

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.*

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Annwyl Cyngorydd,

PWYLLGOR CRAFFU TESTUN 3

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Craffu Testun 3 yn Siambr y Cyngor, Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd Yr Angel, Penybont Ar Ogwr CF31 4WB ar **Dydd Iau, 5 Medi 2019** am **09:30**.

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant
Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.
3. Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion 3 - 6
I dderbyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cofnodion cyfarfod y 11/07/19
4. Meysydd Chwarae, Cyfleusterau Chwaraeon Awyr Agored a Phafiliynau 7 - 74
Parciau
Gwahoddedigion:

Mark Shephard, Prif Weithredwr
Cllr Richard Young, Yr Aelod Cabinet dros Gymunedau
Zak Shell, Pennaeth Gweithrediadau Gwasanaethau Cymunedol
Guy Smith, Swyddog Trosglwyddo Asedau Cymunedol
Kevin Mulcahy, Rheolwr Grŵp Gwasanaethau Priffyrdd
Philip Beaman, Man Gwyrdd a Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Profedigaeth
Andrew Thomas, Rheolwr Grŵp, Chwaraeon a Gweithgaredd Corfforol
5. Trosolwg a Chraffu - Adborth o Gyfarodydd 75 - 80
6. Diweddariad Rhaglen Gwaith 81 - 88
7. Materion Brys

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Ebost/Email: talktous@bridgend.gov.uk

Gwefan/Website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

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

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

Yn ddiffuant

K Watson

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol

Dosbarthiad:

Cynghowrwy

N Clarke

P Davies

DK Edwards

DG Howells

DRW Lewis

JR McCarthy

Cynghorwyr

JC Radcliffe

RMI Shaw

JC Spanswick

RME Stirman

G Thomas

E Venables

Cynghorwyr

SR Vidal

MC Voisey

DBF White

JE Williams

PWYLLGOR CRAFFU TESTUN 3 - DYDD IAU, 11 GORFFENNAF 2019

COFNODION CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR CRAFFU TESTUN 3 A GYNHALIWIYD YN SIAMBR Y CYNGOR, SWYDDFEYDD DINESIG, STRYD YR ANGEL, PENYBONT AR OGWR CF31 4WB DYDD IAU, 11 GORFFENNAF 2019, AM 09:30

Presennol

Y Cynghorydd JC Spanswick – Cadeirydd

N Clarke
RMI Shaw
JE Williams

P Davies
RME Stirman

DK Edwards
G Thomas

JR McCarthy
MC Voisey

Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

DRW Lewis a/ac E Venables

Swyddogion:

Sarah Daniel	Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democraidd - Craffu
Michael Jenkins	Arweinydd Tîm Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Denis Richard	Pennaeth Rhaglenni Mawr - Catapwlt Systemau Ynni
Zak Shell	Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdogaeth
Ieuan Sherwood	Rheolwr Grŵp Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd
Paul Smith	Rheolwr Datblygu Rhanbarthol - Cymru - Catapwlt Systemau Ynni

79. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT

Dim

80. CADARNHAU COFNODION

PENDERFYNWYD: Cymeradwywyd cofnodion cyfarfod y 25/02/2019 fel cofnod gwir a chywir o'r cyfarfod

Cymeradwywyd cofnodion cyfarfod y 18/03/2019 fel cofnod gwir a chywir o'r cyfarfod yn amodol ar y newidiadau canlynol:

Roedd y Cynghorydd Rod Shaw, y Cynghorydd Roz Stirman, a'r Cynghorydd Norah Clarke yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod.

Roedd y Cynghorydd Paul Davies yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod a rhoddodd y Cynghorydd Pam Davies ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb

81. Y DIWEDDARAF AM Y FLAENRAGLEN WAITH

Cyflwynodd y Swyddog Craffu ddiweddariad y flaenraglen waith i'r Aelodau a thynnodd sylw at yr eitemau a ddirprwywyd i'r Aelodau ar gyfer eu dau bwyllgor nesaf.

PENDERFYNWYD: Ar ôl trafod, gofynnodd yr Aelodau am gael cyflwyno'r eitem am y cerbyd gorfodi yng nghyfarfod mis Tachwedd, ar yr un pryd â'r adroddiad ar Briffyrdd.

82. ADRODDIAD ADBORTH TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

PENDERFYNWYD: Nododd yr Aelodau yr ymatebion a ddaeth i law. Gofynnodd yr Aelodau i bob statws RAG sy'n goch neu'n ambr fod â gweithred ddilynol ar ôl 6 mis, fel bo'r Aelodau'n cael y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am sut y bydd pethau'n parhau â'r argymhelliad.

83. **ENWEBIAD I BANEL CRAFFU'R BWRDD GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS**

PENDERFYNWYD: Enwebwyd y Cynghorydd David Lewis fel cynrychiolydd i Banel Craffu'r Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus.

84. **ADRODDIAD AR ENWEBU HYRWYDDWR RHIANTA CORFFORAETHOL**

PENDERFYNWYD: Enwebwyd y Cynghorydd David White yn wahoddi i Bwyllgor y Cabinet ar Rianta Corfforaethol

85. **STRATEGAETH YNNI ARDAL LEOL SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR A CHYNLLUN YNNI CLYFAR**

Croesawodd y Cadeirydd y gwahoddedigion i'r cyfarfod a diolchodd i'r gwahoddedigion allanol am deithio i fynychu'r Pwyllgor.

Cyflwynodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol adroddiad i'r Pwyllgor i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Aelodau am y cynnydd sy'n cael ei wneud i gyflawni Strategaeth Ynni Ardal Leol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a'r Cynllun Ynni Clyfar. Atgoffodd yr Aelodau fod y Cabinet wedi cymeradwyo bod yn rhan o'r rhaglen SSH ar 3 Chwefror 2015 a bod Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn un o'r tri Awdurdod Lleol a gymerodd ran yn y prosiect peilot.

Diolchodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Gymunedau i gynrychiolwyr yr Energy Systems Catapult am fynychu'r cyfarfod ac am eu cyfraniad amhrisiadwy i'r prosiect hyd yma. Dywedodd mai Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr oedd yr unig Awdurdod Lleol i gynhyrchu Strategaeth Ynni Ardal Leol. Ychwanegodd y byddai gwaith yn y dyfodol gyda Choleg Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr er mwyn datblygu rhaglenni prentisiaethau ac y byddai cydweithio hefyd yn y dyfodol gydag Awdurdodau Lleol Bury a Newcastle, a oedd hefyd yn rhan o'r rhaglen beilot

Mewn ymateb i bryderon yr Aelodau bod y cynllun yn rhy uchelgeisiol, atebodd y swyddogion y byddai angen i'r cyhoedd brynu'r cynllun ond y rhoddid dewis i ddefnyddwyr, ac na fyddai'r cyhoedd yn cael eu gorfodi i wneud newidiadau i'w systemau gwresogi, a bod nifer o ffyrdd eraill na fyddai'n gostus y gallent wneud gwahaniaeth.

Nododd un aelod y mater y gallai Cynllun Gwres Dŵr Cloddfeydd Caerau fod yn anodd ei werthu i'r cyhoedd gan fod rhai trigolion yng Nghaerau yn dal i ddioddef canlyniadau inswleiddio eu heiddo, pan fu llawer o broblemau gydag ansawdd y gwaith a lleithder yn yr eiddo yn sgil hynny. Cafodd y contractwr a oedd yn gwneud y gwaith ei ddiddymu heb wneud iawn am yr eiddo yr effeithiwyd arno. Ymatebodd y swyddog gan ddweud bod gwersi wedi'u dysgu ac y byddai dull gwahanol yn cael ei ddefnyddio y tro hwn o ran rheoli ansawdd.

Dywedodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau ei bod yn hanfodol fod pawb a oedd yn gallu lleihau eu hól troed carbon yn gwneud hynny. Fel corff cyhoeddus mawr, roedd CBSP mewn sefyllfa i arwain y ffordd ac annog y cyhoedd i gyfrannu hefyd.

Mynegodd rhai Aelodau bryder mai nad hyn oedd y defnydd gorau o arian ar adeg pan oedd yr Awdurdod yn gorfod gwneud toriadau anffafriol mewn cyfnod o galedi.

Atebodd yr Aelodau Cabinet dros Gymunedau fod angen i'r Awdurdod fuddsoddi mewn storio trydan a diogelu'r ffordd y mae pobl yn cynhesu eu cartrefi yn y dyfodol. Ychwanegodd fod pobl yn agored i newid os ydynt yn deall y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael iddynt, ac os ydynt yn ymwybodol o sut maent yn diogelu'r blaned ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol.

Gofynnodd Aelod a oedd yr Awdurdod yn rhannu arferion gorau gyda'r 2 Awdurdod Lleol arall a oedd yn rhan o'r cynllun peilot. Ymatebodd y Swyddog drwy ddweud bod adolygiadau misol yn cael eu cynnal gyda phob un o'r Awdurdodau Lleol dan sylw.

Argymhellion:

Argymhellodd yr Aelodau y dylid cyflwyno papur briffio i bob aelod o'r Cyngor, a hynny cyn i'r Cyngor gychwyn, gan fod y mater hwn yn effeithio ar bob aelod a'u hetholwyr.

86. **EITEMAU BRYD**

Mynegodd yr Aelodau bryderon am y ffaith bod lai o adnoddau o fewn y tîm Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a nodwyd nad neb wedi cymryd lle dau aelod o staff wedi iddynt adael eu swyddi. Nodwyd pryderon ganddynt fod y Swyddog Craffu bellach yn gorfod cymryd cofnodion yn y Pwyllgorau a'u bod yn pryderu bod hyn yn defnyddio adnoddau gwerthfawr a allai fod wedi'u defnyddio gan y tîm i'w galluogi i wneud gwaith ymchwil ystyrlon. Nodwyd hefyd bod sawl camgymeriad wedi bod yn y setiau diwethaf o funudau

Dywedodd y Cadeirydd y byddai'n cyflwyno hyn yn y Pwyllgor Corfforaethol nesaf. Gofynnodd yr Aelodau am y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf gan y swyddog monitro ynglŷn â'r canlynol:

- Pa bryd fydd yr adolygiad o waith Craffu yn cael ei gynnal a'i gwblhau
- Beth oedd y cynllun ar gyfer recriwtio/amnewid staff gwasanaethau democrataidd a oedd wedi gadael eu swyddi
- Gofynnodd yr Aelodau i'r mater gael ei grybwyll yn CMB hefyd
- Gofynnodd yr Aelodau i'r mater gael ei grybwyll yn y Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Democrataidd nesaf

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11:45

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

5 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PLAYING FIELDS, OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND PARKS PAVILIONS

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the outcome of the consultation on proposals for the Council's provision of playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions to support a more financially sustainable provision and update the Committee on current Community Asset Transfer (CAT) progress.
- 1.2 The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet, and any views of the Committee will form part of that report.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following Corporate Priorities:-
 1. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** - It aligns with the priority of moving to a position where there is less reliance on the Council for the cost and provision of services by seeking ways in which the local community, relevant sports clubs and potentially Town and Community Councils might pay a greater part moving forward in maintaining and operating these facilities.
 2. **Smarter use of resources** - ensuring that all resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the delivery of services throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 18th September 2018 Cabinet approved a consultation exercise on proposals to make the Council's provision of playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions more financially sustainable moving forward.
- 3.2 The provision of these facilities is recognised as playing an important contributory part in helping to achieve healthy lifestyles and better levels of physical and mental wellbeing for the County Borough's residents. The Council promotes and subsidises a range of measures intended to support and increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity.

- 3.3 The Council currently oversees 39 playing fields excluding areas that have already undertaken CAT transfer and 40 pavilions the majority of which are in a poor state of repair. A list of pavilions and playing fields which are managed by the Parks Department has been included in **Appendix A**.
- 3.4 Historically the Council has charged a fixed hire fee for any formal hire of its outdoor sports facilities (excluding bowls). However, these fees do not go anywhere near covering the cost associated with providing and maintaining these facilities. The level of subsidy the Council offers will vary depending on the nature of the users (senior or junior) and the type of sport (for example, rugby, football, cricket, bowls). Additionally the quality of the facilities provided will vary to some extent based on factors such as age of asset, league requirements, drainage facilities and frequency of use.
- 3.5 Many of the sites and facilities are shared by a number of clubs and organisations as well as being accessible on an informal basis to the wider community. In contrast some facilities are used almost exclusively by a single club or community group.
- 3.6 Currently there are Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) proposals relating to this area of £69,000 in 2019/20 and a further indicative £369,000 in 2020/21. This is in addition to other historic financial cutbacks to the area of service over recent years that have reduced levels of service in some cases and overall resilience across the service. The level of savings required to meet the MTFS may require other measures in addition to the introduction of full cost recovery, for example, rationalisation of Council funded children's play areas, and reduced frequency or coverage of open space grass maintenance which also formed part of the public consultation.
- 3.7 The Council established a £1 million Sports Pavilion Fund in February 2014 to encourage sports clubs to self-manage sports pavilions and improve the condition of assets. The users under the terms of their respective completed leases are responsible for the maintenance and repair of buildings and the payment of running costs. Users would then be able to take control of any repairs and maintenance, in line with their needs and expectations. This approach was approved by Council when the total legacy of repair for sports pavilions was estimated to be £3.85 million. The Corporate Director Communities wrote to community groups and sports clubs on 16 October 2015 outlining the Council's Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy, assets available for transfer, timescales and inviting expressions of interest in transferring Council assets which included sports pavilions and playing fields.

4. Current situation / Proposal

Community Asset Transfer Update

- 4.1 Community Asset Transfer (CAT) has traditionally been undertaken in line with the Council's Asset Management Plan 2021: Community Asset Transfer Guidance Document.

4.2 The Council created a 3-year fixed-term CAT Officer post funded from the Change Management Fund in November 2015 to deal with enquiries, provide advice and guidance, oversee due diligence and to liaise with internal and external stakeholders. The Corporate Management Board (CMB) agreed to extend the CAT Officer post for a further 3 years from 31 October 2018, following a further bid to the Change Management Fund.

4.3 Since the appointment of a CAT Officer in November 2015 the following progress has been made in relation to Community Asset Transfers:

- 117 community organisations have contacted BCBC in respect of 98 different assets. The majority of enquiries to date have been received from sports clubs and associations in relation to self-management of pavilions and playing fields;
- 7 Town and Community Councils are currently progressing applications including public toilets, community centres, playing fields, and playgrounds;
- 4 transfers have been completed; 3 licenses issued to enable public toilets to re-open; and 62 applications are currently “live” and subject to informal discussions, the development of formal expressions of interest, business cases can be summarised as follows:

Progress Reached	No. as at 01/08/19	No. as at 31/12/18*
Completed Transfers (Long Lease or Tenancy at Will)	4	4
Transfer Approved with Heads of Terms / Lease being Finalised	13	11
Renewable Management Agreement being Finalised	1	1
Expression of Interest Approved with Business Case being Developed	26	14
Informal Expression of Interest Received with Discussions Ongoing	25	17
Engagement on Hold at Request of Group	1	4
Total	70	51

Figures reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 in January 2019

4.4 The Community Asset Transfer Steering Group which is chaired by the Head of Operations - Community Services meets on a monthly basis and is represented by officers from Communities Operations (Parks, Corporate Landlord and CAT Officer), the Education and Family Support Directorate, the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate, Finance, and Legal Services. The Steering Group has responsibility for approving expressions of interests, business cases, support and funding by ensuring that any proposed community asset transfer meets the Council’s strategic priorities, operational requirements and future direction of travel. Approval to dispose of council assets including community asset transfers has been delegated to the Strategic Asset

Management and Investment Manager. However, more complex and contentious disposals are authorised either by the Corporate Director (Communities) or reported to Cabinet for approval.

- 4.5 The Sports Pavilion Fund outlined in paragraph 3.7 was re-designated as the CAT Fund and the scope for funding widened under the MTFS 2019-20 to 2022-23 to also include building works undertaken on other Council facilities such as community centres and public toilets, to support the CAT process. This is to ensure that as many buildings as possible can be kept open and provide long-term community benefits. To date only three projects have been allocated funding from this source:

Community Group	Asset	Purpose	Amount
Bryncethin RFC	Bryncethin Playing Fields	Develop a community centre	£110.0k
Careau FC	Hermon Road/Metcalf Street Playing Fields	Refurbish the existing pavilion	£50.0k
Pencoed Town Council	Pencoed Recreation Ground Pavilion	Repairs to enable pavilion to be re-opened	*£75.0k
Carn Rovers	Cwm Garw Playing Fields	Pavilion repairs and security measures	£10.3k

* Maximum contribution agreed by Cabinet on 21 May 2019

- 4.6 Under the revised protocol approved by Cabinet on 25 July 2017, funding applications up to £50K from the £1 million CAT Fund can be approved by the CAT Steering Group with all sums in excess of this threshold being referred to Cabinet for approval. As identified under paragraph 3.7 in 2014 the total legacy of repair for sports pavilions was estimated at £3.85 million, at the time of drafting this report 5 pavilions are closed (see **Appendix A**).
- 4.7 The Council entered into a joint contract with the Wales Co-operative Centre, Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO), and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust following a full tendering exercise in December 2016 to provide business planning and specialist advice to community groups to facilitate the Community Asset Transfer process. A total of 16 individual community organisations have been referred to carry out 45 assignments under the original joint contract to provide guidance in respect of business planning, legal structures, accounting for VAT, and technical surveys at a cost to date of £99,602. The CAT Business Support contract has been part funded by the LEADER Local Development Fund (Project TRC-28) for groups requiring support located in a Rural Development area. The joint contract expired on 31 March 2019 and a re-tender exercise has been undertaken and the new joint contract awarded to the Wales Co-operative Centre and Coalfields Regeneration Trust for a 2 year period with an option for an additional year's extension to the contract period.

4.8 The CAT Task & Finish Group has been established by the CAT Steering Group as a direct response to the recommendations made by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on 17 January 2018 relating to the Community Asset Transfer report presented by the Corporate Director Communities with the primary objective of providing strategic direction in respect of the Council’s CAT Programme and associated policies, systems and processes.

4.9 The main recommendations arising from the CAT Task & Finish Group which concluded their review in February 2019 can be summarised as follows:

- A List of Assets available for community asset transfer should be maintained and periodically reviewed and updated;
- Asset data (compliance, condition survey and operating costs) should be issued to community groups at the earliest opportunity;
- Model Heads of Terms and template Leases for particular asset groups should be utilised wherever possible with a “take it or leave it” approach being adopted;
- The submission of income and expenditure projections for a minimum of a 5-year period should suffice for the majority of community asset transfers but detailed business plans should still be requested for complex projects;
- A risk based approach should be adopted for the Business Diagnostic Assessment undertaken upon community groups and the assets being subject to transfer;
- Town and Community Councils and established community groups should have their applications fast tracked particularly where the asset subject to transfer is in a compliant condition. The risk based approach will enable a risk matrix to be produced identifying suitability for fast tracking.

4.10 The Task & Finish Group also recommended to Cabinet that the priority of assets for community asset transfer should be refined so that savings under the MTFS can be prioritised accordingly:

Priority 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Pavilions • Playing Fields (excluding school playing fields) and Bowling Greens • Community Centres
Priority 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgrounds / Play Areas • Free Car Parks • Allotments
Priority 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miscellaneous Assets

4.11 The Council’s Community Asset Transfer Policy document which was last updated in October 2015 has been amended to take account of the changes recommended by the Task & Finish Group.

4.12 A List of CAT Priority 1 Assets available for Community Asset Transfer either under long-term leases or short-term management agreements has been prepared to take account of future development potential of sites (updated

Local Development Plan and the Schools Development Plan), and the generation of capital receipts. This List of CAT Priority 1 Assets will be subject to regular review and updating by the Corporate Landlord in consultation with the CAT Steering Group and Cabinet.

- 4.13 Recommendations made by the CAT Task & Finish Group, the revised CAT Policy and CAT Priority 1 Asset List were approved by Cabinet on 23 July 2019.
- 4.14 Resourcing shortages were noted by the Task & Finish Group as being a contributory factor in the delay in processing CAT transfers and the staff resources required to progress multiple community asset transfers within agreed timescales for the influx of CAT's required under the MTFS is being assessed by the Head of Operations Community Services with any proposed changes needing to be subject to the development of a business case. The "Team" approach adopted by other local authorities to manage multiple projects whereby multi-disciplinary staff (e.g. Property, Legal, Parks and CAT Officer) work together is also favoured by the Task & Finish Group going forward and will need to be adopted.
- 4.15 In addition to the funding provided by the Council to assist community groups with repairs and refurbishments of buildings (outlined at paragraphs 3.7 above) it is evident from discussions with sports clubs that capital investment in plant and machinery to facilitate the self-management of playing fields and bowling greens is likely to be required. The Council will consider making capital grants available to purchase such equipment.
- 4.16 **Consultation on Proposals**
- 4.17 A consultation on the proposals was carried out to gather views and opinions on the potential impact of the changes in order to meet the proposed budget reduction, as part of the Council's MTFS.
- 4.18 The consultation document is appended to this report at **Appendix B**, and below are some of the salient points:
- The consultation was available to complete online and paper copies were available on request by telephone or email and ran from 17 April 2019 until 10 July 2019.
 - The consultation was communicated to Town and Community Councils, advertised on the Council's website and the Council's corporate Twitter account 23 times throughout the period of consultation, with the information being viewed 51,950 times.
 - A series of 4 Facebook postings were placed during the period of the consultation to raise awareness and also encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The posts were seen 65,758 times.

- Posters promoting the consultation were sent to all sports groups and pavilion coordinators and also circulated to the library services for use in their 12 branches.
- A total of 1,830 responses were received. During the period, there were 329 social media interactions, 1 letter and 9 emails.
- There were 2,169 interactions representing 1.5 percent of the Bridgend County Borough population.

4.19 Responses to the consultation

4.20 Play area provision consists of 108 play areas that have fixed play equipment. The consultation sought views on the impact in changes of such provision. Salient feedback from the consultation indicated that:

- A majority of respondents (94%) indicated that they value play equipment with 57% of respondents indicating that they would be willing to travel up to one mile to access such facilities and 28% indicating they would be willing to travel up to three miles to access facilities.
- 56% of respondents did not support concentrating on strategic play areas rather than play areas in residential areas. 64% indicated that vandalised equipment should be continually repaired.
- 71% of respondents supported local town or community councils taking responsibility for operating the local play areas.

4.21 In relation to the management of grassland the consultation sought views on two proposals:

- Proposal – reduction in Road verge/Open grassland maintenance from 7 to 5 times a year.
- Proposal – reduction in parks grass cutting from 16 to 12 times per year.

Salient feedback from the consultation indicated that:

- 51% of respondents indicated that they agreed with the proposal to reduce grass cutting of open spaces and road side verges.
- 50% of respondents indicated that they did not agree with the proposal to reduce grass cutting of parks.
- 55% of respondents agreed that some grass open space should remain uncut and return to a more natural habitat.

4.22 In relation to the proposal to increase hire charges for the use of playing fields and sports pavilions to enable the full cost of provision to be recovered in respect of:

- 43 football pitches
- 25 rugby pitches
- 6 cricket squares
- 14 bowling greens
- 40 Pavilions

Salient feedback from the consultation indicated that:

- Most popular use for playing fields was general recreation 33%, followed by football 25%; rugby 21%; pavilion use 8%; cricket 6%; and bowls 6%.
- 47% of respondents indicated that town and community councils should consider taking responsibility for running and self-management of playing fields and or sports pavilions.
- 43% indicated that sports clubs or pavilion groups should consider taking responsibility self-management of playing fields and or sport pavilions.
- 50% of respondents indicated that community groups taking responsibility for self-management should be allowed to erect fences around the perimeter, with 24% indicating that enclosing of playing fields should not be permitted.
- Other commentary indicated that increase in fees may impact on the sustainability of clubs and the ability of people to pay with implications to health and antisocial behaviour.

4.23 Consideration of Consultation Feedback

4.24 Proposals in regard of Play area provision

4.25 It is evident from the consultation that children's play provision is valued and is felt that inclusion within the 'residential' environment is important.

4.26 It is suggested that with 71% of respondents supporting local town or community councils taking responsibility for operating the local play areas. That there would be a benefit from further dialogue where such sites maybe suited for CAT transfer to enable community ownership of its play facilities to be protected in future.

4.27 In 2017 an audit of Outdoor Sport and Children's Playing Space was carried out by BCBC Planning for the purposes of its preparation of its Local Development Plan (LDP). It identified that whilst there was an overall surplus on playing space across the County Borough, when viewed from the perspective of individual wards there was a deficit against the standards

endorsed by Fields in Trust (FIT). FIT is an independent charity that works to protect parks and green spaces

- 4.28 Whilst the purpose of the audit is to assist in the interpretation of LDP Policies and provide evidence and justification in seeking appropriate future Planning obligations from developers, it does provide an indication of actual provision within the County Borough against the FIT advisory standards.
- 4.29 **Proposal to maintain open grassland and highway verges reducing from 7 to 5 times a year**
- 4.30 The consultation indicated an acceptance of improvement to ecology, with 51% of respondents in support of a reduction in grass cutting in open green spaces and road verges, with 40% indicating they were not in support of such a measure. Cited amongst the response were potential for sites to look 'untidy' as well as road safety concerns.
- 4.31 In terms of highway safety it is considered that the reduction in cut frequency should not unduly impact vision splays and encroachment and in terms of visual impact there would be a marginal visual impact of arising's.
- 4.32 **Proposal to reduce parks grass cutting from 16 to 12 times per year**
- 4.33 The consultation indicated that 50% of respondents did not support a reduction in grass cutting of green spaces, with 39% indicating they were in agreement of such a measure. Cited amongst the responses were potential for the reduction in cuts preventing playing and use of fields and sports pitches, safety issues, and the importance of maintained play areas as well as dog mess within areas.
- 4.34 In consideration of the responses this measure is not specifically aimed at sports facilities (rugby football etc.) that would have to be managed according to the overseeing sports body. This is potentially further reflected in the responses in regard of sports playing fields being used for general recreation purposes.
- 4.35 This proposal in reducing parks grass to be cut by 4 times in a year is for general grassed areas and in effect means grass being cut 12 times during its growing season.
- 4.36 In terms of grass cutting visual impact there would be more cuttings present after mowing.
- 4.37 **Proposal to increase charges for use of Sports playing fields and sports pavilions to enable the cost of provision to be covered.**
- 4.38 The responses to the consultation indicated that there are concerns regarding the proposals to increase charges. The perceived impacts revolve around the level of charging and how this would be funded especially by smaller sports clubs or community groups. There was a suggested implication that some sports clubs may cease to operate.

- 4.39 The implications for sport and active recreation in a changing economic environment was considered by Welsh Government and Sports Wales, and a paper with their conclusions was published in March 2016 "*Facilities For Future Generations A Blueprint For Sports And Active Recreation In Wales*". The report recognised that revenue costs for community facilities and sports clubs needed to achieve a breakeven / self-sustaining position.
- 4.40 The paper looked across a range of ways that provision could be provided and included the potential to utilise other community assets such as schools and leisure centres in the wider provision of sports and activities that could potentially link in with changes to lifestyle and community expectation.
- 4.41 Within the consultation responses received there was a strong indication that there is an acceptance that community groups should consider, self-management of playing fields and sports pavilions. The Councils CAT transfer process can assist in such ambitions by offering support to organisations contemplating such development as indicated in section 4 of this report.
- 4.42 It is the case that rather than increasing fees the Council are offering the option of full CAT transfer, which may have the opportunity for community groups to organise their own pitch/facility maintenance which may deliver a more cost effective solution to individual clubs. However, this may not be to the same standard that Bridgend County Borough Council provides.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 A full EIA has been completed and is attached at **Appendix C**.

- 6.2 In particular, the assessment suggested the following:

- Gender: It is considered that the majority of cricket, football and rugby have more male participants currently than female, so that they may be more adversely impacted if clubs are unable to Community Asset Transfer or fund increased charges.
- Disability: It may be the case that the impact may be significant dependent upon individual disabilities.
- Age: It is suggested that there may be impact on child development, health and antisocial behaviour. Although no specific age group is identified, the responses suggest that there may be a specific impact on both younger and older persons.

7. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

7.1 An assessment has been completed and appended to the report as **Appendix D**.

7.2 In particular, the assessment suggested the following:

- **Long-term**

- The proposal seeks to remove subsidy which the Authority can no longer sustain with the potential of the respective clubs paying a rate to recover the costs for their occupation of pavilions and playing fields to provide a sustainable basis for such provision.
- Rationalise Grass cutting to a more sustainable level
- Play areas rationalised to a more sustainable level

- **Prevention**

- The provision for sports facilities, play areas and parks grass cutting is generally non statutory, so the proposal enables scarce resources to be directed towards those areas that are a statutory duty.

- **Integration**

- The outcomes sought are to direct funding appropriately, with sports groups more directly funding the cost of provision, this can be enabled in transferring the asset to such groups for them to run and maintain in order for them to continue operating their sport or activity. Likewise for play areas that could be transferred to respective communities.

- **Collaboration**

- The Parks Section works with various sections of the Council including Regeneration, Planning and Development in considering wellbeing objectives.
- Working with Sports Groups and Town and Community Councils in providing funding to source assistance for groups who are considering taking over facilities in regard of preparing business plans and/or facilities improvement grant to assist in asset transfer.

- **Involvement**

- As part of the consideration of the proposals, a 12-week consultation was undertaken. The consultation was online, as well as paper copies being available on request.
- All Town and Community Councils were sent the link for the survey to share with their communities.
- Promotion of the consultation was available on the BCBC website and social media networks.

- All comprehensive schools within the County Borough were offered the opportunity for their students to engage with the consultation during the live period.
- The responses from the consultation will be the subject of a report to Cabinet.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are MTFS proposals relating to this area of Service of £69,000 in 2019/20 and a further indicative £369,000 in 2020/21 This is in addition to other historic financial cutbacks to the area of Service over recent years that have reduced levels of provision in some cases and overall resilience across the Service.
- 8.2 The proposals are intended to ensure that the savings included in the MTFS can be met by securing additional income from users paying the increased charges and/or more significantly by encouraging the self-management of facilities under community asset transfer and reducing the overall maintenance and management costs to the Council. The charges users would be expected to pay compared to current fees is shown in **Appendix E**.
- 8.3 In order to achieve the full level of saving currently proposed in the MTFS it will also be necessary to review and consider a rationalisation of children's play areas throughout the County Borough and/or transfer equipped play areas to Town and Community Councils, and discussions are already progressing at the instigation of Bridgend Town Council, Coity Higher and Laleston Community Councils.
- 8.4 The current grant arrangements paid to bowling clubs as part of their self-management arrangements would also need to be discontinued and the current bowls green maintenance arrangements included in leases re-assessed.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers and comments on the consultation responses with any recommendations being reported to Cabinet along with the outcome of the consultation report.

Mark Shephard, Chief Executive
September 2019

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Background Documents: Report to Cabinet on Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks Pavilions 18th September 2018

Playing Fields and Pavilions managed by the Parks Department.

Name	Pavilions
Aberfields	1
Bettws	1
Blaengarw Cricket	1
Blandy Park	1
Brackla	0
Bryntirion	1
Cae Gof	1
Caedu Park	0
Caerau A.F.C.	1
Caerau Welfare Park	1
Coychurch	1
Croft Goch	1
Cwm Garw	1
Evanstown	1
Garth Welfare Park	1
Great Western Avenue	1
Griffin Park	0
Heol-y-Cyw	1
Hermon Road / Metcalf Street	1
Lawrence Park	1
Lewistown	1
Litchard Cross	0
Llangeinor	1
Llangynwyd	1
Locks Lane	0
Maesteg Welfare Park	1
North Cornelly	1
Nantymoel RFC	1
Newbridge Playing Fields	3
Ogmore Vale RFC	1
Pandy Park	1
Pencoed Recreation Ground	1

Name	Pavilions
Pwll-y-Garn	2
Pyle Welfare Park	0
Rest Bay	1
South Parade	1
Tudor Park	0
Waunllwyd	0
Woodlands Park	1

Includes pavilions where bowls pavilions is integral with the sports pavilion.

Excludes standalone pavilions managed by clubs or third parties.

Pavilions in bold currently closed.

Play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions consultation 2019

Consultation report

Date of issue: 01 August 2019

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1. Overview

The consultation received 2169 responses from a combination of the consultation survey (1830 responses), 329 social media interactions and one letter and nine emails. This paper details the analysis associated with the consultation.

2. Introduction

A public survey based on Bridgend County Borough Council's Play area, grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields and sports pavilions was conducted over a 12 week period between 17 April 2019 and the 10 July 2019. The survey was available to complete online on the consultation page of the council's website. The survey was available in English, Welsh and as an accessible version in both languages. Residents could also request a paper copy or another alternative format by telephone or email.

In total, there were 43 questions which required a reply from respondents. All survey responses offered the option of anonymity. The council's standard set of equalities monitoring questions were also included with the survey, this is recommended good practice for all public facing surveys carried out by the council.

The content of the consultation remains available online in closed consultations.

Comments regarding the consultation were also invited via social media, letter, email and phone call.

3. Promotional tools and engagement methods

This section details the specific communications and engagement methods used to reach people and encourage them to share their views during the consultation period.

3.1 Social media and online

Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn have widely been used to promote the consultation.

Information was posted to the council's corporate Twitter accounts throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 11,578 followers on its corporate Twitter accounts. During the period, the authority 'tweeted' 23 times and the information was seen 51,950 times.

Information was also posted to the council's corporate Facebook page during the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 12,503 followers. During the period, the authority posted four times on Facebook and the posts were seen 65,758 times.

Information was also posted to the council's corporate LinkedIn page throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the

proposals. The council currently has 3,032 followers on LinkedIn. During the consultation period, the authority posted three times on LinkedIn and the posts were seen 2,503 times.

An image was placed on the news page of the council website and the intranet homepage which linked through to the consultation webpage and survey.

3.2 Local press

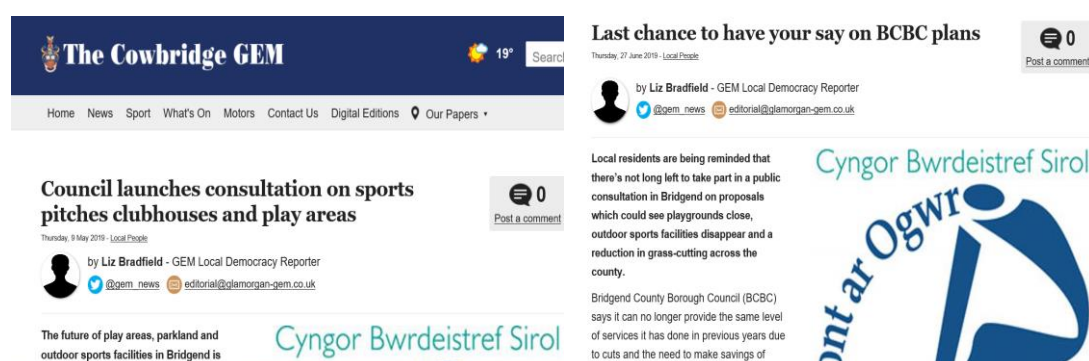
Details of the consultation were sent as part of press releases emailed to local and national press in advance of and during the live period:

Media releases:

- 25 04 19 Sports pitches and pavilions consultation begins
- 17 05 19 Don't miss your chance to have your say
- 18 06 19 Have your say on sports pitches and pavilions
- 02 07 19 Deadline approaches for pitches, pavilions and play grounds

Coverage Examples:

- 12 02 19 Wales Online [Outdoor sports facilities and libraries under threat](#)
- 01 05 19 Wales Online [Sports pitches could be closed to public due to funding cuts](#)
- 09 05 19 Bridgend Gem [Council launches consultation on sports pitches clubhouses and play areas](#)
- 27 06 19 Glamorgan Gem [Last chance to have your say on BCBC plans](#)
- 25 07 19 News Wales [Sports Pitches and Pavilions Consultation Begins](#)



3.3 Community engagement/meetings/events/schools

Local community, equality and diversity groups were given details of the consultation proposals and told how to share their views.

All comprehensive schools within the County Borough were offered the opportunity for their students to engage with the consultation during the live period. A group of students from Llangynwyd Comprehensive School (29) took part in a clicker pad session and their responses were analysed as part of the main findings of this report.

All other comprehensive schools were sent the link to complete the surveys online.

3.4 The play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions consultation survey

The online and paper surveys contained 43 questions which required a reply from respondents.

The survey contained three sections:

- Play area review;
- Grass cutting review;
- Potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions.

Respondents were given the option of which sections they wanted to complete. Respondents could complete one, some or all of the sections.

The survey was available on the council's website and was sent to all 1124 Citizens' Panel members.

Surveys were readily available in English and Welsh and as an accessible versions in both languages. Alternative formats were available on request.

3.5 Posters

Posters promoting the consultation were sent to all sports groups and pavilion coordinators. Posters were also circulated to the library service for use in their 12 branches.

4. Response rate

In total, there were 2169 interactions, representing 1.5 per cent of the Bridgend County Borough population. The response rate has been divided into several areas including: consultation survey responses, emails and social media interactions:

- We received 1830 survey responses in total (1664 online submissions and 166 paper versions);
- During the consultation period, there were 329 interactions on our social media channels;
- Nine comments were received by email;
- One letter was received (appendix one).

5. How effective was the consultation?

The play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions consultation was conducted over a twelve week period in which a range of marketing methods were used to create awareness of the consultation and encourage members of the public to engage with the council.

The social demographic data reflects a good cross section of the County Borough's population, 97 percent of survey respondents lived within the County Borough.

The data collection methods, which include the online survey, a paper survey and an accessible survey, were all developed using plain English to maximise understanding. These response methods were designed to give a consistency to the survey across multiple platforms.

6. Headline figures

- 6.1 12% of respondents said that they used council play areas daily and a further 35% stated that they used council play areas weekly.
- 6.2 The most commonly used play areas were Newbridge Fields, Maesteg Welfare Park and Broadlands.
- 6.3 57% respondents stated that they would be prepared to travel up to one mile to use a playground. This was followed by 28% of respondents stating that they would be willing to travel between two and three miles to use a playground.
- 6.4 74% of respondents stated that play areas with fixed play equipment were very valuable, and a further 20% stated that they were valuable.
- 6.5 64% of respondents told us that they did think that the council should continually repair equipment that gets frequently damaged through vandalism or anti social behaviour.
- 6.6 56% of respondents did not support the council concentrating funding and maintaining large playgrounds or play areas strategically located across the county borough rather than play grounds and play areas in residential areas.
- 6.7 71% of respondents supported the local town or community council taking over responsibility for operating the playground or play areas in the locality.
- 6.8 51% of respondents stated that they did agree with the proposal to reduce grass cutting in open spaces from seven times per year to five times per year.
- 6.9 50% of respondents did not agree with the proposal to cut grass cutting in play areas from 16 times per year to 12 times per year. 39% of respondents did agree with this proposal.
- 6.10 55% of respondents agreed with the proposal to leave some open spaced grassed areas to remain uncut and return to a more natural habitat.
- 6.11 The most popular use for council playing fields and pavilions was general recreation (33%), followed by football (25%) and then rugby (21%).
- 6.12 The most commonly used football clubs were Llangynwyd Maesteg (55) followed by Woodlands Avenue Pencoed (38) and then Newbridge Fields Bridgend (34).
- 6.13 The most commonly used rugby clubs were Newbridge Fields Bridgend (81), followed by Cae Gof Cefn Cribwr (33), and then Pandy Park Aberkenfig (31).
- 6.14 The most commonly used cricket clubs were Garth Welfare Park Maesteg (27), and Newbridge Playing Fields Bridgend (27), and then Porthcawl Cricket Club Porthcawl (5).
- 6.15 The most frequently used bowling greens were Newbridge Fields (25), followed by Waunllwyd in Nantymoel (10) and then Maesteg Welfare Park (7).
- 6.16 When asked about the impact if fees increased the most frequent comments received were less use of facilities and potential loss of clubs (354), followed by people won't afford the costs (297) and then causes further problems elsewhere such as health problems and anti-social behaviour (167).

- 6.17 47% of respondents agreed that town and community councils should consider taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions.
- 6.18 43% of respondents agreed with the proposal that sports clubs or pavilion groups should consider taking the responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions.
- 6.19 When asked if respondents felt that the phasing in of full cost recovery over a number of years would assist sports clubs/groups to explore the option of taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions, 41% of respondents stated that they did think this would assist.
- 6.20 When asked what kind of support would assist clubs to undertake a CAT the most frequent comments were free training/courses and legal advice (151), followed by funding/grants and financial support (137) and then upgrade/repair facilities/ provide funding for equipment (72).
- 6.21 50% of respondents stated that sports clubs or groups that take responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches should be able to erect a fence around the perimeter of the pitch.24% did not agree that they should be able to do this and 19% were unsure.
- 6.22 Finally respondents were given an opportunity to make final, overall comments. The most frequent comments were negative impact on health, wellbeing, communities & sport (101), followed by disagree with proposals (council should keep assets) (65) and then save money somewhere else (41).

7. Question and analysis - consultation survey

Section seven of the report looks at the questions asked in the consultation survey – with 1830 respondents in total.

7.1 Please select a language to begin the survey.

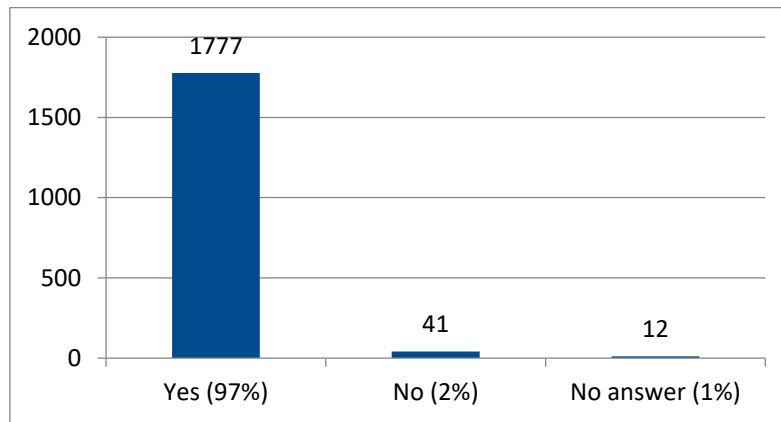
Respondents to the consultation survey were initially asked in which language they would like to complete the survey. Overall, 99.5% of respondents selected English with 0.5% selecting Welsh.

Language	#	%
English	1821	99.5
Welsh	9	0.5
Total	1830	100.0

7.2 About you

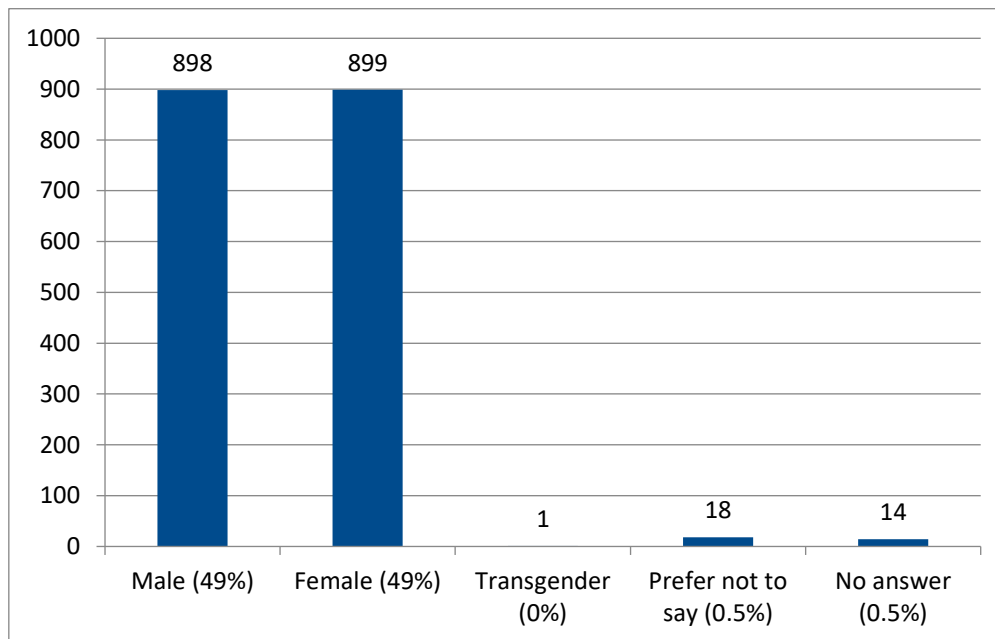
7.2.1. Do you live in Bridgend County Borough?

1830 respondents completed this section



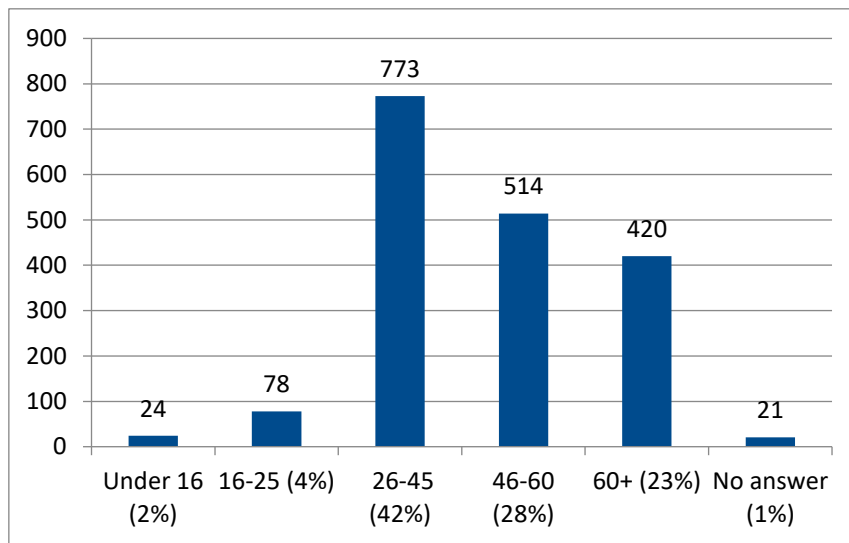
97% of survey respondents lived within the County Borough, a further two percent stated that they did not live in the County Borough and one percent did not provide a response to this question. This consultation was aimed at anyone accessing sports services within the County Borough which explained why 41 responses were received from residents from outside the borough.

7.2.2 What is your gender?



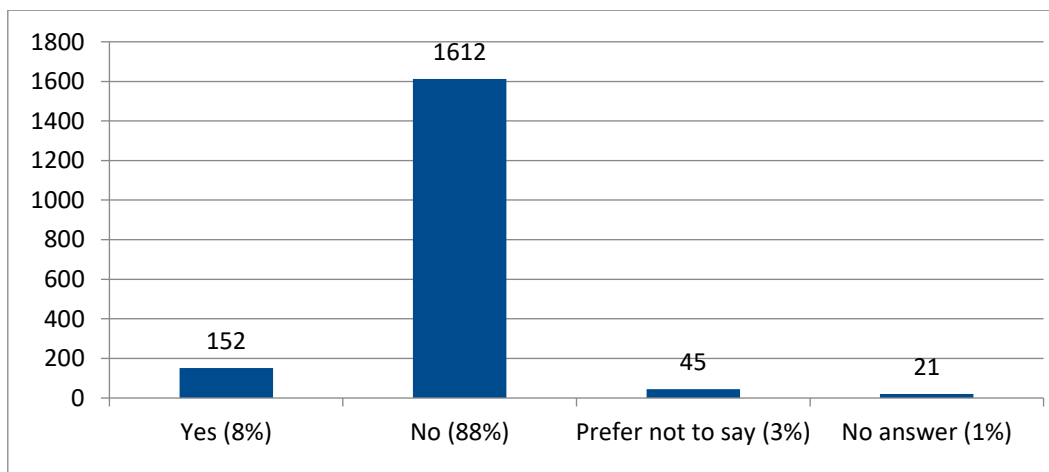
49% of respondents were female and 49% male. 0.5% stated that they preferred not to give their gender and 0.5% did not respond to this question. One respondents stated that they were transgender.

7.2.3 Please select your age category



The majority of respondents were aged between 26 and 45 (42%), followed by those aged 46-60 (28%) and then 60+ (23%).

7.2.4 Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

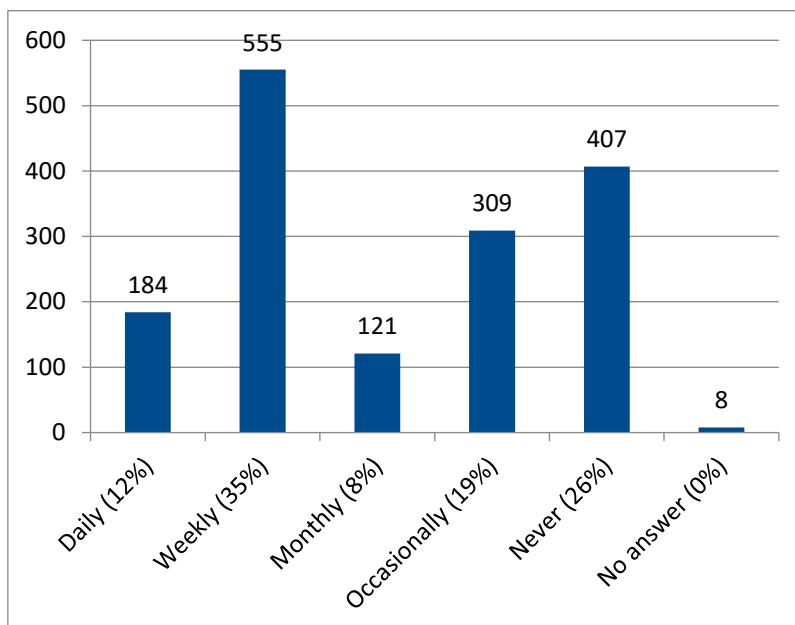


88% of respondents told us that they did not consider themselves to have a disability. 8% of respondents stated that they did have a disability. 3% selected prefer not to say and 1% of respondents did not provide an answer to this question.

7.3 Play area review

1584 respondents completed this section

7.3.1 How often do you use the council's play areas with fixed play equipment such as swings, slide etc.?



The majority of respondents stated that they used council play areas weekly (35%), followed by occasionally (19%) and then daily (12%).

7.3.2 Where are the main council play areas with fixed play equipment you use?

Respondents were asked to provide details of up to three play areas that they regularly used.

Location	Times selected
Newbridge fields	338
Maesteg Welfare park	134
Broadlands	110
Maesteg Celtic	104
Porthcawl	85
Brackla	78
Pen y Fai	77
Porthcawl (Griffin Park)	72
Litchard	70
Pencoed	69
Cefn Cribwr (Cae Gof)	62
Brackla (spar)	61
Cefn Glas	55
Bridgend	52
Bryntirion	48
Coity	47

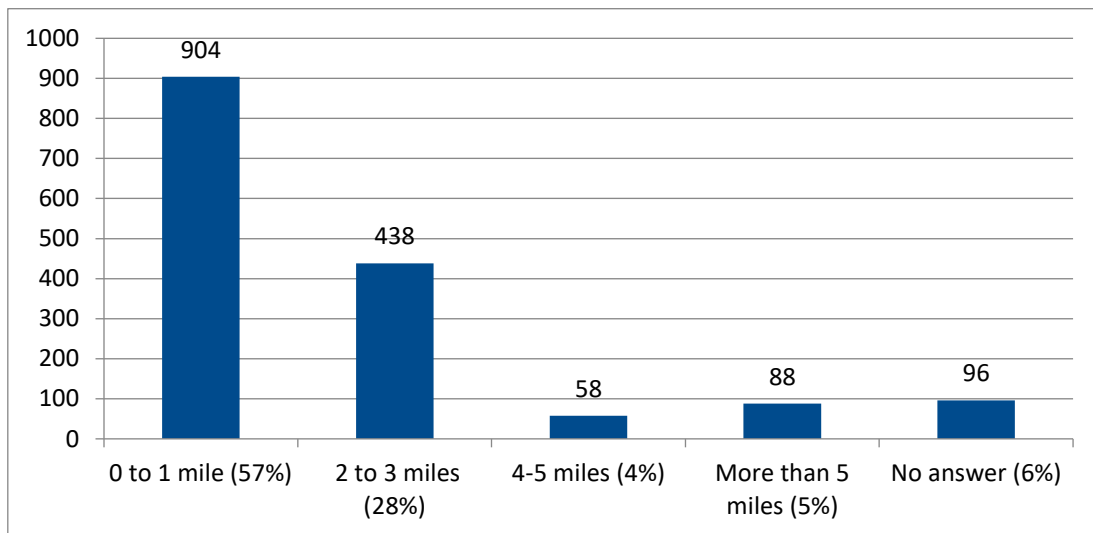
Kenfig Hill	45
Ogmore Vale	42
Ynysawdre	41
Brackla (Brackla primary school)	38
Maesteg	37
Coychurch	36
Llangynwyd	34
Tondu	34
Caerau	31
Bryngarw Country Park	28
Pencoed (swimming pool)	27
Pontycymer	27
Cwmfelin Park	26
Broadlands (by underpass)	25
Wildmill	25
Laleston	23
Newton	23
Porthcawl (fulmar road)	23
Aberkenfig	22
Cornelly	22
Nantymoel	22
North Cornelly	22
Brynmenyn	20
Porthcawl (the wilderness park)	20
Nantyllyfyllon	19
Parc Derwen	16
Pencoed (Hendre)	16
Pyle	16
Porthcawl (Heol y Goedwig)	15
Blaengarw	14
Sarn	14
Brackla (Community Centre)	13
Evanstown	13
Porthcawl (Forge)	11
Porthcawl (Great Western avenue)	11
Ogmore vale (Lewistown)	9
Ogmore vale (Wyndham)	9
Porthcawl (Anglesey way)	9
Porthcawl (locks lane)	9
Pencoed (Penprysg)	8

The ten most popular play areas were:

- Newbridge Fields (338)

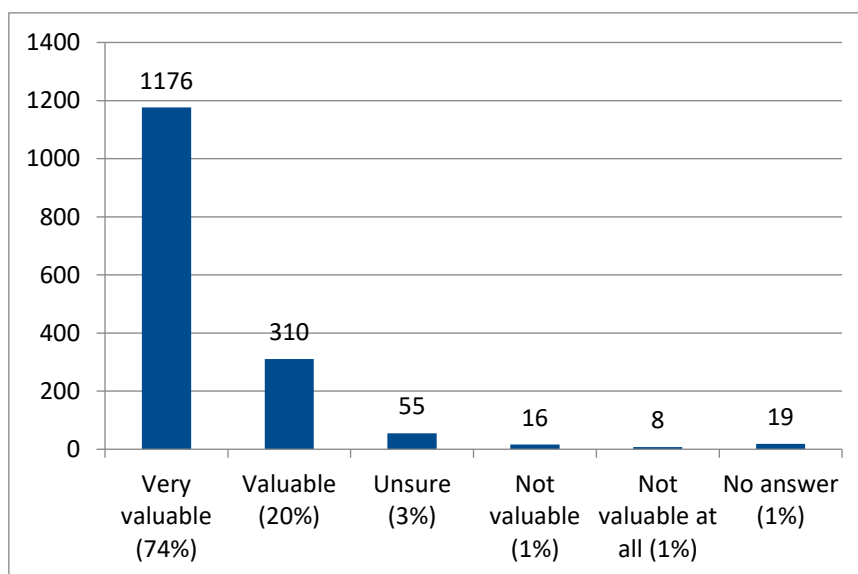
- Maesteg Welfare Park (134)
- Broadlands (110)
- Maesteg Celtic (104)
- Porthcawl (85)
- Brackla (78)
- Pen Y Fai (77)
- Porthcawl Griffin Park (72)
- Litchard (70)
- Pencoed (69)

7.3.3 How far would you be prepared to travel to use a playground?



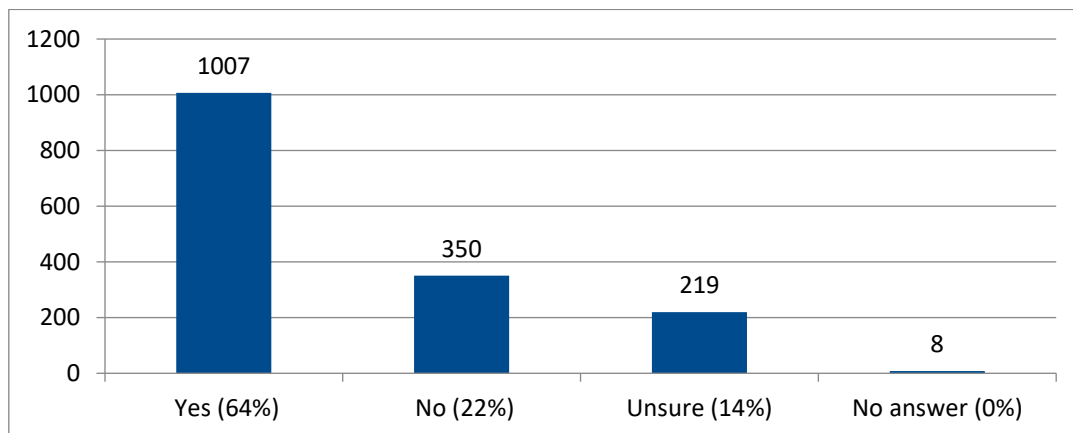
The majority of respondents stated that they would be prepared to travel up to one mile (57%) to use a playground. This was followed by 28% of respondents stating that they would be willing to travel between two and three miles to use a playground. 9% of respondents told us that they would be willing to travel more than 4 miles to access a playground.

7.3.4 How valuable do you think play areas with fixed play equipment are to communities?



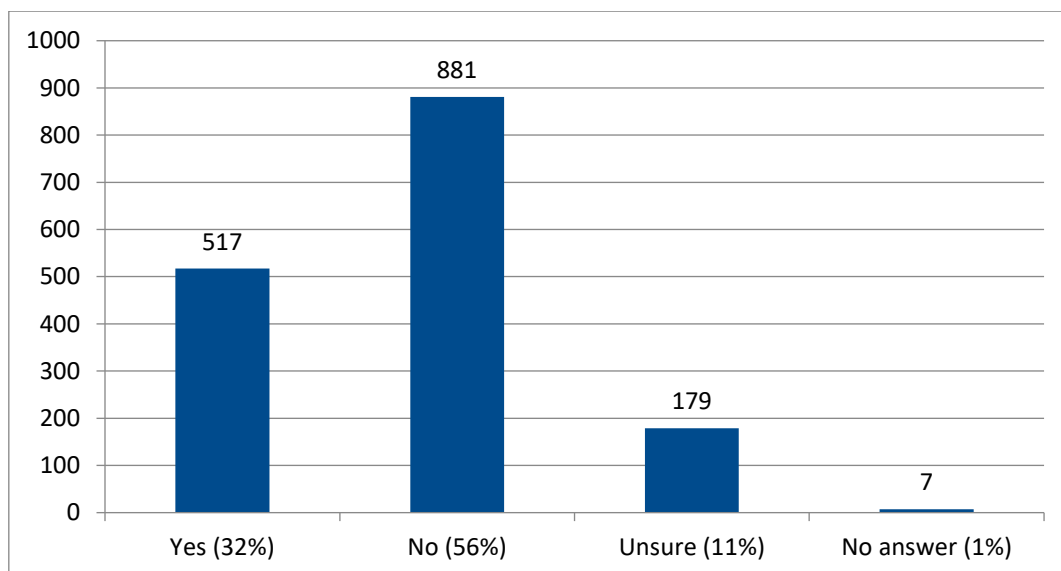
74% of respondents stated that play areas with fixed play equipment were very valuable, and a further 20% stated that they were valuable.

7.3.5 Do you think the council should continually repair equipment in play areas with fixed play equipment that are frequently damaged through vandalism or anti-social behaviour?



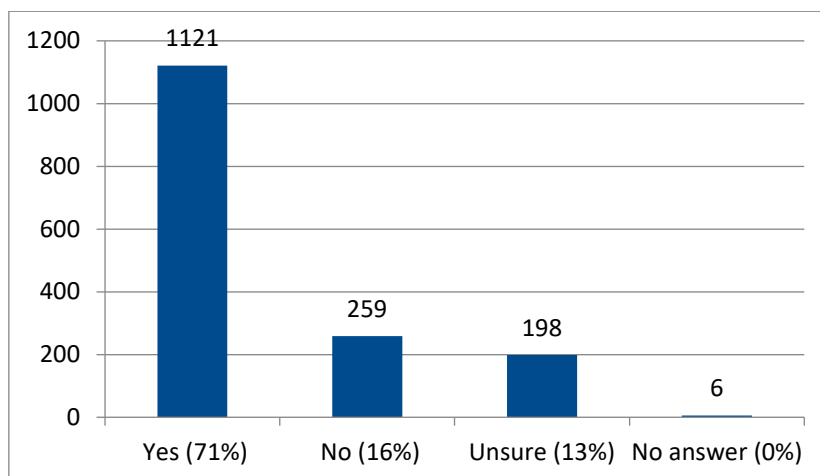
64% of respondents told us that they did think that the council should continually repair equipment that gets frequently damaged through vandalism or anti social behaviour in comparison to 22% of respondents that felt that the council should not continually repair equipment that gets frequently damaged through vandalism or anti social behaviour.

7.3.6 Do you think the council should concentrate on funding and maintaining large playgrounds/ play areas strategically located across the borough rather than playgrounds/ play areas in residential areas?



The majority of respondents (56%) did not support the council concentrating funding and maintaining large playgrounds or play areas strategically located across the County Borough rather than play grounds and play areas in residential areas. 32% of respondents did support the council taking this approach and 11% of respondents were unsure.

7.3.7 Would you support your local town or community council taking over the responsibility for operating the playground/ play areas in your locality?



Overall the majority of respondents (71%) supported the local town or community council taking over responsibility for operating the playground or play areas in the locality. 16% of respondents did not support this proposal.

7.3.8 Are there any other comments you would like to make in relation to the play area review?

712 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

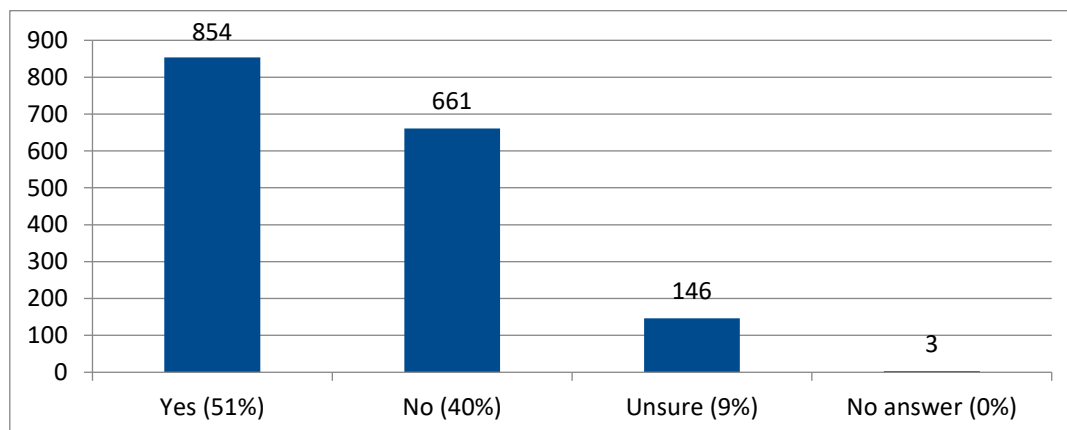
Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Parks benefit health and wellbeing and are important for child development	410
Parks help to combat antisocial behaviour	133
Request no further cuts on these facilities	86
Remove equipment if not maintained / continually vandalised/ review on a case by case basis	27
Greater affects low income families	22
Council tax should cover costs	13
Transfer to community council	11
People without transport will suffer	10

The most frequent comments were around parks being beneficial for health and wellbeing and important for child development (410), followed by parks help combat anti social behaviour (133) and then comments requesting that no further cuts are made to the facilities (86).

7.4 Grass cutting review

1664 respondents completed this section

7.4.1 Do you agree with proposal one? Should grass cutting be reduced in open spaces and road verges from 7 to 5 times per year?



51% of respondents stated that they did agree with the proposal to reduce grass cutting in open spaces from seven times per year to five times per year. 40% of respondents stated that they did not agree with this proposal, and 9% were unsure.

7.4.1.1 If no please could you give the reason?

495 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Area looks untidy or are already not cut enough	256
Road verges must be fully maintained due to safety issues	117
Can prevent outdoor exercise and children playing	38
Areas needs to be regularly maintained	21
Agree with proposal and the ideas to save money	18
Council tax should cover this	13
Hard to locate dog mess in long grass	10
Better management of council budget	9
Causes more issues in the long run	7
Increase in vermin	6

The most common responses were areas already look untidy or are already not cut enough (256), followed by road verges must be fully maintained due to safety issues (117) and then can prevent outdoor exercise and children playing (38).

7.4.1.2 Do you have any further comments on proposal one?

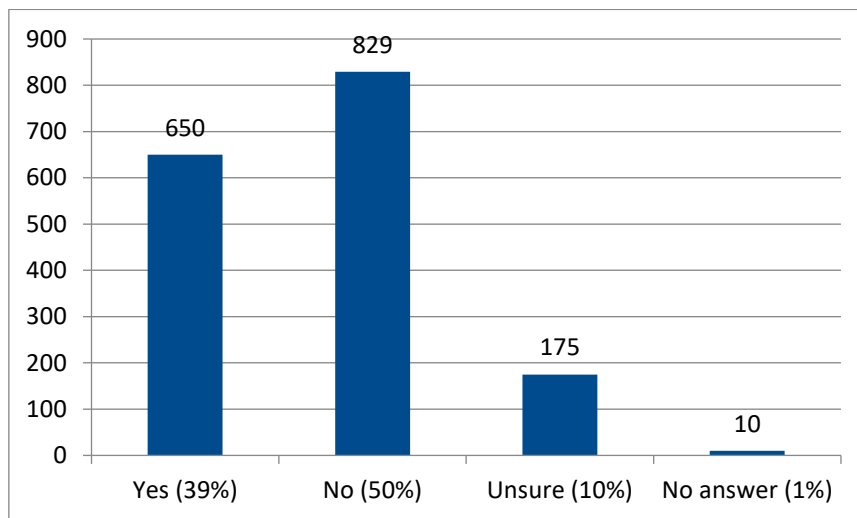
424 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposal as long as it's safe to do so	105
Plants and wildflowers encourage biodiversity	95
Negative impact on appearance of the area	69

Provided alternative ideas to save money	57
Can prevent outdoor exercise/ children playing	22
Depends on the weather/time of year	22
Safety issues	21
Depends on location	17
Better management of council budget	16

The most common comments stated that respondents agreed with the proposal as long as it was safe to do so (105), followed by plants and wildflowers encourage biodiversity (95), and then negative impact on appearance of the area (69)

7.4.2 Do you agree with proposal two? Should grass cutting in play areas be reduced from 16 to 12 times per year?



50% of respondents did not agree with the proposal to cut grass cutting in play areas from 16 times per year to 12 times per year. 39% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 10% were unsure.

7.4.2.1 If no please could you give the reason?

578 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Prevents children playing/people using the fields or sports pitches	166
Safety issues	152
Important that play areas are well maintained	90
Hard to see dog mess in long grass	66
Impacts on the appearance of the area	57
Disagree with proposal	20
Council tax should cover this	12
Better management of council budgets	7
Dependant on weather/time of year	4
Provided alternative ideas to save money	4

The comments most frequently provided were around the proposal preventing children playing and people using the fields or sports pitches (166), followed by safety issues (152) and then it is important that play areas are well maintained (90).

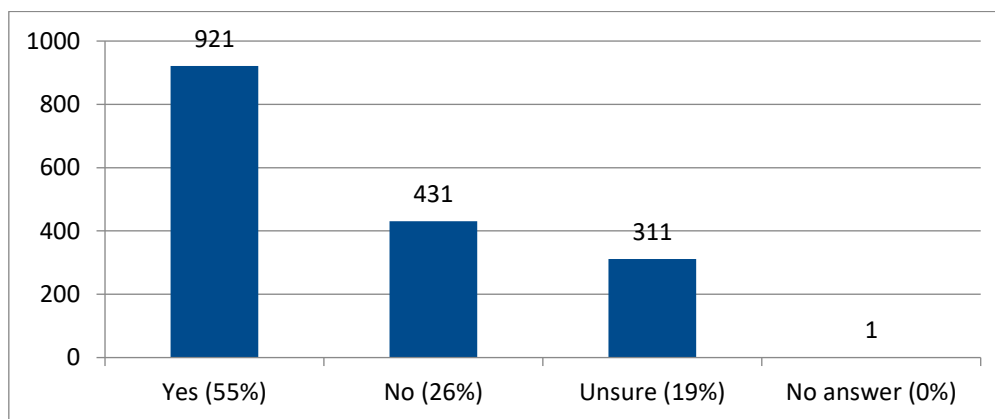
7.4.2.2 Do you have any further comments on proposal two?

305 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposal	72
Disagree with proposal	51
Provided alternative ideas to save money	32
Prevents outdoor exercise/children playing	31
Dependant on location	22
Dependant on weather/time of year	22
Plant wildflowers/encourage biodiversity	21
Safety issues	19
Unsure of the impact	13
Hard to locate dog mess in long grass	13
Accessibility issues	5
Need better management of council budgets	4

The most common themes were respondents stating that they agree with the proposal (72), followed by respondents disagreeing with the proposal (51), and then respondents provided alternative ideas to save money (32).

7.4.3 The Council may as part of its cost saving measures identify and leave some open space grassed areas currently regularly cut, uncut in future. Allowing those areas to return to a more natural habitat. Would you agree with this approach?



The majority of respondents (55%) agreed with the proposal to leave some open spaced grassed areas to remain uncut and return to a more natural habitat. 26% of respondents did not agree with this proposal and 19% were unsure.

7.4.3.1 If no please give reasons

275 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Areas would look untidy	124
Disagree with proposal	48
Safety issues	38
Prevents outdoor exercise/children playing	36
Dependant on location	16
Agree with proposal	10
Ideas to save money	3

The most common themes were that the areas would look untidy (124), followed by respondents stating that they disagree with the proposal (48), and then safety issues (38).

7.5.1 Are there any other further comments you would like to make in relation to these proposals

433 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

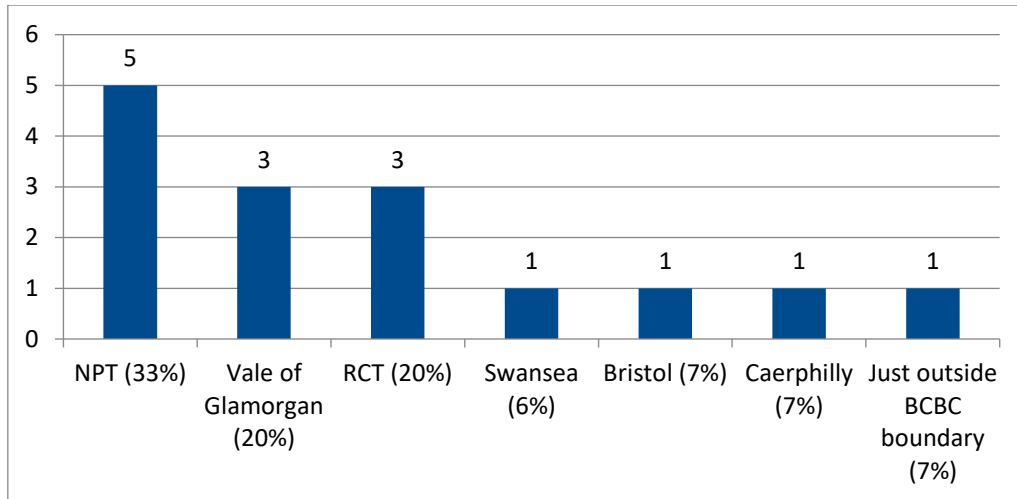
Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposals	89
Plants and wildflowers encourage biodiversity	85
Disagree with proposals	54
Ideas to generate/save money	48
Prevents outdoor exercise/children playing	42
Looks untidy	33
More information would be needed to make a decision	22
Dependant on location	22
Maintain parks/pitches but let other areas grow	21
Safety issues	17

The most common themes were respondents generally agreeing with the proposal (89), followed by plants and wildflowers encourage biodiversity (85) and then general disagreement with the proposals (54).

7.5 Potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions

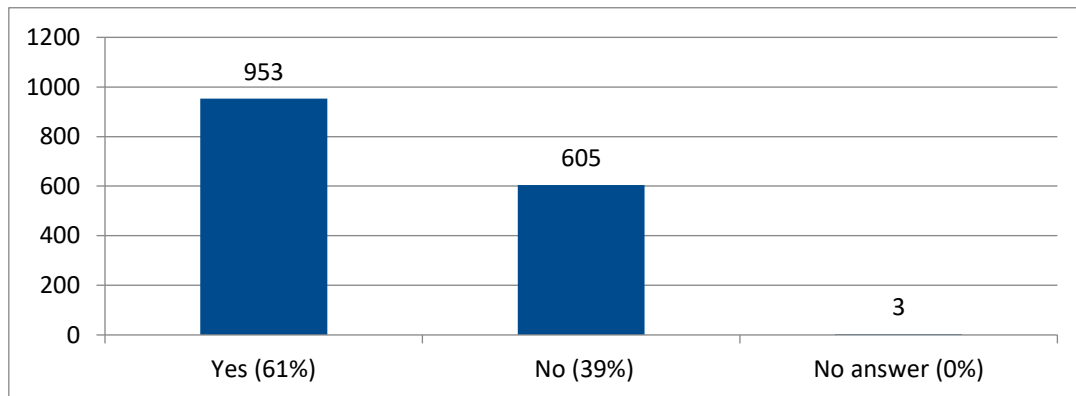
1561 respondents completed this section

7.5.1 If you told us in the 'about you' section that you do not live in Bridgend county borough, please tell us where you travel from to access sports facilities



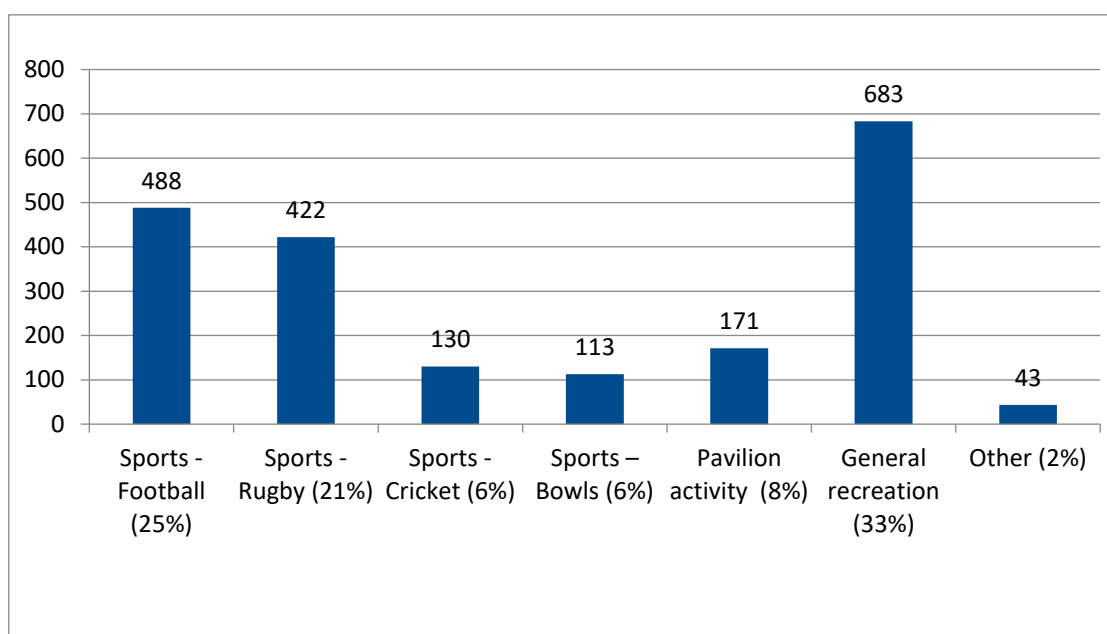
15 people that responded to the consultation said they did not live in BCBC. Of these 33% stated they lived in Neath Port Talbot, 20% lived in the Vale of Glamorgan, and 20% lived in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

7.5.2 Do you use council run sports pitches and/or pavilions?



61% of respondents stated that they did use council run sports pitches and or pavilions. 39% of respondents stated that they did not use council run sports pitches and or pavilions.

7.5.2.1 If 'yes', what do you use the council's playing fields and/or pavilions for?



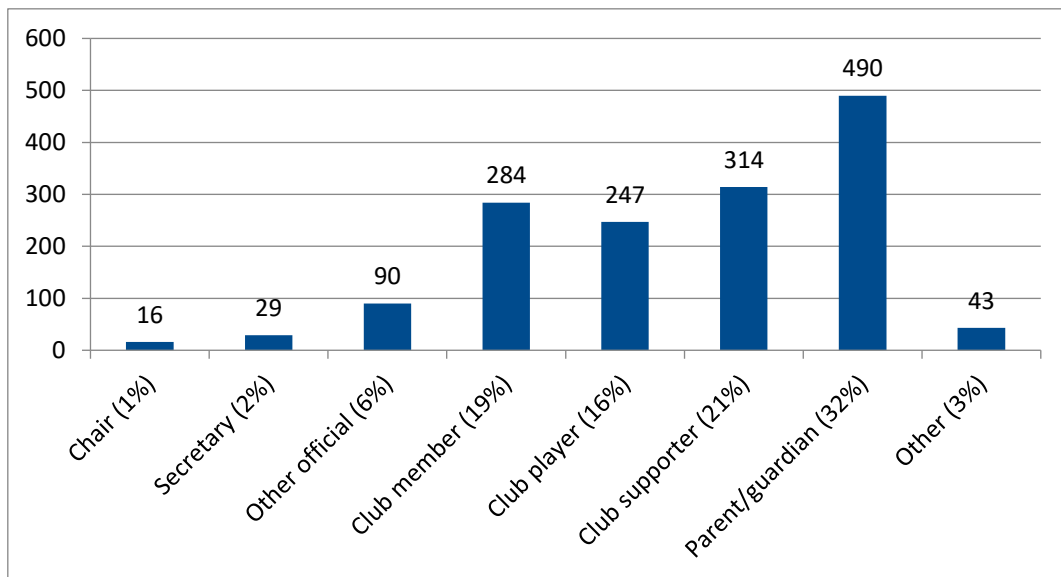
The most popular use for council playing fields and pavilions was general recreation (33%), followed by football (25%) and then rugby (21%).

Where the response 'other' was given, respondents were able to add more detail to their answer:

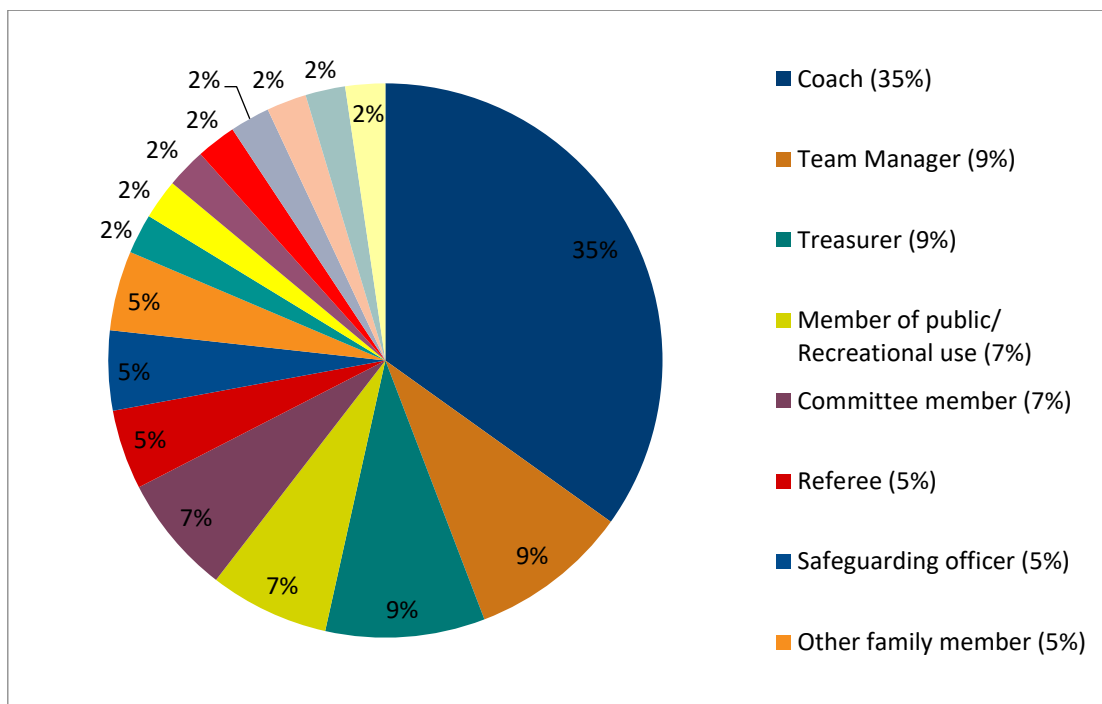
Response	Number of responses
Running	14
General fitness	4
Exercise classes	3
Tennis	3
Athletic track	3
Practice/play sports	3
Fetes/ public events	2
Private events	2
Socialising	2
Bingo	1
Surfing	1
School sports day	1
Hockey	1
Martial arts	1
For my mental wellbeing	1
Community garden	1

The most popular 'other' uses were running (14), followed by general fitness (4) and then exercise classes, tennis, athletic track and practice/play sports equally (3).

7.5.2.2 If you selected 'sports', please tell us what your role is:



Respondents were able to provide their role within sports, parent/guardian was the most popular response (32%), followed by club supporter (21%) and then club member (19%). 43 respondents selected other, these respondents were able to expand on their answer. The following responses were provided:



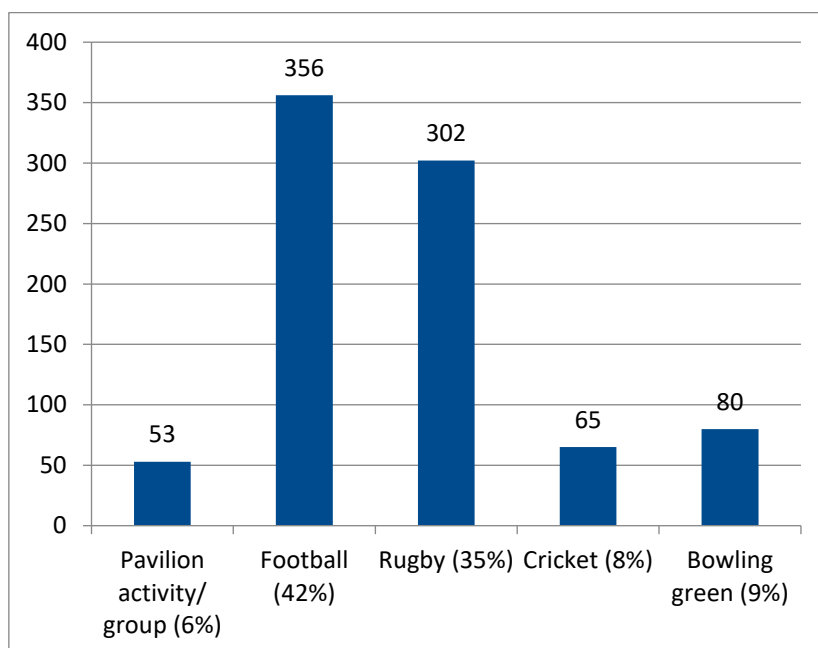
15 of the 43 respondents who selected other stated that they were coaches (35%), followed by 4 (9%) team manager and 4 (9%) treasurer.

7.5.3 Please tell us the name(s) and location(s) of your sports/club/activity/group

856 respondents answered this question

In this section respondents were asked to give the details of their sport/club/activity or group.

7.5.3.1 What is your sports club/activity/group?



Football was the most popular activity (42%), followed by rugby (35%) and then bowling (9%)

7.5.3.2 If you selected 'football' please tell us about your club

356 respondents chose football. Of these 353 respondents gave details of their club:

Club	Number of responses
Aberfields - Nantymoel	9
Brackla- Bridgend	31
Bryntirion - Bridgend	30
Cae Gof - Cefn Cribwr	27
Caerau Welfare Park - Caerau	2
Croft Goch - Kenfig Hill	2
Cwm Garw - Blaengarw	5
Great Western Avenue- Bridgend	7
Heol Simonston - Coychurch	11
Hermon Road - Caerau	5
Lewistown - Ogmere Vale	2
Litchard Cross - Bridgend	10
Llangynwyd - Maesteg	55
Locks Lane - Porthcawl	14
Maesteg Welfare Park - Maesteg	8
Meadow Street- North Cornelly	6

Newbridge Fields - Bridgend	34
Pandy Park - Tondu	16
Pencoed Recreation Ground - Pencoed	4
Rest Bay - Porthcawl	11
Tudor Park - Maesteg	7
Woodlands Avenue – Pencoed	19
Other	38
No club added	3

The most commonly used clubs were Llangynwyd Maesteg (55) followed by Woodlands Avenue Pencoed (38) and then Newbridge Fields Bridgend (34).

Where respondents chose 'other (38)' the following locations were provided:

Club	Number of responses
South Parade - Maesteg	12
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	5
Coychurch fields	4
Llangeinor playing field	2
All football pitches	2
Bettws North site FC	2
Maesteg sports centre	1
Celtic Welfare Park	1
Planka Wyndham	1
Sarn	1
Blandy Park, Pontycymer	1
Llangynwyd playing field	1
The Rec - Blaengarw	1
Bryntirion football club	1

South Parade in Maesteg was the most common 'other' response (12).

7.5.3.3 If you selected 'rugby' please tell us about your club

302 respondents chose rugby. Of these 296 respondents gave details of their club:

Club	Number of responses
Bettws- Heol Richard Price	0
Brackla- Bridgend	7
Cae Gof - Cefn Cribwr	33
Croft Goch - Kenfig Hill	14
Evanstown - Gilfach Goch	1
Garth Welfare Park - Blaengarw	8
Heol y Cyw - Heol y Cyw	4

Lawrence Park- Pontycymmer	3
Llangynwyd - Maesteg	7
Maesteg Welfare Park - Maesteg	28
Nantymoel RFC- Nantymoel	5
Newbridge Fields - Bridgend	81
North Cornelly- Meadow Street	2
Ogmore Vale RFC - Ogmore Vale	4
Pandy Park - Aberkenfig	31
Pencoed Recreation Ground - Pencoed	18
Rest Bay - Porthcawl	13
South parade - Maesteg	12
Woodlands Park – Pencoed	5
Other	15
No club added	6

The most commonly used clubs were Newbridge Fields Bridgend (81), followed by Cae Gof Cefn Cribwr (33), and then Pandy Park Aberkenfig (31).

Where respondents chose 'other (15)' the following locations were provided (some respondents identified more than 1 club, so 20 responses were given):

Club	Number of responses
Garth Park Maesteg	4
Maesteg Celtic	3
Bryncethin RFC	1
Llangynwyd Playing Fields	1
Newbridge Fields	1
Maesteg Welfare park	1
Llangynwyd South Parade.	1
Cornelly Playing Field	1
Porthcawl RFC	1
Bandstand	1
Pandy Parc, Tondu	1
Kenfig Rugby club	1
Kenfig Hill	1
Aberkenfig pitch	1
South Road	1

7.5.3.4 If you selected 'cricket' please tell us about your club

65 respondents chose cricket. Of these 63 respondents gave details of their club:

Club	Number of responses
Blaengarw Cricket - Blaengarw	2

Garth Welfare Park, Maesteg	27
Porthcawl Cricket Club - Locks Lane, Porthcawl	5
Newbridge Playing Fields - Angel Street, Bridgend	27
Other	2
No club added	2

The most commonly used clubs were Garth Welfare Park Maesteg (27), and Newbridge Playing Fields Bridgend (27), and then Porthcawl Cricket Club Porthcawl (5).

Where respondents chose 'other (2)' the following locations were provided:

Club	Number of responses
Llangynwyd Fields	1
Celtic Fields	1

7.5.3.5 If you selected 'bowls' please tell us about your club

80 respondents chose bowls. Of these 76 respondents gave details of their club:

Club	Number of responses
Cae Gof - Cefn Cribwr	6
Caedu Park - Ogmere Vale	2
Caerau Welfare Park - Caerau	6
Evanstown - Gilfach Goch	0
Garth Park - Maesteg	3
Griffin Park - Porthcawl	4
Lawrence Park - Pontycymmer	2
Maesteg Welfare Park - Maesteg	7
Newbridge Fields - Bridgend	25
Pencoed Recreation ground - Pencoed	4
Pyle Welfare Park - Pyle	5
Waunllwyd - Nantymoel	10
Other	2
No club added	4

The most frequently used bowling greens were Newbridge Fields (25), followed by Waunllwyd in Nantymoel (10) and then Maesteg Welfare Park (7).

Where respondents chose 'other (2)' the following locations were provided:

Club	Number of responses
Ogmere Vale Bowling Green	1
Pencoed Bowls Green	1

7.5.4 If your sports club/activity/group fees increased, what do you think the impact would be?

948 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Less use of facilities and potential loss of clubs	354
People won't afford the costs	297
Causes further problems elsewhere such as health problems and anti-social behaviour.	167
People should pay to use facilities	40
Minimal impact	35
Depends on the amount of increase	28
Negative impact	27

The most frequent comments were less use of facilities and potential loss of clubs (354), followed by people won't afford the costs (297) and then causes further problems elsewhere such as health problems and anti-social behaviour (167).

7.5.5 What do you think would help limit any negative impact if your sports club/activity/group fees increased?

668 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Either decrease fees or don't increase fees	235
Explore options for funding or sponsorship	130
Gradual increases	44
Need better quality facilities	44
Means tested fees	35
Better communication	31
Continue maintaining pitches/grass cutting	31
Community asset transfer	30
Ideas to generate money/save money	28
Better management of council budgets	17
Better incentives	14
Review usage of pitches and close those that aren't used or merge clubs and share fields	12
General feedback	10
Provide clubs with equipment to maintain fields themselves	7

The most frequent comments were either decrease fees or don't increase fees (235), followed by explore options for funding or sponsorship (130) and then gradual increases (44) and need better quality facilities (44).

7.5.6 If your sports club/activity/group closed, what do you think the impact would be?

882 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Causes further problems - health related, anti-social behaviour etc.	463

No sporting activities locally	161
Negative impact on the community	157
Generally negative impact	49
Travel to another community/club	26
Fewer members	12
No impact	9
Closure of clubs/teams	5

The most frequent comments were causes further problems - health related, anti-social behaviour etc. (463), followed by no sporting activities locally (161) and then negative impact on the community (157).

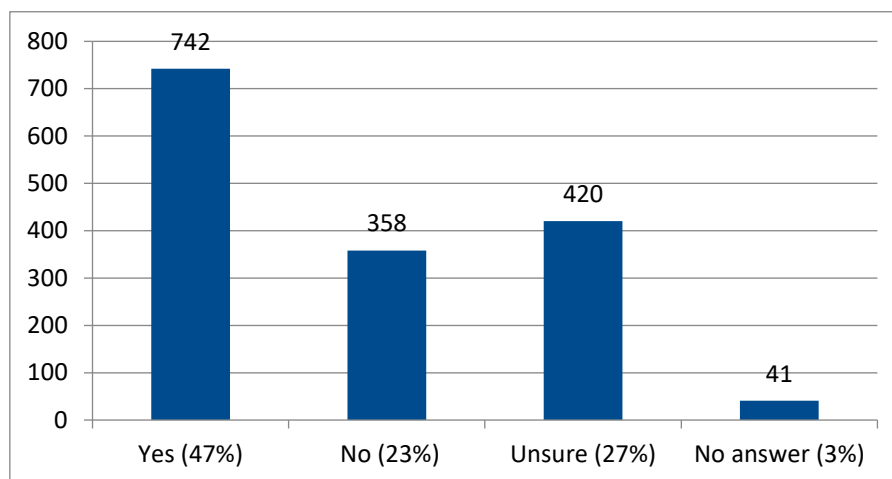
7.5.7 What do you think would help limit any negative impact if your sports club/activity/group closed?

582 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Don't close as nothing will help	296
Explore new or alternative facilities locally	72
Don't increase costs	57
Funding/sponsorship/volunteering	47
Merge clubs/facilities	27
General comments	18
Community asset transfers	14
Better communication	13
Better management of council budget	13
Continue maintaining sports pitches	8
Consultation feedback	7
More police/doctors/social services	6
Different payment options	4

The most frequent comments were don't close as nothing will help (296), followed by explore new or alternative facilities locally (72) and then don't increase costs (57).

7.5.8 Do you think your local town or community council should consider taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions?



47% of respondents agreed that town and community councils should consider taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions. 23% did not agree with this proposal and 27% were unsure.

7.5.8.1 If no please state your reasons

233 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
It is the council's responsibility	96
Town/Community councils can't afford it/don't have the resources	70
May not have the skill set required	23
Extra costs to the users	18
Clubs to take over themselves	15
General comment	7
Need strategies/policies in place	2
Council aren't focusing on public's best interests	2

The most frequent comments were it is the council's responsibility (96), followed by town/community councils can't afford it/don't have the resources (70) and then may not have the skill set required (23).

7.5.8.2 Any further comments?

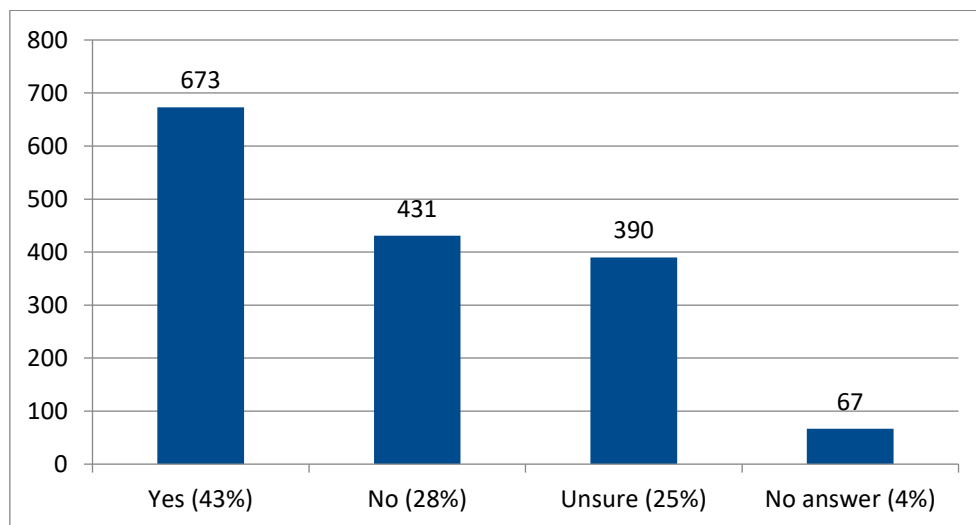
298 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposal as long as support is available (funding, policies etc.)	117
Concerns around affordability/skill sets/capacity	45
Council should be responsible	45

Clubs should take on responsibility	23
Don't increase fees/close clubs/pitches	22
Council and clubs to work together	17
Ideas to generate/save money	11
Need better management of council budgets	10
All town/community councils have different budgets - lack of consistency	8

The most frequent comments were agree with proposal as long as support is available (funding, policies etc.) (117), followed by concerns around affordability/skill sets/capacity (45) and council should be responsible (45).

7.5.9 Do you think the sports clubs or pavilion groups should consider taking the responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions?



43% of respondents agreed with the proposal that sports clubs or pavilion groups should consider taking the responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions. 28% did not agree with this proposal and 25% gave a neutral response, of unsure.

7.5.9.1 If no please give reasons

248 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Already too much pressure on clubs/parents	101
Should be the council's responsibility	73
People don't have the time/capacity	22
Families/other clubs wouldn't be able to use the pitches	14
Issues around maintenance	11
Can't let sports clubs run the pitches and charge higher fees	8
Concerns around experience/expertise to run the clubs/pitches	8
Agree with proposal	3
Council and clubs to work together	3
Town and community councils should be responsible	3
Better management of council budget	2

The most frequent comments were already too much pressure on clubs/parents (101), followed by should be the council's responsibility (73) and then people don't have the time/capacity (22).

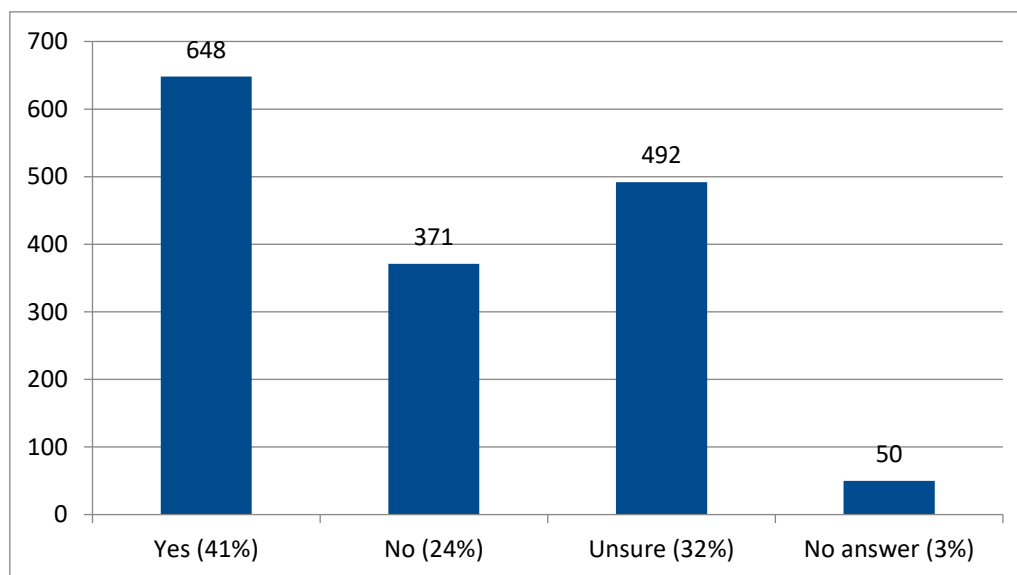
7.5.9.2 Any further comments?

267 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposal as long as there is support/funding/fees aren't increased	117
Clubs can't afford it and don't have the time	31
Depends on costs/state of facilities before transfer	25
Should be council's responsibility	23
Disagree with proposal	17
Issues around maintenance - clubs don't have equipment	14
Clubs and volunteers lack experience/expertise	11
Issues around more than one club using a pitch	7
Clubs have tried this but barriers prevent it happening	6
Consultation feedback	6
Public won't be able to use sports pitches	4
Need better management of council budget	3
Shared responsibility would be better	3

The most frequent comments were agree with proposal as long as there is support/funding/fees aren't increased (117), followed by clubs can't afford it and don't have the time (31) and then depends on costs/state of facilities before transfer (25).

7.5.10 Do you think the phasing in of full cost recovery over a number of years would assist sports clubs/groups to explore the option of taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions?



When asked if respondents felt that the phasing in of full cost recovery over a number of years would assist sports clubs/groups to explore the option of taking responsibility for the running and

self-management of sports pitches and/or pavilions, 41% of respondents stated that they did think this would assist. 24% stated that this would not assist and 32% of respondents were unsure.

7.5.10.1 If no please give reasons

218 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
There should be no increase on payments	78
Too expensive to run causing clubs to close	45
Unfair on volunteers	25
Delays the inevitable	18
Stops exercise and accessing sport facilities	18
Poor areas would suffer	9
The council should work with clubs to support them	7
Repairs are too expensive	4
Give clubs the option	4
There should be equal/shared responsibility	3
Users should pay to use facilities	2
Need to know costs/ more information needed	2
Council should not pay	2
Give notice	1

The most frequent comments were there should be no increase on payments (78), followed by too expensive to run causing clubs to close (45) and then Unfair on volunteers (25).

7.5.10.2 Any Further comments?

175 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Phasing would be easier on clubs	55
The council should work with clubs and local community to support them	29
Not enough information to make a decision	20
Disagree	19
Unfair on volunteers	11
Delays the inevitable	9
Give clubs the option to transfer	8
Poor areas would suffer	7
Council should provide support on expensive building repairs and equipment	6
Club should take ownership	4
Club collaboration approach	3
Too expensive	3
Costs should be shared	1

The most frequent comments were phasing would be easier on clubs (55), followed by the council should work with clubs and local community to support them (29) and then not enough information to make a decision (20).

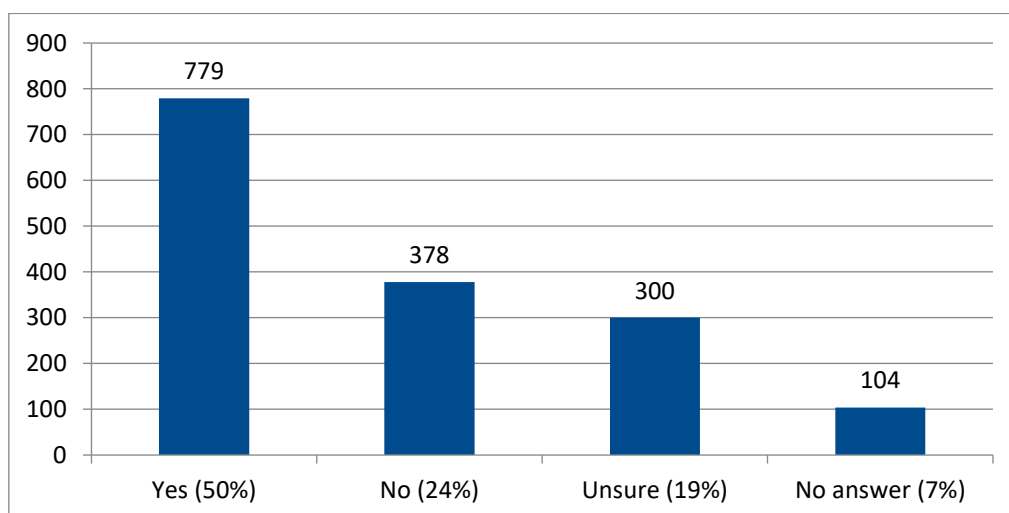
7.5.11 What kind of support do you think would assist sports clubs/groups to undertake a community asset transfer?

618 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Free training/courses and legal advice	151
Funding/grants and financial support	137
Upgrade/repair facilities/ provide funding for equipment	72
Council should continue maintaining	55
Council meeting with clubs - provide a clear path/process	37
Legal advice and representation	35
Business/commercial support/sponsorship	26
Lower or no tax/business rates/fees	25
No support required	14
Appoint council paid managers/ team	13
Town councils should contribute	12
Better support/training for committees	10
Free asset transfer	9
Support/publicise club events	8
A slow or phased hand over	7
Clubs have ownership of grounds	5
Transfer ownership to Halo or Awen	2

The most frequent comments were free training/courses and legal advice (151), followed by funding/grants and financial support (137) and then upgrade/repair facilities/ provide funding for equipment (72).

7.5.12 Do you think that sports clubs/groups that take responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches should be able to erect a fence around the perimeter of the pitch?



50% of respondents stated that sports clubs or groups that take responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches should be able to erect a fence around the perimeter of the pitch. 24% did not agree that they should be able to do this and 19% were unsure.

7.5.12.1 If no please give reasons

229 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Should be accessible to all	192
Too costly	23
Fences would spoil the area	9
Does not stop people	5

The most frequent comments were should be accessible to all (192), followed by too costly (23) and then fences would spoil the area (9).

7.5.12.2 Any further comments?

276 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with proposal	64
Prevents dog fouling/ vandals and litter	57
Disagree, should be open to all	45
Depends on facility/provision/area	31
Agree but monitored public use also	26
Fence will cause more vandals/expense	24
Only if the club completely own	15
Funding from council to cover cost	8
Safety/ legal issue	6

The most frequent comments were agree with proposal (64), followed by prevents dog fouling/ vandals and litter (57) and then disagree, should be open to all (45).

7.5.13 Do you have any further comments that you would like to make on these proposals?

948 comments were provided, all comments were themed and can be seen in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Negative impact on health, wellbeing, communities & sport	101
Disagree with proposals (council should keep assets)	65
Save money somewhere else	41
Team work between all clubs and supported by council	22
Keep taxes & fees down	14
Clubs should own clubs fully/transferred over asap	14
More information on funding offered	13
Affects poor & vulnerable families/areas	13
Cut councillors or employees pay/expenses	10
Review on case by case basis	6
Unfair expectation on volunteers	4
Enforce dog/litter etc fines to help pay	4

Results in closures	3
Facilities to be brought up to standard before transfer	3

The most frequent comments were negative impact on health, wellbeing, communities & sport (101), followed by disagree with proposals (council should keep assets) (65) and then save money somewhere else (41).

8. Social media, letter and email comments

8.1 Social media comments

Additional responses from social media comments (329) received during the survey's live period were also themed and are listed in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Need better management of council budgets	98
Keep maintaining play areas	48
Ideas to save/generate money	42
Residents pay council tax but don't receive the services	28
Stop cutting grass - plant wildflowers instead	26
Protect sports pitches and playing fields	20
Council ignore public opinions	17
Question about the consultation	17
Keep grass cutting	16
Consultation feedback	13
Praise for council	4

The most common themes were need better management of council budgets (98), followed by keep maintaining play areas (48) and then respondents provided areas ideas to save/generate money (42).

8.2 Emails and letter comments

Additional responses received by letter* (one) and email (nine) during the live period have also been themed. Emails and letters contained multiple themes, these are detailed in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Query about completing the survey	4
Council should continue to support sports pitches	2
Promote natural habitat	2
Community Councils should be more/better informed	1
Risk of losing community assets	1
Work with partners that have sports facilities	1
Work with partners to ensure health and wellbeing	1

*The letter is included as appendix one.

9. Communication regarding the consultation

Would you like to be emailed once the consultation report is available?

Yes	388	54%
No	326	46%

54% of responders told us that they would like to receive information on the consultation once the report is available.

10. Conclusion

A response rate of 1830 to the consultation is robust and is subject to a maximum standard error of +1.96% at the 95% confidence level. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that responses are representative of those that would be given by the total adult population, to within $\pm 2.28\%$ of the percentages reported.

This means that if the total adult population of Bridgend had taken part in the survey and a statistic of 50% was observed, we can be 95% confident that the actual figure lies between 47.72% and 52.28%.

10.1 Equality Impact Assessment

The EIA screening informed the development of the consultation questionnaire. This consultation should assist the completion of the Full Equality Impact Assessment and the breakdown of equalities data from those respondents who provided it has been supplied to the service area.

10.2 Play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields, and sports pavilions consultation 2019

12% of respondents said that they used council play areas daily and a further 35% stated that they used council play areas weekly. The most commonly used play areas were Newbridge Fields, Maesteg Welfare Park and Broadlands. 57% respondents stated that they would be prepared to travel up to one mile to use a playground. This was followed by 28% of respondents stating that they would be willing to travel between two and three miles to use a playground. 74% of respondents stated that play areas with fixed play equipment were very valuable, and a further 20% stated that they were valuable. 71% of respondents supported the local town or community council taking over responsibility for operating the playground or play areas in the locality.

51% of respondents stated that they did agree with the proposal to reduce grass cutting in open spaces from seven times per year to five times per year. 50% of respondents did not agree with the proposal to cut grass cutting in play areas from 16 times per year to 12 times per year.

The most popular use for council playing fields and pavilions was general recreation (33%), followed by football (25%) and then rugby (21%). If fees increased the most frequent comments received were less use of facilities and potential loss of clubs (354), followed by people won't afford the costs (297) and then causes further problems elsewhere such as health problems and anti-social behaviour (167).

47% of respondents agreed that town and community councils should consider taking responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions. 43% of respondents agreed with the proposal that sports clubs or pavilion groups should consider taking the responsibility for the running and self-management of sports pitches and or pavilions.

11. Appendix one

27 June 2019

To whom it may concern

Consultation on playing fields, play areas and grass cutting

Bridgend PSB Assets Board have been considering social prescribing, active lifestyles, and the build and natural environment that Bridgend offers.

Delegates at a recent social prescribing workshop raised the following issues which could be considered as part of this consultation

- Delegates were concerned about the risk of losing assets if no one wanted to take them on, or clubs could not meet additional costs
- Partners highlighted that facilities were available with other partners eg., Sony, Rockwool and Bridgend College that could be better used by the public

Asset Board members recognise the very difficult financial position and increase in demands BCBC face, and would welcome the opportunity to work together to explore how these risks could be mitigated or alternative options considered. The Assets Board would ask BCBC to consider working with partners, such as NHS Wales to ensure our communities have the best facilities to ensure we have an environment that supports healthy lifestyles.

The Board would welcome feedback from the consultation.

Yours sincerely



Huw Jakeway
Chair, Bridgend Assets Board

Tel/Ffôn: 01656 642759

Email/Ebost: psb@bridgend.gov.uk

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Equality Impact Full Assessment

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields and sports pavilions consultation 2019
Date EIA Screening assessment completed:	
Full assessment date for completion (from EIA screening):	19 August 2019

At this stage you will need to re-visit your initial screening template to inform your consultation and refer to [guidance notes on completing a full EIA](#)

Consultation

	Method	Action Points
Who do you need to consult with (which equality groups)? General Public and specific users of facilities	Public consultation. All residents	Consultation went live 17 April 2019 to 10 July 2019 Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn have widely been used to promote the consultation. During the consultation Paper and accessible versions in Welsh and English were available throughout the consultation period.
How will you ensure your consultation is inclusive?	Consultation survey forms were available online. The survey was available in English, Welsh and as an accessible version in both languages. Residents could also request a paper copy or another alternative	Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn used to promote the consultation 12 week consultation An image was placed on the news page of the council website and the intranet homepage which

	format by telephone or email.	linked through to the consultation webpage and survey
<p>What consultation was carried out? Consider any consultation activity already carried out, which may not have been specifically about equality but may have information you can use</p>	<p>Local community, equality and diversity groups were given details of the consultation proposals and told how to share their views.</p> <p>All comprehensive schools within the County Borough were offered the opportunity for their students to engage with the consultation during the live period.</p> <p>All Town and Community Councils were sent the link for the survey to share with their communities.</p> <p>All relevant sports clubs received an email or letter to inform them of the consultation.</p>	

Record of consultation with people from equality groups

Group or persons consulted	Date/venue and number of people	Feedback/areas of concern raised	Action Points
The consultation was shared via an electronic link with all members of the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum	na	na	na
The consultation was shared via an electronic link with all Town and Community councils.	na	na	na
All clubs received information about the consultation either via email or letter.	na	na	na

Assessment of Impact

Based on the data you have analysed, and the results of consultation or research, consider what the potential impact will be upon people with protected characteristics (negative or positive). Include any examples of how the policy helps to promote equality. If you do identify any adverse impact you **must seek legal advice as to whether, based on the evidence provided, an adverse impact is or is potentially discriminatory, and identify steps to mitigate any adverse impact – these actions will need to be included in your action plan.**

	Impact or potential impact	Actions to mitigate
Gender	899 females, 898 males, 1 transgender, 18 preferred not to say and 14 no answer in response to the consultation.	Engagement has commenced with clubs to consider the implications and support provided to carry out Community Asset Transfers

	It is considered that the majority of cricket, football and rugby have more male participants currently than female, so that they may be more adversely impacted if clubs are unable to Community Asset Transfer or fund increased charges.	
Disability	152 of the 1830 respondents to the consultation stated that they had a disability. It may be the case that the impact may be significant dependent upon their individual disability.	Engagement has commenced with clubs to consider the implications and support provided to carry out Community Asset Transfers.
Race	The majority of respondents were white British (96%)	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Religion and belief	47% of respondents described themselves as Christian, followed by 46% who described themselves as having no religion or belief.	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Sexual Orientation	90% of respondents described themselves as heterosexual or straight. 1% described themselves as bisexual and 2% stated they were a gay man or woman.	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Age	Within the responses, it is suggested that there may be an impact on child development, health and antisocial behaviour. Although no specific age group is identified the responses suggest	Engagement has commenced with organisation to consider the implications and support provided to carry out Community Asset Transfers.

	that there this may be a specific impact on both younger and older persons	
Pregnancy & Maternity	No negative or positive impact was identified in relation to this characteristic	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Transgender	No negative or positive impact was identified in relation to this characteristic	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Marriage and Civil partnership	No negative or positive impact was identified in relation to this characteristic	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.
Welsh language	No negative or positive impact was identified in relation to this characteristic	As a result of the consultation no impact has been identified, therefore no action needs to be taken to mitigate.

Equality Impact assessment Action Plan

It is essential that you now complete the action plan. Once your action plan is complete, please ensure that the actions are mainstreamed into the relevant Service Development Plan.

Action	Lead Person	Target for completion	Resources needed	Service Development plan for this action
<i>E.G. Information about the service to be available in BSL video on the website</i>	<i>Service manager</i>	<i>End of financial year</i>	<i>£XX Staff time/resource</i>	<i>X Service Plan</i>
Support Community Asset transfer	Guy Smith	31 March 2020	CAT Transfer Fund CAT Business support contract	

			Legal and Property professional services	

Please detail the name of the independent person (someone other than the person undertaking the EIA) countersigning this EIA below:

Countersigned:	Role:	Date:
Zak Shell	Head of Operations - Community Services	August 2019

Please outline how and when this EIA will be monitored in future and when a review will take place (max. three years):

Monitoring arrangements:	Date of Review:
A review of this EIA to be monitored in relation to CAT process and the target completion date	October 2021

Details of person completing the Full EIA:

Name:	Role:	Date:
Kevin Mulcahy	Group Manager Highways and Green Spaces	August 2019

Publication of a Full EIA and feedback to consultation groups

It is important that the results of this impact assessment are published in a user friendly accessible format.

It is also important that you feedback to your consultation groups with the actions that you are taking to address their concerns and to mitigate against any potential adverse impact.

When complete, this form must be signed off and retained by the service area. The Full EIA should be recorded as complete on share point (your business manager has access to share point). Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the relevant cabinet report and therefore available publically on the website.

If you have queries in relation to the use of this toolkit please contact the Equalities Team on 01656 643664 or equalities@bridgend.gov.uk

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WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 ASSESSMENT

Project Description (key aims):	
Play area and grass cutting review and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields and sports pavilions consultation 2019	
Section 1	Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.
Long-term (The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs)	<p>1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?</p> <p><i>The proposal seeks to remove subsidy which the authority can no longer sustain with the potential of the respective clubs paying a rate to recover the costs for their occupation of pavilions and playing fields to provide a sustainable basis for such provision.</i> <i>Rationalise Grass cutting to a more sustainable level</i> <i>Play areas rationalised to a more sustainable level</i></p>
Prevention (How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)	<p>2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?</p> <p><i>The provision for sports facilities, play areas and parks grass cutting is generally non statutory, so the proposal enables scarce resources to be directed towards those areas that are a statutory duty.</i></p>
Integration (Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the wellbeing goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies)	<p>3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?</p> <p><i>The outcomes sought are to direct funding appropriately, with sports groups more directly funding the cost of provision, this can be enabled in transferring the asset to such groups for them to run and maintain in order for them to continue operating their sport or activity. Likewise for playareas that could be transferred to respective communities.</i></p>

<p>Collaboration</p> <p>(Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives)</p>	<p>4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</p> <p><i>The parks Section works with various sections of the council including Regeneration, Planning and Development in considering wellbeing objectives.</i></p> <p><i>Working with Sports Groups and Town and Community Councils in providing funding to source assistance for groups who are considering taking over facilities in regard of preparing business plans and/or facilities improvement grant to assist in asset transfer.</i></p>
<p>Involvement</p> <p>(The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves)</p>	<p>5. How does your project / activity involve stakeholders with an interest in achieving the well-being goals? How do those stakeholders reflect the diversity of the area?</p> <p><i>As part of the consideration of the proposals, a 12-week consultation was undertaken. The consultation was online, as well as paper copies being available on request. Promotion of the consultation was available on BCBC website and social media networks.</i></p> <p>All Town and Community Councils were sent the link for the survey to share with their communities.</p> <p>All comprehensive schools within the County Borough were offered the opportunity for their students to engage with the consultation during the live period.</p> <p><i>All responses from the consultation will be subject of a subsequent report to Cabinet</i></p>

Section 2 Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals (use Appendix 1 to help you).		
Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?	Is there any way to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enabling communities to take control of their local facilities to deliver the needs of their communities.</i> • <i>Enables efficient use of council funding</i> • <i>Change grass cutting regime to promote a more diverse ecology</i> 	<p><i>The council has made provision for clubs to have support in deriving their business cases and a facilities improvement grant.</i></p>
<p>A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reduced Grass cutting may promote a more diverse ecology</i> • <i>Promotion of self management for resilience to change</i> 	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored through the wide range of services that will continue to be provided by the Council or its partners.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable the best use of resources and create a sustainable provision for future generations • Ownership of the asset will enable to local community to make best or better use. Possibly by encouraging 	<p><i>The council has made provision for clubs to have support in deriving their business cases and a facilities improvement grant.</i></p>

	greater local involvement in the clubs or organisations	<i>Promotion of other activities that are offered within communities ie swimming, racket sports, fitness etc</i>
A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognising that communities are becoming more diverse. Addressing barriers that some groups have in feeling part of communities. 	The impact on local communities will be monitored through the wide range of services that will continue to be provided by the Council or its partners.
A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	By aiming to improve local accountability the level of provision can be more viable and encourage community participation.	The council has made provision for clubs to have support in deriving their business cases and a facilities improvement grant.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	This project is attempting to protect the long term viability of sports provision and recreation within local communities.	The council has made provision for clubs to have support in deriving their business cases and a facilities improvement grant.
A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	Promotion of local accountability in providing sustainable facilities enables ownership of wider wellbeing outcomes	Consideration of the wider offer of facilities that may be available to communities at school and leisure facilities

Section 3 Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts			
Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age:	<i>Should enable a more sustainable provision</i>	It is suggested in the consultation response that there may be an impact on child development, health and antisocial behaviour. Although no specific age group is identified the responses suggest that there this may be a specific impact on both younger and older persons	<i>The council has made provision for clubs to have support in deriving their business cases and a facilities improvement grant.</i>
Gender reassignment:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Marriage or civil partnership:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Pregnancy or maternity:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Race:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Religion or Belief:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Race:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Sex:	<i>Should enable a more sustainable provision</i>	It is considered that the majority of cricket, football and rugby have more male participants currently than female, so that they may be more adversely impacted if clubs are unable to Community Asset Transfer or fund increased charges.	Engagement has commenced with clubs to consider the implications and support provided to carry out Community Asset Transfers
Welsh Language:	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>

Section 4 Identify decision meeting for Project/activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decision taken by Executive Members and/or Chief Officers	
Compiling Officers Name:	Phil Beaman / Kevin Mulcahy
Compiling Officers Job Title:	Green Spaces and Bereavement services manager / Group manager Highways and Green Spaces
Date completed:	August 2019

SCALE OF CHARGES – PER OCCASION FROM 1st APRIL 2019

PLAYING FIELDS AND PAVILIONS

<u>SPORTS PITCHES (RUGBY/FOOTBALL)</u>	Pitch Only	Use of Pavilion	Total Charge
Full (Inc. Pitch Marking)	£36.70	£19.43	£56.13
Concessionary (Inc. Pitch Marking)	£23.44	£12.44	£35.88
Mini Football	£17.48	£12.44	£29.92
 <u>SPORTS PITCHES (CRICKET)</u>			
Full - Prepared Wicket	£42.46	£19.43	£61.89
Concessionary - Prepared Wicket	£27.55	£12.44	£39.99
Full - Artificial Wicket	£25.49	£19.43	£44.92
Concessionary - Artificial Wicket	£14.39	£12.44	£26.83
 <u>SPORTS PITCHES (Bowls)</u>	 Self-Managed		

Potential SCALE OF CHARGES – PER OCCASION FROM 1st APRIL 2020

PLAYING FIELDS AND PAVILIONS

<u>SPORTS PITCHES (RUGBY/FOOTBALL)</u>	Pitch Only	Use of Pavilion	Total Charge
Full (Inc. Pitch Marking)	£201.85	£106.87	£308.72
Concessionary (Inc. Pitch Marking)	£128.92	£68.42	£197.34
Mini Football	£96.14	£68.42	£164.56
 <u>ANNUAL CHARGE</u>			
 <u>SPORTS PITCHES (CRICKET)</u>			
Per Square and Outfield per season.	£27,500		
 <u>SPORTS PITCHES (Bowls)</u>	£28,500		

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

5 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – FEEDBACK FROM MEETINGS

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the feedback from the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 for discussion, approval and actioning.

2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1. This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority/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 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. All conclusions, recommendations and requests for additional information made at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings are sent to Officers for a response to ensure that there are clear outcomes from each topic investigated.
- 3.2. These are then presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committee at their next meeting to ensure that they have received a response.
- 3.3. For Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees (SOSC), when each topic has been considered and the Committee is satisfied with the outcome, the SOSC will then present their findings to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) who will determine whether to remove the item from the Forward Work Programme (FWP) or to agree it remains an item for future consideration and prioritisation.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1. Members will recognise that capturing and assessing the impact of Scrutiny is not

an easy task as the outcomes of Scrutiny activity are not always tangible and able to be measured in a systematic way.

- 4.2. Whilst 'outputs' like the number of recommendations approved by Cabinet or accepted by Officers may shed light, this does not reveal the extent to which the substance of the recommendations were actually implemented and whether or not intended outcomes were achieved.
- 4.3. Sometimes there are no measureable outputs from Committee discussion yet the opportunity for Cabinet Members and Officers to reflect on proposed courses of action has influenced the way in which the proposal was implemented. It is important to reflect some of the intangible effects of Scrutiny and its ability to influence decision makers through discussion and debate.
- 4.4. With this in mind, during the Overview and Scrutiny Workshops held in May 2019, Members discussed the regular feedback received from Officers in relation to Scrutiny Committee recommendations and comments. Evidence presented at the workshops indicated that there was a gap in the Scrutiny process for the follow up and actioning of recommendations to Officers which made it difficult to evidence what impact each Committee had achieved.
- 4.5. As a result Members agreed that a more effective process for considering and following up on feedback was required and recommended that the FWP and the feedback from meetings be presented to Scrutiny Committees as two separate items. This would firstly give the feedback more importance on the agenda and also an opportunity for the Committee to consider it in more detail.
- 4.6. This process will also take into account a previous recommendation made by Wales Audit Office whilst undertaking a review of Scrutiny - 'for the Council to ensure that the impact of scrutiny is properly evaluated and acted upon to improve the function's effectiveness; including following up on proposed actions and examining outcomes'.
- 4.7. It is recommended that the Committee approve the feedback and responses to the comments and recommendations prepared by Members at the previous meeting (Attached as **Appendix A**), allocate Red, Amber and Green (RAG) statuses to each recommendation where appropriate and action the feedback as needed.
- 4.8. The RAG status would consist of the following:

Red – where there has been no response;
Amber – where Members consider the recommendation/comment requires follow up action, for example where a recommendation has been accepted but there would be a need for follow up to see if it has been implemented;
Green – where Members consider a suitable response has been provided and no follow up action is required.
- 4.9. The Committee would then monitor these RAG statuses on an ongoing basis and action as they see appropriate. For Amber statuses, it is proposed that updates be provided after six months to allow time for the recommendation to be implemented.

4.10. It is further recommended that this process be used to monitor any feedback from Cabinet in response to any pre-decision scrutiny items that are then presented to them and any further formal recommendations that are sent from Scrutiny to Cabinet.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1. The work of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

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

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 will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

9.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1. The Committee is recommended to consider the attached feedback and Officer's responses (**Appendix A**) and:

- a) Allocate RAG statuses where appropriate;
- b) Make any further comments in relation to Officer's responses.

Kelly Watson
Head of Legal and Regulatory Services

Contact Officer: Scrutiny Unit

Telephone: (01656) 643613

E-mail: scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend,
CF31 4WB

Background Documents: None

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Bridgend County Local Area Energy Strategy and Smart Energy Plan

11 July 2019

Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments	RAG Status
<i>Members made the following recommendations:-</i>		
Members recommended bringing a presentation of the Local Area Energy Strategy and Smart Energy Plan to a pre-Council briefing.	Scrutiny Officer to arrange. <i>NB - this meeting has now been arranged for Wednesday 23rd October at 2pm</i>	

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

5 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- a) To present the items prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee including the next item delegated to this Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- b) To present the Committee with a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation;
- c) To ask the Committee to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form;

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2018–2022 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 22 February 2018 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2018 and 2022. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background

- 3.1 Under the terms of Bridgend County Borough Council's Constitution, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee must publish a Forward Work Programme (FWP) as far as it is known.
- 3.2 An effective FWP will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected, as well as the approach that will be adopted; i.e. will the Committee be undertaking a policy review/ development role ("Overview") or performance management approach ("Scrutiny").
- 3.3 The FWPs will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with input from each SOSC and any information gathered from FWP meetings with Corporate Directors and Cabinet.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1 Attached at **Appendix A** is the overall FWP for the SOSCs which includes the topics prioritised by the COSC for the next set of SOSCs in Table A, as well as topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table B. This has been compiled from suggested items from each of the SOSCs at previous meetings as well as the COSC. It also includes information proposed from Corporate Directors, detail from research undertaken by Scrutiny Officers and information from FWP Development meetings between the Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to first consider the next topic they have been allocated by the COSC in Table A and determine what further detail they would like the report to contain, what questions they wish Officers to address and if there are any further invitees they wish to attend for this meeting to assist Members in their investigation.
- 4.3 The Committee is also asked to then prioritise up to six items from the list in Table B to present to the COSC for formal prioritisation and designation to each SOSC for the next set of meetings.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.
- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

Identification of Further Items

- 4.7 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to ensure a strategic responsibility for Scrutiny and that its work benefits the organisation.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council constitution to be updated.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications attached to this report.

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

- 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 approval of this report will assist in the Planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery
- Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet
- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives
- Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service, Elected Members and members of the public.
- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures that the public and stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The delivery of the Forward Work Programme will be met from within existing resources for Overview and Scrutiny support.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Identify any additional information the Committee wish to receive on their next item delegated to them by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other items in the overall FWP shown in **Appendix A**;
- (ii) Prioritise items from the Forward Work Programme to be presented to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for scheduling for the next round of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings;
- (iii) Identify any additional items using the criteria form, for consideration on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

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Background documents

None

Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

The following items were previously prioritised by the Subject OVS Committees and considered by Corporate at its last meeting where the top three items were scheduled in for the next round of meetings:

Date	Subject Committee	Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested Invitees	Prioritised by Committees
09-Sep-19	SOSC 1	Post 16 Education - Consultation	Report scheduled to go to Cabinet in April 2019 incorporating comments from Scrutiny. This is a further report to receive hard options now going forward for Post-16 Education. Incorporate Penybont model- for discussion		Timings TBC with SIG - when go to Cabinet and Scrutiny etc around Oct 2019 approx	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Michelle Hatcher, Link Officer Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Andrew Williams, Acting Managing Director CSC Youth Mayor	
09-Sep-19	SOSC 1	Post 16 Consultation - Response to comments and recs	Provide a response/update to SOSC 1 as part of the feedback report			N/A	
16-Sep-19	SOSC 2	Youth Offending Service	Directorate to produce a report outlining progress against inspection recommendations. To possibly include a case study open to Social Services. Member request to receive the YOS Structure pre and post restructure.		Item Proposed by Corporate Director for this date. Corporate to confirm.	Mark Shephard, Chief Executive; Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Susan Cooper, Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing? Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Mark Lewis, Group Manager Integrated Working and Family Support; Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member for Future Generations and Wellbeing	
09-Oct-19	SOSC 1	Plasnewydd	MSEP Escalation to Committee			Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Michelle Hatcher, Link Officer Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Simon Phillips, CSC Challenge Advisor; Andrew Williams, Acting Managing Director CSC Head Teacher Chair of Governors	
10-Oct-19	SOSC 2	Prevention & Wellbeing Approaches and Day Time Opportunities	To provide Scrutiny the opportunity to add value to a possible delivery model for day opportunities.			Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jackie Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Mark Wilkinson, Group Manager, Learning Disability, Mental Health and Substance Misuse; Andrew Thomas, Group Manager - Sports and Physical Activity; Denise Moultrie, Senior Manager – Local Authority Inspection; Kay Harries, Operations and Partnership Manager - BAVO	
04-Nov-19	SOSC 3	Enforcement	Report on enforcement carried out by the Council including reasons for not enforcing fines. * Receive an update on the procurement of an external contractor to undertake enforcement action on littering in the Borough; Report to include an update on the enforcement vehicle to enable Members to monitor performance: * Detailed feedback on vehicles use; * How are the recordings viewed? * Statistics in relation to letters and details of enforcement.	Prioritised by at FWP Workshop	Last received June 2018	Mark Shephard, Chief Executive Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Operations - Community Services; Kevin Mulcahy, Group Manager - Highways & Green Spaces; Sian Hooper, Cleaner Streets & Waste Contract Manager; Rachel Jones, Corporate Procurement Manager; Possibly a representative from legal?	
09-Mar-20	SOSC 1	Tynyrheol	MSEP Escalation to Committee			Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Head and COG and Challenge Adviser?	

TABLE B

For prioritisation					
Item		Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested Invitees	
Transformation Grant	To provide an update on progress made with working with 3rd Sector to enhance intergrated services.		Corporate Director proposed for March 2020	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;	
Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project	SOSC 1 requested that the item be followed up by Scrutiny in the future for monitoring purposes, incorporating evidence of outcomes. <i>A report is due to go to Corporate Parenting 6 March 2019. Do Members want to receive as information only or as a discussion item?</i>		Corporate Director proposed for later in the year, say Dec 2019	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;	
Member and School Engagement Panel - Annual Report	Annual Update to - SOSC 1 on the work of the Member and School Engagement Panel			Spring term 2019 - Plasnewydd Primary School; Summer term 2019 - Ogmere Vale Primary School; Autumn term 2019 - Tynyrheol Primary School.	
Strategic Review of Health & Safety Responsibilities	Practice , Policy and review of reported "near misses". - How many near misses have been reported? - How did we respond? - What lessons have been learnt? With reference to a recommendation made by BREP 2018 - The Panel request that an assessment of School Crossing Patrol and possible alternatives is included in this report Scrutiny Chairs have agreed to carry out an 'Information Gathering' exercise, interviewing representatives from schools, governors from schools and parents to present alongside the Officer report. Item to include information gathered from Scrutiny Chairs Research Group		Wait until after scrutiny research group completed	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Gary Squire, Health and Safety Manager Mark Shephard, Interim Chief Executive Hannah Castle - Secondary School Head Teacher representative Mr Jeremy Thomson - Primary school headteacher Representative	
Education Outcomes	See Feedback from 30 January 2019		Feb-20	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Managing Director CSC Representative from School Budget Forum Headteacher Representation	
New Curriculum Changes	Report on changes to new curriculum and how this is impacting on schools Need to determine purpose of report - whether this needs scrutinising or presentation to Members outside of Committee		TBC - 2020	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Managing Director CSC Headteacher representation	
Home to School Transport	To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings: Update on pilot that school transport team proposing to run in Spring and Summer terms 2017-2018 - to support the enforcement of bus passes on home to school transport contracts. As part of this pilot, the Authority is also investigating opportunities to track the use of our school bus services by individual pupils. Update on Recommendation from BREP: The Panel recommend the need for the Authority to adopt a Corporate approach in relation to Home to School Transport maximising the LA's minibuses such as those used for day centres. It is proposed that this be supported by slightly amending the opening and closing times of day centres so that the buses can be available for school transport. Other aspects that could be considered include the exploration of whether school staff could transport children and young people instead of hiring independent drivers. To test and scrutinise the current licensing and school transport regime to gain assurances that it provides adequate protection against the potential of putting children and vulnerable children at risk from those who are in a position of trust. Changes to the DBS status of their employees to be scrutinised to ensure that children are not being put at undue risk. To provide robust scrutiny and recommendations on how the current regime can be improved. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of school transport Report to include Update on the current arrangements of how licensing and school transport operates within the County Borough since the change in 2015 to the Police National Policy for disclosing non-conviction information to the local authority. Information to include a report from South Wales Police on its approach to disclosing information it holds about licencees following arrests, charges and convictions. What is the current relationship between the local authority's licensing and school transport departments in relation to the disclosure of information from South Wales police? Is there sufficient oversight on behalf of the local authority and a risk of contractors withholding information which may prejudice the continuation of their contract? Further proposed that Communities be invited to add to report and attend meeting to update Committee on safe routes assessment to determine what work has been undertaken since funding was allocated to this over a year ago.	Receipt of the external review of transport report not due until end of August. Report not ready until November at the earliest.	SOSC 2 Prioritised January 2020	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member for Social Services & Early Help (To stand in for Cllr Smith); Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member Communities Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Mark Shephard, Chief Executive; Zak Shell, Head Of Operations - Community Services; Robin Davies, Group Manager Business Strategy and Performance; Sue Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing.	

Plastic Free Bridgend	<p>During a OPM it was suggested that this topic should be a research item. What items we procure that uses single use plastic; what choices does that Authority have along with financial implications. To receive an update on the previous recommendations made on 23 July 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members suggest that the Authority should take the lead on reducing single use plastic and encourage local businesses to follow suit. Officers responded that this would be discussed at Cabinet/CMB; • Members recommend that the Authority use social media to communicate what can be recycled at kerbside and at Community Recycling Centres; 	SOSC 1 Prioritised		<p>Mark Shephard, Chief Executive Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Operations - Community Services;</p>	
Empty Properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the impact of the removal of the 50% discount, after a suitable period of time to allow it to have an affect; • To receive evidence that demonstrates the 'Activity' of work that has been undertaken across the Authority given the crossovers and links this subject has with other services; • To consider the pilot project mentioned by Officers where the Authority was looking to engage and work with RSLs to support property owners from a management perspective with the overall aim being to return a property back to use; • To monitor the performance and outcomes of the strategy including scrutiny of the national PIs for empty properties contained within the Authority's Corporate Plan as well as any further underlying targets and expected outcomes related to the strategy; • To consider how the Authority deals with property owners who persistently refuse to engage with the Council. • To consider any future alternative strategy that relates to Commercial properties. 			<p>Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader Helen Rodgers - Revenues Manager Lynne Berry - Group Manager Housing & Community Jonathan Flower - Senior Strategic Officer</p>	
Emergency Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive a more detailed option appraisal with reference to the replacement facility in Brynmenyn in the short, medium and long term including costings and timescales; • To receive an update in relation to Members recommendation to explore the opportunity to utilise surplus Local Authority owned buildings; • Members request a site visit to the Kerrigan Project direct access floor space facility that is managed by Gwalia. 		<p>Corporate Director proposed that these items should be presented at the same time. Emergency Accommodation, Homelessness Strategy and Supporting People Grant.</p>	<p>Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader Helen Rodgers - Revenues Manager Lynne Berry - Group Manager Housing & Community Jonathan Flower - Senior Strategic Officer</p>	
Homelessness Strategy	<p>Members requested that the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress on implementation of the strategy; - Report to include information on vulnerable groups such as ex-offenders and care leavers. <p>Members raised questions in that Bridgend have 8 people sleeping rough but have 13 empty beds?</p>			<p>Mark Shephard, Chief Executive; Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Lynne Berry, Group Manager, Housing & Community Regeneration; Joanne Ginn, Housing Solutions Team Manager.</p>	
Supporting People Grant	<p>Following the implementation of the Homelessness Strategy, Members have requested to receive a further report on the Supporting People Grant and provide an update in relation to what steps have been implemented as recommended by the Independent Review undertaken.</p>			<p>Mark Shephard, Chief Executive Sue Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Martin Morgans Lynne Berry Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Ryan Jones, Supporting People Strategy Planning and Commissioning Officer</p>	
Secure Estate	<p>Possibly an information report to follow up on recommendations made on 31 May 2018. Are G4S a profit making organisation?</p>			<p>Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care;</p>	
Welsh Community Care Information Systems (Information Report)	<p>Corporate Director offered an to members on how WCCIS has developed over the last few years. Members agreed to receive this at a future meeting</p>			<p>NA</p>	
Early Help and Childrens Social Care	<p>Presentation provided to Corporate Parenting on the below issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail of the process for a child coming into care - From a referral being received to a decision being made; • How is ongoing support established as well as any associated costs; • How is the step down or step up process monitored? • If individuals need support from more than one service (such as IFSS and Baby in Mind) how do services work together to monitor the individual? • Historical data to enable Members to determine if there has been any progress made; • Report to include clearer evidence of outcomes; • More examples of case studies outlining processes, challenges and outcomes achieved; • Members raised concerns regarding the freedom that schools have in the framework for teaching Personal and Social Education for preparing youngsters with Life Skills especially in Flying Start areas. Members therefore request details of what and how pupils are taught and how they monitor its effectiveness. <p><i>A report to be provided detailing position statement one year on. (May 2020)</i></p>		<p>Corporate Director suggested 01/05/2020</p>	<p>Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help;</p>	

Page 88 ALN Reform	To receive an update on implementation on the act.		September 2020 SOSC1	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Michelle Hatcher, Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement Elizabeth Jones, Additional Learning Needs Transformation, Central South; Denise Inger, Chief Executive Director SNAP Cymru; Caroline Rawson, Assistant Chief Executive Director SNAP Cymru John Fabes, Specialist Officer Post 16 Education & Training.	
Empty Commercial Property	Members requested that the report include: - Members understand that the Council are concentrating on domestic housing in the first instance when implementing the Empty Property Strategy, but have requested to receive a report on plans for empty commercial property when the timing is appropriate.			Mark Shephard, Chief Executive; Zak Shell, Head of Operations - Community Services	
Mental Health Strategy	Members requested that the report include: - Members acknowledged that the Council are compiling a Mental Health strategy and recommended that the Council take into account the statistic that 95% of emergency calls received by the police after 5.00pm are in relation to mental health. - Provide details on Section 136			Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Representatives from CSP?	
Dementia Care	Members requested that this remain on the FWP to see what progress has been made since this last came to Committee in April 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on plans to enable alternative options for short break beds • Members have asked for an update in relation to carrying out dementia awareness training through Corporate Training; • Facts and figures on Dementia Care through Cwm Taf. 		Corporate Director suggested 01/04/2020	Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care;	
School Governing Bodies	MSEP expressed concerns over Governor training and whether it was sufficient enough to enable School Governors to carry out their role effectively. The Panel requested that this be investigated by Scrutiny with a view to a recommendation that Governor training be reviewed and improved to make it more effective and fit for purpose. Members proposed that a job description, for example, be provided when schools advertise for Parent Governors to ensure that the right people apply for the position and understand what is expected of them. At SOSC 1 on 29 April 2019, Committee also concluded the following in relation to comments from MSEP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the fact that there are currently approximately 41 vacancies for School Governors, Members recommend that the promotion and advertising for these appointments are considered; • That the proposed School Governor job description also include the days of scheduled meetings to outline what commitment the post would necessitate; • Due to training sessions being cancelled due to non-attendance, Members request that the promotion of School Governor training sessions is explored; • That a selection of School Governor representatives are invited to attend the meeting to provide their views. <i>(see responses to this feedback)</i>				
Movement of Pupils	<i>From MSEP Plasnewydd (raise at next OPM with Lindsay/Nicola)</i> Based on evidence received, the Panel requested that a scoping exercise be carried out by Scrutiny Officers to determine whether there is an item suitable for Scrutiny in relation to the movement of pupils from Welsh Schools to English schools within the County Borough.				

	The following items for briefing sessions or pre-Council briefing	
Item	Specific Information to request	
Ford Engine Plant	The Committee discussed the possible job losses from the Ford engine plant in Bridgend and were pleased to know that the Council were readily available to support the employer and employees. Members request to revisit this topic at a future meeting when a decision has been confirmed to explore the wider implications of the closure of Ford engine plant.	Nov-19
Social Services Commissioning Strategy	To include information on what work has taken place following the Social Services and Wellbeing Act population assessment. To also cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Annual Plan • Bridgend Social Services Commissioning Strategy 	
Cwm Taf Regional Working	Provide an overview of working relationships with Cwm Taf. How are we undertaking regional working?	Apr-20
Changes to Education Outcomes	Update on how education outcomes are now being reported based on new WG legislation	