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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*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.*



Annwyl Cyngorydd,

CYNGOR

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Cyngor yn Siambr y Cyngor - Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr CF31 4WB ar **Dydd Mercher, 31 Ionawr 2018 am 15:00.**

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant
Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.
3. Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion 5 - 24
I dderbyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cofnodion cyfarfod y 20/12/2017
4. I dderbyn cyhoeddiadau oddi wrth:
(i) Maer (neu'r person sy'n llywyddu)
(ii) Aelodau'r Cabinet
(iii) Prif Weithredwr
5. I dderbyn adroddiad yr Arweinydd
(i) Maer (neu'r person sy'n llywyddu)
(ii) Aelodau'r Cabinet
(iii) Prif Weithredwr
6. Y Rhaglen Moderneiddio Ysgolion - Band B 25 - 30
7. Ailddatblygu Neuadd y Dref Maesteg 31 - 36
8. Cais Cynllunio sy'n Gwyo 37 - 56

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Gwefan/Website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

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9. Adroddiad Gwella Blynyddol 2016-17 - Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr 57 - 92
10. Cynllun Lleihau'r Dreth Gyngor 93 - 100
11. I dderbyn y cwestiynau canlynol i'r Cabinet
Cwestiwn i'r Aelod Cabinet Cymunedau gan Cyngorydd Tim Thomas

Yn ystod oes y cynllun ariannol tymor canolig nesaf, beth fydd y Cyngor hwn yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod pobl sy'n byw ag anabledau'n gallu defnyddio'r ffyrdd, y strydoedd a'r priffyrdd yn eu cymunedau'n llawn bob dydd.

Cwestiwn i'r Aelod Cabinet Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar gan Cyngorydd Altaf Hussain

Yn ôl Coleg Brenhinol Meddyginiaeth Frys Cymru, mae'r adrannau Damweiniau ac Achosion Brys yn ysbytai Cymru yn debyg i faes y gad. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn rhoi'r bai ar y fflw, y cynnydd yn nifer y galwadau dros y Nadolig a'r Flwyddyn Newydd a'r norofeirws. Dywedodd Dr Robin Roop, Is-lywydd RCEM Cymru fod staff unrhyw adran frys yn teimlo'u bod ar faes y gad, bod diogelwch y cleifion yn cael ei beryglu, a bod y sefyllfa'n anniogel, yn ddiurddas ac yn peri gofid i'r cleifion a'u perthnasau. Mae nifer o Fyrddau Iechyd Cymru wedi gorfod gohirio llawdriniaeth oherwydd pwysau'r gaeaf. Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg wedi canslo'r rhan fwyaf o lawdriniaethau cyffredin a oedd wedi'u trefnu. Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Iechyd wedi ymddiheuro wrth y cleifion dan sylw.

O ganlyniad bydd rhagor o gleifion, yn enwedig cleifion oedranus, yn mynd i'r adran Damweiniau ac Achosion Brys oherwydd y fflw, problemau anadlu neu oherwydd eu bod wedi cael codwm etc. Caiff nifer o'r rhain eu rhyddhau o'r ysbyty'n fuan.

A oes gan y Cyngor adnoddau digonol i roi Gofal Cymdeithasol i'r cleifion hyn, ac a all yr Aelod Cabinet sicrhau'r siambr na fydd gwelyau'n cael eu blocio yn ein hysbytai oherwydd prinder adnoddau gofal cymdeithasol?

12. Rhybydd o Gynnig
Hysbysiad o Gynnig gan y Cyngorydd T Beedle

Eithrio'r rhai sy'n Gadael Gofal rhag talu'r Dreth Gyngor

O ganlyniad i doriadau i fudd-daliadau oedran gweithio, y cynnydd mewn contractau dim oriau a thai rhent islaw'r safon, nid yw pobl ifanc sy'n agored i niwed yn cael yr un cyfleoedd mewn bywyd ag a gafodd pobl yr un oed yn y gorffennol.

Yn ei hadroddiad, Breuddwydion Cudd, dywedodd Sally Holland, Comisiynydd Plant Cymru, y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru roi blaenoriaeth i bobl ifanc sy'n gadael gofal wrth ystyried sut i wneud y system dreth gyngor yn decach. Dywedodd hefyd fod nifer o'r rhai sy'n gadael gofal yn gorfod byw ar cyn lleied ag £8 y dydd ac roeddent yn gwario mwy ar y dreth gyngor nad dim arall, ac eithrio'u rhent.

Mae'r Cyngor yn nodi :

- bod diwygiadau lles y Llywodraeth yn targedu pobl ifanc mewn ffordd gwbl annheg, fel "Rhwymedigaeth leuenctid" y Llywodraeth, a ddaeth i rym ym mis Ebrill 2017, ac sy'n atal pobl ifanc 18-21 oed rhag hawlio budd-dal tai yn awtomatig. Mae hyn, yn anochel, wedi arwain at gynydd yn y galw am wasanaethau'r Cyngor

- bod ganddo'r pŵer i eithrio rhai grwpiau penodol rhag talu'r dreth gyngor o dan adran 13A o Ddeddf Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol 1992
- bod 1 person ifanc wedi gadael gofal Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr y llynedd (2016/2017) ac wedi dechrau'r cyfnod anodd o adael y system gofal a dechrau byw fel oedolion.

Mae'r Cyngor yn credu:

- y gellir gwneud rhagor i helpu'r rhai sy'n gadael gofal i reoli eu harian yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, a hynny heb roi gormod o faich ar y trethdalwyr
- y dylid eithrio'r bobl ifanc hyn rhag talu'r dreth gyngor nes byddant yn 25 oed, a hynny er mwyn sicrhau bod y cyfnod rhwng gadael gofal a dechrau byw fel oedolion mor ddiraffferth â phosibl, ac er mwyn lleihau'r siawns iddynt fynd i ddyled wrth iddynt ddechrau rheoli eu harian eu hunain.

Penderfyniad y Cyngor yw:

- Defnyddio'i bwerau i eithrio pawb sy'n gadael gofal ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr rhag talu'r dreth gyngor nes byddant yn 25 oed.
- Gofyn i'r Arweinydd ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant i'w annog i eithrio pawb sy'n gadael gofal rhag talu'r dreth gyngor nes byddant yn 25 oed, a hynny ym mhob rhan o'r wlad.

13. Materion Brys

I ystyried unrhyw eitemau o fusnes y, oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig y cadeirydd o'r farn y dylid eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod fel mater o frys yn unol â Rhan 4 (pharagraff 4) o'r Rheolau Trefn y Cyngor yn y Cyfansoddiad.

14. Gwahardd y Cyhoedd

Nid oedd yr eitemau canlynol yn cael eu cyhoeddi, gan fod eu bod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth eithriedig fel y'i diffinnir ym Mharagraffau 14 a 16 o Ran 4 a Pharagraff 21 o Ran 5, Atodlen 12A, Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972, fel y'i newidiwyd gan Orchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2007 (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) (Amrywio).

Os, yn dilyn cymhwyso'r prawf budd y cyhoedd yn y Cabinet yn penderfynu yn unol â'r Ddeddf i ystyried yr eitemau hyn yn breifat, bydd y cyhoedd yn cael eu gwahardd o'r cyfarfod yn ystod ystyriaeth o'r fath.

15. Pecynnau Diswyddo ac Ymdeol yn Gynnar Sy'n Cludo Costau Dros £100,000 101 - 104

Yn ddiffuant

P A Jolley

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweithredol a Phartneriaethol

Dosbarthiad:

Cynghowrwr

S Aspey

SE Baldwin

TH Beedle

Cynghorwyr

A Hussain

RM James

B Jones

Cynghorwyr

JC Spanswick

RME Stirman

G Thomas

JPD Blundell
NA Burnett
MC Clarke
N Clarke
RJ Collins
HJ David
P Davies
PA Davies
SK Dendy
DK Edwards
J Gebbie
T Giffard
RM Granville
CA Green
DG Howells

M Jones
MJ Kearn
DRW Lewis
JE Lewis
JR McCarthy
DG Owen
Cyng
RL Penhale-Thomas
AA Pucella
JC Radcliffe
KL Rowlands
B Sedgebeer
RMI Shaw
CE Smith
SG Smith

T Thomas
JH Tildesley MBE
E Venables
SR Vidal
MC Voisey
LM Walters
KJ Watts
CA Webster
DBF White
PJ White
A Williams
AJ Williams
HM Williams
JE Williams
RE Young

CYNGOR - DYDD MERCHER, 20 RHAGFYR 2017

COFNODION CYFARFOD Y CYNGOR A GYNHALIWIYD YN SIAMBR Y CYNGOR - SWYDDFEYDD DINESIG, STRYD YR ANGEL, PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR CF31 4WB DYDD MERCHER, 20 RHAGFYR 2017, AM 15:00

Presennol

Y Cynghorydd PA Davies – Cadeirydd

S Aspey	SE Baldwin	TH Beedle	JPD Blundell
NA Burnett	MC Clarke	N Clarke	HJ David
P Davies	DK Edwards	J Gebbie	T Giffard
CA Green	A Hussain	M Jones	MJ Kearns
DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	JR McCarthy	Cyng
RL Penhale-Thomas	AA Pucella	JC Radcliffe	KL Rowlands
B Sedgebeer	RMI Shaw	CE Smith	JC Spanswick
RME Stirman	G Thomas	T Thomas	JH Tildesley MBE
E Venables	SR Vidal	MC Voisey	LM Walters
KJ Watts	CA Webster	DBF White	PJ White
A Williams	AJ Williams	HM Williams	JE Williams
RE Young			

Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

RJ Collins, SK Dendy, RM Granville, DG Howells, RM James, B Jones, DG Owen a/ac SG Smith

Swyddogion:

Susan Cooper	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles
Mark Galvin	Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd - Pwyllgorau
Lindsay Harvey	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd (Dros Dro)
Randal Hemingway	Pennaeth Cyllid
Andrew Jolley	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Gwasanaethau Gweithredol a Phartneriaethiol
Gary Jones	Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd
Darren Mephram	Prif Weithredwr
Mark Shephard	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Cymunedau

102. DATGAN BUDDIANNAU

Datganodd y Cynghorydd DRW Lewis ddiddordeb personol yn Eitem 11 ar yr Agenda, gan ei fod yn Gadeirydd yr Undeb Credyd.

Datganodd y Cynghorydd JE Lewis ddiddordeb personol yn Eitem 11 ar yr Agenda, gan ei bod yn aelod o'r Undeb Credyd.

103. CYMERADWYO'R COFNODION

PENDERFYNWYD: Cymeradwyo Cofnodion diwygiedig cyfarfod y Cyngor ar 29 Tachwedd 2017 (fel y'u cyflwynwyd) fel cofnod cywir.

104. DERBYN CYHOEDDIADAU GAN:

Y Maer

Croesawodd y Maer bawb a oedd yn bresennol i'r cyfarfod.

Cyhoeddodd ei bod hi/ei Chonsort wedi ymweld yn gynharach yn y mis ag Ysbyty Tywysoges Cymru ac wedi rhoi syrpréis i'r staff ar yr holl wardiau drwy ddsbarthu sachau Santa. Syniad dau gyn-filwr lleol, Tom ac Alistair, oedd y sachau Santa. Gofynnodd y ddau i gwmnïau lleol am roddion o fisgedi, siocledi a phethau da eraill yn 'Weithred o Garedigrwydd' i staff yr ysbyty. Ychwanegodd eu bod hefyd wedi dychwelyd i ddsbarthu nifer fawr o deganau'n rhodd gan gwmni teganau o Swydd Efrog. Diolchodd i'r ddau gyn-filwr a oedd wedi trefnu hyn; i staff yr ysbyty a baratôdd de, coffi a mins peis yn rhodd gan siopau lleol Tesco ac i'r cwmni teganau sydd wedi addo rhoi mwy o deganau yn 2018.

Roedd wedi bod mewn sawl Gwasanaeth Carolau gan gynnwys un yn y Plasty a gynhaliwyd gan Arglwydd Faer Abertawe. Helpodd fy Ngwasanaeth Carolau innau i Elusennau'r Maer ac Eglwys Sant Ioan yng Nghaerdydd i godi arian i Ysbyty Llygaid Sant Ioan yn Jerwsalem. Mae'r ysbyty wedi cwblhau 113,000 o lawdriniaethau llygaid, a hynny'n aml mewn amgylchiadau anodd iawn.

Bu sawl ymweliad Nadolig hefyd â phob hostel, cartref nyrsio a llety gwarchod ac aethpwyd â bocsys o fisgedi i bob un ohonynt.

Roedd hefyd wedi cymryd rhan yn Fforwm Lluoedd Arfog Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a gadeiriwyd gan Hyrwyddwr y Lluoedd Arfog, y Cynghorydd Richard Young. Yn bresennol yn y digwyddiad roedd nifer o sefydliadau cefnogi a darparwyr gwasanaethau gan gynnwys Cymdeithas Teuluoedd Milwyr a Llongwyr (SSAFA), y Lleng Brydeinig Frenhinol, Cyn-filwyr a chynrychiolwyr cymdeithasau tai. Roedd y Fforwm yn gyfle i sefydliadau yma ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr i ddod ynghyd i drafod ffyrdd o wella'r gefnogaeth i gymuned y lluoedd arfog. Roedd rhagor o gyfarfodydd wedi'u trefnu i Fforwm y Lluoedd Arfog y flwyddyn nesaf er mwyn parhau â'r gwaith da a ddechreuwyd yn ddiweddar.

Dywedodd y Maer iddi fwynhau cwrdd â phobl ifanc yn Ysgol Heronsbridge a berfformiodd 'Beauty and the Beast'. Roedd yn deimladwy iawn ac roedd y canu'n bleser i bawb. Roedd am ddiolch i bawb a gymerodd ran, ac i'r staff am eu holl waith caled mewn amgylchiadau a oedd weithiau'n anodd iawn.

Y Dirprwy Arweinydd

Roedd y Dirprwy Arweinydd am atgoffa'r Aelodau y byddai'r trefniadau casglu gwastraff a deunydd ailgylchu dros yr ŵyl yn golygu y byddai'r casgliadau'n digwydd ddeuddydd yn hwyrach nag arfer yn ystod wythnos y Nadolig, a ddiwrnod yn hwyrach nag arfer yn yr wythnos ar ôl y Calan. Byddai'r casgliadau'n dilyn y drefn arferol o ddydd Llun 8 Ionawr. Dywedodd fod modd ailgylchu'r rhan fwyaf o wastraff y Nadolig bellach. Rhagwelid ei bod yn debygol mai papur lapio Nadolig a pholystyren fyddai'r eitemau na ellid eu hailgylchu gan mwyaf. Gallai preswylwyr naill ai fynd â'u gwastraff ychwanegol i ganolfan ailgylchu gymunedol, neu ei roi mewn bag du ar wahân. Byddai'r canolfannau ailgylchu cymunedol ar gau ar Ddydd Nadolig, Gŵyl San Steffan a Dydd Calan, ond byddent ar agor bob diwrnod arall o 8:30am–4:30pm. Byddai modd ailgylchu coed Nadolig go iawn yn y canolfannau ailgylchu cymunedol yn Llandudwg, Brynmenyn a Maesteg, neu yng Nghanolfan Waterton y cyngor ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr o 2 Ionawr bob dydd heblaw ar ddydd Sul. Roedd mwy o wybodaeth ar gael ar dudalennau ailgylchu'r cyngor yn www.recycleforbridgend.wales.

Cadarnhaodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd rai dyddiadau eraill i'w nodi yn nyddiaduron yr Aelodau.

Byddai sesiwn wybodaeth cyn y cyngor ar 31 Ionawr ar Weithredu Credyd Cynhwysol, ac un arall ar 28 Chwefror ar y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol. Roedd hyfforddiant cyfryngau cymdeithasol hefyd wedi'i drefnu am 9am ddydd Mawrth 9 Ionawr, a byddai'r Comisiwn Ffiniau a Democratiaeth Leol yn darparu sesiwn wybodaeth am 4pm ar yr un diwrnod lle byddai'n sôn am ei waith dros y blynyddoedd nesaf.

Roedd hyfforddiant Cydraddoldeb ac Amrywiaeth wedi'i drefnu am 9.30am ar 29 Ionawr, ac eto am 4pm ar 6 Chwefror. Byddai'n cael ei ddarparu gan Stonewall, a'r bwriad oedd galluogi aelodau i ymdrin yn gyfrinachol â materion LGBT a godir gan etholwyr. Byddai mwy o wybodaeth yn cael ei ddarparu yn y flwyddyn newydd.

Cadarnhaodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd fod adroddiad wedi mynd i'r Cabinet ddoe ar Lunio Dyfodol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Roedd am ddiolch i aelodau'r cyhoedd am gymryd rhan yn y broses ymgynghori ynghylch hyn. Cafwyd mwy o fewnbwn na'r llynedd, ac roedd yn bosib mai CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn awr oedd yr awdurdod mwyaf llwyddiannus yng Nghymru o ran ymgynghori ar hyn ac ar Strategaeth Ariannol y Tymor Canolig.

Yn olaf, talodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd deyrnged i Mr Randal Hemingway, Pennaeth Cyllid a Swyddog A151, a fyddai'n gadael yr Awdurdod cyn hir i fynd i borfeydd newydd. Cadarnhaodd fod ganddo berthynas ragorol â Randal, a'i fod wedi cael nifer fawr o gyfarfodydd un ag un ag ef dros y 18 mis diwethaf, er mwyn gwneud penderfyniadau anodd iawn ynglŷn â chyllid yr Awdurdod. Roedd yn ei ystyried yn weithiwr diflino ac yn aelod gwerthfawr iawn o'r Tîm Rheoli Corfforaethol. Dymunodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd yn dda iddo yn y dyfodol.

Aelod y Cabinet dros Gymunedau

Cyhoeddodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Gymunedau ei fod yn ymwybodol fod llawer o Aelodau wedi cysylltu â Llywodraeth Cymru yn sgil y ddamwain drasig lle colodd Rhys Rubery ei fywyd, i'w hannog i helpu i ariannu gwelliannau diogelwch ar hyd yr A48.

Cafodd y gwelliannau hyn eu clustnodi mewn adroddiad annibynnol a drefnwyd gan y cyngor.

Er na fu ein cynnig cyntaf am gyllid i Lywodraeth Cymru yn llwyddiannus, roedd wedi cytuno i'n rhoi ar restr wrth gefn o gynlluniau.

Roedd yn dda ganddo roi gwybod i'r Aelodau hefyd fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwrandao ar eu pryderon ac wedi rhoi arian i ni a gymerwyd o danwariant ar brosiectau eraill er mwyn i ni allu dechrau bwrw ymlaen â'n cynlluniau.

Roedd cyfanswm o £100,000 yn cael ei neilltuo yn y flwyddyn ariannol hon. Y bwriad oedd ei ddefnyddio i ddechrau'r gwaith cychwynnol ar y cynllun a'r gobaith oedd y byddai Llywodraeth Cymru'n parhau i roi cefnogaeth y flwyddyn nesaf er mwyn cwblhau'r gwelliant pwysig hwn i ddiogelwch ffyrdd.

Cadarnhaodd ei fod am ddiolch i gydweithwyr yn Llywodraeth Cymru am wrando ar y Cyngor yn hyn o beth, a chydabu hefyd ymdrechion aelodau'r Cyngor hwn yn hyn o beth.

Roedd Aelod y Cabinet dros Gymunedau'n falch na welodd y Fwrdeistref Sirol yr un faint o eira ar ddechrau'r gaeaf â rhannau eraill o'r wlad, ond effeithiwyd serch hynny ar lawer o'n cymunedau yn y cymoedd ac roedd y tymheredd rhewllyd yn golygu bod amodau gyrru'n beryglus ledled yr ardal.

Fel arfer, roedd ein tîm priffyrdd wedi bod yn gweithio ddydd a nos i sicrhau bod pethau'n dal i symud yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol, ac i gadw gyrwyr, ffyrdd ac eiddo fel ei gilydd yn ddiogel rhag elfennau gwaethaf tywydd y gaeaf.

Gan fod 490 o filltiroedd o ffyrdd yn yr ardal, roedd hynny'n dipyn o dasg, yn enwedig o ystyried bod dyletswyddau'r criwiau hefyd yn cynnwys pethau fel clirio ceunentydd i atal llifogydd, trwsio ceudyllau ac ymateb i ystod eang o broblemau, llawer ohonynt ar adegau pan fo pawb arall yn glyd yn eu gwelyau.

Maent yn gwneud cyfraniad aruthrol i'n cymunedau lleol, ac roedd yn sicr y byddai'r aelodau am ymuno ag ef a diolch i'n staff priffyrdd am eu hymdrechion.

Yn olaf, dywedodd fod y gwaith £3m i ailosod y 'traeth tarmac' ym Mhorthcawl yn mynd rhagddo, ac y gallai'r aelodau ddisgwyl gweld mwy o weithgarwch ar y safle dros yr wythnosau nesaf.

Mae'r traeth sydd yno ar hyn o bryd yn amddiffyn 260 o unedau eiddo a busnesau ar lan y môr rhag llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol ers 1984, ac yn y flwyddyn newydd byddai cwmni contractwyr Alun Griffiths yn cynnal digwyddiad cyhoeddus ym Mhafiliwn y Grand i ateb cwestiynau ac i ddangos sut y byddai'r traeth terasog newydd yn parhau i wneud y gwaith pwysig hwn.

Byddai'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf yn cael ei darparu'n rheolaidd, a gallai pobl gadw llygad ar y datblygiadau diweddaraf drwy fynd i community.alungriffiths.co.uk a chwilio am draeth tref Porthcawl o dan 'prosiectau'.

Aelod y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar

Dywedodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar fod Apêl Santa CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr eleni wedi'i threfnu unwaith eto gan dîm Cefnogi Busnes Cymorth Cynnar y Gyfarwyddiaeth Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd. Bu cynnydd mawr yn rhestr enwau'r plant haeddiannol a gyflwynwyd eleni, ac a dweud y gwir roedd dwywaith cymaint o enwebiadau wedi dod i law ag yn y blynyddoedd a fu.

Roedd yr apêl yn cael cefnogaeth aruthrol gan Ysgol Brynteg, Bridge FM ac ysbyty Hafod y Wennol (RhCT), ond hyd yn oed gyda'u hymdrechion gwych nhw, yn anffodus roedd y galw'n fwy o lawer na'r cyflenwad. Dywedodd fod y cyfryngau cymdeithasol wedi'u defnyddio, a chyda chymorth tîm Marchnata CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, cafodd y Cyngor yr hyn na ellir ond ei ddisgrifio fel ymateb aruthrol gan staff y Cyngor Bwrdeistref a phreswylwyr Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Cadarnhaodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar ei bod yn wirioneddol deimladwy gweld yr holl anrhegion a gafodd eu dadlwytho gan blant Brynteg ddoe ynghyd â sacheidiau o roddion gan Bridge FM, Hafod y Wennol a mannau eraill. Roedd am ddiolch i'r holl staff a helpodd i glustnodi'r plant hyn yn y lle cyntaf, i blant a staff Brynteg am eu hymdrechion aruthrol a hefyd i'w gydweithwyr yn ei dîm ei hun ac mewn timau eraill a helpodd i gasglu'r anrhegion ynghyd. Wrth gwrs, roedd yn rhaid diolch yn fawr iawn hefyd i holl bobl garedig Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a staff y Cyngor Bwrdeistref a brynodd anrhegion i blant llai ffodus na nhw eu hunain.

Ychwanegodd fod aelod o staff a pherson ifanc o'r Gwasanaeth Troseddau Ieuencid wedi rhoi help llaw hefyd i lapio a didoli anrhegion drwy gydol y dydd.

Dyma waith tîm gwirioneddol, ac roedd Aelod y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar o'r farn fod hyn yn dangos gwir ystyr y Nadolig.

Roedd trigolion, sefydliadau ysgolion a busnesau caredig wedi rhoi cannoedd o anrhegion i blant difreintiedig ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr, fel na fyddent ar eu colled dros yr ŵyl.

Eleni, byddai dros 300 o blant difreintiedig yn cael anrhegion i'w hagor ar ddydd Nadolig diolch i wirfoddolwyr fel y rhai y soniwyd amdanynt uchod, a busnesau a phreswylwyr fel ei gilydd.

Amser i roi yw'r Nadolig, a phwy sy'n haeddu ychydig o hwyl yr ŵyl yn fwy na phlant agored i niwed, yn arbennig y rhai sydd mewn gofal ac sydd wedi'i chael hi'n anodd iawn y tymor hwn?

Yn rhan o'i 'Hapêl Santa' flynyddol, cododd Ysgol Gyfun Brynteg swm clodwiw iawn o £4,757.32 drwy drefnu amryw o weithgareddau, megis gwerthu losin, teithiau cerdded noddedig, gwerthu cacennau, a chynnal carolathon, yn ogystal â phacio bagiau yn Sainsbury's.

Llwyddodd y disgyblion i brynu anrhegion i gyfanswm o 160 o blant a phobl ifanc ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol. Yn ogystal, maent wedi rhoi £500 i'r Lloches i Fenywod.

Unwaith eto, cyfrannwyd nifer aruthrol o anrhegion i Apêl Teganau Nadolig flynyddol Bridge FM, a gadawyd cant o'r anrhegion hynny gyda thîm Diogelu CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr i'w dosbarthu i blant mewn angen.

Aeth aelodau o staff Hafod y Wennol ym Mro Morgannwg, uned asesu a thrin oedolion ag anabledau dysgu, yr ail filltir y Nadolig hwn drwy annog eu ffrindiau a'u teuluoedd i roi anrhegion i blant o bob oedran. Drwy eu haelioni nhw bydd mwy na 70 o blant a phobl ifanc yn cael cwydn Nadolig yn llawn anrhegion eleni.

Cyhoeddodd ei fod yn falch iawn o weld bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cadarnhau'n ddiweddar y bydd yn buddsoddi £68m i greu pedair ar bymtheg o ganolfannau iechyd a gofal cymunedol newydd ledled Cymru.

Byddai'r aelodau'n falch o glywed bod Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn un o'r ardaloedd a fydd yn elwa ar y buddsoddiad sylweddol hwn, ac roedd trafodaethau eisoes wedi cychwyn a allai arwain at sefydlu canolfan gofal sylfaenol newydd sbon yng nghanol y dref, a fyddai'n dod ag amryw o wasanaethau'r GIG a gwasanaethau cymunedol at ei gilydd o dan un to.

Roedd Llywodraeth Cymru wedi dweud mai dyma ei buddsoddiad unigol mwyaf wedi'i dargedu at seilwaith gofal sylfaenol a chymunedol, ac roedd darparu cenhedlaeth newydd o ganolfannau iechyd a gofal integredig yn rhan allweddol o agenda Symud Cymru Ymlaen.

Y bwriad oedd sefydlu ystod o gyfleusterau cydgysylltiedig sy'n agosach o lawer at y gymuned leol, a byddai gofyn i'r byrddau iechyd, awdurdodau lleol, cymdeithasau tai a sefydliadau gwirfoddol gydweithio'n agos.

Megis dechrau yr oedd y prosiect, a byddai'n amodol ar gytuno ar achosion busnes llwyddiannus a chadarnhad y bydd modd ei adeiladu erbyn 2021.

Roedd yn gobeithio gallu rhoi mwy o newyddion am y buddsoddiad cyffrous hwn i'r Aelodau cyn hir.

Roedd staff Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant yn falch o gyhoeddi bod uned breswyl newydd 52 wythnos wedi'i chwblhau i blant a phobl ifanc ag anghenion cymhleth gan gynnwys

anableddau dysgu, o wyth i ddeunaw oed. Enw'r uned breswyl newydd fyddai Tŷ Harwood, ar ôl cyfenw'r gofalwr sydd yno ar hyn o bryd ac yr arferai'r adeilad fod yn gartref iddo, ac sydd wedi bod yn gweithio yn yr ysgol am dros 30 mlynedd. Mae Tŷ Harwood yng ngerddi ysgol Heronsbridge ac mae'n rhaid i'r bobl ifanc sy'n cael eu derbyn yno fynd i ysgol Heronsbridge.

Agorodd yr uned ar 16 Tachwedd 2017 a symudodd y person ifanc cyntaf i mewn ar y dyddiad hwnnw. Byddai ail berson ifanc wedi'i dderbyn yn ddiweddar ac roedd trydydd lleoliad ar y gweill.

Byddai agoriad ffurfiol y cartref ar 18 Ionawr 2018 yn ysgol Heronsbridge, ac roedd y prosiect wedi dwyn ffrwyth diolch i gydweithredu cadarnhaol rhwng amrywiol gyfarwyddiaethau'r Cyngor.

Roedd y staff gwaith cymdeithasol yn falch iawn o allu dweud bod y bobl ifanc sydd yno ar hyn o bryd yn hapus iawn, a dywedodd un gweithiwr cymdeithasol y byddai "wedi talu miliwn o bunnoedd i weld y wên honno" pan symudodd un o'r plant i mewn a gweld yr ystafell wely.

Roedd y lleoliad a'r ffaith bod y ddarpariaeth hon ar gael yn golygu y byddai plant a phobl ifanc a'u teuluoedd yn gallu aros yn agos at ei gilydd ym Mwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, oherwydd roedd y math hwn o ddarpariaeth yn bellach i ffwrdd fel arfer.

Aelod y Cabinet dros Lesiant a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol

Cadarnhaodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Lesiant a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol fod mwy na 100 o bobl hŷn a phobl ag anableddau wedi mynd i Ganolfan Bywyd Bethlehem yng Nghefn Cribwr yn ddiweddar ar gyfer 'Gemau OlympAge' 2017. Trefnwyd y digwyddiad gan yr adran Atal a Llesiant mewn partneriaeth â Choleg Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a Chwaraeon Cymru, a daeth timau at ei gilydd o grwpiau cymunedol lleol, lleoliadau gofal a chanolfannau dydd i sianelu eu 'Mo Farah' mewnol a chystadlu mewn amryw o weithgareddau arbennig.

Yn ogystal â bod yn llawer o hwyl ac yn gyfle i wneud ffrindiau newydd, roedd y gemau'n rhan o fenter llesiant i wella llesiant corfforol a meddyliol pobl.

Roedd y rhai a gymerodd ran yn hynod falch o gynrychioli eu cymunedau. Fe wnaethant fwynhau cymysgu â'r holl grwpiau eraill a chael hwyl gyda nhw, ac fe ddywedodd sawl un eu bod yn edrych ymlaen yn barod at gemau 2018. Roedd am ddiolch i bawb a helpodd i drefnu'r digwyddiad hwn a wnaeth gymaint o argraff.

Efallai y byddai'r Aelodau am roi gwybod i'w hetholwyr hefyd fod Cynllun Grant y Gist Gymunedol yn cynnig cyfle i grwpiau a chlybiau chwaraeon lleol i wneud cais am gyllid.

Cynllun yw hwn dan ofal Chwaraeon Cymru drwy Gronfa Chwaraeon y Loteri yng Nghymru ac mae'n cael ei reoli'n lleol drwy Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Mae'r cynllun yn croesawu ceisiadau gan brosiectau neu fentrau 'llawr gwlad' sy'n annog pobl i wneud mwy o ymarfer corff.

Roedd cyfanswm o £29,000 yn dal ar gael, a gallai sefydliadau wneud cais am grantiau o hyd at £1,500. Roedd enghreifftiau o'r modd y mae'r gronfa wedi'i defnyddio yn y gorffennol yn cynnwys costau cychwyn, dysgu hyfforddwyr, datblygu gwirfoddolwyr, offer newydd, hyfforddiant, costau cychwynnol llogi cyfleusterau a hyfforddwyr a mwy.

Mae rhagor o arian ar gael i glybiau sy'n hyrwyddo chwaraeon i fenywod a merched, chwaraeon anabledd a chynhwysiant cymdeithasol.

I gael gwybod mwy am y cynllun ewch i www.sportwales.org.uk.

Aelod y Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio

Cyhoeddodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio ei fod yn falch yr wythnos diwethaf pan ofynnodd Cyfarwyddwr Dros Dro Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd iddo ddarparu rhagair i rifyn cyntaf cylchlythyr tymhorol Ysgolion Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Mae'r cylchlythyr hwn yn dathlu gwaith rhagorol ein hysgolion, ac roedd y rhan fwyaf o'i gyhoeddiadau y mis hwn yn deillio o'r cylchlythyr hwnnw.

Yn gyntaf, Ysgol Gatholig Sant Robert yn Abercynffig yw'r ysgol gyntaf yng Nghymru i ennill Gwobr Ysgol Arian SAPERE a gyflwynwyd er mwyn cydnabod ei hymrwymiad i'r dull 'Athroniaeth i Blant'. Y Gymdeithas er Hybu Ymchwilio Athronyddol a Myfyrio mewn Addysg yw SAPERE. Enw arall ar y gymdeithas yw P4C, ac mae'n helpu i hybu sgiliau rhesymu a meddwl ar lefel uwch mewn plant, ac yn cefnogi eu hunan-barch, cymhelliant a chyfathrebu.

Roedd Estyn wedi cydnabod Ysgol Gynradd Bracla fel enghraifft o arfer gorau o ran cyflwyno dysgu drwy chwarae. Roedd adroddiad newydd wedi'i gyhoeddi ar wefan Estyn ynghyd â ffilm fer, ac argymhellodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio yn gryf y dylai'r aelodau edrych yn agosach arno.

Cododd disgyblion Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl swm clodwiw iawn o £4,000 mewn dim ond pum diwrnod yn ystod dathliadau blynyddol wythnos elusennau eleni, ac roedd o'r farn fod hynny'n dangos gwaith tîm aruthrol gan bawb. Byddai'r arian yn cael ei roi i elusennau a sefydliadau lleol.

Enillodd Ysgol Cynwyd Sant ac Ysgol Gyfun Bryntirion wobrau Rhagoriaeth mewn Addysg yng ngwobrau Estyn yn ddiweddar, mae Ysgol Gynradd Cwmfelin wedi ennill statws Eco Platinwm, ac mae Ysgol Gynradd Brynmenyn wedi bod yn gweithio gydag ysgolion o Fro Morgannwg ar brosiect 'Polly Nation' i wneud gerddi'r ysgol yn gynefin naturiol i wenyn a phryfed peillio eraill.

Yn olaf, wedi iddynt ymddangos yn Eisteddfod yr Urdd ac ar raglen This Morning ar ITV, roedd côr Ysgol Gynradd Croesty wedi'i ddewis i berfformio yn Arena O2 yn Llundain yng nghyngerdd Young Voices 2018, ac roedd yn sicr y byddent yn parhau i wneud argraff ar bawb a'u clywai.

Roedd am longyfarch pob un ohonynt ar y llwyddiannau sylweddol hyn.

Y Prif Weithredwr

Dywedodd y Prif Weithredwr fod ganddo ddau gyhoeddiad i'w rhannu â'r Cyngor heddiw. Roedd y cyntaf yn ymwneud â'r amcanion a osodwyd iddo fel Prif Weithredwr a'r ail yn ymwneud â newidiadau staffio.

Targedau'r Prif Weithredwr

Mae holl staff CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn cael arfarniad ffurfiol o leiaf unwaith y flwyddyn. Cadarnhaodd fod hynny'n cynnwys ei swydd yntau fel Prif Weithredwr, ac roedd wedi cwrdd yn ddiweddar â Phanel Arfarnu'r Aelodau, a oedd wedi gosod nifer o amcanion iddo dros y misoedd nesaf. Roedd am roi gwybod i'r holl Aelodau beth oedd yr amcanion hynny, sef:-

1. Cyflawni'r cynllun corfforaethol a strategaeth ariannol y tymor canolig.

2. Adolygu strwythur cyflogau'r uwch reolwyr (y cytunwyd arno yng nghyfarfod diwethaf y Cyngor) ac adolygu strwythur yr uwch reolwyr fel y bo'n briodol.
3. Rhoi'r trawsnewidiad digidol ar waith a'i estyn i sicrhau cymaint o fudd â phosib.
4. Parhau i gyfrannu at arwain a datblygu Bargen Ddinesig Caerdydd gan sicrhau bod buddiannau Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn cael eu gwarchod.
5. Ymwneud â Llywodraeth Cymru'n unigol a thrwy fforymau cenedlaethol a rhanbarthol i ddylanwadu ar y gwaith sy'n mynd rhagddo i ddiwygio llywodraeth leol yng Nghymru, a sut y mae hyn yn effeithio ar Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr.
6. Paratoi i symud Ardal Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr o PABM i Gwm Taf, ac os cytunir i wneud hynny, goruchwyllo'r newid(iadau).
7. Comisiynu astudiaeth neu adolygiad o'r galw yn y dyfodol am wasanaethau a fydd ar yr Awdurdod dros y cyfnod tair i bum mlynedd nesaf.
8. Sicrhau bod argymhellion arolwg AGGCC o wasanaethau cymdeithasol plant yn cael eu gweithredu'n llawn.

Byddai rhywfaint o'r uchod, meddai, yn cael ei raeadru i'r Cyfarwyddwyr i'w ymgorffori yn y gwahanol Gynlluniau Busnes sydd gan wahanol adrannau'r Cyngor.

Newidiadau staffio

Roedd am roi gwybod i'r Aelodau fod Deborah McMillan, Cyfarwyddwr Addysg y Cyngor, wedi ei phenodi'n Gomisiynydd Plant ynys Jersey. Roedd yn ymwybodol efallai nad oedd llawer o'r aelodau a ymunodd â'r Cyngor ym mis Mai yn adnabod y swyddog dan sylw. Cychwynnodd Deborah secondiad dwy flynedd gyda Llywodraeth Cymru'n gynharach eleni a bryd hynny cafodd Lindsay Harvey ei recriwtio'n Gyfarwyddwr Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd dros dro.

Roedd yn destun clod i Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr ac i Mrs. McMillan ei bod wedi ei gwahodd yn gyntaf i gynorthwyo Llywodraeth Cymru a'i bod bellach wedi symud ymlaen i fod yn Gomisiynydd Plant, ac roedd yn sicr y byddai'r Cyngor am ymuno ag ef wrth ddyuno'n dda iddi yn y dyfodol.

Roedd hynny'n golygu y byddai'n rhaid i ni fel Cyngor benodi Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd parhaol, ac roedd yn gobeithio bwrw ymlaen â hynny yn y flwyddyn newydd. Rydym wedi bod yn cynnal trafodaethau â Chyngor Merthyr Tudful ynghylch rhannu Cyfarwyddwr Dros Dro CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, gyda golwg ar integreiddio'r gwasanaeth cyfan yn agosach ac efallai gynnig gwasanaeth ar y cyd yn y pen draw yn unol â chyfarwyddyd Llywodraeth Cymru. Roedd hynny hefyd yn ei farn ef yn destun clod i Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr, ac yn yr achos hwn i Lindsay Harvey, ac roedd enw da i'r ddau ym maes addysg ledled y rhanbarth a thu hwnt.

Byddwn yn awr yn gallu ystyried y cynnig gyda Merthyr mewn cyd-destun ychydig yn wahanol, a chynigiodd y dylid cynnal trafodaethau pellach â'r Cabinet ac Arweinwyr y grwpiau yn y flwyddyn newydd ynghylch y ffordd orau ymlaen yn hynny o beth.

Ac yn olaf, fel y gwyddai'r Aelodau, dyma oedd ymddangosiad olaf Randal Hemmingway yn y Cyngor cyn iddo adael CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr i gychwyn ei rôl newydd gyda Chyngor Sir Gâr. Pan ymunodd Randal â CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr nid oedd wedi gweithio mewn awdurdod lleol o'r blaen nac wedi bod yn swyddog A151 mewn Cyngor.

Roedd yn sicr y byddai'r Aelodau i gyd yn cytuno bod Randal wedi dod i ben yn hynod o dda â'r ddwy her honno. Roedd yn ddiolchgar iddo am hynny ac am y cefndir masnachol a'r safbwyntiau corfforaethol a cholegol yr oedd wedi'u cyfrannu i'r rôl yma.

Cyflwynodd y Prif Weithredwr yr Aelodau hefyd i Gill Lewis, a oedd yn cychwyn yn CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr fel Pennaeth Cyllid a swyddog A151 dros dro, fel yr oedd yr Aelodau eisoes wedi cael gwybod. Byddai llawer o'r Aelodau'n adnabod Gill ac wedi gweithio gyda hi o'r blaen, ond byddai Gill yn wyneb newydd i'r Aelodau newydd a gafodd eu hethol eleni. Roedd yn ddiolchgar iddi hi ac i Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru am gamu i'r adwy i ddarparu cymorth dros dro, a fyddai'n ei alluogi i ystyried y trefniadau parhaol yn unol â'r amcanion a osodwyd iddo yn ei arfarniad.

105. DERBYN ADRODDIAD YR ARWEINYDD

Dyweddodd yr Arweinydd fod Llywodraeth Cymru, fel y byddai'r Aelodau efallai wedi'i weld yn gynharach yr wythnos honno, wedi cyhoeddi ei hymgyngoriad ar gynigion i drosglwyddo gwasanaethau gofal iechyd i bobl yn ardal Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr i Fwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf yn lle Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg.

Roedd Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Alun Davies AC, yn bwriadu gosod y Fwrdeistref Sirol ym mhattrwm rhanbarthol De Ddwyrain Cymru o ran darpariaeth gofal iechyd a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol, gan gyd-fynd â phartneriaethau economaidd ac addysgol sy'n bodoli eisoes. Yr Ysgrifennydd Llywodraeth Leol Alun Davies.

Roedd manylion llawn y cynigion ar gael ar wefan Llywodraeth Cymru, ac roedd sylwadau'n cael eu gwahodd tan y dyddiad cau ar 7 Mawrth 2018.

Roedd yr Arweinydd yn sicr y byddai'r Aelodau am edrych yn fwy manwl ar hyn, a mynegi eu safbwyntiau, ac annog preswylwyr lleol i ddweud eu dweud.

Dyweddodd yr Arweinydd ei fod wedi dweud wrth yr aelodau yn y cyfarfod diwethaf am y posibilrwydd o ddatblygu Canolfan Logisteg yma ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr ym Mrocastell ar gyfer adeiladu trydedd llain lanio yn Heathrow. Roedd gennym ddwsinau o fusnesau lleol a oedd mewn sefyllfa dda i allu gwasanaethu Canolfan o'r fath, ac roedd y Cyngor yn cynorthwyo AS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr i drefnu digwyddiad yn y flwyddyn newydd i ddangos y busnesau llwyddiannus sydd gennym yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol. Pan gwrddodd â'r Prif Ysgrifennydd ac Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru'n ddiweddar, manteisiodd yr Arweinydd ar y cyfle i gyflwyno'r achos dros sefydlu Canolfan Logisteg ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Prif ddiben y cyfarfod â Damien Green AS ac Alun Cairns AS oedd trafod effaith Brexit ar Gymru. Roedd holl Arweinwyr De Cymru, o bob plaid wleidyddol, o'r un farn, sef bod angen i ni sicrhau pan sefydlir y gronfa ffyniant ar y cyd ein bod yn cynnal lefel y buddsoddiad sy'n cael ei wneud yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd drwy'r Undeb Ewropeaidd.

Dyweddodd yr Arweinydd ein bod wedi gwneud cais yn ddiweddar am gyfarfod â Network Rail i drafod Canolfan Drafnidiaeth ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr i wella mynediad i'r gwasanaeth bysiau i Orsaf Drenau Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, a bod y cyfarfod hwnnw wedi digwydd. Fel y gwyddai'r Aelodau, roedd y gwasanaeth bysiau uniongyrchol i Orsaf Drenau Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn wael, ac roedd hynny i raddau helaeth oherwydd trefn gyfyngedig y ffyrdd a mynediad i'r orsaf. Ar ôl cael cyllid gan yr Undeb Ewropeaidd, roeddem yn barod i ddechrau ar y gwaith dros ddegawd yn ôl. Cafodd hynny ei rwystro ar y funud olaf yn 2012 gan Network Rail a oedd wedi cefnogi hyn, oherwydd bod angen y tir i drydaneiddio'r brif linell. Yn y cyfarfod yr wythnos diwethaf roedd swyddogion

Network Rail yn gadarnhaol iawn ynghylch ein cynlluniau, a dywedodd y byddai'n rhoi gwybod i'r Aelodau am unrhyw ddatblygiadau yn hynny o beth.

Fel y gwyddai'r Aelodau lleol, roedd gwaith yn mynd rhagddo o'r diwedd ar hen safle glo brig Margam.

Roedd y safle wedi bod yn destun pryder mawr i drigolion Mynydd Cynffig a Chefn Cribwr. Gan na chyflawnwyd y cynllun adfer gwreiddiol gan Celtic Energy a'r tîrfeddianwyr Oak Generation, mae Cynghorau Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a Chastell-nedd Port Talbot wedi bod yn cydweithio'n agos â Chyfoeth Naturiol Cymru a'r Awdurdod Glo.

Roedd yr hen strwythurau diwydiannol yn cael eu dymchwel, roedd gwaith tirlunio'n digwydd, ac roedd system ddraenio newydd wedi'i gosod i sicrhau bod lefelau'r dŵr yn ddiogel. Roedd coed, llwyni a glaswellt wedi'u plannu, ac ar ôl troi'r lle gwag yn llyn sy'n 700m yn y man lletaf, y bwriad oedd creu ardal werdd agored ar y safle, lle gallai byd natur ffynnu.

Yn wir, meddai'r Arweinydd, roedd madfallod dŵr cribog, pathewod a rhywogaethau prin eraill eisoes yn ffynnu ar y safle cyn i'r gwaith adfer gychwyn. Roedd Arweinydd CBS Castell-nedd Port Talbot, y Cynghorydd Gebbie ac yntau, ynghyd â Swyddogion wedi ymweld â'r safle'n ddiweddar, a gallent weld sut roedd bywyd gwyllt wedi ymladd yn ôl ac wedi ailsefydlu'n naturiol mewn sawl man.

Roedd disgwyl i lawer o hawliau tramwy cyhoeddus fod wedi'u hailsefydlu'n llawn erbyn diwedd 2018, ac roedd y gymuned leol yn edrych ymlaen at weld yr hen ardal ddiwydiannol yn dod yn hafan i fywyd gwyllt y gallai pawb ei mwynhau.

106. CYNLLUN ADFYWIO PORTHCRAWL

Cyflwynodd y Swyddog A151 a'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros Gymunedau adroddiad, er mwyn:

- a. Cael cymeradwyaeth y Cyngor i gynllun cyfalaf diwygiedig o 2017-18 tan 2026-2027
- b. Rhoi gwybod i'r Aelodau fod adroddiad wedi'i gyflwyno i'r Cabinet ar 19 Rhagfyr 2017 yn:
 - (i) rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cabinet am Gynllun Adfywio Porthcawl
 - (ii) rhoi gwybod bod cynnig wedi'i dderbyn gan y teuluoedd Evans, i werthu eu buddiant fel lesddeiliaid mewn tir Cam 1 ym Maes Parcio Salt Lake i'r Cyngor;
 - (iii) cyflwyno telerau'r cynnig hwn, a nodi'r effaith ganlyniadol ar weddill Cynllun Adfywio Porthcawl;
 - (iv) rhoi gwybod i'r Aelodau am y 'diwydrwydd dyledus' a arferwyd hyd yma, a'r mesurau pellach a fydd yn cael eu cymryd i warchod buddiannau'r cyhoedd; argymhellwyd y dylid derbyn y cynnig.

Yn ei gyfarfod ar 19 Rhagfyr 2017, awdurdododd y Cabinet y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros Gymunedau, drwy ymgynghori â'r Swyddog A151 a'r Swyddog Monitro:

- (a) I gaffael buddiannau prif brydles ac is-brydles y teuluoedd Evans ym Maes Parcio Salt Lake ym Mhorthcawl am £3,330,000 a'r telerau a nodir yn Atodiad 1 yr adroddiad hwn;
- (b) I amrywio'r Cytundeb Perchnogion cyfredol dyddiedig 11 Mawrth 2011 rhwng y Cyngor a'r teuluoedd Evans, ar y telerau a amlinellir ym mharagraff 4.11 yr adroddiad.

Roedd yr adroddiad yn rhoi gwybodaeth gefndir, ac yn cadarnhau bod perchnogion y tir ym Mhorthcawl wedi cytuno yn 2006 i weithio ar y cyd, drwy ddod â'r buddiannau rhydd-ddaliadol a lesddaliadol a oedd yn cwmpasu daliadau tir sylweddol yn y dref at ei gilydd. Y nod oedd cyflwyno'r tir i'w werthu, gan ddarparu derbynebau gwerthiant i'r perchnogion i'w rhannu ar sail a gytunwyd ymlaen llaw yn amodol ar sicrhau isafswm o ran prisiau; a darparu cyd-destun cynllunio clir ar gyfer gwaredu safleoedd i'w datblygu gan drydydd partion.

Ym mis Tachwedd 2007, mabwysiadodd y Cyngor Ganllawiau Cynllunio Atodol Adfywio Porthcawl. Roedd hyn yn darparu ar gyfer cartrefi newydd yn yr ardal gyfan ynghyd â datblygiadau manwerthu a hamdden mawr, darpariaeth gymunedol, systemau ffyrdd newydd, tir wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer darpariaeth iechyd, ac ardaloedd amwynder cyhoeddus eraill, gan gynnwys amddiffynfeydd môr newydd ar hyd Promenâd y Dwyrain a glannau Sandy Bay.

Rhannwyd yr ardal ddatblygu gyfan yn ddau gam:

- Roedd Cam Un yn cynnwys maes parcio Hillsborough, The Green a maes parcio Salt Lake
- Roedd Cam Dau yn cynnwys Parc Adloniant Traeth Coney a chyn faes carafanau Sandy Bay.

Roedd yr adroddiad yn rhoi gwybodaeth am hanes gwaredu'r tir, ac yn 2014, ar ôl methu â gwerthu'r safle i Morrisons (a chynigion i werthu'r safle yn 2010 i Tesco / Chelverton), gwnaed amryw o gynigion i gaffael buddiant y Cyngor. Gwrthodwyd y rhain gan nad oedd cysylltiad â'r farchnad (o ran sicrhau'r ystyriaeth orau) ac nad oedd natur y cynnig yn bodloni'r gofynion isaf o ran pris nac amcanion adfywio'r Cyngor.

Ychwanegodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros Gymunedau fod y partion wedi cytuno yn 2015 i adolygu'r cynigion datblygu yn sgil ymadawiad manwerthwyr bwyd o'r farchnad ar raddfa fawr. Comisiynwyd Uwchgyllun newydd i ategu'r Canllawiau Cynllunio Atodol cyfredol. Fodd bynnag, ni allai'r perchnogion gytuno ar gyfansoddiad terfynol y cynigion datblygu yn eu cyfanrwydd.

Yn 2016 aeth y trafodaethau ar yr Uwchgyllun i drafferthion, a chynigiodd yr Evans wedi hynny fod y Cyngor yn ystyried prynu eu buddiant lesddaliadol yng Ngham 1.

O ran gwariant angenrheidiol, o dan delerau'r Cytundeb Perchnogion cytunodd y Cyngor i ariannu "gwariant angenrheidiol" megis costau cynllunio, er mwyn i'r cynllun datblygu allu mynd rhagddo. Roedd hynny ar y sail y byddai'n cael ei ad-dalu o dderbyniadau cyfalaf yn deillio o werthu tir. Nid oes derbyniadau wedi'u creu eto. O dan delerau'r Cytundeb Perchnogion mae gofyn i'r Evans ad-dalu'r Cyngor ar 5ed pen-blwydd y gwariant, yn dechrau ar ddyddiad y Cytundeb Perchnogion. Nid oes taliad wedi dod i law eto yn hyn o beth ac ni chytunwyd ar faterion masnachol cysylltiedig chwaith.

Aeth y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros Gymunedau ymlaen i egluro bod paragraff 4.6 yr adroddiad ymlaen yn rhoi manylion pob plws a minws ynghylch caffael buddiant yr Evans, a bod angen ystyried eu buddiant lesddaliadol yn y tir yn ofalus, oherwydd roedd yn rhaid i'r Awdurdod fod yn siŵr fod unrhyw drefniant a ddewisir yn opsiwn 'gwerth am arian'.

Cynhaliwyd prisiad cychwynnol gan Asiant Eiddo annibynnol, er mwyn pennu ym mha ystod brisiau y gallai'r Cyngor ystyried caffael y tir, ac ar sail hynny gwnaeth y Cyngor gynnig dros dro ym mis Medi 2017, gyda dyddiad dod i ben byr, a bellach cytunwyd yn

amodol ar y telerau i gaffael buddiant yr Evans yn unol â phennau'r telerau a nodir yn Atodiad 1 yr adroddiad.

Roedd rhan nesaf yr adroddiad yn amlinellu'r amrywiadau arfaethedig i'r Cytundeb Perchnogion, ac roedd rhai newidiadau i'r rhain wedi'u nodi ym mharagraff 4.11 yr adroddiad, tra oedd paragraff 4.12 yn ymwneud â diwydrwydd dyledus lle'r esboniodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros Gymunedau fod y Cyngor wedi cymryd camau i ymrwymo i hyn yn drylwyr ac yn gynhwysfawr, er mwyn sicrhau ei fod yn cael gwerth am arian.

Yna cyfeiriodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Cymunedau at baragraff 4.13 yr adroddiad a'r risgiau a materion cysylltiedig â'r cynnig, gan ychwanegu bod elfen o risg ynghlwm wrth unrhyw fuddsoddiad masnachol ar y raddfa hon, er y teimlid bod y buddion i genedlaethau'r dyfodol ym Mhorthcawl yn drech na'r rhain.

Daeth â'i gyflwyniad i ben drwy rannu â'r Cyngor oblygiadau ariannol yr adroddiad o safbwynt y cynnig.

Cymeradwyodd yr Arweinydd ac Aelodau'r Cabinet yr adroddiad yn eu tro, ac ychwanegodd yr Arweinydd fod hwn yn fuddsoddiad arwyddocaol i ardal Porthcawl a fyddai'n deillio o Dderbyniad Cyfalaf. Ychwanegodd nad oedd llawer o ardaloedd eraill yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol a allai gyflawni'r hyn a oedd yn yr arfaeth yn y lleoliad hwn ym Mhorthcawl o ran datblygiad o'r maint a'r pwys hwn.

Lleisiodd un o'r Aelodau rai pryderon ynghylch cost y Cynllun o ran lefel y buddsoddiad a oedd yn cael ei glustnodi iddo, ynghyd â'r ffaith nad oedd nifer sylweddol o gostau ymylol y gwaith a oedd i'w wneud wedi'u cynnwys yn yr adroddiad. Cododd gwestiynau hefyd ynghylch i ba raddau y byddai'r Evans yn elwa'n ariannol o'r fargen, a'r rhagamcanion economaidd o ran twf, o gymharu ag ymrwymiad ariannol sylweddol y Cyngor i'r cynnig. Roedd hefyd o'r farn nad oedd yr adroddiad yn amserol ac ystyried y cyfyngiadau ariannol cyfredol, ac ar adeg pan oedd y Cyngor Bwrdeistref ar fin cynyddu cyfraddau Treth y Cyngor drwy'r Fwrdeistref Sirol gyfan. Cododd bryder hefyd ynghylch yr hyn y byddai etholwyr mewn rhannau eraill o'r Fwrdeistref Sirol yn ei feddwl o weld faint o arian a oedd yn cael ei gyfrannu i'w fuddsoddi ym Mhorthcawl, ac yn arbennig felly'r bobl hynny sy'n byw yn rhai o ardaloedd mwy difreintiedig y Fwrdeistref.

Er bod y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros Gymunedau'n cydnabod rhai o'r pryderon hyn, dywedodd fod materion fel y rhai a godwyd gan yr Aelod wedi eu hystyried yn llawn, a chafwyd cyngor arbenigol gan Asiant Eiddo a 2 brisiwr annibynnol a benodwyd i ystyried a rhoi cyngor ar werth marchnadol y tir. Ychwanegodd hefyd fod angen bachu ar y cyfle hwn nawr, gan na fyddai ar gael yn y dyfodol. Roedd o'r farn at ei gilydd, felly, fod y cynnig yn gyfle buddsoddi rhesymol a chymesur iawn, ac na allai'r Cyngor fforddio ei anwybyddu.

Croesawodd Aelodau ardal Porthcawl ynghyd ag Aelodau eraill yr adroddiad, gan ychwanegu y byddai'r cynnig yn cynnig cyfle unigryw i'r Cyngor i greu gwaith i bobl ifanc drwy'r Fwrdeistref Sirol gyfan.

Daeth yr Arweinydd â'r drafodaeth ar yr eitem i ben drwy ddweud na fyddai'r gwaith adfywio ar y safle tir llwyd mwyaf yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn cael ei ddatblygu pe byddai argymhellion yr adroddiad a oedd gerbron yr Aelodau'n cael eu gwrthod. Roedd o'r farn felly fod achos cryf dros sicrhau bod yr awdurdod yn cyfrannu at y buddsoddiad hwn.

Cytunodd yr Aelodau i gael pleidlais electronig ynghylch a ddylid cynnal pleidlais wedi'i chofnodi ar argymhellion yr adroddiad.

CYNGOR - DYDD MERCHER, 20 RHAGFYR 2017

Dyma'r canlyniad:-

<u>O blaid</u>	<u>Yn erbyn</u>	<u>Ymatal</u>
44	1	1

Felly, cynhaliwyd pleidlais wedi'i chofnodi ar argymhellion yr adroddiad, a dyma ganlyniad y bleidlais:

<u>O blaid</u>	<u>Yn erbyn</u>	<u>Ymatal</u>
Cyng. G Thomas	0	Cyng. T Beedle
Cyng. JH Tildesley		Cyng. DK Edwards
Cyng. DBF White		Cyng. R Penhale-Thomas
Cyng. N Burnett		Cyng. E Venables
Cyng. P Davies		
Cyng. J Gebbie		4
Cyng. R Granville		
Cyng. S Baldwin		
Cyng. J Radcliffe		
Cyng. T Thomas		
Cyng. K Watts		
Cyng. A Williams		
Cyng. J Williams		
Cyng. R Shaw		
Cyng. B Sedgebeer		
Cyng. JP Blundell		
Cyng. M Jones		
Cyng. M Clarke		
Cyng. R Stirman		
Cyng. AJ Williams		
Cyng. A Pucella		
Cyng. L Walters		
Cyng. S Vidal		
Cyng. K Rowlands		
Cyng. A Hussain		
Cyng. JR McCarthy		
Cyng. M Kearns		
Cyng. D Lewis		
Cyng. JE Lewis		
Cyng. JC Spanswick		
Cyng. N Clarke		
Cyng. CA Green		
Cyng. S Aspey		
Cyng. C Webster		
Cyng. T Giffard		
Cyng. MC Voisey		
Cyng. PJ White		
Cyng. D Patel		
Cyng. HJ David		
Cyng. HM Williams		
Cyng. CE Smith		
Cyng. RE Young		
Cyng. P Davies		

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Pleidleisiwyd felly o blaid derbyn yr argymhelliad.

PENDERFYNWYD: Cymeradwyo'r Rhaglen Gyfalaf ddiwygiedig, fel y'i nodir yn Atodiad 2 yr adroddiad.

107. DIWYGIO'R CYFANSODDIAD

Cyflwynodd y Swyddog Monitro adroddiad, er mwyn ceisio cymeradwyaeth i ddiwygio'r Cyfansoddiad i alluogi'r Awdurdod i fodloni ei ofynion o ran darparu agendâu a chofnodion yn unol â Safonau'r Gymraeg.

Eglurodd fod Safon 41 yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol cynhyrchu agendâu a chofnodion cyfarfodydd ffurfiol yr Awdurdod yn Gymraeg.

Aeth y Swyddog Monitro ymlaen i ddweud ei bod yn ofynnol yn ôl y gyfraith i awdurdodau lleol sicrhau bod agendâu, cofnodion ac adroddiadau ar gael i'r cyhoedd 3 diwrnod gwaith clir cyn y cyfarfod.

O dan ddarpariaethau'r Cyfansoddiad, mae Cynghorwyr yn cael gofyn cwestiynau i'r Weithrediaeth a chyflwyno Hysbysiadau o Gynigion, ac mae'n rhaid iddynt roi pum diwrnod clir o rybudd o hyn.

Gan fod yr Awdurdod yn anfon ei agendâu a'i gofnodion i Gaerdydd i'w cyfieithu, roedd angen tua 5 diwrnod gwaith clir rhwng eu hanfon a pharatoi'r dogfennau hyn i'w hanfon allan i'r Pwyllgor, h.y. 3 diwrnod gwaith clir cyn y cyfarfod.

Er mwyn sicrhau bod digon o amser i drefnu cyfieithiad Cymraeg i gynnwys cwestiwn neu Hysbysiad o Gynnig fel y nodir uchod, mewn pryd i gynnwys y rhain ar agenda'r Cyngor, cynigiwyd y dylid estyn y cyfnod uchod i 10 diwrnod gwaith clir cyn y cyfarfod. Roedd y Swyddog Monitro o'r farn y byddai hyn yn caniatáu digon o amser i drefnu cyfieithiad cyn cyhoeddi'r agenda yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg, ac yn galluogi'r Awdurdod i fodloni gofynion Safonau'r Gymraeg a deddfwriaeth, h.y. o dan ddarpariaeth Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972.

Roedd un Aelod o'r farn fod estyniad o 5 diwrnod gwaith ar gyfer y broses uchod yn rhy hir, a gofynnodd a fyddai modd cwtogi hyn i rhwng 5 a 10 diwrnod gwaith.

Atebodd y Swyddog Monitro y gallai hynny atal cyfarfodydd y Cyngor rhag mynd rhagddynt, pe na bai'r deunydd dwyieithog yn cael ei ddychwelyd mewn da bryd erbyn dyddiad anfon agendâu/cofnodion allan yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg.

Daeth yr Arweinydd â'r drafodaeth ar yr eitem hon i ben drwy awgrymu y dylid cytuno ar gynigion yr adroddiad, ac y dylid cyflwyno adroddiad cynnydd i'r Cyngor ymhen 6 mis.

Cytunodd y Cyngor.

PENDERFYNWYD: (1) Cymeradwyo diwygio paragraffau 10, 11 a 12 Rhan 4 y Cyfansoddiad, fel yr amlinellir ym mharagraff 4 yr adroddiad, i estyn y cyfnod a nodir, o 5 i 10 diwrnod gwaith.

(2) Y bydd yr Aelodau'n disgwyl adroddiad cynnydd ar y mater hwn ymhen 6 mis.

108. DISGRIFIADAU RÔL AELODAU ETHOLEDIG

Cyflwynodd y Swyddog Monitro adroddiad, er mwyn cyflwyno Disgrifiadau Rôl Aelodau Etholedig i'w cymeradwyo.

Eglurodd fod Disgrifiadau Rôl Aelodau unigol wedi'u datblygu ar sail y disgrifiadau rôl enghreifftiol a luniwyd gan Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru, ond eu bod wedi'u teilwra i ofynion swyddogaethau Cynghorwyr Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, a atodir yn Atodiadau 1–19 yr adroddiad.

Roedd Atodiad 20 yr adroddiad yn nodi manylion y canllawiau generig ar gyfer rolau Cyrff Allanol.

Roedd paragraff 4.3 yr adroddiad yn cynnwys manylion gofynion y Siarter, h.y. Siarter Cynorthwyo a Datblygu Cynghorwyr CLILC, ac ar ffurf tablau, disgrifyddion ar gyfer rolau Aelodau unigol, ac roedd hyn hefyd yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am Gyrff Allanol.

Roedd paragraff 4.5.1 yr adroddiad yn argymhell y dylid cymeradwyo a defnyddio Disgrifiadau Rôl Aelodau yn unol â'r amserlenni a awgrymir yn yr adran hon o'r adroddiad.

PENDERFYNWYD: Cymeradwyo'r Disgrifiadau Rôl Aelodau Etholdeig a atodir ar ffurf Atodiadau i'r adroddiad.

109. ADRODDIADAU GWYBODAETH I'W NODI

PENDERFYNWYD: Nodi'r Adroddiadau Gwybodaeth sydd yn yr adroddiad uchod gan y Swyddog Monitro.

110. DERBYN Y CWESTIYNAU CANLYNOL I'R CABINET

1. Cwestiwn i Aelod y Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio gan y Cynghorydd Timothy Thomas

Beth yw eich cynlluniau ar gyfer ehangu a hyrwyddo Addysg Gymraeg yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol a sut bydd yr awdurdod hwn yn cyfrannu at darged Llywodraeth Cymru o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050?

Ateb Mae manylion llawn uchelgeisiau'r awdurdod lleol ar gyfer addysg Gymraeg yn y Fwrdeistref wedi'u nodi yng Nghynllun Strategol Gymraeg mewn Addysg 2017-2020.

Mae'r awdurdod lleol wedi nodi 11 o dargedau i hyrwyddo darpariaeth Gymraeg dros y tair blynedd nesaf.

Byddwn yn:

- datblygu dichonoldeb darpariaeth Gymraeg ar gyfer Rhaglen Moderneiddio Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif – gyda chymorth arolwg o'r galw ymhlith dysgwyr a'r adolygiad strategol a'r archwiliad o ddigonolrwydd gofal plant;
- denu 5% yn fwy o blant i ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg dros y tair blynedd nesaf drwy gyflwyno deunyddiau hyrwyddo'r awdurdod lleol a Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n nodi manteision bod yn ddwyieithog a thrwy ychwanegu rhagor o ddarpariaeth lle mae digon o alw amdani;
- parhau i ddatblygu a gweithredu strategaeth i gadw mwy o blant mewn addysg Gymraeg yn y cyfnod sylfaen ac yng nghyfnod allweddol 2, gan gynnwys yr adolygiad sydd ar y gweill o gymorth ar gyfer anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yn y sector cyfrwng Cymraeg;

- sicrhau bod darpariaeth Gymraeg ar gael i bob plentyn oedran cyn-ysgol a throsodd y mae eu rhieni/gofalwyr am iddynt gael eu gofal/addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, a hynny o fewn pellter teithio rhesymol i gartrefi'r plant;
- sicrhau continwrm sy'n datblygu o addysg gynradd Gymraeg i addysg uwchradd Gymraeg, fel bod disgyblion sy'n dechrau eu haddysg gynradd drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn mynd ymlaen i ysgolion uwchradd Cymraeg ac ymlaen wedi hynny i addysg bellach ac uwch a hyfforddiant;
- sicrhau bod y Gymraeg yn cael ei dysgu fel iaith gyntaf a/neu ail iaith ar amserlen pob un o'n hysgolion, yn unol â gofynion statudol y Cwricwlwm Cenedlaethol, a sicrhau bod pob disgybl yn cael cyfle i sefyll arholiad wedi'i achredu'n allanol yn Gymraeg ar ddiwedd cyfnod allweddol 4
- sicrhau bod plant a phobl ifanc ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yn cael cyfle cyfartal yn ieithyddol o ran addysg Gymraeg, yn unol â Chod Ymarfer AAA Cymru a Strategaeth y Cyngor ar gyfer Cynhwysiant Addysgol a'r Bil Diwygio ADY newydd;
- sicrhau bod pob disgybl mewn ysgol Gymraeg ddynodedig yn gallu siarad, darllen ac ysgrifennu Cymraeg yn rhugl erbyn diwedd cyfnod allweddol 2;
- gweithio mewn partneriaeth â phob ysgol i wella safon y Gymraeg fel iaith gyntaf ac fel ail iaith;
- datblygu ymhellach wybodaeth a dealltwriaeth athrawon o'r Gymraeg fel iaith gyntaf ac fel ail iaith, a darparu cyfleoedd i ddisgyblion i wella eu gwybodaeth a'u dealltwriaeth o ethos/nodweddion diwylliannol, economaidd, amgylcheddol, hanesyddol ac ieithyddol Cymru drwy'r Cwricwlwm Cymreig; a
- hybu datblygiad ehangach sgiliau Cymraeg disgyblion drwy weithgareddau a phrosiectau penodol, ar y cyd ag ystod eang o bartneriaid.

Y gobaith yw y bydd y cynlluniau uchelgeisiol hyn yn cynorthwyo targed Llywodraeth Cymru o gael miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.

Cwestiwn atodol gan y Cynghorydd Tim Thomas

'Gan gyfeirio at baragraff cyntaf eich ateb ynghylch Rhaglen Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif, beth yw eich ymrwymadau cyllid cyfalaf band B i addysg Gymraeg yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol? Hefyd, ac ystyried y gwaith mawr sy'n digwydd i godi tai yn ardal Porth y Cymoedd, a allwn ddisgwyl unrhyw gyllid cyfalaf Band B yn yr ardal i liniaru'r pwysau ar ysgolion Cymraeg sydd eisoes yn bodoli?'

Ateb: Cyfeiriodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Dros Dro dros Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd at yr angen i gynyddu darpariaeth addysg Gymraeg yn y Sir a chyfeiriodd at y rheidrwydd, a nodir yng Nghynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, i hybu'r Gymraeg. Croesawodd yr Arweinydd y gwaith sy'n digwydd ar Ysgol Cwm Garw o dan Fand A Rhaglen Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif.

Ail gwestiwn atodol gan y Cynghorydd Altaf Hussain

Diolch am roi gwybod i ni am yr 11 targed i hybu darpariaeth Gymraeg dros y 3 blynedd nesaf. A wnaiff Aelod y Cabinet sôn wrthym am amcanion neu gamau eraill y dylid eu cynnwys er mwyn gwella'r seilwaith sy'n helpu pobl i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg?

Ateb: Nododd Aelod y Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio fod Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn darparu nifer o amcanion i hybu'r Gymraeg; mewn ysgolion, gyda theuluoedd ac yn y gweithle. Eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Dros Dro dros Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd ymhellach fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi nodi nifer o gamau allweddol i helpu pobl i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg. Nododd y

bydd CBS Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn parhau i weithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau ein bod yn cyflawni ein cyfrifoldeb i hybu'r Gymraeg.

2. Cwestiwn gan y Cyngorydd Altaf Hussain i Aelod y Cabinet dros Gymunedau

Ac ystyried y tywydd garw diweddar yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol a'r lefelau arwyddocaol o waith parhaus yn eich portffolio, h.y. ceudyllau a goleuadau stryd ac ati, a wnaiff Aelod y Cabinet dros Gymunedau roi gwybod i mi sut y mae'r gwaith hwn wedi'i flaenoriaethu. Rwyf yn siŵr bod y Cyngor hwn yn awyddus i sicrhau bod cyn lleied â phosib o berygl i'n preswylwyr gael anafiadau a thebygolrwydd y bydd damweiniau traffig ar y ffyrdd yn digwydd er mwyn osgoi costau ychwanegol i'r Cyngor ac er mwyn cefnogi iechyd a lles ei breswylwyr.

Ateb: Mae ein Hadran Briffyrdd yn hen gyfarwydd ag ymdrin â thywydd garw'r adeg hon o'r flwyddyn.

Mae gennym gynllun cynnal a chadw yn y gaeaf (**mae copi yn ystafell yr Aelodau**) sy'n amlinellu sut y mae ffyrdd yn cael eu blaenoriaethu i'w trin a bod rota wedi'i threfnu i'r staff sy'n rheoli rhagolygon y gaeaf a gofynion graeanu'r Fwrdeistref. Gellir rhoi'r rhain ar waith hefyd os bydd llifogydd yn bosib.

Pan geir digwyddiadau sy'n gysylltiedig â rhew yn unig, os ceir galwadau oddi ar y prif ffyrdd bydd swyddog yn mynd yno i asesu a oes angen ymdrin â'r mater yn y fan a'r lle, a bydd hynny'n cael ei flaenoriaethu ochr yn ochr â'r gwaith parhaus i wasgaru halen h.y. pan fydd yr holl brif ffyrdd wedi eu trin a phan fydd amser i fynd i weld y safle.

Os ceir tywydd mwy garw megis eira, bydd adnoddau'n cael eu cyfeirio o'r gwaith cynnal arferol i ymdrin â hynny. Digwyddiadau byrhoedlog yw'r rhain fel arfer, a gallwn ailgydio yn ein gwaith cynnal arferol.

O ran diffygion ar y priffyrdd, mae'r awdurdod yn archwilio'r priffyrdd yn rheolaidd i weld a oes diffygion. Fodd bynnag, os rhoddir gwybod i'r Cyngor am unrhyw ddiffygion megis ceudyllau drwy ei ganolfan alwadau ganolog, cynhelir asesiad cychwynnol i weld a oes angen archwiliad unigol i asesu'r diffyg, ac yna trefnir amser i wneud y gwaith atgyweirio os yw hynny'n briodol. Pe byddai diffyg brys yn codi o ran diogelwch, byddem yn rhoi amser ymateb 24 awr ac yn trefnu i wneud unrhyw waith atgyweirio arall ymhen 28 diwrnod pe byddai angen gwneud hynny.

O ran ein goleuadau stryd ym mis Mai, Mehefin a Gorffennaf daeth 150 o geisiadau am wasanaeth i law y mis ar gyfartaledd ac roedd yn cymryd 4 diwrnod ar gyfartaledd i ymweld â'r safle a gwneud y gwaith atgyweirio (heblaw arwyddion a cheblau diffygiol)

Ym mis Tachwedd cawsom 296 o geisiadau am wasanaeth a chymerwyd 4.72 diwrnod ar gyfartaledd i ymateb. Hyd at 12 Rhagfyr roedd gennym 535 o docynnau ac amser cwblhau'r rhain ar gyfartaledd oedd 5.65 diwrnod.

Er bod gennym darged o 5 diwrnod ar gyfer trwsio goleuadau stryd, mae misoedd y gaeaf yn rhoi pwysau ychwanegol ar y gwaith hwn ochr yn ochr â darparu a chynnal a chadw addurniadau Nadolig.

Cwestiwn atodol gan y Cynghorydd Altaf Hussain

Diolch i Aelod y Cabinet am ei ateb a'i gyhoeddiad yn gynharach yn y Siambr. Rwyf yn dal i fod yn bryderus am Atgyfeiriadau'r Aelodau, sydd, ar ôl i'r Cynghorydd eu cyflwyno a nodi weithiau fod angen gweithredu ar frys neu ar unwaith arnynt, yn cael eu hanfon i'r adran dan sylw, sydd wedyn yn cael 10 diwrnod i ymateb a gall gymryd dyddiau, wythnosau neu fisoedd lawer wedyn i'r adran weithredu. Edrychwch ar yr achos diweddar yn Kier pan adawyd gwastraff am ddyddiau lawer ar fin y ffordd. Fy nghwestiwn yw hyn: pwy sy'n blaenoriaethu'r Atgyfeiriadau hyn? Ni ddylem fod yn creu rhestrau aros anodd eu rheoli fel sydd wedi digwydd yn y GIG am na wnaethom flaenoriaethu atgyfeiriadau cleifion.

Ateb: Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros Wasanaethau Gweithredol a Phartneriaeth fod Atgyfeiriadau Aelodau'n dod i law'r Adran Gwasanaethau i Aelodau, ac yna'n cael eu hanfon i'r Gyfarwyddiaeth berthnasol er mwyn gweithredu arnynt ymhen 10 diwrnod. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, gall yr Atgyfeiriad gael ei ddatrys yn llwyr a bydd yr Aelod yn cael gwybod bod hynny wedi digwydd. Er hynny, o bryd i'w gilydd bydd angen ymchwilio ymhellach i'r Atgyfeiriad a bydd angen i nifer o Gyfarwyddiaethau gyfrannu at y broses, a hyd yn oed gyrrff y tu allan i'r Cyngor Bwrdeistref. Bydd hynny'n cymryd mwy o amser a bydd yr Aelod yn cael gwybod mai dyna sydd wedi digwydd. Ychwanegodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol dros Gymunedau fod methodoleg ar waith ar gyfer prosesu Atgyfeiriadau, a'u blaenoriaethu hefyd. Er hynny, roedd nifer fawr o Atgyfeiriadau'n cael eu cyfeirio i'w Gyfarwyddiaeth ef a gallai'r rhain, er enghraifft, fod yn geisiadau i drwsio ceudyllau ar briffordd, neu i ddefnyddio mwy o oleuadau stryd ac ati mewn ardaloedd lle mae'r golau'n wan. Y broblem fodd bynnag oedd fod ei Gyfarwyddiaeth ef yn benodol wedi dioddef toriadau i'r gyllideb dro ar ôl tro dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ac nad oedd digon o adnoddau i wneud llawer o'r gwaith yr oedd etholwyr yn gofyn amdano drwy eu Haelod lleol, ac felly roedd angen nid yn unig blaenoriaethu'r Atgyfeiriadau, ond yn aml iawn hefyd dim ond mewn cyfnod cymharol fyr y gellid eu datrys, os oeddent yn cael eu hystyried yn rhai brys neu'n beryglus i'r cyhoedd. Roedd yn cymryd mwy o amser o lawer i ddatrys Atgyfeiriadau eraill llai pwysig yn nhrefn eu blaenoriaeth. Roedd Aelod y Cabinet dros Gymunedau'n cytuno â'r hyn a ddywedodd y Swyddogion, ac ychwanegodd y byddai'n arbed amser weithiau pe bai Aelod lleol, yn hytrach na chwblhau Atgyfeiriad, yn cysylltu'n uniongyrchol â'r Swyddog priodol yn y Gyfarwyddiaeth berthnasol, neu'n codi'r mater gyda'r Aelod Cabinet perthnasol (hefyd yn uniongyrchol).

111. HYSBYSIAD O GYNNIG

Hysbysiad o Gynnig gan y Cynghorydd Bridie Sedgbeer

Cau canghennau'r NatWest yn Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Mae'r Cyngor hwn yn mynegi ei bryder mawr ynghylch y cynnig i gau canghennau banc y NatWest ym Mhen-coed, Maesteg a Phorthcawl.

Bydd y cynnig i gau'r tair cangen hon yn ein sir yn andwyol i ffyniant ein cymunedau.

Mae cwsmeriaid, yn enwedig preswylwyr hŷn, yn dibynnu ar allu galw i mewn i'w cangen leol i drin a thrafod eu harian. Mae'r ddarpariaeth o ran adnoddau bancio lleol wyneb yn wyneb wedi crebachu'n sylweddol dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf a bydd yn golygu nad oes cangen o'r un banc ym Mhen-coed. Mae newidiadau technolegol yn helpu cwsmeriaid i ddefnyddio gwasanaethau bancio mewn ffyrdd gwahanol ond rhaid i'r banciau beidio ag anwybyddu anghenion y cwsmeriaid hynny nad ydynt yn gallu defnyddio/dod i ben â'r ffyrdd newydd hyn.

CYNGOR - DYDD MERCHER, 20 RHAGFYR 2017

Mae'r Cyngor hwn yn gofyn i'r Arweinydd ysgrifennu at NatWest, i ofyn i'r banc ailystyried ei safbwynt o ran cau'r tair cangen hon a chytuno i gymryd camau rhesymol i gefnogi preswylwyr, grwpiau cymunedol a busnesau i ystyried posibiladau eraill, gan gynnwys gweithio gydag undebau credyd a changhennau niwtral ar y cyd.

PENDERFYNWYD: Cefnogi'r Hysbysiad o Gynnig uchod, yn amodol ar yr isod:-

1. Bod y Cyngor hefyd yn mynd ar drywydd Bancio Symudol drwy'r dulliau priodol
2. Bod ASau ac ACau yn cael eu lloio i annog mwy o ddefnydd ar Undebau Credyd a Bancio Cymunedol, drwy wasanaethau ar y cyd.
3. Archwilio dichonoldeb gosod rhagor o adnoddau twll yn y wal yn ardal Porth y Cymoedd, ac mewn mannau a ddefnyddir yn rheolaidd gan y cyhoedd, gan gynnwys y rhai sydd ym mherchnogaeth neu dan ofal yr awdurdod lleol. Gellid trafod hyn â LINC.

112. MATERION BRYS

Dim.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 17:10

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT REPORT TO CABINET

30 JANUARY 2018

REPORT OF THE INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT AND THE INTERIM HEAD OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the financial commitment required for Band B of the School Modernisation Programme.

2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report relates to the following Corporate Improvement Plan priorities:

- Supporting a successful economy
- Smarter use of resources

2.2 On 3 March 2015, Cabinet approval was received for the Council to adopt revised principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend. Five key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools. These are:

- commitment to high standards and excellence in provision;
- equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend;
- inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils;
- community-focused schools, where the school actively engages with its local community; and
- value for money.

2.3 The Policy and Planning Framework sets out 17 areas where these principles should be applied in practice.

2.4 The principles which are particularly relevant in the context of Band B are the size of primary schools (to ensure that “all Bridgend’s primary schools are large enough to make the full range of necessary provision”) and value for money, efficiency and effectiveness (“narrowing the gap between the most and the least expensive provision currently”).

3. Background

3.1 In September 2006, the Council approved a vision for the county borough’s schools in which they would be fit for the 21st century and achieve the best use of resources. It was recognised that we need to modernise our schools and get a closer match

between our aspiration for schools, the quality of their accommodation and the projected number of pupils.

- 3.2 Since then, school modernisation has been established as one of the Council's main strategic programmes. The programme has been planned and implemented in accordance with the agreed policy and planning framework and has been matched to capital resources identified within the capital programme.
- 3.3 In November 2010, Cabinet was informed of the work which had been undertaken in determining the strategic priorities for school modernisation to enable the aims of the programme to be met.
- 3.4 The School Modernisation Programme was established to deliver on several objectives including:
 - developing first-class learning environments;
 - locating the right number of schools, of a viable size, in the best places to serve their communities;
 - making schools an integral part of the life and learning of their communities;
 - reducing surplus places and achieving best value for money; and
 - make schools more efficient and sustainable.
- 3.5 In November 2010, Cabinet approved the recommended schemes included in each of the four bands (A-D) which were subsequently detailed in Bridgend's 21st Century Schools Strategic Outline Programme (SOP). The SOP was submitted to Welsh Government in 2011 and ministerial 'approval in principle' was received, subject to the completion of the Welsh Government business case process.
- 3.6 Band A schemes, which are funded on a 50/50 basis with Welsh Government, are due for completion in 2018-2019 and are at various stages. The SEN provision at Bryncethin Campus, Coety Primary School, two additional teaching spaces at Heronsbridge Special School and Betws Primary School schemes have been completed. Work is well underway on the remaining schemes within Band A (ie the replacement YGG Cwm Garw, Brynmenyn Primary School and Pencoed Primary School).
- 3.7 In 2014, a Schools Task Group was established to ensure the Council planned for a high-quality education system. What was evident was that the work of the individual workstreams established under the Schools Task Group could not be undertaken in isolation, as there were dependencies relating to each workstream and that there needed to be a coherent strategy for Bridgend.
- 3.8 Cabinet approval was sought in September 2015 to build on the work of the Schools Task Group and approval was given for officers to undertake a strategic review into the development and rationalisation of the curriculum and estate provision of primary, secondary and post-16 education.
- 3.9 In May 2016, a Strategic Review Overarching Board was established, and four operational boards were identified, one of which was specifically related to consideration of Band B investment priorities. It was considered that Band B priorities identified within the 2010 SOP may no longer be of primary importance and the issues facing the Council and schools need to be reviewed to establish a

strategic approach for investment, establishing a priority list of schemes for delivery within the Band B timescale (ie 2019-2024).

- 3.10 The school modernisation workstream considered relevant data to assist in prioritising the future investment in schools, including suitability, condition, maintenance backlog, population growth, projections of pupil population, housing developments identified within the Local Development Plan (LDP) and pupil places.
- 3.11 In 2017, Welsh Government requested that local authorities submit a new SOP, updated to reflect revised priorities. The revision was submitted on 31 July 2017, with the proviso that no political support and financial commitment had been received.
- 3.12 In October 2017, Cabinet was presented with a report detailing the outcome of the work of the school modernisation workstream and the revised SOP submission and gave approval to discontinue the original Band B schemes identified in the November 2010 Cabinet report, and approved the revised Band B schemes detailed below:
 - Bridgend North East (2 form entry (FE)) - capital grant
 - Bridgend South East (2.5FE) - capital grant
 - Bridgend Special School (270 places) – Mutual Investment Model
 - Bridgend West – Welsh-medium (2FE) - capital grant
 - Bridgend West – English-medium (2FE) - capital grant

4. Current situation

- 4.1 On 6 December 2017, Welsh Government's Department for Education gave 'approval in principle' for Bridgend's second wave of investment, which at this stage has an estimated programme envelope cost of £68.2m. Further costs, which are yet to be determined, may be required and these would be associated with additional infrastructure capacity.
- 4.2 All schemes being taken forward in Band B will be required to follow a rigorous Welsh Government business case process and officers will explore the available opportunities through options appraisals and feasibility studies.
- 4.3 Initial work has commenced on the programme and project teams are in the process of being established. The work of the project teams will determine any additional requirements to deliver on the individual schemes (eg highway improvements).

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 Although an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out for the overall programme, it has been considered timely to review and refresh the EIA. An initial screening has therefore been undertaken for Band B. Once schemes have been sufficiently developed, they will be subject to a separate EIA, as the detail will

vary between projects. Equality reports on all proposals will be referred to as part of the individual Cabinet reports on each individual scheme.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The overall programme envelope is estimated to be in the region of £68.2m, of which approximately £43.2m is anticipated to be capital funded, the balance proposed to be funded through the Welsh Government Mutual Investment Model (MIM). The Welsh Government capital grant intervention rate is set at 50% for this second wave of investment, with the caveat that only the approved cost on an elemental basis will secure this rate – any abnormalities or “additional” design features will require 100% Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) funding.
- 7.2 In order to receive this funding, the Council will need to submit detailed business cases for each project including details of how the match funding (circa £22.8m) required from the Council will be provided. It is proposed that this be met from general capital funding in the first instance (subject to Local Government settlements from Welsh Government), with the balance to be met from s106 funding, receipts from the sale of school and other sites, earmarked reserves and unsupported borrowing. These figures cannot be firmed up at this point in time, but unsupported borrowing will not be drawn upon until such time as general capital funding, s106 funding and available capital receipts and earmarked capital reserves have been exhausted, as this will require a recurrent revenue budget to meet the borrowing costs.
- 7.3 The following projects have been included in the Council’s capital programme, but will only be confirmed once Welsh Government approve the final business cases and sufficient funding has been generated:
- Bridgend North East (2 form entry (FE));
 - Bridgend South East (2.5FE);
 - Bridgend West – Welsh-medium (2FE); and
 - Bridgend West – English-medium (2FE).
- 7.4 Given the uncertainty around the contribution from each funding source, for the moment it is assumed in the capital programme that the full match funding element of around £23m will be met from unsupported borrowing. This is the worst-case scenario and would require a maximum annual revenue payment of around £1.1m at full borrowing take-up, which will need to be built into the budget pressures considered as part of the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) process from 2019-2020.
- 7.5 The capital programme will be updated with individual scheme costs and revised funding as each business case is approved, and reported through the appropriate channels.
- 7.6 The Bridgend Special School scheme which is being progressed via the MIM could benefit from a 75% Welsh Government intervention rate. However, this will require revenue match funding from the authority of around £750k per annum over a 25-year period. This is not currently built into the MTFS.

7.7 A feasibility budget of £111,366 has been secured for the 2017-2018 financial year to commence progressing Band B schemes and a further funding bid for feasibility work is in the process of being considered for 2018-2019.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Council is recommended to give approval in principle for the financial commitment required for Band B of the School Modernisation Programme. The approval would be subject to sufficient resources being identified and allocated to meet the match funding commitment.
- 8.2 Council is recommended to give approval for the finance required in respect of Band B of the School Modernisation Programme to be incorporated into the capital programme

Lindsay Harvey

Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support

Gill Lewis

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Background documents

Council Report (13 September 2006): "LEARNING COMMUNITIES – SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – STRATEGY, PRINCIPLES, POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK"

Cabinet Report (2 November 2010): "THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND BRIDGEND'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME SUBMISSION TO WELSH ASSEMBLY "

Cabinet Report (1 September 2015): "STRATEGIC REVIEW INTO THE DEVELOPMENT AND RATIONALISATION OF THE CURRICULUM AND ESTATE PROVISION OF PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND POST-16 EDUCATION"

Cabinet Report (3 October 2017): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B (2019-2024)"

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

31st JANUARY 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES AND INTERIM HEAD OF FINANCE

RE-DEVELOPMENT OF MAESTEG TOWN HALL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the Maesteg Town Hall Project and to obtain approval from Council for a revision to the capital programme 2017-18 to 2026 27.

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

- 2.1 This report supports the following corporate priorities:

- Supporting a successful local economy
- Smarter use of resources
- Working together to improve lives

3. Background

- 3.1 A report on the proposed restoration and redevelopment of Maesteg Town Hall was presented to Cabinet on 4th October 2016. This is an update to that report and sets out the further project development work that has been undertaken and the current position in terms of project cost and funding.
- 3.2 Following the transfer of management of the Town Hall to Awen Cultural Trust in 2015, the Council and Awen commissioned initial feasibility work for the restoration and renovation of the building, and creation of a modern, multi-purpose culture and arts venue. Part of the proposal included the provision of a new library in the lower ground floor of the building and the closure of the indoor market, with opportunities for traders to relocate in to the new outdoor market. The development concept was the subject of extensive public consultation.
- 3.3 The initial feasibility and concept design informed an expression of interest (EOI) made to Welsh Government (WG) under its Building for the Future programme (B4F), which is supported by European funding. The scheme proposal was prioritised by WG as one of 7 projects in south east Wales, and a full business case for the project is now required. The initial feasibility work and concept design also informed the submission of a stage 1 bid to Heritage Lottery in November 2017, a decision on which is expected at the end of February 2018.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 Project Update

- 4.1.1 The full business case to Welsh Government for B4F requires more detailed information on the project, taking it from concept, to more developed design and costing, underpinned by investigation and survey work. Mace Group was commissioned in August 2017 to develop the design concept and provide more accurate cost estimates for the project.
- 4.1.2 This work is ongoing and has identified the need for significant repair and restoration to be undertaken to secure the future of the building. Earlier proposals for enhancing the first floor auditorium and creating a modern and flexible library space within the existing market hall have been developed further. Other aspects of the design, such as an extension to provide new access, circulation and commercial facilities (cafe, bar), and a modern studio to increase commercial opportunities, are being assessed in the context of feasibility, cost and budget.
- 4.1.3 Following the previous decision to incorporate a new library facility in the lower ground floor of the building, discussions have been ongoing with indoor market tenants to provide alternative accommodation in the new outdoor market. All bar one of the indoor traders has chosen to relocate to the outdoor units. The remaining trader has also been offered a unit in the outdoor market when their existing lease expires in April. Partnership work with the market traders is ongoing in relation to the project itself and opportunities for marketing and promotion of the market.

4.2 Project Cost and Funding

- 4.2.1 The detailed feasibility work is scheduled for completion by March, and will include an updated project cost estimate. The scheme is anticipated to cost £5–6 million inclusive of fees and professional services. The increase over the original estimate (£4–5 million) reflects the more detailed design work and engineering analysis undertaken since, and will be further refined by the ongoing work. However, until tenders are received, the cost estimate will remain indicative, albeit informed by design and feasibility carried out to date. A further report will be presented to cabinet when the feasibility work and cost plan have been completed.
- 4.2.2 The current funding package for the capital project is complex and includes a number of potential funding sources, as set out below:

Source	Amount (£) Capital	Amount (£) Revenue
Building for the Future (WG and EU)	2,860,000	
Heritage Lottery	508,000	96,800
Awen Cultural Trust (external funding bids)	500,000	
BCBC Capital Programme	500,000	
BCBC – Ewenny Road capital receipt	800,000	
BCBC – fees (to date/current)		207,000
Total	5,168,000	303,800

Funding sources:

Building for the Future

A funding bid will be submitted to Welsh Government (WG) by March/April 2018. WG have confirmed that the maximum available grant is £2.86 million.

Heritage Lottery

A stage 1 bid was resubmitted in November 2017, following an unsuccessful bid earlier in the year. A decision is expected in February. If approved, Heritage Lottery will release £96,800 of grant funding to enable further detailed design work and remaining surveys to be undertaken prior to the second stage submission later in 2018.

Awen

Awen has indicated that it will commit to sourcing charitable contributions to match fund £500,000 towards the project cost through external grant that will require funding bids.

BCBC

The Council has agreed previously to allocate £500,000 from its capital programme towards the project.

Cabinet has also resolved (10th May 2016) to ring fence £800,000 of the anticipated receipt from the sale of Ewenny Road for regeneration in the Llynfi Valley. In order to provide the required funding assurances to Welsh Government and Heritage Lottery at bidding stage, this commitment will need to be made specific to the Maesteg Town Hall project. In addition, it will be necessary for the local authority to underwrite the receipt to meet programme milestones. The Land was originally bought with a grant from Welsh Government, they have confirmed that they would not wish to clawback the original grant value. These are set out in more detail in section 7 of this report.

The £207,000 for fees (to date) is covered by a combination of secured corporate feasibility funding and Special Regeneration Fund revenue allocations. Further fees will be necessary to complete the final detailed design stage and the full suite of additional survey and investigative work that will be necessary to satisfy planning and enable tenders to be invited. The estimated cost of these is £175,000 and has been incorporated in to the above capital budget allocation. To avoid the Council incurring potentially abortive further expenditure, these fees would not be committed until conditional approvals are received from Heritage Lottery and Welsh Government.

Timetable and Next Steps

- 4.2.3 The completion of the current consultancy work in March will allow for development of the business case for submission to Welsh Government in spring this year. Prior to that, a decision is expected from Heritage Lottery in response to the stage 1 bid. If that is successful, a stage 2 bid will be submitted in Autumn 2018.
- 4.2.4 There will be a requirement for a partnership agreement to be drawn up between BCBC and Awen covering project delivery, project risks and financial and

management arrangements for the contract and the Town Hall. It is not clear at this stage when this will be required by Welsh Government and Heritage Lottery.

4.2.5 The Council will continue to liaise with the remaining indoor market tenant on the opportunity for taking up a stall in the outdoor market. However, formal steps have been taken to bring the tenancy to an end if this offer is declined.

4.2.6 Assuming that all funding is secured, as currently planned and programmed, procurement is envisaged to start by summer 2019, with commencement on site early in 2020. The provisional works contract is expected to take approximately 16 months.

Key interim milestones

HLF Stage 1 determination	Feb 2018
ERDF Business Case submission to WG	March / April 2018
ERDF determination in principle	July 2018
Appointment of final design and technical stage	Sept 2018
Planning application submission	December 2018
HLF Stage 2 submission	February 2019
HLF final funding decision	May 2019
Invitation of tenders for works contract	June 2019
Appointment of contractor and temporary closure of town hall	October 2019
Commencement of works on site	January 2020

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 None

6 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Screening has highlighted that no issues arise as a result of this report. The proposed scheme will develop full disabled access to the Town Hall for the first time.

7. Financial Implications.

7.1 See Section 4.2 A critical part of the funding package is the use of a capital receipt from the disposal of Ewenny Road which is yet to happen. It is therefore unsecured and would require explicit agreement for it to be used for Maesteg Town Hall.

7.2 Secured match funding for the project will be a requirement for WG and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) prior to final grant approvals being issued. The Council would therefore need to ensure that the sale transaction is complete prior to May 2019 using the projected milestones above. Given the external funding programmes and anticipated timescales for completion of the sale, this will not be achievable. Furthermore, the receipt from Ewenny Road will come in to the Council as staged payments and the Council will not be in possession of the full amount prior to the Town Hall contract having to be let.

- 7.3 The Stage 1 Heritage Lottery bid is being considered by the HLF Finance Panel at the end of February 2018. HL has indicated that the prospect of a positive decision would be enhanced if BCBC were able to confirm its commitment to the project match funding prior to the panel meeting.
- 7.4 Discussions with the prospective purchaser of Ewenny Road are at an advanced stage but until sale of the site is secured there remains a risk to the Council. In the event that the existing negotiations fail to result in a sale, the Council will re-market the site.
- 7.5 WG and HLF funding is currently unsecured. See table in 4.2.6 for anticipated timescales for funding decisions.
- 7.6 There is a commitment from Awen Cultural Trust to source charitable grant contributions towards the overall project cost to the value of £500,000. These funds are currently unsecured.
- 7.7 Council should note that no capital works will be carried out or capital expenditure incurred until the external funding position has been finalised in line with the Council's financial procedure rules. However, to meet the requirement of funders at business plan stage, the Council will need to demonstrate that it has the means to deliver the project.
- 7.8 The finalised project cost estimate will not be known until the current feasibility, design and survey work is completed in March 2018, following this a further report will be submitted to Cabinet on cost and budget.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Council is requested to:

Approve an increased capital budget of £5.186 million for the proposed redevelopment of Maesteg Town Hall, which includes an additional £800,000 of capital receipts, generated either by the sale of the land at Ewenny Road, or general capital receipts, in the event that the Ewenny Road receipt fails to materialise or is lower than the anticipated receipt together with revised funding from external sources.

MARK SHEPHARD
Corporate Director - Communities

GILL LEWIS
Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer

22nd January 2018

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Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

11. Background documents

- Report to Cabinet: 4th October 2016
- Report to Cabinet: 10th May 2016
- Report to Cabinet: 9th February 2010

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

31 JANUARY 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES

DEPARTURE FROM DEVELOPMENT PLAN - PLANNING APPLICATION P/17/373/FUL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 On 21st December, 2017, the Development Control Committee considered planning application P/17/373/FUL as a departure from the Local Development Plan. The Development Control Committee resolved not to refuse planning permission so the application is referred to Council which is requested to approve the application subject to conditions.
- 1.2 A copy of the Development Control Committee report is attached at Appendix 1.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The delivery of the County Borough Council's planning functions has links to all three of the Council's corporate priorities as outlined in the Corporate Improvement Plan 2016-2020.

3. Background

- 3.1 The retrospective application relates to the change of use from a retail unit (Class A1) to a Members Only Swimming Pool (Class D2), as defined by the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, at Unit 12d Kingsway Buildings, Kingsway, Bridgend Industrial Estate.
- 3.2 Unit 12d, the application premises, forms part of a complex of buildings that once accommodated the Sony Manufacturing Plant, off Western Avenue on Bridgend Industrial Estate. The unit was once used as a staff refectory and break out area and is centrally located, equidistant from Western Avenue and South Road which provide access to this site.
- 3.3 From 2007, Unit 12d was used for the sale of camping and leisure goods, eventually receiving retrospective consent for the operation in 2013. This retail use ceased in 2015 with the operator going into administration. In 2016, the applicant company took over the lease and commenced the construction of the indoor swimming pool and other internal works. Water Wings School is an established swim school business that previously operated from Bryntirion and Porthcawl Comprehensive Schools outside of school hours. The success of the swimming school and the need to expand the hours of operation required alternative premises for the business in the Bridgend area.
- 3.4 The application site is located within the Primary Key Settlement of Bridgend, as defined by Bridgend County Borough Council's Local Development Plan (2013). The site is within Bridgend Industrial Estate, which is an allocated Employment Site (REG1(2)) that is protected for employment development falling within B1, B2 and B8 use classes.
- 3.5 This application is a resubmission of a previous application for the "Change of use from camping and leisure sales outlet to private swim school and formation of swimming pool

within the space” under planning reference P/16/488/FUL. The application was refused on 11 November 2016 for the following reasons:

1. The use of the building as a 'Private Swim School' (Class D2 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987) conflicts with Policy REG1 (2) which allocates and protects the land for employment purposes (Classes B1, B2 and B8 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987) and it is considered that the use is not complementary to and/or ancillary to the industrial uses on Bridgend Industrial Estate. Insufficient information has been submitted to demonstrate that (i) no alternative location is sequentially preferable than the application site; (ii) the unit has been marketed for at least two years for employment uses; (iii) the site is accessible by a choice of means of transport; (iv) an industrial building is required to accommodate the use; (v) the use with other existing development does not threaten the status and character of Bridgend Industrial Estate; (vi) the operation of other industrial and employment uses would not be adversely affected and therefore the proposal does not comply with Policy REG 3 of the Bridgend Local Development Plan (2013).

2. Insufficient details of the proposed development have been submitted to enable an assessment of highway safety considerations to be made for compliance with Policies SP2, SP3, PLA4, and PL11 of the Bridgend Local Development Plan (2013).

- 3.6 Conversely to the original application, the resubmitted application, as considered by the Development Control Committee, included a planning statement to address local and national policy. It acknowledges that the business has commenced without permission but is seeking retrospective permission again on the basis of a number of changes to the business. The statement also confirms that Water Wings is a private members pool that only provides swimming lessons to members of Water Wings Swim School. Membership is included within the cost of purchasing a block of lessons and the school has also reduced the hours of opening for the Water Wings facility.
- 3.7 A Transport Statement and Proposed Site Layout Plan accompanied the resubmitted application to address concerns raised by the Highway Section in relation to the suitability of the site from a sustainable transport perspective and the likely conflict between pedestrians and vehicles due to the lack of a safe pedestrian route on site. An appraisal of the site's sustainability credentials with reference to public transport provision was included in the Transport Statement along with a calculation of trip generation and parking demand.
- 3.8 Policy REG1 identifies a variety of employment sites suitable for employment uses of varying size and type. The application site is located on Bridgend Industrial Estate and is therefore in an area allocated and protected for employment purposes (B1, B2 & B8). Development proposals which seek to change the use of existing employment buildings on REG1 sites to uses within Class D2 will be assessed against LDP Policy REG3.
- 3.9 In 2015, the Council adopted supplementary planning guidance that deals with the protection of identified employment sites and circumstances where alternative uses, including D2 uses, may be acceptable (SPG21). It outlines those uses which are considered as 'exceptions' in terms of the protection of employment land for its primary function, the D2 use classes that may be permitted on employment sites and guidance on site selection and the submission of planning applications which meet the criteria contained in the relevant LDP policies.
- 3.10 LDP Policy REG3 confirms that proposals which result in the change of use of existing employment (B1, B2 and B8) buildings to uses within Class D2 of the Use Classes Order on Policy REG1 sites will be permitted provided that:

1. In sequential order of preference, all suitable retailing and commercial centre, edge-of-centre and out-of-centre sites and buildings have been assessed and found unsuitable;

2. *The building has been vacant for at least 2 years and has been actively marketed for employment uses throughout that time;*
3. *The site is accessible by a choice of means of transport other than the car;*
4. *It is demonstrated that a former industrial building is required to accommodate the use;*
5. *The proposal, in terms of size and number, either singularly or cumulatively with other existing or permitted developments, is clearly subordinate to the employment use of the area and does not threaten the status and character of the wider allocation as an employment site for B1, B2 or B8 uses; and,*
6. *The operations of other industrial and employment uses in the vicinity of the site would not be adversely affected.*

- 3.11 Water Wings Swim School business is local with its client base being in the Bridgend area. Accordingly, when they were seeking to expand the business, the search for appropriate premises was within and around Bridgend town centre. The applicant worked with a number of local property agents to find suitable and acceptable premises and, of the few sites that were capable of accommodating a swimming pool, the application site was the only premises that proved a viable option. Also, it was the only unit where the landlord was willing to allow a swimming pool to be constructed and the units were all industrial in nature. The exception to this was the application site which had a previous retail permission and, as such, was no longer in employment use.
- 3.12 There is some uncertainty as to when the previous retail business vacated the site but it is understood that the company went into administration in 2015. The applicant's statement indicates that Bridgend Camping and Leisure ceased trading at the premises some time prior to going into administration but it is unclear whether the unit had been vacant for two or more years at the time the application was submitted. The marketing of the unit could not, however, commence immediately because of the legal restrictions associated with the administration process. It is accepted by the agent that the unit may not have been vacant for the time prescribed in the policy although there is documented evidence that the unit was marketed as part of the wider site for at least a year.
- 3.13 Whilst it is accepted that public transport services to the site are infrequent and limited, safe routes and bus stop facilities exist and arguably the supply of services through the estate could increase in the future to correspond with any increase in demand. The applicant acknowledges that, for the majority of customers, particularly very young children, the residential catchment will be outside reasonable walking limits. On the basis that the customer base is within the Bridgend area, the journey lengths, even by car, will be reasonably short and any use of this building would generate traffic. Therefore, it may be difficult to argue that the use is so unsustainable as to warrant refusing planning permission for this reason alone.
- 3.14 It is accepted that only an industrial type building could accommodate this proposal and it is noted that the pool is not an excavated, traditional swimming pool. It is an above ground pool and would not require major building operations for it to be removed.
- 3.15 The applicant's supporting statement refers to the current number of vacant units on Bridgend Industrial Estate and there being no shortage of B1, B2 and B8 floorspace in the vicinity of Unit 12D. A recent review of the Welsh Government's property database confirms a supply of comparable, available units on Bridgend, Ewenny and Waterton Industrial Estates. Recent demand has also been for smaller 'start-up' units. The current use of the building does not threaten the status of the employment allocation and accordingly the Economic Development Section has not opposed the application.
- 3.16 The operations of other industrial and employment uses in the vicinity of the site do not appear to be affected and the reduction in the operational hours to those outside of the general hours of the surrounding businesses should minimise any potential conflicts. No objections to the operation were raised during the consultation process.

- 3.17 Whilst any decision made by the Council must have regard to the adopted policies of the local plan it is accepted that previous planning decisions, depending on their status, may be afforded some weight. The previous permission referred to above only permitted limited retailing from the premises, namely the storage, display and sale of bulky camping and caravan equipment and ancillary complimentary goods. The members swimming club only takes up about 30-40% of the original unit.
- 3.18 The applicant's failure to market the vacant unit for at least two years represents a failing in the context of Policy REG3. The material planning harm caused by having failed to undertake this exercise is, however, difficult to substantiate. Had this process been undertaken correctly, it could be argued that the unit could have been occupied by a B1, B2 or B8 use. This is, however, hypothetical and does not constitute sound evidence that could be relied upon. Of the few sites that were capable of housing a swimming pool, the only premises that proved a viable option were all previously industrial in nature and on industrial estates. The applicant's agent indicates that the exception to this was the application site which had most recently been used for retail purposes and as such was no longer in employment use.
- 3.19 The business employs 10 swimming teachers, 4 lifeguards and a dedicated receptionist. The direct and indirect economic benefits of the business should not be dismissed and in this case they are afforded some weight against the scheme's policy deficiencies. Also, as part of its Economic Development function, the authority should be in a position to suggest more appropriate locations. Given the nature and physical requirements of the use, a similar type of building would be required and in all probability that is likely to be on an industrial estate.
- 3.20 In conclusion, due to the limited scale and extent of the use, the fact that the 'members only swimming pool' has a number of specific operational and functional requirements, the lack of suitable alternatives within the town centre, the availability of other units for B1, B2 and B8 uses, the economic benefits of the business and the fact that the unit had already been converted to A1 use, there is a reasoned argument for the facility being located on an allocated employment site. Overall, on the basis that the use is having no impact on the adjoining operators nor is it threatening the wider employment allocation on the estate, the development is, on balance, acceptable subject to conditions which will limit the use of the unit to the current operators and will prevent any permitted changes to other D2 uses.
- 3.21 The Local Planning Authority can grant permission for development which does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area under Article 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012, subject to ratification by Council.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The application site is located within Bridgend Industrial Estate which is allocated and protected for employment uses falling within uses B1, B2 and B8 employment uses by policies REG1(2) and REG3 of the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan (LDP). The application seeks retrospective consent for a Members Only Swimming Pool training facility.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 Whilst the application does not fully accord with the policies of the Bridgend Local Development Plan, the Members Only Swimming Pool use has already commenced.

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

- 6.1 A screening for Equality Impact has been undertaken and no negative issues have been identified.

7. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act are:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

7.2 The duty was considered in the assessment of the application and in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of wellbeing goals/objectives as a result of the proposed development.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That if Council is minded not to refuse the development then the Corporate Director Communities be given plenary powers to issue a decision notice in respect of this proposal to include the following conditions:

1. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the following documents and plans:

- a) Paragraphs 1.12 to 1.15 of the Planning and Access Statement by Prospero Planning dated April 2017
- b) Job No. 15-168 Dwg No. 001 Revision A received on 3rd May 2017.

Reason: To avoid doubt and confusion as to the nature and extent of the approved development.

2. The Members Swimming School facility hereby permitted shall be operated only by Water Wings Swim School. All materials and equipment brought into the premises in connection with the use permitted shall be removed within three months following the cessation of the occupation by the above named company.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority retains effective control over the development, in the interests of highway safety.

3. The premises shall be used as a Member's Swimming School and for no other purpose including any other purpose in Class D2 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, or in any provision equivalent to that Class in any statutory instrument revoking and re-enacting that Order.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority retains effective control over the development, in the interests of highway safety.

4. The use shall not be carried out outside the hours of 15:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday and 08:30 to 14:45 on Saturdays and Sundays.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority retains effective control over the development, in the interests of highway safety.

5. Within three months of the date of this permission the car parking shall be laid out within the site in accordance with drawing title: Layout of Development Drawing No: Figure 1.2 Revision A by Lime Transport received on 3rd May 2017. The parking spaces shall thereafter be kept available for the parking of vehicles in relation to this business in perpetuity.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety.

Mark Shephard
Corporate Director Communities
31 December, 2017

Contact Officer

Mr. Jonathan Parsons

Group Manager - Development

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Background documents

Appendix 1: Development Control Committee Report

REFERENCE: P/17/373/FUL

APPLICANT: Water Wings Swim School Unit 12d Kingsway Buildings, Bridgend Industrial Estate, CF31 3YH

LOCATION: **Unit 12d Kingsway Buildings Kingsway Bridgend Industrial Estate CF31 3YH**

PROPOSAL: Retention of the change of use of the former Bridgend Camping and Leisure Unit (Use Class A1) to a member's only swimming pool (Use Class D2)

RECEIVED: 3 May 2017

APPLICATION/SITE DESCRIPTION

The application is described as seeking retrospective permission for the change of use from a retail unit (Class A1) to a members only swimming pool (Class D2). It is a re-submission following a previous refusal of permission, (P/16/488/FUL refers).

This revised application has been accompanied by a detailed 'Planning Statement' which provides background information concerning the building and its planning history, details of the applicant company and a description of the proposal that is subject of this application which differs from that previously refused.

Unit 12d, the application premises, forms part of a complex of buildings that once accommodated the Sony Manufacturing Plant, off Western Avenue on Bridgend Industrial Estate. The unit was once used as a staff refectory and break out area and is centrally located, equidistant from Western Avenue and South Road which provide access to this site. From 2007, Unit 12d was used for the sale of camping and leisure goods, eventually receiving retrospective consent for the operation in 2013. This use however ceased in 2015 with the operator going into administration.

In 2016, the applicant company took over the lease and commenced the construction of the indoor swimming pool and other internal works. The internal arrangements are confirmed on the submitted plans and comprise a swimming pool (18m x 6m), two changing rooms, WC, plant room and viewing areas.

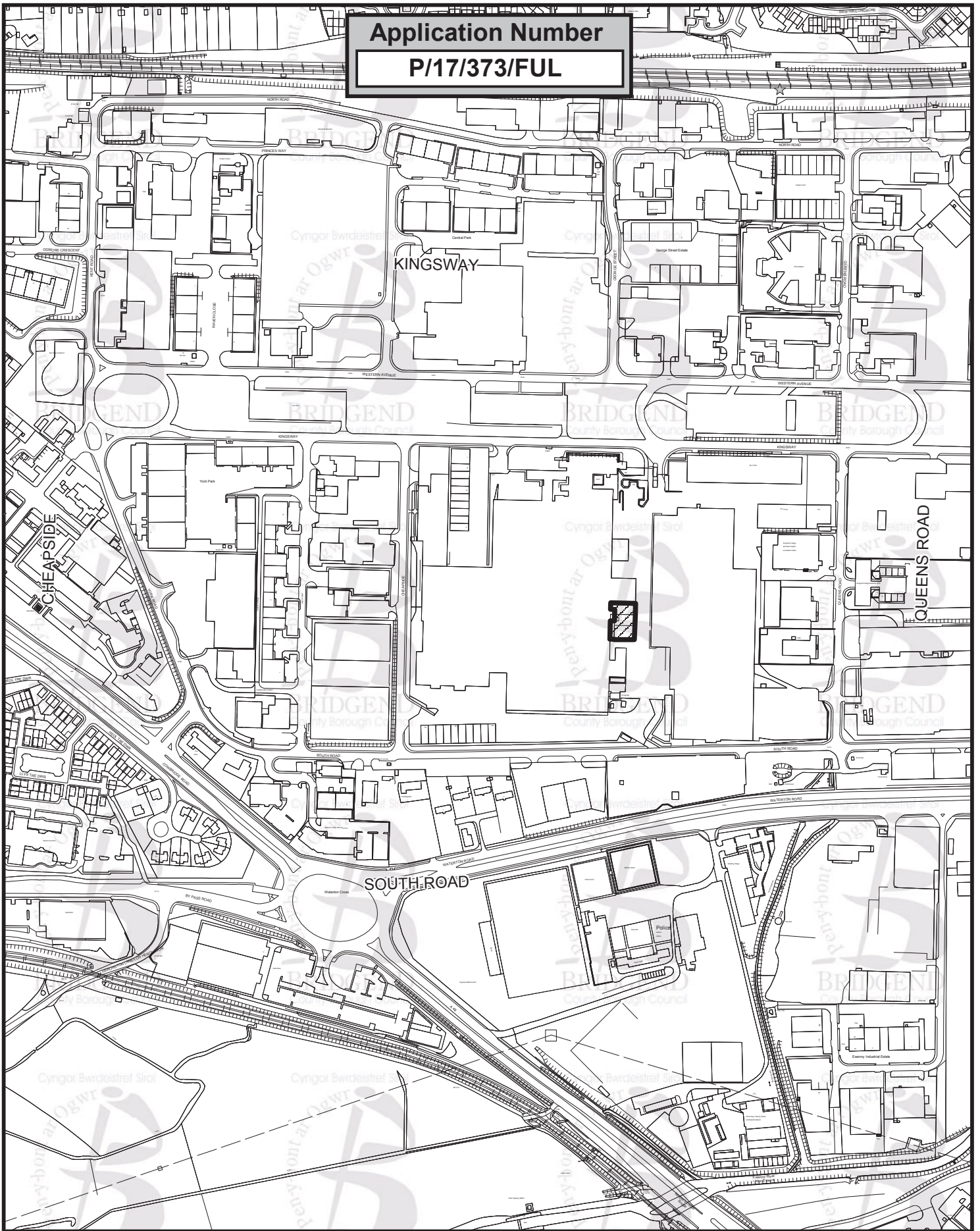
The application form indicates that the use commenced in October 2016. Water Wings School, the applicant company, is an established swim school business that previously operated from Bryntirion and Porthcawl Comprehensive Schools outside of school hours. The success of the swimming school and the need to expand the hours of operation required alternative premises for the business in the Bridgend area. The planning statement acknowledges that the business has commenced without permission but is seeking retrospective permission again on the basis of a number of changes to the business. The statement confirms that Water Wings is a private members pool that only provides swimming lessons to members of Water Wings Swim School. Membership is included within the cost of purchasing a block of lessons. The school has also reduced the hours of opening for the Water Wings facility which are as follows:

Monday to Friday: 3:30pm - 8:30pm
Saturday and Sunday: 8:45am - 2:45pm

The revised and reduced hours of operation are *"reflective of the new business model and the demand for lessons"*. They no longer include weekday mornings and early afternoon

Application Number

P/17/373/FUL



SOUTH ROAD

KINGSWAY

QUEENS ROAD



Scale 1:5,000

Date Issued:
15/12/2017

Development-Mapping
44 tel: 01656 643176

Page 44

Mark Shephard

Corporate Director-Communities

Communities Directorate,
Bridgend County Borough
Council, Civic Offices,
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Bridgend CF31 4WB.

O:/Drive/Plandraw/new MI layouts/
Committee DC Plan

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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirof



sessions. In addition, the applicant company has reduced the swimming offer and no longer provide parent and baby/toddler swimming in the mornings or aqua zumba or pool parties.

A Transport Statement and Proposed Site Layout Plan, prepared by Lime Transport, has accompanied this resubmitted application. The report seeks to address concerns raised by the Highway Section in relation to the suitability of the site from a sustainable transport perspective and the likely conflict between pedestrians and vehicles due to the lack of a safe pedestrian route on site. An appraisal of the site's sustainability with reference to public transport provision has been included in the Transport Statement along with a calculation of trip generation and parking demand.

The statement and plans confirm that a total of 27 marked out parking spaces will be provided. Twenty one spaces will be marked out on the area to the front of the building with six bays to be provided along the eastern edge of the building, five of which will be dedicated to staff. A 1.5m wide buffer strip between these spaces and the building will provide a safe route, with lighting, for staff and customers to access the main entrance.

RELEVANT HISTORY

Until 2006/07, the building was part of the Sony manufacturing plant.

P/13/229/FUL - Retrospective permission was granted on 3 June 2013 for a change of use from Class B1/B2/B8 to Class A1 (Retail) - The permission was the subject of the following restrictive condition:

The premises shall be used only for the storage, display and sale of camping and caravan equipment together with ancillary complimentary goods and for no other purpose including any other purpose in Class A1 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, or in any provision equivalent to that Class in any statutory instrument revoking and re-enacting that Order.

Reason: To enable the Local Planning Authority to retain effective control over the form of retailing to be undertaken at the premises.

(Policy R9 of the Bridgend Unitary Development Plan)

P/16/488/FUL - Change of use from camping and leisure sales to outlet to private swim school and formation of swimming pool within the space. Application REFUSED permission on 11 November 2016 for the following reasons:

1. The use of the building as a 'Private Swim School' (Class D2 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987) conflicts with Policy REG1 (2) which allocates and protects the land for employment purposes (Classes B1, B2 and B8 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987) and it is considered that the use is not complementary to and/or ancillary to the industrial uses on Bridgend Industrial Estate. Insufficient information has been submitted to demonstrate that (i) no alternative location is sequentially preferable than the application site; (ii) the unit has been marketed for at least two years for employment uses; (iii) the site is accessible by a choice of means of transport; (iv) an industrial building is required to accommodate the use; (v) the use with other existing development does not threaten the status and character of Bridgend Industrial Estate; (vi) the operation of other industrial and employment uses would not be adversely affected and therefore the proposal does not comply with Policy REG 3 of the Bridgend Local Development Plan (2013).

2. Insufficient details of the proposed development have been submitted to enable an assessment of highway safety considerations to be made for compliance with Policies SP2, SP3, PLA4, and PL11 of the Bridgend Local Development Plan (2013).

PUBLICITY

Neighbours have been notified of the receipt of the application.

The application has also been advertised on site and in the local press as development that is out of accord with the policies of the Bridgend Local Development Plan (2013).

The period allowed for response to consultations/publicity expired on 1 November 2017.

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Head of Street Scene (Highways): The current application (resubmission) is supported by a Technical Note prepared by Lime Transport. This suggests that the number of vehicular movements within the site (in the immediate vicinity of this particular unit) is low, as are vehicle speeds, during the typical opening hours of the proposed facility. This does not however indicate that the route pedestrians would need to take from the individual facility through the wider site and onto maintainable footway is safe. In this case it is considered that the issue of public safety should be an issue for the developer / landowner to deal with going forward as this is clearly not a matter of safety on the Highway network. Once outside the site perimeter it is acknowledged that there are footways leading away from the site.

With regard the issue of Public transport unfortunately the supporting Technical Note incorrectly suggests that the site is served by an hourly bus service. By inspection of the timetable it is clear that the site is served by only three buses on Mondays to Saturdays (8:01 am, 8:30am and 4:18pm) which makes the use of public transport an unsuitable mode of accessing the site. Accordingly the nearest reasonable public transport provision is on Cowbridge Road (A473), near the Tesco store and Police Headquarters, some 1km walking distance away which, whilst not ideal, could be considered favourably in this case.

It is unfortunate to note that the proposal is for a “members only swimming pool” which would not be considered as ancillary in any way to the surrounding uses. It is however noted that the opening hours and hence its use, will be limited. In regard to this concern it is noted that in an Appeal against the refusal of a Soft Play facility at the eastern end of the industrial estate, the Inspector determined that it would not be appropriate to refuse the application based on the un-sustainability of the site alone. Subject to a suitable condition restricting the opening hours and operation of the facility to those detailed in the submission, the Transportation Policy and Development Section has no objection to the development.

Economic Development: A review of the Welsh Government's property database has been undertaken which confirms a supply of units ranging from 846 sq.m to 1687 sq.m on Bridgend, Ewenny and Waterton Industrial Estates. Although the Council does not retain details of all enquiries for premises, the Team Leader - Projects does not recall requests for units of the size of the application site. Enquiries have generally been for smaller 'start up' units. Accordingly there are no objections to the application from the Economic Development Team.

Furthermore, Technical Advice Note (TAN) 23 says that it is essential that the economic benefits associated with new development are given due weight. Planning Policy Wales Chapter 7 (PPW7) requires all authorities to adopt a positive and constructive approach to applications for economic development. The application is from an established business that offers regular part time employment opportunities to local residents.

Coychurch Lower Community Council: The council see no need to object to this proposal but would draw your attention to the lack/inadequacy of parking arrangements. The Trading Estate already suffers from on street parking problems and we would not like to see this problem increased in anyway.

REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

No representations have been received from the occupiers of the adjacent units.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

With regard to the Community Council's opinion on the parking provision at the site, it is noted that the Head of Street Scene (Highways) considers the parking arrangements to be acceptable.

APPRAISAL

The application is reported to Committee as a departure from the Local Development Plan (LDP). More specifically, the application does not fully accord with the criteria of Policy REG3 of the Bridgend Local Development Plan (2013). Although applications for planning permission should be determined in accordance with the adopted development plan, there are material considerations in this case that outweigh the policy conflict which are considered in detail in the following sections of the report.

The planning system manages the development and use of land in the public interest, contributing to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It should reconcile the needs of development and conservation, securing economy, efficiency and amenity in the use of land and protecting natural resources and the historic environment. A well-functioning planning system is fundamental for sustainable development. (Paragraph 1.2.1 of Planning Policy Wales - Edition 9 - November 2016 refers).

Up-to-date Local Development Plans (LDPs) are a fundamental part of a plan-led planning system and set the context for rational and consistent decision making in line with national policies. Planning applications must be determined in accordance with the adopted plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise (Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 refers). The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on public bodies (including Welsh Ministers) to carry out sustainable development and it is accepted that a plan-led approach is the most effective way to secure sustainable development through the planning system.

The adopted (LDP) which was subject to a Sustainability Appraisal, seeks to focus development in four strategic regeneration growth areas with the objective of delivering more sustainable patterns of development.

In order to meet the varying requirements of business, and to provide access to employment and training for all residents of the County Borough, a range and choice of vacant sites on 120 hectares of land is identified and protected for employment (B1, B2 and B8 uses) purposes. If Bridgend is to retain its competitive industrial base it is imperative that the area is able to offer a broad portfolio of sites.

In addition to those Strategic sites identified and safeguarded under Policy SP9 of the LDP, Policy REG1 also identifies a variety of employment sites suitable for employment uses of varying size and type. The application site is located on Bridgend Industrial Estate and is therefore in an area allocated and protected for employment purposes (B1, B2 &

B8). Development proposals which seek to change the use of existing employment buildings on REG1 sites to uses within Class D2 will be assessed against LDP Policy REG3. In 2015, the Council adopted supplementary planning guidance that deals with the protection of identified employment sites and circumstances where alternative uses, including D2 uses, may be acceptable (SPG2). It outlines those uses which are considered as 'exceptions' in terms of the protection of employment land for its primary function, the nature of D2 use classes that may be permitted on employment sites and guidance on site selection and submission of planning applications which meet the criteria contained in the relevant LDP policies.

The main issues in the determination of this application include the effect of the use on the supply of employment land, highway safety and whether it is a sustainable form of development having regard to the demand for travel. Consideration must also be given to any other material considerations such as the economic and social benefits of the development which may outweigh any local policy conflicts.

Unlike the previously refused application, this resubmission has been accompanied by a planning statement which seeks to address both local and national policy. It contends that the development is not only compliant but has economic and social benefits that should also be considered.

The applicant's agent has identified the relevant policies of the LDP (Policies SP2, REG1, REG2 and REG3) against which the application should be assessed. Policy REG2 seeks to protect employment sites and confirms that proposals which result in the loss of existing or proposed employment land or buildings will only be acceptable if they are for uses which will be complementary and/or ancillary or for *sui generis* uses which are suitably located on an industrial estate. The agent's supporting statement does not seek to claim that the members' swimming pool is a complementary use but suggests that, given the limited number of non-traditional employment uses currently present, it is considered that the continued use of this unit for 'non B1, B2, and B8' uses will not fundamentally alter the nature of the Industrial Estate. Indeed, it is argued that, as the Council has already accepted the loss of this unit for employment in granting an A1 retail consent in 2013, the change of use from A1 retail to D2 may prevent the loss of any further, vacant employment units in an alternative location given the known requirements for the proposed development and the type of unit that is therefore required.

LDP Policy REG3 confirms that proposals which result in the change of use of existing employment (B1, B2 and B8) buildings to uses within Class D2 of the Use Classes Order on Policy REG1 sites will be permitted provided that:

1. In sequential order of preference, all suitable retailing and commercial centre, edge-of-centre and out-of-centre sites and buildings have been assessed and found unsuitable;
2. The building has been vacant for at least 2 years and has been actively marketed for employment uses throughout that time;
3. The site is accessible by a choice of means of transport other than the car;
4. It is demonstrated that a former industrial building is required to accommodate the use;
5. The proposal, in terms of size and number, either singularly or cumulatively with other existing or permitted developments, is clearly subordinate to the employment use of the area and does not threaten the status and character of the wider allocation as an employment site for B1, B2 or B8 uses; and
6. The operations of other industrial and employment uses in the vicinity of the site would not be adversely affected.

The applicant's planning statement contends that Policy REG3 seeks to permit changes of use from traditional employment uses such as B1, B2 and B8 uses to non-traditional employment uses, in line with up to date national policy.

Criterion 1 of Policy REG3 seeks to ensure that suitable alternative premises have been assessed and no viable and suitable alternative is available in a more sustainable location.

The supporting statement confirms that the Water Wings Swim School business is local with its client base being in the Bridgend area. Accordingly, when they were seeking to expand, the search for appropriate premises was within and around Bridgend town centre. The applicant worked with a number of local property agents (listed in the planning statement) to find suitable and acceptable premises. The search for the new premises commenced in late 2015 and a number of properties that were on the market at that time were viewed. Of the few that were capable of accommodating a swimming pool, the application site was the only premises that proved a viable option.

It was also the only unit where the landlord was willing to allow a swimming pool to be constructed. It should also be noted that, of the units suitable to house a swimming pool in terms of construction requirements, the units were all industrial in nature and on industrial estates. The applicant's agent indicates that the exception to this was the application site which had previous retail permission and, as such, was no longer in employment use.

Criterion 2 of Policy REG3 establishes a requirement for any commercial unit to be vacant for at least 2 years and actively marketed for employment uses during that period. On the basis of the information before the Council, there is some uncertainty as to when Bridgend Camping and Leisure vacated the site but it is understood that the company went into administration in 2015. The applicant's statement indicates that Bridgend Camping and Leisure ceased trading at the premises some time prior to going into administration but it is unclear whether the unit had been vacant for in excess of two years at the time the application was submitted. The agent has confirmed that marketing of the unit could not, however, commence immediately because of the legal restrictions associated with the administration process. It is accepted by the agent that the unit may not have been vacant for the time prescribed in the policy but there is documented evidence that the unit was marketed as part of the wider site for at least a year.

Criterion 3: The site is accessible by a choice of means of transport other than the car,

The Transport Statement submitted in support of the application has identified the closest active bus stop which is some 270m to the north on Western Avenue. The statement suggests that the site is served by an hourly bus service but this is incorrect with the timetable confirming that only three buses on Mondays to Saturdays (8:01am, 8:30am and 4:18pm) operate. Car sharing is however encouraged amongst its staff and students that live within the same area or attend the same classes and the applicant company is keen to further promote car sharing and can offer to introduce new students to others in the group lessons that are keen to find a car share partner.

The application site is located on land allocated for development which is within the primary key settlement of Bridgend, so defined under Policy PLA1 and is the focus of employment, retail and services serving the whole of the County Borough. Whilst it is accepted that public transport services to the site are infrequent and limited, safe routes and bus stop facilities exist and arguably the supply of services through the estate could increase in the future to correspond with any increase in demand. The applicant company acknowledges that, for the majority of customers, particularly very young children, the residential catchment will be outside reasonable walking limits. On the basis that the

customer base is within the Bridgend area the journey lengths, even by car, will be reasonably short.

Notwithstanding the local and national objectives relating to sustainable transport, any use of this building would generate traffic and, therefore, it may be difficult to argue that the use is so unsustainable to warrant refusing planning permission for this reason alone.

Criterion 4 of the Policy has been addressed in the supporting statement with the applicant indicating that only an industrial type building could accommodate this proposal. The Council has no evidence to counter this claim and it is noted that the pool is not an excavated, traditional swimming pool. It is an above ground pool and would not require a major building operation for the structure to be removed.

Criterion 5 requires the decision maker to consider the extent of the non-conforming uses and whether they remain subordinate to the employment use of the area and do not threaten the status and character of the wider allocation as an employment site for B1, B2 or B8 uses.

The applicant's supporting statement refers to the current number of vacant units on Bridgend Industrial Estate and there being no shortage of B1, B2 and B8 floorspace in the vicinity of Unit 12D. Although the applicant has not provided surveys to support the aforementioned statement, a recent review of the Welsh Government's property database confirms a supply of comparable, available units on Bridgend, Ewenny and Waterton Industrial Estates. Current demand has also been for smaller 'start-up' units. The current use of the building does not threaten the status of the employment allocation and accordingly the Economic Development Section has not opposed the application.

Furthermore, the operations of other industrial and employment uses in the vicinity of the site do not appear to be affected, with the supporting statement indicating that the reduction in the operational hours to those outside of the general hours of the surrounding businesses should minimise any conflict. It is noted that no objections to the operation were previously raised during the consultation on the previous planning applications or as part of this new application.

Policy SP2 of the LDP is the overarching policy against which all applications must be assessed. All development is required to contribute to creating high quality attractive sustainable places, which enhance the community in which they are located. The Policy establishes fifteen criteria against which development proposals will be assessed and in respect of this application. Due to the nature of the development, only some of the fifteen criteria are relevant to the assessment of the application and they are considered as follows:

Complying with all relevant national policy and guidance where appropriate;

National policy, (Planning Policy Wales) reminds decision makers that traditional business use, classes B1-B8, only account for part of the activity in the economy and that the planning system must recognise the economic aspects of all development. Where a planning authority is considering a planning application that could cause harm, Technical Advice Note 23: Economic Development (February 2014) requires planning authorities to consider three questions in order to help clarify and balance the economic, social and environmental issues. In all cases robust evidence should be provided to support these tests:

1. Alternatives: if the site is not available (acceptable) could the use be provided on a site where the development would cause less harm and if so where?
2. Jobs accommodated: how many direct jobs will be based at the site?

3. Special Merit: would the development make any special contribution to policy objectives?

The first test follows the principle that the planning system should steer development to the most sustainable locations. The planning statement confirms that a review of alternative premises was undertaken through a number of local agents. Of the few that were capable of housing a swimming pool, the only premises that proved a viable option were all previously industrial in nature and on industrial estates. The applicant's agent indicates that the exception to this was the application site which had retail permission and as such was no longer in employment use.

The application forms for the previously refused scheme confirmed that the equivalent of 4 full time jobs had been created as a result of the development. This has been increased over time with the business now employing 10 swimming teachers, 4 lifeguards and a dedicated receptionist. The direct and indirect economic benefits of the business are indeed worthwhile and are afforded some weight in the determination of the application.

Test 3 considers whether developments make a special contribution to national policy objectives but, considering the scale of the development and the nature of the use, this test is not relevant in this instance.

Having good walking, cycling, and public transport and road connections within and outside the site to ensure efficient access;

On the previous application, the Head of Street Scene (Highways) opposed the development on the basis that the application lacked sufficient supporting information which prevented a comprehensive assessment of the development from a highway safety perspective. The Planning and Transport Statement that accompanied this revised application have enabled such an assessment to be made and the consultant's conclusion that the site could operate without being detrimental to highway safety is accepted.

The use of other modes of transport to serve the development have been considered in an earlier section of the appraisal.

Given the scale and nature of the use, pollution is unlikely to be an issue. No adverse comments have been received from the Council's consultees.

Ensuring equality of access by all;

The swim school is located on one level and the internal arrangements have been designed to allow access for all.

Ensuring that the viability and amenity of neighbouring uses and their users/occupiers will not be adversely affected;

As referred to elsewhere in this report, the use appears to have no detrimental impacts on the adjoining commercial uses.

Incorporating appropriate arrangements for the disposal of foul sewage, waste and water;

The comments received from Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water and the Council's Land Drainage Engineers indicate that the drainage arrangements are acceptable. The Council is not aware of any capacity issues in the existing foul and surface water network.

Appropriately contributing towards local, physical, social and community infrastructure which is affected by the development

Planning contributions (or obligations) secured by Section 106 agreements linked to new development are a mechanism for securing improvements to public transport and are widely used to bring development in line with sustainability requirements, for encouraging accessible public transport provision and for securing more sustainable patterns of transport development. Only those developments which have a significant travel impact should be subject to the requirement to provide public transport improvements or for paying a contribution towards public transport enhancements. Given the scale of this development, it is questionable whether it has a significant travel impact in the context of the wider industrial estate.

CONCLUSION

The policies of the adopted Bridgend Local Development Plan (2013) identify and protect land for employment in order to meet the varying requirements of business and to provide access to employment for all residents. Exceptions to the traditional B1, B2 and B8 uses on the allocated industrial sites can however, be considered where they are complementary or ancillary to the main industrial uses or where a *sui generis* use is suitably located on employment land.

In response to the significant demand and pressure to allow certain D2 (Assembly and Leisure) uses, particularly indoor recreation facilities, the loss of employment uses may be permitted subject to certain criteria. The agent's planning statement suggests that weight should be afforded to the previous planning permission for retailing from the unit and contends that the current application should not be tested against Policies REG2 and REG3 of the LDP.

Any decision made by the Council must have regard to the adopted policies of the local plan but it is accepted that previous planning decisions, depending on their status, may be afforded weight. The previous permission referred to in the 'Planning History' section of this report permitted only limited retailing from the premises, namely the storage, display and sale of bulky camping and caravan equipment and ancillary complimentary goods. On the basis of the site visit undertaken in connection with the previously refused application, all the fixtures and fittings of the former use had been replaced by the swimming pool and ancillary rooms. The applicant's agent has however indicated that the 'proposed' use only takes up about 30-40% of the original unit. The remaining 60-70% of the unit is exactly as the previous retail occupier left it and could be readily converted back to A1 retail without the need for planning permission. Whether the former use has been 'abandoned' is a matter of law but, on the basis of the information available, it is difficult to reach a conclusion on this matter.

In assessing this retrospective use against the aforementioned policies, it is considered that a 'members only swimming pool' is neither complementary nor ancillary and is certainly not a *sui generis* use. Furthermore, despite the claims in the supporting statement, the proposal does not fully accord with the criteria of Policy REG3. Firstly, it is questionable whether the unit had been vacant for at least 2 years before it was occupied by the swim school and secondly, the opportunities to access the site by other means of transport other than the car are limited. For the remaining criteria of the Policy, the application has sought to demonstrate that alternative locations were considered but no suitable buildings in a sequentially more appropriate location were identified, the use is having no impact on the adjoining operators and that such D2 uses remain subordinate and currently do not threaten the wider employment allocation. This is a position the Local Planning Authority accepts.

Creating 'Cohesive Communities' has the potential to contribute to the Well-being of Future Generations agenda and the planning system is required to locate developments

so as to minimise the demand for travel, especially by private car. Although the site is not well served by public transport it is nevertheless located in the Primary Key Settlement of Bridgend as identified by the Bridgend Local Development Plan (2013). It is so defined on the basis that it is the focus of employment, retail and services for the whole of the County Borough. Furthermore, Bridgend Industrial Estate is described in the Local Development Plan as being a highly sustainable and accessible destination benefiting the wider region and the County Borough as a whole.

The applicant company acknowledges that for the majority of customers, particularly very young children, the residential catchment will be outside walking limits. On the basis that the customer base is within the Bridgend area, the journey lengths, even by car, will be reasonably short. Notwithstanding the local and national objectives relating to sustainable transport and criterion 3 of Policy REG3, any use of this building would generate traffic and therefore it may be difficult to argue that the use is so unsustainable to warrant refusing planning permission for this reason alone.

The applicant's failure to market the vacant unit for at least two years also represents a falling in the context of the aforementioned policy. The material planning harm assessed by having failed to undertake this exercise is, however, difficult to substantiate. Had this process been undertaken correctly, it could be argued that the unit could have been occupied by a B1, B2 or B8 use. This is, however hypothetical and does not constitute sound evidence that could be relied upon.

National policy (Planning Policy Wales) requires that planning authorities identify three questions for Local Planning Authorities to help clarify and balance the economic, social and environmental issues.

The first test follows the principle that the planning system should 'steer' development to the most sustainable location. Of the few that were capable of housing a swimming pool, the only premises that proved a viable option were all previously industrial in nature and on industrial estates. The applicant's agent indicates that the exception to this was the application site which had most recently been used for retail purposes and as such was no longer in employment use

The planning statement confirms that the business now employs 10 swimming teachers, 4 lifeguards and a dedicated receptionist. The direct and indirect economic benefits of the business should not be dismissed and in this case are afforded some weight against the scheme's policy deficiencies as set out above.

One factor that should also be considered is the next steps in the process after any decision to refuse planning permission, namely the service of enforcement notices to cease the use. Although, it is not the Local Planning Authority's responsibility, nor a requirement to identify, or provide, alternative sites to which unauthorised development might be relocated, as part of its economic development functions, the authority should be in a position to suggest more appropriate locations. Given the nature and physical requirements of the use, a similar type of building would be required and in all probability that is likely to be on an industrial estate.

Overall, on the basis that the use is having no impact on the adjoining operators nor is it threatening the wider employment allocation on the estate, the development is, on balance, acceptable. In reaching this conclusion, weight has been afforded to the economic benefits of the business and the former retail use of the unit. Conditions will however be imposed limiting use of the unit to the current operators and preventing any change to other D2 uses.

The Local Planning Authority can grant permission for development which does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area under Article 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 subject to ratification by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

(A) That the application be referred to Council as a proposal that represents a departure from the Development Plan which the Development Control Committee are not disposed to refuse as the application has sought to demonstrate that alternative locations were considered but no suitable buildings in a sequentially more appropriate location were identified, the use has no impact on the adjoining operators and that such D2 uses remain subordinate to and currently do not threaten, the wider employment allocation of the industrial estate. Critically, the business provides employment for up to 14 people which benefit the local economy.

(B) That if Council resolve to approve the proposal, the following conditions be attached to the consent:-

1. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the following documents and plans:
 - a) Paragraphs 1.12 to 1.15 of the Planning and Access Statement by Prospero Planning dated April 2017
 - b) Job No. 15-168 Dwg No. 001 Revision A received on 3rd May 2017.

Reason: To avoid doubt and confusion as to the nature and extent of the approved development.

2. The Members Swimming School facility hereby permitted shall be operated only by Water Wings Swim School. All materials and equipment brought into the premises in connection with the use permitted shall be removed within three months following the cessation of the occupation by the above named company.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority retains effective control over the development, in the interests of highway safety.

3. The premises shall be used as a Member's Swimming School and for no other purpose including any other purpose in Class D2 of the Schedule to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, or in any provision equivalent to that Class in any statutory instrument revoking and re-enacting that Order.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority retains effective control over the development, in the interests of highway safety.

4. The use shall not be carried out outside the hours of 15:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday and 08:30 to 14:45 on Saturdays and Sundays.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority retains effective control over the development, in the interests of highway safety.

5. Within three months of the date of this permission the car parking shall be laid out within the site in accordance with drawing title: Layout of Development Drawing No: Figure 1.2 Revision A by Lime Transport received on 3rd May 2017. The parking

spaces shall thereafter be kept available for the parking of vehicles in relation to this business in perpetuity.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety.

6. * THE FOLLOWING ARE ADVISORY NOTES NOT CONDITIONS

Welsh Water Developer Services have advised the following:

If the development will give rise to a new discharge (or alter an existing discharge) of trade effluent, directly or indirectly to the public sewerage system, then a Discharge Consent under Section 118 of the Water Industry Act 1991 is required from Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water. Please note that issuing of a Discharge Consent is independent of the planning process and consent may be refused although planning permission is granted.

No surface water is allowed to discharge to the public highway.

No land drainage run-off will be permitted to discharge (either directly or indirectly) into the public sewerage system.

MARK SHEPHARD
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

BACKGROUND PAPERS
None

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

31 January 2018

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL IMPROVEMENT REPORT (AIR) 2016-17 - BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To introduce the report of the Auditor General to Council (**Appendix A**).

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The Wales Audit Office (WAO) report assesses whether or not the Council meets its continuous improvement duties under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, taking account of a range of audit, regulatory and inspection work reported during 2016-17.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires the Auditor General to undertake a forward-looking annual improvement assessment and to publish an annual improvement report for each improvement authority in Wales.
- 3.2 For 2016-17, the Auditor General undertook improvement assessment work at all councils under three themes: governance, use of resources, and improvement planning and reporting. For some councils, local risk-based audits were also carried out.
- 3.3 The Wales Audit Office undertook the following individual projects under the above mentioned themes for Bridgend County Borough Council during 2016-17:
- Good governance when determining service changes (the full report is attached as **Appendix B**)
 - Annual audit letter 2015-16, under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2014
 - Savings planning
 - Corporate assessment follow up
 - Annual improvement plan audit
 - Annual assessment of performance audit

A summary of the findings for each project is set out in Exhibit 1 (pp. 6-90 of the attached report).

- 3.4 The report also includes a summary of the national studies the WAO undertook during the year (Exhibit 2, pp. 14-16), with recommendations that require all local authorities to address.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 The overall conclusion of the AIR is positive, as follows:

The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement, and that based on the work carried out by the WAO and relevant regulators the Council is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure (2009) during 2017-18.

4.2 Headline findings under each project are summarised below:

Good governance when determining service changes

Findings – “the Council has clear priorities that shape its decisions on significant service change and it seeks to learn and improve its arrangements, but there is scope to improve the accessibility of some information”.

The Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations but made three proposals for improvement:

P.1. the Council should improve the availability and accessibility of information relating to decision-making on significant service change, including, for example, publishing Forward Work Programme(s) that cover Cabinet and Council business.

P.2 the Council should resolve how it will embed the sustainable development principle into decision-making.

P.3 the Council should clearly set out how the impact of service change will be monitored at the point of decision.

Annual audit letter 2015-16

Finding – “the Council complied with its responsibilities relating to financial reporting and use of resources”.

The Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations nor proposals for improvement.

Savings planning

Finding – “whilst the Council has a sound financial planning framework underdeveloped savings plans may not fully support future financial resilience”.

The Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations but made one proposal for improvement:

P.1 - Strengthen financial planning arrangements by ensuring that savings proposals are:

- fully developed;
- clearly identified over the period of the MTFP; and
- include realistic delivery timescales prior to inclusion in the annual budget.

Corporate assessment follow up

Finding – “the Council has responded effectively to the issues we raised in the Corporate Assessment and has either fully implemented our proposals for improvement or has made progress against them”.

The Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations nor proposals for improvement.

Annual improvement plan audit

Finding – “the Council has complied with its statutory improvement planning duties”.

The Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations nor proposals for improvement.

Annual assessment of performance audit

Finding – “the Council has complied with its statutory improvement reporting duties”.

The Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations nor proposals for improvement.

- 4.3 The Council has responded positively to the issues raised by the WAO and has been taking action to address each area that requires improvement as follows.

Good governance when determining service changes

- P.1 - The Council has published its Forward Work Programmes for Cabinet, Council and Scrutiny on its website for the period 1 Jan 2018 – 30 April 2018. The programmes are scheduled for review on a quarterly basis to cover those topics being considered by Cabinet and Council during the subsequent 4-month period. Further work is being undertaken to harmonise procedures for the Scrutiny work programmes.
- P.1 - The Council is redesigning its website to improve availability and accessibility of information. The new website is planned to be launched to the public late spring 2018, depending on a successful test with internal stakeholders.
- P.2 - The Council has revised its Corporate Report Template to include a paragraph relating to the implications of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and has developed a Well-being of Future Generations Assessment Form. The paragraph will summarise any potential impacts identified during the completion of the Well-being of Future Generations Assessment form. The revised template will be implemented from 1 April 2018 onward. Training of the senior officers in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the use of the assessment form will be undertaken before the implementation date.
- P.3 - The Well-being of Future Generations Assessment Form ensures that the five ways of working and the seven Wellbeing Goals are considered as part of the decision making process. Use of the revised template will enable any

potential impacts of service changes to be identified and proposals to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts to be provided as necessary.

Savings planning

P.1 - The Council has the following in response to the proposal of strengthening financial planning arrangements in relation to savings:

- As part of the MTFS planning process, directorates are required to submit implementation plans with their budget proposals. This includes information on:
 - The amount of saving to be realised in each financial year;
 - Key milestones, including any consultation periods and cabinet reports;
 - Timeline of key stages; and
 - Risks to achievement.
- These are then reviewed again prior to the start of the financial year, and any issues flagged.
- During the financial year, the Authority monitors budget reductions against targets and report to Cabinet during the quarterly monitoring reports. Directors are tasked with identifying mitigating actions or seeking alternative reduction proposals to offset the shortfalls.
- In cases where the achievement of the saving is out of the directorate's control, there is a corporate MTFS Contingency Fund in place which the S151 Officer can use to provide short term cover, prior to the directorate seeking alternative proposals going forward, or meeting the budget reduction in full.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 No equality impact assessment has been undertaken as the Auditor General's Annual Improvement Report is essentially a retrospective assessment of the Council's performance.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

8. Recommendation

8.1 That Council notes the Annual Improvement Report and the Good Governance when Determining Significant Service Changes report produced by the WAO.

Darren Mepham
Chief Executive, Bridgend County Borough Council
19 January 2018

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Background documents

None

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WALES AUDIT OFFICE
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

Annual Improvement Report 2016-17 – Bridgend County Borough Council

Issued: September 2017
Document reference: 156A2017-18



This Annual Improvement Report has been prepared on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales by Samantha Clements, Tim Buckle and Steve Barry under the direction of Huw Rees.

Huw Vaughan Thomas
Auditor General for Wales
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The Auditor General is independent of government, and is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen. The Auditor General undertakes his work using staff and other resources provided by the Wales Audit Office, which is a statutory board established for that purpose and to monitor and advise the Auditor General. The Wales Audit Office is held to account by the National Assembly.

Together with appointed auditors, the Auditor General audits local government bodies in Wales, including unitary authorities, police, probation, fire and rescue authorities, national parks and community councils. He also conducts local government value for money studies and assesses compliance with the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

Beyond local government, the Auditor General is the external auditor of the Welsh Government and its sponsored and related public bodies, the Assembly Commission and National Health Service bodies in Wales.

The Auditor General and staff of the Wales Audit Office aim to provide public-focused and proportionate reporting on the stewardship of public resources and in the process provide insight and promote improvement.

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

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Summary report

2016-17 performance audit work

- 1 In determining the breadth of work undertaken during the year, we considered the extent of accumulated audit and inspection knowledge as well as other available sources of information including Bridgend County Borough Council's (the Council) own mechanisms for review and evaluation. For 2016-17, we undertook improvement assessment work at all councils under three themes: governance, use of resources, and improvement planning and reporting. At some councils, we supplemented this work with local risk-based audits, identified in the Audit Plan for 2016-17.
- 2 The work carried out since the last Annual Improvement Report (AIR), including that of the relevant regulators, is set out in [Exhibit 1](#).

The Council is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement

- 3 Based on, and limited to, the work carried out by the Wales Audit Office and relevant regulators, the Auditor General believes that the Council is likely to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Measure (2009) during 2017-18.

Recommendations and proposals for improvement

- 4 Given the wide range of services provided by the Council and the challenges it is facing, it would be unusual if we did not find things that can be improved. The Auditor General is able to:
- make proposals for improvement – if proposals are made to the Council, we would expect it to do something about them and we will follow up what happens;
 - make formal recommendations for improvement – if a formal recommendation is made, the Council must prepare a response to that recommendation within 30 working days;
 - conduct a special inspection, and publish a report and make recommendations; and
 - recommend to ministers of the Welsh Government that they intervene in some way.
- 5 During the course of the year, the Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations. However, a number of proposals for improvement have been made and these are repeated in this report. We will monitor progress against them and relevant recommendations made in our national reports ([Appendix 3](#)) as part of our improvement assessment work.

Audit, regulatory and inspection work reported during 2016-17

Exhibit 1: audit, regulatory and inspection work reported during 2016-17

Issue date	Brief description	Conclusions	Proposals for improvement
Governance			
March 2017	Good governance when determining service changes	<p>The Council has clear priorities that shape its decisions on significant service change and it seeks to learn and improve its arrangements, but there is scope to improve the accessibility of some information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council has identified three corporate priorities that clearly inform its decisions on significant service changes; • the Council benefits from generally clear governance and accountability arrangements and positive working relationships between officers and members; • the Council typically considers a range of options for significant service changes that are supported by clear information, but they are not generally accompanied by a formal options appraisal; • the Council has generally effective consultation arrangements when considering significant service changes and it continues to develop them, though the accessibility of information could be improved; • the Council monitors financial savings and the impact of some significant service changes, though this could be strengthened by clearly setting out how impact will be monitored at the point of decision; and • the Council is learning from its experience to improve its arrangements for determining and delivering service changes. 	<p>P1 The Council should improve the availability and accessibility of information relating to decision-making on significant service change, including, for example, publishing Forward Work Programme(s) that cover Cabinet and Council business.</p> <p>P2 The Council should resolve how it will embed the sustainable development principle into decision-making.</p> <p>P3 The Council should clearly set out how the impact of service change will be monitored at the point of decision.</p>

Issue date	Brief description	Conclusions	Proposals for improvement
Use of resources			
November 2016	<p>Annual audit letter 2015-16</p> <p>Letter summarising the key messages arising from the Auditor General's statutory responsibilities under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and his reporting responsibilities under the Code of Audit Practice. The Annual Audit Letter is in Appendix 2 of this report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council complied with its responsibilities relating to financial reporting and use of resources; I am satisfied that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources; and I issued a certificate confirming that the audit of the accounts has been completed on 30 September 2016. 	None
March 2017	<p>Savings planning</p> <p>Review of the Council's financial savings arrangements, including how well it is delivering the required savings and whether it has robust approaches to plan, manage and deliver budget savings, at a pace that supports financial resilience.</p>	<p>Whilst the Council has a sound financial planning framework underdeveloped savings plans may not fully support future financial resilience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council has reported achievement of 83% of its planned 2015-16 savings in year and can demonstrate that individual savings have been delivered; the Council has an effective corporate framework for financial planning but its indicative savings plans lack detail; and some of the Council's approved savings plans for 2016-17 are not well developed and lack sufficient detail, increasing the risk that they will not be delivered in the planned timescale. 	<p>P1 Strengthen financial planning arrangements by: ensuring that: savings proposals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fully developed clearly identified over the period of the MTFP and include realistic delivery timescales prior to inclusion in the annual budget.

Issue date	Brief description	Conclusions	Proposals for improvement
Local risk-based performance audit			
	<p>Corporate Assessment Follow up</p> <p>This report examines whether the Council is making effective progress against the proposals for improvement issued in the Corporate Assessment report.</p>	<p>We found that the Council has responded effectively to the issues we raised in the Corporate Assessment and has either fully implemented our proposals for improvement or has made progress against them. We came to this conclusion because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council has established a vision for 2020 that will support a strategic approach to service delivery and guide service planning. • the Council is refining its performance reporting. • the Council includes the rationale for targets in performance reports where appropriate, and these set out the scale of improvement expected. • the Council is working towards ensuring 'measures of success' enable an evaluation of intended performance and that the explanation of performance is based upon that measure. • the Council has more clearly defined how it applies RAG ratings within Scrutiny and Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) reports and is refining its public performance reporting to ensure it clearly states whether the Council has achieved what it intended. • there have been developments in the ICT service to ensure it supports the Council's transformation agenda; some actions have been completed whilst others are progressing, but are at a formative stage. • workforce considerations are now embedded in service business planning. There are other developments in progress within the HR service, that, whilst not explicitly supporting the Council's transformation agenda, are intended to develop the HR service. • Service Business Plans now incorporate consideration of future property requirements. • Public Services Boards have replaced Local Service Boards and there remains scope to strengthen arrangements with regard to the adoption of measures to evaluate the success of the key collaborative activities. 	None

Issue date	Brief description	Conclusions	Proposals for improvement
Improvement planning and reporting			
May 2016	<p>Wales Audit Office annual improvement plan audit</p> <p>Review of the Council's published plans for delivering on improvement objectives.</p>	The Council has complied with its statutory improvement planning duties.	None
November 2016	<p>Wales Audit Office annual assessment of performance audit</p> <p>Review of the Council's published performance assessment.</p>	The Council has complied with its statutory improvement reporting duties.	None
Reviews by inspection and regulation bodies – no local work			

Appendix 1

Status of this report

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) requires the Auditor General to undertake a forward-looking annual improvement assessment, and to publish an annual improvement report, for each improvement authority in Wales. Improvement authorities (defined as local councils, national parks, and fire and rescue authorities) have a general duty to 'make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of [their] functions'.

The annual improvement assessment considers the likelihood that an authority will comply with its duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement. The assessment is also the main piece of work that enables the Auditor General to fulfil his duties. Staff of the Wales Audit Office, on behalf of the Auditor General, produce the annual improvement report. The report discharges the Auditor General's duties under section 24 of the Measure, by summarising his audit and assessment work in a published annual improvement report for each authority. The report also discharges his duties under section 19 to issue a report certifying that he has carried out an improvement assessment under section 18 and stating whether (as a result of his improvement plan audit under section 17) he believes that the authority has discharged its improvement planning duties under section 15.

The Auditor General may also, in some circumstances, carry out special inspections (under section 21), which will be reported to the authority and Ministers, and which he may publish (under section 22). An important ancillary activity for the Auditor General is the co-ordination of assessment and regulatory work (required by section 23), which takes into consideration the overall programme of work of all relevant regulators at an improvement authority. The Auditor General may also take account of information shared by relevant regulators (under section 33) in his assessments.

Appendix 2

Annual Audit Letter

Councillor Huw David
The Leader
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Reference: PA211/DO/hcj
Date issued: 28 November 2016

Dear Councillor David

Annual Audit Letter – Bridgend County Borough Council 2015-16

This letter summarises the key messages arising from my statutory responsibilities under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and my reporting responsibilities under the Code of Audit Practice.

The Council complied with its responsibilities relating to financial reporting and use of resources

It is the Council's responsibility to:

- put systems of internal control in place to ensure the regularity and lawfulness of transactions and to ensure that its assets are secure;
- maintain proper accounting records;
- prepare a Statement of Accounts in accordance with relevant requirements; and
- establish and keep under review appropriate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires me to:

- provide an audit opinion on the accounting statements;
- review the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources; and

- issue a certificate confirming that I have completed the audit of the accounts.

Local authorities in Wales prepare their accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. This Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards. On 30 September 2016 I issued an unqualified audit opinion on the accounting statements confirming that they present a true and fair view of the Council's financial position and transactions. My report is contained within the Statement of Accounts. The key matters arising from the accounts audit were reported to members of the Audit Committee in my Audit of Financial Statements report on the 29 September 2016, and a more detailed report has also been issued.

Overall the statement of accounts and associated working papers provided for audit were of a reasonable standard although there was some initial confusion over what our expectations were for supporting working papers etc. Officers were very helpful and supplied us with all the information we requested, although there were occasional delays, which is to be expected when information is being collated for the first time. One of the more significant issues noted in my Audit of Financial Statements Report related to a number of debtors and creditors balances that had been incorrectly classified or incorrectly netted up or down. These were mainly historic balances and were corrected in the certified statements, officers have undertaken to ensure these issues do not reoccur in future years.

I am satisfied that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

My consideration of the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness has been based on the audit work undertaken on the accounts as well as placing reliance on the work completed under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. The Auditor General will highlight areas where the effectiveness of these arrangements has yet to be demonstrated or where improvements could be made when he publishes his Annual Improvement Report.

I issued a certificate confirming that the audit of the accounts has been completed on 30 September 2016

My work to date on certification of grant claims and returns has not identified significant issues that would impact on the 2016-17 accounts or key financial systems.

A more detailed report on my grant certification work will follow in 2017 once this year's programme of certification work is complete.

The financial audit fee for 2015-16 is currently expected to be higher than the agreed fee set out in the 2016 Audit Plan due to the additional work that had to be undertaken to verify balances in the Statement of Accounts. The additional fee will be discussed and agreed with the Head of Finance.

Yours sincerely

Derwyn Owen
Engagement Director

For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Appendix 3

National report recommendations 2016-17

Exhibit 2: national report recommendations 2016-17

Date of report	Title of review	Recommendation
August 2016	Financial Resilience of Local Authorities in Wales 2015-16	<p>In our report of 2014-15 (The Financial Resilience of Councils in Wales, April 2015) we made a number of recommendations for local authorities. Many of these recommendations remained relevant and required further work from authorities to address them during 2016-17. In addition, we also made the following recommendations based on our more recent review:</p> <p>R1 Local authorities should strengthen their financial-planning arrangements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing more explicit links between the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and its corporate priorities and service plans; • aligning other key strategies such as workforce and asset management plans with the MTFP; • developing comprehensive multi-year fully costed savings plans which underpin and cover the period of the MTFP, not just the forthcoming annual budget; • categorising savings proposals so that the shift from traditional-type savings to transformational savings can be monitored over the period of the MTFP; and • ensuring timescales for the delivery of specific savings proposals are realistic and accountability for delivery is properly assigned. <p>R2 Local authorities should develop corporate income generation and charging policies.</p> <p>R3 Local authorities should ensure that they have a comprehensive reserves strategy, which outlines the specific purpose of accumulated useable reserves and the impact and use of these in the MTFP.</p> <p>R4 Local authorities should develop key performance indicators to monitor the MTFP.</p> <p>R5 Local authorities should ensure that savings plans are sufficiently detailed to ensure that members are clear as to what the plans are intended to deliver and that the delivery of those plans can be scrutinised appropriately throughout the year.</p> <p>R6 Local authorities should ensure that corporate capacity and capability are at a level that can effectively support the delivery of savings plans in the MTFP at the pace required.</p>

Date of report	Title of review	Recommendation
October 2016	Community Safety in Wales	<p>The seven recommendations within this report required individual and collective action from a range of stakeholders – the Welsh Government, Home Office Wales Team, police and crime commissioners, public service board members and local authorities:</p> <p>R1 Improve strategic planning to better c-ordinate activity for community safety by replacing the existing planning framework with a national strategy supported by regional and local plans that are focused on delivering the agreed national community-safety priorities.</p> <p>R2 Improve strategic partnership working by formally creating effective community-safety boards that replace existing community-safety structures that formalise and draw together the work of the Welsh Government, police forces, local authorities, health boards, fire and rescue authorities, WACSO and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>R3 Improve planning through the creation of comprehensive action plans that cover the work of all partners and clearly identify the regional and local contribution in meeting the national priorities for community safety.</p> <p>R4 Review current grant-funding arrangements and move to pooled budgets with longer-term funding commitments to support delivery bodies to improve project and workforce planning that focuses on delivering the priorities of the national community-safety strategy.</p> <p>R5 Ensure effective management of performance of community safety by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting appropriate measures at each level to enable members, officers and the public to judge progress in delivering actions for community-safety services; • ensuring performance information covers the work of all relevant agencies; and • establishing measures to judge inputs, outputs and impact to be able to understand the effect of investment decisions and support oversight and scrutiny. <p>R6 Revise the systems for managing community-safety risks and introduce monitoring and review arrangements that focus on assuring the public that money spent on community safety is resulting in better outcomes for people in Wales.</p> <p>R7 Improve engagement and communication with citizens through public service boards in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing plans and priorities for community safety; • agreeing priorities for action; and • reporting performance and evaluating impact.

Date of report	Title of review	Recommendation
November 2016	<u>Charging for Services and Generating Income by Local Authorities</u>	<p>This report made eight recommendations, of which six required action from local authorities. Recommendations R4 and R6 required action from the Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government Association:</p> <p>R1 Develop strategic frameworks for introducing and reviewing charges, linking them firmly with the MTFP and the Corporate Plan.</p> <p>R2 Review the unit and total costs of providing discretionary services to clearly identify any deficits and, where needed, set targets to improve the current operating position.</p> <p>R3 Use the impact assessment checklist whenever changes to charges are considered.</p> <p>R5 Identify opportunities to procure private sector companies to collect charges to improve efficiency and economy in collecting income.</p> <p>R7 Improve management of performance, governance and accountability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regularly reporting any changes to charges to scrutiny committee(s); • improving monitoring to better understand the impact of changes to fees and charges on demand, and the achievement of objectives; • benchmarking and comparing performance with others more rigorously; and • providing elected members with more comprehensive information to facilitate robust decision making. <p>R8 Improve the forecasting of income from charges through the use of scenario planning and sensitivity analysis.</p>
January 2017	<u>Local Authority Funding of Third Sector Services</u>	<p>This report made three recommendations, of which two required action from local authorities. Recommendation R3 required action from the Welsh Government:</p> <p>R1 To get the best from funding decisions, local authorities and third-sector bodies need to ensure they have the right arrangements and systems in place to support their work with the third sector. To assist local authorities and third-sector bodies in developing their working practices, we recommend that local-authority and third-sector officers use the <u>Checklist for local authorities effectively engaging and working with the third sector</u> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • self-evaluate current third-sector engagement, management, performance and practice; • identify where improvements in joint working are required; and • jointly draft and implement an action plan to address the gaps and weaknesses identified through the self-evaluation. <p>R2 Poor performance management arrangements are weakening accountability and limiting effective scrutiny of third-sector activity and performance. To strengthen oversight of the third sector, we recommend that elected members scrutinise the review checklist completed by officers, and regularly challenge performance by officers and the local authority in addressing gaps and weaknesses.</p>

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Auditor General for Wales

Good Governance when Determining Significant Service Changes – **Bridgend County Borough Council**

Audit year: 2016-17

Date issued: May 2017

Document reference: 292A2017

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions.

In the event of receiving a request for information to which this document may be relevant, attention is drawn to the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The section 45 code sets out the practice in the handling of requests that is expected of public authorities, including consultation with relevant third parties. In relation to this document, the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office are relevant third parties. Any enquiries regarding

disclosure or re-use of this document should be sent to the Wales Audit Office at info.officer@audit.wales.

The team who delivered the work comprised Catryn Holzinger, Alison Lewis, Ron Price, Steve Barry and Non Jenkins under the direction of Jane Holownia

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Summary report

Summary

- 1 'Governance is about how public bodies ensure that they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which public bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities'¹.
- 2 Good governance is essential for the effective stewardship of public money and the continued delivery of efficient and trusted public services. The current financial climate and reduced settlements for local government as well as rising demand for some services mean that all councils are likely to continue to need to make decisions regarding the future configuration and level of service delivery. It is appropriate that public bodies continuously seek to improve. Small, incremental changes to service delivery are made at a managerial and operational level as part of normal, operational decision-making. However, good governance supported by effective planning and rigorous processes is critical when determining significant service changes. Such decisions are often controversial, generate considerable local interest and can have significant impacts on the individuals and groups affected.
- 3 From April 2016, councils are required to comply with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and associated Statutory Guidance. The Statutory Guidance states that: 'Together, the seven well-being goals and five ways of working provided by the Act are designed to support and deliver a public service that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'². This legislation emphasises the importance of effective governance in achieving well-being goals.
- 4 The focus of this review is on the effectiveness of Bridgend County Borough Council's (the Council) governance arrangements for determining significant service changes. We define this as any significant change in delivering services and/or any significant change in how services are experienced by external service users. This could include, for example, significant changes to the way the service is delivered, the level of service provided, the availability of the service or the cost of the service.
- 5 Taking the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) revised framework for 'Delivering good governance in local government' as an appropriate standard, this review provides the Council with a baseline, from which to plan further improvement. In this assessment, undertaken during the period

¹ **CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2007**

² **Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Welsh Government**

September to November 2016, to inform our assessment of the Council's overall arrangement for developing and determining service changes we looked at aspects of decision-making arrangements in relation to a range of significant service change proposals. The examples of service changes we looked at included:

- Learner travel
- 'Extracare' housing
- Meals at home
- Waste services provision
- Nursery provision
- Public conveniences
- Supported bus services
- Grounds maintenance
- Bereavement services

6 We did not look in detail at each of the individual service change decisions, but rather used them as examples to draw from and inform how the Council goes about making decisions in relation to service changes.

7 In this review, we concluded that **the Council has clear priorities that shape its decisions on significant service change and it seeks to learn and improve its arrangements but there is scope to improve the accessibility of some information.**

Proposals for improvement

Exhibit 1: proposals for improvement

The table below sets out our proposals for improvement:

Proposals for improvement	
P1	The Council should improve the availability and accessibility of information relating to decision-making on significant service change, including, for example, publishing a Forward Work Programme(s) that covers Cabinet and Council business.
P2	The Council should resolve how it will how it will embed the sustainable development principle into decision-making
P3	The Council should clearly set out how the impact of service changes will be monitored at the point of decision.

Detailed report

The Council has clear priorities that shape its decisions on significant service change and it seeks to learn and improve its arrangements, but there is scope to improve the accessibility of some information

The Council has identified three corporate priorities that clearly inform its decisions on significant service changes

- 8 The Council has set out three priorities within its Corporate Plan 2016-2020:
 - Supporting a successful economy;
 - Helping people to become more self-reliant; and
 - Smarter use of resources.
- 9 These priorities provide the Council with a defined focus for activity and Cabinet members and senior officers are able to articulate how they are shaping decisions on service change. There is alignment between the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan and, as part of the budget-setting process, savings proposals are mapped against the three priorities to help ensure they are guiding decision-making.
- 10 The Council has begun to consider the implications of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and on 1 March 2017 reviewed its corporate priorities in the context of the Act.. However, it is not yet clear how it will embed the sustainable development principle into decision-making.

The Council benefits from generally clear governance and accountability arrangements and positive working relationships between officers and members

- 11 Our Corporate Assessment, reported in January 2016, concluded that 'appropriate governance arrangements are in place to drive change', and that 'roles and responsibilities are clear and effective arrangements are in place for holding people to account'. The Council's Constitution sets out responsibilities for its functions and its separate Scheme of Delegation of Functions sets out responsibilities in detail. However, the Scheme of Delegation is not accessible on the Council's website (see paragraph 22) and the Council recognises its website has scope for improvement. Members and officers describe good working relationships. This is particularly the case with Cabinet members and senior managers who meet regularly and state that they work together closely.

- 12 The Council's Cabinet also values the role of scrutiny. Scrutiny members undertake pre-decision scrutiny, including through the scrutiny Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP). The BREP has developed over recent years into a 'standing working group to enable members to engage in more meaningful discussion on budget proposals' and the wider change programme³. It now meets at several points throughout the budget-setting process. Minutes of this meeting are not publicly available but recommendations are reported formally to Corporate Resources and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny committee and then to Cabinet.
- 13 BREP membership is drawn from each of the Council's scrutiny committees. The Council reviewed the effectiveness of BREP in 2015-16 and identified the need for a closer relationship with Cabinet. The Cabinet Member for Resources now attends all BREP meetings. While the intention of this arrangement may be to increase the likelihood of recommendations being accepted, the presence of a Cabinet member has the potential to blur accountability for decision-making between Cabinet and scrutiny members. The Council will need to assure itself that there is sufficient transparency in this arrangement and that accountability for decisions remains clear, particularly as the minutes of BREP meetings are not published.
- 14 Reports to Cabinet, Council and scrutiny committees are checked by the relevant officers before being considered by members. This ensures that legal, financial, equalities and other considerations are taken into account in decision-making. Cabinet reports also include a section on 'effect upon policy framework and procedure rules'. The Council is trialling an electronic report sign-off process that will also show a record of officer comments.

The Council typically considers a range of options for significant service changes that are supported by clear information, but they are not generally accompanied by a formal options appraisal

- 15 The Council generally considers a range of options when making service changes. A project management approach has been used for some larger projects, and in these cases service change objectives and options are set out explicitly. While the Council's project management approach was not widely used for the examples of service changes that we looked at, the Council's decision reports tend to set out a range of options and it is possible to identify the key drivers of, and objectives for, service change within them. However, this means it is not always possible to see a clear set of criteria and a detailed options appraisal process.

³ **Standing Budget Research and Evaluation Panel Proposed Terms of Reference 2015-16, Bridgend County Borough Council**

- 16 Options for service change are accompanied by financial information. For some service change proposals information on consultation and Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are included with Cabinet reports.
- 17 However, one of the examples we looked at related to an increase in fees and charges and it did not appear to be accompanied by multiple options or sufficient information to aid decision-making. Specifically, we noted that some increases in fees and charges were included in the Council's budget even though the precise amount they would rise by had not been determined.
- 18 Scrutiny members play an active role in the development of service change proposals. During our fieldwork officers and members referred to regular meetings between senior officers and scrutiny chairs. This supports forward work planning and pre-decision scrutiny of service changes. The BREP also provides scrutiny members with an opportunity to comment on the viability of service change proposals and to challenge directors and Cabinet members on the deliverability of savings, notwithstanding the potential blurring of accountability referred to in paragraph 13. Scrutiny members also challenge the information accompanying service change proposals. For example, scrutiny members felt that there had not been enough consultation with service users on proposed changes to learner travel, and Cabinet responded to this concern by requesting that officers carry out further work.

The Council has generally effective consultation arrangements when considering significant service changes and it continues to develop them, though the accessibility of information could be improved

- 19 The Council has generally effective arrangements in place to consult stakeholders on service changes. Larger and more complex consultations must be approved by the Council's consultation team. The consultation team provide advice on consultation, but also seek to ensure that equalities and Welsh language considerations have been taken into account. The Council has also placed emphasis on building capacity and knowledge of consultation practice across the organisation. The consultation team has therefore developed a consultation toolkit and runs roadshows for managers to advise them on the level and nature of consultation they should undertake.
- 20 The Council undertook an extensive consultation on changes to waste service provision. It ran the consultation over eight weeks and received a total of 2,795 responses, the highest response rate they have ever received for any consultation exercise. The Council sought to ensure widespread engagement by working with stakeholders, such as the Local Service Board, Bridgend Equality Forum, Bridgend Business Forum and Bridgend First. It also utilised a variety of engagement methods, including an online survey, social media, paper surveys, emails and

telephone responses. The Council's Waste Services Equality Impact Assessment made reference to the Council's intention to use as 'wide a range of consultation, engagement activities and tools as possible' to ensure broad representation⁴. With this in mind, the Council produced a plain language consultation document in English and Welsh and worked with the Bridgend Equality Forum to run a session to support people with additional needs to complete the survey. They also encouraged Bridgend Equality Forum member organisations to take part. Therefore, the Council has undertaken substantial work to seek the views of the public on this issue and adapted its proposals and introduced mitigations in response to data and feedback.

- 21 The Council is able to demonstrate that consultation findings have influenced other decisions on service change. For example, its proposed changes to nursery provision were dropped and its proposed reduction to subsidised bus routes was reduced from £229,000 to £15,000 as a result of consultation.
- 22 The Council's consultation webpages provide details of open and closed consultations. Other information on service change, such as recent committee minutes and reports is accessible on the website. The Council is also seeking to use social media to increase participation in consultations, such as the budget and waste consultations.
- 23 However, the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is not available on the website. This is a departure from the requirements set out in the Council's own constitution, which states that a Cabinet Forward Work Programme will be published at least 14 days before the start of the period covered (a period being four months, except when elections occur). Some key documents such as the Council's Scheme of Delegation and Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes are also not easily accessible on the website as standalone documents. The Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes also contain minimal information and do not cover the content or purpose of items. The Council's website includes a search function for officer and member decisions but at the time of our review this did not appear to operate properly. There are no links to archived scrutiny committee reports, agendas and minutes pre-2014. Taken together, these issues limit the transparency of arrangements and the ability of stakeholders to access information about past and forthcoming decisions.
- 24 The Council is working to improve the accessibility of some of this information. It has informed us that it is developing new scrutiny committee webpages that will include details of how the scrutiny process operates, a scrutiny topic request form and more easily accessible scrutiny forward work programmes. The Council has also begun to webcast some scrutiny meetings covering topics of public interest. This should mean scrutiny of major service changes are more likely to be webcast in future.

⁴ Full Equality Impact Assessment, Changes to Residual Waste Service Provision March 2016, Bridgend County Borough Council

The Council monitors financial savings and the impact of some significant services changes, though this could be strengthened by clearly setting out how impact will be monitored at the point of decision

- 25 The Council regularly monitors progress in delivering financial savings arising from service changes. This happens in a number of fora including Cabinet, Corporate Management Board, Scrutiny Committees and Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA). For service change projects that are managed through the Council's structured project management process, risks, issues and progress against milestones are reported in highlight reports to the Council's Programme Management Board (PMB)⁵. There are examples of scrutiny committees monitoring the impact of service changes, such as the Awen Cultural Trust.
- 26 While the Council monitors financial savings and service performance, its arrangements for reviewing the impact of specific service changes could be more systematic. Some of the Council's Equality Impact Assessments do include reference to how mitigations will be monitored. However, decision reports do not routinely set out how, when and by whom the impact of service change will be monitored. The Council's revised business case template includes a section on benefits/dis-benefits of proposals, although does not explicitly ask for monitoring arrangements to be described. There is therefore an opportunity for the Council to build on the specific examples given above by setting out arrangements at the point of decision. This would ensure there is clarity on how and when service changes will be monitored, and that it happens consistently.
- 27 We identified some examples where the Council has put transition arrangements in place as part of the process of managing service change. For example, an Extracare open day was held for service users, their families and staff. Additional information was provided and a 'grace period' introduced as part of changes to waste services provision.
- 28 The Council is taking steps to improve its approach to Equality Impact Assessments and reports having trained over 100 of its managers on the process during 2016. Cabinet and Committee report templates include a section on Equality Impact Assessments but there are further opportunities to ensure key issues and any mitigating actions are included in that section of the main report, in addition to the separate Equality Impact Assessment document.

⁵ The Programme Management Board aims to provide corporate leadership that supports change throughout the Council. It is attended by all members of Corporate Management Team, representatives from the Corporate Transformation Team and relevant senior responsible officers and managers as required.

The Council is learning from its experience to improve its arrangements for determining and delivering service changes

- 29 The Council reviews and seeks to improve its governance arrangements for determining and delivering service changes. As previously described, the Council has reviewed the BREP and made changes to how often it meets and who attends with a view to increasing its effectiveness. The Council has also revised its project management toolkit for 2016 and we have been informed that there is an intention to use the approach more consistently for service change projects.
- 30 The Council's consultation team informed us that they undertake an evaluation of all of the consultations they deliver or are directly involved with. Notably, they reviewed and adapted the approach to the budget consultation and increased the number of responses from 400 in 2013 to 1,800 in 2015. The Council recently received a legal challenge over proposed changes to learner transport and has responded by reviewing the process it went through. It has since recommended the process to ensure it is fulfilling statutory requirements.

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO COUNCIL
31 JANUARY 2018
REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF FINANCE

COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Council with information regarding the implementation of the 2018-19 Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTR), the requirement to adopt a CTR scheme by 31 January 2018, together with the funding implications.

2. Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The Housing Benefits Service, which administers CTR, is a statutory service which supports our disadvantaged citizens.

3. Background

- 3.1 CTR provides assistance for those on low incomes with a liability to pay Council Tax.
- 3.2 The Welfare Reform Bill published in February 2011 detailed the Government's intention to localise the allocation and administration of Council Tax Benefit (CTB) from 2013-14.
- 3.3 The Government devolved to Welsh Government the establishment of localised schemes in Wales, and stated the intention to reduce expenditure on CTB by the equivalent of 10%.
- 3.4 The Welsh Government decided to develop a single nationally defined scheme set out in regulations for the provision of Council Tax support in Wales. The scheme also provided for a small number of discretionary elements which individual councils can choose to adopt; any additional associated costs were to be locally funded.
- 3.5 On 11 January 2017, the Council adopted the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017-18 in accordance with The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013. This scheme will end on 31 March 2018.
- 3.6 From the latest data, there are currently 13,892 households receiving CTR; 8,517 of these are of working age and 5,375 are of pensionable age. Out of the 13,892 households receiving CTR, 10,615 are entitled to a full CTR reduction.

4. Current Situation

4.1 **The Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018-19**

4.2 The CTR Scheme in Wales is set by regulations made under Schedule 1B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as inserted by the Local Government Finance Act 2012).

4.3 On 27 November 2013, the Assembly laid regulations that implemented the arrangements to support those who will pay council tax. The regulations (Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2013) prescribe the main features of the scheme to be adopted by all councils in Wales. Minor amendments to these regulations were made in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

4.4 The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 have now been laid. These regulations uprate the financial figures used in the CTR schemes and makes amendments to:

- Mirror changes made to the benefit system with respect to Employment Support Allowance.
- Make changes to reflect new service provision arrangements following the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.
- Make changes to address an anomaly within the wording of the amending provisions included within the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 with respect to changes of circumstances provisions.
- Make a number of changes with respect to payments which are disregarded for the purposes of calculating 'income' and/or 'capital'. These include the new bereavement support payments among others.

4.5 The new regulations do not contain any significant changes from the claimants' perspective to the current scheme, and the maximum level of support that eligible claimants can receive remains at 100%. The regulations can be found at:

<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=20675>

4.6 Within the Prescribed Requirements Regulations, there is limited discretion given to the Council to apply discretionary elements that are more generous than the national scheme. These are:

- The ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to persons after they return to work where they have previously been receiving CTR that is to end as a result of their return to work;

- Discretion to increase the amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions which is to be disregarded when calculating income of the claimant; and
 - The ability to backdate the application of CTR with regard to late claims prior to the new standard period of three months before the claim.
- 4.7 It is required by the Prescribed Requirements Regulations that the Council adopts a CTR Scheme by 31 January 2018, regardless of whether it applies any of the discretionary elements. If the Council fails to make a scheme, then a default scheme shall apply under the provisions of the Default Scheme Regulations. The Council can only apply discretion if it makes its own scheme under the Prescribed Requirements Regulations.
- 4.8 **Consultation**
- 4.9 The 2015 amendment regulations removed the requirement for local authorities to publish a draft scheme and consult interested persons where a billing authority revises a scheme in consequence of amendments made to the Prescribed Requirement Regulations. The effect of the amendment was to remove the requirement for local authorities to consult in relation to changes made by Welsh Ministers (as opposed to the discretionary areas of the scheme), over which local authorities have no discretion.
- 4.10 Consultation on the Prescribed Requirement Regulations was undertaken in 2016 and the results detailed in the Report of the Head of Finance's Council Tax Reduction report to Council on 11 January 2017. This report can be found at <https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MIId=2697&Ver=4&LLL=0>. As it is proposed not to change the discretionary elements, a further consultation exercise has not been completed.
- 4.11 It is proposed that the discretionary elements remain as follows:
- The extended payment period is maintained at the minimum standard of 4 weeks.
 - War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions are fully disregarded when calculating entitlement to CTR. The estimated cost of this proposal is £15,300.
 - Backdating is maintained at the minimum standard of 3 months.
- 4.12 The total estimated cost to the Council for these proposals is £15,300 for 2018-19.
- 4.13 **Main Issues**

- 4.14 The Council must consider whether to replace or revise its CTR scheme and is obliged to make a scheme under the requirements of the Prescribed Requirements Regulations. The obligation is a statutory duty and applies even if the Council chose not to apply any of the discretions available to it.
- 4.15 The Council's recommended approach to the available discretions is to apply the recommendations in Table 4, paragraph 4.23. It should be noted that there are no additional monies available from the Welsh Government to fund the discretionary elements.
- 4.16 The scheme must be administered by local authorities within a fixed budget. There are significant difficulties adequately funding a service which is demand led with a fixed cost budget provision. The Welsh Government has confirmed there will be no additional funding to bridge any gap and each authority will be expected to meet any shortfall.
- 4.17 The Council continues to have powers to support hardship on an individual basis or in respect of a defined group. Such arrangements cannot, however, form part of the CTR Scheme itself.
- 4.18 **Adoption of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme**
- 4.19 The Council is required to adopt a scheme by 31 January 2018 under The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013, regardless of whether it chooses to apply any of the discretionary elements. If the Council fails to make a scheme, then a default scheme will apply under the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.
- 4.20 It is recommended that the Council adopts:
- a Scheme under The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013, which includes all the elements that must be included in the scheme, as set out in the Regulations; and with regard to the discretionary elements, includes the recommendations in Table 4 set out at Paragraph 4.23 below; and
 - The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014; and
 - The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015; and
 - The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.
 - The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.
 - The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.

4.21 Part 5 of The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 (Other matters that must be included in an Authority's Scheme) identifies which elements of the prescribed requirements of a scheme are minimum only requirements and in respect of which local authorities have an element of discretion.

4.22 The recommendation in relation to the available discretionary elements is contained in Table 4 below: and takes into account the following:

- The consultation responses received in 2016, in particular those relating to the discretionary elements,
- The current local scheme in relation to the treatment of War Disablement Pensions, War Widows Pensions and War Widowers Pensions for Housing Benefit and 2017-18 CTR scheme, which disregards these payments in full,
- The fixed funding available.

4.23 Table 4 – Discretionary elements

Part 5 – Other matters that must be included in an authority's scheme	Prescribed Requirement Regulations (Minimum Requirements)	Recommended Details to be Adopted with regard to discretionary elements
Ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to applicants where they have previously been receiving a council tax reduction that is to end, as they have ceased receiving qualifying benefits as a result of returning to work, increasing their hours of work, or receiving increased earnings. Regulation 32 (3) and Regulation 33 (3), paragraph (33) Schedule 1 and paragraph (35) and (40) Schedule 6.	4 weeks	<p>Pensioners: The 4 weeks period specified in paragraph (33) Schedule 1 will apply, and</p> <p>Non-pensioners: The 4 weeks period specified in paragraph (35) and (40) Schedule 6 will apply.</p>
Ability to backdate applications of CTR for the minimum requirements specified in the Regulations will apply periods longer than the standard period of 3 months before the claim is made. Regulation 34 (4) and Paragraph (3) and (4) of Schedule 13.	3 months	<p>Pensioners: The period of 3 months specified in paragraph (3) Schedule 13 will apply, and</p> <p>Non-pensioners: The period of 3 months specified in paragraph 4, Schedule 13 will apply.</p>

Part 5 – Other matters that must be included in an authority’s scheme	Prescribed Requirement Regulations (Minimum Requirements)	Recommended Details to be Adopted with regard to discretionary elements
Ability to disregard more than the statutory weekly £10 of income received in respect of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions and War Widowers Pensions (disregarded when calculating income of the applicant); Regulation 34 (5), Paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b) Schedule 4 and Paragraphs 20(a) and 20(b) of Schedule 9	£10	<p>Pensioners: The total value of any pension specified in paragraph 1(a) and 1(b) Schedule 4 will be disregarded.</p> <p>Non-pensioners: The total value of any pension specified in paragraph 20(a) and 20(b) Schedule 9 will be disregarded.</p>

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the 2013-14 CTR scheme and as the proposed scheme for 2018-19 does not contain any significant changes, a further Equality Impact Assessment has not been conducted.

6.2 The Welsh Government has undertaken a detailed regulatory impact assessment, which includes an equality impact assessment; the findings reported were in line with their expectations.

6.3 The Council has undertaken a consultation exercise and this consultation assists the Council in satisfying the public sector equality duty in the Equality Act 2010.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The 2018-19 Final Local Government Settlement shows that the sum provided for CTR across Wales is at the same level as 2017-18. Bridgend’s 2018-19 final settlement from Welsh Government includes £12.907 million to fund the CTR scheme, a reduction of £19,000 from £12.926 million in 2017-18; this amount does not take into account any increase in council tax charges but is distributed based on expenditure on council tax reduction schemes in previous years.

7.2 Any shortfall between the amount provided in the settlement and the amount of CTR awarded, including any discretionary elements, will fall on the Council. Based on the current caseload the estimated total cost of the scheme for 2018-19 is around £13.9 million (including the cost of the discretionary elements). Recent indications are that there has been a reduction in caseload and this is reflected in the MTFS Budget Reductions for 2018-19; however it is not certain that this will continue and it will need to be monitored closely. Additional funding of £1 million to meet the full cost of the CTR scheme was included in the base budget as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-15 to 2017-18 (MTFS). In addition, further funding is also provided through the MTFS to meet demographic changes and changes arising as a result of the increase in council tax. This will be kept under review throughout the MTFS period.

8. Recommendation

8.1 It is recommended that Council:

- Note The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013, and the 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 amendment regulations.
- That Council adopts the scheme, the details of which are given in paragraphs 4.18 to 4.23 of this report.

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Background Documents

Welfare Reform Act 2012

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/5/contents/enacted>

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3029/contents/made>

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2013

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3035/contents/made>

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/66/contents/made>

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2015/44/contents/made>

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/50/contents/made>

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/46/contents/made>

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018

<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=20675>

Welsh Government's Council Tax Support in Wales – Equality Impact Assessment

<http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/equality/140603-council-tax-impact-en.pdf>

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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