

Legal and Regulatory Services /
Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol
Direct line / Deialu uniongyrchol: 01656 643148
Ask for / Gofynnwch am: Mark Galvin

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

Date / Dyddiad: 22 July 2015

Dear Councillor,

COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Community, Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held in Committee Rooms 2/3, Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB on **Tuesday, 28 July 2015** at 2.00PM.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence (to include reasons, where appropriate) from Members/Officers
2. Declarations of interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including Whipping declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 14
To receive for approval the Minutes of a meeting of the Community, Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 10 June 2015
4. Social Housing Allocation Policy update report - Implementation of the Common Housing Register 15 - 26

Invitees:

M Shephard – Corporate Director Communities
S Pryce – Head of Regeneration and Development
A Bowen – Group Manager Housing and Community Regeneration
Councillor P White – Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing

5. Forward Work Programme update 27 - 30

6. Urgent Items

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

7. Exclusion of the Public

The report relating to the following item is not for publication as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 and 16 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007. If following the application of the public interest test Committee resolves pursuant to the Act to consider this item in private, the public will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration.

8. Waste Services Provision 31 - 38

Invitees:

M Shephard – Corporate Director Communities
Z Shell – Head of Neighbourhood Services
Councillor P White – Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing

Yours faithfully

P A Jolley

Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services

Distribution:

Councillors:

DK Edwards
CA Green
RM James
RD Jenkins

Councillors

CL Jones
DRW Lewis
JR McCarthy
G Phillips

Councillors

JC Spanswick
JH Tildesley MBE
KJ Watts
R Williams

Agenda Item 3

COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2015

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2015 AT 2.00 PM

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

DK Edwards
G Phillips

CA Green
KJ Watts

RM James
R Williams

JR McCarthy

Officers:

Alex Carey	Scrutiny Support Officer
Kym Barker	Scrutiny Support Officer
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer Committees
Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Kevin Mulcahy	Group Manager - Highways Services
Mark Shephard	Corporate Director - Communities
Andrew Thomas	Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Councillor P J White – Holiday
Councillor R D Jenkins – Mayoral engagement
Councillor C L Jones – Trade Union commitment
Councillor D R W Lewis – Prior commitment

The Chairperson gave a warm welcome to Alex Carey, the new Scrutiny Support Officer who was attending his first Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Alex Carey declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5, in that one of the Invitees coming to respond to questions in respect of the report was his Senior Officer when he previously held a position within the Highways Department of the Authority

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of a meeting of the Community Renewal and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 13 April 2015 be approved as a true and accurate record.

4. BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL SPORT, PLAY AND ACTIVE WELLBEING SERVICE

The Chairperson invited the Invitees to the meeting, and the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing gave a resume of the report, following which the meeting entered into a question and answer engagement.

The Chairperson made a general comment, in that in terms of future similar reports there needed to be more in the way of outcomes included therein, rather than just outputs and inputs.

A Member referred to paragraph 4.19 of the report, where it stated that the service had responded to the challenge of supporting partners to focus on the prevention and wellbeing based interventions that can reduce the need for higher cost provision or support. This approach was compatible with the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, developing community based interventions where appropriate. He asked if this related solely to Council owned sport and recreation centres/facilities led on by Halo, or also included private operations ie other small gyms and keep-fit type centres.

The Group Manager – Sport and Physical Activity advised that the data included in the report related only to Council owned Centres and leisure buildings, for example the type of programmes that were available for members and the paying public and how many visits were made to these over a given period.

A Member noted from paragraph 4.1 of the report, that a Play Sufficiency Action Plan for Bridgend, recognised the need for partnership approaches to redressing imbalances in opportunity for targeted populations and communities. He commended this approach.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity advised that this play sufficiency approach introduced by Welsh Government meant that Wales were the first nation in the world to place a statutory duty in relation to the encouragement of play by all ages, particularly the young, and to look at and monitor the outcomes of this, from both a quantity and quality perspective. There would definitely be a partnership approach between the local authority, Halo and other stakeholders and related organisations to deliver upon the components of the Action Plan.

There was however, no funding to support this initiative, and therefore a different approach that required consideration and innovative thinking needed to be put in place to both move the Action Plan forward, and compensate for the lack of funding that would be forthcoming to financially support it.

A Member referred to page 12, paragraph 4.2 of the report and asked Invitees if they could explain how trends relating to the number of visits to ~~the rationale behind the calculation formula used to calculate the number of visitors that had visited Council operated physical activity venues bases~~ during the last couple of years had been calculated.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity advised that the calculation had been over a 2 year period, and that the figure for 2014/15 had been 1,242.624, and 1,438.439 for the previous year.

This included not just Halo operated Centres, but other dual used facilities that included parks and playing fields. He added that the visits accounted for the fact that in this time, particularly latterly, visits to Halo operated Leisure Centres had increased while visits to more outdoor leisure facilities including parks and playing fields had decreased.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing added that the increase in visits to Council owned Leisure facilities had increased as previously they were being improved, restructured and renovated, and during this time visitors to these facilities had predictably reduced in number.

The Cabinet Member – Communities added that one set of figures in this section of the report signified the number of visits per thousand population, whilst the other showed the total figure ~~per say~~ per se.

A Member felt that large playing fields and open areas should be protected where possible, in order to ensure that there are areas within the County Borough that can be used for recreation and play, and that ~~Officer's~~ Officers should work with Planning Officers in the consideration of land allocation uses within the Local Development Plan, with a view to not losing these areas.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity advised that as part of the Play Sufficiency Assessment Officers were requested to consult with key ~~Officer's~~ Officers such as those within the Education and Planning Departments, with a view to protecting outside areas where play could be facilitated. There were some subtle yet distinct differences on what constituted open space ie for play and recreation, as opposed to areas of land that was required to be used for other community needs.

A Member asked that in terms of usage of Council owned football, rugby and cricket pitches, if there was any data available to confirm not just the number of different teams and clubs that used these facilities, but also the number of games and individual involved over the course of a season.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity confirmed that the Authority had for some time, been endeavouring to put the onus on Clubs and associations to maintain the playing fields and Club houses/changing rooms they used, and there was ongoing dialogue with a view to this being achieved as far as was possible across the County Borough. Funding was set aside in the budget to help support and Clubs to move towards this, and last financial year this figure amounted to £101k. He added that although he had no data available with him to respond to the Members question, he could obtain this and provide it to Members outside of the meeting, as well as for other sports that were more female than male orientated.

A Member expanded upon a point made earlier in debate, in that there was a massive demand for playing fields upon which to play sport and other recreational activities. In terms of closing schools under the School Modernisation Programme, whilst he recognised the need to do this to amalgamate schools and build new, as a number of schools were structurally not up to the standard that was required, he felt that while there was merit in selling on the school (or site it was situate on) the adjoining playing field areas should be retained by the Authority to encourage the use of sport, play and other activities. He felt that Officers should more actively link in with the Education Department to retain some of these areas for the reasons given above.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity advised that when new build schools were being planned to be constructed, steps were taken to ensure that there were facilities available at the new school, not just to provide for sports and other physical activities for pupils at the school, but to ensure that there are sufficient facilities and open space provided to cater for the needs of outside users. An example of this was at the Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen school.

He added that a similar theme would be followed in respect of the new school provided at Parc Derwen, ie that this would also include the provision of playing fields that could be used not just be the school but the public also.

The Cabinet Member – Communities advised Members that he had only recently taken over this portfolio, but he had noted the points Members had made above, and asked

Members to directly link in with him if they were aware in the future of any playing fields, including those that are disposed of as part of the selling of schools.

The Group Manager - Sports and Physical Activity acknowledged the scope there was to open up facilities at schools so that they are available for the wider community. He added that there was a flagship Project underway at Brynteg Comprehensive School whereby a fitness facility had been provided there to encourage females to become more actively involved in wellbeing activities, and further funding initiatives were being sought to roll this out to other schools, to include the wider community.

A Member noted from paragraph 4.6 of the report that the service now had formal partnerships with 33 Primary schools, 9 Secondary schools and 2 Special schools to further develop active, healthy and physically literate young people with expansion scheduled for 2015/16. He noted that this was work still in progress, but asked Invitees if Members could be further informed of outcomes on this in due course, including which schools had not committed to such a partnership arrangement.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity advised that he would share this with Committee members at an appropriate date within the future.

A Member noted from paragraph 4.9 of the report that the Porthcawl Marina had achieved 100% berth occupancy, however, a Feasibility Study previously undertaken had indicated that a larger Marina than that provided for would not have been viable, even though there was a waiting list for berths there. She asked if the Consultants who had carried out the Study had miscalculated, and if in fact a larger Marina could have proved viable after all.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity confirmed that he had not had any direct involvement in the Capital development or scoping of the Project, though he was aware that 80 – 90% of the occupants of the berths were from the area of Porthcawl. He did acknowledge that the Marina had proven to be a popular initiative.

The Chairperson referred to paragraph 4.13 of the report, and noted that the service has conducted the play sufficiency assessment required by Welsh Government, and that it also manages the annual Action Plans and performance reporting requirements. He asked by what method was the Action Plan reported.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity confirmed that the Action Plans were monitored and reported upon annually to Welsh Government, and that in 2016 the Play Sufficiency model would be re-assessed for the next 3 years after that, and the outcomes from the existing Action Plan together with the aims and objectives etc, for the re-assessed model would be shared with Overview and Scrutiny and the Local Service Board at an appropriate date within the future.

In respect of paragraph 4.14 of the report, and school holiday play programmes arranged with certain Town and Community Councils, the Chairperson felt it would be advantageous if further information on the success or otherwise of these schemes could be shared with Members in due course. This was agreed to by the Invitees.

The Chairperson noted from paragraph 4.18 of the report, that the service had managed investment into the Play Action Plan by Welsh Government, including the purchase of play equipment and training programmes, and he asked how much finance had been committed to the above by WG.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity responded that this was nearly 60k for outdoor based activities where areas where there was deprivation were concentrated upon in terms of improving facilities in such areas. Also provisions had been provided that also catered for the disabled etc. He could provide more detail regarding exactly what had been provided and in which localities of the County Borough, outside of the meeting.

The Chairperson referred to paragraph 4.23 of the report and the 'Us Girls' programme promoting increased female activity levels which has created a new Community Interest Organisation and 5 Network groups run by girls. He asked for some further information on this, including how less active girls were identified.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity advised that this new Community Interest Organisation, though being an objective of the Local Sports Plan, was organised by the female participants themselves, though BCBC allocated resources to the programme. The programme consisted of females being trained in various different types of activity events and then participating in these. It was a very positive programme he added.

A Member referred to paragraph 4.28 of the report, and reference to barriers being in the way of young carers becoming involved in physical activity. He asked if Invitees could expand upon what these barriers were.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity advised that these barriers related primarily to transport and cost issues, though these now having been identified, were being looked at in order that they could be overcome, for example through organising more local activity programmes situated within the locations where these people lived. He would share progress regarding the above with members as things developed.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing added that this week was Carers Week and that issues such as that highlighted above, could be shared with Carers including other key information highlighted under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. It was intended to develop the Carers agenda further in respect of their engagement in sport and activity.

A Member referred to paragraph 4.34 of the report, where it indicated that BCBC had established a partnership with Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Council's Councils to work collaboratively on the Park Lives initiative, to establish volunteer led activities in park settings for people of all ages. He asked Invitees what this initiative was.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity responded that this was a project that had been introduced by Coca Cola Lite, and involved more lighter type physical outdoor activities including gardening. This had been introduced previously in Birmingham, and proved a successful programme there. The Welsh Government were advocating the programme on an all Wales basis, but in terms of BCBC's involvement with the two other Authorities this was presently work in progress.

Finally, a Member noted that the report's financial implications section in the report referred to savings in respect of the areas covered within the report were in the region of £247k for 2015/16. He asked how these were intending to be achieved.

The Group Manager – Sports and Physical Activity advised that the savings had been made as part of the Agreement with GLL/Halo Partnership, and had been made as part of BCBC's Efficiency savings.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing added that a further report would be shared with Members, that would include data and other outcomes regarding the use by the public of the BCBC Leisure buildings that are now being run through a partnership arrangement with GLL/Halo.

Conclusions:

The Committee noted the report, which provided an update on the key areas of performance of Bridgend county Borough Council's Sport, Play and Active Wellbeing service during 2014/15.

- Members raised several queries regarding services managed by Halo Leisure Ltd, the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing explained that there would be a report on the Halo contract and service plan coming to a Community Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting later in the year.
- Members raised concerns that the report was 'light' on information regarding the provision of space and opportunity for informal play and activities.
- Members raised concerns regarding the tension between the need for identifying space for building housing and the consequent increase in need for play spaces.
- Members queried the presentation of information on the number of physical activity based visits to Council operated leisure facilities. The Officer explained that the figures had been presented in two different ways, as both actual and per 1,000 population.
- Members raised concerns regarding lack of consistency in collecting information regarding Town and Community Council partnership activities.
- Members commented that the 100% take up of berths in Porthcawl Harbour and the waiting list for spaces may indicate that the original estimate for take up of spaces underestimated demand and potential and consequently impacted on decisions regarding the size of the harbour at the planning stage.
- Members queried progress on the 'Park Lives' initiative and the potential partnership with Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. The Officer said that it was still early days and that discussions were still taking place.
- Members were concerned that the report did not contain much information on outcomes and impact on individuals and communities, the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing acknowledged this and agreed that future reports would contain information on outcomes.

Further Information requested

- Members requested a breakdown of figures for the number of physical activity based visits to Council operated leisure facilities to illustrate the trend data more clearly using like for like figures for comparison.
- Members requested more information on which BCBC schools are involved in formal partnerships to develop active, healthy and physically literate young people, and on how expansion is planned.
- Members requested more information on the Play Sufficiency Duty Assessment.
- Members requested a breakdown of the information collected from Town and Community Councils to help to establish where information needed for evaluating the success of the partnerships and the activities may be incomplete.
- Members requested further information on the scope, results and feedback collected following the consultation carried out with young carers to identify barriers to regular participation in activities.

5. CAR PARKING MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Corporate Director – Communities submitted a report, the purpose of which was to advise Members on progress regarding Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) within Bridgend Town Centre.

By way of introduction, he confirmed that the title of the report covered quite a broad area of service, and that a considerable number of reports had been presented to Cabinet in respect of car parking over the past 12 months or so, as part of the MTFs considerations. There was also a proposal to close the Rhiw car park in order to rebuild this as well as providing housing and retail accommodation on this site, and this would take up to 18 months to complete. The sale of Sunnyside offices would also add to the loss of car parking spaces with 210 staff car parking spaces being lost as a result of this.

The above would result in some challenges for the Authority, certainly over the short term not just for BCBC employees, but also for people who trade in the town and rely on car parking facilities being available for this purpose.

A Member referred to Civil Parking Enforcement Officers and asked Invitees as to what criteria was used in terms of where they operated.

The Group Manager – Highway Services confirmed that there were only a limited number of these Officers employed between BCBC and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils, and though they worked hours under a split shift arrangement including weekends, they could not cover all areas of these areas fairly consistently, as there were insufficient numbers of them to achieve this.

They monitored, in particular, schools and busy areas such as town centres, including Porthcawl during the summer season when a significant number of tourists visited this location. They also covered certain “hot spot” areas, where unauthorised parking was a problem, as well as responding to calls of complaint reactively speaking.

They also tended to monitor areas where they could use enforcement action for those that had parked illegally, ie on double yellow lines and areas where there were restricted parking times.

The Corporate Director – Communities added that there was no set schedule as such which outlined specified areas that they monitored, and areas were prioritised as the Officer had said. They had to concentrate in the main in town centre areas, as these were the locations where there was mostly a problem with illegal parking.

A Member asked if there was any possibility of employing more of these Officers in order to look to increasing from drivers who parked in an illegal or unauthorised manner.

The Group Manager – Highway Services explained that this would be counter-productive, given that to date not enough income from people who offended to justify employing more Civil Parking Enforcement Officers. He added that Civil parking Enforcement was not just about gaining an income stream for the Council, but probably more about educating vehicle owners to park in places where they should park. CCTV also helped with situations of Civil Parking Enforcement.

The Chairperson referred to paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of the report regarding Penalty Charge Notices and vehicle owners appealing against the issue of these through Denbighshire County Council who lead on behalf of 9 Welsh authorities in terms of

processing payments under the Wales Penalty Processing Partnership. He asked if there was any data available to reflect the income being received in respect of the issuing of successful penalty notices.

The Group Manager – Highway Services confirmed that Appeals against the serving of these notices were dealt with by the relevant Authority prior to being referred to Denbighshire. He was able to provide data for Members outside the meeting, but it would only be in respect of BCBC.

A Member noted that the business case for the combined service to be self-financing estimated that approximately 14,000 PCNs would require issuing per year, and the level of infringements were just short of this level, even though they are higher than were predicted. He further noted that the Council were experiencing a financial shortfall as a result of this, and asked if this was estimated to be a loss year on year.

The Group Manager – Highway Services advised that the report was slightly misleading, in that there had been a surplus made last year in terms of income received as a result of the successful serving of Penalty Charge Notices, when compared to outgoings in terms of the financial support of Civil Parking Enforcement Officers. There were reasons for this, that included Civil Parking Enforcement Officers carrying out general car parking duties that was separately funded as well as income coming from unsuccessful Appeals against the serving of Notices..

A Member asked if Civil Parking Enforcement Officers had radio's in order that they could communicate, for example, with PCSO's from the Police.

The Group Manager – Highway Services advised that the above Officers did have Mobile Phones in order that they could communicate with each other and the Main Office etc, but not radios as such.

The Corporate Director – Communities confirmed that though he was not adverse to there being some crossover work arranged with the Police, different legislation covered the work of the Police and these local authority Officers in relation to highway matters.

The Group Manager – Highway Services in respect of a question in relation to residents parking schemes, advised that though they worked in some areas, they did not in others. The main issue that arose, was that on occasions residents returned home after going out in their vehicle, only to find that a member of the general public had parked their vehicle outside of the residents property.

A consultation exercise had recently been carried out in respect of the provision of residents parking schemes being provided in certain areas, and the feedback received on this would be considered by the Cabinet Member – Communities and the Corporate Director – Communities.

A Member asked why residential streets adjacent to Bridgend Town Centre and those adjacent to Porthcawl sea front were being targeted as residents parking schemes, when there was a problem with on-street car parking outside schools in the County Borough. These areas also required targeting to ensure children's safety when walking to/from school.

The Group Manager – Highway Services responded that there had been a longstanding problem with regard to unauthorised on-street parking in some areas of Bridgend town, so there was a justifiable reason to introduce residents parking schemes in these areas. Bridgend had been the subject of a number of transitions in terms of car parking. This

had now been compounded by the fact that there would be considerable upheaval in terms of car parking provision for visitors to the town centre in the next few months, as discussed earlier in the debate. There was a need therefore to ensure that unlawful parking was not taking place as a result of this. Porthcawl and Bridgend had been selected as areas for residents parking schemes, as funding had been made available specifically for these two town locations, the former through pay and display parking. These were the reasons why these two areas had been given priority he added.

In terms of schools, the Corporate Director – Communities added that the provision of resident parking schemes were not necessarily the answer to resolve parking problems in such locations. It could be that the design of roads and lanes etc, serving the school may need to be modified as well as the access/egress points of the school. A different solution such as this may need to be considered he felt, as opposed to resident parking schemes.

A Member asked that if permit parking schemes were introduced, would this generate more income for the Authority, and if so, was it possible for this to be committed to employing extra Civil Parking Enforcement Officers.

The Group Manager – Highway Services replied that a Business Case could not be made for the above, as the aims and objectives of schemes such as that being discussed above, were for the benefit of residential communities, as well as to educate perpetrators to park legally in the correct places.

The Corporate Director – Communities concurred with this, and added that the aim was for the public to comply in terms of parking their vehicle in an appropriate location

The Group Manager – Highway Services further added that if people were parking in correct places within any given location, then this helped with the free flow of moving traffic and reduced traffic queues.

The Chairperson pointed out that the information in terms of costs, revenue and other associated information shown in Paragraph 4.2 of the report, did not correspond with similar information outlined in Paragraph 7.1 of the report, headed financial implications, and he asked Invitees if they could update Members further on this outside the meeting to which they agreed.

A Member noted from paragraph 4.11 of the report, that it was recognised that capacity issues within remaining car parks in Bridgend had been acknowledged in light of the proposal for the replacement of the Rhiw Car Park, and that measures of mitigation were being considered prior to possible implementation. He asked what these were.

The Corporate Director – Communities advised that the above would be mitigated by temporary parking being made available at the Lorne Stewart and former Coed Parc Library sites as was detailed in Paragraph 4.12 of the report, as well as in Minerva Street. .

He added that it was also being examined if extra spaces or room could also be found in existing car parks.

The Corporate Director – Communities added that there would be a loss of 270 car parking spaces in the Rhiw Car Park, though there was no option there as the car park had to be closed to be modernised in any event.

He further added that Members needed to recognise that car parking income was obviously likely to be reduced during the time that there was a reduction in car parking provision. A worse-case scenario if it became very evident that the car parking available within Bridgend whilst the Rhiw Car Park was out of action was insufficient, would be to look at car parking options just outside of Bridgend such as in Ysgol Bryn Castell school.

The Chairperson asked how many car parking spaces would be lost in total due to the changes affecting the Rhiw Car Park and the proposed sale of Sunnyside offices.

The Corporate Director – Communities confirmed that he thought this number would be approximately 100, but he would advise the Member accordingly at the earliest convenience.

As this concluded debate on the items that the Invitees had been requested to attend for, the Chairperson thanked them for attending and responding to Members questions.

Conclusions:

The Committee noted the report, which advised Members on the progress of the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) within Bridgend and changes to car parking arrangements within Bridgend Town Centre.

- Members asked whether Enforcement Officers and PCSOs are working in partnership and communicating effectively to identify and address potential issues pro-actively. The Officer responded that this was probably happening currently on an informal basis.
- Members queried how the success of Civil Parking Enforcement was being assessed. The Officer responded that there had been requests for more enforcement from citizens in areas where they felt it was needed. Members commented that this may not be a completely representative measure of success.
- Members queried whether the combined service is self-financing, the Officer confirmed that it was but acknowledged that this was not clear from the figures presented in the report.

Recommendations

- The Committee recommends that Enforcement Officers work more closely in partnership with PCSOs to enable better communication and to ensure that issues are dealt with pro-actively and effectively.
- The Committee recommends that the impact of parking around schools on the safety of children be considered a priority when decisions are made on parking restriction and enforcement.

Further Information requested

- Members requested further information on the rationale for prioritising areas for enforcement activities.
- Members requested information on the number and nature of PCN appeals, to include the percentage of successful appeals and the reasons for overturning the decision.

- Further detail is requested regarding the financial situation, the Committee would like the information presented in a clearer format with CPE information presented separately.
- Members requested further detail on the measures being implemented to mitigate the impact of the loss of parking at Sunnyside and the temporary loss of parking due to the development of the Rhiw car parking facility. The information is requested in a format to show the potential sites for parking, number of spaces available at each site and the distance from the town centre and Civic Offices.

6. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report containing suggested topics for consideration in the development of its Forward Work programme for 2015-16.

RESOLVED: That Members agreed to identify 12 primary topics for inclusion in the Programme, acknowledging that some of the dates for the items on the Forward Work Programme may be subject to change, following the first Community Environment and Leisure Pre-Agenda meeting on 15 June 2015.

7. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION AND BUDGET RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PANEL NOMINATION REPORT

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to request the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an Invitee to meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee. The report also sought nominations for the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel in line with the Corporate Resources and Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations made as part of the 2015/16 budget setting process.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That it was agreed that Councillor R D Jenkins be the Committee's Invitee on the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.
- (2) That Councillors C A Green and J C Spanswick be the Committee's nominations to sit on the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel

8. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report containing items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting to be held on 28 July 2015, and seek confirmation of the information required for the subsequent scheduled meeting to be held on 8 October 2015.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 5.12pm

9. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 5.15pm

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 JULY 2015

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES

SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY UPDATE REPORT - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON HOUSING REGISTER

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Committee on the factors that led to the implementation and development of the Social Housing Allocation Policy (SHAP) and the Common Housing Register (CHR); what it was intended to achieve and what has been the result;
- 1.2 The report will also advise Members of how the service and its Registered Social Landlord (RSLs) partners have reviewed the SHAP and how they intend to manage the increased demand for housing solutions services, in a period of budget cuts.

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

- 2.1 The Housing Solutions Service contributes towards the Corporate Plan Priority 'Working together to help vulnerable people stay independent'. The SHAP helps to deliver the Corporate Improvement Priorities of "working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent" and "working together to make the best use of resources", It also helps to manage demand for social housing.

3. Background.

- 3.1 There is a statutory requirement for every housing authority to have a Housing allocation scheme for determining priorities, and a procedure to be followed in allocating housing accommodation. In Bridgend County Borough the Allocation Scheme is known as the SHAP and the procedure to be followed in allocating housing is known as the CHR.
- 3.2 Addressing homelessness is a key priority for the Authority because being homeless or threatened with homelessness severely affects a person's quality of life. The number of people presenting, and being accepted as homeless and being housed in bed & breakfast accommodation was relatively high in 2008/09 and 2009/10, mainly due to a lack of alternative forms of temporary accommodation being available. Also, Housing Benefit was not being fully utilised at this time. The development and use of more appropriate forms of temporary accommodation such as Cornerstone House and Ty Ogwr have greatly reduced the use of and the subsequent cost of bed & breakfast accommodation, and Housing Benefit applications are now completed as a matter of course. **Figure 1** illustrates the use and cost of B&B from 2008/09 to 2014/15.

Figure 1	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Gross cost of B&B accommodation	£720,425	£710,175	£530,668	£365,013	£317,904	£297,087	£226,962
Net cost of B&B accommodation after housing benefit received	£573,809	£333,104	£367,807	£231,887	£190,062	£198,856	£193,690
Total number of households using B&B at any point in the year (These figures represent the total number for the year)	253	266	220	202	167	189	143
Average cost of B&B per person per year	£2,848	£2,670	£2,412	£1,807	£1,904	£1,572	£1,587
Average number of days spent in B&B	63	86	66	64	56	37	38
Number of households with dependent children placed in B&B	50	16	15	10	5	8	0

- 3.3 The average number of days an individual spends in B&B has reduced from 63 in 2008/09 to 38 in 2014/15; the average cost of B&B per person per year has reduced from £2,848 in 2008/09 to £1,587 in 2014/15; and the net cost of B&B accommodation to the Council after housing benefit has been received has reduced from £573,809 in 2008/09 to £193,690 in 2014/15. The 2013-14 Wales average for the average number of days an individual spends in B&B was 36 days. Bridgend is in line with the Wales average. The greatest average an individual spent in B&B was Conwy with 116.64 and the lowest was Torfaen with 8.63. There is no comparator data available in regards to cost per person.
- 3.4 An analysis of service users in B&B accommodation indicates that a very high proportion have support needs, in relation to drugs, alcohol and/or mental health. In 2014-15 13% of service users using B&B accommodation had a priority need because of vulnerability due to a mental illness / learning disability. 38% of service users had a priority need because of vulnerability due to being a former prisoner with no accommodation to go to. 29% of service users had indicated that they needed support / help to live independently. Gaining access to services and having a willingness to participate in harm reduction programs is a key determinant of whether a permanent housing solution can be found and sustained.
- 3.5 The numbers of homelessness presentations and the level of repeat presentations are key performance indicators for drug, alcohol and mental health services, as well as for housing services. In 2014-15 Bridgend had 3.5 homelessness presentations per 1000 population. In comparison, Swansea had the highest number with 13.2 per 1000 population and Flintshire had the lowest with 1.2. Bridgend is below the Wales average of 4.6. There is no comparator data available on repeat presentations.
- 3.6 Cabinet received a report in September 2010 highlighting the spike in homeless presentations and the increased cost to the Authority. A number of priorities to address the homelessness situation in the County Borough were identified, including improving the nomination process with Registered Social Landlords and reducing the number of failed nominations; and fully embracing the prevention

agenda by developing credible housing options, information on homelessness prevention, and training for front line staff.

- 3.7 In October 2011 Cabinet received a further report seeking approval to consult with service users, stakeholders and the citizens of Bridgend on a new Common Allocations Policy for all social housing in Bridgend County Borough; and to consult on the implementation of a CHR. The purpose of the CHR is to streamline access to social housing, improve the nomination process, and provide up to date information to housing applicants on the likely waiting times for social housing.
- 3.8 The Authority developed the CHR in partnership with local RSL's. There are currently 4 RSLs in Bridgend:
- Valleys to Coast (V2C)
 - Linc Cymru
 - Hafod
 - Wales and West Housing Association
- 3.9 Prior to the introduction of the CHR all four RSLs operated a separate housing waiting list and had different methods for allocating vacant housing to applicants, for example V2C operated a points based system whilst Wales and West operated a date order system. The Council also kept a waiting list and operated its own points based allocations system making nominations to the four RSLs. Finally there was a separate scheme for allocating housing for people who require adapted homes, operated by Bridgend Accessible Homes based at V2C. There were therefore six different routes for applicants to access social housing in Bridgend and each operated in a different way.
- 3.10 Following approval by Cabinet, an extensive consultation exercise took place involving a series of customer focus groups. Meetings were held with applicants from the four RSL waiting lists and service users who were at the time housed in temporary accommodation, together with Partner and Stakeholder events to gather their views in order to inform the SHAP. A programme of engagement was designed which primarily consisted of:
- i. an advert was also placed in the Bulletin Newspaper that was distributed to all households in the borough, informing them of the consultation;
 - ii. a letter with the following information; a feedback form; a summary of changes document, and an equalities monitoring form these were widely distributed to applicants on the housing registers of all partners. The feedback form consisted of 8 specific questions relating to the draft policy with opportunities for respondents to expand on their replies, and a final section where additional information could be given;
 - iii. applicant drop in sessions, focus groups for tenants / applicants and a workshop with relevant stakeholders (external agencies) was also facilitated;
 - iv. the programme of engagement was also available on the Council's Website, with an online version of the feedback form for people to submit their views;

The consultation period was for 12 weeks, starting on the 26th October 2011 and ending on the 18th January 2012. There was a 20% response rate. The feedback was positive and the general response was that the draft policy is fair and balanced, prioritising applicants appropriately, making good use of available stock, and explains banding, allocation and exclusion clearly. The responses showed support for the content, clarity and aims of the draft policy. The key theme in the comments was that the closer working relationship between the partners was a positive development, and that the changes outlined in the draft policy would be welcomed.

- 3.11 At the same time as service user, partner and stakeholder consultation was taking place a Workwise review was being carried out on Homelessness and Housing Options Service. The review identified that there was waste in the existing process of maintaining a housing register of applicants who had no identified housing need, when officer time could be better utilised providing more help to those who need it most in the form of homelessness prevention.
- 3.12 Prior to the introduction of the SHAP housing applicants could request to be registered on the Council's Register without any prior qualifying interview or discussion. This resulted in a disproportionate number of applicants being accepted on to the Council's Register without any identified housing need. At 31st March 2013, there were 4,614 applicants on the Council's waiting list, of those 3,184 (69%) had no identified housing need based on the information provided by the applicant at the time of registration. Applicants remained on the Register for an indeterminate time and received additional points for time spent on the list but not because they were in housing need.
- 3.13 The SHAP was developed with the customer in mind and Cabinet approved the SHAP in May 2013. The main principles are set out below:
- all social rented housing is allocated under a single set of rules;
 - a simplified SHAP based on bands of housing need, rather than a very complex points system, with allocations going to those in the highest band and, therefore, in the highest need; and then in date order within that band;
 - a single housing waiting list, known as the CHR, to deliver the SHAP administered by the Council, whereby citizens can make a Housing Enquiry and access advice by the Council and also by the partner RSLs;
 - applicants only accepted on to the CHR following Housing Solutions Interview by the Council; and
 - integrating the allocation of adapted homes into the SHAP and the CHR, ensuring the needs of disabled customers, e.g. access to the services of Occupational Therapists, are maintained.

4.0 Current Situation/Proposal

- 4.1 The Council and the RSLs established a steering group known as the Allocations Panel, which meet once a month with membership consisting of the Team Leader

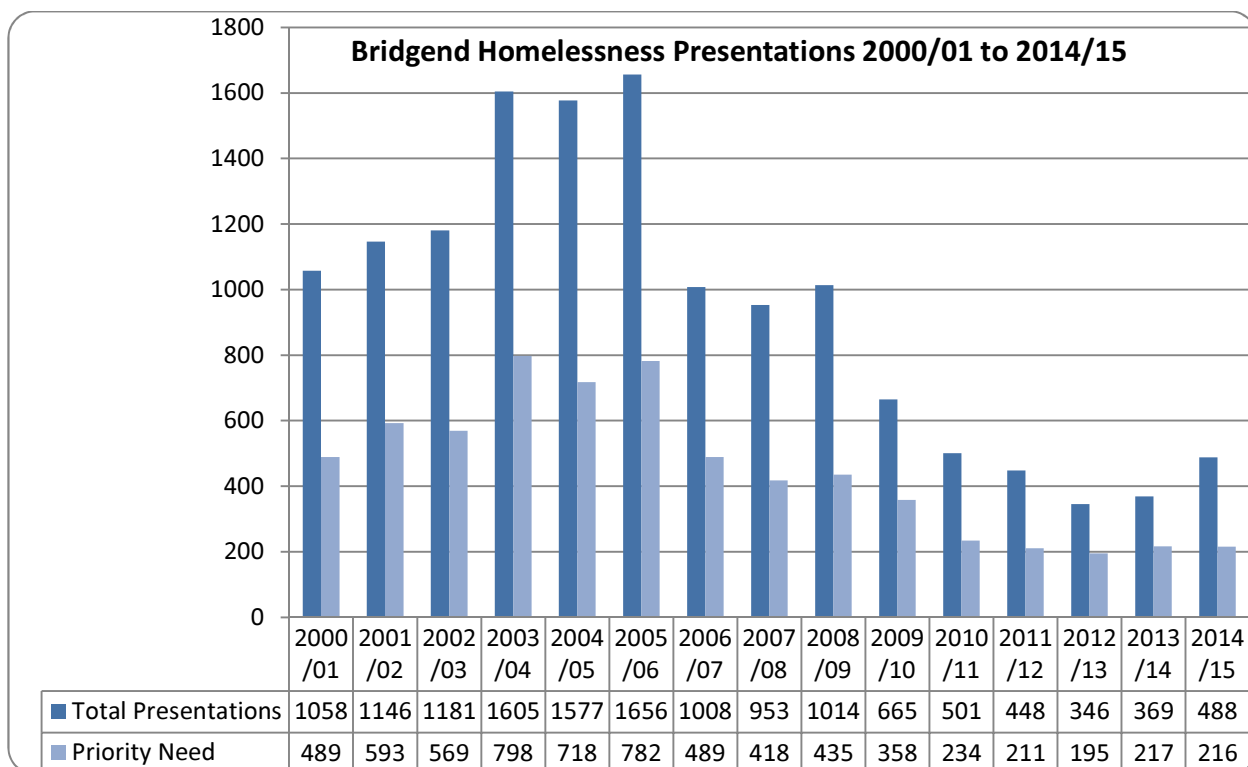
Housing Solutions, Senior Rehousing Officer, and Housing Managers from the four RSLs. The purpose of the group is to oversee the implementation of the SHAP and CHR and they have recently re-evaluated the effectiveness of the SHAP, and have considered the following:

- the effect of the increased demand for both permanent and temporary housing and, in particular, the costs associated with bed and breakfast accommodation;
- the predicted tightening of capital resources in future years, which will restrict the development of further affordable housing;
- the efficiency and fairness in the allocation of existing stock;
- the unacceptably long waiting time for those placed in temporary accommodation awaiting nomination to secure tenancies;
- the need for emergency support to address priority cases; and
- the impact of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, Welfare Reform and Universal Credit and the anticipated increase in homelessness presentations.

The actions and outcomes following the Panel's consideration of the above are set out in 4.16.

- 4.2 Over the past five years homelessness presentations have fallen in the County Borough, as can be seen in **Figure 2**. In 2008/09 there were 1014 presentations which fell to 346 in 2012/13. During this time there has been an increasing focus on the prevention of homelessness. However, in 2013/14 there was a turn in the downward trend with a 6% increase to 369 presentations. This trend is continuing as can be seen in the 2014/15 figure of 488. Work has been done to look at the types and causes of presentations, to see if a pattern is emerging, but this has proved inconclusive, and the Authority cannot yet attribute this to any specific cause. The sustained economic downturn may be a contributing factor.
- 4.3 The Authority will be monitoring the situation carefully, not least because of the financial consequences and impact on customers. The situation will be monitored by producing a monthly / quarterly management information report looking at housing assessment / homelessness presentations, the reasons for the presentations and the outcomes for the applicants i.e. homelessness prevented / homelessness relieved. The report will be presented to the Group Manager Housing & Community Regeneration and Team Leader Housing Solutions.

Figure 2



- 4.4 The number of households being evicted by the four main Housing Associations in the county borough has been relatively low. Only 5 households have been evicted in 2014/15 up to February 2015. This is much lower than in previous years, where 21 households were evicted in 2013/14 and 14 households were evicted in 2012/13. However, the number of households in arrears has been increasing, with 2390 in arrears in 2012/13, 2697 in 2013/14 and 2636 up to Feb 2015. This suggests that welfare reform is beginning to have an impact on households' capacity to pay their rent, but the actions taken by RSL's and the Council, to mitigate the impact of the changes, appear to have been working successfully to date.
- 4.5 Members will recall that both the Council, through Communities First, and RSL's have increased financial advice services available to the Borough's residents. Communities First commissioned the Citizens Advice Bureau to engage with individuals of all ages who have difficulty understanding or managing their money and/or accessing benefits, financial products and services, in 2014-15, 224 people were engaged with across the three Communities First clusters. This well exceeded their target of engaging with 120 people. **Figure 3** demonstrates the outcomes achieved for those 224 individuals.

Figure 3

Financial Inclusion Outcomes 2014/15	No. People Achieved	% People Achieved
PC-PM.4.1 Improved financial literacy/capability	153	68.3%
PC-PM.4.2 Developed a weekly budget	100	44.6%
PC-PM.4.3 More confident managing finances	147	65.6%
PC-PM.4.5 Reducing/Managing debt	115	51.3%
PC-PM.4.6 Supported to access the benefits they are entitled to	210	93.8%

4.6 The lack of suitable allocations to void properties is a growing concern for both the Council and the RSLs, which can be partly attributed to the size and type of available housing in a particular area. Prior to the introduction of the CHR, 4,518 citizens were registered on one of the five separate housing registers. There has been a considerable reduction in the number of applicants on the register as can be seen in **Figure 4**. This is mainly as a result of removing those applicants with no housing need, and also carrying out a re-registration of applicants to ensure they have been correctly assessed. As demand for Social Housing outstrips existing and likely future provision, the SHAP enables the Council and partners to prioritise those in housing need. The average time waiting for all applicants in housing need (Priority, Band A and Band B) has reduced from 2.22 years pre CHR to 1.53 years, following introduction of the CHR.

Figure 4

Housing need priority given	Total number of applicants at 03-07-15
Priority Band	100
Band A	322
Band B	762
Residual Group	131
Total	1315

4.7 Applicants are placed in a Band depending on their assessed housing need. Those in the Priority Band have been assessed as having an exceptional need of housing. This is the highest priority that can be given; those in Band A have been assessed as having an urgent housing need; those in Band B have been assessed as having a non-urgent housing need and; those in the Residual Group have been assessed as not being in housing need. However, this group of applicants were historical applicants and had previously been given some priority for the time they had been waiting. They were therefore given the choice to remain on the register under the Residual Group if they wished. Those in the Residual Group may be nominated for a property when there are no suitable applicants in one of the other bands.

4.8 It can be seen in **Figure 5** that 80% of social housing allocations in 2014/15 were allocated to households requiring a one or two bedroom property.

Figure 5

Number of bedrooms	Number of social housing allocations April 2014 – March 2015	% of social housing allocations
Studio	7	2.2%
1	100	30.8%
2	152	46.8%
3	65	20.0%
4	1	0.3%
Total	325	

- 4.9 **Figure 6** shows the total number of applicants on the CHR by number of bedrooms, and the average number of vacancies that become available for bedroom sizes per annum. It can be seen that the percentage of applicants requiring a one bedroom property has increased, while the percentage requiring a three bedroom property has decreased. There has been an increase in the failed nomination rate for larger properties due to the demand for smaller properties which was expected with the introduction of the 'bedroom tax'.

Figure 6

Number of bedrooms	Number of applicants on CHR at 03-07-15	% of all applicants	Average number of vacancies per annum	% of all vacancies per annum	Success rate of allocations %
1	870	66.2%	203	31.9%	62.5%
2	229	17.4%	296	46.4%	57.7%
3	123	9.4%	136	21.3%	49.8%
4	85	6.5%	3	0.5%	66.7%
5	4	0.3%	0	0%	0%
6	4	0.3%	0	0%	0%
Total	1315		637		57.6% 367 properties

The 57.6% calculation is based on the number of properties successfully allocated per annum (367) as a percentage of the number of vacancies per annum (637).

- 4.10 Where there is no suitable applicant identified from the CHR for a vacancy the RSLs advertise and subsequently allocate the vacancy in a number of different ways. The Council and the RSL partners have acknowledged that this approach is inconsistent and is not the best use of resource or stock and have given an undertaking to review the Bands within the CHR. **Figure 7** shows the number of properties in 2014/15 that were let by the RSL where there was no suitable applicant on the CHR.

Figure 7

Number of bedrooms	Number of social housing allocations available 2014/15	Number of unsuccessful social housing allocations 2014/15
Studio	13	5 (38.5%)
1	196	67 (34.2%)
2	303	122 (40.3%)
3	120	47 (39.2%)
4	5	2 (40.0%)
Total	637	243 (38.1%)

- 4.11 Increasing the supply of affordable housing can significantly help reduce homelessness. During 2013-14 there were 121 affordable homes delivered in Bridgend County Borough. 91 of the 121 units were delivered via Capital Grant Funding i.e. Social Housing Grant, and 26 of the 121 units were delivered via a Section 106 Agreement. This is a significant increase from the previous year where only 30 affordable homes were delivered. Due to development cycles, there is generally a great deal of fluctuation from year to year and the Authority will need to look at data over a longer period to determine trends. There has been a further improvement in 2014-15 with 129 affordable homes being delivered.
- 4.12 The development of social rented housing in Wales has traditionally been supported by public subsidy in the form of Social Housing Grant (SHG), although the reducing availability of SHG has meant that alternative funding models for affordable housing are increasingly being utilised. **Figure 8** shows the main programme spend for Bridgend over the past several years. During the years 2010 onwards the base allocation was £1.7m and from 2013 it has been £1.5m. The fact that the Authority has spent more is an indication of success in gaining additional funding from slippage made available at the year end. Examples of alternative funding include; the Welsh Housing Partnership (WHP) which is financed through a combination of Welsh Government grant funding, private finance and equity finance from the investors in WHP; the Smaller Properties Programme financed by Welsh Government grant funding specifically for 1 and 2 bedroom properties, aimed at alleviating the impact of the under occupancy welfare reform; Section 106 funding and; the Housing Finance Grant which is a form of loan to RSLs to develop new accommodation.

Figure 8

Year	Main Programme Spend (£m)
2007-08	£4.1
2008-09	£3.7
2009-10	£4.4
2010-11	£2.9
2011-12	£2.3
2012-13	£3.4
2013-14	£2.6
2014-15	£1.5 (plus additional £400k from national slippage)

- 4.13 Future cost pressures on the service arising from the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 have been identified as being a corporate risk and managed accordingly within the Communities Directorate. The Authority will now have a duty to assist almost every applicant that presents as homeless, which will increase the pressures on the service. The requirement to undertake reasonable steps to prevent and relieve homelessness will be a further pressure, with an increased focus on case management requiring increased levels of work. In order to meet the demands of the new legislation, it is determined that three additional full time Housing Solutions Advisors will be needed, together and an additional support officer.
- 4.14 An application has been approved by Welsh Government (WG) for transitional funding to resource the new and additional services that will be needed from 1st April 2015. This funding is very welcome, since without it, the full costs of implementing the requirements of the legislation would have fallen entirely upon the Council. Members should note that while indications have been given that funding may be available for 3 years, the confirmed funding commitment is for only one year. If and when this funding ceases, the ongoing resource requirements of the legislation will need to be assessed, and funding for the service adjusted accordingly.
- 4.15 The Supporting People Grant Programme also plays a significant role in preventing homelessness and the Authority has commissioned a holistic service to provide support, refuge and move on for individuals and families fleeing domestic abuse and violence; and is in the process of commissioning generic floating support services to support the homelessness prevention agenda. The holistic service commissioned will be delivered from the Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop (DAOSS) which in August 2015 will be located in Civic Offices and will include support workers from the commissioned service, the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, Victim Support, and the Police. The Housing Solutions team and service users will have direct access to the DAOSS which will be the referral route for all accommodation and floating support services. It is intended that an element of the generic floating services will also be based in Civic Offices working alongside the Housing Solutions team. All Supporting People grant services are monitored through Welsh Government Outcomes Monitoring Framework.
- 4.16 The Council and the four RSLs in Bridgend who are party to the SHAP and the CHR meet on a monthly basis through the Allocations Panel and quarterly through the Bridgend Housing Partnership (BHP). The effectiveness of the SHAP has recently been re-evaluated and Cabinet have agreed to bring in additional procedures to allow the Authority to apply 'the unacceptable behaviour standard' if a person is deemed unsuitable to be a tenant and thereby reduce the preference that is given to their housing application. Since implementation in February 2015, there have been 8 households who have had their preference reduced because of unacceptable behaviour. This is only 0.6% of the total number of households registered on the Common Housing Register.

The relevant grounds used to determine whether an applicant has a reduced preference includes:

- Rent lawfully due has not been paid or an obligation of the tenancy has been broken or not performed

- The tenant or a person residing in or visiting the dwelling has been guilty of conduct causing or likely to cause a nuisance or annoyance
- One partner has left because of violence or threats of violence by the other towards that partner or member of the family
- Condition of the dwelling has deteriorated due to acts of waste, neglect or default by the tenant or by anyone living with him or her
- The condition of furniture provided by the landlord has deteriorated owing to ill treatment by the tenant or by anyone living with him or her
- The landlord was induced to grant the tenancy to the tenant as a result of a false statement made knowingly or recklessly by the tenant
- The tenancy was exchanged by an assignment under Section 92 and the tenant paid or received a premium in return for the exchange
- A tied tenant of a property which forms part of or is within the curtilage of a building held for non-housing purposes who is guilty of conduct that make it inappropriate for him or her to remain in occupation
- A tenant, or an adult residing at the property, is convicted of an indictable offence which took place during, and at the scene of, a riot in the UK

4.17 BHP have also agreed to consider adding a further Band to the CHR of low income households who fall just outside housing need. The Allocations Panel have been asked to develop the criteria around this Band and report back to BHP on the effectiveness of adding a further Band and the likely cost to the RSL partners.

5. Effects on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 These proposals are consistent with current Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There is a risk that demand for temporary accommodation will increase once the full impact of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 is felt, which may result in a budget pressure. Additional transitional funding has been identified by WG for the first three years of the new legislation to support the cost of implementation. As WG budgets for future years have not yet been confirmed, the current funding level of £222,476 is limited to the 2015-16 financial year, with no indication of funding levels beyond this year. If and when this funding ceases, the ongoing resource requirements of the legislation will need to be assessed, and the service adjusted accordingly. As a result of efficiency savings achieved over a number of years the service is now very lean, and there is very little scope to meet additional statutory requirements, or for further cost reductions, without risking an escalation in B&B costs, and returning to the situation in 2008.

8. Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the content of this report.

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16th July 2015

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Background documents:

None.

REPORT TO COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 JULY 2015

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting to be held 8 October 2015 and seeks confirmation of the information required for the subsequent scheduled meeting to be held on 1 December 2015.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 25 February 2015 formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background

3.1 At its meeting on 10 June 2015 the Community Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee determined its Annual Forward Work Programme for 2015/16.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

Meetings of the Community Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.1 In relation to the Committee's next scheduled meeting to be held on 8 October 2015 the table below lists the items to be considered and the invitees due to attend.

Topic	Invitees	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
Adult Community Learning	Mark Shephard - Corporate Director – Communities Councillor Hywel Williams - Cabinet Member for Communities	Originally scheduled to be considered at the April meeting but was moved to accommodate the report on Depot Rationalisation. The report should reference the most recent inspection re-	Detail research / To be confirmed

		inspection reports from Estyn as well as outlining progress on remodelling the existing service.	
Healthy Living Halo Contract and Service Plan	Sue Cooper - Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing Andrew Thomas, Group Manager - Sports and Physical Activity Councillor Philip White - Cabinet Member Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing.	The purpose of the report is to provide information to the Committee on Halo Leisure Ltd year end performance for 2014/15 and to advise Members of performance targets set for 2015/16.	Detail research / To be confirmed

4.2 The table below lists the item to be considered and the invitees due to attend in respect of the subsequent meeting of the Committee to be held on 1 December 2015.

Topic	Invitees	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
Directorate Budget Consultation Process	Mark Shephard - Corporate Director – Communities; Sue Cooper – Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; Councillor Hywel Williams - Cabinet Member for Communities; Councillor Philip White - Cabinet Member Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing.	To consider the Directorate Budget for 2016/17.	Detail research / To be confirmed

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 The work of the Community Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 None

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the topics due to be considered at the meeting of the Committee for 8 October 2015 and confirm if it requires any additional specific information to be provided by the invitees listed or the Overview & Scrutiny Unit.
- (ii) Determine the invitees to be invited to attend, any specific information it would like the invitees to provide and any research that it would like the Overview & Scrutiny Unit to undertake in relation to its meeting for 1 December 2015.

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Background Documents: None

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