

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.  
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich  
dewis iaith.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please  
let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



**Gwasanaethau Gweithredol a Phartneriaethol /  
Operational and Partnership Services**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643696  
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Julie Ellams

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

**Dyddiad/Date:** 21 September 2016

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 the Committee Rooms 2/3, Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB on **Tuesday, 27 September 2016 at 2.00 pm.**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
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 - 10  
To receive for approval the minutes of a meeting of the Community Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 28 July 2016.
4. The Operation of Porthcawl Harbour including the Marina and related services 11 - 22  
Invitees:  
Mark Shephard - Corporate Director Communities  
Andrew Thomas – Group Manager, Sports and Physical Activity  
Cllr C Smith – Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development
5. Homes in Town Grants (HITS) - Private Sector Housing Renewal and Disabled Adaptation Policy 23 - 30  
Invitees:  
Cllr C Smith – Cabinet Member Regeneration and Economic Development  
Angie Bowen – Group Manager Housing & Community Regeneration  
Andrew Jolley – Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services
6. Forward Work Programme Update 31 - 34

7. Urgent Items

To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 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.

Yours faithfully

**P A Jolley**

Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services

**Distribution:**

Councillors:

DK Edwards

L Ellis

CA Green

CJ James

Councillors

CL Jones

JR McCarthy

HE Morgan

G Phillips

Councillors

JC Spanswick

JH Tildesley MBE

KJ Watts

R Williams

# Agenda Item 3

COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 28 JULY 2016

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 THURSDAY, 28 JULY 2016 AT 2.00 PM

## Present

|             |            |            |                  |
|-------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| DK Edwards  | CA Green   | CJ James   | CL Jones         |
| JR McCarthy | HE Morgan  | G Phillips | JH Tildesley MBE |
| KJ Watts    | R Williams |            |                  |

## Officers:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Cllr C Reeves    | Cabinet Member Communities                 |
| Cllr HM Williams | Cabinet Member Resources                   |
| Zak Shell        | Head of Neighbourhood Services             |
| Mark Shephard    | Corporate Director - Communities           |
| Sue Whittaker    | Skills and Sustainable Development Manager |
| Carly McCreesh   | Community Asset Transfer Officer           |

## Officers:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Sarah Daniel   | Democratic Services Officer - Committees        |
| Rachel Keepins | Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny          |
| Andrew Rees    | Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees |

## 51. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

RESOLVED: That Councillor CL Jones be elected Chairperson for the meeting.  
(Councillor CL Jones in the Chair)

## 52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor JC Spanswick.

## 53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

## 54. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Community, Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 23 March 2016 be approved as a true and accurate record.

## 55. WASTE SERVICES PROVISION

The Corporate Director Communities introduced a report on the progress made on the procurement for the provision of residual waste and recycling collection services and the provision of services as the Council's Community Recycling Centres. He stated that changes were being made to waste management arrangements in order to meet the performance targets for recycling set by the Welsh Government, due to there being significant penalties imposed on local authorities where targets were not met. This was set against the context of the contract with the current contractor, Kier ending on 31

March 2017. He informed the Committee that the Council has one of the most cost effective waste collection contracts in Wales, but one of the most costly waste disposal contracts in Wales.

The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee of the timescale for the procurement process in that tenders for the provision of waste services are due to be returned in mid-August 2016, a contractor would be appointed in the Autumn followed by a period of mobilisation in order to allow the contract to start in April 2017. He stated that Cabinet at its meeting on 26 July 2016 had agreed a period of consultation on whether to allow dispensations for households with a high number of occupants and households disposing of ash from coal fires. He stated that a dispensation for the disposal of pet waste had been ruled out. He also informed Cabinet it was proposed under the new contract, that all requests for service and complaints are referred directly to the contractor in the first instance.

The Committee discussed what implications the recent vote for the UK to leave the EU would have on the pressure to meet recycling targets and asked officers if this would have an impact on the targets set as they were primarily driven by EU legislation. Officers responded that the Welsh Government has tried to push Wales ahead of the rest of the UK in that it had set a target of zero waste by 2050, officers did not envisage the referendum result affecting the targets. The Cabinet Member Resources informed the Committee that Wales wanted to lead in Europe in how it dealt with waste and that up to a 1/3 of materials currently sent to landfill could be composted or recycled.

Members questioned how the parameters for the tenders for the new waste provision could be set when there was a consultation still ongoing. Officers responded that the two bag limits had been set and would not change, with tenderers bidding on that basis. The 8 week public consultation that would be launched on the 2 August would be a consultation on a dispensation policy for larger families with occupants over 6 people. Members were concerned about the fairness of the process and felt there was a risk the Authority would be open to challenge. Officers responded that what was being proposed was consistent with other Local Authorities where there are restrictions on residual waste.

Members questioned how the Authority would engage with residents during the three month bedding in period in April 2017. Officers stated that the Authority would take a sensible approach and plan to educate residents first before taking enforcement action. Officers would be door knocking and speaking with residents who were not complying with the two bag limit and giving advice on how to increase what they recycle in order to reduce their residual waste. If residents still do not comply after the three month bedding in period then the Authority would take enforcement action. During the first 3 months of the contract the contractor will take what is presented to them at kerbside and after that period enforcement action be taken. Officers were looking at how other local authorities deal with enforcement action.

Members asked if the tender for the new contract included picking up the litter that was often left behind after the collection days. Officers stated that the new contractor would be asked to collect rubbish and recycling that was left out on collection days and any litter left that was in the vicinity associated with the collections, i.e. split bags, boxes tipped over. Refuse collectors would not be expected to collect all litter on the streets. The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that it was more expensive to employ refuse crews than litter picking crews and that the litter picking rounds did not mirror the refuse collection rounds.

Members asked how the Civic Amenity Sites would be managed under the new contract. Officers stated that the contractor would define the manning levels at the

sites. The public would still be able to take household rubbish and recycling to the centres but would need to sort their rubbish into the appropriate containers to ensure that all items were recycled where possible. The contractors would have clear targets to reach and would be penalised if the targets were not achieved. Members suggested that clear bags could be provided.

The Committee requested that consideration be given to providing larger recycling boxes / containers and bags to enable residents to recycle more and their recycling could be secured more safely to prevent recyclable material being wind-blown. The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that the specification of recycling boxes / containers and bags had been left quite open in the tender documentation to enable tenderers to come up with proposals. The options proposed by tenderers would also be dependent on the types of vehicle used to collect recycling. The current stock of containers had been offered to the tenderers.

The Committee questioned the means by which large households would be identified under the dispensation proposals and how would pet waste be managed. The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee that pet waste would be placed in black bags and that the Council is already aware of the location of larger households. The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that the Welsh Government had identified that approximately 49% of waste is recyclable and there was a need to change public behaviour so that more food waste is recycled.

The Scrutiny Officer stated that a query had been raised by a member of the public requesting details of the process for disposing of medical waste and how this would be dealt with. The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee that there is already a clinical waste and sharps collection process in existence. The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that there is also a separate collection service for absorbent products and this service is also planned to be included in the future contract

Members asked how Officers planned to address the potential increase in fly tipping due to the new restrictions on residual waste. Officers responded that there is a trend for a small increase in fly tipping initially but this tended to be during the first few weeks of a new scheme. Officers added that most fly tipping in the Borough was down to trade waste.

Members were concerned at the proposed management of complaints whereby they would be managed by the new contractor and would complaints received by the contractor be hidden from the Council. Officers responded that the process would be audited by the Authority and that by allowing the customer to go direct to the contractor they could potentially have an immediate response to a query. Officers added that if the new contractor was not performing well, they would directly feel the pressure from the public. The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that the contractor would be expected to provide monitoring information and there would be financial penalties put in place based on the contractor's performance. He informed the Committee that at present complaints about the waste service were channelled through the Council's call centre which would in turn place the call through to the Waste Team who would then contact the contractor to resolve and rectify the problem. He stated that the Council would soon know if the contractor is performing badly, the new arrangements for complaints being dealt with by the contractor would be self-motivating to the contractor, although there were some risks in terms of transparency.

The Committee questioned whether a dispensation for waste generated by households would be granted at Christmas. The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that there would be no dispensation granted at Christmas as most packaging

and food waste is recyclable. He stated that contractors would be scored during the contract evaluation process based on being able to recycle more types of materials.

Members questioned how collections in communal areas would be managed. Officers responded that residents would be issued with uniquely identifiable bags and would be provided with enough so that they could use 2 per fortnight. If households put out more than their allocation then they would run out of bags further down the line. The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that educating households and enforcement will be key to the success of the new waste service contract. The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee there had been significant interest from potential contractors in the tender process although it was not known how many companies would tender.

The Committee thanked the invitees for their contribution.

### **Conclusions**

The Committee recommended the encouragement of a more adequate system for the recycling of household materials in the form of larger bags/ boxes / containers for recycling so that residents will be able to securely store their recycling and increase what they recycle. The Committee believed that this would actively encourage residents to recycle more of their materials instead of sending to landfill. The Committee promoted being able to recycle more items in order to achieve targets set by Welsh Government.

Members recommended that the tenders for the new Waste contract include providing residents with clear bags so that any additional recycling that households have could be taken to the recycling centres in the clear bags provided and recycled.

Members were concerned at the current staffing levels within the Communities Directorate as indications were that further cuts would be a significant detriment to services. The Committee therefore wished to put forward a strong recommendation that no further staffing reductions were imposed on the Directorate.

Members strongly supported the three month 'bed in' period and the engagement process proposed with residents but expressed concerns over how this engagement would take place. Officers suggested for example that this could be 'knocking on doors' and talking with residents; however Members questioned how this would be possible given the current staffing level. The Committee commented that investment in this 'bed in' period was essential in order to educate the public on the new changes.

### **Further Information**

Members requested further information on the uniquely identifiable bags that would be issued to residents to coincide with the new two bag limits. Questions were raised over how potential issues would be managed and resolved such as:

- What if a bag splits, would residents be able to get additional bags?
- What if they do not receive a delivery of bags when they are due or they are missed out when they are delivered?
- Is there somewhere residents will be able to go to collect replacement bags if they run out?

Members would like more information on how Officers came to the conclusion of a dispensation policy for families of 6 or more residents. Members asked why residents with a household of 5 were to be given the same allowance as someone that lived alone

and raised the question of whether or not this would be open to public challenge in terms of fairness in the policy.

The Committee asked for further information on any restrictions that would be put on recycling. For example if recyclable materials would not fit inside the boxes would they be left as they are now? Would residents be able to recycle black plastics as part of the new scheme?

56. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER AND MANAGEMENT OF SPORTS PAVILIONS

The Corporate Director Communities reported on the progress made on the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme since its acceleration in November 2015. As a result of significant budgetary constraints there was a need to explore alternative models of service delivery. He stated that a Community Asset Transfer Officer came into post in November 2015 and to date; the majority of queries and interest had been received from sports clubs and associations in relation to the self-management of pavilions and playing fields. He stated there is a robust process in place to test an organisation's capacity to self-manage facilities.

The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee that the Rural Development Programme had commissioned a report from the Wales Cooperative Centre on the Community Asset Transfer Programme which identified 10 recommendations for the Council to consider. He highlighted the key barriers identified which hindered the progress of the CAT process. He also highlighted the alternative options to CAT.

The Committee referred to the recent success of the Wales national football team at the recent Euros tournament and asked whether there would be the potential of extra funding and sponsorship for football due to the likely increase in youngsters playing football. The Committee also questioned what steps the Council proposed to take to protect pavilions and playing fields from falling out of use. The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee that officers are acutely aware of the potential that the transfer of ownership of facilities could preclude some facilities from being used by the public. He stated that this would be mitigated by the placing of restrictive covenants and clauses into agreements so that the facilities the subject of a CAT remains in the public domain. He stated there was a balance which needed to be struck with clubs which allowed the general public to join clubs and participate and to remain to have access to facilities. The CAT Officer informed the Committee that the report commissioned by the RDP had identified the need for clubs who take on the management of facilities to diversify. She stated that appropriate covenants will be inserted in to the documentation to transfer facilities which protect existing users but at the same time allowing clubs to develop facilities enabling them to grow both on and off the field.

The Committee referred to the recommendations made in the report commissioned by the RDP and given that no assets had yet been transferred to clubs in Bridgend and that only 4 CATs had successfully taken place in Blaenau Gwent Council questioned whether there is an appetite for CAT amongst clubs. The Committee also questioned how the CAT process fitted in with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and are alternative options to CAT being looked at. The Committee also questioned the reasoning behind CAT being pursued when the outcome of the Parks Strategic Review was not known and requested that the CAT process be halted. The CAT Officer informed the Committee that officers had visited Blaenau Gwent Council who had acted as mentors in the CAT process and had shared their experiences in getting CATs to a conclusion. Blaenau Gwent Council had approached CAT on the basis of full cost recovery, which would not be the approach in Bridgend. The Corporate Director

Communities informed the Committee that carrying on in the same way would lead to financial pressures. He stated that some clubs are keen on the CAT process and it was to the advantage of the Council to progress CAT applications. He informed the Committee that there could be an issue with insufficient numbers of clubs wishing to pursue a CAT. He stated that the CAT Officer had commissioned the Wales Cooperative Centre to assist clubs due to a lack of capacity and knowledge within some clubs. The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee that CAT links to the parks review which when complete will define the element of savings needed which may act as a catalyst for CAT applications to be pursued. The Skills and Sustainable Development Manager informed the Committee that officers have the experience in making the third sector successful and have provided support to clubs with compiling business plans where Blaenau Gwent has not done so.

Concern was expressed by the Committee that questions raised by clubs in relation to the potential closure of facilities had not been answered. The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee that the financial settlement had dictated that savings have to be made, however a decision has not been taken as to which facilities may have to close. He highlighted the example of clubs in Pencoed which have taken the initiative in pursuing CAT. He also informed the Committee that a number of organisations have submitted expressions of interest in pursuing CAT. The Skills and Sustainable Development Manager informed the Committee that the Wales Cooperative had spoken to all clubs and that the next step is to work on the 10 recommendations and to commission support for the clubs.

The Committee expressed concern that pursuing CAT would lead to a lack of control, governance and accountability in the management of facilities. The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee that the CAT Officer is an internal co-ordinating resource and who ensures appropriate governance arrangements are in place. He stated that the CAT Officer does not have the capacity to undertake commissioning and to prepare business plans for clubs. It was not in the interests of the Council to transfer assets at will. He stated that the Council would be interested in pursuing a model of CAT with Town and Community Councils. He also stated that the Council would place covenants on CATs in order to exercise a level of influence and control as the Council no longer had the resources to manage the facilities itself.

The Committee expressed concern at how the third sector would give sound business advice when the Council had those skill sets. The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee that the Wales Cooperative are expert in providing advice and stated that the internal resource for supporting clubs and managing parks had been severely diminished due to financial constraints. He stated that the process of CAT was about finding alternative ways of preserving community services. The Cabinet Member Communities informed the Committee that as large swathes of the budget, namely statutory services are ring-fenced from cuts, which had resulted in cuts being made to the Communities Directorate. Governance arrangements are being put in place in order to make CAT as successful as possible. The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that the service had been required to make budget reductions of £470k with the loss of several experienced members of staff, which had not affected the service given to clubs. The Skills and Sustainable Development Manager informed the Committee that there would be a competitive tender process undertaken with the third sector prior to any commissioning. She stated that the team had experience of sourcing the best support for working with the third sector. The CAT Officer explained the CAT process in that clubs would submit expressions of interest where she would carry out a due diligence process. She stated that 4 or 5 clubs are at the business planning stage.

The Committee commented that some Town and Community Councils already have responsibility for managing pavilions and playing fields and would not be in a position to



manage more facilities. The Corporate Director Communities commented that Town and Community Councils pursuing CAT have a lot of merit and one that would be encouraged. The Committee also commented that as the parks review and CAT are inextricably linked it would wish to see the review completed before transfers take place. The Head of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that the parks review would be completed in a few months. The review was likely to have a variety of outcomes and would also be dependent on the Council's financial settlement, which was giving rise to current uncertainty.

The Committee questioned whether the Council would assist with carrying out infrastructure works such as drainage to assist clubs in taking forward a CAT. The Corporate Director Communities commented that there may be a requirement to invest in pavilions prior to transfer but not with playing fields. He stated that if a case was made out and in order to give a CAT momentum, its feasibility would be looked at but there was need to work within financial parameters. The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee that there is a public perception that the Council maintains and prepares sports pitches; however income from hiring facilities is approximately 10% of the actual cost. He stated that full cost recovery may have to be looked at in future or clubs taking greater responsibility for maintaining pitches.

The Committee requested information on the composition of the Strong Communities Connecting Service Board. The Corporate Director Communities stated that it is an internal board comprising officers from each Directorate.

The Committee commented on the difficulty it would cause some communities where an asset was transferred which could be the only such facility in that community. The Committee asked if co-locating sports clubs at school facilities could be explored. The Corporate Director Communities informed the Committee that a model already existed where facilities at Coleg Y Dderwen and Archbishop McGrath Schools have community use.

The CAT Officer informed the Committee that a CAT with Bryncethin RFC had been signed off and would be the first CAT to take place.

### **Conclusions**

The Committee recommended the encouragement of Town and Community Councils taking on Community Asset Transfers, particularly Sports Pavilions and Playing Fields.

The Committee recommended that the Authority pursue other avenues as well as Community Asset Transfers as detailed in the report. The Committee recommended exploring options such as co-location of Sports Clubs, rationalising Services and promoting the use of School facilities for alternative use— particularly the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools under the Schools Modernisation Programme.

The Committee recommended that the Authority explore further partnership working with organisations such as Halo and the Awen Trust to see if they could manage any of the assets.

Members asked that organisations in the Borough are given a better understanding of the timings involved in a Community Asset Transfer and what the deadlines are for the completion of the Community Asset Transfers.

The Committee expressed concerns over the implementation of Community Asset Transfers prior to the Strategic Review of Parks and Playing Fields being completed and requested that any future transfers are delayed in order to be informed by the Strategic Review.

### **Further Information**

The Committee asked for evidence on how the Authority had responded to the 10 recommendations from a report commissioned by the Rural Development Programme on the impact to date of the Community Asset Transfer Programme, on clubs and societies operating in rural wards of Bridgend.

#### 57. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report outlining the suggested topics for consideration in the development of the Committee's Forward Work Programme for 2016-17. A draft list of items for possible inclusion on the Forward Work Programme had been developed arising from the workshop held in April 2016. There was also the potential for Collaborative Committees to deal with cross-cutting issues.

### **Conclusions**

The Committee considered the suggested topics for inclusion in the Forward Work Programme for 2016-17 and identified 12 primary topics for inclusion in the programme. The Committee asked for an update on the Waste Services Provision before March 2017.

#### 58. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report which detailed the items to be considered at the next meeting of the Committee and sought confirmation of the information and invitees required.

### **Conclusions**

The Committee agreed to reschedule the 8 September 2016 meeting due to annual leave of the Corporate Directors

#### 59. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

RESOLVED: That Councillor HE Morgan be nominated as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

#### 60. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 5.50 pm

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### JOINT REPORT TO COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 SEPTEMBER 2016

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

#### A REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF PORTHCAWL HARBOUR INCLUDING THE MARINA AND RELATED SERVICES.

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the current operation of the Porthcawl Harbour and Marina facilities and services.
- 1.2 To identify the opportunities and challenges that may arise in relation to the Harbour and Marina.

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

- 2.1 The Council's support for Porthcawl Harbour and Marina contributes to the corporate priorities, in particular:
  - Supporting a successful economy;
  - Smarter use of resources;and in particular to support the Council's broader programme of regeneration in relation to Porthcawl and coastal development.

##### 3. Background.

- 3.1 The British Marine Federation (BMF) has identified the coastal Marina sector as an important contributor to employment, regeneration and tourism with Marinas recognised as serving as visitor attractions in their own right.
- 3.2 The BMF highlights the broader economic contribution to employment and the benefit to companies involved in the construction and supply of boating goods, maintenance, related services and supply chains.
- 3.3 The capital development of Porthcawl Marina was completed in 2013, benefitting from external investment and European funding. The Marina is situated within the footprint of Porthcawl Harbour that extends beyond the confines of the Marina basin including areas of Cosy Corner, the breakwater and lighthouse and more.
- 3.4 As a result of this development project, Porthcawl Marina now has a range of additional features including a tidal lock gate and a pontoon access system that provides 70 berths for berth holders and visitors.
- 3.5 The development of the Marina has supported increased interest in other regeneration and investment projects within the Harbour footprint including the sale

of the Jennings Building and the potential development of the Harbourside project. It was critical to the success of the Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) bid for Heritage Lottery funding, to bring back into use key historic buildings in the Harbour Quarter, including the Look-out Tower and the Customs House. This is the first THI scheme in Porthcawl, following successful schemes in both Maesteg and Bridgend. In excess of £2.5 million is expected to be invested in total, through this scheme, in a combination of public and private funds. In terms of THI alone, the Council will have levered into Porthcawl more than its initial investment in the development of the Marina itself.

- 3.6 In addition to leisure craft, the Marina currently supports a number of small businesses including commercial fishing operators.
- 3.7 The Marina is operationally managed by a staffing resource of 2 full time equivalent staff. These staff are available to support facility operation including the Harbour Master role which is supplemented by the Beach and Water Safety Officer. There are an additional 2-3 sessional part time staff supporting seasonal requirements. These staff support the core operating activities of the Marina based on a variable programme of hours that relate to tidal movements whilst also providing support for additional tidal access requested by Marina users beyond the core programme.

#### **4. Current Process/Situation.**

- 4.1 Bridgend County Borough Council has a number of legal responsibilities in relation to Porthcawl Harbour as identified within the Mid Glamorgan County Council Act 1987. The Council is identified as being the Harbour Authority with the undertakings associated with the Harbour being vested in the Council.
- 4.2 The Council may maintain, manage and, where necessary, improve the Harbour and related facilities and do all other things to support the operation or development of the facility.
- 4.3 The Mid Glamorgan County Council Act 1987 provides the Council with the powers to provide and licence moorings, to regulate vessels in the Harbour including their entry and departure, to provide safe haven and to prevent danger to navigation. This would include working with Trinity House at a National level. The Council is also empowered by the Act to put in place reasonable charges for services and facilities.
- 4.4 To support the monitoring of performance, a Harbour Board is in place with Council representatives from a range of service areas including Property, Health and Safety, Regeneration, Social Services and Wellbeing, Finance and Harbour Operations. This group has a focus on key issues including asset management, business performance and pricing. The group is chaired by the Corporate Director, Communities. The Harbour Board is advisory in terms of reviewing whether the Council is meeting its statutory responsibilities and would make use of existing processes to recommend to Council proposed responses to relevant issues identified.
- 4.5 A Marina Operational Group is also in place and has scheduled meetings to review day to day operations and opportunities to improve or enhance the Marina environment, services and the experiences of berth holders. A nominated

representative of the berth holders attends this Group to ensure the views of users are considered. A schedule of stakeholder meetings are in place where berth holders can discuss the issues they would like to be raised through their nominated representative at Operational Group meetings and where appropriate such issues are discussed at Harbour Board. Details of the groups can be seen within **Appendix 1**.

### **Business Development.**

- 4.6 The revenue budget to operate the Marina has not been increased since the completion of the capital development project. The challenge for the service is to generate additional income and to control costs where possible, within the budget provision for the Marina. There is a need to recognise the longer term challenges of asset maintenance and replacement and to differentiate between Marina operational costs and coastal defence issues relating to Porthcawl Harbour.
- 4.7 Since re-opening, the Marina has performed well in terms of income generation and exceeds its berth holder and visitor related income targets. There are however a range of facility related costs that are less easy to predict or control relating to the technical installations, infrastructure and the impact of the coastal environment particularly due to adverse weather.
- 4.8 The lock gate installation that enables access and egress from the Marina requires a staffing resource to be in place for all gate movements and there is a related cost that needs to be effectively managed.
- 4.9 The number of tidal movements supported has an impact on the cost of the service and subsequently the annual fees applicable to berth holders. A core schedule of tidal access is in place and publicised to berth holders together with a supplementary arrangement where access to additional tides can be requested. The objective has been to effectively manage costs where appropriate, subsequently ensuring that fee levels remain affordable for berth holders. To date, there has been no additional cost applied to providing additional tidal access on request.
- 4.10 It is important that Porthcawl Marina remains financially competitive and pricing is benchmarked annually with neighbouring providers. The costs are currently lower than those of neighbouring Marinas but there has been a planned approach of progressive annual increases recognising that there is further development to take place around the Marina basin that will in time improve facilities. The restriction of tidal accessibility is a relevant factor when reviewing pricing as access and egress can only be conducted at set times. The Marina also does not currently have some of the amenities that support other neighbouring Marina facilities such as chandlery, boat storage, fueling, laundry and hospitality or club premises. The budget for Marina user costs currently includes annual hire costs for some support services such as the provision of temporary washroom facilities and storage. Since developing the Marina, business rates have now become payable as part of the operational costs; these were not applicable prior to the facility being enhanced.
- 4.11 There are a number of asset-related costs that cannot be funded from the core revenue budget such as periodic dredging or replacement of major installations. The Council's Coastal defence budgets may be able to contribute to some aspects

of operating the Marina, and the service may be able to apply for funding from other Council budgets for asset management such as minor works budgets. It is recognised that there will be a need to identify resources to meet such pressures in the medium to long term whilst recognising the competing needs and costs to support other Corporate assets. Those aspects that relate specifically to Marina users can be considered in the reviews of berth fees.

- 4.12 The budget and business approach to operating the Marina is based on minimising levels of subsidy for the Marina and working towards full cost recovery or generation of surplus to invest in facility development and upkeep.

#### **Current Performance.**

- 4.13 Although there are identified challenges, the Marina is delivering a range of positive results for Bridgend County Borough.
- 4.14 The development of the Jennings Building, and the associated capital receipt and the progression of the Harbourside project are both indicative of interest in the further regeneration of the Harbour area.
- 4.15 The Marina is one of only three in Wales to have secured Blue Flag status, adding to the Blue Flag beach awards at Rest Bay and Trecco Bay. The port waste management plan has been approved recognising the focus of the service on maintaining the natural environment.
- 4.16 The occupancy of berths is generally at 100% and there is a waiting list in place of 42 applications to support business resilience in terms of future berth occupancy rates. The retention of berth holders remains high and a robust approach has been established in terms of the waiting list.
- 4.17 Since re-opening, there have been 174 visiting vessels to the Marina with 48 identified as returners and some staying for extended periods. A recent visitor survey has produced positive results. The Marina is exploring its potential to secure a Gold Anchor award appropriate to the scale of the operation.
- 4.18 The Council has supported Porthcawl Harbour Boating Club to access a small external investment via Sport Wales to develop club activities and encourage active use of vessels. Additionally, some new popular events have been established (e.g. Christmas Harbour lights). The attraction of the Marina to visitors is positive in relation to other Porthcawl based events (e.g. Elvis Festival) with visitor berths taken up long in advance.
- 4.19 There is good control of Health and Safety with regular inspection and review resulting in low levels of incidents and accidents.
- 4.20 A number of strengths and areas of good practice were identified as part of an internal audit of Porthcawl Harbour Operations in 2015/16. These included:
- There are robust governance and reporting arrangements in place;
  - The Harbour is manned by trained staff with access to documented procedures for all areas of administration and operation;
  - All moorings have been allocated providing maximum income.

- 4.21 The proposed development of a boat lifting and maintenance service by the Harbourside Community Interest Company could support an enhanced service at the Marina and meet an identified gap in provision for service users.
- 4.22 The site is achieving interest from media producers with a number of productions (e.g. Casualty, Sherlock) being licenced to film at the site, supporting positive publicity for Porthcawl and the Marina.
- 4.23 A new educational resource exploring the history of Porthcawl and coastal safety entitled 'The Sea' has been created in conjunction with Porthcawl Historical Society and has started to be promoted to local primary schools. The responses have been positive.
- 4.24 Recent investment in additional pontoon capacity has improved the flexibility of the Marina to accommodate larger vessels which is positive for income generation and improves the flexibility to accommodate the needs of berth holders.
- 4.25 A new access control system has been installed to enhance security and also support the broader future usage of the site should further developments progress.

#### **Future Development.**

- 4.26 There are a number of areas of focus that will be important going forward:
- All aspects of the Marina and Harbour operation will be managed by the Communities Directorate providing clarity and accountability for all operational issues and for matters relating to the upkeep of facilities. A process of transition has been commenced with the new arrangements established from October 2016.
  - Identifying the asset management and investment needs for the medium to long term and competing for resources alongside other corporate priorities. This will include aspects such as gate maintenance, pontoon repair and replacement, mechanical and electrical installations and also the scheduled dredging of the Marina basin. An indicative estimate of £10k per annum was identified by the Contractors for dredging activity, although the volumes are being frequently monitored by survey and costs would depend on the method of disposal. Discussions are taking place with Natural Resources Wales as to the preferred method of disposal.
  - Further development of the business model will be required to continue to manage the operational subsidy whilst recognising the need to meet coastal defence obligations and the requirements of the Mid Glamorgan County Council Act 1987.
  - Aligning the Marina operating procedures to standards developed by national bodies (e.g. British Marine Federation, Yacht Harbour Association) and complying with all maritime related legislation.
  - Maintaining the current demand for berths by effectively managing the waiting list and further enhancing customer service to Marina users and others within the Harbour footprint.

- Ensuring that the Marina remains vibrant and well maintained and is aligned with other regeneration projects and initiatives.
- Ensuring business continuity while other regeneration and construction work takes place in the Harbour Quarter for example on the Jennings Building.
- Developing a staffing resource that can flexibly support the needs of the Marina and contribute to broader coastal management issues also.

## **Conclusions**

- 4.27 Since its redevelopment the Marina has made good progress in attracting and retaining berth holders and occupancy rates have been positive. There remains a waiting list for berths and income generation from berth-holders and visitors has achieved budget targets.
- 4.28 It is playing a vital role in the regeneration of Porthcawl, helping to secure both external funding and private sector investment in the historic Harbour Quarter.
- 4.29 There will be a need to effectively manage the Harbour and Marina assets going forward and to plan for scheduled investment needs to ensure that the facilities and related services remain safe, operational and vibrant. The annual review of pricing will be continued within this context.

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

- 5.1 There is no impact on policy framework and procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 A new equalities impact assessment has been conducted on the operation of the Marina following the capital investment into the asset and shared with the Council's Equalities Officer.
- 6.2 The service is accessible to the vast majority of people with a protected characteristic and there has been a significant improvement in the physical accessibility of the Marina via the pontoon system installed.
- 6.3 The steepness of the access ramp is an identified barrier for some persons with certain mobility issues but modifications have been restricted by the confines of the Harbour basin.

## **7 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 The current costs of operating the Marina for the usage by berth holders and visitors are generally met from the income received based on agreed fees and charges. During 2015/16, income of £76,471 was achieved against a target of £65,650.
- 7.2 There are ongoing costs associated with asset management and maintenance, to ensure legal responsibilities are met, that will continue to exert pressure on the



operating budget for this facility or other budgets within the Communities Directorate, including coastal defence. During 2015/16 the net budget of £9,452 was exceeded by £19,018 although this was due to specific budget pressures. The table below shows the closing budget for the Marina for 2015/16:

|             | Projected<br>£ | Actual<br>£ | Variance<br>£ |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Expenditure | 75,102         | 104,941*    | 29,839        |
|             |                |             |               |
| Income      | 65,650         | 76,471      | 10,821        |
|             |                |             |               |
| Balance     | 9,452          | 28,470      | 19,018        |

\*The additional costs related specifically to 2 years of business rates being applied in the financial year (£6,939) and non-recurring installation costs to improve the pontoon system to be more flexible and accommodate larger vessels (£10,904).

- 7.3 The ability to increase fees has been restricted by the limited on-site facilities and services in comparison to other marina operations but this may evolve as adjacent facilities develop and the customer related assets improve.

## 8 Recommendation

- 8.1 The Committee are asked to provide comment on the report and contents as appropriate on the performance and challenges faced by Porthcawl Harbour including the Porthcawl Marina facility.

**Mark Shephard**  
**Corporate Director, Communities**  
**August 2016**

**Susan Cooper**  
**Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing**  
**August 2016**

9. **Contact Officer:** Andrew Thomas  
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10. **Background documents**  
None

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## SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Following the completion of the capital works at Porthcawl Harbour and Marina and having gained knowledge from the initial operational period of 2 years, Bridgend County Borough Council has established a structure for facility and service management that will support the following objectives:-

- Compliance with the obligations placed on the Council to operate Porthcawl Harbour under the Mid Glamorgan County Council Act 1987.
- Supporting the ongoing development of the Harbour area and Marina, including any planned future investments.
- Ensuring that the assets are appropriately maintained and remain fit for purpose.
- Ensure that the business plan and financial performance of Porthcawl Marina meet agreed performance standards.
- Ensure that service users are engaged in reviewing levels of service and plans for the operation and improvement of facilities and services.

Based on these objectives the following structures and operating approaches are in place:

### A) HARBOUR BOARD (current-a process of transition is progressing)

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Key Purpose</b>           | To support the governance and strategic management requirements of Porthcawl Harbour/Marina advising the Council of identified issues and responsibilities and making recommendations where appropriate.                          |
| <b>Chair</b>                 | Corporate Director – Communities  |
| <b>Membership</b>            | Group Manager – Prevention and Wellbeing<br>Team Leader- Regeneration<br>Group Manager-Property<br>Corporate Health and Safety representative<br>Corporate finance representative<br>legal services representative ( as required) |
| <b>Status of Board</b>       | Review of operational issues. To provide recommendations on issues requiring corporate approval (e.g.pricing)   |
| <b>Frequency of meetings</b> | 2 meetings per annum (May and October)  |
| <b>Area of Focus:</b>        |   |

- To ensure compliance with the Mid Glamorgan County Council Act1987.
- To review financial performance and agree finalised annual accounts.
- To review and secure asset investment requirements.

- To review further investment proposals and impact on Harbour / Marina operations.
- To approve and monitor the business model and all aspects of performance.

## B) MARINA OPERATIONAL BOARD (current-transition in progress)

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Key Purpose</b>           | To ensure the safe and effective operation of the Marina facility and advise the Harbour Board on matters of importance.  |
| <b>Chair</b>                 | Group Manager – Prevention and Wellbeing  |
| <b>Membership</b>            | Harbour Master<br>Team Leader – Regeneration<br>Stakeholder Group Representative<br>Corporate health and safety representative<br>Other co- opted members by arrangement (e.g. RNLI)  |
| <b>Status of Board</b>       | To make recommendations to harbour board  |
| <b>Frequency of meetings</b> | 4 per annum (May, September, January, March)  |
| <b>Areas of Focus</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To review the operation of the systems and procedures in place at the Marina.</li> <li>• To receive the views and issues of berth holders as presented by stakeholders.</li> <li>• To review incidents and accidents and the management of risk at the Marina and its usage.</li> <li>• To identify opportunities for improvement of services and business development within the Marina.</li> <li>• To review systems of promotion and communication relating to Marina services and activities.</li> </ul> |

## C) MARINA STAKEHOLDER GROUP

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Key Purpose</b>           | To operate as a consultative group that will support the Council to operate the Marina in an efficient and effective manner and improve customer service. |
| <b>Chair</b>                 | Stakeholder group representative  |
| <b>Membership</b>            | <b>All berth holders</b><br>Commercial operators<br>Porthcawl Harbour Boating Club  |
| <b>Status of Group</b>       | Stakeholder engagement  |
| <b>Frequency of meetings</b> | 2 per annum (April, August)   |
| <b>Areas of Focus</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To review Marina operations and to work in partnership with BCBC to identify improvements.</li> </ul>            |

- To improve communication between Bridgend County Borough Council and berth holders / partner organisations.
- To work as partners to raise the profile of the Marina and improve quality of experience for both berth holders and visitors.
- To identify opportunities for enhancing facilities, services, activities and events.

**PORTHCAWL HARBOUR  
INDICATIVE ANNUAL MEETING  
SCHEDULE**



|                   |               |                   |                    |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| APRIL             |               |                   | Stakeholders Group |
| MAY               | Harbour Board | Operational Board |                    |
| JUNE              |               |                   |                    |
| JULY              |               |                   |                    |
| AUGUST            |               |                   | Stakeholder Group  |
| SEPTEMBER<br>2016 |               | Operational Board |                    |
| OCTOBER<br>2016   | Harbour Board |                   |                    |
| NOVEMBER<br>2016  |               |                   |                    |
| DECEMBER<br>2016  |               |                   |                    |
| JANUARY<br>2017   |               | Operational Board |                    |
| FEBRUARY<br>2017  |               |                   |                    |
| MARCH<br>2017     |               | Operational Board |                    |

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 SEPTEMBER 2016

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

##### HOMES IN TOWN GRANTS (HITS) - PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL AND DISABLED ADAPTATIONS POLICY

#### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Committee on the 'Homes In Towns' (HiTs) grant; to provide the details of applications received; and explain the application process. The report will also advise Members of any barriers and issues in administering the grant and how the service has, and intends to respond to these.

#### 2.0 Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Properties

- 2.1 The Homes in Town grant assists the Council in meeting all three of its Corporate Plan priorities:-
- Supporting a successful economy
  - Helping People to be more self-reliant
  - Smarter Use of Resources

#### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 Cabinet received a report on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013, to approve an amendment to the Private Sector Housing Renewal and Disabled Adaptations Policy to include the introduction of two new grants, and the revision of existing grants. Homes in Town Grants were introduced as a new grant at this time. The purpose of the grant is to encourage the development of residential accommodation in Bridgend town centre. Many properties within the town centre have vacant and redundant space, particularly above retail premises, and this grant seeks to assist owners to bring this redundant empty space back into use for residential purposes, thereby creating vibrancy in the town centre, whilst at the same time providing affordable housing for those who work in, or require to be close to, the town centre.

- 3.2 The grant provides assistance for internal works to create affordable homes, and external works to create separate entrances to access accommodation above shop frontages as well as addressing some external works, where these works would not be eligible for Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) or Town Improvement Grant (TIG).
- 3.3 Also included in the amended Policy was the availability for assistance to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) for Strategic Regeneration. This discretionary grant aims to support the long term renewal and regeneration of properties to assist the Council's strategic aims. The grant is available for strategically important buildings/property throughout the County Borough, to secure additional affordable housing and to tackle empty properties in areas of housing need and to assist in regeneration schemes.
- 3.4 Welsh Government approved a £5.98 million grant for Bridgend town centre under the Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) framework for the period 2014/15-2016/17. As part of the overall funding package to meet VVP, the HiTs scheme was submitted as match funding in the bid of £390,000 (grant) and £260,000 (private finance) to provide 14 units of accommodation.

#### 4.0 **Current Situation/Proposal**

##### **Progress on Implementation**

- 4.1 **Marketing:** Officers have actively encouraged expressions of interest in the HiTs scheme and have undertaken a number of exercises in order to attract the maximum interest. These have included:
- Three mail shots, hand delivered to every single property within the area covered by the HiTs scheme;
  - Letters and advertising material has been sent to the individual owners of each property in the Town Centre;
  - Advertising material has been distributed to all estate agents operating in Bridgend and also to property auctions;
  - Advertising material has been distributed to local DIY shops;
  - Advertising material has been distributed to local architects, agents and builders who have previously undertaken grant work;
  - Officers have attended and distributed material at the Bridgend Landlord Forum, including presentations on the scheme to landlords directly; and
  - Mail shot has been included in Council Tax paperwork.
- 4.2 Council officers are currently undertaking a further leaflet drop to the properties within the Town Centre to advertise the scheme. This will be the fourth occasion such an exercise has been completed with the objective to increase HiTs potential take up. The HiTs scheme will again be promoted to the Bridgend Landlord Forum in October 2016.
- 4.3 **Progress:** To date the Council has received 11 expressions of interest/enquiries in relation to the HiTs grant. Of the 11 enquiries received 5



have not progressed further. The reasons for withdrawals are varied; one enquiry was from a person who was not the owner of the property, and two owners felt the work costs were prohibitive following a Council survey, one property did not meet building regulations and one owner did not respond following a number of repeated attempts to contact.

- 4.4 There are a number of stages between enquiry and approval of application and these are outlined in the flow chart at Appendix 1. Despite encouragement and assistance from Council officers applicants can, and have, withdrawn at various stages throughout this process.
- 4.5 **Risks, issues and mitigation measures:** Other issues that have been raised by property owners as reasons why they have not pursued further their enquiry or application have been;
- That the Town Centre is within the flood plain area and that there are strong objections from Natural Resources Wales against residential use;
  - That properties in the Town Centre are required to have a retail/commercial use on the ground floor;
  - That there are a lack of suitable/reliable builders;
  - That the level of work indicated from survey is more expensive than owners envisage/are prepared to commit, e.g. the requirement to fit a sprinkler system;
  - Owners do not want to lose commercial floor area or want the disruption of creating a separate access to the residential units; and
  - That there are expensive 'up-front' costs and that the grant can only be paid for work undertaken and not in advance.
- 4.6 Whilst all these reasons can be addressed and officers try to allay them, it is often enough to put off some potential owners from pursuing the grant further. Up-front costs such as costs incurred for design and the submission of Planning Applications can be reimbursed as part of the grant in the first interim payment. The Council provides a list of Agents who carry out such work on behalf of grant applicants. Agents may be prepared to wait for their fees as part of the first interim payment; however the planning authority fees are payable by the applicant on submission.
- 4.7 Currently there are six property owners who have expressed an interest in pursuing this grant funding, the details of which are set out in 4.15. Officers are in regular contact with the owners to assist and encourage them to proceed with their applications, however, no grants have been awarded to date.
- 4.8 One enquiry received is for a larger scale redevelopment of accommodation, up to 15 units. This is in excess of the maximum grant assistance allowable currently under the HiTs criteria as indicated in the Private Sector Renewal and Disabled Adaptations Policy (PSRDAP).
- 4.9 **Acoustic Survey:** As part of the Planning process an assessment of the impact of noise is required. This requirement is for the properties to have specialist assessment, technical advice and testing with regard to the

acoustic/noise mitigation requirements of the accommodation. This requirement has been highlighted by owners of properties as a major stumbling block in bringing the properties into use as the assessment will cost the applicant up front, with no guarantee that Planning will be forthcoming or that the required work will not be too prohibitive.

- 4.10 Therefore, in order to enable these potential applications to proceed, and meet our obligations for match funding, a specialist contractor has been appointed by the Council to undertake this requirement, thereby reducing the emphasis on the individual property owner and also speeding up the process. To date three property owners (creating 6 units) have taken this up with the intention of submitting a formal application in the near future.
- 4.11 Discussions have taken place with Public Protection, to address the issue of noise in the town centre as this was preventing development taking place. The planning authority looks at each town centre scheme on its own merits, and forms a balanced view of the overall merits of the development taking place, including the regeneration impact, rather than allowing the issue of noise nuisance to trigger an automatic refusal.
- 4.12 **Boundary Extension** - Whilst the original boundary for HiTs eligible properties has been extended to include the 'core' Town Centre area, officers have received a number of enquiries from owners of accommodation on the periphery and/or outside the current boundary of the HiTs scheme, but who are within the larger town centre area or within easy walking distance. Currently, these would not qualify for HiTs assistance (although they may qualify for other grant assistance, such as Empty Property Grant).
- 4.13 Cabinet will receive a report recommending any amendments to the HiTs grant and also recommend extending the area covered by the grant assistance to include those properties that are within walking distance of the town centre and which would supplement the vibrancy of the town centre. To ensure BCBC makes best use of the resources that they are committing to the HiTs Scheme, Committee are asked to comment on whether consideration of the HiTs scheme should be to alleviate housing pressures for existing and identified service users by helping people to be more self-reliant. In particular meeting the need for those leaving care, including making provision for post-18 living arrangements under the Social Services And Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 (Part 6 Looked After and Accommodated Children).
- 4.14 **Assistance to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) for Strategic Regeneration** - In line with 3.3 above, the Authority is in discussion with RSLs and a third sector organisation who are currently examining the potential of, or are in the process of purchasing and redeveloping empty properties and land in and around the town centre. Any scheme assisted under this grant funding will be subject to full nomination rights as outlined in the Social Housing Allocation Policy (SHAP) in place at the time of nomination as its intention is to provide much needed affordable accommodation and meet our match funding obligations under VVP.

#### 4.15 Summary of Schemes

| Provider                     | Units | Est'd Grant Value | Est'd Private Finance | Status  | Planning Permission Submitted                                    | RAG |
|------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-----------------------|---|--|-----|
| Private Owner                | 2     | £50k              | £30k                  | Acoustic Survey has been undertaken and recommendations made                              | Yes  | G   |
| Private Owner                | 3     | £60k              | £40k                  | Acoustic Survey has been undertaken and recommendations made                              | Yes  | G   |
| Private Owner                | 1     | £30k              | £20k                  | Officers have met with the owner to finalise the HiTs application                         | None required existing use                                       | G   |
| Private Owner                | 1     | £30k              | £15k                  | Acoustic Survey has been undertaken and recommendations made                              | Intention to submit when acoustic survey completed               | A   |
| Private Owner                | 15    | £450              | £250k                 | Unable to approve grant value under current Policy  | Yes  | A   |
| Private Owner/RSL            | 10    | £150k             | TBD                   | Owner in discussion with RSL to potentially purchase, however issue over access/ownership | Granted  | A   |
| RSL                          | 10    | £150k             | TBD                   | Unable to approve grant value under current Policy  | Planning Submission being worked up by RSL                       | A   |
| RSL                          | 2     | TBD               | TBD                   | Amendment to Policy/boundary required   | Costing being undertaken with view to submit planning submission | R   |
| Third Sector                 | 4     | TBD               | TBD                   | Amendment to Policy/boundary required   | Application will be submitted once purchase complete             | R   |
| WG Match funding requirement | 14    | £390,000          | £260,000              |   |  |     |

4.16 Committee are asked to acknowledge the effort made by officers to progress schemes under the HiTs and assistance to RSLs for Strategic Regeneration. Should the above schemes proceed or any new schemes come forward, BCBC have received confirmation from WG that the approval of HiTs funding together with Planning Permission being granted will be sufficient to meet the terms of

the VVP requirements on outcomes and match funding as outlined in the VVP bid document.

- 4.17 Should there be insufficient schemes approved to meet our obligations for match funding, as highlighted to Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 discussions have also taken place with WG over the potential to use the Council's capital allocation for HIT's against a town centre scheme under the proposed Building for the Future Programme (BFF).

**5.0 Effect Upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 None

**6.0 Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 A full EIA will be undertaken when the Policy is reviewed and updated.

**7.0 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Funding for the existing grants is identified in the Council's capital programme as Housing Renewal / Disabled Facilities Grants. Grants can only be awarded up to the level of available funding within any financial year.

**8.0 Recommendation**

- 8.1 It is recommended that Community, Environment and Leisure OVSC consider and discuss the content of the report and provide any comments.

**ANDREW JOLLEY**

**Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services**

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

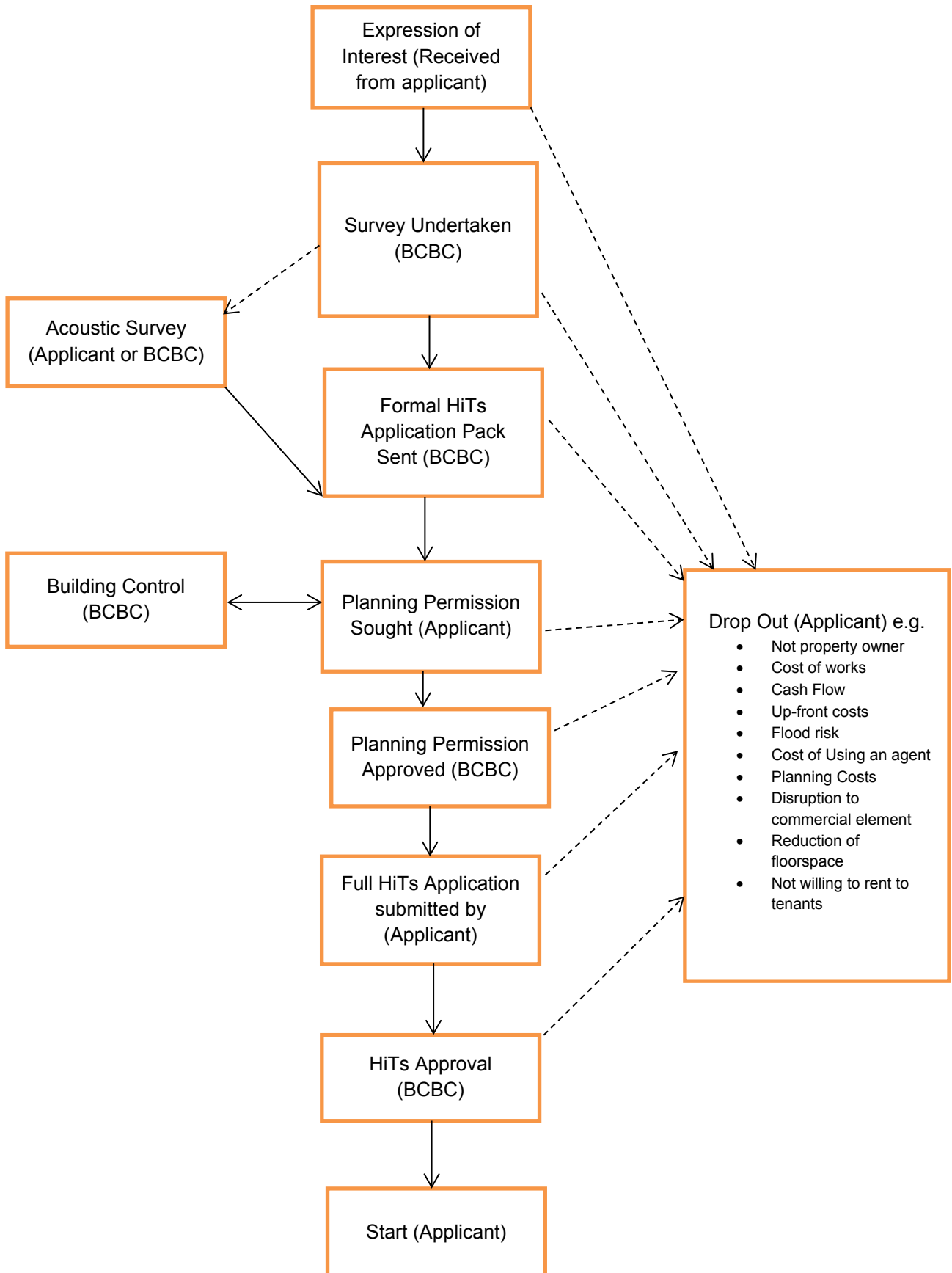
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**Background Documents:** None

**HiTs Grant Flow Plan**



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## REPORT TO COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 SEPTEMBER 2016

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

#### FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

#### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) present the items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting to be held on 20 October 2016; and
- b) present a list of further potential items for prioritisation by the Committee.

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

2.1 The improvement priorities identified in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Plan adopted by Council on 10 March 2016 formally set out the improvement priorities that the Council will seek to implement between 2016 and 2020. 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 28 July 2016, the Community, Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee determined its Annual Forward Work Programme for 2016/17.

#### 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 20 October 2016, 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 |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Healthy Living Partnership Project | Sue Cooper, Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing<br>Andrew Thomas, Group Manager, Sports and Physical Activity<br>Cllr Phil White, Cabinet | Monitoring report detailing the annual performance of Halo Leisure Ltd with regard to the services and facilities they provide and manage on behalf of the Council within the Healthy Living Partnership as well as their |   |

| <b>Topic</b>         | <b>Invitees</b>   | <b>Specific Information Requested</b>   | <b>Research to be Undertaken by the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Unit</b> |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
|                      | Member Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing  | priorities for the future.  |  |
| Highways Maintenance | Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities<br>Cllr Ceri Reeves, Cabinet Member Communities | A general understanding of the actual impact of the MTFs on Highways and what this means on the ground for the public |  |

4.2 The table below lists all potential items that the Committee has considered during their planning workshop and, subject to any changes from the approval of the Annual Forward Work Programme, are put forward for reprioritisation as appropriate.

| <b>Topic</b>                 | <b>Proposed Date</b> | <b>Specific Information Requested</b>   | <b>Research to be Undertaken by the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Unit</b> |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| Budget                       | 19 December 2016     |   |  |
| TBC                          | 26 January 2017      |   |  |
| TBC                          | 26 January 2017      |   |  |
| Cultural Partnership Project | 30 March 2017        | Update report. To return to Committee no sooner than 1 year (March 2017)  |  |
| Rhiw Gateway                 | 30 March 2017        | Late 2016/early 2017 - Measure of Success report – to include information on any impact on the town centre, footfall, how people have moved into the town centre etc. |  |
|                              |                      |   |  |
|                              |                      |   |  |

### **Corporate Parenting**

4.3 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent' therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association 'If this were my child... A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers', June 2009



- 4.4 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how the services within the remit of their Committee affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee can therefore assist in these areas.
- 4.5 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

## **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 wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 None

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 None.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1 The Committee is recommended to:
- (i) Note the topics due to be considered at the meeting of the Committee 20 October 2016 and confirm if it requires any additional specific information to be provided by the invitees listed or the Overview & Scrutiny Unit;
  - (ii) Determine the topics, invitees to be invited to attend and any specific information it would like the invitees to provide as well as any research that it would like the Overview & Scrutiny Unit to undertake in relation to its meeting for 20 October 2016;
  - (iii) Revisit and consider the list of future potential items for the Committees Forward Work Programme and reprioritise as the Committees feels appropriate.

**Andrew Jolley,**  
**Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services**

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CF31 4WB

**Background documents:**           None