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Bridgend County Borough Council



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Gwasanaethau Gweithredol a Phartneriaethol / Operational and Partnership Services

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643147
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Andrew Rees

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

Dyddiad/Date: 20 January 2017

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 **Thursday, 26 January 2017 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 19 December 2016.
4. Forward Work Programme Update 11 - 14
5. Cultural Partnership - Awen Cultural Trust 15 - 32
Invitees:

Cllr Hywel Williams – Deputy Leader
Cllr Ceri Reeves – Cabinet Member Communities
Mark Shephard – Corporate Director Communities
Zak Shell – Head of Neighbourhood Services
Andrew Thomas – Group Manager Sports and Physical Activity
Richard Hughes – Chief Executive, Awen Cultural Trust
Alan Morgan Chair of Trustees, Awen Cultural Trust
6. 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

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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

Councillors:

L Ellis

CA Green

CJ James

CL Jones

Councillors

JR McCarthy

HE Morgan

G Phillips

JC Spanswick

Councillors

M Thomas

JH Tildesley MBE

KJ Watts

R Williams

Agenda Item 3

COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 19 DECEMBER 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 MONDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2016 AT 2.00 PM

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

DK Edwards
HE Morgan

CA Green
KJ Watts

CL Jones
R Williams

JR McCarthy

Apologies for Absence

CJ James, G Phillips and JH Tildesley MBE

Officers:

Sarah Daniel
Mark Galvin

Scrutiny Support Officer
Senior Democratic Services Officer – Committees

Invitees:

Cllr HM Williams
Cllr C Reeves
Joanne Norman
Satwant Pryce
Zak Shell
Mark Shephard

Deputy Leader
Cabinet Member - Communities
Finance Manager - Education, Transformation and Communities
Head of Regeneration and Planning
Head of Neighbourhood Services
Corporate Director – Communities

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

76. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of the Community, Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 20 October 2016, be approved as a true and accurate record.

77. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to present the items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting to be held on 26 January 2017, and also to present a list of further potential items for prioritisation by the Committee.

Paragraph 4.1 outlined the items for the meeting scheduled to take place on 26 January 2017, whilst paragraph 4.2 listed potential items for the subsequent meeting scheduled to be held on 30 March 2017.

The Chairperson advised that he would be unable to attend the meeting on the 30 March 2017, and he asked Members if they would have any objection to the date of the Committee being moved to a week or so before or after the 30th March and they agreed to this request.

RESOLVED: Members noted the agenda items to be considered at the next two scheduled Committee meeting dates on 26 January and 30 March 2017.

78. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017-18 TO 2020-21

The Chairperson welcomed the Invitees to the meeting, following which the Corporate Director – Communities introduced the report.

The Corporate Director – Communities advised, that Members would no doubt understand the challenges the Authority face as a whole, and that a significant amount of savings were required in his Directorate in order to meet these challenges.

He added that his Directorate had made significant savings under the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for a number of years, and whilst this was easier in the past, he was now finding it very difficult to meet the ongoing required savings whilst still providing adequate front line services.

The service areas where savings were required to be made were outlined in the Appendices that supported the covering report, and he was taking steps already to look to make the amount of savings required as aligned to these areas. If the savings required in respect of any of the Budget Reduction proposals were not made in any of these required areas, then they would still need to be made in other areas of his Directorate.

Members then referred to the Budget Reduction Proposals as detailed in Appendix B to the report for the period 2017-18 to 2020-21.

In respect of **COM 1**, a Member asked Invitees to explain further the budget reductions proposed in respect of the provision of public toilets.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that as part of the budget cuts going forward, it was intended to close all public toilets by 2018-19 (to achieve £103k savings) and introduce in 2017-18, mobile public toilet cleaning attendants for the towns of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg only. There was also a proposal in conjunction with this, for Town & Community Councils to be approached for funding to help maintain the cost of providing these facilities.

A Member noted that cleaning of public toilets by mobile attendants would be introduced in the next financial year, and asked how this would affect opening/closing times for the continued provision of these services. He also asked how it was intended to keep these toilets clean, as presumably the service and presence of attendants would only be at certain times of the day. He also felt that the saving required for this appeared to be challenging and asked if the Corporate Director – Communities felt it was achievable.

The Corporate Director – Communities confirmed that there would be a challenge opening and closing these facilities at the allotted times,, as the cleaning attendant(s) would be moving from one facility to another in situate in separate areas of the County Borough. So there would in all probability be a case of 'rolling' opening times. Wherever possible however, this task could be allocated to other designated blue collar staff. The Corporate Director – Communities added that the finer detail regarding operational proposals had yet to be confirmed. He added that he was keen to work with Town/Community Councils, as this was the type of service that they could support and take over completely, resulting in more chance of the saving proposed for 2018-19 being

realised. Local businesses would also be approached he added, to see if they would be willing to participate in the reintroduction of the Comfort scheme

The Chairperson commented that he was concerned about the continued level of cuts to be borne by the Communities Directorate, particularly as the services affected were those that supported the general public and constituents. He felt that some of these cuts could be negated by an increase in Council Tax over and above that which was being proposed.

The Head of Regeneration, Development and Property Services, reminded the Committee, that the Communities Directorate had made £5m in budget cuts within the last 3 years which equated to 23% of its overall budget allocation during this period.

With regard to ensuring the public toilets are kept clean whilst they were open, the Head of Neighbourhood Services advised, that as the attendants would primarily only be responsible for opening/closing the public conveniences, any facilities that were found to be in a condition not suitable for the visiting public in terms of levels of cleanliness, would only be dealt with 'reactively' ie upon any complaints being made.

A Member referred to **COM 5** and the proposed reduction to the Winter Maintenance Budget, and the fixed hire of gritters for fixed periods. He felt that this could give rise to a problem, as no one could predict when bad weather would occur, and if this fixed period just extended to winter months, then a service may not be provided for example in April, when on occasions there has been cases of inclement weather. He therefore asked if there was scope for provision of this service outside the fixed period of the Contract.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that the intention was to provide one less gritting vehicle, but to still cover the highway routes that were required to be covered during periods when there was inclement weather, including if bad weather took place in autumn/spring as opposed to winter. He added that there was a risk attached to this budget reduction, as there was with most cuts that had to be made in other areas of the Directorate over the term of the MTFs. Routes would be maintained outside the fixed period if required or if extra provision was required for any given period, through the hiring of any further required facilities.

A Member referred to **COM 6** and the proposal to reduce current weed spraying to one spray per annum. He felt that this reduction which equated to 50% was too radical.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised the Member that he could provide locations where and when weed spraying regularly took place outside of the meeting. He added that these problem areas would continue to be maintained, but only once as opposed to twice per annum.

The Chairperson advised that he was also concerned of the risk attached to this cut, in that weeds caused an accelerated deterioration in the highway asset requiring more extensive and expensive repairs in the longer term.

With regard to **COM 9**, and the budget reduction proposal for the removal of Security Budget, Waterton, a Member asked for clarification that this entailed any reduction in staffing.

The Corporate Director – Communities advised that the Waterton Depot would occupy a smaller footprint in terms of its overall size in area, and this would allow for a reduced size of the staffing compliment, and this was where the proposed savings would be achieved.

A Member then referred to **COM 11** where it was proposed to look to achieve savings in years 2019-2021 amounting in total to a saving of £270k, by reducing street cleaning by the removal of 1 street cleaning vehicle. As BCBC has 3 main town centres in the County Borough, the Member asked if the vehicles were reduced to 2, which of these towns would lose the service of street cleaning, and would the service then fall short of the minimum requirements as laid down under the Environmental Protection Act.

The Corporate Director – Communities advised that the above service was subject to a performance indicator (P.I.) that was measured by Welsh Government, and if this P.I. fell short of what was required then it could be subject to challenge by the public. The loss of the street cleaning vehicle would be borne between each of the 3 main towns in question rather than 1 town losing out in favour of the other 2. The effect of the reduction of service would mean that this would be equally shared by the towns affected, and that the litter clearing would be reduced within these areas i.e. not cleared so often or so early within any given day. The savings proposed were projected and would look to be reduced if possible, in order to continue to provide an adequate service. He added that if the service was cut to its optimum, this may also at times result in a reactive service.

The Chairperson made reference to **COM 12** and the broad review of car parking charges including staff and elected Member parking passes proposing a savings in 2017-18 of £50k. A Member supplemented this, by asking if further consultation had been undertaken in respect of permits being issued for residents to continue parking in streets, making reference primarily to Bridgend.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that consultations were well advanced with regard to permit car parking arrangements for residents in and around the Bridgend town centre, and in a number of areas of Bridgend, this would continue to be provided. He added that there had been ongoing consultations with the Legal Department over persons holding blue badges and the feasibility of them also using residents parking. He further added that residents parking had also been considered within areas of Porthcawl, however, initially there had been opposition to this by the residents themselves, though with further time their mind set was starting to change

In respect of the review of car parking charges for staff and elected Members, the Head of Neighbourhood Services confirmed that this was being held in abeyance at present, largely due to the fact that there had been changes to and a considerable reduction in available car parking in the town centre, as a result of the works ongoing to the Rhiw development. This review would be revisited next year, and the £50k proposed savings would be realised also in 2017-18 part of which would include expenditure outstanding for the current year. It was anticipated that once the review was completed, this would in turn, result in increased car parking income.

With regard to the up to date position in relation to residents parking, the Head of Neighbourhood Services advised Members that he would inform them of this outside of the meeting.

The Head of Regeneration, Development and Property Services, added that town centre car parks were also struggling to generate income, as visitors were often choosing to park free outside the town centre where this was available. She further added that anyone can purchase a fixed cost quarterly car parking permit, which is beneficial for frequent parkers, including traders at present.

A Member referred to **COM 14** and the reduction in Adult Community Learning provision, and enquired why the £70k earmarked reduction for the next financial year was showing as Red on the traffic light indicators.

The Corporate Director – Communities advised that less courses would be made available within the next financial year, and this was primarily as a result of significantly reduced Communities First funding. This proposed cut was also being shown as not yet achievable, as this was going to be looked at further by Officers. The end result in all probability would be that there would be reduced courses (preference on subject areas to be still available to be steered by Welsh Government) and such reduction also hitting courses previously available in the County Borough's Community Centres and Leisure Centres.

The Chairperson voiced his concern over **COM 15** and the shut off/of street lighting, as he feared that the significant potential savings earmarked for future years could be outweighed by risks such as the impact it has on Education, due to routes to schools becoming unsafe if they are not lit.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised Members, that of all the savings earmarked in red in Appendix B to the report, this would be one of the hardest to deliver as it was proposed to turn off the majority of street lighting in the County Borough other than in key strategic sites and at junctions. Street lighting was not a statutory provision and also was not considered to be a priority when compared to others that came under the purview of the Communities Directorate in the view of the general public. He added that it would in all probability not be possible to turn off the street lighting in certain school locations, so this was an added issue as to where the allotted savings could be actually achievable.

A Member asked if there was any possibility in dimming or providing LED street lighting as an alternative in certain more dangerous locations.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that the level of savings required would mean the switching off of all street lighting, other than a few designated areas mentioned both above and in the report.

A Member felt that solar lighting though expensive when initially being set-up, would be a saving in the more longer term.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services advised that he would look into this, and that the Council had previously received a grant for LED lighting.

A Member asked if the proposal would mean a total shut off of street lighting without exception.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services replied that this was the intention, other than where risk assessments to be conducted dictated otherwise.. This would have to be implemented in order to achieve the saving which amounted to £500k over a period of two years following the next financial year.

A Member referred to **COM 17** and the proposal to reduce the core budget for the Civil Parking Enforcement Team. As this was a method of taking in income for the Council, he asked why a cut was being proposed in this area.

The Finance Manager, Education, Communities and Education advised that the income that had been received since the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement Officers had

been significant and higher than had been anticipated. Previously, reserves had been made available to off-set any deficit in income and this amounted to £50k which was the saving proposed for next year, as the number of penalty notices that had been issued meant that this reserve was now no longer deemed necessary to support the service.

A Member referred to **COM 23** and the proposal to reduce the frequency of gully cleansing. He was concerned with this proposal based on the recent experiences of flooding in the Maesteg area.

The Corporate Director – Communities advised that this proposal may be reviewed in light of the recent flooding of homes issue.

In terms of the saving required next year for **COM 24**, for the treatment of domestic food waste (anaerobic digestion), the Head of Neighbourhood Services confirmed that this could now be changed on the traffic light system from amber to green as the savings proposed had now almost be achieved.

A Member referred to **COM 25** and a reduced focus on overgrowth affecting in rear lanes and footpaths in rural areas, and noticed that this team had been significantly reduced once more, yet this service formed only 16% of the Directorates overall budget. He felt that a further reduction in this area would be of detriment to the public and the visual appearance at these locations.

The Corporate Director – Communities confirmed that he would check this cut in percentage to establish if it was an accurate reduction.

A Member referred to **COM 31** and made the point that the budget reduction of 2016-17 ie £195k should in fact be red, as the Council had failed to lease the Raven's Court building in the current year.

The Head of Regeneration, Development and Property Services advised that the marketing of Raven's Court was continuing and that a meeting with a prospective tenant had been arranged in January. There was also interest still being shown by the previous tenant, and it was worth being patient as the building was sizeable and could therefore be used for a profitable business that would attract jobs and inward investment, for example as a car sales company. She added also that the £195k saving for 2016-17 would now transfer to 2017-18 and the savings earmarked for the two subsequent years were in respect of costs to keep running the building if it had still not been leased by these times.

A Member referred to **COM 32** and a proposed review of Lifeguard services to consider length of season and beach coverage and a saving showing amber on the traffic light status amounting to 60K for the next financial year.

The Corporate Director – Communities advised that his Directorate would now need to make this saving, as it had been a service that up until this year had come under the purview of the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate, but had now transferred over to the Communities Directorate.

The Head of Regeneration, Development and Property Services confirmed that a more holistic approach would be taken in future to continue to provide this service, but it would be reduced compared to that of previous years in view of the budget reduction. It was hoped though to negate this to a degree by having support from other sources and Registered Charities such as the RNLI. She added also that subsidies given to organisations and clubs would also be reduced and/or tapered.

The Chairperson then thanked the Invitees for attending and responding to questions, following which, they retired from the meeting.

Conclusions

Members were concerned at the proposal to eventually close all public conveniences in the Borough by 2018/19 and introduce a comfort scheme as a substitute. Meanwhile Members were concerned that the reductions to the cleaning teams in this area would mean that the service becomes a reactive service and therefore would create a potential public health risk.

Members questioned Officers on the removal of four area cleaner streets teams and asked how the service would operate if the proposal went ahead and what the minimum statutory requirements in the Environmental Protection Act were. Officers stated that the minimum requirements were not defined and it would require a challenge. Officers added that the reduction proposal included the reduction of a vehicle which meant the operational schedule would change and areas would be prioritised as necessary.

Members queried why the car parking review and proposed changes had not yet been completed and implemented despite this being a reduction proposal for 2016-17. Officers stated that the review would happen early in 2017 upon implementation of the residents parking scheme. They added that there had been some legal issues which had contributed to the delay but now these had been resolved they were hoping to complete the review and achieve the proposed savings as soon as possible.

Members questioned the officers on the proposal of the street lighting and whether this was to partially or fully switch off the street lights. Officers stated that risk assessments would be carried out to determine which sites to switch off and that they would be fully turned off in these areas. Members were concerned at the potential risk to community safety, especially of that on learner travel routes.

Members were concerned at the proposal to reduce the frequency to gully cleansing as they feared homes would be at risk due to water and flood risks. Officers shared the Members concerns and stated that this proposal would be reviewed.

Members welcomed a review of the proposal to reduce the frequency of gully cleansing.

Members were concerned at the proposal of reduced focus on rear lanes overgrowth and footpaths in rural areas and that this would require expensive and extensive future repairs.

Members did not agree with the proposed saving of £15k for the reduction of weed spraying as this would end up being more costly in the long run and not an efficient way of operating.

Recommendations

Members recommended the removal of the proposal to switch off the street lighting due to the risk of community safety.

Further Information

Members asked for further information regarding the residents parking scheme to include details of when this would be implemented and what areas of Bridgend County would be included in the scheme.

Members asked for further information regarding the potential use of solar lights throughout the Borough and if the costs into purchasing and installation had been investigated.

Members asked for further information on the reduction in teams in relation to rear lanes overgrowth and footpaths in rural areas. Members specifically asked for number of teams that operate and how they manage the workloads sufficiently.

79. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 4.35 pm

REPORT TO COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 JANUARY 2017

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 6 April 2017; 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 6 April 2017, 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
Highways Maintenance	Mark Shephard - Corporate Director Communities Zak Shell - Head of StreetScene Cllr Ceri Reeves - Cabinet Member Communities	Relates back to 2014 where there were concerns over the budget - increase in the cost of the project and the results from the review of the private consultants, the disposal of Waterton Depot and the gaining of a capital receipt for	

Topic	Invitees	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
		this. What does the future structure look like?	
Rhiw Gateway	Mark Shephard Cllr C Reeves, Cabinet Member – Communities Satwant Pryce, Head of Regeneration and Development	Measure of Success report – to include information on any impact on the town centre, footfall, how people have moved into the town centre etc.	

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.

Topic	Proposed Date	Specific Information Requested	Research to be Undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Unit
MREC	TBC		

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.¹

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

¹ 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

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 6 April 2017 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 6 April 2017;
- (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

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 JANUARY 2017

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP - AWEN CULTURAL TRUST

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the performance and progress of the Council's partnership with Awen Cultural Trust (the Trust) since it was established to manage a range of cultural services and facilities on behalf of the Council, with effect from October 2015.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/ Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The provision of cultural services plays a vital role in the wellbeing of communities across the County Borough of Bridgend.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Community Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on 23rd March 2016 updating the Committee on the progress made by the Trust in the first five months since it had been established in October 2015. The Committee requested that they receive a further report when the partnership with Awen was more mature and there would be a better opportunity to assess the progress that the Trust had made with regard to the delivery of the main Council priorities set out in the Partnership Agreement between the Council and the Trust, and for which the Trust receives an annual payment to manage a range of cultural services and facilities on behalf of the Council.
- 3.2 Both that report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2016 and previous reports to the Council's Cabinet on 13th January 2015 and 1st September 2015, set out the approved basis for the establishment of a 'not for profit' Cultural Trust and the range of services it was intended to manage.
- 3.3 The previous report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee concluded that the Council's partnership with Awen Cultural Trust had made very positive progress in its initial 5 months of existence, particularly in view of the fact that it was recognised that establishing a brand new independent organisation without any 'shadow' period was a huge undertaking.
- 3.4 The March report to Overview and Scrutiny set out that a high calibre Board of Trustees had been appointed to oversee Awen, with a mix of skills from both the business community and those with local interest and knowledge. The Council is

restricted to a twenty percent representation on that Board. The two Council representatives are currently Councillors John McCarthy and Jeff Tildesley. Importantly therefore it is the role of the Trustees to be accountable for the overall performance and direction of the Trust and not the Council as it is an independent organisation with charitable status.

- 3.5 However, the Partnership Agreement is the key document that governs the relationship between the Council and the Trust, and this includes the main provisions and parameters with regard to service, pricing, planning, development and management. In addition a cultural partnership outcomes framework and key performance indicators have been agreed between the Trust and the Council. The Trust are responsible for collecting and collating both quantitative and qualitative data including that relating to the Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS) for the statutory library service which the Trust manage on the Council's behalf. The outcome framework can be reviewed periodically to reflect the priorities of the Council and to direct the Trust towards those issues and matters that the Council deems to be most important in terms of the impact of its Cultural Provision.
- 3.6 The main priorities for the Trust are agreed in an annual service plan which the Trust presents for the Council's approval. The Chief Executive of the Trust and the Corporate Director of Communities meet monthly to discuss performance issues and the Trust produce a quarterly update based on the agreed service plan for review. This contains both some quantitative data but importantly also some commentary on the various activities and what has been achieved to allow some qualitative analysis and assessment of the Trust's performance. The most recent Quarterly update relating to Quarter 2 of 2016/17 is included as **Appendix 1** for information and is discussed in the next section of the report.

4. **Current Situation**

- 4.1 The service plan update outlines and demonstrates progress against the various high level BCBC cultural aims, and the agreed 5 year commissioning outcomes. The detail is set out in **Appendix 1** but in summary the service plan evidences that the Trust continues to perform well across a broad range of measures based on current outcomes framework and performance indicators.
- 4.2 There have been a number of highlights including; Installing a new box office system at the Grand Pavilion, shortly to also be rolled out at Maesteg Town Hall and Bryngarw Park to improve customer experience; a new partnership arrangement with Bridgend Town Council to deliver a programme of arts activity from 2017 onwards; a very successful programme of Roald Dahl activities during the summer holidays; local history exhibitions; Heritage walks in partnership with Communities First; a summer reading challenge attracting nearly 3000 children including a significant percentage from Communities First areas; a variety of seasonal events including a programme of children's theatre and literature inspired events in Bryngarw Park; a further 88 young people from the County Borough participated in this years 'It's My Shout' scheme offering developmental opportunities in the creative industries; a programme of digital skills and drop in sessions again targeted on Communities First areas; Children's film clubs; Welsh language discussion and reading groups; a summer celebration event at

B leaf (including Wood B trainees); work with local dementia groups to offer targeted library services to dementia sufferers and their families.

- 4.3 The report to Cabinet in November 2016 in addition set out the current performance against the fifth framework of Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS), demonstrating how improvements in a number of areas had enabled 17 of the 18 current standards to be met. Benchmarking of performance in the Cultural Services is notoriously difficult (particularly in the Arts) as the type and quality of provision varies enormously between different local authorities. However, the WPLS can be benchmarked and the current performance of libraries in Bridgend is in the top quartile in a number of important areas. The analysis showed customer satisfaction is at 97% overall across approximately 450,000 visits and issuing over 450,000 items of stock. The service registered 5,744 new members taking overall registered members to 74,706. The cost of staff as a percentage of overall spend was very low and the overall net cost per visit at £2.58 was at about the average in Wales.
- 4.4 Furthermore the Council has worked with the Trust to achieve the £250,000 Medium Term Financial Savings (MTFS) for 2016/17 while keeping open all facilities and continuing to ensure that services are accessible and affordable. Other than inflationary increases in line with the Partnership Agreement provisions and some small charges that have been 'tidied up', the charges that Awen set are predominantly the same as those the Council set pre-transfer. With regard to the Grand Pavilion a 1.5% inflationary increase was applied to the existing fee structure that transferred over from the Council on 1st April 2016. The situation is a little more complicated at Maesteg Town Hall but the headlines are set out below:

Prior to the 1st April 2016, the hire fees were as follows:

Basic 4 hour show hire £350+VAT
Basic 4 hour rehearsal hire £150+VAT
Charge for setting up decking £25+VAT
Charge for numbered (reserved) seating £20+VAT
Charge for consumables (tape, lighting gel, etc.) £25+VAT

It should be noted that the above fees had been static for many years with no annual inflationary adjustments made. Additionally, the basic show hire fee had actually been reduced from £400 to £350 (by the previous management committee) 2 to 3 years ago.

These fees were applied to all types of hire, including bookings taken from community groups, as well as from commercial organisations. Clearly this was not good business practice, in that it was unfair for community groups to be paying the same as a commercial operator, and equally Maesteg Town Hall was selling itself short by hiring to commercial organisations at 'not for profit' prices.

There were also a number of sundry charges applied to the vast majority of hire bookings:

Decking set up £25+VAT
Numbered seating £20+VAT

Consumables £25+VAT

Therefore the total hire fee due for a typical show (for example a choir concert) was £350 + £25 + £20 + £25 = £420+VAT

As of 1st April 2016, the basic 4 hour show hire was revised to £395+VAT for community/'not for profit' organisations. However, the above sundry charges were deleted from the fee structure. They were removed because they were difficult to administer and explain to customers. The main point is that the net fee for a typical community group hire as of 1st April 2016 is now £395+VAT (a reduction of £25).

The Trust has also reduced the cost of a basic 4 hour dry hire of the venue from £200+VAT down to £110+VAT for community/'not for profit' groups.

The Trust has also introduced a three band system for fees, where Commercial operators (such as a promoter wishing to hire the hall for a commercial activity) pay more than a community/'not for profit' group. There is a middle fee band, intended for public sector organisations (publically funded).

Some fees, such as 4 hour rehearsal time blocks have incurred an increase (£150 to £195 for community/'not for profit') but it should be noted that there are only a handful of groups that actually take advantage of rehearsal time.

4.5 Inevitably a lot of time and resource in both the Trust and the Council has also been expended on working up plans and the relevant business cases to bid for external funding to redevelop Maesteg Town Hall into a financially sustainable and attractive facility and a cultural hub designed to increase the footfall and vibrancy of that part of the Town Centre. Similar plans are also being explored to create a 'Cultural Hub' based at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl. These projects as well as being really important as a means of developing sustainable cultural facilities will also allow the Trust a better opportunity moving forward to meet any further MTFS savings without cutting back on other services and closing facilities.

4.6 The Council's agreed cultural aims to:

- promote, celebrate and champion the County Borough's rich cultural heritage,
- employ culture as a means of supporting and enriching formal learning,
- support and develop the growth of the creative industries and the cultural sector as key contributors to the local economy,
- tackling poverty by widening access and routes to participation and quality cultural experiences
- inspire people to develop to their full potential and through culture make people's lives better and more fulfilled
- develop a sustainable cultural offer based on delivering relevant and value for money provision

are therefore being achieved by ensuring the 5 year commissioning outcomes are delivered, which are measured and monitored by assessing the activities and programmes that Awen put on.

- 4.7 The client responsibility for the Awen Trust within the Council is due to transfer to the Wellbeing Directorate with effect from April 2017. A 'handover' period is currently being worked through and this will include agreeing shortly the annual service plan for 2017/18.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 A full Equalities Impact Assessment was completed with regard to the transfer of Cultural Services to Awen Cultural Trust. The Partnership Agreement and outcomes framework obligates the Trust to maximise participation in cultural activities by all sections of the local community regardless of age, earnings or ability, including those groups with protected characteristics.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The 2016/17 management fee for Awen is £3,184,296. This is after taking account of the £250,000 Medium Term Financial Strategy savings for 2016/17. A further £101,000 in savings is proposed in 2017/18.

8. Recommendation:

- 8.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the positive progress of the Council's partnership with the Awen Cultural Trust over the first year since its establishment in October 2015.

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Background Documents:
CEL OVSC Report 23rd March 2016
Cabinet Report 1st September 2015
Cabinet Report 13th January 2015

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Awen Service Plan 2016/17 – QTR 2 Update

<i>BCBC Cultural Aims</i>	<i>5-year Commissioning Outcomes</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>What we've achieved Q2</i>
Promote, celebrate and champion the county borough's rich cultural heritage	People (customers) enjoy access to and positive experiences at Bridgend's arts venues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pavilion and Maesteg Town Hall will programme a diverse range of arts events and activities. Awen will specifically focus on encouraging new audiences at Maesteg Town Hall through a supported programme of events and marketing. • Implementation of new box office arrangements for Maesteg Town Hall to increase opening hours, accessibility and data collection. • Awen will seek to undertake a training programme for staff to improve marketing, programming and fundraising across all venues with a view to improving customer experience and increasing attendances. • Awen will look to implement a new disability and carers scheme that ensures fair access to arts performances. 	<p>New box office system has been implemented for The Grand Pavilion with imminent roll-out at Maesteg Town Hall and Bryngarw Country Park. This will enable us to map attendances out across our venues much more consistently and enable us to make better use of new technologies to market more effectively and deliver our channel shift realising efficiencies. Libraries events will also be added to this system in phase 2 of the roll-out.</p> <p>The Creative Developers Training Programme, funded by ACW to improve our skills in fundraising, marketing and programming, has started. To date 18 members of staff have attended 5 full day bespoke Awen training sessions, 3 conferences, 1 festival and 2 generic training opportunities</p>
	Local cultural organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awen will seek to actively support other local arts 	Following on from the technical and programming support, Bridgend Town Council and Awen have now entered into a formal partnership agreement for

	<p>are active, viable and sustainable</p>	<p>organisations in the development of programmes, promotional activities and technical support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awen will work with Carnegie House to provide them with support in marketing, programming and audience development • Awen will work in partnership with Valley & Vale Community Arts for the delivery of projects in the Ogmere and Garw Valleys • Awen will provide advice and support to artists and arts organisations, both professional and amateur, in terms of grant applications, event development etc. 	<p>The delivery and management of a programme of arts activity from March 2017 onwards. Although outside of this partnership agreement it will provide benefit for BCBC by having a greater cultural programme to support its town centre initiatives.</p> <p>Awen worked in partnership with Valley & Vale Community Arts to deliver a programme of Roald Dahl projects / activities over the summer holidays.</p>
	<p>Bridgend's cultural heritage has a sustained positive impact on communities and the local economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local & Family History Library will develop a series of events and activities to celebrate the role of culture in the communities of the County Borough • Natural heritage – Awen will work with, and support, the Bryngarw Volunteer group in the implementation of a new complete a new accessible learning trail, further enhancing the features of the Park to 	<p>Ty'r Ardd Local & Family History Library partnered with local historian Natalie Murphy, to deliver a local history exhibition at Carnegie House, attended by over 750 people over the course of a week in July. We engaged with many of these visitors including schools and the elderly living in residential care homes around the county, as they reminisced about Bridgend and their own past. This increased awareness of the online photograph collection and generated interest in the resources available at the centre, and had a positive effect on the mental wellbeing of many of the attendees as the reminisced about their lives.</p> <p>Ty'r Ardd took part in “Bridgend 500” to celebrate 500 years since Bridgend first received a market charter. Hundreds of visitors were brought in to the town to see and take part in the Tudor Fair, seeing period costume and crafts. Local history walks in partnership with Love2Walk ran throughout the</p>

		<p>attract greater visitor numbers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awen will refresh the park's management plan with aim of achieving Green Flag status over the first two years of the Partnership. • Awen will initiate a programme of work that exploits the natural resources available within Bryngarw Park, and utilising skills from B Leaf / Wood B and providing further training opportunities for adults with disabilities, create opportunity for sustainable products. 	<p>day, and were attended by 90 people, many of them keen to return for the Island Farm walk scheduled in October.</p> <p>In Maesteg, walks are being developed in partnership with Communities 1st and Natural Resources Wales to look at the local industrial heritage.</p> <p>A geocaching project is being developed with Natural Resources Wales and local schools. To include local history and literary Geocaching in Maesteg. This will promote local cultural heritage, as well as be one of the many activities targeting health and wellbeing in the Llynfi Valley.</p> <p>Keep Britain Tidy Green flag status has been achieved by Bryngarw Country Park. This national award recognises the park's contribution to the environment, community and its overall management planning approach.</p>
<p>Employ culture as means of supporting and enriching formal learning</p>	<p>Children and young people have a good level of literacy and digital skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicise and promote the successful Summer Reading Challenge • Start a series of regular 'Coding Clubs' in libraries to support digital skills for young people • A full programme of regular 'Bounce & Rhyme' sessions where babies and toddlers are introduced to rhyme, songs, books, actions and the library in a welcoming and supportive environment • Regular story times, offering children the opportunity to listen to a story and then 	<p>Over 300 children attended Roald Dahl inspired library workshops in school before the summer holidays, to create their own Revolting Rhymes. Schools visited included those in Communities 1st areas.</p> <p>The Summer Reading Challenge saw a record number of children taking part, as well as a record percentage of children completing the challenge. 2920 children started the challenge (57% girls, 43% boys), and 2090 (56% girls, 44% boys) went on to be awarded their certificate and medals during school assemblies. As ever, the support of the local schools is vital in promoting this event before the summer holidays. 166 children became library members to take part in the challenge. Over 250 of those who took part were from a Communities 1st area. Faye (4) "had lots of fun doing the Reading Challenge. It definitely encouraged her to read over the Summer". Daisy (10) - "I think that the Summer Reading Challenge is awesome because through the Summer it helps kids learn more and also it gives them a great opportunity to go back to school and be the best reader that they can be."</p>

		<p>participate in a related craft activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storywalks: working with Love 2 Walk to deliver a body and mind programme to children aged 3-11 • Hold the successful annual 'Penalty Kick' reading programme for reluctant young readers • Awen staff will form a part of the steering group for the arts in education work of the South Central Education Consortia with a view to supporting Bridgend Schools to access funding and other opportunities 	<p>Roald Dahl Fun Day held at Bridgend Recreation Centre to introduce children to the stories through fun activities. 85 children attended, 13 of them from Communities 1st postcodes, and were brought to the event through support from BCBC's Parks and Recreation Dept.</p> <p>Through partnership work with Bridgend and Porthcawl Town Centres, Bridgend Indoor Market and the Rhiw shopping centre, a Roald Dahl inspired puzzle trail was devised to promote the Summer Reading Challenge. Over 200 children participated.</p> <p>The Library coding clubs in Pencoed and Y Llynfi continue to draw new members, and are attended by an average of 16 children a week (30/70 girls/boys in Pencoed, 100% boys in Y Llynfi). They are building on the knowledge of the longer-standing members by introducing new concepts such as Python.</p> <p>Pencoed Coding Club will soon start using Micro:bits. Pencoed also offer coding as an activity during school visits – developing a reputation as a place to build digital skills.</p> <p>Y Llynfi is building on their Coding Club with the development of a Minecraft Club. Minecraft introduces a wide range of concepts – among them - logic, problem solving, goal setting, science, economics and literacy. In Minecraft, players experiment, take risks and learn from their mistakes in a fun and engaging environment.</p> <p>Bounce and Rhymes continue to be successful. We have introduced a new group to Bridgend Library - who now run 3 per week, including one in Welsh through a partnership with Meithrin Cymru. All are well attended. 997 children under 5 attended library events during this quarter.</p> <p>A B&R is also being re-introduced to Betws Library.</p>
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			<p>Storytimes continue to be popular in all libraries – whether in the library or outside on a Storywalk or in Bryngarw Park. 581 children attended "traditional" storytimes in Quarter 2, with a further 1489 attending special storytime and craft events over the summer holidays. Storytime is being re-introduced to Aberkenfig and Betws libraries.</p> <p>Early summer saw the start of the Pokemon craze. Libraries took advantage of it by promoting free wi-fi and a safe place to play and charge. Lures were placed to draw players to libraries that were also Pokestops and Pokegyms. Pokemon hunts have been introduced to Bridgend Library, and have brought new young adult users to the library.</p> <p>Junior and Young Adult Reading Groups are now run in several libraries. They are a social event, as well as a means of enriching formal learning – particularly for the more able and talented. An average of 20 children and young people attend each of these sessions across libraries.</p> <p>An extensive programme of children's theatre and literature inspired events took place in the park during the summer.</p> <p>A Midsummer Night's Dream - 116 Tales of Peter Rabbit - 265 Danny, Champion of the World - 209 Ratburger - Cancelled due to weather</p> <p>Along with a series of pond-dipping, bush craft and other natural heritage workshops for school children. 436 children attended on the school visits with 90 attending the park led activities.</p>
<p>Support and develop the growth of the creative</p>	<p>People of all ages, but in particular young people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide work experience placements for Bridgend College students through the events programme in Bryngarw 	<p>Bridgend College students supported the hugely popular Halloween events in the park providing lighting, sound, stage management and acting support.</p> <p>The It's My Shout film training scheme had 88 young people from the county</p>

<p>industries and cultural sector as key contributors to the local economy</p>	<p>have access to, and can experience and develop career pathways within the creative industries</p>	<p>Park Continue to work in partnership with It's My Shout for the delivery of Bridgend Youth Theatre and the BBC Made in Wales film scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with Arts Connect and Bridgend College on the delivery of the Forte Music project • Develop youth theatre taster sessions in the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmere valley areas • Work with It's My Shout to recruit trainees from the more deprived communities in to the creative industries training scheme 	<p>borough involved this year with 33 coming from the communities first areas</p> <p>A further tranche of ACW funded was secured through the Arts Connect partnership for the ongoing delivery of the Forte Music project with Bridgend College.</p>
	<p>People of all ages are digitally literate and are helped to secure support and employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a project supported by Digital Communities Wales to offer ICT advice and support to the housebound and elderly via Mobile Library services • Job Club to be launched at Pencoed Library in conjunction with Bridges into Work to support people seeking employment • Awen will formally launch an innovative library app, developed in conjunction with a south Wales tech start-up as a window onto the service's range of e-resources. 	<p>A Digital Skills Assistant has been employed to ensure library staff benefit from up-to-date training, advice and knowledge in order to offer a quality first-stop service to the public. The DS Assistant will also offer digital training activities and training directly to the public on topics where a need has been recognised (such as safe online shopping, online security, job searches, Govt gateway sites).</p> <p>We have developed, in partnership with Communities 1st, Digital drop-in sessions in Betws, Maesteg, Sarn, Pyle and Bridgend – dedicated time for public to receive help on a variety of platforms and with a variety of tasks such as online forms, job-seeking, technical problems, Govt sites, apps etc. Using C1st monitoring methods has enabled us to more accurately measure take-up, and identify the areas take-up has been highest. The first month (September) saw 41 people attend the sessions, 10 from C1st postcodes. "Having received help from the Library staff to use my tablet and to Skype I am now in regular touch with my son and daughter in law in New Zealand</p>

			<p>which is absolutely wonderful. It has really made a huge difference to us because now instead of just phone calls we can see them and their surrounding and really feel part of their life."</p> <p>Our partnership with Bridges Into Work continues in Pencoed Library. Two sessions a week offering one-to-one support for job seekers. Both sessions are filled each week.</p> <p>LearnDirect through ACL continues to be a successful partnership. Usage in different locations is monitored and changes periodically to ensure the widest range of people are being offered the service.485 people attended sessions during this quarter.</p> <p>An introductory session offering basic literacy, numeracy and digital support is being piloted in Betws Library in partnership with ACL and the Ton Pentre Suite. It is run when the library is closed to the public in order to offer a private and supportive environment to attendees.</p> <p>Libraries are working in partnership with The Oracle at Y Llynfi to offer help with CVs, confidence building and basic IT skills. On average 25 people are helped each month.</p>
<p>Tackling poverty by widening access and routes to participation and quality cultural experiences</p>	<p>People in the county borough's most deprived communities are accessing cultural provision and opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and deliver a 'Pop-up library' in Blaengarw Workmen's Hall and other locations to promote library services in valleys communities and/or C1st areas • Develop the library offer in Betws by scheduling regular activities for young people and raising the profile of the library in the community • Maintain a wide programme of 	<p>Communities 1st held several events in libraries over the summer. These events were connected to scheduled library events and were seen by Communities 1st as working with a key partner to jointly plan and deliver, and also helped them "to deliver engagement in a different way than in previous years" and was considered a successful partnership to be repeated in future years. These events contributed to the take-up of the SRC by children from C1st areas – at least 10% of those who participated live in a C1st postcode.</p> <p>Children's FILMCLUBs are run in Pyle, Pencoed and Aberkenfig libraries, and offer a chance for children to watch classic children's films, seasonal hits and box office favourites within their community, for free. They provide young people with an opportunity to be part of something fun, creative and</p>

		<p>activities and develop, promote and encourage new events at our community centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Creative Industries Training workshops and Youth Theatre taster sessions to attract people from C1st areas 	<p>sociable. It is an international initiative that saw 96% of teachers involved say FILMCLUB helps members to understand social and emotional issues; and 80% say FILMCLUB is a very effective tool for engaging boys. Attendance varies between 10 and 64, with higher figures during the summer months or for themed events.</p> <p>Maesteg Library has continued to develop their Community Bookshelves. Offering a small variety of books to public spaces and workplaces in order to widen access to library provision, with a particular aim being to meet the needs of socially isolated or vulnerable people. The most recent inclusion being to include the Mental Health Matters Group at the Masonic Hall.</p> <p>The Grand Pavilion recorded 714 attendances from C1st post codes for the quarter. This translates to approximately 8% of attendances. The figure remains over 70% for Maesteg Town Hall but more accurate data will be available as the new Box Office system is implemented at MTH over the coming two periods.</p>
<p>Equality of opportunity and inclusivity is at the heart of cultural provision</p> <p>People at risk of being disadvantaged or disengage are social included through arts</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running and supporting a range of inclusive and supportive reading groups Inc. groups for adults, children, teenagers and Welsh language groups • Deliver events at Bryngarw Country Park in conjunction with Menter Iaith • Enhance welsh language programming in the arts venues, particularly Maesteg Town Hall, with a view to working closely with welsh language primary and 	<p>The Welsh language discussion and Reading Groups are ongoing.</p> <p>Bore Coffi is proving popular in Porthcawl library. The informal setting is encouraging Welsh learners to practice their new language and build up their vocabulary in a supportive environment.</p> <p>The University of South Wales Welsh language course has begun in Pencoed Library and is proving popular with participants. As the course targets beginners who'd like to interact with children through the medium of Welsh, a Welsh language Bounce and Rhyme will be developed in Pencoed Library in Spring 2017 to build on this interest.</p> <p>Maesteg Library works with Cwm Calon Centre to offer arts and crafts activities to the service users. This engagement with the service users helps</p>

	and culture	<p>secondary schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grand Pavilion will participate in National Disabled Access Day • Conduct a disabled access audit of Bryngarw Country Park in partnership with Bridgend College • The library service will enter into a partnership with the RNIB which will allow us to offer a wider range of audio books to our blind and partially-sighted customers and allow people with impaired vision to fully take part in our reading groups • Awen is committed to providing a wide range of books and e-books in the Welsh language for adults and young people at all our libraries • Delivery of Bridgend Youth Theatre Workshops for young people with autism in partnership with Arts Council of Wales 	<p>build trust in the library as a safe environment and place of welcome.</p> <p>Awen is improving access for all at Bryngarw County Park. These videos from our Facebook page are the best to describe the outcomes of the new disabled play equipment: https://www.facebook.com/prosserwaskent/videos/10154265395889442/</p> <p>Awen and Menter Iaith delivered 4 events in Bryngarw Park</p> <p>It's My Shout delivered sessions for 5 young people with autism</p>
Inspire people to develop to their full potential and through	People with disabilities learn new skills and confidence to lead and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing drive to raise profile of accessible opportunities / facilities within the trust e.g. induction loops; audio described performances, wheelchair accessible play 	<p>Awen held a summer celebration event at B Leaf (including Wood B Trainees) for Trainees, their friends and families to celebrate their most successful summer ever in terms of sales following a small but effective marketing campaign on social media, door-drop leaflets and improved signage within the park</p>

<p>culture make people's lives better and more fulfilled</p>	<p>sustain independent lives</p>	<p>equipment etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of HYNT scheme to provide carers with free tickets to enable disabled people to have the support they need to access events • Development of training plans for trainees at Wood B/B Leaf and delivery of work skills training in partnership with Elite Supported Work Agency • Create more training opportunities/work experience taster sessions for adults with disabilities in other areas of the trust • Recruit more trainees to the existing programmes i.e. B Leaf & Wood B • Hold an open day for parents/carers • Hold an awards evening to acknowledge success of trainees 	<p>Four individuals have undertaken taster sessions within Wood B or B Leaf during this period and two are now enrolled as Trainees.</p>
	<p>People are healthier and independent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with local dementia groups to offer targeted library services to dementia sufferers and their families • Develop a programme of 'Healthy body, healthy mind' sessions for the elderly • Participate in developing 	<p>From the introduction of the Philosophy Circle, Pencoed Library have developed a <i>Healthy Body, Healthy Mind</i> Reading Group, a poetry circle and held a Young at Heart event. The Young at Heart event introduced exercise for the elderly, Tai Chi and natural remedies. It provided social interaction, mental stimulation and eased isolation for the 21 people who attended. Many attendees asked for follow-up events – which are being developed. <i>"My husband and I attended a 'taster session' of different activities relating to keeping safe, healthy and happily occupied during the senior years. We are 68 and 65 respectively and found the event very helpful". "My local library</i></p>

		<p>Awen's Volunteering Policy with the aim of creating varied and fulfilling roles for volunteers to help to deliver innovative library services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booklink service continues to support the housebound by providing books for both information and entertainment. Also now providing IT support and encouragement. Supported by digital technology supplied by Digital Communities Wales. 	<p><i>has changed my life in a most surprising and unexpected fashion, which is most carefully tailored to enlighten my nature".</i></p> <p>Pyle, Pencoed and Bridgend Libraries hosted history talks by local author Dean Powell on Dr William Price. Each session attracted an older audience of between 8-12.</p> <p>Training is currently underway in order to offer a wellbeing programme for the elderly or frail. This training has been made available through working with BCBC's Sports and Active Living Team, and has covered OTAGO (falls prevention for the elderly) and Tai Chi. Once the training is completed, a pilot programme will be introduced in Spring2017, and will also include a social aspect.</p> <p>The Bryngarw Volunteers programme has seen 102 volunteer hours during this period.</p>
<p>Develop a sustainable cultural offer based on delivering relevant and value for money provision</p>	<p>Facilities and programmes are more sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop the e-resources offer in libraries • Deliver a "channel shift" project realising efficiencies and economies of scale by using smarter marketing technology and approaches • Develop retail opportunities at Bryngarw Park 	<p>eResource issues continue to rise, with an 18% increase over the same period in 2015.</p> <p>New box office system now in place and training to help inform channel shift is underway. Efficiencies have been realised by ceasing paid for print advertising and reducing brochure quantities which has saved £8750 per annum whilst sales have remained consistent</p> <p>The feasibility study has just been finished with findings to be considered in next quarter.</p>

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