 3 year period. An initial plan was developed for the delivery of webcasting but due to the uncertainty regarding the implementation of the Welsh Language Standards the plan was put on hold until clarification had been received.
- 4.6 The requirements for the simultaneous translation of committee meetings is now expected to be implemented from 30 March 2016. Therefore, it is planned that a technical test of the webcasting service will be undertaken in December 2015 and following a successful webcast it is proposed that further webcasts of formal committee meetings will be undertaken from January 2016.
- 4.7 Therefore, an initial plan based on a formal Committee meeting lasting 3 hours is being proposed which will enable many of the public formal Committees to be webcast before 30 Mar 2016.

Date(s)	Committee	Planned Duration in Hours	Running Total Hours
05 Jan 2016	Children & Young People OSC (School Performance)	3	3
07 Jan 2016	Development Control	3	6
14 Jan 2016	Partnerships & Governance OSC (Budget)	3	9
27 Jan 2016	Community Environment & Leisure OSC	3	12
28 Jan 2016	Audit Committee	3	15
05 Feb 2016	Corporate Resources & Improvement OSC (Budget)	3	18
11 Feb 2016	Adult Social Care OSC	3	21
18 Feb 2016	Development Control	3	24
01 Mar 2016	Cabinet (Budget)	3	27
10 Mar 2016	Council (Budget)	3	30

- 4.8 The Development Control Committee is a regulatory Committee and currently has a



higher level of public interest than other committees which is why it is proposed that two meetings of this committee be webcast during this period.

- 4.9 The statistics from all webcast meetings will be monitored and recorded. Viewing figures for live and archived viewings will subsequently be reported and these figures will be used to identify the future level of webcast allocations to Committees.
- 4.10 Additional webcasting refresher training will be provided to members and officers. Training sessions have been provisionally arranged for 4 January 2016 and a repeat session will be held on 25 January 2016.
- 4.11 It is anticipated that progress will be made on the provision of dual language webcasts and a subsequent report will be presented to Council with proposals for webcasting following the implementation of the updated Welsh Language Standards.
- 4.12 Following approval of this proposal and the completion of a successful technical test appropriate promotion will be undertaken on the Authority's social media sites to highlight the forthcoming webcasts.

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

- 5.1 There will be no immediate effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules but as a result of the development of the webcasting of meetings the procedure rules may need to be amended accordingly.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications in respect of this report. However as part of the ongoing development for the recording and publishing of meetings an assessment will be undertaken in respect of the Welsh Language and other equalities requirements needed to progress this matter.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Funding for the provision of webcasting is being met from a Welsh Government grant. Some funding from existing budgets will be needed to provide the additional training as identified in Paragraph 4.10. Additional funding may be required to deliver dual language webcasting to meet the Welsh Language Standards and this will be considered as part of the overall Medium Term Financial Strategy.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1 That Cabinet considers the content of this report and approves the implementation of webcasting for meetings of Cabinet.

**P A Jolley**  
**Assistant Chief Executive – Legal & Regulatory Services**  
**20 November 2015**

**Contact Officer:** Gary Jones

Head of Democratic Services

**Telephone:** (01656) 643385

**E-mail:** [Gary.Jones@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:Gary.Jones@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Postal Address** Democratic Services,  
Civic Offices  
Angel Street  
Bridgend.  
CF31 4WB

**Background Documents:** None

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

#### REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

##### INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING

##### 1. Purpose of Report .

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the Information Reports and minutes of Joint Committees which have been published since its last scheduled meeting.

##### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives.

- 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 At a previous meeting of Cabinet, it was resolved to approve a revised procedure for the presentation to Cabinet of information Reports for noting.

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

##### 4.1 Information Reports

- 4.2 The following information reports have been published since the last meeting of Cabinet.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Published</u>
Half-Year Treasury Management Report 2015-16	18 November 2015
Corneli Primary School Progress	18 November 2015
LA Support for Headteacher Appointments	18 November 2015
Progress Report on the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service	18 November 2015

##### 4.3 Minutes for Noting

The minutes of the following Joint Committee have been published since the last meeting of Cabinet.

Coychurch Crematorium of 10 June 2015	18 November 2015
---------------------------------------	------------------

4.4 Availability of Documents

4.5 The documents have been circulated to Elected Members electronically via Email and placed on the BCBC website. Hard copies of the reports have been placed in the Members Room for information and are available on request from Cabinet and Committee Services. The documents have been available from the date of publication.

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

5.1 This procedure has been adopted within the procedure rules of the Constitution.

**6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no negative equality implications arising from this report.

**7. Financial Implications.**

7.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

**8. Recommendation.**

8.1 That Cabinet acknowledges the publication of the documents listed in this report.

**P A Jolley**

**Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services**

**17 November 2015**

**Contact Officer: Andrew Rees  
Senior Democratic Services Officer – Committees**

**Telephone: (01656) 643147**

**Email: [cabinet\\_committee@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk)**

**Postal address: Cabinet & Committee Services  
Legal & Regulatory Services  
Civic Offices  
Angel Street  
Bridgend  
CF31 4WB**

**Background documents:** Reports referred to in this covering report.

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

#### HALF-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2015-16

#### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- Comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2011 Edition (the Code) to report as part of a mid-year review an overview of treasury activities;
- Report on the projected Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2015-16;
- Inform Cabinet of the proposed changes to the Investment Strategy 2015-16 included in the Treasury Management Strategy.

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

2.1 The Treasury Management Report is integral to the delivery of the Corporate Improvement Objectives as the allocation of resources determines the extent to which the Corporate Objectives can be delivered.

#### 3. Background

3.1 The Council's Treasury Management activities are regulated by the Local Government Act 2003 which provides the powers to borrow and invest as well as providing controls and limits on this activity. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, develops the controls and powers within the Act.

3.2 The Council is required to operate the overall treasury function with regard to the Code and this was formally adopted by the Council in February 2012. This includes a requirement for the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) before the start of each financial year which sets out the Council's and Chief Financial Officer's responsibilities, delegation, and reporting arrangements. Council approved the TMS 2015-16 on 25 February 2015.

3.3 The Welsh Government (WG) issued revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments in April 2010, which requires the Council to approve an Investment Strategy prior to the start of each financial year and this is included in the TMS.

3.4 The Council is also required to undertake any borrowing activity with regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Council's adoption and implementation of both the Prudential Code and the Code of Practice

for Treasury Management means that its capital expenditure is prudent, affordable and sustainable, and its treasury practices demonstrate a low risk approach.

3.5 This report covers the following areas:

- The Council's treasury position for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015
- Borrowing Strategy 2015-16
- Borrowing Outturn for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015
- Investment Strategy 2015-16
- Investment Outturn for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015
- Review of the Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16
- Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2015-16

#### 4. Current Situation

4.1.1 The treasury position for 1 April to 30 September 2015:

		Principal as at 01-04-15	Average Rate	Principal as at 30-9--15	Average Rate
		£m	%	£m	%
Fixed rate long term funding	PWLB*	77.62	4.70	77.62	4.70
Variable rate long term funding	PWLB*	-	-	-	-
	LOBO**	19.25	4.65	19.25	4.65
<b>Total Long Term External Borrowing***</b>		<b>96.87</b>	<b>4.69</b>	<b>96.87</b>	<b>4.69</b>
Other Long Term Liabilities*** (including PFI)		21.58		23.62	
<b>TOTAL GROSS DEBT</b>		<b>118.45</b>		<b>120.49</b>	
Fixed rate investments		18.00	0.51	35.60	0.42
Variable rate investments		1.50	0.50	6.20	0.63
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS****</b>		<b>19.50</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>41.80</b>	<b>0.45</b>
<b>TOTAL NET DEBT</b>		<b>98.95</b>		<b>78.69</b>	

\* Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

\*\* Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO)

\*\*\* Long term borrowing include all instruments with an initial term of 365 days or more and long term liabilities includes the short term element of the liability

\*\*\*\* The investment totals include instant access deposit accounts which are included as "Cash" in the Council's balance sheet in the Statement of Accounts and also investments shown as "Cash Equivalents" in the Council's balance sheet that mature in 1 month or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value

Fixed rate in the above table includes instruments which are due to mature in the year

4.1.2 The £19.25 million is due to mature in 2054, and relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which may be re-scheduled in advance of this maturity date. The LOBO rate and term may vary in the future depending upon the prevailing market rates, the lender exercising their option to increase rates at one of the bi-annual trigger points (the next trigger date being January 2016 however it is not expected to be repaid on this date) and therefore, the Council being given the option to accept the increase or to repay the loan without incurring a penalty. The current average interest rate for these LOBO's is 4.65% compared to the PWLB Loans average interest rate of 4.70%.

4.1.3 The long term liabilities figure of £23.62 million at 30 September 2015 includes £19.04 million for the Council's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement (for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg) and a new Long Term Liability of £2.40 million relating to a loan from the WG Central Capital Retained Fund for regeneration works within the Llynfi Valley.

4.1.4 It should be noted that the accounting practice required to be followed by the Council requires financial instruments in the accounts (debt and investments) to be measured in a method compliant with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The figures shown in the above table and throughout the report are based on the actual amounts borrowed and invested and so may differ from those in the Statement of Accounts which include accrued interest or are stated at fair value in different instances.

4.1.5 The Council's Treasury Management Advisers are currently Arlingclose and the services provided to the Council include:-

- advice and guidance on relevant policies, strategies and reports,
- advice on investment decisions,
- notification of credit ratings and changes,
- other information on credit quality,
- advice on debt management decisions,
- accounting advice,
- reports on treasury performance,
- forecasts of interest rates, and
- training courses.

## **4.2 Borrowing Strategy and Outturn for 1 April to 30 September 2015**

4.2.1 The Bank Rate started the financial year at 0.50% and remained at that level from 1 April to 30 September 2015. It is currently expected that it will remain at that level for the remainder of the 2015-16 financial year.

- 4.2.2 The Council's primary objective for the management of its debt is to ensure its long term affordability. The majority of its loans have therefore been borrowed from the PWLB at long term fixed rates of interest.
- 4.2.3 With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short term to either borrow short term loans or use internal resources. Short term and variable rate loans expose the Council to the risk of short term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the limit on the net exposure to variable interest rates as shown in the treasury management indicators in **Appendix A**. However, with long term rates forecast to rise in the coming years, any such short term savings will need to be balanced against the potential longer-term costs. The Council's Treasury Management advisers assist the Council with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis.
- 4.2.4 No long or short term borrowing has been taken during the period 1 April to 30 September 2015 and it is not expected that there will be a requirement for any long term borrowing in the second half of 2015-16, however for cash-flow purposes short term borrowing may be required. Market conditions have meant that there has been no loan rescheduling so far this year, however, in conjunction with Arlingclose, the loan portfolio will be reviewed for any potential savings as a result of any loan rescheduling.

### **4.3 Investment Strategy 2015-16 (Extract from TMS 2015-16)**

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

The major objectives to be followed in 2015-16 are:-

- To maintain capital security;
- To maintain liquidity so funds are available when expenditure is needed;
- To achieve the yield on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

- 4.3.2 The Annual Investment Strategy incorporated in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16 includes the credit ratings defined for each category of investments and the liquidity of investments. The Council's investments have historically been placed in short term bank and building society unsecured deposits and local and central government, however, investments may be made with any public or private sector organisations that meet the minimum credit criteria specified in the Investment Strategy.
- 4.3.3 Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poor's. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. In the current climate, relying mainly on credit



ratings is considered to be inappropriate and the Council understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may meet the credit rating criteria.

4.3.4 A half year review of the Annual Investment Strategy will be undertaken and any changes will be reported to Council.

#### 4.4 Investment Outturn for 1 April to 30 September 2015

4.4.1 On a day to day basis, the Council typically has surplus cash balances arising from the cash flow e.g. timing differences between grants being received and making various payments. These are invested on the market via brokers, direct with the institution or held in deposit accounts. The Council usually invests for a range of periods dependent on cash flow requirements and the interest rates on offer having regard to the Investment Strategy. All investments in the first half of 2015-16 were short term i.e. less than 12 months duration and placed in fixed term deposits or deposit accounts. The table below details these investments by counterparty type:

Investment Counterparty Category	Balance 01 April 2015 (A) £m	Investments Raised (B) £m	Investments Repaid (C) £m	Balance 30 Sept 2015 (A+B-C) £m	Weighted Average Investment Balance Apr - Sept 2015 £m	Weighted Average Duration Investments in force during Apr - Sept 2015 Days	Weighted Average Rate Apr - Sept 2015 %
UK Govt DMO	-	76.40	76.40	0.00	2.49	6	0.25
UK Local Authorities	9.00	108.53	86.93	30.60	26.22	42	0.38
Building Societies	5.00	7.00	9.00	3.00	4.77	73	0.55
Banks (Fixed Maturity)	4.00	4.00	6.00	2.00	2.71	62	0.53
Banks Instant Access/Notice Period Accounts *	1.50	28.95	24.25	6.20	6.38	n/a	0.53
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>224.88</b>	<b>202.58</b>	<b>41.80</b>	<b>42.57</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0.42</b>

\* An average duration is not shown as money is frequently added / withdrawn to/from these accounts as required by cash-flow

4.4.2 Occasionally, investments are placed with the UK Debt Management Office (DMO - Executive Agency of UK Government) but only for very short term deposits. The interest rates offered by this facility are lower than some other counterparties but this is commensurate with the high level of security and reduced risk offered. It

provides another option when examining potential investments and ensures compliance with the Council's investment objective that security takes priority over yield. There were no deposits with the DMO as at 30 September 2015.

4.4.3 Favourable cash flows have provided positive cash balances for investment and as shown above the balance on investments at 30 September 2015 was £41.80 million. The table below shows a breakdown based on the maturity profile and counterparty type as at 30 September 2015.

Counterparty Category	Instant Access Deposit Accounts £m	Notice Period Deposit Accounts £m	Deposits Maturing Within 1 Month £m	Deposits Maturing Within 1-3 Months £m	Deposits Maturing Within 4-6 Months £m	Deposits Maturing Within 6-12 Months £m	Total £m
UK Local Authorities	-	-	9.50	13.60	2.00	5.50	30.60
UK Building Societies	-	-	3.00	-	-	-	3.00
Banks*	2.20*	4.00	-	2.00	-	-	8.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>12.50</b>	<b>15.60</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>5.50</b>	<b>41.80</b>

\* All these are UK registered banks apart from £1.2m with Svenska Handelsbanken which is a Swedish bank incorporated in the EEA and entitled to accept deposits through a branch in the UK and are classed as a UK Bank in the Government's Borrowing Statistical Return

4.4.4 The Council's primary objective for the management of its investment portfolio is to give priority to the security and liquidity of its funds before seeking the best rate of return. As shown above, the majority of its surplus cash has been held as short term investments with UK Local Authorities and banks and building societies of high credit quality. This has therefore resulted in more of the investment portfolio being moved into investment instruments with lower rates of return but higher security and liquidity.

#### 4.5 Review of the Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16

4.5.1 Cipfa's Code of Practice for Treasury Management requires all Local Authorities to conduct a mid-year review of its treasury management policies, practices and activities. As a result of this review it was not deemed necessary to make any changes to the main parts of the Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16, however, it would be beneficial for the Council to make some minor revisions to the Investment Strategy included within this Statement to enable increased flexibility in an ever changing financial market and increase the investment opportunities available to the Council whilst still maintaining security.

4.5.2 Following consultation with Arlingclose the proposed main changes are summarised below:

- reduce the UK Local Authorities individual counterparty limit from £15 million to £12 million
- increase the unsecured investments with Building Societies group limit from £5million to £6million

- add additional wording to clarify the counterparty limits:
  - These cash limits are per counterparty and relate to principal only and exclude any accrued interest.

4.5.3 In addition to these there were some minor grammatical changes for clarification purposes only.

#### **4.6 Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2015-16**

4.6.1 The 2011 Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code require the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management Indicators within this report, however, the Council has decided to report on all indicators in this report so the Prudential Indicators are also included. The indicators either summarise the expected activity or introduce limits upon the activity, and reflect the underlying capital programme. **Appendix A** details the estimate for 2015-16 set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and also the projected indicators for 2015-16.

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

5.1 As required by Financial Procedure Rule 17.3 within the Council's Constitution, all investments and borrowing transactions have been undertaken in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2015-16 approved by Council.

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

6.1 There are no equality implications.

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

7.1 The financial implications are reflected within the report.

#### **8. Recommendation**

8.1 It is recommended that:

- Cabinet note the Council's treasury management activities for the first half of 2015-16;
- Cabinet note the projected Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2015-16;
- Cabinet note the changes to the Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16 that will be reported to Council for approval.

30 October 2015

**Contact Officer:** Karin Thomas  
Loans & Investment Officer

**Telephone:** 01656 643312

**E-mail:** Karin.Thomas@bridgend.gov.uk

**Postal Address:** Bridgend County Borough Council  
Resources - Finance  
Raven's Court  
Brewery Lane  
Bridgend  
CF31 4AP

**Background documents:**  
Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16

## APPENDIX A

### 1 TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATORS 2015-16

1.1.1 The following indicators (which are forward looking parameters) form part of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. They enable the Council to measure and manage its exposure to Treasury Management risks using the following indicators.

The Council needs to set the upper limits to its **Interest Rate Exposure** for the effects of changes in interest rates. There are two treasury management indicators that relate to both fixed interest rates and variable interest rates. These limits have been calculated with reference to the net outstanding principal sums and are set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk.

No.		Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16 £m	Projection 31-03-2016  £m
	Total Projected Principal Outstanding on Borrowing 31 March 2016	101.87	<b>96.87</b>
	Total Projected Principal Outstanding on Investments 31 March 2016	8.00	<b>15.00</b>
	<b>Net Principal Outstanding</b>	<b>93.87</b>	<b>81.87</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Upper Limit on fixed interest rates (net principal) exposure</b>	140.00	<b>64.12</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Upper Limit on variable interest rates (net principal) exposure</b>	50.00	<b>17.75</b>

The Section 151 Officer will manage interest rate exposures between these limits in 2015-16.

1.1.2 A further indicator for Treasury Management measures the **Maturity Structure of Borrowing** and is the amount of projected borrowing that is fixed rate, maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected fixed rate borrowing. This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk and has been set to allow for the possible restructuring of long term debt where this is expected to lead to an overall saving or reduction in risk.

The 19.87% shown in the table below relates to £19.25 million Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which may be re-scheduled in advance of their maturity date of 2054, as detailed in paragraph 4.1.2 of the report. The Code requires the maturity of LOBO loans to be shown as the earliest date on which the lender can require payment, i.e. the next call date, however, the lender is not expected to exercise this option due to current low

interest rates, so the maturity date is actually uncertain but is shown in the “Under 12 months” category as per the Code.

No	Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2015-16	Upper limit	lower limit	Projection 31-03-16
3.	Under 12 months	50%	0%	19.87%
	12 months and within 24 months	25%	0%	0.00%
	24 months and within 5 years	50%	0%	0.00%
	5 years and within 10 years	60%	0%	0.00%
	10 years and above	100%	40%	80.13%

1.1.3 The **Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums invested over 364 days** indicator controls the amount of longer term investments which mature beyond the period end. This is set to control the Council’s exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments.

No.		Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16 (Limit) £m	Projection 31-03-16 £m
4.	<b>Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums Invested for more than 364 days</b>	15	4

## 2 PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2015-16

The Prudential Indicators are required to be set and approved by Council in accordance with CIPFA’s *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities*.

Council is required to formally adopt CIPFA’s Treasury Management Code and the revised version of the 2011 code was adopted by Council on 22 February 2012.

### 2.1 Prudential Indicators for Prudence

2.1.1 The following Prudential Indicators are based on the Council’s capital programme which is subject to change.

The Council’s capital expenditure plans are summarised below and this forms the first prudential indicator for Prudence. The total capital expenditure is funded from capital grants and contributions, capital receipts and revenue with the remainder being the **Net Financing Need for the Financial Year** to be met from borrowing.

No.	Prudential indicators For Prudence	Estimate Treasury Management Strategy	Projection 31-03-16
		2015-16 £'000	£'000
<b>1</b>	<b>Estimates of Capital Expenditure</b>		
	Non – HRA	36,441	38,523
	<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>36,441</b>	<b>38,523</b>
	<b>Financed by :-</b>		
	Capital Grants and Contributions	12,575	17,364
	Capital Receipts	9,322	9,167
	Revenue	3,055	3,369
	<b>Net Financing Need for Year</b>	<b>11,489</b>	<b>8,623</b>

The capital expenditure figures have changed from the Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16 as the capital programme approved by Council on 25 February 2015 has been amended to include new approved schemes and to incorporate slippage of schemes identified as part of the capital monitoring and a change in the profile of prudential borrowing. This has resulted in a decrease in the Net Financing Need for 2015-16.

2.1.2 The second Prudential Indicator is the **Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)** for the Council. This shows the total outstanding capital expenditure that has not been funded from either revenue or other capital resources. It is derived from the actual Balance Sheet of the Council. It is essentially a measure of the underlying need to finance capital expenditure and forms the basis of the charge to the General Fund under the Prudential Code system.

The process for charging the financing of capital expenditure to revenue is a statutory requirement and is called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The actual MRP charge needs to be prudent and the methodology is detailed in the Council's MRP policy in the TMS 2015-16. The MRP requirement for the PFI Scheme, Innovation Centre and HALO will be equivalent to the write down of the liability for the year and is met from existing budgets.

No.	Prudential indicators For Prudence	Est. Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16 £'000	Projection 2015-16 £'000
<b>2</b>	<b>Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)</b>		
	Opening CFR (1 April 2015) excluding PFI	157,078	154,980
	Opening PFI CFR	19,300	19,300
	Opening Innovation Centre	769	769
	Opening HALO	1,150	962
	<b>Total Opening CFR</b>	<b>178,297</b>	<b>176,011</b>
	Movement in CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	4,801	2,133
	Movement in PFI CFR	(512)	(512)
	Movement in Innovation Centre CFR	(51)	(51)
	Movement in HALO CFR	(117)	(117)
	<b>Total Movement in CFR</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>1,453</b>
	<b>Closing CFR (31 March 2016)</b>	<b>182,418</b>	<b>177,464</b>
	Movement in CFR represented by :-		
	Net Financing Need for Year (above)	11,489	8,623
	Minimum and Voluntary Revenue Provisions*	(7,368)	(7,170)
	<b>Total Movement</b>	<b>4,121</b>	<b>1,453</b>

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP) represent the revenue charge for the repayment of debt and includes MRP for the Public Finance Initiative (PFI), Finance Leases, Innovation Centre and Halo

## 2.2 Limits to Borrowing Activity

2.2.1 The Council's long term borrowing at the 30 September 2015 was £96.87 million as detailed in section 4.1.1 the Treasury Position. External Borrowing can arise as a result of both capital and revenue expenditure and timing of cash flows. Because the Council has an integrated Treasury Management Strategy there is no association between individual loans and particular types of expenditure. Therefore, the Capital Financing Requirement and actual external borrowing can be very different.

The **Gross Debt** position (Borrowing and Long Term Liabilities) is shown below:

No.	Prudential indicators For Prudence	Estimate Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16 Est. £'000	Projection 31-03-16 £'000
	<b>Gross Debt 31 March</b>		
<b>3</b>	External Borrowing	101,867	96,867
	Long Term Liabilities (including PFI)	20,539	23,251
	<b>Total Gross Debt</b>	<b>122,406</b>	<b>120,118</b>



2.2.2 Within the Prudential Indicators, there are a number of key indicators to ensure the Council operates its activities within well-defined limits. One key control is to ensure that over the medium term, debt will only be for a capital purpose. The Council needs to ensure that external debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the Capital Financing Requirement for 2015-16. The table below shows that the Council is on target to comply with this requirement.

No.	Prudential indicators For Prudence	Estimate Treasury Management Strategy  2015-16 £'000	Projection 31-03-16  £'000
<b>4</b>	<b>Gross Debt &amp; the CFR</b>		
	Total Gross Debt	122,406	120,118
	Closing CFR (31 March 2016)	<b>182,418</b>	<b>177,464</b>

2.2.3 A further two Prudential Indicators control the Council's overall level of debt to support Capital Expenditure. These are detailed below and confirms that the Council is well within the limit set :-

- The **Authorised Limit** for External Debt – this represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited. It reflects a level of borrowing that could not be sustained even though it would be affordable in the short term. It needs to be set and approved by Members.
- The **Operational Boundary** for External Debt – this is not an actual limit and actual borrowing could vary around this boundary during the year. It is based on the probable external debt during the course of the year.

No.	Prudential indicators For Prudence	Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16 £m	Projection 31-03-16  £m
<b>5</b>	<b>Authorised limit for external debt -</b>		
	Borrowing	140	
	Other long term liabilities	30	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Operational Boundary</b>		
	Borrowing	105	
	Other long term liabilities	25	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	
	<b>Borrowing</b>		<b>97</b>
	<b>Other long term liabilities</b>		<b>23</b>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>

## 2.3 Prudential Indicators for Affordability

2.3.1 The Prudential Code Indicators Numbered 1 to 6 above in section 2.1 and 2.2 cover the overall controls on borrowing and financing of capital expenditure within the Council. The second suite of indicators detailed below assesses the affordability of capital investment plans and the impact of capital decisions on the Council's overall finances.

The indicator the **Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream** demonstrates the trend in the cost of capital against the Total Revenue amount to be met from local taxpayers and the amount provided by the Assembly in the form of Revenue Support Grant. The estimates of capital financing costs include interest payable and receivable on Treasury Management activities and the Minimum Revenue Provision charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The revenue stream is the amount to be met from government grants and local taxpayers.

No.	Prudential Indicators for Affordability	Estimate Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16	Projection  2015-16
7.	<b>Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream</b>		
	<b>Ratio</b>	5.05%	<b>5.33%</b>

2.3.2 The indicator of the **Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions on Council Tax** identifies the estimate of the incremental impact to the Council Tax from the capital expenditure proposals, particularly changes in borrowing requirements that have occurred since the Capital Programme was approved for the year. This is a purely notional calculation designed to show the effect of changes in capital investment decisions.

No.	Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions on Council Tax	Estimate Treasury Management Strategy  2015-16	Projection  2015-16
8.	Increase in Band D Council Tax as per Capital Programme	£ 3.91	£ <b>3.87</b>

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## INFORMATION REPORT TO CABINET

27 NOVEMBER 2015

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

#### CORNELI PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRESS

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs Cabinet Members of the outcome of Estyn's recent monitoring visit to Corneli Primary School.

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

- 2.1 The information in this report relates to the strategic priority 2 in the Corporate Plan 'Working Together to Raise Ambitions and Drive Up Educational Achievement'.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 This school was inspected by Estyn in June 2014 and was identified as requiring Estyn monitoring because Estyn Inspectors reached the following conclusions at that time:

<b>Current Performance</b>	<b>Adequate</b>
<b>Prospects for Improvement</b>	<b>Adequate</b>
<b>How good are outcomes?</b>	<b>Adequate</b>
Standards	Adequate
Wellbeing	Good
<b>How good is provision?</b>	<b>Adequate</b>
Learning experiences	Adequate
Teaching	Adequate
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Adequate
<b>How good are leadership and management?</b>	<b>Adequate</b>
Leadership	Adequate
Improving quality	Adequate
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Adequate

- 3.2 Estyn made 6 recommendations that they would monitor in a follow up inspection:

- Recommendation 1: Improve standards in mathematics across the school
- Recommendation 2: Improve standards in writing across the school
- Recommendation 3: Improve teaching by providing more opportunities in lessons that challenge and engage all learners, particularly for those who are more able
- Recommendation 4: Apply assessment for learning strategies more consistently across the school

- Recommendation 5: Ensure that all senior leaders are accountable for securing improvements in standards and the quality of provision
- Recommendation 6: Develop consistent Foundation Phase provision in all classes.

3.3 The school has been supported by the local authority (LA) and the Central South Consortium (CSC) and interventions have been initiated to help make progress. :

#### 4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 The follow up monitoring inspection was made by Estyn in September 2015 and the school was judged to have made insufficient progress in relation to the recommendations made in 2014. .

Estyn noted that the following progress had been made against the 6 recommendations:

- Recommendation 1: Improve standards in mathematics across the school **Satisfactory progress**
- Recommendation 2: Improve standards in writing across the school **Strong progress**
- Recommendation 3: Improve teaching by providing more opportunities in lessons that challenge and engage all learners, particularly for those who are more able **Satisfactory progress**
- Recommendation 4: Apply assessment for learning strategies more consistently across the school **Satisfactory progress**
- Recommendation 5: Ensure that all senior leaders are accountable for securing improvements in standards and the quality of provision **Satisfactory progress**
- Recommendation 6: Develop consistent Foundation Phase provision in all classes. **Satisfactory progress**

4.2 As a result, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is maintaining the previous level of follow-up activity. Estyn inspectors will re-visit the school in about six months' time to inspect progress against the recommendations.

4.3 In order to maintain and improve on this progress Estyn recommends that, the school should continue to sustain the same level of progress it has already made, and continue to address recommendations where further progress is required. The school will continue to be supported by the LA and CSC.

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

5.1 There is no impact on the Council's policy framework or procedure rules.

#### 6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no direct equality impact issues arising from this report.

#### 7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this information report.

## **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 To note the content of this report and the fact that Estyn plan to re-visit the school in about six months time.

**Deborah McMillan**  
**Director of Education and Transformation**

Telephone: (01656) 642612

E-mail: [Deborah.McMillan@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:Deborah.McMillan@bridgend.gov.uk)

Postal Address: Education and Transformation Directorate  
Bridgend County Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Angel Street  
Bridgend  
CF31 4WB

### **Background documents**

Estyn Monitoring Follow Up Visit Report

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# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## INFORMATION REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

#### LA SUPPORT FOR HEADTEACHER APPOINTMENTS

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to inform Cabinet of the support provided to governing bodies by the local authority in the appointment of headteachers. In line with the School Partnership Agreement, the local authority (LA) in association with the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSC) will work with the governing bodies of the schools to help raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement.

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

- 2.1 The support and guidance offered to governing bodies in the appointment of headteachers supports the Corporate Priority 2:

- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 Section 197 of the Education Act 2002 requires local education authorities to enter into a partnership agreement with the governing body of each school maintained by the LA. Agreements are required for primary, secondary, nursery and special schools. The agreement sets out how a LA and a governing body will carry out their respective functions in relation to a school.
- 3.2 There has been a request from the deputy leader for a report informing members about the support provided by officers and / or CSC's challenge advisers in the headteacher appointment process.

##### 4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 It is recognized that the appointment of a headteacher and deputy headteacher is critical to the development of schools and therefore the LA (in association with the CSC) provides support to governing bodies. Generally, support is offered from the CSC challenge adviser linked to the particular school and this is frequently supplemented by further assistance from senior education officers or the CSC's senior challenge adviser.
- 4.2 As outlined in the LA/School Partnership Agreement, it is the responsibility of the governing body to notify the LA of headteacher and deputy headteacher vacancies so that this support can be provided in all cases. For headteacher appointments, it is not appropriate for an incumbent headteacher to assist with the appointment of their replacement, as they would do with any other position in the school (including deputy headteacher posts) and therefore this LA support is particularly important.

4.3 Support is provided for the appointment of all headteachers and deputy headteachers. The level of support provided varies dependent on the level of confidence and competence the governing bodies (GBs) already have with the recruitment process but includes:

- Offering advice and guidance to GBs on the drawing up of job specifications
  - Advising the GBs on the recruitment and selection protocols and how to conform with HR processes
  - Advising the GBs on shortlisting, specifically on how to set and apply an appropriate set of criteria
  - In partnership with the GBs developing a range of suitable tasks and questions for the interview days which will test for the specific set of skills required for the post
  - Attending short-listing meetings and interviews to provide educational advice to GBs
  - Offering support and expert guidance at interview over a two-day process to ensure any process is equitable and adheres to policy
- Providing advice and support to newly appointed headteachers, as required.

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

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no direct equality impact issues arising from this report.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report because the CSC challenge advisors are funded from the 2015/16 SLA agreement between the authority and the consortium, while the education officers are funded from existing budgets .

## **8. Recommendation**

8.1 Cabinet is recommended to note the content of this report.

**Directorate Chief Officer's Name: Deborah McMillan**

**Directorate Chief Officer's Job Title: Director – Education and Transformation**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015**

**Contact Officer: Sue Roberts**

**Telephone: (01656) 754892**

**e-mail: [Susan.Roberts2@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.Roberts2@bridgend.gov.uk)**



**Postal Address** Education and Transformation Directorate,  
Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB

**Background documents**

- LA/School Partnership Agreement 2015-18

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# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## INFORMATION REPORT TO CABINET

24 NOVEMBER 2015

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

#### PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WESTERN BAY YOUTH JUSTICE AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report on the progress that has been made to bring the three previously existing Youth Offending Services of Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea together and provide an overview of performance.

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

Working together to make the best use of our resources.

Working with children and families to tackle problems early.

Working together to raise ambition and drive up educational achievement.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 Youth Offending Services are statutory multi-agency partnerships who have a legal duty to co-operate in order to secure youth justice services appropriate to their area funded from a variety of sources including UK Government, Welsh Government and the statutory partners. (i.e. the Local Authority, Police, the National Probation Service and Health).
- 3.2 During 2012 the Youth Offending Services of Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea collectively agreed with their respective management boards that collaboration would be explored, with a view to making the services more resilient in light of the likely challenges ahead. In December 2012 the three local authorities agreed to further exploration and an interim Western Bay Regional Youth Offending Service Management Board was established. In 2013 the local authorities agreed to amalgamate their individual Youth Offending Services into one. Initially each service retained its local management board and management arrangements and a project manager was appointed, funded by Welsh Government until March 2014, to drive progress forward.
- 3.3 On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 the three local management boards ceased and the first Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service(Western Bay) management board meeting was held. The management board is chaired by the Neath Port Talbot Director of Social Services, Health and Housing and has a membership in line with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act including cabinet members from all three local authorities. The shared service manager post was filled in November 2014 and Locality Managers were appointed by the end of March 2015. The overall Western Bay group manager is employed by Bridgend

County Borough Council (BCBC) but locality managers are appointed by the respective local authorities and there has been no secondment or transfer of staff.

- 3.4 The Annual Youth Justice Plan for 2014/15 was agreed by the Western Bay management board and submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales which oversees the youth justice system. The production of a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory duty of the Local Authority under Part 3, Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The plan sets out how youth justice services are to be provided and funded, how the service will operate. The plan comprised the medium to long-term business plan for the Western Bay service and set out its aims of quality service delivery and continuous improvement. A highlight summary of the progress across service delivery areas relating to the Youth Justice Board Key Performance Indicators is provided below for information.

#### Summary of the annual performance 2014/15

##### Reduction in First Time Entrants into the youth justice system.

- 3.5 There is an expectation that youth offending services reduce the number of children and young people entering the youth justice system year after year. The Western Bay Service achieved this – reducing the number across the region by 36.6%. The figures compare January 2013 – December 2013 with January 2014 – December 2014. Bridgend's locality team achieved a 43% reduction locally. The Western Bay figure compares well against an average reduction of 19% in South Wales and a Welsh average reduction of 31%.

##### Reducing Reoffending

- 3.6 Of those young people who do enter the youth justice system, there is an expectation that youth offending services will stop them committing any additional offences through effective intervention. As court numbers decline because of effective early intervention, youth offending services find they are left with a small number of more complex children and young people who are more likely to reoffend.
- 3.7 The data relating to reoffending is always two years old due to the time taken to track young people. The binary rate for reoffending i.e. the number of children and young people who commit further offences, for the Western Bay region is an average of 38.1%. This rate compares favourably against the South Wales average rate of 44.7% and the Welsh average of 39.2%. Good performance being indicated by a lower percentage figure.
- 3.8 When looking at the data it actually relates to young people from July 2011-June 2012 compared to young people from July 2012 – June 2013. The Youth Justice Board has provided youth offending services with a reoffending toolkit to help break down the numbers for local use. Graphs are attached separating the figures between the three local authorities. The most common re – offence is violent offending across all three Western Bay teams.

##### Reducing the use of custody

- 3.9 Custodial figures are low across the Western Bay region and it is therefore hard to bring numbers down. Western Bay had a total of 14 custodial sentences imposed

last year compared to 14 the year before. This rate is not high compared to national figures but the service did not reach its aspirational target of 10. This is where Bridgend's performance dipped with an increase from two custodial sentences in 2013/14 to four in 2014/15 and of the four two were recalled following release

#### Access to services

- 3.10 The Youth Justice Board performance indicators relating to accessing services are Wales only indicators and relate to access to substance misuse services, education training and employment and accommodation. This year access to emotional and mental health services was added to monitor the access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) across Wales. The Western Bay region normally performs relatively well across existing indicators however there are two areas that need to be improved. These areas are accessing education, training, and employment, and the new emotional and mental health measure.
- 3.11 The performance measure for accessing education, training and employment (ETE) for those in the youth justice system is the increase in hours accessed from the start of the the young persons statutory involvement with the service compared to the hours accessed at the end. Western Bay young people had an average increase from 8.36 hours per week to 21.6 hours per week at the end of their involvement for statutory school age children. There was an increase from 10.7 hours to 15.43 hours for those aged post-16 years. The Bridgend specific figures were 14.9 hours to 16.8 hours and 10.6 hours to 14.8 respectively. The South Wales figure relating to ETE access was an average increase in hours from 14 to 18.1 hours for those who should be receiving statutory education of a minimum of 25 hours per week and the Wales figure was 16.6 to 18.4. For the post-16 age range the South Wales figure was an average increase from 9.2 hours to 15.1 and the Wales figure was 11.3 to 14.6 hours per week.
- 3.12 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) has been mentioned above as it relates to the emotional and mental health measure. The measure requires a CAMHS assessment to take place within 10 days of identification need. This is going to be a challenge for the service over the next year as the Western Bay service has had two vacant CAMHS nurse posts for a considerable period. The introduction of the performance measure is likely to highlight gaps in provision but this can help to identify the level of service provision necessary to meet the needs of children and young people within the youth justice system.

#### **4. Current situation**

- 4.1 The Youth Justice Plan for 2015/16 was agreed by the Western Bay Board and submitted to the Youth Justice Board at the end of July 2015. It outlined how services will be delivered to meet key performance indicators as well as work with victims, workforce development, safeguarding, risk management and participation. The plan forms part of the overall information held in relation to youth offending services nationally. The plan has been accepted by the Youth Justice Board and Ministry of Justice and the service is now reporting as one single Western Bay service as opposed to having three separate sets of data published. The service has been subject to a Short Quality Screening Inspection conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP). It was explained by the lead inspector that the fact that the service was not subject to a Full Joint Inspection is an

indication that from the information available to the Inspectorate which includes the plan and performance data that the service is not causing concern.

- 4.2 The short quality screening inspection report is not yet published so the detail at this stage cannot be shared, however, the Lead Inspector gave verbal feedback to the Western Bay management team confirming that no areas of concern were found across the cases audited, but areas of good practice and areas for development were identified. Areas for development focused on the need to more accurately record reviews of plans and significant changes that occur, achieve consistency of practice with regard to, for example, enforcement action and the need to evidence the impact of management oversight on case work ie how the oversight has made a difference to the outcome for a child, young person or victim. The service has already been investigating these areas, recognising the need to improve.. Strong areas include assessment of factors linked to offending, assessing vulnerability and the efforts made by staff to engage effectively with service users. Overall the service was considered above average in all areas audited.
- 4.3 The 2015/16 quarter one performance data (April to June 2015) has been published by the Youth Justice Board but not without some queries from a number of Youth Offending Services across Wales regarding the accuracy and interpretation of the Wales only measures. The Youth Justice Board's data therefore carries with it a note of caution until these potential inaccuracies are addressed. Western Bay's second quarter data was submitted to the Youth Justice Board at the end of October and as yet has not been published.
- 4.4 The number of first time offenders recorded in 2013/14 in Western Bay was reduced in 2014/15 by 26.9%. This is in comparison with a 20.7% decrease in South Wales and 30.8% across Wales. An issue that has affected this figure locally in Bridgend has been a number of young people going straight to court to enable their licence to be endorsed following driving offences. These offences have not involved car theft.
- 4.5 The work to address first time entrants is funded by the regional WG Youth Crime Prevention Fund. Across the Western Bay region the early intervention delivery focussing on partnership approaches to tackle anti-social behaviour, and the Bureau approach to diversion through restorative interventions have developed consistent approaches. The Restorative Justice in Schools project has also been reviewed and is being rolled out across the Western Bay region. Bridgend is leading, in partnership with the Social Care Workforce development team.
- 4.6 Reducing reoffending is based on data two years old but Western Bay showed 38% of young people reoffended and they committed an average of 1.18 additional offences. The data is collated through the Police National Computer so locally we are unable to ascertain the Bridgend figure however the attached diagrams (Appendix 1) are taken from the Youth Justice Board's reoffending toolkit and help to show what each area looks like. The diagrams show the number of young people who re-offend and the numbers of offences committed by them over a twelve month period. Whilst the figures may seem high the Western Bay performance is not out of line with the performance across Wales. An average of 43.7% of young people being tracked reoffended across South Wales and they committed an average of 1.33 further offences each. Wales has a 40.4% reoffending rate amongst young people with an average of 1.16 further offences. The reoffending toolkit used across

the Western Bay region highlights that violent offences are the highest re – offence whatever local authority they may reside in.

- 4.7 Work is developing across the Western Bay service to address re-offending, using the information available from the toolkit to effectively target those most at risk of reoffending. Work is being done to improve transition arrangements and follow-on support for young people moving from youth services to adult services, to avoid them falling back into offending behaviour. The sharing of expertise and resources is a key feature across all areas of service delivery.
- 4.8 Reducing the use of custody is the last of the three England and Wales measures (the other two being the reduction in first-time entrants and reducing reoffending ) and each locality team had one youth sentenced to custody in the first quarter. This is improved performance against last year for Bridgend. I am aware that in the second quarter there was a further custodial sentence in Bridgend, but this was following a remand period for a young person who had committed a sexual offence and he was then sentenced post-18 years of age. Reducing the use of custody can rely on the packages of intervention offered to the court providing a robust level of supervision to address the risk posed in the community and the ability to achieve change. Working together has given more scope in relation to programme delivery and supervision, providing more sentence choice and improved quality of reports to the Magistrates.
- 4.9 In relation to the Wales only Key Performance Indicators, the substance misuse measure and the mental health measure have been resubmitted to the Youth Justice Board due to discrepancies across Wales. However, children and young people resident in Bridgend are accessing substance misuse services in a timely fashion with a substance misuse worker based within the locality team. There are plans to pilot an approach to have a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service nurse across the Western Bay service spending an allocated day in each locality team, with the remaining two days being managed by the nurse to meet need. It should be noted that the Wales Measures only relate to statutory orders so the numbers reported are low as a result of the amount and success of the early intervention and diversion work delivered by the service. As the statutory caseload reduces, the work of the service has focused increasingly on stopping children and young people from entering the youth justice system at all and the delivery of services to this group of children is only reflected in the measure to reduce the number of first time entrants.
- 4.10 Across Western Bay, 33 statutory order cases were closed during the first quarter . 32 of these young people had suitable accommodation before the start of their order. This reduced to 31 young people being recorded as in appropriate accommodation at the end of their orders . There were two individuals in Bed and Breakfast accommodation across the Western Bay region and neither were residents of Bridgend.
- 4.11 Access to Education Training and Employment (ETE) is of key interest to the Management Board. The average hours of ETE engagement for statutory school age young people whose statutory orders closed in the first quarter was 15.1 hours per week prior to the start of their involvement with the service and 14.9 hours per week by the time the order they were subject to ended. The South Wales average figures for the same period were 14.2 hours at the start of the statutory order with

youth offending services across South Wales and 14 hours of ETE at the end of their order. Figures for Wales for the same period were 14.4 hours at the start of involvement with the youth offending services and 15.3 hours at the end of the involvement. The recommended number of hours of ETE for this age group is 25 hours per week as a minimum entitlement. It seems from the local information submitted to the Youth Justice Board in readiness for the second quarter that there has been significant improvement locally with an average of 24 hours being offered by the end of the young persons order, and of 23 hours being accessed. This improvement has been reflected regionally in Western Bay, and on closer analysis it seems that the lower number of hours reported in the first quarter related to the specific circumstances of a small number of young people, where reduced timetables were in place or where there were sickness issues.

- 4.12 Of 20 young people ending their involvement with the service across Western Bay who were above school age, an increase in the hours of ETE that were offered went from 13.5 hours per week at the beginning of the involvement with the service (ie the start of the statutory order) to 19.7 hours at the end of the involvement, exceeding the Youth Justice Board's target of 16 hours per week of ETE for above school age provision. However, whilst 19.7 hours of provision were available, the average uptake was 14.5 hours per week. South Wales figures for the same period were 10.3 hours of ETE at the start of the involvement and 10.4 hours at the end. For Wales the figures were 11.0 hours at the start and 11.8 hours at the end of the youth offending services involvement. From local data gathered in readiness for the second quarter return an average of 13 hours per week is being offered in Bridgend at the end of the service involvement and 13 hours being accessed, however as the numbers reported are again particularly low because of how the data is reported on statutory orders and not the growing early intervention and diversion work, one unemployed young person can have a dramatic effect on the overall calculation of the hours offered and accessed.. Efforts to improve educational attainment include the early work of the Restorative Justice in Schools project, the delivery of a rapid English literacy programme, the development of Western Bay as an accreditation centre, the planned relocation of the Swansea Intervention Centre to allow greater access and the roll out of the Building Skills project. (Appendix 2)
- 4.13 The development of Western Bay as a regional service has followed a pragmatic approach, steadily bringing consistency to delivery, and increasing the sharing of resources to avoid duplication, whilst increasing the range of interventions that can be delivered through working together. Performance indicators and the initial Short Quality Screening inspection findings confirm that delivery to local communities has not suffered through the process and the financial information confirms that savings have been made.

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

- 5.1 Local Authorities have the power to collaborate and there is a duty to consider collaboration contained in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. There have been complications, one being the WG proposals for Bridgend to merge as a Local Authority with Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynnon Taff. Youth Offending Services are statutory partnerships that must be established for a local authority area or areas in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. At this moment in time the Western Bay Service is continuing to work towards one service delivery model but with staff remaining in the employment of the three local authorities.



## 6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equal opportunity issues arising at this time. Should issues arise they will be comprehensively addressed.

## 7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 Bridgend achieved the 20% local authority financial saving required by each of the local authorities in 2014/15 without detriment to performance. It is hoped that this report has provided reassurance that the regionalisation of the service has not negatively impacted upon performance, and has provided opportunities for creative working and vacancy management.
- 7.2 However there are financial challenges ahead. Having already had a 7.9% reduction to the Youth Justice Good Practise Grant at the beginning of the financial year, it has been confirmed that an additional 10.6% (a £25,144 reduction to the Bridgend grant allocation) will be taken from the 2015/16 grant payment at the end of the 2015/16 financial year . By working creatively across the Western Bay region and not appointing to vacant posts the required savings can be realised, however this will have a knock on effect on the task of achieving efficiency savings in 2016/17 as some of the changes made to achieve the planned savings for 2016/17 have been taken to contribute to the £25,144 mentioned above. .
- 7.3 The local authority contributions are expected to reduce in Bridgend and Swansea in 2016/17 but currently these reductions are not at the same level. Swansea expects a 13% reduction in contribution, Neath Port Talbot has indicated that funding to the service will remain the same, and Bridgend is expecting a 36% reduction as per the table below.

	BCBC	SCBC	NPTCBC	WESTERN BAY TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
LA Contribution 15/16	418,820	743,100	413,022	1,574,942
LA Contribution as % of Total YOS Budget	38%	44%	43%	42%
16/17 Proposed Reductions	150,000	100,000	-	250,000
% Reduction	36%	13%	0%	16%

There are other expected reductions for the service to absorb in addition to the Youth Justice Good Practise Grant and local authority reductions . Grant funding to the service amounts to an average of 58% of the funding across the Western Bay, meaning that reduction in grant funding and local authority funding places the service in a very difficult position. There has already been an indication that there will be a reduction in the amount received from the Welsh Government Youth Crime Prevention Fund and a reduction in Probation contributions.

The Western Bay service has been preparing to meet expected reductions in funding but the potential level of reduction when all funding streams are taken into account is higher than anticipated. Over the last twelve months Bridgend has maintained two vacant posts instead of filling them to meet the requested £150,000 saving for the local authority. There is the potential for the locality team to move in 2017 from the current leased premises, which would also contribute to the required

savings but this cannot be relied upon at this stage. The position of the service is further complicated by the fact that the three local authorities are expecting very different levels of efficiencies for 2016/17 and this is being discussed at the Western Bay Management Board on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

## **8. Recommendation**

- 8.1 That Cabinet note the content of this report as reassurance that the service continues to perform well against the South Wales and Wales comparison figures.
- 8.2 That Cabinet note challenges faced by the service in the future within the current climate of uncertainty.

**Deborah Macmillan**  
**Director of Education and Transformation**  
**04/08/15**

**Contact Officer:** Nicola Echanis  
Head of Strategy Partnership and Commissioning

**Telephone:** (01656) 642611

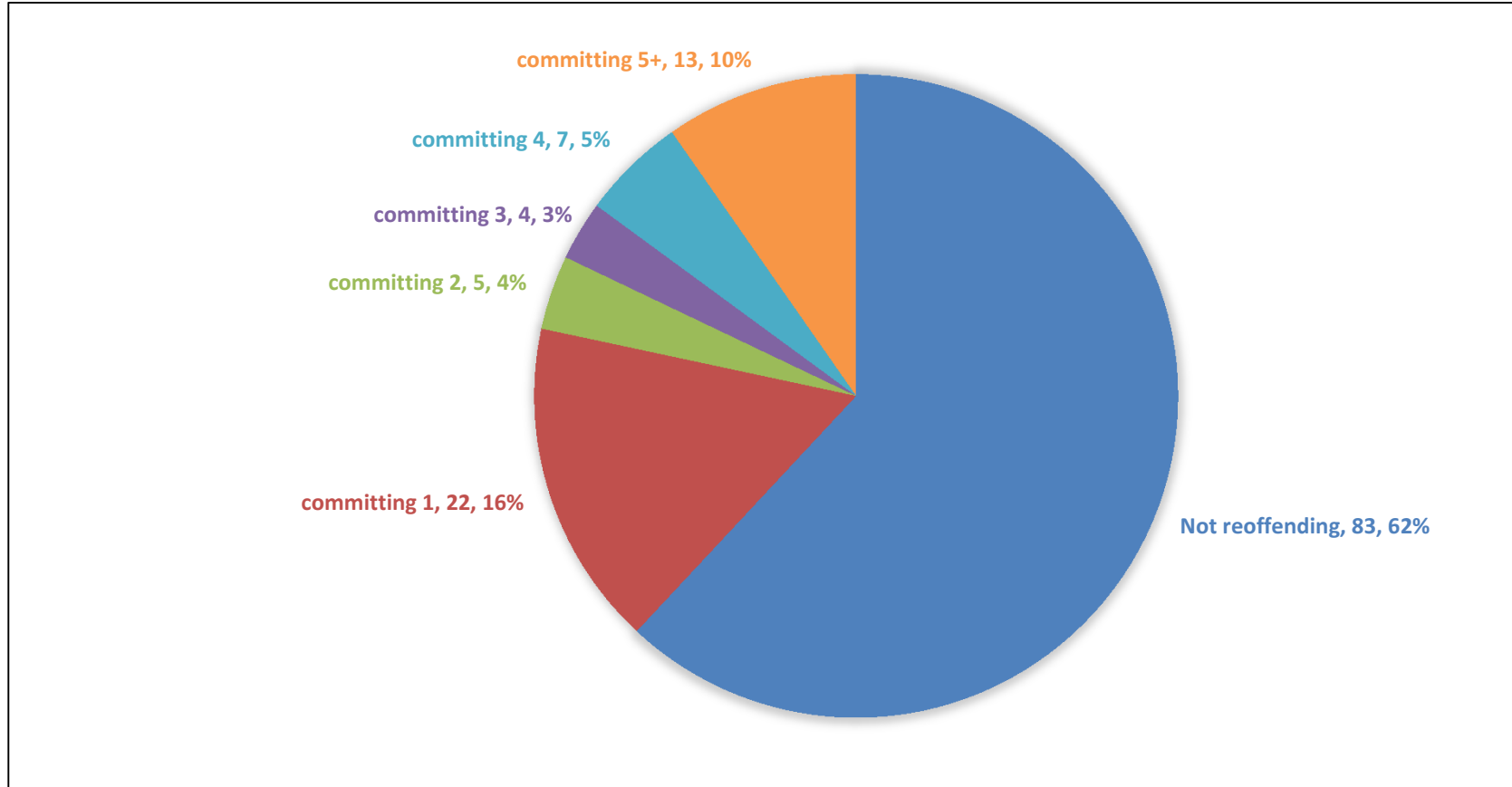
**E-mail:** Nicola.echanis@bridgend.gov.uk

**Postal Address** Education and Transformation Directorate  
Bridgend County Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Angel Street  
Bridgend  
CF31 4WB

**Appendix 1** – Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend young person’s reoffending frequency band graphs.

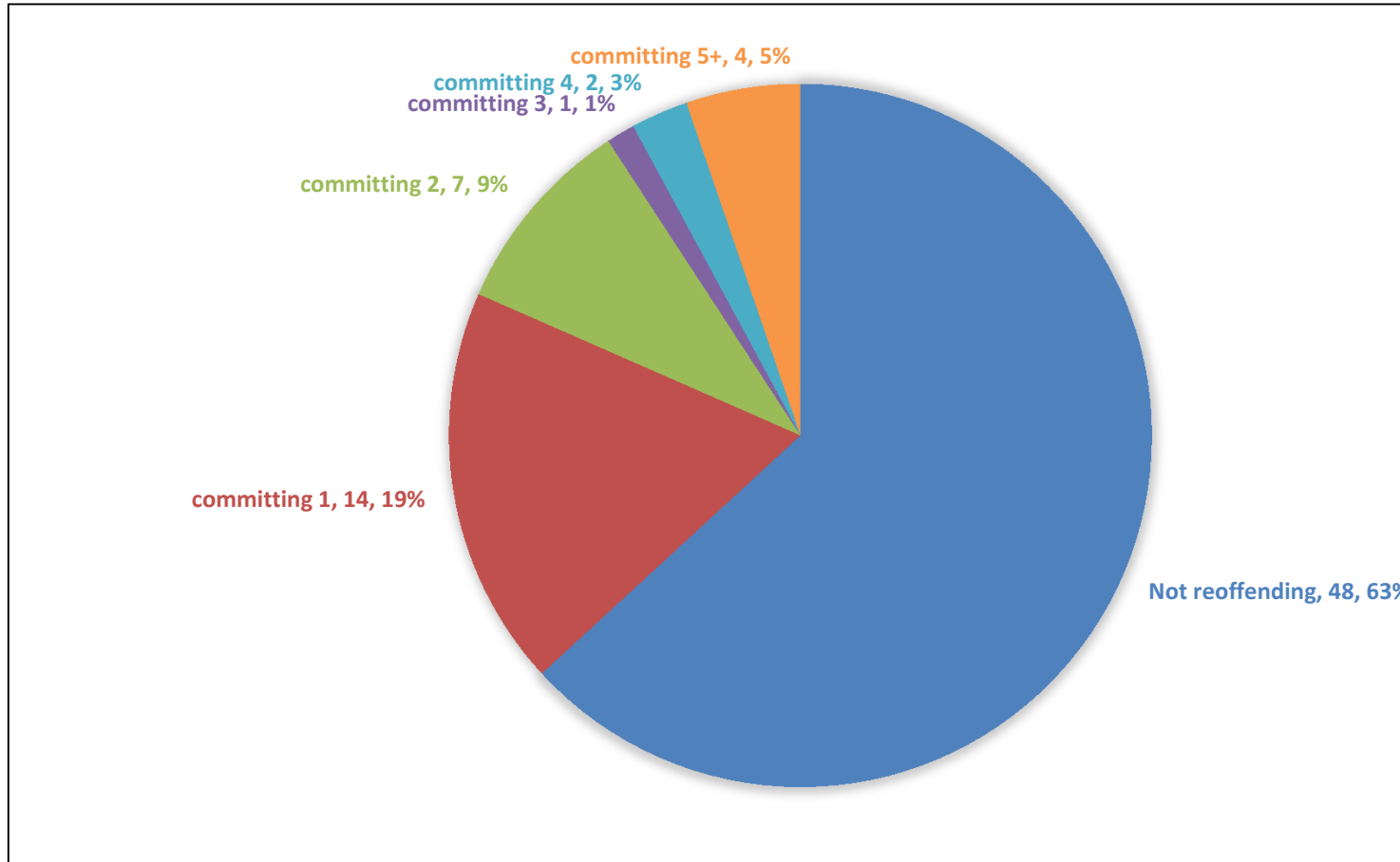
**Appendix 2** – Western Bay Skills Programme Booklet.

## Swansea YP's in each Frequency Band



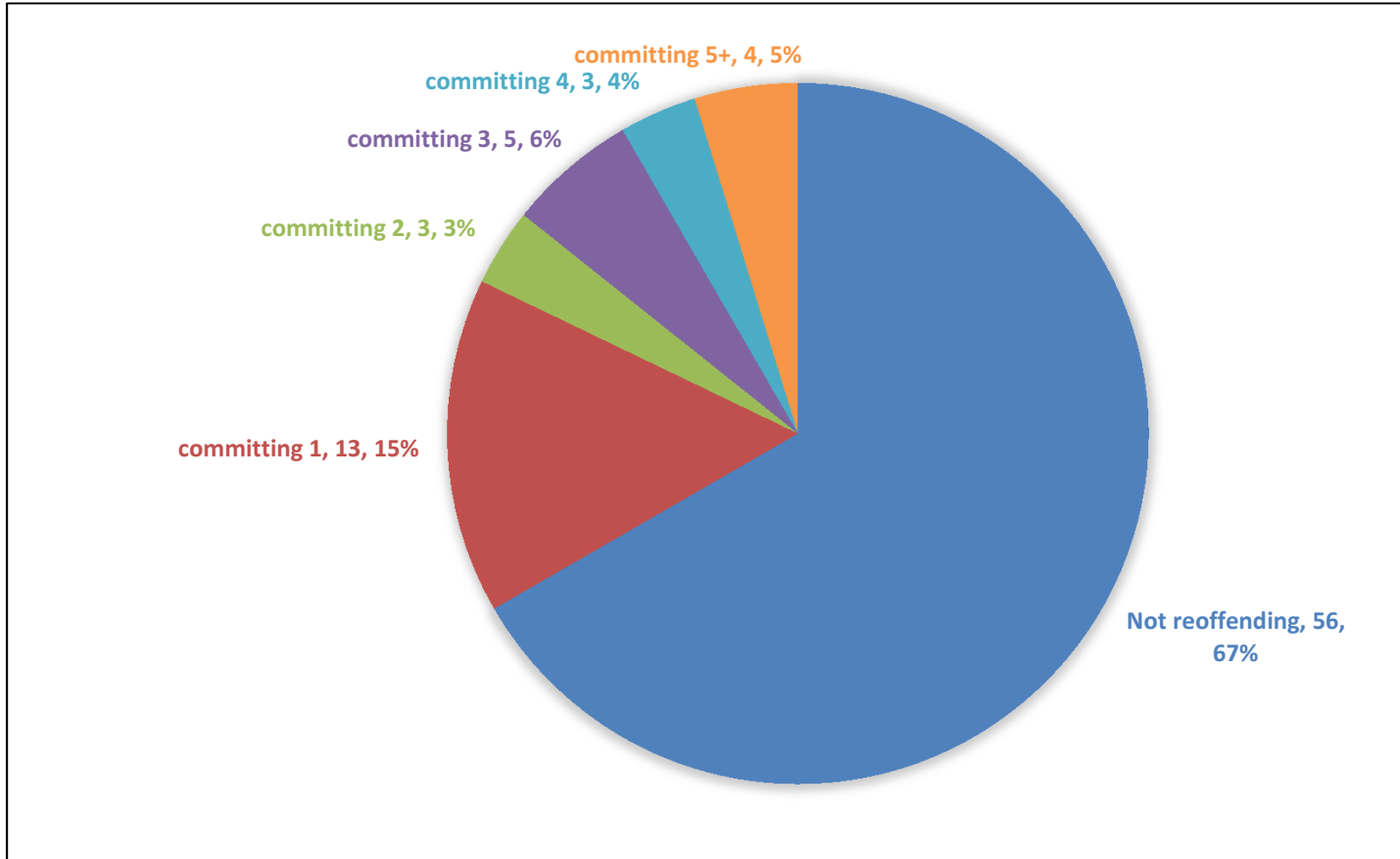
This highlights that vast majority, over 60% of YP, did not re-offend within 12 months of the offence that placed them in this cohort.

## NPT YP's in each Frequency Band



This highlights that vast majority, over 60% of YP, did not re-offend within 12 months of the offence that placed them in this cohort.

## BCBC YP's in each Frequency Band



This highlights that vast majority, over 60% of YP, did not re-offend within 12 months of the offence that placed them in this cohort.

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Western Bay

# Building Skills Programme



# Introduction

The Western Bay Building Skills Programme was developed to give young people involved in the youth justice system the opportunity to develop their personal and team building skills. We offer a service where we can design and build wooden bespoke play areas and equipment for schools and community groups throughout the Western Bay area.

Through this process of engagement the young people involved in the programme gain valuable experience and knowledge in project planning, construction skills, budgeting, health and safety, community regeneration and the most importantly, they gain valuable work experience that can be utilised after they have completed the programme.

The Western Bay Building Skills Programme can offer a low cost solution to schools and community groups in obtaining a high quality bespoke product that is designed and built with the direct input from the young people who it is designed for in the first place.



If you are interested in us undertaking a project for you, or for further details please contact:

Tyrone Hughes mobile 07890 534178  
office 01656 815655

email: [tyrone.hughes@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:tyrone.hughes@bridgend.gov.uk)

Kevin Reeves mobile 07890 534163  
office 01656 815655

email: [kevin.reeves@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.reeves@bridgend.gov.uk)

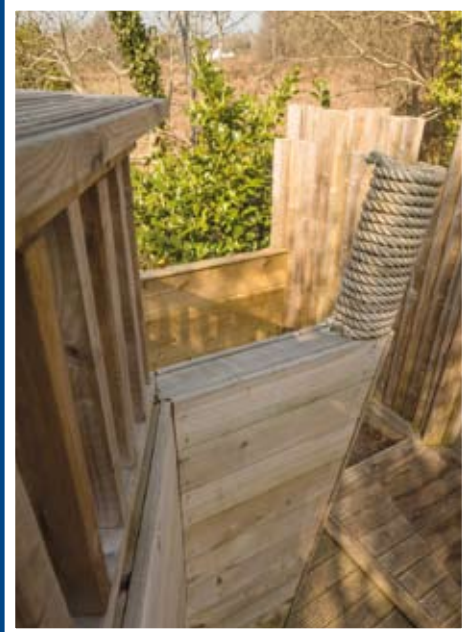
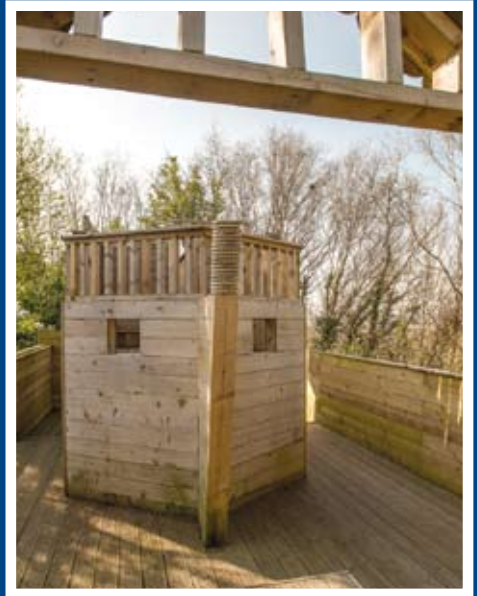




# Brynmenyn Primary School

Brynmenyn Primary School decided to use the Youth Offending Service to develop our disused and redundant garden. One key factor in our decision was that they provided a service which included design ideas and was excellent value for money. We also considered the fact that the youths they work with would benefit greatly from having something constructive to focus on.

All the boys that took part were always polite and took great pride in their work, whilst at the same time developed useful skills. The work was carried out to a very high standard and supervision levels were appropriate and well managed.



The end result was a superb area, which is well used by all pupils for quiet time, role play, active learning and imaginative play. All pupils including the upper juniors love to play on the ship and in the castle. In fact it has become a great way to manage behaviour at playtime as good behaviour is rewarded the following break time.

Thank you to the whole team.

Clare Dale

Headteacher

Brynmenyn Primary School

# Litchard Primary School

Our Nursery has had an incredible wooden structure constructed by the local Bridgend Youth Offending Service (YOS) in its Nursery soft play area directly outside the classroom. The school already had close links with the team via the “Groundwork Trust” who had already worked at the school revamping and improving our Nature Reserve. The team, led by the same person, Tyrone Hughes liaised with the school to improve an existing pergola which was positioned in the Nursery area after a new Nursery was built three years ago. It served no practical purpose, provided no shade and was on the verge of being taken away.

Tyrone, together with a professional tradesman, designed a bespoke “Castle” using the pergola as the frame. From the outset all Health and Safety regulations were taken into consideration in relation to the construction. When the building work took place, the young adults were fully supervised and were very well mannered. The team constructed the “Castle” two days per week and also during the holiday periods. The project took six weeks from start to finish. The school paid for the materials but the labour and management of the project was free of charge.

The quality of the work is first class. Litchard has a ‘Castle fit for a prince and princess’ that provides a covered area from rain and sun for 30 pupils. We are now planning our next project!

Head teacher

Litchard Primary



# Nantymoel Primary School

A large wooden play area in the shape of a castle, complete with 13 foot high turrets has been created at our school thanks to the work carried out by Tyrone Hughes and small number of young volunteers. The construction also featured a wooden train that children can climb around and play inside.

The new play area is really popular with our pupils and they were involved in the process from the start, by having input on what they would like to see built.

The project benefitted two groups: a school who received a superb addition to our playground for the cost of materials and a group of youngsters who were encouraged to demonstrate commitment and diligence in order to complete a project that they could be proud of.



Alyson Jones  
Headteacher  
Nantymoel Primary School



# Y Bont

“It was fantastic to have the team at Y Bont. They were amazing. They were courteous at all times and left everything spotless. The team were accommodating to the needs of the setting on a day to day basis and all children’s needs were considered in the building of the ark. The team kept us well informed on the whole process. They went above and beyond and exceeded our expectations. A fantastic resource for outdoor learning has been provided which can be used all year round. Y Bont cannot thank the team enough.”



Diolch / Many Thanks

Wendy Williams  
Childcare Coordinator

Y Bont  
Ewenny Road,  
Bridgend,  
CF31 3HT  
Tel: 01656 646013

[www.ybont.com](http://www.ybont.com)

# Rhaglen Adeiladu Sgiliau Bae'r Gorllewin



# Cyflwyniad

Datblygwyd Rhaglen Adeiladu Sgiliau Bae'r Gorllewin i roi cyfle i bobl ifanc sy'n ymwneud â'r system cyfiawnder ieuencidd ddatblygu eu sgiliau personol a'u sgiliau adeiladu tîm. Rydym yn cynnig gwasanaeth lle'r ydym yn dylunio ac adeiladu mannau ac offer chwarae pren pwrpasol i ysgolion a grwpiau cymunedol ledled ardal Bae'r Gorllewin.

Drwy'r broses ymgysylltu hon, mae'r bobl ifanc sy'n cymryd rhan yn y rhaglen yn ennill profiad a gwybodaeth werthfawr o ran cynllunio prosiectau, sgiliau adeiladu, cyllidebu, iechyd a diogelwch, adfywio cymunedau ac yn bwysicaf oll, maen nhw'n cael profiad gwaith gwerthfawr y gallant ei ddefnyddio ar ôl iddyn nhw gwblhau'r rhaglen.

Gall Rhaglen Adeiladu Sgiliau Bae'r Gorllewin gynnig cynnyrch pwrpasol o ansawdd da am gost isel i ysgolion a grwpiau cymunedol, a hwnnw wedi'i ddylunio a'i adeiladu gyda chyfraniad uniongyrchol y bobl ifanc y cafodd ei ddylunio ar eu cyfer.



Os oes gennych chi ddiddordeb mewn gofyn inni gyflawni prosiect i chi, neu i gael mwy o fanylion cysylltwch â:

Tyrone Hughes: ffôn symudol 07890 534178  
swyddfa 01656 815655

e-bost: [tyrone.hughes@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:tyrone.hughes@bridgend.gov.uk)

Kevin Reeves: ffôn symudol 07890534163  
swyddfa 01656 815655

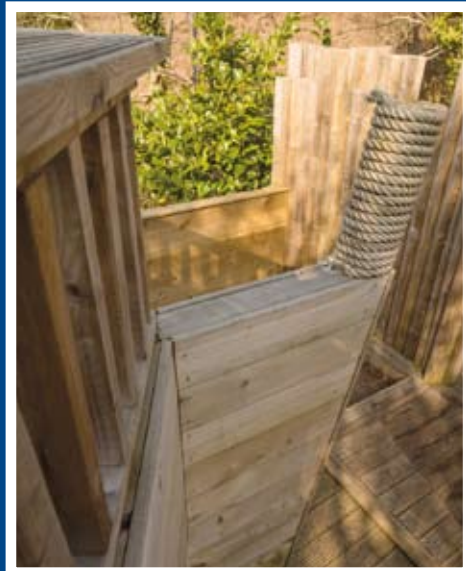
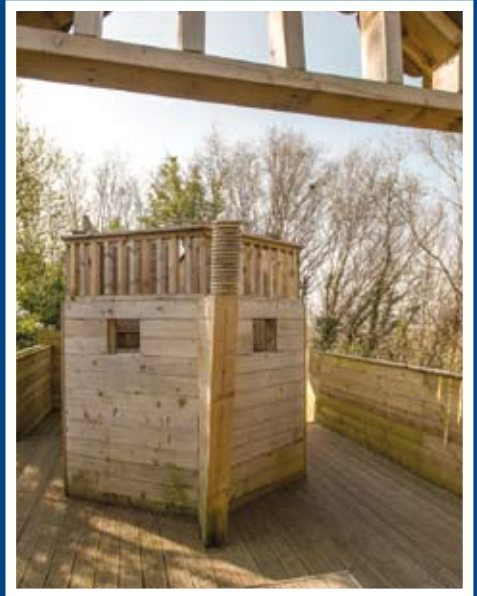
e-bost: [kevin.reeves@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.reeves@bridgend.gov.uk)



# Ysgol Gynradd Brynmenyn

Roedd gan Ysgol Gynradd Brynmenyn ardd nad oedd yn cael ei defnyddio, a phenderfynwyd gofyn i'r Gwasanaeth Troseddau leuenctid ei datblygu. Un ffactor allweddol yn ein penderfyniad oedd eu bod yn cynnig gwasanaeth a oedd yn cynnwys syniadau dylunio ac yn rhoi gwerth ardderchog am arian. Rhoddwyd hefyd ystyriaeth i'r ffaith y byddai'r bobl ifanc y maen nhw'n gweithio gyda nhw yn elwa'n fawr ar gael rhywbeth adeiladol i ganolbwyntio arno.

Roedd yr holl fechgyn a gymerodd ran yn gwrtais ac yn falch iawn o'u gwaith, ac ar yr un pryd roedden nhw'n datblygu sgiliau defnyddiol. Gwnaed y gwaith i safon uchel iawn ac roedd lefelau goruchwyliaeth yn addas ac wedi'u rheoli'n dda.



Canlyniad hyn oedd ardal ardderchog, sy'n cael ei defnyddio'n helaeth gan y disgyblion i gyd ar gyfer amser tawel, chwarae rolau, dysgu egni'ol a chwarae dychmygus. Mae'r holl ddisgyblion, gan gynnwys y rhai hynaf o'r adran iau yn hoffi chwarae ar y llong ac yn y castell. A dweud y gwir, mae wedi dod yn ffordd wych i reoli ymddygiad amser chwarae gan fod ymddygiad da yn cael ei wobrwyo yn ystod yr amser egwyl nesaf.

Diolch i'r tîm i gyd.

Clare Dale

Pennaeth

Ysgol Gynradd Brynmenyn

# Ysgol Gynradd Llidiard

Mae tîm lleol Gwasanaeth Troseddau Ieuenctid Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr wedi adeiladu strwythur anhygoel o bren ar gyfer ein Meithrinfa, yn yr ardal chwarae meddal yn union y tu fas i'r ystafell ddosbarth. Roedd gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau agos â'r tîm eisoes drwy'r Ymddiriedolaeth "Groundwork" a oedd wedi gweithio yn yr ysgol yn barod, yn ailwampio a gwella ein Gwarchodfa Natur. Arweiniwyd y tîm gan yr un person, Tyrone Hughes, a chydgysylltodd â'r ysgol i wella pergola a osodwyd yn ardal y Feithrinfa pan adeiladwyd Meithrinfa newydd dair blynedd yn ôl. 'Doedd gan y pergola ddim diben ymarferol, 'doedd e ddim yn rhoi unrhyw gysgod ac roedd ar fin cael ei chwalu.

Ynghyd â chrefftwr proffesiynol, cynlluniodd Tyrone 'Gastell' pwrpasol gan ddefnyddio'r pergola fel ffrâm. O'r dechrau'n deg, rhoddwyd ystyriaeth i'r holl reoliadau lechyd a Diogelwch o ran y gwaith adeiladu. Pan oedd y gwaith adeiladu'n digwydd, roedd yr oedolion ifanc yn cael eu goruchwyllo'n llawn ac roeddynt yn gwrtais dros ben. Roedd y tîm yn gweithio ar y "Castell" ddau ddiwrnod yr wythnos a hefyd yn ystod y gwyliau. Cymerodd y prosiect chwe wythnos o'i ddechrau i'w ddiwedd. Talodd yr ysgol am y deunyddiau ond roedd y llafur a'r gwaith o reoli'r prosiect i gyd am ddim.

Mae ansawdd y gwaith o'r radd flaenaf. Mae gan Llidiard gastell sy'n weddus i dywysog a thywysoges, a hwnnw'n darparu cysgod rhag y glaw a'r haul ar gyfer 30 o ddisgyblion. Rydym nawr yn cynllunio ein prosiect nesaf!

**Pennaeth**

**Ysgol Gynradd Llidiard**





# Ysgol Gynradd Nant-y-moel

Crëwyd man chwarae mawr pren ar ffurf castell yn ein hysgol, gyda thyrau 13 troedfedd o uchder, diolch i waith a wnaed gan Tyrone Hughes a nifer fechan o wirfoddolwyr ifanc. Mae'r strwythur hefyd yn cynnwys trêen pren y gall y plant ddringo arno a chwarae ynddo.

Mae'r man chwarae newydd yn boblogaidd iawn gyda'n disgyblion ac roeddynt yn rhan o'r broses o'r cychwyn, drwy gael dweud eu dweud ynglŷn â'r hyn yr hoffent ei weld yn cael ei adeiladu.

Roedd y prosiect o fudd i ddau grŵp: ysgol a dderbyniodd ychwanegiad rhagorol i'n maes chwarae am bris y deunyddiau, a grŵp o bobl ifanc a gafodd eu hannog i ddangos ymroddiad a dyfalbarhad er mwyn cwblhau prosiect y gallent fod yn falch ohono.



Alyson Jones

Pennaeth

Ysgol Gynradd Nant-y-moel



# Y Bont

“Roedd yn wych cael y tîm yn y Bont. Roedden nhw'n anhygoel. Roedden nhw'n gwrtais drwy'r adeg a chafodd popeth ei adael yn berffaith lân. Roedd y tîm yn hyblyg o ran anghenion y lleoliad o ddydd i ddydd a rhoddwyd ystyriaeth i anghenion y plant i gyd wrth adeiladu'r Arch. Cawsom y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf gan y tîm gydol yr holl broses. Fe wnaethant fwy na'r gofyn gan ragori ar ein disgwyliadau. Darparwyd adnodd ardderchog ar gyfer dysgu yn yr awyr iach, a gallwn ei ddefnyddio gydol y flwyddyn. Ni all y Bont ddiolch digon i'r tîm.”



Diolch / Many Thanks

Wendy Williams  
Cydgysylltydd Gofal Plant

Y Bont  
Ewenny Road,  
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr,  
CF31 3HT  
Rhif ffôn: 01656 646013

[www.ybont.com](http://www.ybont.com)