

# Public Document Pack

## 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, 14 November 2019

Dear Councillor,

#### **COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB on **Wednesday, 20 November 2019 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 (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 16  
To receive for approval the minutes of the 23/10/2019
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. 2020-21 Council Tax Base 17 - 20
7. Review of the Constitution and Amendments to the Constitution 21 - 28
8. To receive the following Question from Councillor A Hussain to the Cabinet Member Communities

In the County Borough there are many cycle and walking route gaps. How is the Cabinet Member addressing this to encourage Active Travel?

**By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you will save the Authority approx. £0.56 in printing costs**

9. Urgent Items

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

Yours faithfully

**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

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2019

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2019 AT 15:00

## Present

Councillor SE Baldwin – Chairperson

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	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	JC Spanswick	RME Stirman	T Thomas
JH Tildesley MBE	SR Vidal	MC Voisey	LM Walters
KJ Watts	CA Webster	DBF White	PJ White
A Williams	HM Williams	RE Young	

## Apologies for Absence

S Aspey, G Thomas, E Venables, AJ Williams and JE Williams

## Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Gill Lewis	Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Jonathan Parsons	Group Manager Development
Andrew Rees	Democratic Services Manager
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Kevin Stephens	Democratic Services Assistant
Kelly Watson	Head of Legal & Regulatory Services

## 358. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor RE Young declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 – proposal for a Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region as he is being nominated to represent the Council on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel.

Kelly Watson, Head of Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer and Gill Lewis, Interim Head of Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer declared an interest in agenda item 8 – Proposed Changes to the JNC Management Structure as their positions are affected by the proposals. Both officers left the meeting during consideration of the item.

## 359. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Council of 18 September 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record subject to the inclusion of the name of Councillor JE Williams in the list of apologies for absence.

360. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM:

Mayor

The Mayor informed Council of the engagements which he had undertaken since the last meeting of Council, which included visiting the Standing to Grow Playgroup based in the Nantyffyllon Miners Institute Maesteg, which had recently opened a new room, funded by the Childcare Offer Capital Funding Grant and allocated by the childcare team on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council. He had attended the annual prize giving evening at Pencoed Comprehensive School and congratulated the pupils on their success and the staff for their dedication and commitment.

The Mayor announced that he was honoured to support the Annual Charity Poppy Appeal held in the Garw Valley Leisure Centre, with music being provided by the Prince of Wales Division Band and included contributions from various local choirs. The Mayor informed Council that in the coming month he would be visiting the winners of the Local Business Awards, held in September.

Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader announced that the County Borough's first ever re-use shop has opened for business at Maesteg's community recycling centre. It will be run by social enterprise Wastesavers in partnership with the Council and Kier. The shop has been named 'The Siding' in recognition of Maesteg's mining heritage. Unwanted household items, in good condition can be donated and put to good use, with all profits reinvested into social programmes.

Arrangements have been made for Members to receive training in Managing Abusive And Aggressive Phone Calls, Conflict Management and Personal Safety Awareness on 31 October 2019, with the first session commencing at 9.30am, and a repeat session at 1.30pm. Some places are still available at both sessions and Members wishing to attend should contact, Andrew Rees, Democratic Services Manager.

Cabinet Member Communities

The Cabinet Member Communities informed Members of the recent and very reluctant decision of Cabinet to move to a full-cost recovery position for playing fields and sports pavilions. It highlighted the position the Council is in and reveals just how far the local authority has been subsidising such facilities, in some cases by as much as 80%. He urged more organisations, sports groups and town and community councils to come forward and meet with the Council to discuss taking on the running of popular local facilities through the Community Asset Transfer process, with Bryncethin Rugby Club being a perfect example of what this process can achieve, and demonstrates how a club or organisation can access funding to develop new facilities. He stated that until local government finds itself in a position where it is sufficiently funded, the Council is going to need to continue to work in closer partnership and use processes such as community asset transfers in order to ensure that facilities such as toilets, pavilions, playing fields, pitches, playgrounds and more remain available to use. He hoped Members will reflect this message within their own wards, and will encourage local people to consider how they too might contribute towards keeping popular facilities at the heart of the community.

He was delighted to confirm that former military personnel who apply for jobs with Bridgend County Borough Council are to be guaranteed an interview under new procedures which are being introduced to help them adjust to civilian life. The move is intended to support local veterans, serving personnel and their families, help them

overcome barriers in finding civilian employment, and reduce the risk of health and welfare problems. Selection procedures will still ensure that the best candidate for the role is appointed, veterans will be provided with an opportunity to demonstrate transferable skills such as leadership, management, problem-solving and more while also developing valuable interview experience. He stated that this was the latest development progressed as part of the authority's Armed Forces Community Covenant which brings together public service organisations, local businesses, charities and the voluntary sector to offer appropriate help, support and advice.

#### Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help announced that the Older People's Commissioner for Wales launched a new campaign which Bridgend County Borough Council will be supporting. Called 'Every Day Ageism', it sought to raise awareness of the scale and impact of issues that are faced by older people every single day and designed to challenge ageism and age discrimination, and empower older people to do the same by encouraging residents to report their experiences so they can be challenged by the Commissioner. He stated that a supporter's pack is available from the older People Wales website, Members may want to let their constituents know and encourage them to support this very worthy cause.

He also announced that the annual 'Olympage Games', designed to develop age-friendly communities and recognise the health and well-being benefits of encouraging older people to be more active is set to take place on Wednesday 5 December at Bridgend Life Centre between 9:30am – 11am, and he was sure it would be another big success.

#### Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations announced that the Shared Regulatory Service for Bridgend, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan has won Gold, Silver and Bronze awards at the 2019 RSPCA Paw-Prints initiative. The service was recognised in three different categories, taking Gold for Stray Dogs, Silver for Animal Activity Licensing and Bronze for Kennelled Dogs. The awards are designed to recognise achievements in stray dog services, contingency planning, housing policy, animal activity licensing and kennelled dog welfare. She also congratulated Pontyclun based Hope Rescue, who picked up a gold award for the way they look after kennelled dogs for public bodies in Wales.

She also announced that confirmation had been received that a number of local clubs are to benefit from Welsh Government's 'Place For Sport' investment. Bridgend Athletics Club has been provided with £50,000 which, together with contributions from the Council, the club and Bridgend Town Council, will be used to replace the 300m running track at Newbridge Fields.

Elsewhere, Nantyffyllon Rugby Football Club has been awarded £25,000, Tondu Target Shooting Club £10,000, and Pencoed Athletic Boys and Girls Club almost £10,000. With Funk Force Dance Group receiving almost £5,000 and Kenfig Hill and Pyle Bowls Club £4,000, the money will be used to help modernise, protect and create new sports facilities.

#### Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration announced that Secondary school admissions for September 2020 open earlier this week, and he asked Members to help encourage parents, guardians and carers to make their applications for places online by using the My Account service. He stated that parents and carers of primary school

pupils who are currently in year six will have until 24 January to submit an application. They will then be notified of the outcome on 2 March. He stated that further details can be found at the school admissions page of the Council website.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration announced that work was progressing on transforming the former station master's office for the Porthcawl Railway into all-new modern commercial premises, which was expected to be complete early in 2020.

He congratulated Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd pupil Owain Lloyd who had obtained 5A Grades at A level.

Chief Executive

The Chief Executive informed Council of an update on Brexit. He stated that the local media had been briefed, resulting in the Council's plans being reported in the Gazette. He informed Council that there is a Risk Tracker in place and there is regular dialogue with the Swansea Bay Port Health Authority and Sea Fisheries Committee. He urged Members to draw constituents' attention to the European Union Resettlement Scheme which will enable European Union citizens to continue living in the UK.

361. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE LEADER

The Leader announced that the Rest Bay Watersports Centre had recently been opened, which is part of a Visit Wales initiative to create 13 new visitor destinations across Wales. The facility will provide enhanced visitor facilities as well as a purpose-built base for Porthcawl Surf School, Rest Bay Bike Hire, Welsh Coast Surf Club and the Beach Academy. A café/bistro will also be set up and the facility will feature a refreshments kiosk, new toilets, external showers, all-weather bicycle storage, accessible beach wheelchairs and more. He informed Council that this would be a fantastic new addition to Porthcawl which will benefit residents and visitors alike.

The Leader also announced a pop-up business school is returning to Bridgend County Borough next week. Taking place between 10am and 3pm at Bridgend Life Centre from Monday 28th October to Friday 1 November, the event aims to provide people with the knowledge and tools necessary for starting their own business. Participants can book a place by visiting the pop-up business school Bridgend website.

The Leader announced that Welsh-medium childcare is on its way to Bettws and the Ogmere Valley, which is designed to support pupil admissions to the recently-completed Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd at Bettws. Two new facilities will be constructed at the Isfryn Industrial Estate at Blackmill, and at the site of the Bettws Boys and Girls Club. The plans mark the first phase of an initiative to develop more Welsh-medium childcare in Bridgend County Borough, with later phases focusing upon new facilities in Porthcawl and the Bridgend town area. He stated that the Welsh Government is providing £2.6m for design and development work to ensure local children will benefit from first-rate modern educational environments.

362. PROPOSALS FOR A STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP) FOR THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION

The Group Manager Development sought authorisation to formally commence the preparation of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the Cardiff Capital Region, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council being Responsible Authority; to identify the strategic planning area as the 10 local planning authority areas within the Cardiff Capital Region, for relevant officers to engage with the Welsh Government in drafting the Strategic

Development Plan Regulations to deliver the governance arrangements for the SDP and Strategic Planning Panel (SPP); to agree that the cost of preparing the SDP is shared across the 10 Authorities on a proportional cost based on SPP voting arrangements, which is reviewed annually, and to cover the start-up costs likely to be incurred in this financial year 2019/20 and nominate an elected Member to sit on the Strategic Planning Panel.

He reported that Council at its meeting on 28 February 2018, authorised officers to proceed with the preparation of the SDP in conjunction with the 10 Local Planning Authorities in the Cardiff Capital Region. He stated that at this stage the guidance and regulations for the SDP have not been made and the region is in a position to influence how the process can be managed and a successful SDP delivered. A preferred way forward has been identified in respect of the Strategic Planning Area Boundary; Governance and Scope, Content and Plan Period.

The Group Manager Development reported on the need for joined-up strategic planning for the Cardiff Capital Region and that the best way for achieving this is via a statutory Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region. He stated that the City Deal Agreement gave a commitment to prepare a Strategic Development Plan for the region and to work collaboratively on strategic transport and strategic planning issues, which reflects the recommendation from the Growth Commission's report. A statutory SDP provides certainty to developers, investors and communities that key strategic decisions around housing, transport, employment and infrastructure provision are being taken at an appropriate regional level, whilst still allowing key decisions on planning proposals to be taken locally through Local Development Plan allocations and policies and thereafter in development management decisions. He stated that a proposal to proceed with an SDP for the Cardiff Capital Region can only be put forward to Welsh Government by an identified Responsible Authority, once all Councils have formally given approval. Following this the Welsh Government can start preparing the necessary regulations setting out how the SDP should be prepared.

The Group Manager Development reported on the role of the responsible authority which is purely administrative, acting in support of the work of the 10 local authorities and as the sole point of contact between the Welsh Government and the 10 local authorities. The background work, including all technical work and consultation, e.g. identifying the strategic planning boundary, would be done on a collective basis by officers from all 10 Local Authorities. The role of the Responsible Authority would be to formally submit the proposal on behalf of the whole region to Welsh Government.

He informed Council that consideration has been given by the 10 unitary authorities as to the boundary of the Strategic Planning Area and whether the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority should be included. The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has indicated that it agrees with this approach and does not wish to be part of the Strategic Planning Area or covered by the SDP.

The Group Manager Development reported on the Governance and Strategic Planning Panel, the governance model represents a transfer of strategic planning powers from local authorities to a Strategic Planning Panel. He stated that voting on the SPP would be weighted having regard to the size of the population of the constituent authorities and also having regard to the geographical area of the authority. Bridgend would have 1 member on the SPP but would have 2 votes. There would need to be a gender balance with no more than 60% of the Panel comprising one gender, except where the make-up of constituent local planning authorities makes the composition requirements unachievable. He also highlighted the engagement process with constituent councils, in that there will be formal stages of consultation in addition to continuous informal involvement throughout the preparation of the SDP. It was likely that the process would

mirror that of the Local Development Plan. He stated that standing orders will require a 70% quorum of voting members on the Panel and decisions shall require a 70% majority vote of a quorate meeting.

He reported on a proposal for interim governance prior to the establishment of the SPP and that each Council would nominate a Member, ideally the relevant Cabinet Member to represent it on an Interim SPP with delegated authority to take initial decisions on the preparation of the SDP. He outlined the scope, content and plan period of the SDP, with the period to run from 2020 – 2040. He outlined the office and financial resources that will be required, with the estimated cost of preparing an SDP with a designated team being £3.14m over 5 years. The cost of preparing individual LDPs across the region would cost between £1.4m and £2.2m. It was proposed to share the cost of preparing the SDP across the 10 authorities, the annual cost to this Council would be £54,636, with the total cost to the Council being £273,180. He stated that in order to proceed, all 10 Councils must first agree to embark on preparing a SDP for the Cardiff Capital Region, which includes starting work on the evidence base as soon as possible, publishing a Preferred Strategy in 2022, a Deposit Plan in 2023 and Examination then Adoption in 2024/25.

A member of Council questioned the weighting of votes given to Monmouthshire as 3 votes when it is the least deprived and one of the lesser populated authorities. The Group Manager Development informed Council that Monmouthshire is strategically placed and is anticipated there would be pressure for growth. The Leader confirmed that there is likely to be considerable pressure on Monmouthshire for development and stated that each authority would be represented on the Panel by one member, with a shared and ambitious vision for the Region.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- (1) Agreed the content of the report and agreed that the Responsible Authority be authorised to submit the Proposal for a Strategic Development Plan for the Cardiff Capital Region to the Minister on behalf of the 10 Local Planning Authorities in the region.
- (2) Agreed that the Vale of Glamorgan Council to be the Responsible Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan.
- (3) Agreed that the Strategic Planning Area should comprise the 10 Local Planning Authority areas within the Cardiff Capital Region as shown on the map at Appendix A to the report.
- (4) Agreed that relevant officers engage with the Welsh Government in drafting the Strategic Development Plan Regulations to deliver the following governance arrangements for the SDP and Strategic Planning Panel:
  - (i) That the Strategic Planning Panel will be comprised of 10 Members, one from each constituent Local Authority with the weighting of votes for each constituent Local Authority being based on its population and geographical area as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>No. of Members on the Strategic Planning Panel</b>	<b>Weighting of Vote for Constituent LA</b>
Blaenau Gwent	1	1
Bridgend	1	2
Caerphilly	1	3



Cardiff	1	5
Merthyr Tydfil	1	1
Monmouthshire	1	3
Newport	1	2
Rhondda Cynon Taff	1	3
Torfaen	1	1
Vale of Glamorgan	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>
Nominated non-voting Panel Members	5	N

- (ii) That constituent Councils will be engaged through a prior consultation process as set out in Figure 1 and the Strategic Planning Panel shall have full regard to the comments of constituent Councils;
  - (iii) That decisions made on the Strategic Development Plan by the Strategic Planning Panel shall require a 70% quorum of voting Members on the Panel and decisions shall require a 70% majority vote of a quorate meeting.
- (5) Agreed to the setting up of an Interim Strategic Planning Panel prior to the formal establishment of the Strategic Planning Panel and that the Cabinet Member Communities be the nominated Member to represent the Council on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel with delegated authority to take initial decisions on the preparation of the SDP (with a vote weighted in accordance with the table at Recommendation 6(i)) and thereafter on the Strategic Planning Panel.
- 6) Agreed that in the event that Member is no longer able to sit on Interim Strategic Planning Panel, delegated powers be granted to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to nominate a new Member to represent the Council on the Interim Strategic Planning Panel and Strategic Planning Panel.
- (7) Agreed that a Regional Strategic Development Plan Officer Team be established to progress the preparation of the Strategic Development Plan to be appointed by representatives of the Interim Strategic Planning Panel, with appropriate human resource support from the Responsible Authority.
- (8) Agreed that the cost of preparing the Strategic Development Plan be shared across the 10 Authorities on a proportional cost based on the voting representation on the Strategic Planning Panel, to be reviewed on an annual basis, and an initial contribution of £50,005 be paid to cover the start-up costs likely to be incurred in this financial year 2019/20 as indicated above unless funding is made available from Welsh Government Sources.

363. ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer presented the Council's Annual Report 2018-19. The Plan defined 40 commitments to deliver the three well-being objectives and identified 58 outcome-focused indicators for the 2018-19 financial year. She stated that the Medium Term Financial Strategy identified how it would best use its resources to support the achievement of the well-being objectives and statutory duties, including the management of financial pressures and risks over the next four years.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that the Annual report evaluated how well the Council did in delivering its commitments and planned outcomes for the financial year, using its success measures and other evidence. She stated that overall, the Council performed well in 2018-19 and of the 40 commitments, 35 were completed successfully and the remaining 5 achieved most of their milestones. The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer informed Council that the Corporate Plan identified 58 indicators to measure success, 37 indicators are on target, 9 are off target by less than 10% and 10 missed the target by more than 10%. She stated that data for all indicators is not available and therefore a comparison as to how the Council performed nationally cannot be made. The 'How do we compare?' section sets out performance on indicators that have been published to date and is available on the 'Mylocalcouncil' website.

A member of Council questioned how many full time equivalent staff are employed by the Council and in schools. The Corporate Director Education and Family Support confirmed there are 3,000 staff employed in schools. The Chief Executive informed Council that the Council has 5,800 employees.

A member of Council asked whether the target for bringing empty properties back into use could be more challenging. The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations stated that she would provide information as to the target for bringing empty properties back into use as a result of the appointment of an Empty Properties Officer.

**RESOLVED:** That Council approved the Annual Report 2018-19.

364. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE JNC MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

The Chief Executive sought approval to amend the senior management structure and to commence formal consultation with relevant JNC officers on the proposed structure.

He informed Council that a new pay and grading structure was approved in November 2017, whereby additional tiers were added to the existing pay scale, to provide more flexibility in the structure to meet future challenges and to more ably respond to market forces and improve recruitment and retention. Council in February 2018, approved various changes to the JNC senior management structure which included the deletion of the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development, the reduction of a Head of Service post in the Communities Directorate, and the deletion of the former Corporate Director in the Operational and Partnerships Directorate. The changes resulted in a revised management structure in the Communities in a revised management structure in the Communities Directorate and the creation of the Chief Executive's Directorate.

The Chief Executive reported that further changes to the senior management team have taken place with the departure of the previous Chief Executive in December 2018 and the appointment of the previous Corporate Director Communities to the Chief Executive position, initially on an interim basis in January 2019 and permanently in May 2019. He stated that this has meant that during this period, interim arrangements have prevailed in terms of the management of the Communities Directorate and for the Head of Finance and Performance (and Section 151 Officer). Interim arrangements have ensured that services have continued to run satisfactorily during this time, it was clear that they are not sustainable in the long term and that permanent arrangements are required to ensure the Council has the capacity and resilience to meet the numerous challenges it faces moving forward, including substantial budgetary reductions and a significant change agenda to help ensure that public services can be sustained and are fit for purpose. He informed Council that in order to achieve stability in the Communities Directorate, a recruitment process for the position of Corporate Director, will be

undertaken in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

He reported on a proposal that the current Head of Finance and Performance (and section 151 officer) post, which is currently vacant, is re-designated to that of Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change. The post will continue to report directly to the Chief Executive as part of the Chief Executive's Directorate and will assume additional responsibility for aligning the Council's financial resources with its corporate change programme. He stated that the Council has a statutory obligation to have a nominated Section 151 Officer and an appointment to this post was essential. He informed Council of the proposal that the salary range for the role of Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change be £91,121 to £97,469. The role will encompass responsibility for the current Head of Partnerships, which includes, IT, digital transformation, programme management and customer services.

He also reported on a proposal that following a review of Human Resources and Organisational Development, that this service report to the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services, and consequently this post be re-designated Chief Officer Legal, Human Resources and Regulatory Services. There was no change in the grading of this post and it would continue to report directly to the Chief Executive as part of the Chief Executive's Directorate. In accordance with section 143A of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, Councils are required to seek views from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) on changes to chief officer salaries. The IRPW in which IRPW will consider the proposals at their next meeting on 25 October 2019.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- 1) Approved the proposal to redesignate the existing Head of Finance and Performance to Chief Officer Finance, Performance and Change;
- 2) Authorised the Chief Executive to commence a formal consultation with relevant JNC officers in the Chief Executive's Directorate;
- 3) Authorised the Chief Executive to determine the final structure and appoint to it in accordance with the Council's procedures for recruitment of JNC Officers.

**365. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE - QUARTER 2 2019-20**

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer presented a report to comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance 2018; provided an update of the Capital Programme for 2019-20 at 30 September 2019; sought approval for a revised capital programme for 2019-20 to 2028-29 and for Council to note the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2019-20.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003, as amended contain detailed provisions for capital finance and accounting controls, including the rules on the use of capital receipts and what is to be treated as capital expenditure. Additionally, the Council manages its Treasury Management and Capital activities in accordance with associated guidance. The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires Local Authorities to have in place a Capital Strategy which demonstrates that the authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that Council on 20 February 2019, approved a capital programme, which was updated on 24 July 2019. She stated that the revised programme for 2019-20 totals £38.133m, of which £18.504m is met from the Council's resources, with the remaining £19.629 met from external resources. She summarised the position per Directorate and the current funding assumptions for the capital programme for 2019-20. She provided detail of the projected spend on individual schemes within the programme compared to the budget available. A number of schemes had been identified as requiring slippage to future years, at quarter 2, the total requested slippage is £18.858m in relation to:

- Depot Rationalisation (£7.802m)
- Fleet Replacement Programme (£1.672m)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme (£0.543m)
- Relocation of Household Waste Recycling Centre (£1.292m)
- Highways Bridge Strengthening / Carriageway Resurfacing (£3.583m)
- Capital Asset Management Fund (£0.8m)
- Corporate Landlord Energy Savings Strategy (£0.585m)

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that a number of new externally funded schemes have been approved, which have been incorporated into the capital programme:

- Community Hub – Brynteg Comprehensive
- Valleys Regional Park – Bryngarw and Parc Slip
- Caerau Heat Network
- Economic Stimulus Grant

A number of schemes within the capital programme are awaiting confirmation of external funding and once approval is known, it may result in some schemes needing re-profiling.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer also reported on the monitoring of Prudential and other indicators for 2019-20. The Capital Strategy which was approved in February 2019 is intended to give an overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future sustainability. A number of prudential indicators were included, and approved by Council in line with the requirements of the Prudential Code, The Chief Finance Officer is required to establish procedures to monitor both performance against all forward-looking prudential indicators and the requirement specified. She detailed the actual indicators for 2018-19, the estimated indicators for 2019-20 set out in the Council's Capital Strategy and the projected indicators for 2019-20 based on the revised Capital Programme, which show that the Council is operating in line with the approved limits.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that the Capital Strategy also requires the monitoring of non-treasury management investments and other long term liabilities. She stated that the Council does have an existing investment portfolio which is 100% based within the County Borough and primarily the office and industrial sectors. Income streams are spread between the single and multi-let office investments on Bridgend Science Park, the multi-let industrial estates and the freehold ground rent investments. The total value of Investment Properties was £4.635 million at 31 March 2019. She informed Council that it had previously approved £1 million within the capital programme for the purchase of investment assets and spent £520,000 on acquiring an office building, which generates a rental income of £56,000 per year or just over 9% return on the investment. There is a further £480,000 available within the capital

programme but as yet no suitable options have been identified within the Bridgend area, which would produce a reasonable return and at acceptable levels of risk. She stated that the Council may in the future wish to consider expanding its property investment portfolio, in which case it would need to review the criteria and investment strategy but this would be on a risk based approach. She informed Council that it has a number of Other Long Term Liabilities, included within the Capital Strategy, which are the Private Finance Initiative; Llynfi Valley Loan and Salix Loan.

A member of Council questioned the reason for the lack of spend on Parks/Pavilions/Community Centres CAT. The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer Parks/Pavilions/Community Centres CAT stated she would provide information on the reasons for the lack of spend on Parks/Pavilions/Community Centres CAT in 2019/20.

A member of Council questioned the reason for the slippage on the Extension to the Porthcawl Cemetery scheme. The Chief Executive stated that he would provide information on the reasons for slippage on the Extension to Porthcawl Cemetery scheme.

A member of Council questioned whether funding on the Caerau Heat Network would be lost due to the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer stated that an offer letter had been received and funding for the scheme would be honoured.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- noted the Council's Capital Programme for 2019-20 for the period to 30 September 2019;
- approved the revised Capital Programme;
- noted the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2019-20.

366. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - HALF YEAR REPORT 2019-20

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer presented 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; report on the projected Treasury Management Indicators for 2019-20 and sought approval of Treasury Management activities for the period 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that Treasury management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council is exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) before the start of each financial year. While Arlingclose provide advice to the Council on treasury management.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer reported that the interest rate views incorporated in the Council's TMS 2019-20 were based upon officers' views supported by a forecast from Arlingclose. When the TMS 2019-20 was prepared in January 2019, due to the anticipated short time for a Brexit withdrawal deal to be agreed and the possibility of an extended period of uncertainty over the possible outcome, Arlingclose's central case scenario was forecasting a 0.25% rise in the Bank Rate during

2019-20 to take official UK interest rates to 1.00% by December 2019. The Bank Rate started the financial year at 0.75% and the current forecast is that the Bank Rate will remain at this level beyond the end of the financial year-end.

The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer summarised the external debt and investment position as at 30 September 2019, the Council held £96.87m of external long term borrowing and £43.75m of investments. She highlighted the borrowing strategy and outturn in that it was forecast the Council would need to borrow £16m in 2019-20. There would be no long term borrowing requirement in 2019-20 due to additional grants being received in the last quarter of 2018-19 and a change in the capital programme for 2019-20. The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer summarised investment strategy and outturn with the main objectives during 2019-20 to maintain capital security; to maintain liquidity so funds are available when expenditure is needed and to achieve the yield on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. The balance on investments at 30 September 2019 was £43.75m. She summarised the investments profile from 1 April to 30 September 2019; the Treasury Management indicator for Principal Sums invested for periods longer than a year and the position on long term investments.

A member of Council questioned whether consideration had been given to alternative models of investment as favoured by other local authorities. The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer confirmed there a number of investment initiatives, the Council's first consideration will always be security before yield, however the Council is exploring different initiatives and models.

A member of Council questioned the strategy of lending to other local authorities. The Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer stated that inter-lending amongst local authorities is a recognised and secure form of investment.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:-

(1) Approved the treasury management activities for the period 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019;

(2) Noted the projected Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators for 2019-20 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20.

367. **CHANGES TO COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND COMBINED OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Monitoring Officer sought approval to accept nominations and appoint Councillors to serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees due to recent changes affecting the Conservative Group, which does not affect the political balance of the Council; approve a combined Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and approve a proposed programme of meetings to consider the MTFS.

Councillor Webster placed on record her thanks to the Corporate Director Education and Family Support and Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration for their excellent support as Chairperson of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1, a role she felt privileged to have undertaken, which she thanked Council for the opportunity she had been given. Councillor Webster thanked the Scrutiny Officers for their valuable support, advice and guidance during her time as Chairperson.

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- (1) accepted nominations and appointed the Councillors to serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Town and Community Council Forum due to recent changes affecting the Conservative Group as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (2) received a nomination and elected Councillor T Giffard, the Chairperson of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report;
- (3) approved the proposed changes to the programme of meetings as outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report;
- (4) approved that should there be further changes in the dates of the final local government settlements for 2020/21, that authority to change the dates of these Committees is delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and Group Leaders.
- (5) approved a combined Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comprise the membership of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees 1,2 and 3 in order to consider the MTFs;
- (6) noted that the meeting of Cabinet scheduled to take place on 11 February 2020 will now be held on 25 February 2020.

368. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION FROM:

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

There has been an increase of older children with more complex needs going into care.

Could the Cabinet Member let the Council know how many such children are in care here in Bridgend, and could he also highlight about their placement?

**Response of the Cabinet Member**

Whilst over the last four years the numbers of children looked after in Wales has increased, the proportion of those over 10 years of age has remained stable (52.22% in 2014 and 52.85% in 2018).

In Bridgend, overall, the Looked After Children population has reduced from 412 in 2014 to 381 in 2019. The proportion of those who are over 10 years of age has remained relatively stable, 51% in 2014 compared to 54.1% in 2019 which is close to the national profile.

Some children are placed in out of authority residential provision or with Independent Fostering Agencies, and in recognition of this our Remodelling Programme has prioritised the further development of our in-house residential provision and fostering services to equip us to better meet said need and place children locally and in-house wherever possible. Since 2014 the number of children in this age group placed with in-house foster carers has gone up from 95 in 2014 to 118 in 2019 (compared to figures dropping from 80 to 47 in Independent Fostering Agency placements), and the number placed in independent residential provision has decreased from 13 in 2014 to 5 in 2019.

Councillor Hussain a supplementary question, knowing that more taxpayer's money on half of these children who are away with independent agencies, how does the Council

**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2019**

keep track of their health assessments and plans. And, how often are they reviewed and inspected and what is the total amount of money paid to independent agencies.

The Mayor ruled the supplementary question out of order as it did not relate to the original question put and he advised Councillor Hussain to submit his question to the next meeting of Council.

369. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 17:04



## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 NOVEMBER 2019

#### REPORT OF THE INTERIM HEAD OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

##### 2020-21 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 2020-21.

##### 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 2020-21 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 nine valuation bands (Bands A to I). Each band is multiplied by a given factor to bring it to the Band D equivalent as set out in the table below:

Valuation Band	Tax Proportion	Percentage of Band D
A	6/9	67%
B	7/9	78%
C	8/9	89%
D	9/9	100%
E	11/9	122%
F	13/9	144%
G	15/9	167%
H	18/9	200%
I	21/9	233%

3.3 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 2020-21 is 55604.38 Band D equivalent properties and the estimated collection rate is 98%. The net council tax base is, therefore, 54492.29.

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 54492.29. Although the Council calculates the Tax base for the whole of the county borough, separate calculations are provided for each town and community council. This Council Tax Base is used by precepting authorities in calculating their own individual precepts. Town and community councils base their precepts on the tax base for each town and 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 Council is recommended:

- to approve the council tax base and collection rate for 2020-21 as shown in paragraph 4.1 of this report
- to approve the tax bases for the town and community areas set out in Appendix A.

**Gill Lewis**  
**Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer**  
**11 November 2019**

**Contact Officers**  
**Helen Rodgers – Revenue Manager**  
**Ext 3194. E-mail: Helen.Rodgers @bridgend.gov.uk**

**Deborah Exton – Interim Deputy Head of Finance**  
**Ext 3604. E-mail: Deborah.Exton@bridgend.gov.uk**

## **Background documents**

None

## Estimated County Borough Tax Base 2020-21

Community Council Area	Total Tax Base (No. Band D Equivalent Properties)	Estimated Collection Percentage	Net Tax Base (No. Band D Equivalent Properties)
Brackla	4279.17	98%	4193.59
Bridgend	6068.15	98%	5946.79
Cefn Cribbwr	560.61	98%	549.40
Coity Higher	3998.70	98%	3918.73
Cornelly	2640.22	98%	2587.42
Coychurch Higher	348.97	98%	341.99
Coychurch Lower	665.47	98%	652.16
Garw	2341.17	98%	2294.35
Laleston	5058.77	98%	4957.59
Llangynwyd Lower	172.23	98%	168.78
Llangynwyd Middle	1073.27	98%	1051.80
Maesteg	5764.18	98%	5648.89
Merthyr Mawr	153.67	98%	150.60
Newcastle Higher	1776.47	98%	1740.94
Ogmore Vale	2658.61	98%	2605.44
Pencoed	3525.71	98%	3455.19
Porthcawl	8211.91	98%	8047.67
Pyle	2557.67	98%	2506.52
St Brides Minor	2365.26	98%	2317.95
Ynysawdre	1384.17	98%	1356.49
<b>Total County Borough</b>	<b>55604.38</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>54492.29</b>

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 NOVEMBER 2019

### REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

#### REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the findings of the Constitution Working Group and Democratic Services Committee and to approve the amendments to the Constitution.

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

- 2.1 The Constitution governs the operation of the Authority and thereby connects to the Corporate Improvement Plan and all Corporate Priorities:
- 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 the people in the county.
  - 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.
  - 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 Monitoring Officer received a request from an Elected Member for a review of the Constitution. In accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution, the Monitoring Officer will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect. Any changes will need the approval of Council based on the recommendations of the Monitoring Officer.
- 3.2 The review of the Constitution specifically requested the following to be considered:
- 1) The time period for questions and motions be re-instated at 5 days, now that suitable resources are in place to allow timely translation to Welsh;
  - 2) That following the presentations and announcements by Cabinet members, the Leader, and Chief Executive, Members be allowed to ask non tabled questions for a period of 15 minutes;

3) That the three largest opposition groups, be given 3 minutes (taken from Development Control Committee 3-minute rule) to make announcements or presentations to Council;

4) The timing of Council meetings.

#### 4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 The Democratic Services Committee established a cross party Constitution Working Group to review the Constitution. The Working Group met on two occasions and their conclusions are set out in bold and italics in paragraphs 4.2 – 4.8 below:

##### 4.2 Time period for questions and motions

4.2.1 Research has been undertaken into the time period for the submission of Questions on Notice and Motions amongst Welsh local authorities.

4.2.2 The Working Group considered that the questions need to be published on the agendas for Council for reasons of transparency as it could lead to ambiguity if they were not published on the agenda.

4.2.3 In considering the process for questions and motions, the Working Group felt that members of the public attending Council or viewing a webcast would not have access to the reply of the Cabinet Member and that consideration be given to the Cabinet Member reading the response at Council. The Working Group requested that replies to written Questions be sent electronically to Members on the day prior to Council to give Members sufficient time to prepare supplementary questions. As of the last meeting of Council, the Democratic Services Team now email replies to Council Questions to all Members, in order that they have the opportunity to prepare supplementary questions. Hard copies of the replies to Council Questions are placed in the public gallery for members of the public to peruse.

4.2.4 The Working Group questioned whether efficiencies could be made to the Framework in future which could lend itself to the reduction in the number of working days for the submission of Council Questions. The Council operates a National Procurement Service Framework of Welsh translators which became effective from 1 November 2018 and will remain in force until 31 October 2022. There are 30 suppliers available for translation work from English to Welsh on the Framework. No further translators can be added for the duration of the Framework.

4.2.5 ***The Working Group recommended that the time period for the submission of questions and motions remain at 10 clear working days. The Democratic Services Committee further added that there be clearer policing of supplementary questions to ensure they are relevant to the original question and that they are short and concise.***

##### 4.3 Announcements at Meetings of Council

- 4.3.1 ***The Working Group in considering announcements made at Council, recommended that an amendment be made to the Constitution to re-title the Leader's Report to that of Leader's Announcements and that the current announcements made by the Cabinet be shortened.***
- 4.4 Replies to Written Questions
- 4.4.1 A request was made by the Constitution Working Group that research be conducted on the practices of other Welsh local authorities as to whether the Leader and Cabinet Members read out replies to written Questions at Council.
- 4.4.2 ***The Working Group recommended that all Members of Council receive replies to written questions 24 hours prior to the meeting of Council where practicable. The reply will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting of Council.***
- 4.5 Announcements by the 3 Largest Opposition Group Leaders
- 4.5.1 ***The Working Group considered that announcements by Opposition Group Leaders could give rise to political statements being made and did not wish to pursue announcements being made by the Leaders of the 3 largest Opposition Groups.***
- 4.6 Timing of Council Meetings
- 4.6.1 The Working Group considered a proposal to amend the timing of meetings of Council, in that if a certain percentage of Members had voted for a particular start time, then that percentage of Council meetings would start at that time. It was noted that an electronic vote was conducted at Council on 24 July 2019 as to whether or not there was an appetite to explore evening meetings. Of the 45 Members present, 17 Members voted in favour of holding evening meetings.
- 4.6.2 ***The Working Group recommended that as the vote was lost, the holding of evening meetings be not explored further until the next administration.***
- 4.7 Call-in Process
- 4.7.1 The Working Group requested that further research be conducted on the Call-in process in place at other local authorities in Wales.
- 4.7.2 ***The Working Group recommended that the period of notice after publication of a decision be extended from the current 3 clear working days to 5 clear working days in order to have greater transparency and for backbench Members to have a greater opportunity to call-in a decision.***
- 4.7.3 ***The Working Group recommended that the time period for holding an Overview and Scrutiny Committee remains at within 5 clear working days.***
- 4.7.4 ***The Working Group recommended that any Member including a Chairperson who calls-in a decision is excluded from the decision making at that Committee***

***meeting, but would be invited to give evidence to the Committee in support of the Call-in request.***

4.8 The Democratic Services Committee at its meeting on 17 October 2019 considered the findings and approved the recommendations of the Constitution Working Group for consideration by Council.

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

5.1 The Constitution governs the operation of the Authority and thereby has an effect upon the operation of the Policy Framework.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 Although there are no direct impacts, the Constitution as the key governance framework document for the Authority is critical in demonstrating commitment to the Authority's duties under the Equality Act 2010.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications**

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there is no significant or unacceptable impact upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

## **8. Financial Implications.**

8.1 There are no financial implications.

## **9. Recommendation.**

It is recommended that Council:

9.1 Note the research and work undertaken by the Constitution Working Group on behalf of the Democratic Services Committee;

9.2 Approve the recommendations made by the Working Group and amend the Constitution accordingly;

9.3 Delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make minor amendments to the Constitution to include amending typographical and drafting errors, updating legislative changes and drafting improvements to enhance clarity and remove minor anomalies.

**K Watson**

**Head of Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer**

**Contact Officer: Kelly Watson**

**Telephone: (01656) 643248**

**Email: [kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk)**



**Postal address:   Legal and Regulatory Services  
                          Civic Offices  
                          Angel Street  
                          Bridgend  
                          CF31 4WB**

**Background documents:** None.

This page is intentionally left blank