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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.*



Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Andrew Rees

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Thursday, 15 November 2018

Dear Councillor,

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB on **Wednesday, 21 November 2018 at 15:00.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest from Members/Officers in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 5 - 28
To receive for approval the minutes of 24/10/18
4. To receive announcements from:
(i) Mayor (or person presiding)
(ii) Members of the Cabinet
(iii) Chief Executive
5. To receive the report of the Leader
6. 2019-20 Council Tax Base 29 - 32
7. Porthcawl Regeneration Scheme Update 33 - 44
8. Parc Afon Ewenni 45 - 50
9. School Modernisation Programme - Band B 51 - 62
10. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-18 63 - 84
11. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Alex Williams

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That this Council:

Regrets the provisional local government funding settlement for 2019/2020 which will deliver a 0.6% cut to Bridgend County Borough Council.

Notes with concern the Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council's warning that educational outcomes for children will be affected by school budget cuts unless major changes are made to the local government funding settlement.

Welcomes the additional £550 million which the Welsh Government will receive from the UK Government Treasury between now and 2021 and calls on the Welsh Government to prioritise local government funding.

Calls on the Welsh Government to immediately review its funding formula for local government to adequately fund the additional pressures faced by councils as a result of pay awards, an increase in employers' contributions to teachers' pensions and increases in the national living wage for externally commissioned services.

Endorses the WLGA's recommendations contained in its recent publication, "Fair and Sustainable Funding for Essential Local Services" and believes that the Welsh Government should look to empower local authorities to make financial decisions locally by providing financial flexibility through the Revenue Support Grant rather than the centralisation of funding in the form of a specific grants.

Calls on Bridgend County Borough Council to do all it can to protect core services in education and social services directorates in its 2019/20 budget.

12. To receive the following Questions from the Executive from:

Question to the Cabinet Member Communities from Councillor Altaf Hussain

Could the Cabinet Member let the Council know if the school crossing service is being removed?

Question to the Leader from Councillor Tom Giffard

On November 1st, the Bridgend GEM reported that the BCBC Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration has said that a 'massive recession, unemployment, shortages and international humiliation' would be a 'good thing' in the long run if it meant that Britain stayed within the EU.

Could the Leader explain the Cabinet's position regarding these comments, and confirm whether or not they are the council's preferred outcome?

13. Urgent Items

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

14. Exclusion of the Public

The Minutes and Reports relating to the following items are not for publication as they contain exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4, and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

If following the application of the public interest test the Committee resolves pursuant to the Act to consider these items in private, the public will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration.

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| 15. | <u>Approval of Exempt Minutes</u> | 85 - 86 |
| | To receive for approval the exempt minutes of the meeting of 24/10/18 | |
| 16. | <u>Redundancy and Early Retirement Costs in excess of £100,000</u> | 87 - 90 |

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Head of Legal and Regulatory Services

Councillors:

S Aspey
SE Baldwin
TH Beedle
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

Councillors

A Hussain
RM James
B Jones
M Jones
MJ Kearns
DRW Lewis
JE Lewis
JR McCarthy
DG Owen
D Patel
RL Penhale-Thomas
AA Pucella
JC Radcliffe
KL Rowlands
B Sedgebeer
RMI Shaw
CE Smith
SG Smith

Councillors

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

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COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2018

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2018 AT 15:00

Present

Councillor JR McCarthy – Chairperson

S Aspey	SE Baldwin	TH Beedle	JPD Blundell
NA Burnett	MC Clarke	N Clarke	RJ Collins
HJ David	P Davies	PA Davies	DK Edwards
J Gebbie	T Giffard	RM Granville	CA Green
DG Howells	A Hussain	RM James	M Jones
MJ Kearns	DRW Lewis	JE Lewis	D Patel
RL Penhale-Thomas	AA Pucella	KL Rowlands	B Sedgebeer
RMI Shaw	CE Smith	SG Smith	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

Apologies for Absence

SK Dendy, B Jones, DG Owen, JC Radcliffe and JC Spanswick

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Gill Lewis	Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Darren Mepham	Chief Executive
Michael Pitman	Business & Administrative Apprentice
Kelly Watson	Head of Legal & Regulatory Services

224. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Head of Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer gave the following advice to Members in respect of an agenda some Members may have an interest in later in the meeting (i.e. Agenda Item 10), as follows:-

Members who are in the pension fund will have a personal interest in this item. However, under the Code of Conduct if that interest arises from their membership of the fund through their Councillor salaries they would not have a prejudicial interest. This exemption applies to them personally and would not apply to any interest they had as a result of family being part of the pension fund. It was for each Member to consider their own individual circumstances, she concluded.

The following declaration of interest was made:-

Councillor RM James Agenda Item 8 personal interest in that his wife worked for the Wales Audit Office.

The following declarations of interest were made in respect of Agenda Item 10:-

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2018

Councillor PJ White personal interest.

Councillor DBF White prejudicial interest as his wife was in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor DG Howells personal interest, as well as a prejudicial interest as a representative Member of WDA.

Councillor P Davies personal interest.

Councillor HJ David prejudicial interest in that close family relatives are in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor HM Williams personal interest.

Councillor CE Smith personal interest as well as a prejudicial interest due to a close family member being a beneficiary member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor S Baldwin personal and prejudicial interest.

Councillor MJ Kearn prejudicial interest as a close family Member was in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor G Thomas prejudicial interest as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor KJ Watts prejudicial interest.

Councillor RM Shaw personal interest.

Councillor N Clarke personal and prejudicial interest.

Councillor MC Voisey personal interest.

Councillor N Burnett personal interest as a close family relative is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor M Jones personal as a recipient of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor T Beedle prejudicial interest as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor A Williams personal and prejudicial interest as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor D Patel personal interest as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor MC Clarke personal interest as he has paid into the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor S Aspey personal interest as he is a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor T Thomas personal interest as he had previously paid into the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor J Gebbie personal interest.

Councillor R Penhale-Thomas prejudicial interest as his husband was in the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Councillor R Collins prejudicial interest as his wife was a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Those Members above who had declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 10, advised that they would leave the meeting whilst this item was being considered.

225. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of Council dated 19 September 2018, be approved as a true and accurate record.

226. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

Mayor

The Mayor extended his congratulations are due to the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Bridgend Extrication Team. The team recently retained their title of the very best in the UK for the sixth time. The team fought off strong competition from teams across the country at a Challenge event in Cardiff Bay which was hosted by the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. He gave a big thank you to all involved for their continued dedication and hard work.

He had a busy period since the last Council meeting, with Judy and he having carried out 28 official engagements, which had been varied, different and very enjoyable. He especially mentioned:

- Mrs Catherine Powell's 100th Birthday at Oakland's Residential care home Bridgend, she has only recently moved from her home in Penprysg Pencoed
- We attended the 60th Wedding anniversary of Mr and Mrs Lewis of Nantyffyllon.
- The opening of Brynmenyn School by the First Minister Carwyn Jones was well attended by Members, this is the fifth new school to open in five years and demonstrates the authority's ongoing commitment to first class education.
- After the last Council meeting we had the pleasure of raising the RAF ensign to celebrate 100 years since their formation. I would like to thank all who attended to help us commemorate this important milestone.
- We attended KPC's Macmillan coffee morning and a Rotary Club Charity lunch in aid of the Tenovus Closer to Home appeal which raised over £7,000 for this excellent cause.
- The Interfaith Seminar and dinner at City Hall Cardiff was an excellent evening and a great chance to meet people from all faiths and backgrounds.
- The Annual Bridgend Business Forum awards held at the Coed-y-Mwstwr were another highlight and I will be visiting all the winners to offer congratulations in person, meet their staff and see the work that they do.
- My Mayoral Civic service was well attended and he thanked all the officers who took part for their hard work in making the event a such a success.
- Congratulations to the Bridgend Cancer Research shop who celebrated their 25th Birthday, the shop and its dedicated band of volunteers have raised over £1.8 million pounds during that period.

- We were honoured to be invited to the presentation of the British Empire Medal to Mr. John Berry in recognition of his lifetime's work for the YMCA. I was also delighted to invite Mr. Roger Hudd into the civic offices to receive his BEM for all his hard work over the years in respect of various charities.

To conclude the Mayor reminded all male Councillors that after the meeting today there will be a photo opportunity in support of the White Ribbon Campaign. Members should have already received an email to this effect from Councillor David White who is our White Ribbon Champion and it would be nice if as many male Councillors as possible could participate to show our support and commitment to this important initiative he concluded.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader hoped that Members found the pre-Council Budget workshop useful and illuminating, and those that could not make that, could attend a repeat session on the same topic after Council.

Our budget consultation recently crossed the half-way mark and is continuing to draw a strong response, but he asked all Members to please continue to make every effort to encourage their constituents to take part in this to have their say.

He was sure that Members will have seen recent media coverage about the forthcoming Council budget, warning that significant service cuts and an increase in council tax are now unavoidable.

Unfortunately, following an extremely disappointing allocation, this is no exaggeration. The Council would be receiving less money with increased pressures

The nationally-negotiated pay increase for teachers will take this year's overall budget shortfall to more than £12m. While Welsh Government indicate providing additional funding to help meet this extra financial pressure, there was no indication yet whether or not this will cover the full amount, or whether it will only partially contribute to the cost.

A council tax increase by around 5 per cent next year would not cover even a third of the shortfall the Authority faces.

BCBC were no longer in a position to be able to protect services that many people regard as being essential, and therefore, significant cuts were now unavoidable.

Nearly three quarters of the budget goes towards Schools and Social Care services, but the Council had been forced into a position where it can no longer offer any guarantees.

The fact of the matter was that local authorities were not getting the increase they needed to cover basic costs. He was therefore appealing to all Councillors, now more than ever, to work together.

All Members needed to be realistic about this situation, and accept that a number of important services must be reduced or even withdrawn entirely. At the same time, central Government and Welsh Government must also accept that this cannot go on indefinitely.

As many views as possible needed to be taken into account, so he asked all Councillors to urge their constituents to complete the budget consultation.

It was available at the Council website, in hard copy, in a range of alternative formats, including easy-read and one produced especially for younger residents.

As part of the consultation, a Social Media debate is being organised for 7th November to help encourage as many people as possible to take part before the process closes for analysis.

The deadline for returning all completed consultation surveys is 18 November 2018. After that some very difficult decisions will need to be made he concluded.

Cabinet Member – Communities

The Cabinet Member – Communities announced that the first big storm of the season had been and gone and council workers were once more out in the thick of it as dedicated staff made sure that everything continued to run smoothly.

Gullies were regularly jetted to ensure that they remained free of obstruction, and our highway inspectors, supervisors and drainage teams responded to a number of incidents and resolved numerous issues to prevent them from becoming a bigger problem.

The Council had distributed a large quantity of sandbags, responded to reports of localised flooding and removed several fallen trees to keep roads safe and the county borough moving.

Flood sensors kept us aware of rising water levels, especially at Heol Faen, Greenacre and Wyndham Street. As before, much of this was caused by the sheer volume of rain that fell, but also by debris and fly tipping which washed downstream to block drains and culverts.

As Members could imagine, this was cold, uncomfortable difficult work, but our staff were on hand to respond and help, each and every time.

He was sure that Members will want to acknowledge their efforts, and thank everyone who played a part in keeping our communities safe.

We have received more than £1.7m from Welsh Government to fund further Active Travel schemes. These are designed to make it easier for residents to leave their cars at home when making local journeys, and the money will be spent on a number of schemes and improvements.

The biggest single investment of £500,000, will complete the missing link between Coychurch and Pencoed Comprehensive School with an off-road route for pedestrians and cyclists along Coychurch Road.

The second largest investment, £450,000, is benefitting Porthcawl by extending the active travel route along the Eastern Promenade from Coney Beach so it that it continues through to Newton Primary School along New Road.

Other works are included in the funding, and we will also be investing it in design and feasibility costs for the next eight planned Active Travel schemes.

Active Travel improvements take time, energy and money to establish, and he was delighted to see how an extensive local network of safe cycling and walking routes is coming together in Bridgend County Borough.

Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help

Safeguarding and protection services for our most vulnerable residents received a significant boost recently with the official launch of the Bridgend Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub announced the above Cabinet Member.

Also known as MASH, the new integrated service became operational in September, and is the third hub of its kind in Wales.

Based at the Ravens Court offices, the MASH brings together more than 80 professionals including police officers, social workers, education welfare officers, nurses, probation officers and more.

It is a true partnership effort, and is designed to support more efficient information sharing so that faster assessments to take place, in turn ensuring that vulnerable people can receive the support they need.

This is an incredibly significant development in how we are finding new ways of providing essential services, and represents a welcome addition to the county borough's existing safeguarding arrangements.

Members may also have noticed that it was National Adoption Week recently. As far as we are concerned here in Bridgend, every week is adoption and fostering week. As you know, we have dedicated staff in place who work to recruit more people able to offer a home to vulnerable children.

Our current 'empty nesters' and 'bridge the gap' campaigns are targeting households where children may have grown-up and moved away, and we are seeking people who are over 21, fit and well enough to care for children, who have a spare bedroom and who can provide a stable home for a local child.

Anyone who would like to find out more can do so by visiting the Bridgend Foster Care website, or calling the fostering team on 642674.

BCBC's programme of support for newly qualified social workers has earned them an award at the Social Care Wales Accolades, the BAFTA's of the social care world.

The local authority took top spot in the 'Developing a confident and sustainable workforce' category at the prestigious award ceremony held in Cardiff City Hall.

The Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help, was thrilled to have been recognised for the imaginative way that our programme helps new social workers get their careers off to the best possible start.

New social workers are given support, teaching and mentoring through a mixture of in-house workshops and training events with outside speakers, as well as individual and group mentoring sessions.

The biennial 'Accolades' awards, organised by Social Care Wales with support from partners and sponsors, are held to reward excellent practice in social work, social care, early years and childcare he concluded.

Cabinet Member – Wellbeing and Future Generations

The Cabinet Member – Wellbeing and Future Generations confirmed that it was great to see that developers Lovell are creating 48 new energy-efficient, high-quality affordable

homes for local people at Coychurch Road following their appointment by Hafod Housing.

The £5.4m design and build scheme has been developed in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council, and will deliver some much-needed new social rented homes.

The new development will provide significant training and employment opportunities for local people, including 3 apprenticeships, 6 jobs, 7 paid traineeships and more than 150 hours of work experience placements.

The housing will be completed in phases, and the final properties are scheduled to become ready to occupy in May 2019.

She also took an opportunity to remind members that October is Black History Month, and asked members to help promote the Ethnic Minority and Youth Support Team Wales event.

This was taking place on Tuesday 30 October at Bridgend College, and is aimed at Black Asian and Minority Ethnic people living in Bridgend.

It hopes to gauge a better understanding of their experience of health and social services.

If Members knew of anyone who would be interested in attending, then she asked them to contact the Council's Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager for more details.

Cabinet Member – Education and Regeneration

The above Cabinet Member wished to congratulate Oldcastle Primary School for embracing a junior savings scheme organised by Bridgend Lifesavers Credit Union.

Around 76 children took part in the first week of the scheme and saved £340 of their pocket money.

Membership now stands at 236, and the school has saved a total of £11,900 so far.

As member-owned financial co-operatives, credit unions can accept deposits and give out low-interest loans.

The initiative is teaching the pupils about the importance of saving and financial matters, and is supporting the development of skills such as numeracy, team working, communications and more.

The school's efforts have been recognised with a top prize from Credit Unions of Wales.

As research by the Money Advice Service has revealed that one person in every six in Wales is at risk of being unable to keep up with credit repayments, the scheme is even more worthwhile. He extended his thanks to all concerned.

He hoped members saw the recent feature about the latest developments at Bridgend Indoor Market, but for the benefit of those who may have missed it, since launching our plan to revive the market's fortunes, five new businesses have signed leases for stalls and we are expecting to make further announcements soon.

The new stalls are offering a diverse mix of goods that range from vintage vinyl, protein health food and Welsh gifts to boutique fashions and specialist wool and knitting supplies.

Members will also see work taking place to give the exterior of the market a fresh new look as a series of illustrative panels are erected, and the historic market bell is moved to a more prominent location.

We have worked closely with market traders, the Rhiw Shopping Centre, Bridgend Town Council, the CF31 business improvement group, Watts and Morgan and local elected members on this, and it ably demonstrates just what partnership working can achieve.

The news has been extremely well received, especially on social media, and bodes well for future developments and further initiatives.

Finally, Members may also wish to advise their constituents that secondary school admissions for September 2019 have now opened, and that for the first time, parents and guardians can make applications online by using a form which is available in the 'My Account' section of the council website.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Authority had embarked on a series of management reviews across the organisation. All Councillors will have received already an overview of the senior management structure in the new Chief Executives Directorate

Yesterday Zak Shell was appointed to the role of Head of Operations in the Communities Directorate following an assessment centre style competency based selection process.

Further changes at third tier are also moving forward in that Directorate and Members would be advised of the senior structure when that was complete.

He added that further changes to third tier management have also been completed in Children's Social Services, with further consultations underway in the Directorate.

In the Education Directorate, the Adult learning and Skills and economy functions have been moved to become part of the education directorate thus better aligning our learning and skills offer from early year's right through to working age adults. However, any senior management changes will only be considered once we have concluded our exploration of collaboration options with Merthyr Council.

All of these changes seek to strike a balance, responding to the overall reduction in staff numbers as the council becomes a smaller organisation, realising financial savings and maintaining our drive for ever closer integration of functions to support the 'One Council' approach.

As Members may be aware, the UK Government's refugee resettlement programme is helping to provide safe, secure accommodation for families of refugees fleeing the Middle East conflict.

Up to 1,500 are expected to settle in Wales, and to date, six families totalling 31 people have been rehomed in Bridgend County Borough where they have fully integrated into local life.

We have recently agreed via Cabinet yesterday, to house a further five families between now and 2020. UK Government is making specific funding available to facilitate this, and we will be working with Hafod Housing to support them.

As before, Hafod will manage tenancies in the private rented sector for the refugee families, and there will therefore be no impact or knock-on effect on the existing housing list.

If it is still unsafe for them to return home after five years, the refugees will be able to apply to the UK Government to remain in the UK.

There will be further updates as the programme develops.

Members will also be aware of the wealth of activity undertaken by faith communities of all denominations, very often working on agendas that are also important to us and our partners. For example supporting people at risk or experiencing homelessness, supporting people living in poverty or connecting people and addressing isolation

The public service board of which Bridgend is a member is organising an event in November to coincide with interfaith week. This event will bring together representative of those organisations and facilitate networking and exchange of ideas and approaches. It is also intended allow networking between these organisations and some statutory agencies working to address similar issues such as the fire service, social care and housing.

Monitoring Officer

The Monitoring Officer wished to advise Members that an extra meeting of the Audit Committee has been added to the Programme of Meetings 2018/19, in order to adequately consider the number of items of business that comprise the Committees current Annual Forward Work Programme. This meeting will take place on Thursday 13 December 2018 at 2.00pm in these offices. Finance Officers and the Chairperson have agreed to the meeting being added to the Programme of Meetings, and Members of the Committee have been advised that a further meeting is required.

Council are asked to note this information, and that the meeting will be added to the Audit Committee Members' electronic calendars in the immediate future.

She also reminded Members that they would shortly be forwarded a form to complete with regard to Disclosure and Barring Checks. This needed to be returned to the Council at the earliest opportunity.

227. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader reminded all members that Darren Mephram was leaving the authority in the New Year to take up a new role as Chief Executive of Barnett and Southgate further education college in north London.

He took the opportunity to offer Darren his congratulations. The Authority had made significant progress in the six years that he had been employed here, and it had faced some of the most challenging circumstances this Council has ever seen.

This has included developments with the change in health board, working through difficult financial challenges to deliver a balanced budget and sound finances, achieving further collaboration with our neighbouring councils like the shared regulatory services, radical changes to streamline the managements of all directorate including establishing

a new directorate which has brought together the majority of our corporate services and of course he has reduced senior management costs by over a third.

Darren would be with BCBC for the next three months and will continue to play a hands-on leading role in that time. As an authority, we would be seeking to appoint a permanent replacement to the post as soon as possible, and he had been, and would be speaking further with Cabinet colleagues and group leaders about the interim arrangements required to put in place.

Darren will be here for two more Council meetings between now and starting his new role so today wasn't a time to say goodbye.

We have a very capable and skilled senior management team in place who between them have decades of experience, and the Leader was very confident that our ambitious programmes will all continue to move forward.

Welsh Government has confirmed that EU funding of £1.5m is to be invested in Porthcawl's all-new water sports centre at Rest Bay. The funding is being made available as part of Welsh Government's new Tourism Attractor Destination programme, which has been launched by Visit Wales to create 13 must-see tourist destinations. The water sports centre will be one of these, and is designed to appeal to water sports enthusiasts throughout South Wales and beyond. Work has started, and a 'selfie board' has been erected on fencing placed around the building site to minimise the visual impact of the works, and demonstrate our efforts to ensure Porthcawl continues to thrive and grow as one of Wales's premier coastal resorts.

The Leader announced that he was delighted to attend the official opening of the all-new Brynmenyn Primary School by the First Minister last week. The £9m school is just one of the latest to be delivered as part of our flagship 21st Century school modernisation programme, and follows hot on the heels of the official opening of the new Betws Primary.

The former premises located at Bryn Road was more than a hundred years old, and could not expand due to being surrounded by common land.

The new school is twice the size and offers a nursery, 14 large classrooms equipped with modern learning technology, state-of-the-art educational facilities and more than 14,000 square metres of specially designed open space. This is contrast to the former site which had a small yard and did not have a single blade of grass.

It's new home next to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen benefits from a dedicated car park and safe drop-off and pick-up zones, and also incorporates a memorial to a school heroine, Sarah Jane Howell, a former assistant teacher who died in 1911 while saving a pupil from drowning.

The old school building, partly because of its hillside location was simply not accessible for children with significant physical disabilities One of the many advantages of the new home is that local children who could not be educated at the old location can now attend their community school. Hearing the mum of one of the little boys who is now at Brynmenyn because of the fully accessible modern facilities and what it means to her was a reminder of the difference that this investment has made, as was listening to the emotional speeches of the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher at the official opening.

Brynmenyn Primary has a proud history behind it, and thanks to the efforts of everyone who has contributed towards the delivery of this project, the school also has a bright future ahead of it.

228. ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

The Chief Executive presented a report the purpose of which, was to present the Council's Annual Report 2017-18 (attached at Appendix A) for Council to consider and approve.

He began his submission by advising that it was a legal requirement for Council to publish an assessment of its performance for the previous financial year, prior to 31 October.

The Plan had defined 38 commitments to deliver the three well-being objectives and identified 53 outcome-focused indicators for the financial year 2017-28.

The aim/objective of the Plan was to gauge how well the Council performed in 2017-18, using success measures and other fact based evidence.

Paragraph 4.2 of the report, confirmed that the Council performed well during the above period, with of the 37 commitments taken forward, the Council carried out to completion 29 of these (nearly 79%) with a further 6 (16%) being mostly completed. The Chief Executive confirmed that these were well in hand to complete, and he gave reasons why these had not to date been fully completed.

The Corporate Plan identified 53 indicators to measure success and 51 indicators had been collected for the year. Of those with a target, he advised that the Council met or exceeded the target for nearly 69%, with a further 10% missing the target marginally. Detailed information about the Council's performance against its commitments and targets was included in Appendix A to the report.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Annual Report also provided a summary of budgets for the year, regulators' findings, themes that underpin our work and an overview of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

He concluded his submission, by confirming that once approved, the Annual Report will be published on the Council's website and shared with stakeholders. Hard copies of the report would also be produced and placed in the Council's public libraries.

The Leader reiterated the words of the Chief Executive, adding that the 6 commitments currently showing as uncompleted would be completed at the earliest possible opportunity and applauded work undertaken to date, such as for example, the Bridges into Work Scheme and the Kerrigan Project.

A Member also added that it would be welcomed if all Members had the opportunity of receiving the Presentation with regard to the 'Get on Track Programme' given previously to some Members and Officers by Jodie Coupland, a former pupil of Ysgol Bryn Castell School.

This programme was explained within the penultimate paragraph on page 36 of the Appendix. Members felt that this would be worthwhile.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the Annual Report 2017-18, attached at Appendix A to the covering report.

229. TREASURY MANAGEMENT – HALF YEAR REPORT 2018-19

The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the Code), to provide an overview of treasury activities as part of a mid-year review. The report also provided a summary of the Treasury Management activities from 1 April to 30 September 2018 and reports on the projected Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2018-19.

The report was based on the Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) for 2018-19 which was approved by Council on 28 February 2018.

She explained that CIPFA published new editions of Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities in late December 2017, however, the TMS 2018-19 (and therefore this report) have been produced using the 2011 Codes due to the timing of the changes and there was still some information which had yet to be published when the TMS was produced.

In March 2018, the Welsh Government also published an amendment to the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations which enables the Council to invest in certain instruments which were previously treated as capital expenditure (for example Money Market Funds) without the potential revenue cost of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and without the proceeds from sale being considered a capital receipt.

The Council's external debt and investment position for 1 April to 30 September 2018 was shown in table 1 within the report, and more detail was provided in section 4.3 of the report, the Borrowing Strategy and Outturn and section 4.4 which explained the Investment Strategy and Outturn.

For Members information the Bank Rate started the financial year at 0.50% and remained at that rate until 2 August 2018, when the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee increased the rate by 0.25% to 0.75%. The current forecast is that there will be a further 0.25% increase in the Bank Rate by March 2019 reaching 1% by the end of 2018-19.

The key points to note in the report, were:

The total gross external debt outstanding 30 September 2018 £117.52m made up of:

- The £96.87m borrowing made up of :
- £77.62m relating to long term Public Works Loan Board at fixed rates (average rate 4.70%)
- £19.25m with a maturity date of 2054 relating to Lender's Option Borrower's Option loans which may be re-scheduled in advance of the maturity date (average rate 4.65%)

The Council would take the option to repay the LOBO loans at no cost if it had the opportunity to do so in the future.

Following advice from TM Advisers Arlingclose, the Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer confirmed that the Council approached the LOBO's lender for potential repayment options in 2017-18. However, the premium was deemed too excessive to

action, but the Council would take the option to repay these loans at no cost if it has the opportunity to do so in the future.

The last time the Council took long term borrowing was £5 million from the PWLB in March 2012 and it is not expected that there will be a requirement for any new long term borrowing in 2018-19.

The £20.65m other long term liabilities figure includes £17.32m for the Authority's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a secondary school in Maesteg and £2.40 million relating to a loan from the WG Central Capital Retained Fund for regeneration works within the Llynfi Valley which has not yet commenced.

Treasury Investments outstanding 30 September 2018 £34.30m (average rate 0.81%) made up of

- £8m Banks average rate 0.85%
- £1m Building Societies average rate 0.80%
- £23m Local Authorities average rate 0.80%
- £2.30m Money Market Fund average rate 0.69% (provides instant access)

Table 2 in the report detailed the investment profile from 1 April, £30.40m to 30 September 2018, £34.30m.

Table 3 detailed the £34.30m by counterparty type based on the remaining maturity period at 30 September 2018

As previously reported to Cabinet and Council in 2017-18, the Council opened a Money Market Fund (MMF) in August 2017, which is an approved financial instrument in the TMS and provides instant access to the funds.

The Council set up additional MMF's in September 2018 (all approved by Arlingclose) as well as also setting-up a web based portal (at no cost to the Council) to simplify and introduce efficiencies to all aspects of MMFs, from account maintenance through to trading and reporting. The new MMF's and the portal application process were not finalised by 30 September 2018, but are expected to be used from October 2018 once the set-up is completed.

In terms of non-treasury investments, though these were not classed as treasury management activities and therefore not covered by the CIPFA Code or the WG Guidance, the Council may also purchase property for investment purposes and may also make loans and investments for service purposes. For example in shared ownership housing, or as equity investments and loans to the Council's subsidiaries. Such loans and investments will be subject to the Council's normal approval processes for revenue and capital expenditure and need not comply with the TMS.

The Council's existing non-treasury investments relate to investment properties and the unaudited balance outstanding at 31 March 2018 was £4.36 million she explained.

She then gave a resume of the information contained in the Appendices to the report, as follows:-

Appendix A – The Investment Strategy in the TMS 2018-19 defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- or higher and this table shows the equivalence table for credit ratings for Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's and explains the different investment grades. The pie chart in paragraph 4.4.10 of the report summarised the £34.30m investments at 30 September 2018 by credit ratings and shows this by percentage outstanding. Most Local Authorities do not have credit ratings

and the unrated building society was approved by Arlingclose, whilst the remainder of the investments all had a credit rating of A or above.

Appendix B – Council approved a revised MRP policy for 2018-19 on 19 September 2018 and a revised MRP Statement 2018-19 was shown, which amends the method of calculating a prudent annual amount to charge to revenue to repay capital financing costs. The revision of the MRP Policy 2018-19 for calculating MRP on capital expenditure funded from supported borrowing has resulted in a change from a 4% reducing balance method to a straight-line method over 45 years. The figures in Appendix B have been revised to reflect a minor change from the report approved by Council, to reflect the more up to date information available and a minor accounting adjustment in 2018-19.

Appendix C - details the Council's Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators 2018-19 and shows the estimate for 2018-19 (set out in the Treasury Management Strategy approved by Council in February) and also the projection for the year. These show that the Council is operating in line with the approved limits.

The Deputy Leader wished it placed on record, that the report clearly evidenced that even in a very challenging financial climate; he was pleased to note that the Council were still in relatively safe hands due to the dedication and professionalism of Finance Officers.

RESOLVED: That Council:-

- (1) Approved the treasury management activities for the period 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018.
- (2) Noted the projected Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2018-19 against the Indicators approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2018-19.

230. INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOTING

The Head of Legal and Regulatory Services submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to inform Council of the Information Report for noting which had been published since its last scheduled meeting.

The Information Report in question, was detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report and was entitled 'Wales Audit Office – Overview and Scrutiny – Fit for the Future?'

The Head of Legal and Regulatory Services confirmed that a report on this topic had previously been considered and debated by Members of the Audit Committee and the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED: That Council acknowledged the publication of the document listed in the report.

231. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE:

Question to the Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration from Cllr T Thomas

'Will the Cabinet Member make a statement on the take-up of Welsh A Levels across schools in the County Borough?'

Response

Welsh (1st Language) A level

In 2017, 10 students from Bridgend schools sat an A level in Welsh 1st Language. Across Wales, in 2017, 214 students sat an A level in Welsh 1st Language. Therefore, 5% of all A level Welsh 1st Language entries from schools across Wales in 2017 came from Bridgend. This represents a similar entry to 2016 compared to a 13% decline across Wales since 2015.

The percentage of Bridgend pupils achieving A*-E grades matches the all-Wales average. The percentage of Bridgend pupils achieving A*-C grades was above the all-Wales average in 2015 but below in 2016 and 2017. The number of students sitting A level Welsh 1st Language in 2018 will at least match the number of entries in 2016.

Across Wales, the numbers of pupils studying A level Welsh 1st Language fell from 280 in 2015 to 214 in 2017. Similarly, the numbers of pupils studying AS level Welsh 1st Language fell from 280 in 2014 to 218 in 2017.

2. Welsh (2nd Language) A level

In 2017, 29 students from Bridgend schools sat an A level in Welsh 2nd Language. Across Wales, in 2017, 242 students sat an A level in Welsh 2nd Language. Therefore, 12% of all A level Welsh 2nd Language entries from schools across Wales in 2017 came from Bridgend. This represents a 4% increase from 2016.

The percentage of Bridgend pupils achieving A*-C grades was well above the all-Wales average. The percentage of Bridgend pupils achieving A*-E grades was just below the all-Wales average. Only one student failed to secure a 'pass'. The number of students sitting A level Welsh 2nd Language in 2018 will at least match the number of entries in 2015 and 2016.

Across Wales, the numbers of pupils studying A level Welsh fell from 272 in 2015 to 242 in 2017. Similarly, the numbers of pupils studying AS level Welsh 2nd Language fell from 354 in 2014 to 298 in 2017.

Welsh Government has decided to discontinue short course GCSE Welsh 2nd Language and now all students in key stage 4 study full course GCSE Welsh 2nd Language. There are therefore large numbers studying Welsh up to GCSE but this is not translating into numbers for A level. Schools in Bridgend are reporting that, if anything, the numbers opting for AS Welsh 2nd Language have declined since full course GCSE Welsh was made compulsory.

3. Curriculum offer

Welsh 2nd Language at AS and A level is timetabled within the collaborative timetable option blocks in the common curriculum offer that is accessible to all students across Bridgend.

Welsh 2nd Language AS/A levels are currently delivered by Bryntirion Comprehensive School but is also available at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School and Penybont Sixth Form College (at Pencoed Comprehensive School).

In addition to the 16 students at Bryntirion Comprehensive School, there are small numbers of students studying A/AS level Welsh at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School and at Pencoed Comprehensive School.

The link to Welsh (1st Language) A level in the online common Bridgend prospectus is listed below:

<https://www.bridgendpathways.co.uk/en/course?courseid=140>

The link to Welsh (2nd Language) A level in the online common Bridgend prospectus is listed below:

<https://www.bridgendpathways.co.uk/en/course?courseid=139>

4. Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

Bridgend's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) fully promotes the increased development of the Welsh language from child care through early years, primary and secondary. The WESP is fully aligned with Welsh Government policy and Bridgend's WESP has been thoroughly scrutinised by Welsh Government to ensure it is compliant and sufficiently robust to support Welsh Government's ambition to ensure there are 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

There is also a regional Welsh-medium plan being developed by Central South Consortium and supported by a Welsh Education Officer. The plan is there to help support Welsh Government's ambition of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. There is specific work on additional learning needs (ALN) provision and the partnership work among the Welsh-medium schools in Rhondda Cynon Taff and Bridgend.

Through careful monitoring, the Council is looking to see strong retention in Welsh-medium settings and addressing any issues that may hinder this. Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has specifically increased the range of Welsh-medium ALN provision as a result of feedback from the monitoring. Teaching staff are going on sabbaticals in order to improve their Welsh language skills and making an impact on their return adding to the Welsh-medium resource in our schools.

5. 21st Century Schools Programme

BCBC is currently looking to expand Welsh-medium provision in early years and primary settings including new provision in child care and increasing WM provision in primary schools. Consideration is being given to further expansion of the sector as part of Bridgend's 21st Century Schools Programme plans.

6. Further promotion of Welsh language

Siarter Iaith is being adopted by a number of schools across the primary sector. It is a charter mark which recognises the prevalence, encouragement and development of Welsh language skills right across the school – not just in the teaching of the subject.

All of Bridgend's Welsh-medium primary schools have achieved the Siarter Iaith threshold and a number of English-medium schools are setting out to achieve it. This approach will feature more strongly in the future in the Team Bridgend cluster plans.

Supplementary question by Cllr T Thomas

With regards to Welsh A level take up, what are the authority doing to promote an active offer? This would include planning of provision, timetabling, workforce planning including professional development/training, but what I am particularly interested in in this context is general promotion work with Year 11 pupils and career opportunities.

Response (by the Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration)

As the relevant Cabinet Member, I can confirm that Bridgend CBC is fully committed to the statutory provision of the Welsh Language. He was proud to say that it was the Labour controlled Glamorgan County Council that set up the first Welsh medium secondary school, at Rhydfelin, and of Bridgend's Welsh medium secondary at Llangynwyd. He had a strong interest in language and culture he added.

When students embark on their A Levels, Welsh is no longer compulsory and students make choices. He agreed with the Councillor that a recent headline in the Glamorgan Gazette was wrong and misleading when it said that students in Porthcawl could not study Welsh. It is because we are putting resources into a common Sixth Form timetable across all our schools that students from Porthcawl are able to study Welsh, by combining with groups from Cynffig and Bryntirion.

As we develop our 16+ strategy, this investment will benefit Welsh as well as other "A" Level subjects which might otherwise be unviable. What we have done so far has enabled Welsh Language "A" level numbers in Bridgend to resist the downward trend in many other counties of Wales.

It is concerning that across Wales, and across the UK, there is a downward trend in the take-up of all modern languages, and he further agreed with the Councillor that it would be good policy to work with Year 11 students to convince them of the value of studying language and culture in general, including of course the language and culture of Wales. Unfortunately, this was not helped by the idea of Brexit, as Brexit would lead to insularity and a mentality which is unaware of the value of both mainstream languages and minority languages such as Welsh, Catalan, and the languages and cultures of other European regions.

Studying any language makes it easier to study yet another language, and it's therefore a very positive aim for Wales to be a bilingual country; and also, it follows that the best way to achieve a million Welsh speakers is not just to rely on schools, but to promote interest across society in languages and culture per se, to enable society to go forward to compete in the jobs markets in Wales, the UK, Europe and across the globe.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support reiterated paragraph 6 of the initial response, that communication through the Welsh language was promoted in all schools within the County Borough, and this was emphasised not just to pupils being taught there, but with their parents and guardians also.

He further referred to paragraph 4 of the initial response and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) which also advocated for Welsh speakers.

Question to the Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help from Cllr A Hussain

'The number of people living with hearing loss in Wales is 575,500 and this number is rising as the population ages and we live longer. I don't have the number of people we have with hearing loss here in Bridgend County.

Action on Hearing Loss Cymru in their recent report have recommended that, I quote “Local Authorities should review their provision and access arrangements for people who are deaf or have hearing loss, ensuring they are meeting their duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. Particular attention should be given to:

- the first point of contact/access,
- the assessment process,
- the system for issuing assistive equipment and
- the provision of information/advice/guidance throughout.”

Keeping in mind the above recommendation suggested by Action on Hearing Loss Cymru, Could the Cabinet Member let the Council know how we are supporting people with hearing loss here in our County?’

Response

Adult Social Care have a Sensory Team based in the Community Resource Team, with Specialist Social Workers, an Assistant Social Worker, Rehabilitation Officers and Sensory Assistants. The team work with individuals living with sensory loss which includes people who have a vision loss, people who are culturally deaf (D), acquired deaf (d) or have hearing loss, as well as people who have a combined vision and hearing loss (deafblind).

The aim is to ensure that adults and children with sensory loss are supported to lead as full and independent a life as possible.

In the order in which the question is asked:

The first point of contact/ access- All queries/referrals regarding sensory loss for adults come through the Common Access Point. Contact can be made through email, letter, fax and mobile text. We are also testing “Signvideo”, this is a platform that gives deaf people, using BSL, access to the Common Access Point enabling them to make telephone calls confidently to hearing people through fully qualified interpreters. SignVideo calls can be made via a videophone, laptop, PC, smartphone or tablet. All individuals are asked about their preferred method of communication and this is recorded within WCCIS. Appropriate information, or some advice or assistance is all that may be required to deal with a query. If a specialist assessment is required then this can be arranged to take place at an individual’s home and / or in Trem y Mor Resource Centre in Bettws.

The assessment process - The Team can undertake a number of different assessments depending on the circumstance of the individual. Assessment of need is undertaken, with the same assessment tool, as any other member of the public. The way in which we communicate may differ and may include interpreters for different types of sign language as well as spoken language. There have been times where both a sign language and a spoken language interpreter have been required at the same time to assist in an assessment. The important point is that the individual is given all opportunity to explain their circumstance and challenges to their independence.

If a specialist assessment is required then this can be undertaken. There is a range of specialist equipment available to help people with sensory loss to remain independent. Some of the equipment may be provided as part of the specialist assessment or rehabilitation training. Within Trem y Mor there is a Sensory Resource Room with equipment on display and available for demonstration as well as information and advice on where to purchase specialist items.

The team work closely with the Audiology Clinic in the Princess of Wales Hospital and receive referrals for people who need support to maintain their independence. The Specialist Social Worker for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing regularly holds sessions within Trem y Mor for those people referred, to identify equipment/ skills training to maintain that person's independence.

Provision of information and advice (throughout) - We have a duty to maintain registers of people living in Bridgend who have a sensory loss. Registration is voluntary but these registers help us to develop and plan services. We can give information about registering as severely sight impaired (blind), sight impaired (partially sighted), Deaf and hard of hearing or Deafblind. We also explain about any entitlements relating to registration.

The Team can provide catalogues of equipment and advice on the items that can be purchased that will support that individual's independence. The team maintains lists of support groups within the Bridgend area that people can access for socialising/ support/ information and advice. Action On Hearing Loss hold a "Hub" monthly in Pencoed, the Team support this by a team member attending to be on hand to accept referrals, provide information and advice.

Bridgend has a Service Level Agreement with Sense Cymru which provides an outreach service which supports people who are D/deaf or have hearing loss and who may have additional needs such as mental health, physical disability or learning difficulties. The Service supports individuals to achieve positive outcomes through promoting independence, engagement and participation in the local community whilst promoting or maintaining independence within their own home. This is aided by individualised communication methods, encouraging appropriate social interaction, increasing confidence and knowledge, assisting individuals to develop skills and techniques to manage daily living, improving opportunities for individuals to engage in activities such as education, work, training, health and leisure and provide relevant information in appropriate formats and sign posting. This service also visits Deaf Club twice a month where they can signpost individuals onto other services and/or provide advice and information. To our knowledge this is a unique service, not replicated anywhere else in Wales.

Another Service Level agreement provides a Communicator Guide service. This supports people in Bridgend who have a dual sensory loss, to enable participation and engagement within their communities and promote or maintain an individual's independence within their home.

Communicator Guides ensure that people are better supported to lead fulfilled lives and achieve well-being through facilitating communication support and access to the community, providing escorting and guiding techniques and provision of accessible and relevant information in appropriate formats.

In communications with the Director of Action on Hearing Loss, Bridgend is positively identified for its responsiveness to people who are D/deaf or have hearing loss.

Supplementary question by Cllr A Hussain

Thank you for your detailed response and I am pleased to note that Bridgend has some of the more specialist service provision in Wales. The use of sign video at the Common Access Point is superb, as is initial access to emails and texts.

Could the Cabinet Member let the Council know, how long the waiting list is for a specialist assessment (i.e. how many days/weeks/months might someone wait) and what is the process of assessment.

Response

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help confirmed that he would take this further question away, and in turn, respond to all Members outside of the meeting.

232. **NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR TIM THOMAS**

Following an introductory speech, the Notice of Motion below was proposed by the above mentioned Member:-

That Council acknowledges:

The damaging impact that increased levels of gasses within the atmosphere is having on the environment and the part it is playing in adverse climate change. Council further acknowledges that international cooperation is required to hold the immediate impact on our climate.

“That Council welcomes:

The UK and Welsh government’s commitment to tackling climate change with initiatives to limit global warming, and its acceptance that the use of fossil fuels is a major contributory factor in rising world temperatures and carbon dioxide emissions.

Council notes that during the financial year 2016/17, the Rhondda Cynon Taff Pension Fund, which administers pension arrangements on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council, invested a percentage of indirect pooled funds in fossil fuels.

This council calls on the Rhondda Cynon Taff Pension Fund to start making an ordered withdrawal of such investments at the earliest opportunity.”

Members debated this item and due to there being a difference of opinion from the floor on whether or not the Motion should be supported by the Council, an electronic vote was taken on whether or not there should be a recorded vote on the proposal, the result of which was as follows:-

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	<u>Did not Vote</u>
19	15	0	15

A recorded vote was then undertaken on the above Notice of Motion, the result of which was as follows:-

Notice of Motion (Motion)	
Councillor Sean Aspey	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Stuart Baldwin	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Tom Beedle	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Jon-Paul Blundell	Against
Councillor Nicole Burnett	Against
Councillor Mike Clarke	For
Councillor Norah Clarke	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Richard Collins	Against

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Councillor Huw David	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Paul Davies	Against
Councillor Pam Davies	Against
Councillor Keith Edwards	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Jane Gebbie	Against
Councillor Tom Giffard	Against
Councillor Richard Granville	Against
Councillor Cheryl Green	For
Councillor Gareth Howells	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Altaf Hussain	Against
Councillor Malcolm James	For
Councillor Martyn Jones	Against
Councillor Mike Kearn	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor David Lewis	Against
Councillor Janice Lewis	Against
Councillor John McCarthy	No vote recorded
Councillor Dhanisha Patel	Against
Councillor Ross Penhale-Thomas	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Aniel Pucella	Against
Councillor Kay Rowlands	Against
Councillor Bridie Sedgebeer	Against
Councillor Rod Shaw	Against
Councillor Charles Smith	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Stephen Smith	Against
Councillor Roz Stirman	For
Councillor Gary Thomas	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Tim Thomas	For
Councillor Jefferson Tildesley MBE	For
Councillor Elaine Venables	For
Councillor Sadie Vidal	For
Councillor Matthew Voisey	Against
Councillor Lyn Walters	Against
Councillor Ken Watts	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Carolyn Webster	Against
Councillor David White	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Philip White	Against
Councillor Alex Williams	Conflict Of Interests
Councillor Amanda Williams	For
Councillor Hywel Williams	Against
Councillor Julia Williams	For
Councillor Richard Young	Against
Rejected	

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
10	24	0

It was noted that the remaining Members present either did not vote or had withdrawn from the meeting for this item, due to the declaration of interest they had made in this earlier in the meeting.

RESOLVED: That it be noted that the above Notice of Motion by way of a majority decision was not carried/supported.

233. URGENT ITEMS

None.

234. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above, to consider the under-mentioned item in private with the public being excluded from the meeting as it would involve the disclosure of exempt information as stated above.

235. VER AND REDUNDANCY PACKAGE

The meeting closed at 16:48

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

2019-20 COUNCIL TAX BASE

1. Purpose of Report.

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details of the council tax base and estimated collection rate for 2019-20.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/Other Corporate Priority

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:-

1. Supporting a successful economy – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
2. Helping people to be more self-reliant – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
3. Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

2.2 The council tax base determines the amount of council tax which can be raised to fund the Council's budget. The budget strategy is an integral part of the Corporate Planning process.

3. Background.

3.1 Under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the local Authorities (Calculation of Council tax base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, the Council is required to set the Council Tax Base upon which council tax is levied by the authority and other precepting bodies, for the following financial year, prior to 31st December each year. This information is required by the Welsh Government to allocate the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) to local authorities and by the Council to calculate the council tax required to fund the 2019-20 budget.

3.2 The Council Tax Base is the measure of the relative taxable capacity of different areas within the County Borough and is calculated in accordance with

prescribed rules. Every domestic property in the County Borough has been valued by the Valuation Office. Once valued, properties are allocated one of the nine valuation bands (Bands A to I). Each band is multiplied by a given factor to bring it to the Band D equivalent. The Tax Base represents the number of chargeable dwellings in the area expressed as Band D equivalents, taking into account the total number of exemptions, discounts and disabled band reductions, with the net Tax Base calculated by taking account of the Council's estimated collection rate. Council tax is measured in 'Band D' equivalents as the standard for comparing council tax levels between and across local authorities.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The gross estimated Council Tax Base for 2019-20 is 54,807.11 Band D equivalent properties and the estimated collection rate is 98%. The net council tax base is, therefore, 53,710.97.
- 4.2 The Council Tax Base is provided to Welsh Government and is used as part of the distribution of the Revenue Support Grant in the Local Government Revenue Settlement. In order to ensure consistency across Wales no account is taken of Councils' assumptions about collection rates. For the purpose of distributing RSG, collection rates are assumed to be 100 per cent. The amount of Council Tax due for a dwelling in Band D is calculated by dividing the annual budget requirement to be funded by taxpayers by the Council Tax Base. A set formula is then used to calculate the liability for the remaining eight Bands.
- 4.3 The council tax element of the Council's budget requirement will be based on the net council tax base of 53,710.97. Although the Council calculates the Tax base for the whole of the borough separate calculations are provided for each community council. This Council Tax Base is used by precepting authorities in calculating their own individual precepts. Community councils base their precepts on the tax base for each community area and details of these are shown in Appendix A.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The council tax base is set in accordance with the Policy Framework and Budget Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

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

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

- 7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered 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 this report.

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 These are outlined in the report.

9. Recommendation.

9.1 It is essential that the Council Tax Base is set in order that it can be submitted to the Welsh Government and used by Councils and levying bodies to set precepts. Council is recommended:

- to approve the council tax base and collection rate for 2019-20 as shown in paragraph 4.1 of this report
- to approve the tax bases for the community areas set out in Appendix A.

**Gill Lewis
Section 151 Officer
1 November 2018**

Contact Officers

**Helen Rodgers – Revenue Manager
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**Fran Mantle – Finance Manager, Governance & Exchequer
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Background documents

None

Estimated County Borough Tax Base 2019-20

Community Council Area	Total Tax Base (No. Band D Equivalent Properties)	Estimated Collection Percentage	Net Tax Base (No. Band D Equivalent Properties)
Brackla	4263.56	98%	4178.29
Bridgend	5996.82	98%	5876.88
Cefn Cribbwr	555.75	98%	544.64
Coity Higher	3829.71	98%	3753.12
Cornelly	2636.78	98%	2584.04
Coychurch Higher	344.70	98%	337.81
Coychurch Lower	660.67	98%	647.46
Garw	2305.73	98%	2259.62
Laleston	4999.58	98%	4899.59
Llangynwyd Lower	175.75	98%	172.24
Llangynwyd Middle	1068.17	98%	1046.81
Maesteg	5670.08	98%	5556.68
Merthyr Mawr	150.52	98%	147.51
Newcastle Higher	1741.52	98%	1706.69
Ogmore Vale	2586.42	98%	2534.69
Pencoed	3496.71	98%	3426.78
Porthcawl	8141.69	98%	7978.86
Pyle	2543.21	98%	2492.35
St Brides Minor	2317.74	98%	2271.39
Ynysawdre	1322.00	98%	1295.56
Total County Borough	54807.11	98%	53710.97

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES

PORTHCAWL REGENERATION SCHEME UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Porthcawl Regeneration Scheme, and to seek approval to revise the capital programme to invest anticipated capital receipts arising from the sale of land, encompassing Salt Lake Car Park.
- 1.2 The report also seeks approval to secure match funding for coastal defence improvements which will unlock future development phases

2 Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:-
 1. Supporting a successful economy – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
 3. Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3 Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 19th December 2017, Cabinet approved the acquisition of third party leasehold interests at Salt Lake Car Park, Porthcawl for the sum of £3.33m. This gave the Council unencumbered freehold interest of the site to secure its redevelopment.
- 3.2 The original plan, as set out within the adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance, envisaged a large superstore located on Hillsboro Car Park that would have necessitated the stopping-up of the Portway to create the required land area. Fundamental changes in the foodstore market since that time have led to the demand being reduced from a 50,0000 sq ft store to a smaller scale store. As a result there is no longer an associated requirement for the Portway to be closed. This has allowed for a rethink on the optimum location of the smaller store and the principal car park for the town centre. Following an assessment of options, the current strategy is based on the store being located at the northern end of Salt Lake, and retention of Hillsboro as the primary town centre car park.

- 3.3 One of the key requirements to unlock development of the whole Salt Lake site is coastal protection works to mitigate flood risk. Without these, the majority of the housing parcels cannot be developed, and attracting leisure facilities at the southern end of the site may also be more problematic. It was originally envisaged that the coastal works would be taken forward and funded by the site developers. However, following the launch of a Wales-wide coastal defence programme, officers have been working closely with Welsh Government (WG) on flood mitigation proposals for the Porthcawl waterfront. An outline business case has been approved by WG and detailed designs are now being progressed. A final bid will be submitted to WG in Autumn 2019, which, if successful, would result in 75% funding via the Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) towards these works. Authority for this along with the approval to contribute the requisite 25% match funding is set out in this report.
- 3.4 The above informs the rationale for development phasing and the proposed reinvestment of capital receipts set out in the following sections. It should be noted that in the event of an unsuccessful bid to WG for coastal protection grant, there will be an impact on programme and project viability. A decision by Welsh Government is not expected until autumn/winter 2019.

4 Current situation / proposal

Phasing

- 4.1 Market analysis, key infrastructure constraints and cash flow considerations dictate that development must be brought forward in phases. The attached plan sets out the proposed phasing strategy.

Phase 1

- 4.2 The first phase will be the delivery of a foodstore at the northern end of Salt Lake Car Park. The site is not encumbered by the need for coastal protection works, and there is strong market interest from a number of retailers for a smaller format store in Porthcawl at the present time. Previous attempts to bring forward redevelopment were thwarted largely by the collapse of the foodstore market, so it is important that the Council capitalises on the opportunity presented by the buoyant market conditions that currently exist. Crucially, the early release of the store site will also act as a catalyst for unlocking wider site development, given the opportunity for reinvesting that receipt in key improvements and infrastructure that will enable other phases to be brought forward.

Phase 2

- 4.3 This is the only other land parcel to be sold on the Salt Lake site that is unencumbered by the requirement for coastal protection works. It is located immediately adjacent to the new store, and has the potential to be served by the new access road that the store developer will be responsible for constructing, to a specification agreed by the Council. The site is identified for housing, and a development brief will be produced prior to marketing later in 2019.

Phase 3

- 4.4 In the original masterplan, Hillsboro Place Car Park was identified as the site for a large superstore, which would have necessitated the stopping-up of the Portway. As a consequence, the public car park has not seen any significant investment for a number of years. Given the decision to now retain Hillsboro Place as the main car park serving the town centre, funding will be necessary to carry out a series of improvements, including accessibility improvements and a more efficient layout that will increase car parking numbers. This would also allow for the potential release of fringe areas for further commercial leisure development that would contribute to the Council's Vision for the site e.g. at the southern end of Hillsboro Place Car Park.
- 4.5 It is proposed that these works are carried out as soon as the receipt from the sale of the store is realised, to ensure that it is brought up to a standard that is comparable with the new store car park, and is reconfigured to increase the number of spaces as early as possible.

Phase 4

- 4.6 In the event that WG approves the coastal defence bid, the implementation programme for works will be 2020-2021. In addition to purely coastal protection work, the scheme will also encompass a new Eastern Promenade, ensuring that leisure amenity is delivered as an early phase within the plan.
- 4.7 Given the constrained nature of the site and costs to provide coastal flood risk protection, the development of Phases 4 – 7 can only take place once successful match funding for flood and coastal flood risk is identified.

Phases 5 and 6

- 4.8 The remainder of the Salt Lake site is largely constrained by coastal flood risk. The timescales for implementation of coastal works therefore determine the marketing, disposal and development programme for these phases. These two parcels are identified for housing but will require development briefs or an updated masterplan prior to marketing commencing.
- 4.9 Prior to these areas being brought forward for development it is proposed that they will be utilised predominantly as a council run car park. This will require up-front investment via short-term prudential borrowing. The use of this area as temporary car parking will enable monitoring of car parking requirements over an extended period. This will help inform any future consideration of additional public parking that may be allocated within phases 5 or 6 to supplement the main car park on Hillsboro Place.

Phase 7

- 4.10 Commercial leisure agents have consistently advised that the leisure investor market is weak at present, and the likelihood is that other phases will need to be first brought forward to create confidence amongst leisure investors. Whilst the strategy is therefore based on this being a late phase in the plan, the Council is in discussions with Visit Wales to promote the site as part of a Wales-wide strategy to attract national investors to a small number of strategic tourism and leisure sites. As

a fall back to these, an interim uses strategy for the leisure site will be produced to ensure that in the intervening period prior to a permanent leisure scheme coming forward, temporary activities are provided on the site.

Summary of Phasing

Phases	Uses	Rationale	Estimated Timing
1	Foodstore Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong market interest confirmed by soft market testing • Will satisfy unmet demand for convenience goods in Porthcawl • Capital receipt is fundamental in providing funding for enabling infrastructure for future development phases and improvements 	<p>Commence marketing early 2019</p> <p>Earliest date for realisation of capital receipt – Summer 2020</p> <p>Earliest date for foodstore completion - Summer 2021</p>
2	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not constrained by coastal flood risk • The site will be enabled by a new link road being created off the A4106 roundabout as part of the foodstore site development 	Commence marketing mid 2019
3	Hillsboro Place Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not constrained by coastal flood risk • There is a need to improve the quality of the principal car park serving the town centre and gateway link to the wider regeneration site • Opportunity to create a more safe and efficient car park layout to improve access, increase numbers/free up surplus land for leisure/commercial uses (e.g. hotel) at key gateway locations linking the town centre and wider regeneration scheme 	<p>Work to be done as soon as possible following confirmation of the receipt from phase 1</p> <p>2020-2021</p>
4	Eastern Promenade and wider coastal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre requisite for bringing forward future development phases • The Prom is a significant community asset that will be 	2020-2021

	flood defence works	<p>improved as part of the coastal defence works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> External funding opportunity to secure significant capital grant and link urban design improvements with the coastal defence measures such as improvements to Rhych Point, the Relic Dunes, the Eastern Promenade and Western Breakwater. 	
5 and 6	Housing Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These sites can only come forward once the coastal flood defences are in place and an updated masterplan is agreed Will deliver housing supply identified in the LDP Provide flexible opportunity to consider additional public parking 	2022-23
7	Leisure site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer term delivery due to currently weak leisure market - earlier phases will create investor interest The Council is working with Visit Wales on a potential investment opportunity as part of a strategic sites package for Wales If the above doesn't come forward, an interim uses strategy for the leisure site will be developed 	Post 2023

Investment of Capital Receipts

4.11 The rationale for ring-fencing the receipts from the early parcel releases is based on investing in key infrastructure that will unlock other sites for disposal and development, and enabling key improvements to be undertaken to achieve regeneration and improve operational service delivery. These would result in both financial and regeneration benefits. Paragraph 4.14 sets out the series of items that are proposed to be funded out of those receipts.

Summary of Receipts

4.12 The capital receipt forecasts are based on information provided within recent independent market valuations. As with all valuations, they are highly dependent on market conditions at the time of going to market, abnormal development costs, and S106 contributions. All of these are variable until each of the individual schemes / phases have been designed and planning consent obtained.

4.13 The two land parcels (phases 1 and 2) are not dependent on the coastal protection work, and can therefore be brought forward for early release. Land parcels referred

to as phases 5, 6 and 7 will be brought forward post completion of coastal works. Total projected capital receipts for the Salt Lake area is circa £7-8m. Due to the proposed phasing of this regeneration site this figure excludes the values or projected receipts for the leisure site and any potential development opportunity at Hillsboro Car Park.

Proposed Reinvestment of Receipts

4.14 The following items are proposed to be funded:

- Essential investment in Hillsboro Place Car Park, which is now being retained as the principal public car park serving the town centre. This will include a more efficient layout to increase the number of car parking spaces, and provide the opportunity for developing an area of land at the southern end of the car park as a potential hotel;
- Improvements to Salt Lake to enable it to be run as a public car park in the intervening period prior to this area being brought forward for development (phases 5 and 6). The car park is currently being operated by a 3rd party under a lease which terminates by the end of November as part of the transitional arrangements for the site. It is proposed that the facility will be run by the Council and will require investment in new pay and display machines, signage, and site remedial works. The car park will need to be operational before Easter 2019, so the Council would need to commit to this investment in advance of the receipt from short term prudential borrowing and repaid from income from the car park;
- Necessary accessibility improvements to the Portway, including crossing points and the potential for the introduction of on-street parking to improve accessibility to the town centre;
- Physical works to the leisure site to enable temporary uses to be brought forward as part of the interim leisure strategy, and
- A series of physical improvements in key areas, such as the gateway to the site (potentially in partnership with the town council), the promenade and pedestrian links to the town centre.

4.15 The total estimated cost of these is £2.64m. A number of these are at pre-design and pre-tender stage so are currently provisional.

4.16 The delivery of necessary infrastructure will be phased so that costs only become necessary once receipts from land and property sales are in-hand. This will minimise the amount of prudential borrowing necessary. The exception being the £100,000 necessary to make the temporary Salt Lake Car Park operational. This element will be funded from short-term prudential borrowing and repaid from income generated from the car park.

4.17 The anticipated receipt from the completion of all phases is expected to be around £7-8m, excluding the leisure site and potential development plot at the southern end of Hillsboro Place Car Park. These receipts will directly fund the capital programme. There will be further receipts from the sale of land at Sandy Bay, which forms part of the Owners Agreement with the Evans family but these have not been factored into this report.

- 4.18 Should the bid to WG be successful, there will be a requirement for the Council to provide 25% match funding towards the coastal defences scheme. Initial feasibility work undertaken by ARUP has indicated that this could be circa £1million, but this figure will be refined when detailed designs and cost planning are progressed in the next few months. It is recommended that this contribution is covered through borrowing that is available to the Council, and repaid from future receipts, either arising from the ongoing sale of parcels in the Salt Lake area, or from future disposals at Sandy Bay. The Council needs to confirm its commitment to the 25% prior to submission of the final bid to WG in Autumn 2019.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1. None. All future implementation or development work associated with this report will be carried out in accordance with existing authority regulations.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.1. Equalities implications informed the way that development is phased. The officer's initial views are that no protected group is adversely affected by the proposals. A number of the projects proposed in the programme will require full Equality Impact Assessments before they commence.
- 6.2. An equalities impact assessment has previously been undertaken as part of setting the planning policy framework for the County Borough, on which the current masterplan is based. Future development briefs, masterplans and planning applications for the site will assess the potential impact on equalities and social cohesion.
- 6.3. As part of its assessment of the business case for coastal defence works the Council will seek to ensure that any new or enhanced facilities and infrastructure is accessible to all local individuals and groups as far as is possible.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

- 7.1. The proposals covered by this report have been assessed against the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:
- 7.2. Long-term - The purpose of this work is to set out the long term financial strategy for bringing forward the Porthcawl Regeneration Scheme. Work on bringing forward the regeneration site has been ongoing for the last 10 years, with the purpose of the investment, to secure the future of the resort as a premier seaside town and to secure and create local jobs, homes and investment in the local economy for years to come.
- 7.3. Prevention - Support for regeneration programme provides confidence to the public in the authority's proposals for investing in the site which has remained undeveloped for many years, and preventing a future decline in the local economy. One element of the programme is to invest in the coastal defences along the Eastern Promenade which is essential work in the programme of flood risk prevention along the coast.

- 7.4. Integration – The aims of the regeneration programme as a whole is to encourage new visitors and investors to Porthcawl, to invest further in the local economy. By investing in the site we are not only looking for new leisure and retail offers for the existing population, to stop leakage from the local economy but to provide a more vibrant and quality environment and provide better linkages between the existing town centre and attractions to new housing and an enhanced population.
- 7.5. Collaboration - The overseeing programme board ensures that all responsibilities that the authority has in meeting its well-being objectives are considered and that a joined up approach is taken to programme delivery and decision making. The Council will look to engage existing and new partners in bringing forward aspects of the work and development of site.
- 7.6. Involvement - The regeneration programme has been discussed over a number of years with the public and partners. It is supported by an adopted Masterplan setting the framework for development on the site which was subject of public consultation as part of its adoption. The programme is supported internally by a programme board, and reported on externally to the Bridgend Coastal Partnership. Future consultation will take place as projects within the programme are taken forward.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. This report requests that £2.64m of project costs associated with the development of Porthcawl Strategic Regeneration Scheme are included in the capital programme.
- 8.2. It is currently anticipated that land disposals will create an eventual capital receipt of £7-8m towards the current capital programme and pay for the anticipated investment. Additional capital receipts will enable the Council to reduce its borrowing requirement and related charges i.e. interest on borrowing. Any disposals from the leisure site and Hillsboro site would be additional to the £7-8m figure.
- 8.3. The development is phased to minimise the amount of prudential borrowing necessary and only when receipts from sales are in-hand are infrastructure costs expected to be incurred, save for the £100,000 necessary to make the temporary Salt Lake Car Park operational. This element will be funded from prudential borrowing and repaid from income generated from the car park. The total breakdown of expenditure by funding source is as follows -

Funding Source	£000
Capital Receipts	2,543
Short Term Prudential Borrowing	100
Total	2,643

- 8.4. Given that the project is at its initial stages of development, capital projects such as this will have significant uncertainties. For example, these may relate to the planning, ground conditions, and uncertainties around market demand. For this reason, the Council has undertaken soft market testing in order to understand market demand of the foodstore and has received positive feedback. It is in the process of undertaking site investigations, collating technical details for the site and

working with a number of consultancy services to complete the marketing particulars. All of which is expected to assist with the foodstore site's disposal and realisation of a receipt from the disposal of the foodstore site. Further soft market testing will be undertaken on the future housing phases as the scheme progresses. An earmarked reserve has been established to meet any feasibility and marketing costs associated with progressing the scheme.

- 8.5. Outline costs for various phases are necessarily broad estimates due to the number of unknown factors. As projects progress, the unknown factors will become clearer and project officers will manage these costs in the most effective way possible, utilising contingencies and report back to lead officers, as necessary.
- 8.6. The estimated £1m match funding identified in the outline business case to Welsh Government, and which is necessary to deliver the coastal defence scheme is requested for approval along with authority to secure 75% funding via the Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) towards these works.

9. Recommendations

Council authority is sought for the following elements necessary to bring forward the Porthcawl Regeneration Scheme:

- 9.1. To revise the capital programme to include a budget of £2.64m of investment in Porthcawl Regeneration, funded from a combination of capital receipts generated from the sale of land within Salt Lake, and prudential borrowing;
- 9.2. To provide 25% match funding (circa £1 million) towards coastal defence works in Porthcawl and authority to secure 75% funding via the Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI) towards these works. The scheme will not be incorporated in the capital programme until the 75% LGBI funding has been approved; and

Note: the sums will be confirmed prior to the detailed business case submission to Welsh Government expected around Summer 2019.

- 9.3. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director – Communities and s151 Officer to agree any cost variations associated with the Porthcawl Development Scheme

Mark Shephard
CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES
November 2018

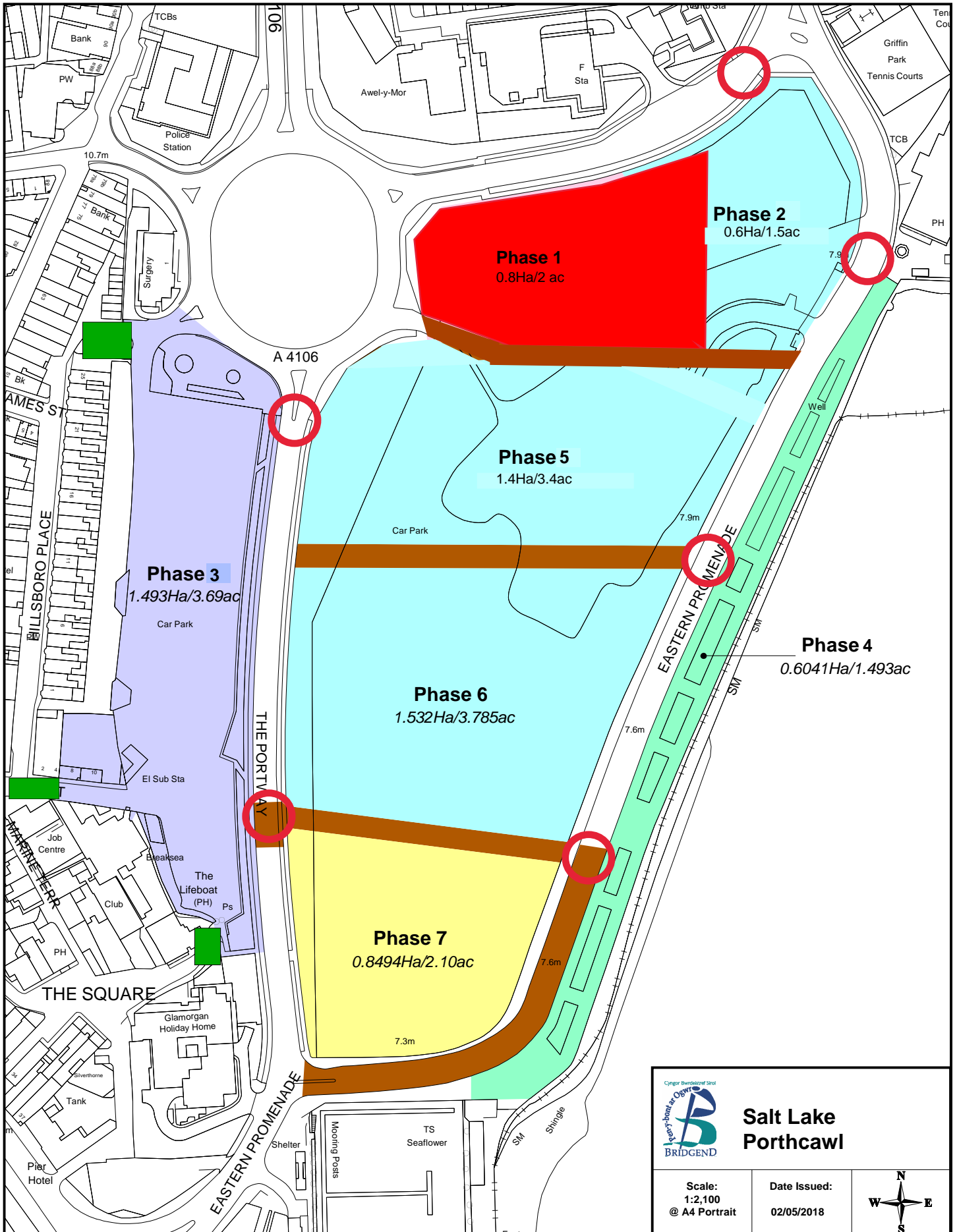
Contact Officer:

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Background documents

Cabinet Report – 19 December 2017

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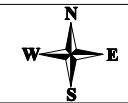


Key

- Foodstore
- Mixed Leisure & Town Centre Car Park
- Residential
- Key Town Centre Pedestrian Link
- Leisure
- Eastern Promenade Improvements
- Strategic Highway Improvements
- Crossing Point


Salt Lake Porthcawl

Scale: 1:2,100 @ A4 Portrait	Date Issued: 02/05/2018
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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

PARC AFON EWENNI

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is:

- (i) Council to note the proposal to develop a modern Highways Depot at Waterton on a reduced footprint to allow the Parc Afon Ewenni (PAE) regeneration site proposal to progress and future proof future depot requirements for the Council as part of the overall depot rationalisation process.
- (ii) to seek Council approval for a revision to the Capital Programme for a further capital sum of £4,944,000 to be included in the Capital Programme to fully refurbish and develop the depot, to be funded partly from the sale of land at Waterton as part of the PAE project and partly from general capital funding.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/ Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The proposal directly supports the Corporate priority of making smarter use of resources by “Rationalising the Council’s estate” and making overall premises efficiency savings and releasing land for sale to generate capital receipts.

3. Background

3.1 A report was submitted to Cabinet and approved in November 2016 which identified an alternative strategy as an interim measure, of continuing to operate a reduced footprint Depot at Waterton for the next 4/5 years. This provided the best value for money given the circumstances at the time. The strategy was to find a balance between operating a viable depot and maximising the land allocated for disposal. Five key/core operational facilities within the depot were identified:

- The continued operation & location of the salt barn for winter maintenance.
- The continued operation & location of the de-watering facility
- The continued operation & location of the vehicle wash down ramp
- The continued operation & location of the refuelling facility
- The continued operation of a materials reprocessing facility

3.2 It was proposed that all of the above facilities should remain in place since these facilities have existing Consents to discharge or Waste Management Licencing. To re-locate these facilities would require a planning application, a requirement to apply for and gain approval of new permissions and surrender of the existing permissions principally under the approval of National Resources Wales (NRW).

- 3.3 In progressing the strategy for a reduced footprint operational depot at Waterton two principal options were identified and assessed, which also included works at Bryncethin depot to accommodate Parks:
- Option 1 (Retain both the Highways Building & Biffa Building demolish County Borough Supplies (CBS), Fleet building & Wheelie bin store)
 - Option 2 (Retain Biffa Building, demolish CBS, Fleet, Highways & Wheelie bin store)
- 3.4 The PAE Board made the decision to progress Option 2 above. As a result the demolition of the CBS building, Fleet and Highways buildings, the Wheelie Bin store & Training school all at Waterton was progressed. These works were completed during 2017.
- 3.5 It is considered likely that any future configuration of local government re-organisation will still require a Highways Depot in Bridgend to serve the County Borough. The cost of providing a new Highways depot at a new location is likely to be considerably more than the £6.5m-£7.5m estimated in 2016. The original Cabinet approval in 2016 was for the continued operation of the depot at Waterton for 4/5 years as an interim measure and then to potentially develop a new fully compliant depot at that point. It is now estimated that the cost of a new Highways depot in a new location would be in the region of £9m - £12m as a result of (probable) changing and more onerous NRW requirements.

In recognition of the above, the option of operating a largely unchanged depot for 4/5 years as an interim measure and then constructing a new depot at a new location looks increasingly unaffordable.

- 3.6 An investigation was therefore undertaken to identify the differences between the continued operation of the reduced footprint depot for 4-5 years with a new depot constructed at a new location thereafter, and the alternative option of the development of a permanent operational depot, on a reduced footprint, at Waterton. PAE board also instructed that options that include re-locating the salt barn (to allow further reduction of the residual footprint - although this requires a planning application) should be considered.

This exercise identified areas of potential non-compliance in the existing depot:

- Life expired drainage (foul & surface water)
- The existing sewer & pumping station is on land that is scheduled to be disposed of and thus requires to be diverted onto land remaining within BCBC ownership
- The extent & quality of hard-standing is inadequate
- Buildings in poor state of repair
- Consents to discharge (foul & surface water) are historical and details are not able to be located.

PAE Board agreed:

- the best option is provide a compliant reduced footprint depot including a re-located salt barn.
 - the proposal was to include the development of the reduced footprint depot into full compliance based on current standards with the existing buildings also made fit for purpose to provide a 'permanent' solution that would be suitable for the foreseeable future.
- 3.7 The PAE board directed that robust estimates for the necessary works should be determined and the proposed depot footprint re-evaluated. However further reduction of the depot footprint should not compromise the operation of the depot or safety arrangements.
- 3.8 The total current capital budget for the scheme is £4.376 million. However, some of this budget has already been committed to works at Bryncethin depot, as a result of moving some of the parks and built environment operations to this location, leaving a balance of around £3.2 million. A layout was proposed that further reduced the footprint of the depot which allowed a larger area to be released for sale and development with the aim that the total cost of the works would be met from the total of the existing capital budget and the estimated net land receipt.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The scheme cost of what is now the preferred option is now estimated to be in the region of £8.144 million. This is consistent with the cost of developing Highways Depots in neighbouring authorities over recent years. However, now that the cost of refurbishment work has been included on all the remaining existing buildings on site, there is now a deficit between the overall cost of the maintenance/compliance works and the total estimated net land receipt and the existing capital budget. In order to progress this option a further capital investment of the order of £4.944 m is required in addition to the estimated remaining capital of £3.2m, which would come from the estimated total land receipt of £3.5m plus an additional £1.444 million of general capital funding. It should be noted however that the total land receipt will be subject to prevailing market conditions at the time of sale and also the extent to which any additional development costs may impact on the net receipt, for example highways improvements, abnormal ground conditions etc. However, every attempt has been made to mitigate these variables by carrying out initial feasibility work.

This proposed depot layout provides for:

- the smallest operationally acceptable footprint
- a permanent, modern depot compliant with the appropriate standards
- maximum land available for disposal

4.2 Compliance

The principal drivers to achieve compliance are the **Health & Safety at Work Act** and the requirements of **National Resources Wales**. Issues to be resolved/ remediated include:

- Demarcated pedestrian walking routes in the depot
- Demarcated vehicular routes/one way system in the depot
- Compliant drainage systems (foul & surface water)
- Compliant concrete hardstanding (licenced waste management areas)
- Compliant Welfare facilities
- Relocated Salt barn, de-watering facility & vehicle wash-down ramp
- Relocated Highways stores

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 The existing policy will not be affected.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 The Council's Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit has been utilised, which indicates that the project will have no impact on specific equality groups.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

7.1 The proposed development is a positive step in regard to the Council's role in complying with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The proposal offers an opportunity to develop a modern and fit for purpose operational depot facility leading to improved financial efficiency and enhanced environmental benefits, for example, improved drainage arrangements. Additionally the sale of land released for development will lead to the development of much needed new housing in Bridgend in line with the approved Local Development Plan (LDP), for the benefit of current and future generations.

7.2 In terms of the five ways of working within the Act, the proposal offers the following potential benefits:

1. Long Term - The proposal will develop a smaller, more operationally efficient depot which will have long term benefits in terms of lower site operating costs, for example energy, and improved environmental performance.
2. Prevention - The proposal will prevent the further deterioration of the existing depot facility which is already in poor condition and does not currently meet the relevant standards for a facility of this sort were it being built now.
3. Integration - The proposal offers an opportunity to create economic benefits around house building and construction, but also safeguards the future of the Council's highways operational service by providing a fit for purpose and sustainable depot solution.
4. Collaboration - The proposal offers the opportunity for further collaborative arrangements to be explored with both local public and private sector partners, including registered social landlords (RSL's) to share facilities on the same basis, for example, that the current Fleet Depot is shared with South Wales Police.

5. Involvement - The proposal and the subsequent release of development land allows the opportunity to work with a range of stakeholders to develop a sustainable 'village' at Parc Afon Ewenni to include, for example, active travel solutions.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 In February 2015 Council approved a total budget for the Parc Afon Ewenni scheme of £4.376 million. In November 2016, Cabinet agreed the use of this funding to rationalise the Waterton depot, enabling the services to operate on a reduced footprint for an interim period, estimated to be 4/5 years, with partial staff relocation to Bryncethin Depot, with upgrades to the existing barn and welfare facilities at Bryncethin Depot. The assumption was that this option would be at a much lower cost than the amount of funding within the Capital Programme, thus enabling the release of a proportion of the funding at a later date.
- 8.2 To date there has been just over £520,000 of capital works undertaken at both Bryncethin and Waterton Depots, with further commitments of £600,000 to £700,000, leaving a balance available of around £3.2 million towards any further works at Waterton.
- 8.3 The capital receipt from the land disposal is estimated to be in the region of £3.5 million. With existing funding, this would provide total capital funding available of around £6.7 million. The total estimated cost of the works required to provide a compliant Highways Depot at Waterton is £8.144 million, which would require approval from Council of an additional £1.444 million, in addition to the allocation of the capital receipt, a scheme increase of £4.944 million in total. In the event that the receipt from land sales does not meet the estimated value of £3.5 million it would be necessary to either seek a further capital allocation from Council and/or attempt to value engineer the scheme and reduce the costs but with a risk that in those circumstances it may not be possible to fully refurbish the existing buildings or carry out some of the desirable work to improve overall regulatory compliance and health and safety.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Council note the proposed preferred option for development of the Highways Depot is now to provide a permanent modern, fit for purpose depot, on a reduced footprint at the Waterton site. This will ensure compliance with all necessary current standards/legislation while maximising the amount of land available for sale to generate a capital receipt and allow housing development in line with the approved Local Development Plan.
- 9.2 It is recommended that Council give authority that the capital receipt from the sale of the Council's land at Waterton is reinvested to support the development of the depot as without the progression of the new depot proposed above, it would not be possible to release all of the land for sale.
- 9.3 It is recommended that Council give approval that a further capital sum of £4,944,000 be included in the Capital Programme to fully refurbish and redevelop the depot as proposed, including refurbishment of the appropriate buildings.

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November 2018

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Background Papers:

Local Development Plan - September 2013

Medium Term Financial Strategy - Report to Council February 2015

Cabinet Report November 2016

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE 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:

- update Council with regards to the outcome of Welsh Government’s review of the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) Band B funding mechanism; and
- seek Council endorsement of the revised financial commitment required for the delivery of Band B of the School Modernisation Programme and approve a change to the capital programme to reflect the updated commitment.

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 purpose in 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 special educational needs (SEN) provision at Bryncethin Campus, Coety Primary School, two additional teaching spaces at Heronsbridge Special School, Betws Primary School, Brynmenyn Primary School and Pencoed Primary School schemes have been completed. Work is nearing completion on the remaining scheme within Band A, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd.
- 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. Cabinet considered the proposed Band B schemes, and determined to approve the following, based on the increasing demand for places, the requirement to promote the Welsh language and building condition:
- 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

Cabinet also gave approval to undertake options appraisal work during the Band B period in order to prepare for Band C.

- 3.13 In addition, in order to promote the Welsh language and support their Cymraeg 2050 commitment, Welsh Government made available £30m capital grant across Wales which Councils were asked to bid against. Officers identified the need for the creation of Welsh-medium child care facilities which would deliver Welsh language opportunities to areas of the county borough where there is currently insufficient provision (ie Ogmores and Garw Valleys, Bridgend and Porthcawl). Welsh Government approval in principle has now been received for Bridgend's £2.6m bid.
- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 At its meeting on 31 January 2018, Council approved in principle 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. The overall programme was estimated

to be in the region of £68.2m, of which approximately £43.2m was anticipated to be capital funded (circa £23m funded by BCBC), the balance proposed to be funded through the Welsh Government Mutual Investment Model (MIM).

- 3.16 Welsh Government had advised local authorities that MIM, a new approach to investment in public infrastructure in Wales, whereby private partners will build and maintain schools, in return for a fee, will cover the cost of construction, maintenance and financing the project.
- 3.17 The Welsh Government intervention rate is 75%, which will be paid to the local authority in the form of a grant. The remaining 25% is to be met from the local authority revenue budgets over a 25-year contract period. The local authority is also required to meet 50% of the up-front capital costs for furniture, equipment and IT. At the end of a specified period of time, the asset will be transferred to the local authority. Welsh Government had advised that it will present packages of schemes to the market as design and build projects made up of a number of schemes within a geographical area (including across local authority areas) and be of sufficient monetary size overall in order to attract large companies (eg £100m).

4. Current situation

- 4.1 Since the approval of the Strategic Outline Programme, Welsh Government has reviewed the schemes that have been proposed for MIM. This review assessed:
- the feasibility of delivering the individual schools as MIM projects;
 - the practicalities associated with grouping the schools together by region and capital value; and
 - the optimal procurement route.
- 4.2 The purpose of this review was to ensure the goal of generating market interest so that once projects are ready to go out to tender, Welsh Government has confidence that there will be a sufficient number of interested contractors to run a successful competitive procurement to deliver the best outcomes for the new schools.
- 4.3 Since completing the review, Welsh Government has provided information that sets out changes to the way in which MIM schemes will be delivered across Wales. These are fundamental differences to their original procurement strategy.
- 4.4 It has been determined that MIM education projects will be most efficiently procured via a single Private Sector Delivery Partner (PSDP). The PSDP will become the majority shareholder in a Welsh Education Partnership (WEP), with local authorities and further education institutions (together the participants) and Welsh Government holding the remaining shares.
- 4.5 The WEP will also be capable of delivering schemes via capital, where the PSDP would be the delivery partner, as well as a MIM route but in order to avoid any conflict with the Regional Frameworks, the WEPs will be precluded from delivering any capital schemes that are funded under the capital element of Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme during the currency of the newly procured construction frameworks.

- 4.5 The Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notice will be drafted widely to anticipate possible future schemes and include both education and community facilities. Strategic Partnering Agreements (SPA) will be established and will allow individual local authorities and further education institutes to bring either MIM or capital schemes to the WEP in the future. It will not cost local authorities and further education institutes anything to be party to the SPA or a shareholder in the WEP.
- 4.6 Welsh Government's review has also resulted in identifying the following new builds as ideal facilities for MIM delivery:
- secondary schools larger than 800 places;
 - primary schools larger than 420 places;
 - all-through schools; and
 - further education colleges.
- 4.7 Welsh Government has stated that it is not value for money to include small or very complex schemes through a MIM. Consequently, Bridgend Special School is now deemed unsuitable for delivery under this funding model. This is purely a Welsh Government decision which based on the recent review.
- 4.8 In light of their decision, the funding approach to Bridgend County Borough Council's Band B schemes need to be re-considered and a decision taken on the way forward.
- 4.9 Projects progressed via the MIM are subject to a number of differences compared to schemes undertaken via the capital grant route, including the procurement process and the intervention rates. A direct comparison of each route is provided in table 1 of this report.

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. Wellbeing and Future Generations Act (2015)

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term	Supports the statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places and promote the Welsh language.
Prevention	Councils have a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient supply

of school places, and these schemes will safeguard the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge in this regard.

Integration	Providing sufficient places ensures that the curriculum can be delivered and meets social, environmental and cultural objectives.
Collaboration	The local authority works effectively with schools, Estyn and with the Central South Consortium (CSC), health, community councils and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building meets the short-term and future needs of the users and the community which it will serve.
Involvement	This area of work involves the engagement of all potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners which will include third sector organisations.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 Capital match funding requested was around £23m to meet the four primary school schemes identified at that time to be funded from capital grant. It was 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 section 106 (s106) funding, receipts from the sale of school and other sites, earmarked reserves and unsupported borrowing. The 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. Additional costs have been included in terms of provision for highways works, which are to be met in full by the Council. Based on current funding availability in terms of general capital funding and capital receipts, it is estimated that the Council will need to borrow around £15m to meet the full match funding requirement, which will cost around £730k per annum over a 30-year borrowing period.
- 8.2 The report recognised that there was another scheme within the Band B Programme, the Bridgend Special School scheme, which was going to be progressed via the MIM and would require revenue match funding from the authority of around £750k per annum over a 25-year period, which is not currently built into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). However, since Welsh Government has notified the Council that the special school is not now a suitable scheme for funding via the MIM route, due to the complexity and uniqueness of scheme design and build, officers have considered alternative funding combinations of MIM and capital grant, and costed the financial implications of each one. It is useful to outline the differences between the two funding options before a decision is made. This is set out in detail in the following table.

Table 1 Comparison of MIM and capital grant schemes

MIM Funded	Capital Grant
Funding	
WG Intervention Rate 75%	WG Intervention Rate 50%
BCBC recurrent contribution must be funded from revenue.	BCBC contribution can be funded from capital receipts, borrowing (revenue implications) or revenue contribution to capital.
Furniture and equipment funded on 50:50 basis from capital.	Furniture and equipment funded on 50:50 basis from capital.
BCBC responsible for 100% of any “abnormals” or additional design features	BCBC responsible for 100% of any “abnormals” or additional design features.
Design	
The private sector need to take design risk and to respond to an output specification therefore we cannot present a fully designed scheme to the strategic partner.	The Council can design the school in whichever manner it wishes, using whichever architects it wishes, either stand alone or through a design and build.
The approach to design is a standardised one in terms of standard room sizes. We will be able to choose the number and type of spaces you need to deliver a school provided that we adhere to the maximum size and funding criteria.	
We can request a particular architect but the strategic partner does not have to use them.	
Contract	
BCBC tied into a contract for 25 years - business needs change over time so there is the risk that the contract may become unsuitable for these changing needs during the contract life.	Contract period ends when building complete.
Scheme would be delivered via strategic partner procurement. Welsh Government would run a process to procure the private sector delivery partners and local authorities would enter into a project agreement with the ‘Special Purpose Vehicle’.	Scheme either designed by the Major Projects Team in Corporate Landlord and a construction contractor appointed via the South and Mid Wales Collaborative Construction Framework (SEWSCAP), or procured as a ‘design and build’ scheme via the same framework.
A long-term contract encourages the contractor and the Council to consider costs over the whole life of the contract, rather than considering the construction and operational periods separately This can lead to efficiencies through synergies between design and construction and its later operation and maintenance. The contractor takes the risk of getting the design and construction wrong	The Council bears the risk of getting the design wrong, which could create additional costs further down the road. The Council will also bear additional lifecycle costs following construction which are not built into the original cost.
The contract includes provision of Hard Facilities Management services including building maintenance, including all systems (eg mechanical and electrical and statutory	These costs will all be the responsibility of the Council/governing body.

MIM Funded	Capital Grant
testing, in addition to energy and utilities supply and management service including energy and water efficiency	
Variations may be needed as the public sector body's business needs change. Management of these may require renegotiation of contract terms and prices	Any variations to the build once constructed will also come at a cost.
Payment	
The unitary payment will include charges for the contractor's acceptance of risks, such as construction and service delivery risks, which may not materialise. This is a hidden overhead.	Any on-going charges required for borrowing to meet capital grant match funding will only include interest charges.
The unitary payment will not start until the building is operational, so the contractor has incentives to encourage timely delivery of quality service.	BCBC will start paying for the building as soon as the works commence – design through to construction.
The contract provides greater incentives to manage risks over the life of the contract than under traditional procurement. A reduced level or quality of service would lead to compensation paid to the public sector body.	Once the building is handed over, the Council does not have the same opportunities for compensation for poor performance of the facility.
The unitary charge is payable over the life of the contract (25 years). There is no opportunity to repay this early. This creates a revenue budget pressure on the Council which is committed for a 25-year period.	If the capital contribution is funded from capital, there is no on-going pressure on the revenue budget. If it is funded from borrowing, there will be an on-going revenue pressure, but the Council has more flexibility to repay any loans early, borrow at reduced rates, as the opportunity arises.
Impact on capital and revenue programme	
The MIM does not impact upon the capital programme in any great way, other than 50% funding required for furniture and equipment. This could be met from either capital funding or revenue contributions. In contrast, the MIM places a fixed commitment on the revenue budget for a period of 25 years.	If funded via capital grant, the Council can choose to meet its match funding in the capital programme from capital receipts / S106 / revenue contributions or borrowing, so there is much more flexibility in both capital and revenue. If Council wants to fund other capital then there is always the option to borrow or use earmarked reserves to fund.

8.3 Officers have spoken to Welsh Government officials about potential options available following the removal of special school builds from the MIM procurement route. Welsh Government has indicated that capital funding would be available as an alternative to fund these schemes, but that authorities should consider other schemes, currently to be funded from capital grant, which could alternatively be funded from MIM.

8.4 Officers have considered the following funding options:

Option	Consideration	Capital Grant	MIM
Option 1	Original funding scenario	4 primary schools	Special school
Option 2	All funded from capital grant	4 primary schools plus special school	No MIM schemes
Option 3	Swap 2 primary schools with 1 special school	2 primary schools plus special school	2 primary schools
Option 4	Swap 4 primary schools with 1 special school	Special school	4 primary schools

8.5 Option 1 is the original funding scenario which is no longer available to the Council, but is included for comparative purposes.

8.6 Based upon the current funding availability identified in paragraph 8.2 the following table summarises the full revenue and capital implications of each of the funding options.

	Option 1 £	Option 2 £	Option 3 £	Option 4 £
Capital:				
Welsh Government grant	20,427,995	32,427,995	21,648,468	12,000,000
Total BCBC capital contribution	26,122,005	38,872,005	27,937,774	18,133,110
Total capital cost	46,550,000	71,300,000	49,586,242	30,133,110
Revenue:				
BCBC revenue for borrowing	733,000	1,347,000	821,000	349,000
BCBC revenue for MIM	650,000	0	523,088	1,015,566
Annual revenue funding required	1,383,000	1,347,000	1,344,088	1,364,566

It is important to note these costs are estimates based on information available at the current time, and MIM information received from Welsh Government, and will change in line with inflationary and interest rates rises

8.7 Option 2, where all schemes are funded by capital grant, draws down the greatest amount of Welsh Government match funding, but also requires the greatest amount of Council capital contribution. The annual revenue implications of borrowing for this option is only slightly higher than the annual revenue implications of mixed capital/MIM options.

8.8 The annual revenue implications of all options could reduce if additional capital funding were secured from s106 contributions, additional capital receipts, capital earmarked reserves. Revenue commitments for MIM schemes, however, cannot be reduced and are fixed over the life of the contract, so there would be less flexibility with Option 4 and, to a lesser extent, Option 3, compared to Option 2.

Option 4 would also present less flexibility in terms of future adaptations to buildings which are located within the areas of growth ie north east and south east of Bridgend.

8.9 Therefore further analysis of Option 2 and Option 3 has been undertaken. The following table sets out the direct advantages and disadvantages between both options.

	Option 2	Option 3
	All capital grant – no MIM, four primary and one special capital grant	Two primary MIMs, two primary and one special capital grant
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater flexibility in terms of funding sources and repayment • Total flexibility relating to configuration and use of buildings • Can be completed within our own timeframes • Full control over design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two buildings which are fully maintained for the 25-year term • Higher intervention rate (75%) for the two MIM builds • Lesser ongoing facilities management commitment (marginal)
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliant on individual school to maintain the building • Commitment on Council budgets for any capital works during the lifecycle of the building • Lower intervention rate (50%) for the builds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still requires capital contribution for furniture and equipment (which is still only funded at 50%) • Fixed revenue commitment over the 25-year period (ie no opportunity for early repayment) • Less control over design of school

8.10 It is important to note that both options currently require borrowing to meet the capital commitment.

Option 2

Annual revenue cost for Option 2 = £1.347m (based on borrowing over 30 years)

Plus additional annual revenue funding commitment for buildings maintenance (which we estimate around £250k per annum for the five new schools)

Option 3

Annual revenue cost for Option 3 = £1.344m (borrowing over 30 years, MIM over 25)

Plus additional annual revenue funding commitment for buildings maintenance (which we estimate around £150k per annum for the three non-MIM schools)

	Annual revenue cost	Buildings maintenance	Total cost over 30 year period
Option 2	£1.347m	£250k	£47.910m
Option 3	£1.344m	£150k	£42.707m

Therefore, the difference over a 30-year period is estimated at £5.203m with Option 3 being less expensive.

- 8.11 Should option 3 be pursued then this will result in an increase to the capital programme budget of £8.306 million, £2.852 million of which would be met from Welsh Government grant. The increase includes capital contributions to furniture, equipment and materials as required under MIM schemes. The remaining £5.454 million of funding to be met from BCBC resources may need to be funded from borrowing, but the additional borrowing costs will offset reduced annual revenue contributions to the MIM schemes due to the lower value of those compared to the original special school MIM scheme.
- 8.12 Whichever option is pursued will create significant pressures on the Council's capital and revenue budgets. The Council currently has very few uncommitted capital receipts, with any potential new receipts not likely to be significant enough to meet the capital funding required for these schemes, resulting in a need to borrow. In addition, the council is facing revenue budget cuts of around £36 million over the next four years, so any additional revenue pressures from either borrowing, or following the MIM route, will only add to the level of savings required to be made.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Council is recommended to give approval in principle for the revised financial commitment for Option 3 if approved by Cabinet 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.
- 9.2 Council is also recommended to give approval for the revised finance required in respect of Band B of the School Modernisation Programme to be incorporated into the capital programme.

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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)”

Cabinet Report (30 January 2018): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Council Report (31 January 2018): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 NOVEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

1. Purpose of the Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present Council with a review of work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during period September 2017 – September 2018.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives.

- 2.1
1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
 2. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
 3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

3.1 The Scrutiny Function

- 3.1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees oversee the decision making of the Cabinet Members and support the work of the Cabinet and the Council. They allow citizens to have a greater say in Council matters by holding public meetings into matters of local concern. These lead to reports and recommendations which advise the Cabinet and the Council as a whole on its policies, budget and service delivery.

- 3.1.2 Within their terms of reference, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:

- a) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- b) make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet and/or any joint Committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;

- c) consider any matter affecting the County Borough or its inhabitants; and
- d) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made by or on behalf of the Cabinet but not yet implemented.

3.2 The following areas were identified for future development during the 2017-18 period. These include:

- a) To take forward the effective implementation of the revised scrutiny structure;
- b) To enhance public engagement with the Scrutiny process – through development of the webpage, Scrutiny survey and through increased involvement of external invitees at Scrutiny meetings;
- c) To explore and develop Joint Scrutiny with other Local Authorities;
- d) To explore and develop the use of modern.gov to incorporate Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes and a record of decisions and actions.

4. Current Situation / Proposal.

4.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is Bridgend's Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-2018 which provides detail on the outcomes and achievements from Scrutiny Members and Officers during 2017-18, as well as identifies areas for improvement to ensure Scrutiny continues to develop and achieve positive outcomes for the residents of Bridgend.

4.2 The report also states how members and officers have addressed the areas for development previously identified for 2017-2018 as outlined above in paragraph 3.2

4.3 It is evident from the self-assessment that scrutiny is delivering a good service but the expectations from partner Authorities, Estyn, the Wales Audit Office and the Welsh Government continue to increase. Regional and partnership Scrutiny arrangements have not been fully developed but are underway by the establishment of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

4.4 Scrutiny will be undertaking an internal review of its policies and procedures and will include a review of the current Scrutiny Committee structure to assess if improvements in the process are needed to ensure better outcomes. The review will take into consideration the views of Members, Registered Representatives and the proposals from the recent Wales Audit Office report of scrutiny in Bridgend.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

5.1 This report accords with the relevant Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1 There are no equality implications attached to this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment

7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term The consideration of this report will assist in the continued improvement in the delivery of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery
- Prevention The Production of an annual report allows members and the public to reflect on the outcomes achieved over the last year and for the advance planning of improvement to Scrutiny procedures and policies. Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve procedures as a result of the production of this report
- Integration The annual report supports all the wellbeing objectives
- Collaboration Consultation on the content of the annual report has taken place with Officers and Scrutiny Chairs and reflects the outcomes of the Wales Audit Office Annual report
- Involvement Publication of the Annual report ensures that the public and stakeholders can review the work that has been undertaken by Scrutiny members throughout the year and informs them how they can get involved in the scrutiny process, providing them with the opportunity to feed into and engage in the Scrutiny process

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendation.

Council is recommended to note the contents of this report.

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Background Documents:

None

Bridgend County Borough Council



Annual Scrutiny Report 2017-18

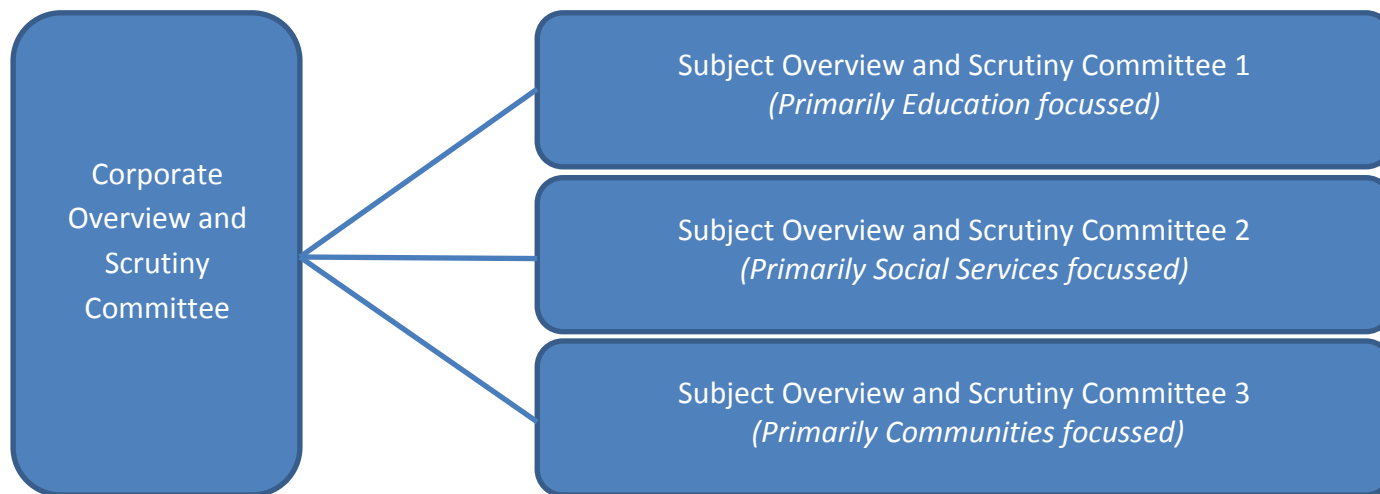
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Scrutiny in Bridgend

This is Bridgend County Borough Council's Annual Scrutiny Report which outlines the work undertaken by each Scrutiny Committee during 2017-2018. The report describes how Scrutiny Members have challenged the decisions of the Council to deliver more effective outcomes for the people who live and work in Bridgend.

As with all local authorities in Wales, Scrutiny has become an established part of the Council's decision making process. It plays an integral part in helping to shape local policy and makes a substantial contribution towards the work of the Council by acting as a 'critical friend'. Scrutiny in Bridgend has a positive working relationship with the Cabinet and the Corporate Management Board (CMB). A member of Cabinet and CMB attend every Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to answer questions - enabling Scrutiny Members to effectively hold Cabinet Members to account.

There are currently 4 Overview and Scrutiny Committees within the Authority:



Within their terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees undertake the following:

- Review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- Make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet and/or any joint committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- Consider any matter affecting the County Borough or its residents; and
- Exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration of decisions made by or on behalf of the Cabinet but not yet implemented.

How we Scrutinise

Scrutiny is not a decision-making function, but it does have the power to influence, investigate and persuade. Good scrutiny should be evidence based and unaffected by the bias of political parties and provides non-Cabinet Members an important role to play in the running of the Authority. The Council strives to ensure that the work of the Scrutiny Committees links effectively to the strategic work of the Council as outlined in the Corporate Plan. The Scrutiny Committees use a number of methods to effectively scrutinise decisions being made by the Executive.

➤ **Pre-decision**

Committees are consulted by Cabinet on future decisions and policies. Looking at decisions before they are made provides an opportunity for Scrutiny to influence and improve them. Members think about how the decision has been developed, what the risks are and how they can reduce them.

➤ **Performance monitoring**

Scrutiny plays an important role in promoting continuous improvement in the way in which the Council delivers its services to the community. Overview and Scrutiny Committees monitor the performance of Cabinet, committees and Council Officers. They look at individual decisions, policy objectives, performance targets and specific service areas.

➤ **Call-in**

Overview and Scrutiny Committees can 'call-in' a decision which has been made by the Cabinet or an officer but not yet implemented, which enables them to consider whether a decision is appropriate. They may recommend that the Cabinet reconsider a decision.

➤ **In-depth reviews**

The Committees carry out in-depth reviews into particular areas using Research and Evaluation Panels. These panels research, interview and investigate a specific issue. They then report what they have found back to the committee for consideration and action, such as a report to Cabinet

These panels include:

- Budget Research and Evaluation Panel – to assist in delivering financial transparency and accountability of the draft budget proposals and the Corporate Priorities.
- Member and School Engagement Panel – to explore school performance and improve levels of understanding in support of the Committee's accountability function.
- Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel – to review and scrutinise the efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Service Board and its decisions as well as the Board's governance arrangements.

Assessing the impact of Scrutiny

Page 70 Capturing and assessing the impact of Scrutiny is not an easy task as the positive outcomes of Scrutiny activity are not always easily measured in a systematic way.

Whilst 'outputs' like the number of recommendations approved and adopted by Cabinet may be indicative of relations between the Cabinet and Scrutiny functions, it gives no indication of the quality of the recommendations made in the first instance and the extent to which it may have been later implemented.

It is important to recognise the positive effects of Scrutiny and its ability to influence decision makers through discussion and debate. Sometimes there are no measurable outputs from Committee discussion yet the opportunity for Cabinet Members and Officers to reflect on proposed courses of action has undoubtedly influenced the way in which the proposals are implemented.

Striking an effective balance between the 'challenge' and 'support' elements of the Scrutiny function is reliant on Committees building strong working relationships and demonstrating other key skills such as negotiation and influencing, team-working, policy analysis and questioning techniques.

Impact Monitoring

As previously mentioned, the impact of Scrutiny is not clearly evident in that there may not be a precise recommendation or action that can be measured for outcome, however, this does not say that there are not outcomes that are being achieved behind the scenes. In Bridgend, Scrutiny Officers have developed and maintained a process for keeping a record of this impact in order to try and measure the outcomes of Scrutiny.

This process considers the issue, the risk, the action taken and the outcomes. It takes note of everything from a Scrutiny Committee review to a simple change in a scrutiny process. Examples of this include:

- A change in process where feedback to comments and recommendations received from Officers are presented to the next meeting to provide the Committee with an opportunity to discuss responses as part of the Forward Work Programme and ensure evidence of outcomes from Scrutiny comments.

This process was highlighted by Scrutiny Officers at a national training event where it was praised as a very effective tool for monitoring the impact of Scrutiny, following which requests have now been made for the methodology used by Bridgend to be shared with other authorities as best practice.

Outcomes and Achievements

The developments and improvements achieved during this year have been accomplished concurrently to significant changes to the Membership of newly elected Members and within the Council's senior management. Every effort is being made to ensure that the scrutiny function in Bridgend is carried out to the high standards that have become expected of the service.

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The following areas were identified for future development during the 2017-18 period. These included:

To take forward the effective implementation of the revised scrutiny structure;

- Through previous Scrutiny reviews it was identified that the structure of the Scrutiny Committees did not facilitate truly cross-cutting scrutiny or reflect the cross cutting portfolios of Cabinet Members. It was also acknowledged that there were areas of duplication within each Committee which prevented effective scrutiny. To ensure the continuing development of the Overview and Scrutiny process in Bridgend, a new Overview and Scrutiny Committee structure was implemented which consists of a Centralised Committee Structure with a Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and three Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- Scrutiny Officers have continued to drive forward the implementation of the revised structure and have worked consistently to show the benefits of the new structure, particularly the removal of silo working.
- As part of the new Scrutiny Structure there has been enhanced consideration of the Forward Work Programme report which is presented and discussed at each meeting. The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of scrutiny business where Members are provided with an opportunity to influence and improve decisions. Effective Forward Work Planning has also resulted in more detailed report requests being stipulated to Officers which has led to a reduction of additional information being requested at meetings.
- Wales Audit Office undertook a review to explore how 'fit for the Future' Scrutiny functions are within the Authority, which led to several recommendations being made for strengthening Scrutiny in Bridgend. These recommendations will be explored and will feed into the internal Overview and Scrutiny structure review agreed to by Council.

To enhance public engagement with the Scrutiny process – through development of the webpage, Scrutiny survey and through increased involvement of external invitees at Scrutiny meetings;

Scrutiny Officers have undertaken a range of activities which are intended to enhance the ability for Scrutiny to communicate effectively with the public and to better facilitate engagement, participation and democratic accountability. These activities include:

- Members highlighted the need to increase engagement in the Scrutiny process and incorporate views from the Third Sector in Committee meetings. This led to Scrutiny Officers actively looking for a range of external invitees from public and external organisations to enhance involvement and to provide evidence other than from internal officers, thus ensuring Scrutiny is as engaging and effective as possible. At a Scrutiny meeting discussing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services an invitee from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board welcomed scrutiny of the topic and commended Scrutiny on the innovative approach undertaken by inviting a wide range of invitees to discuss and provide their views on the item. Other invitees that have participated in meetings over the last year are from Kier Waste and Recycling Services, South Wales Police, Town and Community Council Members, representatives from primary schools, Bridgend College, Central South Consortium and the Chair of Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Cabinet. During consideration of the Forward Work Programme report, the Committee are asked to identify invitees internal or external that they wish to invite to future Committee meetings.
- The use of webcasting to increase the openness and transparency of the decision making process within the Authority has been developed and trialled throughout 2017/2018 to raise the profile of what subjects Scrutiny are considering. Due to the success of the webcasting pilot, Scrutiny is now committed to webcasting high profile topics at future meetings.
- The Scrutiny webpage has recently been updated to ensure that the content is user friendly to encourage participation in democratic accountability to improve public services. The Scrutiny webpages inform members of the public how they are able to participate in the scrutiny process and includes a revised and simplified version of the Scrutiny request form to facilitate requests from the public for an item for Scrutiny to consider. Although the content has been reviewed and improved, further work is currently being undertaken on the accessibility of the Scrutiny pages through the Councils website.

[To explore and develop Joint Scrutiny with other Local Authorities;](#)

Joint Scrutiny currently being undertaken in Bridgend is with the Cardiff City Region Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Central South Consortium Scrutiny Working Group.

- Following a proposal presented to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD) Joint Cabinet for the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) to consider CCRCD, it was agreed that Bridgend County Borough Council would carry out the role of Host Authority. The Council's Scrutiny function is now taking the lead in co-ordinating scrutiny activity between all 10 local authority partners. The JOSC will consider if the CCRCD is operating in accordance with the Joint Working Agreement, its Annual Business Plan and determine if timescales are being managed effectively. The JOSC will make recommendations and reports to the Regional Cabinet and or any of the Appointing Authorities and their executives in respect of any function that has been delegated to the Regional Cabinet pursuant to the Joint Working Agreement. Scrutiny Officers in Bridgend have since started to progress with setting up the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. So far, the ten local authorities included in the CCRCD have agreed to take part in the JOSC with each Authority nominating members to sit on the JOSC as a representative of their Authority. It is anticipated that the first

meeting of the JOSOC will take place in October 2018 with a further 2-3 meetings being held in the first year. A number of training sessions are also planned for members of the JOSOC to enable them to support them in their role.

- Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan are part of a working group with the Central South Consortium (CSC). The CSC is a school improvement service that aims to improve educational outcomes for all pupils. The CSC Overview and Scrutiny Working Group consist of the relevant Scrutiny Chair and a Scrutiny Officer that attends from each of the LAs involved in the CSC. The Consortium's performance is scrutinised on an annual basis by the relevant Scrutiny Committee in each LA who examine the detail of the latest school performance results and business plan. These meetings focus on data and activity relevant to the individual local authority whereas the CSC Working Group was developed to scrutinise on a regional level and received regional performance trends, share regional best scrutiny practice and the Consortium's progress against its 3-year business plan on regional basis.
- Bridgend's Regulatory Services have merged with Cardiff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council and there have been some discussions as to whether joint Scrutiny would be beneficial. Whilst this has not been progressed as yet there has been continued communications between the Scrutiny sections to ensure some standardisation and that each Local Authority is receiving similar information.

Areas for Development for 2018-2019

- To work with Communications to create greater accessibility to the Scrutiny Webpages and to publicise webcast scrutiny meetings;
- To give further consideration to recommendations developed in response to the Wales Audit Office Overview and Scrutiny – Fit for Future report;
- To review the current Overview and Scrutiny Structure and consider whether this model has achieved the aims set out prior to the restructure;
- To collaboratively develop and sustain effective scrutiny of the Cardiff Capital City Region Deal as Host Authority for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr Cheryl Green

Members of the Committee:

Cllr John-Paul Blundell, Cllr Norah Clarke, Cllr Jane Gebbie, Cllr Tom Giffard, Cllr Martyn Jones, Cllr Ross Penhale-Thomas, Cllr Bridie Sedgebeer, Cllr Rod Shaw, Cllr John Spanswick, Cllr Tim Thomas, Cllr Carolyn Webster

Role of the Committee:

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider up to two main items at each meeting and in addition to this the Committee has responsibility for setting and prioritising the forward work programme for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been delegated the responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 to review and scrutinise decisions made or action taken by the responsible authorities in connection with the discharge of crime and disorder functions. The Committee also oversees the decision making of the Community Safety Partnership and its constituent bodies (in respect of their community safety roles).

Key areas of work the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook during 2017-18:

Core Outcome One

Better Outcomes

On a quarterly basis, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive financial information relating to all Directorates. This provides the Committee the opportunity to monitor the information as well as refer specific service items onto the relevant Scrutiny Committee. By scrutinising the financial position of the Council on a quarterly basis Members are able to advise and influence the areas that require most focus.

A report was also presented to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee titled 'Rationalisation of the Councils Estate' to demonstrate the extent of the Council's asset management portfolio, the strategic direction of travel, the progress made with Community Asset Transfer and other major projects. Following discussions, Members made several recommendations in relation to the topic including that the Authority engage with the local community, as well as Town and Community Councils before Council owned buildings are demolished to allow an opportunity to retain the built heritage of the Community. Officers

agreed that Property Services would incorporate contact with the local community within in its marketing strategy when disposing of buildings with traditional features.

Better Decisions

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee met recently to participate in a consultation on Supported Bus Services where they received the outcome of the public consultation that took place and provided comments and their views on behalf of their constituents. These observations were included as part of the Officers report to Cabinet and were considered before Cabinet determined to maintain the subsidy to three bus routes where the original proposal was to cut the subsidies to these services.

Under the new Scrutiny structure the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the overall responsibility for budget monitoring throughout the year. As such it was agreed that Corporate would continue this role and appoint the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) from within the Committee Membership. BREP was approved and established in 2012 and its role is to assist in the delivery financial transparency and accountability of the draft budget proposals. BREP produce a report annually which is presented to Cabinet on the budget proposals. When collating comments and conclusions of meetings during the BREP process last year, in addition to proposing recommendations in relation to the draft budget proposals 2018-19 to 2021-22 and the budget consultation process to Cabinet, the Panel also made several recommendations regarding future budget planning. Recommendations were also proposed to other forums within the Authority, such as Democratic Services Committee regarding the Member Referral system and to the Town and Community Council (TCC) Forum to encourage collaboration with other TCCs to enhance their viability. Both these recommendations are currently being exercised as part of reviews into both areas.

Better Engagement

Engagement opportunities are continually being explored by Members, Officers and Scrutiny Chairs to invite individuals with specific experience and knowledge to Scrutiny meetings. The aim of this is to provide Scrutiny the opportunity to hear the views of others and gather evidence to make effective and robust recommendations.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently received a report on the developments of the Cardiff Capital City Region Deal. The meeting was attended by the Chair of the Cabinet for the Cardiff Capital City Region Deal who is also the Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, as well as Bridgend's Leader and Chief Executive. The Committee was given the opportunity to question the members of the Cardiff Capital City Region Deal Cabinet on the developments and upcoming projects and specifically how these would benefit the residents who work and live in Bridgend County Borough.

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee also had the opportunity to discuss the outcome of the Public Conveniences consultation and deliver their thoughts and suggestions as part of the process. This ensured that the Committee was provided with the ability to voice the concerns and views of the citizens of Bridgend and guarantee that they were taken into consideration as part of the decision making process. Overall the Committee was pleased to hear of the proposed future alternative plans for public conveniences and strongly supported introducing charges for the use of public conveniences as an alternative to closure. Officers were in agreement with the observations made by the Committee which were aligned with the recommendations and course of action proposed to Cabinet.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1

Chair: Cllr Carolyn Webster

Members of the Committee:

Cllr John-Paul Blundell, Cllr Nicole Burnett, Cllr Richard Collins, Cllr Pam Davies, Cllr Sorrel Dendy, Cllr Keith Edwards, Cllr Jane Gebbie, Cllr Martyn Jones, Cllr David Owen, Cllr Bridie Sedgebeer, Cllr Roz Stirman, Cllr Lyn Walters, Cllr Ken Watts, Cllr Amanda Williams, Cllr Julia Williams

Registered Representatives: Rev Canon Edward Evans, Tim Calahane, Ciaron Jackson, Kevin Pascoe, William Bond

Role of the Committee:

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 is the first forum for Education items which are the responsibility of the Cabinet and include in its membership registered representatives, one Church in Wales, one roman Catholic Church; three parent governor representatives (one from Primary School, one from a Secondary school and one from Special School) to enable the statutory Educational Registered Representatives to attend.

Key areas of work the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 undertook during 2017-18:

Core Outcome One

Better Outcomes

Scrutiny continuously raises awareness of the need and importance of considering comparisons with other local authorities to identify best practice and to monitor performance from a national perspective. This approach was utilised while scrutinising a review of the future of Post-16 Education Provision across Bridgend County Borough. The Committee determined that for Cabinet to make any future decision regarding the proposed concepts for Post-16 education, evidence of best practice would be need to be provided and considered from other local authorities in England and Wales.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 also had the opportunity to provide its views on the proposed new model for Children's Residential Services and recommended that the Authority look towards providing joint regional training with other LAs and that consideration be given to looking within these LAs for experts to provide this. This joint training would not only assist in hopefully reducing the cost of training but would also help build relationships between staff, residential staff and foster carers regionally not just within our own Council. The Committee further requested that as part of the future Early Help and

Social Services item, the report include detailed analysis of the causes and demands on Children’s Social Services as Members commented that if this is not known and understood, then the Authority could not be assured that the changes that are being introduced are fit for purpose.

Better Decisions

The Committee considered an item regarding the contribution of the HM prison Parc to the local community and the budget implications of meeting the new duties and responsibilities of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. The Committee was disappointed with the decision made by Welsh Government to distribute grant funding across 22 Local authorities in Wales to provide a social care provision to the secure estate, as opposed to a specific distribution to those authorities with prison populations. The Committee therefore sent a letter to the Department of Justice and Welsh Government stating that it should reconsider the Grant funding allocation. The Committee felt the funding allocation had placed Bridgend County Borough Council in an unfair financial disadvantage by having a secure estate within its boundary. The Committee was concerned that without a sufficient allocation of the funding the delivery of social care services to those in the secure estate could be placed at risk. In addition to a letter being sent to Welsh Government by the Committee, the interim 151 officer also made representations to the Welsh Government Decision Support Group highlighting the imbalanced allocations.

Following the deliberation of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Reform and the evidence received, the Committee agreed to make a series of comments and recommendations for submission to the Education and Family Support Directorate as well as a number of recommendations that were forwarded to Welsh Government for consideration in the development and implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill. The Committee felt that the Council should write to Welsh Government to ask for extra resource in order to meet the requirements of the ALN Reform and the accompanying Bill, as well as additional funding and provision for schemes such as ‘Access to Work’ to assist individuals with ALN in gaining employment.

Better Engagement

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 were consulted in the early stages of the Band B Development – the second phase of the School Modernisation Programme. The Committee was aware of the early stages of a planned new housing development near Llanilid in the Vale of Glamorgan/ Rhondda Cynon Taff Boundary and recommended that Officers engage at an early stage with Rhondda Cynon Taff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan to discuss secondary education provision including how the new development could potentially affect the population of the nearby Pencoed Comprehensive School. The Committee was

concerned and wanted to prevent any potential oversubscription issues at the school. Officers have since responded to the Committee outlining that the Communities and Education and Family Support Directorates work closely together to provide guidance to support the current local development plan and have held initial discussions regarding the revised local development plan from 2021.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

Chair: Cllr Cheryl Green

Members of the Committee:

Cllr Mike Clarke, Cllr Pam Davies, Cllr Sorrel Dendy, Cllr Jane Gebbie, Cllr Martyn Jones, Cllr Mike Kearn, Cllr Janice Lewis, Cllr Aniel Pucella, Cllr Kay Rowlands, Cllr Stephen Smith, Cllr Gary Thomas, Cllr Tim Thomas, Cllr Sadie Vidal, Cllr David White, Cllr Alex Williams

Role of the Committee:

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 is the first forum for Social Services and Wellbeing items in order to respond to issues relating to the Care Inspectorate Wales and those regarding Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Key areas of work the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 undertook during 2017-18:

Core Outcome One

Better Outcomes

As part of ensuring a wide range of evidence and perspectives are provided, the Committee specifically requested that the report provide comparisons with other Local Authorities on undertaken dementia awareness training. This allowed the Committee to consider how successful Bridgend Council had been in making Bridgend Dementia Friendly. Representation from Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) were in attendance at the meeting which enabled BAVO to share best practice carried out by Vale of Glamorgan Council and highlight the benefits of being a dementia friendly borough. Being a dementia friendly borough means that all citizens have an understanding of dementia and how it affects individuals; in turn enables people and their families to feel more confident about living with dementia, knowing that within their community had an awareness of dementia and that the community was supportive of people to remain independent and live well with dementia. Following the meeting further training sessions on dementia has been provided to all Elected Members to increase awareness and enable them to become Dementia Friends.

Core Outcome Two**Better Decisions**

This Committee considered the pre decision item 'Remodelling Older Persons Accommodation' where Members were asked to provide feedback in respect of the recommendation to tender as a going concern one of Bridgend County Borough Council's internal residential care homes, Ty Cwm Ogwr. Following discussions Members made several recommendations including the need for the Directorate to provide the Cabinet with further detail regarding the outcome from the full day drop off sessions, offer of 1:1 meetings and any further contact made with residents, their families and staff. This detail was presented to Cabinet as recommended which provided a greater understanding of the conclusions of the conducted consultations prior to Cabinet making a decision.

Core Outcome Three**Better Engagement**

The Committee received a report on Prevention and Wellbeing and Local Community Coordination in which it received information on different initiatives that are currently available within the community as an alternative to statutory services and what input is being provided by the third sector, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board and other partners. External partners were in attendance from Bridgend Older Persons Forum, Bridgend Associated of Voluntary Organisation and the Primary and Community Services Delivery Unit who provided a wide range of observations from the vast array of bodies. Following discussions the Committee identified that there was a lack of collaboration, namely with the police and fire service and determined to add collaborative working with external partners to the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme to explore how best to encourage working more closely together and to ensure no duplication of efforts are being made.

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3

Chair: Cllr John Spanswick

Members of the Committee:

Cllr Stuart Baldwin, Cllr Tom Beedle, Cllr Norah Clarke, Cllr Paul Davies, Cllr Gareth Howells, Cllr Altaf Hussain, Cllr David Lewis, Cllr James Radcliffe, Cllr Rod Shaw, Cllr Roz Stirman, Cllr Gary Thomas, Cllr Jefferson Tildesley MBE, Cllr Matthew Voisey, Cllr David White

Role of the Committee:

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 considers the service provision, planning, management and performance relating to the relevant subject area prioritised and allocated by the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.

Key areas of work the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 undertook during 2017-18:

Core Outcome one

Better Outcomes

A report on Empty Properties in Bridgend was presented to Members of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 at a meeting in March 2018. The Committee heard evidence from Officers from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and from the Shared Regulatory Service. The Committee was concerned at the high numbers of empty properties in the Borough and felt that it needed to be tackled head on and so made a recommendation to Cabinet that BCBC recruit their own dedicated Empty Properties Officer within BCBC to address the issues that were in the Borough in a bid to also reduce the number of homeless people there were in Bridgend. The Committee felt that employing an officer through the Shared Regulatory Service would not provide the best outcome for Bridgend. Cabinet agreed to consider the recommendations provided by the Committee when they receive a further report from Officers detailing the remit and responsibilities of the Empty Property Officer.

Core Outcome two

Better Decisions

The Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 was updated on the Community Asset Transfer policy that was in place throughout the Borough and was informed of what support was available to town and community councils, community groups and sports clubs under the community asset transfer programme. It was evident that many of the Community Asset Transfers

had not been progressed as the groups did not feel fully informed on the procedure or supported throughout the process. Members emphasised the need for the method to be further developed and streamlined in order for the scheme to be successful. Members recommended that a Community Asset Transfer pack be created to supply to potential applicants to ensure they fully understood the Community Asset Transfer process from start to finish. Officers agreed with the Members comments and following the recommendation agreed that the CAT Officer would develop a standard information pack that could be tailored for a particular asset, therefore making the process more streamlined. The revised CAT Process is due to be scrutinised in January 2019 where an update on the agreed recommendations will be expected.

Core Outcome three

Better Engagement

The Committee have continually engaged with external partners by inviting them to participate in Scrutiny Committees to help shape policies and provide reassurance to the public that they are committed to the improvement of the delivery of public services. Members received a report from the Communities Directorate in November 2017 on the then newly launched and much publicised new waste collection service. Partners Kier attended the meeting to respond to concerns of the public and actively engaged in the Scrutiny function to drive improvement in the service they deliver to the residents of Bridgend County Borough.

Representatives from the Wallich and Pobl Group attended a Scrutiny Committee to give an insight into the current situation on the emergency accommodation in Bridgend. The Committee was appreciative to hear first-hand the scale of the problem and recognised the excellent support service provided to people presenting themselves to the emergency accommodation provision and was encouraged by the partnership working in managing these provisions.

Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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Chair: Cllr Rod Shaw

Members of the Committee:

Cllr Sorrel Dendy, Cllr John Spanswick, Cllr Tim Thomas, Cllr David Lewis, Cllr Rod Shaw, Cllr Ken Watts

Role of the Committee:

From 1 April 2016, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 introduced statutory Public Services Boards (PSB) across each local authority area in Wales. PSBs work together to improve the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of the board's area. The Act specified that one Committee take an overview of the overall effectiveness of the Board which this Authority determined to carry out via a PSB Overview and Scrutiny Panel under the remit of the COSC. Its membership incorporates BCBC Members from all Scrutiny Committees (3 from Corporate and 1 from each of the SOSCs) and counterpart representatives from partnership bodies.

The purpose of the Panel is to review and scrutinise the efficiency and effectiveness of the PSB and its decisions as well as the governance arrangements surrounding it. The Panel can make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions with the aim of enhancing its impact.

Key areas of work the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertook during 2017-18:

Following the Panel's meeting in February 2017, the PSB Overview and Scrutiny Panel received a report detailing the development of the Assessment of Well Being in Bridgend and was asked to respond to the consultation on the Assessment of Wellbeing. The Panel made several comments and also requested to receive the Local Wellbeing Plan in its draft form at a future meeting. Whilst acting as a consultee on the Wellbeing Plan, whilst overall the Panel agreed with the objectives listed within the Plan, Members strongly recommended that additional detail needed to be provided to evidence how the PSB will implement the steps proposed to ensure the objectives are met; what agency will be responsible for carrying out the action and stipulate clear timelines. This would ensure each member is aware of their individual role and provide effective monitoring of progress to safeguard achievement of each objective.

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

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