

Public Document Pack
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
Bridgend County Borough Council



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

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich
dewis iaith.*

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



**Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief
Executive's Directorate**

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

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Tuesday, 7 July 2020

Dear Councillor,

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held Remotely via Skype on
Monday, 13 July 2020 at 14:00.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 24
To receive for approval the minutes of 20/1/2020, 4/2/2020 and 13/2/2020.
4. Establishment of a Cross-Party Recovery Panel - Covid-19 Pandemic 25 - 30
Invitees

Mark Shephard – Chief Executive
Councillor HJ David – Leader
5. Forward Work Programme Update 31 - 34
6. Urgent Items
To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal, HR & Regulatory Services

By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you will save the Authority approx. £0.68p in printing costs

Note: Please note: Due to the requirement for social distancing this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and Committee Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available once the meeting has concluded. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Councillors:

JPD Blundell
NA Burnett
N Clarke
J Gebbie

Councillors

T Giffard
CA Green
M Jones
RL Penhale-Thomas

Councillors

KL Rowlands
RMI Shaw
JC Spanswick
T Thomas

Agenda Item 3

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 20 JANUARY 2020

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 20 JANUARY 2020 AT 09:30

Present

Councillor CA Green – Chairperson

NA Burnett
RL Penhale-
Thomas

N Clarke
RMI Shaw

T Giffard
JC Spanswick

M Jones
T Thomas

Apologies for Absence

JPD Blundell, J Gebbie and KL Rowlands

Officers:

Michael Pitman
Tracy Watson

Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Scrutiny Officer

Invitees:

Councillor Huw David
Gill Lewis

Martin Morgans

Mark Shephard

Leader
Interim Head of Finance and Section 151
Officer

Head of Performance and Partnership
Services

Chief Executive

148. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

149. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the 25/09/2019 be approved as a true and accurate record and the minutes of the 07/11/2019 be approved subject to removal of sentence at agenda item 3, paragraph 9 “The Cabinet Member for Future Generations and Wellbeing advised that”.

150. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020-21 TO 2023-24

The Interim Head of Finance presented a report to the Committee with the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-21 to 2023-24, which set out the spending priorities of the Council, key investment objectives and budget areas targeted for necessary savings. The strategy included a financial forecast for 2020-2024 and a detailed draft revenue budget for 2020-21.

She provided the Corporate Plan-Policy Context and Budget Narrative as detailed in section 3 of the report.

The Interim Head of Finance provided the Corporate Financial Overview which showed that the last 10 years, the Council has made £68 million of budget reductions. The graph and 3.3.2 of the report gives a visual representation of reductions year by year.

The Interim Head of Finance explained that the settlement was better than expected with it being at 4.7%, an increase of £8.878 million. She advised, however, that this would be hit by the teachers' pay award.

The Interim Head of Finance provided details the current year (2019-20) Financial Performance. Table 1 of the report provided the comparison of budget against projected outturn at 30 September 2019.

She advised that the overall projected position at 30 September 2019 was a net underspend of £575,000, comprising £659,000 net overspend on directorates and £4.808 million underspend on corporate budgets, offset by net appropriation to earmarked reserves of £3.574 million.

The Interim Head of Finance explained that Table 2 of the report showed the MTFS proposals supported by MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency Reserve in 2019-20. The level of this review would be kept under review by the Section 151 officer in light of forecast difficulties in delivering specific future budget reduction proposals.

The Interim Head of Finance explained that Table 3 of the report showed the MTFS Scenarios percentage change in AEF. Table 4 showed the Councils potential net budget reduction requirement based on the forecast resource envelope, inescapable spending assumptions and assumed Council Tax increases.

The Interim Head of Finance explained that Table 5 of the report outlined the current position in respect of addressing the most likely forecast budget reduction requirement of £39.332 million. She advised that the Council still needed to develop proposals to the value of £21.1 million and a range of options were under consideration including:

- Digital transformation of wider Council services
- Income generation opportunities
- Further reductions in employee numbers
- Working with partners to asset transfer and protect community facilities
- Further implementation of the Corporate Landlord Model.

The Interim Head of Finance explained that Table 6 showed the budget reduction proposals and their categorisation, with almost two thirds of the proposed savings coming from Smarter Use of Resources. Table 8 showed the Draft Revenue Budget 2020-21 and the breakdown of Service directorate budgets.

The Interim Head of Finance explained the details on Pay, Prices and Demographics. She stated that the National Joint Council (NJC) negotiating body had submitted a pay claim for non-teaching staff for 2020-21 and discussions were ongoing. She advised that depending on the outcome of the negotiations, there could be additional budget pressures that the Council had to meet. She added that any additional teachers pay award to be implemented from September 2020 would provide additional pressures. Further details of budget pressures were listed at section 4 of the report.

The Chairperson thanked the Interim Head of Finance for the report and said that the settlement being better than expected was a sigh of relief.

A Member stated that there were cuts in all areas other than schools. Members of the public had shown interest in protecting sports pitches so why were there cuts here and not in schools. The Leader responded stating that schools had already taken big cuts in the past with teachers and managers being made redundant which has had an impact

on education outcomes in some schools. He stated that the public consultations always outlined the public's view that they wish to protect schools and social services.

A Member stated that she felt schools were a very important area to protect as education is important in helping children be the best they can be. She was concerned that the local authority was not ensuring that all schools were equipped to manage their budgets appropriately due to the numerous deficits.

A Member stated that trade unions have indicated a possible 10% pay rise and asked how the negotiations are going. The Leader said that they are still ongoing as it was on a national level rather than a local level. He said that any pay award would need to be fully funded to ensure that it did not come at a cost in services or jobs.

The Interim Head of Finance explained that the timetable for the pay award had been prolonged and that it will likely be later into the year before we receive confirmation on it. She added that a 2% increase was deemed likely and the amount necessary to cover this was set aside.

A Member stated that on page 7 of the report it outlines that in the public consultation, the lowest level of council tax increase was 2% higher than what was actually chosen and asked for clarification on why this was the case.

The Interim Head of Finance stated that the reason the rise was lower than the options given in the consultation was solely because of the settlement received being higher than expected. The Consultation ended before we received the settlement and the figures were based on what we expected to get, not what we actually had.

The Chairperson suggested that a disclaimer be placed at the bottom of the tables stating that the figures were subject to change if the settlement changes.

A Member explained that the relationship with Town and Community Councils needed improvement and the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) was crucial. He believed that the CAT officer was hard working but was not getting the support he needed.

The Chief Executive stated that it had been recognised that CAT process needed more work and was working on a business case to present to CMB. He agreed that more work is needed between Town and Community Councils too and that the Town and Community Council Forum was in need of a review so that official outcomes can come from it.

A Member stated that locally, police officers do not see it as a priority to protect buildings and that we need to reinforce our relationship with South Wales Police and ensure that there was enough citizen and community focus.

The Chief Executive stated that South Wales Police would be invited to Council so that Members would be able to ask them questions and raise concerns.

A Member asked for clarification on the proposed cuts to Member training. The Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations explained that Member training was never used to its full potential and that the cuts in that budget bring it down to the level that it was currently being used at.

A Member asked what affect would the proposal at CEX1 – may require restructure - have on the Shared Regulatory Service. The Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations explained that this was due to the difficulty in recruiting into the SRS. This was a one time reduction and would not form part of the savings next year.

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

1. Considered the information contained in the report and attached appendices
2. Made comments and recommendations for consolidation and inclusion in their report to Cabinet as detailed below:

“The committee welcomes the improved budget settlement, which has been directed to where it is favourable.”

“In relation to the consultation ‘Shaping Bridgend’s Future’, Members suggested that future Budget Consultation’s should include a caveat at the bottom stating that ‘should the settlement be more generous, this could be subject to change’ or similar.”

151. INCIDENT AND NEAR MISS REPORTING PROCEDURE

The Interim Head of Finance presented a report which provided the Committee with the incidents and near missed that were reported to the Insurance and Risk Officer in the 2019 calendar year for consideration.

She provided background and what the definition was considered for an Incident and a Near Miss as listed in section 3 of the report.

She advised that the reporting procedure was introduced following a report to the Audit Committee on the 17th January 2019, a copy of the policy was attached at Appendix A of the report.

The Interim Head of Finance advised that since January 2019, three ‘incidents and near miss’ happenings had been reported, two of which were considered ‘green’ and one of which was considered ‘amber’. Appendix B provided details of these incidents.

She advised that the incident and near miss procedure was publicised in a Bridgend’s email earlier in the year with a hyperlink to the procedure. It was presumed that Senior Management Team would disseminate the information in manager meetings to reinforce the new procedure, however the number of incidences reported may not be accurate reflection of the actual incidences and that not all managers were aware of the procedure.

She added that there were more being risks and near misses reported but the process was not followed in order to get the relevant information to the insurance officer.

A Member raised their concerns over human error with regards to incidences. If something was serious enough, many people may not want to report this as they know there could be consequences. The Interim Head of Finance explained that it was hoped the procedure can form as lessons to be learned, rather than blaming individuals.

A Member asked how quickly action was taken once the form was filled in. The Chief Executive stated that action was normally taken quickly but emphasised that it was more about learning from mistakes and not repeating the issues in the future.

A Member stated that more work may be needed on our Community Safety Partnerships and ensuring that the outside bodies like SWP are taking more ownership of situations and putting their own preventative measures in place.

RESOLVED: That the Committee has considered the report of incidents and near misses at Appendix B, and is satisfied with the action to prevent reoccurrence

Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:

The committee note that an annual report will be presented to the Committee for consideration.

Members suggested that a case study be provided to illustrate how the process has worked e.g. from form completion to direction of travel.

Members sought reassurance the procedures would be followed robustly, but not in a prejudicial way.

152. COUNCIL PERFORMANCE AGAINST ITS COMMITMENTS AT QUARTER 2 OF 2019-20 (INFORMATION REPORT)

The Chief Executive presented a report which provided an overview of the Councils Performance in 2019-20 as of quarter two.

He advised that data collected for the half year returns suggested that the Council was on track to deliver 38 (93%) of its commitments to its three well-being objectives (green) with the other 3 (7%) missing some of their milestones (amber).

A Member asked in relation to the first indicator on page 95, the number of working days per full time equivalent lost due to sickness absence was 11.79. Has anything been put in place to tackle this.

The Chief Executive stated that an improvement target was now in place and a number of interventions were also in place to address the issues such as stress and anxiety. He advised that mindfulness courses had been put in place in recent months as well as advertising the access to counselling and was comfortable that enough had been put in place to see how well it did. He added that the emphasis needed to be put on the staff and ensure they were supported and keeping them in work rather than waiting for staff to go off work sick.

A Member asked if flu jabs were offered to staff members. The Chief Executed stated that flu jabs were only currently offered to certain frontline teams like social services etc.

A Member stated that fly tipping has increased and we had missed the target. He believed that the service needed to be looked at as it was not performing well. The Chairperson added that the trend had decreased from the same quarter last year, but the concerns were still there as the authority was 21/22 for cleanliness of highways.

A Member commented on the number of empty commercial properties in Bridgend with a number of them being in poor condition. He asked if we were able to compare with other authorities. The Chairperson explained that the much of this may had been down to shopping trends, i.e. with online shopping becoming increasing popular. She stated that landlords had not reduced their rates as a result, but that may change due to them being forced to pay business rates.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the half year corporate performance.

Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:

In respect of DRE6.6.4i Percentage of employees completing e-learning modules, Members queried why the Annual Target had been reduced from 45% in 18/19 to 25% in 19/20, given that this target includes Mandatory-e-learning requirements?

In respect of DC01.1.3ii, DC01.1.3iii, DC01.1.3iv, Members suggested that more comment is required here, suggesting providing comparables with other towns, in order to compare like for like.

In respect of PAM / 035, Members queried the Qtr2 Actual Figure, 2.67 days, given that the narrative states 'This is a good performance and shows a responsive service'.

Members queried whether the amount of fly tipping (PAM/035), was impacting on our cleanliness target (PAM/010).

Members raised concern in respect of the Disabled Facilities Grants (PAM/015, PSR009a & PSR009b), given the average number of calendar days taken to deliver a grant.

153. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

The Committee was requested to nominate a replacement Member to Councillor C Webster as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an Invitee to meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee. Members elected Councillor Nicole Burnett.

A Member queried the responsibility of the Corporate Parent role as a result of a court case in Cardiff where the Ombudsman determined that Councillors did not have a Corporate Parenting responsibility. The Member asked if clarification could be given on this as the information had been contradictory.

RESOLVED: That the Committee nominated Councillor Nicole Burnett as the Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee on the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

154. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented an update on the Forward Work Programme for the Committee to consider items scheduled to be held on 24 January and 13 February 2020 and seek confirmation of the information required for the subsequent meeting, scheduled to be held on 23 March 2020.

The Scrutiny Officer advised that the item on Tynyrheol Primary School was due to be presented on the 9th March, however the school was now out of special measures and was no longer required to come to Committee. She advised that the item on Learner Travel had now taken priority.

The Scrutiny Officer advised that Plastic Free Bridgend had now moved to Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on the 18th March. A Member asked if the Cleaner Streets Operations Officer could be asked to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

1. Identified additional information they wished to receive in relation to the scheduled items for 13 February 2020 including invitees they wished to attend within Appendix A
2. Confirmed the items prioritised and delegated to the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees contained within Appendix B.

155. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 12:30

This page is intentionally left blank

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 09:30

Present

Councillor CA Green – Chairperson

JPD Blundell	NA Burnett	J Gebbie	T Giffard
M Jones	RL Penhale- Thomas	KL Rowlands	JC Spanswick
T Thomas			

Apologies for Absence

RMI Shaw

Officers:

Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Meryl Lawrence	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Rachel Pick	Scrutiny Officer
Andrew Rees	Democratic Services Manager
Tracy Watson	Scrutiny Officer

Invitees:

160. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

161. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020 - 2021 TO 2023 - 24 AND DRAFT BUDGET CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Democratic Services Manager thanked the Chairperson and began the meeting by introducing the two new members of scrutiny staff to the Committee; the Senior Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny, and the Scrutiny Officer. Both were welcomed to the meeting.

The Committee received the final report of the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel and the responses from all the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in relation to Cabinet's draft budget proposals.

In relation to Appendix A, members accepted minor changes.

Members acknowledged that the deadline for the report back to Cabinet was short, but noted that where possible this item should be added to the end of another Corporate and Overview Committee meeting in future. The Chairperson also suggested that this report could be considered by email subject to all committee members approving the report; otherwise, a formal meeting would have to be called.

RESOLVED: That the Committee determined to submit the recommendations outlined at Appendix A, subject to minor changes, and Appendix B to Cabinet as part of the budget consultation process.

162. URGENT ITEMS

none

The meeting closed at 10:30

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2020

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 09:30

Present

Councillor CA Green – Chairperson

JPD Blundell
M Jones

NA Burnett
KL Rowlands

N Clarke
JC Spanswick

T Giffard

Apologies for Absence

J Gebbie, RL Penhale-Thomas, RMI Shaw, T Thomas, HJ David and HM Williams

Officers:

Meryl Lawrence
Tracy Watson

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Scrutiny Officer

Invitees:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Jackie Davies	Head of Adult Social Care
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Gill Lewis	Interim Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
Councillor Dhanisha Patel	Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Councillor Charles Smith	Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration
Nigel Smith	Finance Manager
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
Councillor Philip White	Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help

163. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

164. CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2022 REVIEWED FOR 2020-21

The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer advised members that firstly the Corporate Plan had been refreshed for 2020-21, following a corporate planning process carried out between October 2019 and January 2020 with many within the organisation involved in the process, including a bottom up as well as a top down inclusive process this year. Secondly, there was a much greater focus on the Future Generations of Wellbeing Act principles and thirdly, the report focussed on what the authority was trying to improve and the resources needed, which was evident in the ambitions set out.

Members raised the issue that there was no specific reference to climate change within the report and felt, as a committee, this was a rapidly growing issue and needed to show the position the authority was in. The Chief Executive noted that this was clearly something that had gathered momentum and recognised this. He confirmed that a report was going to Cabinet in April.

A member noted the figures in relation to Homelessness on Page 10 and sought confirmation of the progress being made – are we helping all our homelessness and who are we leaving out? The Cabinet Member for Future Generation and Wellbeing explained that she had recently visited both the Huggard and Ty Tresillian provisions in Cardiff, along with the Group Manager for Housing and the Head of Partnership Services and acknowledged the relationship with Cardiff and noted the ongoing piece of work to see how a provision could be provided within the borough.

The Member further recognised that there were people who were unable to be helped and that may fall through the net and asked what was being done. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing acknowledged that many of these cases had mental health problems, but noted that a lot was being done to prevent them becoming homelessness in the first place. There was ongoing work with those that had lower level mental health problems. In terms of reaching out in the community, they were provided with help as part of their families. This was an issue not just supported by housing.

A member felt that the Education list on Page 10 should show Welsh Schools as a separate category.

A member noted that the last line of Page 12 stated a 'good' place for people to live, work, study and visit felt that this should say 'great'. The Chief Executive acknowledged this but explained that the challenge is trying to match the ambition at the front of the document with the actions in the rest of the document, however he was happy to make the suggested change.

A member noted a number of projects listed on page 16, which would deliver the outcomes to help Bridgend thrive over the long term and enquired how far are we along with these projects e.g. City Deal. The Chief Executive reminded members and officers that this was a long-term programme, where little would happen within the first two years, although he noted that some good initiatives had been undertaken. He confirmed that a report was going to Cabinet in March on City Deal. He felt it would be helpful to bring back a report on the flavour of ongoing work in terms of Valleys Taskforce, Ford, etc. The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration noted on Page 16, the Bridgend Business Forum, and felt should promote Bridgend as a place to invest, but noted that there were many closely guarded businesses in Bridgend, who were happy that way.

A member noted the targets on Page 19 in relation to the 'Percentage of Year 1 learners being taught through the medium of Welsh' and 'Number of Vacant Premises in Town Centres' and felt these should be realistic and challenging. The Corporate Director Education and Family Support noted that this related to the number of learners, and explained to members that there were surplus spaces in Welsh Medium, so that this was a challenging target just to maintain the status quo. The Chief Executive explained in terms of vacant premises that it was always a balancing act but sometimes it was challenging to standstill. A member further noted on Page 19 within 'vacant premises' this may suggest that we want more empty shops and therefore needed more information within the box. The Chief Executive suggested that perhaps appendices

should accompany the report to put some context to the some of the measures to the public. A member suggested that it would be useful as a percentage in each town centre e.g. 6 in Pencoed could be out of 7.

A member raised the issue that without a Welsh comparison, it was impossible to know where we are compared to other authorities, in the area of spend. There was research to be done, but this might be more meaningful to other people. The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer explained that this was what was trying to be done, but categorising the expenditure had become nigh on impossible as it was configured in different ways. This has been tried through spending assessment. What we are trying to do through the different services is trying to drill down as much as we can. We have made representations to the WG about cost, as most PAM's do not have cost indicators. The Deputy Leader acknowledged that this was a Bridgend focused plan, but that a link in to My Council in terms of comparison data could be added.

A member noted that the indicator on page 23 for 'Number of additional dwellings....back into use' seemed low. A member felt that the wording on page 25 'developing the skills and behaviours of staff' could do with re-wording. A member felt that the indicator in respect of the 'Percentage of managers attending the Managers Induction Programme' should show a target. The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer agreed to take these suggestions away to look at.

Members discussed the indicators in relation to Tree Management on page 28 and noted that despite being difficult to measure, this indicator could be improved. The Chief Executive agreed that this was a hot topic at the moment and explained that there was a bid in for funding. We can bring something back to scrutiny. A member stated that this is also a matter that can be brought up with Town and Community Council's (TCC's). Members and Officers discussed the 'Plant a tree in 73' scheme and suggested promoting 'Plant a tree before 23' which could engage with TCC's and schools. The Chief Executive noted the challenge was getting the balance right as they do require looking after and maintenance. A member further commented that as a council we should encourage landowners and residents to do this.

A member noted that this was a good plan that set out a vision and principles. He asked in respect of page 34 'Working with Others', whether there was going to be a performance management process in terms of our partnership working and what role can scrutiny play. The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer explained that in term of partnerships, they are all different, and have entirely different governance arrangements. This had been discussed at CPA. The key here was that they could equally all hold us to account, but noted this was an area for further development; how do we bring that back in to the proper governance. In terms of CPA we have performance measures that come to the board and in terms of the work, there would be opportunities to look at Halo and Awen. The Corporate Director explained that all Directorates are working on the Business Plan that fed into the Corporate Plan. In terms of the Cwm Taf Regional Partnership Board, there were 4 elected members and Governance was being looked at to make it more affective. She noted a piece of work from Welsh Government coming on the work of partnership boards. A member suggested that the committee might wish to think about inviting people from the public service board to future items.

Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:

Members commented that the growing issue of Climate Change had not been included in the revised Corporate Plan.

A Member commented upon an error in the first and third paragraphs upon page 8 of the Corporate Plan.

Members requested that Welsh Medium Schools be included the Education list.

Members requested a pre-Council Briefing update upon progress on the City Deal and the Valleys Task Force (and Bridgend Business Forum)

Members requested that the statement on the last sentence of page 11 and 12 be amended to: "...help us make the county borough a **great** place for people to live, work, study and visit".

Members questioned the target for Welsh learners taught through the Medium of Welsh being static on page 19 of the Plan.

Members asked that the vacant premises in Town Centres be provided as percentages on Page 19 of the Plan.

Members commented that it was difficult to view the Authority's position against the Wales Average when viewing the Pie Charts. The Plan was Bridgend focussed but it was suggested that a link to My Council could be added to enable comparative data to be viewed.

Members queried the target for the number of additional dwellings brought back into use only being increased by only 2 this year.

Members felt that on Page 25 of the Plan the phrase: "...the behaviours of staff" could be misinterpreted and should be reworded.

Members asked that a baseline be established for the target on the Percentage of Managers attending the Managers Induction Programme who rated it excellent or good on page 27.

Members felt that the target of 3 for "Undertake schemes to increase the County Borough's tree cover" on Page 28 was not ambitious enough.

Members requested clarification on the target on page 28 in relation to 'Undertake the Council Tree Management programme' as they thought it was unlikely that the actions within the programme were 100% complete.

Members acknowledged that the Corporate Plan was a good Plan and set out the vision and principles and asked how the performance in respect of Partnership working would be managed.

165. **BUDGET MONITORING 2019-20 - QUARTER 3 REVENUE FORECAST**

The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer presented the report to Members with an update on the Councils revenue financial position as at 31 December 2019. By way of background, she explained that on the 20 February 2019, Council approved a net revenue budget of £270.809 million for 2019-20. Table 1 showed the comparison of budget against projected outturn at 31 December 2019. 4.1.2 showed a net underspend of £798k and 4.1.3 the reason for the underspend. The Prior Year Budget Reductions

were shown in 4.2.1 onwards. Table 2 showed that of the £2.342 million outstanding reductions, £1.795 million is likely to be achieved in 2019-20, leaving a shortfall of £547k. The revenue budget monitoring to 31 December 2019 was shown at Appendix 3.

A member noted that on page 58 of the report the Schools' delegate budget showed that at Quarter 3, 46% of all schools were projecting a deficit budget and expressed concern that some schools were more resilient than others and that for some schools this may mean that pupils lose out on extra curriculum opportunities. The Corporate Director Education and Family Support recognised that the figures tell a story with over half of our schools in deficit budget. He expressed concern that about 3 or 4 schools had severe deficits. He explained however that Brynteg has done a great job of reducing their deficit and it was expected they will break even but he noted that that is challenging for small schools as the number of pupils relate to the budget. He confirmed that he met with all head teachers on a termly basis and explained about the financial performance and monitoring board, who go line through line of the budget. He noted additional support grants were also available.

A member asked whether older schools were disadvantaged in terms of greater expenditure in respect of maintenance, and whether they received the same amount of funding. The Deputy Head of Finance explained that each school was funded mainly on the basis of the floor area; if schools are a similar size they get a similar amount, but the condition of the building is also taken into account, which is reflected in a condition factor weighting. It was something that was considered regularly to make it sure the funding is targeted to where it is needed, and looked at with the school budget forum to ensure funding is fair.

A member noted on page 61, the paragraph on Looked After Children and noted that it was clearly outlined why there was an overspend. He asked what was happening across Wales and whether there was any leadership coming out of Welsh Government (WG) to support the 22 authority's to manage the procurement and if the information on good practice could be shared. The Corporate Director Social Services & Wellbeing explained that this was a much-pressured area and the council has been hugely supportive in terms of LAC and management of the budget. What the report did not show was the tremendous effort to reduce the overspend. She explained about the new model for residential services (Maple Tree House) and confirmed that there had been 16 different children through the service and 6 children in the assessment unit, who would have previously gone out of county at a cost of £4k a week. She was working with housing to develop alternatives with local providers; this was a good use of our social housing grant. In terms of nationally, Looked After Children was a priority for the First Minister and Deputy Minister who were presented with the whole story from every local authority, recently. The Looked After technical group continued to meet. Every local authority were discussing LAC reduction strategies. There were some issues around CAMNS. WG have a project looking at those as a case study. This had been talked about in corporate parenting. The member was reassured to know that this work was ongoing in WG but felt perhaps WG should market this a bit more to members. The Corporate Director Social Services & Wellbeing said she would feed this through Corporate parenting.

A member noted on Page 60 there was a backlog on the adaptations work – are we resourcing this area to the full extent it needs. The Corporate Director Social Services & Wellbeing confirmed that there was an overspend, as we are able to help more people although noted successfully grant funding. A member suggested looking at identifying a pot to invest in spend to save which could be treated differently.

A member asked do we know how many are going through the adoption service at the moment? The Corporate Director Social Services & Wellbeing said she would come back with the figures.

A member noted on page 55, the 'Permitting Scheme for Road Works' and asked how much pressure do we put on WG to get an answer back. The Chief Executive explained that it was almost embarrassing how long this had been here. His personal view was that it should be taken out of the MTFs, as the latest thinking was a national scheme. There was no particular progress.

A member raised concern about the number of 'current staff vacancies' indicated on page 59. The Chief Executive explained that the first thing about vacancies are they are not deliberate but are where we are struggling to fill a post. Health & Safety was a corporate priority, but there was other ways of doing this, and noted there had been some progress on H&S. He recognised the balance between filling posts and identifying possible savings. Had the settlement not be so favourable we would be facing cuts and possibly looking at making savings. He noted an ongoing exercise identifying which posts were vacant. The Corporate Director Education & Family Support explained that Health & Safety recruitment had been difficult, particularly recruiting to the Principal post. Four vacancies had now been filled. He explained that they were working with HR to "grow our own", but that this comes with some risk. We have quarterly meetings with Deputy Leader attending. The Schools Transport Advisory Group (STAG) provides and ensures that issues are dealt with.

A member noted on page 63, the narrative on 'Fleet Services' was the same as last quarter and enquired if fleet services been restructured. The Chief Executive explained that in terms of fleet services we are confident that the restructuring and review of productivity have been carried out and is competitive as any service outside. The Deputy Leader confirmed that he had taken an interest in this and confirmed that they will be commercially viable.

A member noted the parking services underspend on Page 62 and asked if we know that the actual money is ring fenced for maintenance of the common and car park from rest bay. The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer confirmed that this was the total underspend for car parks and that they were shown on individual codes. The Deputy Head of Finance confirmed that there was no underspend from rest bay.

Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:

Members expressed concern about the potential that pupils in financial deficit schools could miss out on extra-curricular activities and that it was essential that schools had guidance and shared best practice for setting up the best management and advice for setting up Friends Groups.

Members were reassured by the update upon the work being done by the Looked After Children Technical Group and how Maple Tree House had reduced the number of Out of County Placements for Looked After Children and the associated costs. They requested the report from the Looked after Children Technical Group to the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting be circulated to Scrutiny Committee Members for information.

Members asked whether an Invest to Save fund could be explored for Independent Living rather than expressing this as an overspend, as the funding was upon preventative measures which reduced pressure on other service area budgets.

Members asked for the number of children going through the Adoption Service at the moment.

Members expressed concern at the number of vacant posts not being able to be filled, but welcomed the work being done on identifying the posts and whether they could recruit.

Members asked that the Health and Safety in Schools Scrutiny topic be progressed, as the Scrutiny Vacant posts had now been filled.

166. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020-21 ONWARDS

The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer began by saying that she was indebted to the Deputy Head of Finance and the Interim Group Manager – Chief Accountant in terms of the Capital Strategy. She continued by explaining that the controls around Capital Expenditure were based on legislation and this was the second report, following the requirement to publish a Capital Strategy last year. The Capital Strategy is presented to Council as a Policy Framework document and links with the Corporate Plan, Treasury Management Strategy (TMS), Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the Council's Asset Management Plan (AMP). The MTFS has 13 principles, 3 which refer to the Capital Programme. Section 2 talks about capital expenditure and table 1 on page 91 sets out the estimates of capital expenditure and table 2 the Capital financing. Section 3 is linked to the wellbeing objectives, previously the corporate objectives, with other key drivers the asset management requirements and health and safety works plus commercial activities. The rest of section 3 links to the objectives of capital security, liquidity and then yield. Section 4 sets out the financial context, section 5 looks at capital expenditure bids, section 6 governance and risk management and section 7 knowledge and skills.

The Deputy Head of Finance noted that whilst the report had been updated, figures would change for the final version to be presented alongside the MTFS in February, in line with the updated capital programme.

A member noted on page 97, that the table seemed to show a variety of jumps in terms of total borrowing and long-term liabilities e.g. £117m in 18-19, £130m in 20-21, £135m in 21-22 and £143m in 22-23 and asked if there was any particularly reason for 2021 looking very different. The Interim Group Manager – Chief Accountant explained that the debt increase next year related to the increase in spending on the Capital Programme and related increase in borrowing.

A member noted the guiding principles on page 89, and understood that the Corporate Plan drives capital investment, but how do we ensure parity across all four corners of the borough. He further asked what was being done to manage the risk and remain in budget. The Deputy Leader explained that there was a whole borough approach whilst considering areas of priority e.g. Maesteg Town Hall. We will consider if we can get match funding to support that project e.g. sea defences in Porthcawl. In terms of managing the risk, that is a far more difficult exercise, and you can over estimate to make sure you come in budget. You can either put the risk on the authority or on the contractor, who carries that risk. We need to manage that and have a happy medium. The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer echoed the Deputy Leader, confirming that this had been previously raised at council, and that we rarely see schemes come in under budget. Either you try really hard to get it as accurate as possible, but it could then become an abortive scheme or you get a happy medium. Audit committee have taken a keen interest and are completing a piece of work to look at the variance e.g., builder, price, and variances we get in terms of procurement.

A member raised the issue of interest rates and asked if we were getting the best deal. The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer explained that whilst interest rates were at an all-time low, our rate would be historically higher and cannot just be changed. It would have to be profiled carefully.

A member asked for clarification in terms of knowledge and skills. The Interim Head of Finance and S151 Officer explained that we haven't stopped training people. We try to accommodate people training and working and continue to train staff to study CIPFA and AAT, and we have also asked to be part of the new apprenticeships scheme.

Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:

Members questioned how the Authority could ensure that communities across the county borough had parity of capital investment and would like to see a more strategic approach being made to capital investment.

A Member commented upon an error in the Table 2 on page 91, which should read 2020-21.

A Member referred to Section 7, page 107 Knowledge and Skills and welcomed the CIPFA and AAT training being provided corporately and the request to be included in the apprenticeship funding.

167. **SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN - OUR STRATEGIC 5 YEAR VISION**

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing began by explaining that there would be a presentation, explaining the strategic vision, and noted that all aspects of the Directorate were in one plan. There was a line of sight with the Corporate Plan, Regional Plan, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and Well-being of Future Generations Act. She explained that the plan was a detailed an extensive document that was structured to include setting the scene, children's services, transition services (children to adulthood), adult social care services, wellbeing services and delivery of the action plan, and talked briefly on each area.

The Business Change Programme Manager went through a presentation, which he explained was based on the document.

A member thanked the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing and her team for the extensive report and picked up on the point of communication, particular between the authority and Bridgend Town Council. She noted the reciprocal nature of channelling resources which the council are no longer able to fund. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing agreed that this was something which could be taken away to look at.

A member noted the statistics and the need to plan ahead and asked if the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing was getting sufficient help from the Welsh Government to channel the budget and whether there was any indications of any help from the Welsh Government, for people over the age of 85. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing acknowledge the Integrated Care Fund (ICF), which was a significant investment in our service, but noted that this was still grant funding. The Head of Adult Social Care gave some examples whilst recognising the change in demographics. The Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help noted the £9m commitment to health & social care and confirmed that what was being done for

residents was second to none. He noted that the Minister had announced that Regional Partnership Boards will move towards Health Parks, and noted that the authority was geared up for this based upon the population needs assessment.

A member asked for reassurance that the health authority was paying their full share. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained that this came via health but must be spent within the partnership. Money coming out of the acute sector was harder to shift. She felt that within the all Wales work, the authority had a better relationship with the partnership compared to other areas. In term of CAMHs and Children, this was a pressured area and needs investment; the health contribution needs to be reviewed. There was a lot more work to do, but the foundations were there.

A member asked about whether an audit of future skills had been carried out and did any of our care providers see issues when we leave the EU. The Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help explained that those conversations had been had yesterday. There were indications of issues with recruitment and retention and conversations about skilling. We need to identify the importance of care worker roles and about giving them the skills for the job across Health and Social Care. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained that the Social care Wales staff register and equivalent body in health, had worked together to raise awareness of the skills shortage. I-Care Wales Bridgend looked at how you recruit staff as there were concerns that people would rather go into retail. She explained that the authority was looking at growing our own. The Head of Adult Social Care explained that there were staff shortages in adult services, occupational therapists, social workers in Children's Services. She noted the M4 corridor and the lack of a national pay scale, with other authorities' such as RCT giving an incentive, along with Caerphilly, who pay more. People can ultimately move around. She further noted that there had been a concerted effort in Children's Services and noted that they still lost staff, but often internally. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Years noted the recent services of job fairs, but reiterated the lack of national pay scale.

A member commented that the size of the document did not make it easy to consult upon and noted the action plan at the end of the document was incomplete and sought clarification that this was work in progress. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained that it was indeed work in progress and recognised that it did look stark, but will be populated.

A member enquired whether there was any mention of a cooperative model in social care, and felt this type of model should be encouraged e.g. direct payments, and felt this would be good to see incorporated into a long-term strategy. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing noted further work was required to develop alternative community models including cooperatives and would take that out to consultation with groups. In relation to direct payments, she was looking at trusts, and cooperatives, and felt there was opportunity here, and acknowledge that it didn't jump out in the document enough. The Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Years felt it would be useful to get the Wales Cooperative centre to talk to us, on a localised basis.

Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:

A Member proposed that that communication with the larger Town Councils upon the Well-being agenda funding could identify potential ways they could connect in overlapping areas with outreach areas to reach the maximum need and not waste resources.

A Member welcomed the audit of the population but felt that an audit of skills and work was needed, with cooperation from further and higher education upon future skills and knowledge required for service delivery.

Members expressed concern about difficulty recruiting and questioned how much recruitment had been undertaken, and how regularly adult services recruitment is undertaken.

Members recognised the population needs assessment as good practice and requested that it is disseminated to Members and that the good practice of the population assessment be shared with other services.

Members recommend that the Wales Cooperative Centre be invited to present to the Authority regarding Cooperative Models.

168. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny presented the Committee with the topics scheduled for the next two Committee meetings in Appendix A, as follows:

- 23 March 2020 - Shared Regulatory Services;
- 30 April 2020 - Replacement Local Development Plan Planning Process.

The Committee requested:

- That the report includes analysis of the development plan, Consultation process especially outside of planning, S106 Partnership Opportunities, how links in with growth in job opportunities, school modernisation, post 16 Education.
- That the appropriate Cabinet Member and Officers from Education, Social Services, Housing, and Planning be invited to attend.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny drew Members’ attention to the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees’ Forward Work Programme which included the topics prioritised and agreed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the March round of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Table 1, and the list of proposed future topics in Table 2.

She advised the Committee of the following updates to table 1:

- The Combined Meeting of SOSC1 and SOSC2 scheduled for 9 March had been moved to 19 March at 2.30pm to consider reports upon Learner Travel and Post 16 Education post-consultation as requested.
- Youth Offending had been confirmed as a topic for SOSC1 on 20 April.
- Further clarification upon the scope of the Waste Management / Refuse Centre report to SOSC3 on 27 April would be requested at the March meeting.

169. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 12:59

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 JULY 2020

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CROSS-PARTY RECOVERY PANEL – COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to establish a Cross-Party Recovery Panel with the aim of shaping, informing and advising Cabinet on the Council's recovery planning to form the basis of the recovery phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-
1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
 2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 23 March 2020 the UK Government imposed a nationwide lockdown in an effort to help minimise the spread of coronavirus. The Council has undergone significant change during this period, in that some services have been created, some services stopped and some staff have been redeployed.
- 3.2 The recovery of the County Borough following the Covid-19 pandemic is a significant and complex programme that has a key role to play in the economic vitality and community resilience of the Borough and its residents.
- 3.3 The Chief Executive presented a report to the meeting of Cabinet on 30 June 2020 for a proposed approach to recovery planning from Covid-19. The recovery programme has the following 3 strands:

Restart

- Immediate response to the critical issues/priorities identified;
- Operational planning to move from essential services model now being completed.

Recover

- establish a Recovery Panel to help shape, inform and advise on the Council's recovery planning;
- develop an integrated recovery report based on the service area returns due by the end of July 2020;
- Develop an amended budget for 2020-21 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and repurposed and readjusted 2020/21 Corporate plan and corporate risk assessment by September 2020.

Renew

- Work to commence on an engagement programme with partners, Members, staff and citizens over the summer and autumn, and assess the proposed Community Impact Assessment to be carried out by the Public Services Board (PSB).
- Develop a new policy framework and new corporate plan based on what the new normal will need to look like for the Council to deliver sustainable and effective services for the next 5-10 years.

3.4 Some key recovery priorities and considerations were identified in the report to Cabinet including:

1. Reopening Schools in September
2. Responding to the economic crisis
3. Future sustainability of culture and leisure venues (and sector)
4. Safe streets, active travel and public transport
5. Homelessness: provision and services post lockdown
6. Supporting the most vulnerable, and those who care for them, including nurturing the excellent relationship with the Third Sector and developing and enhancing community resilience
7. Stopping the spread and return of the virus: Health and Safety; provision of a stockpile of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); ongoing Contact Tracing
8. Waste: Returning all services safely
9. Reopening and enhancing community Hubs and Libraries
10. Digital services: Opportunities and Risks, for example increased public appetite for digital services but also risk of digital cyber fraud.

3.5 Cabinet at its meeting on 30 June 2020 also approved the commencement of a process of Local Economic Recovery Planning and, in so doing, established a Bridgend County Economic Task Force. The Task Force will develop an economic plan for the future of the County Borough which will include action to help businesses adapt to the changing economic landscape and improve resilience, as well as support for residents to develop new skills, training and employment opportunities. The work of the Task Force will be invaluable to the role of the Recovery Panel.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The scale of change that will need to be effected will be considerable. It is crucial that the impact of proposed changes on residents, including those with protected characteristics, as well as the financial impacts of the changes are fully considered as part of the recovery exercise. The proposed establishment of a Cross-Party Recovery Panel will inform, support and challenge the recovery exercise and also ensure that Members of Scrutiny have an opportunity to feed into and shape thinking.
- 4.2 The remit of the Recovery Panel is as set out in the draft Terms of Reference attached as **Appendix 1**. Any expansion of the remit should not be undertaken without the agreement of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.3 The Panel should take a structured approach to the examination of the recovery process with the aim of identifying key issues to examine in more detail and make recommendations to Cabinet. It is proposed that at the first meeting of the Recovery Panel the Panel will approve the attached draft Terms of Reference and will identify key issues to examine in greater depth for future meetings.
- 4.4 Membership of the Recovery Panel will comprise the 12 Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC). There is representation from all three Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees (SOSCs) on the COSC, including Group Leaders and Scrutiny Chairs. The knowledge and experience gained through their work as members of the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel can be utilised within the recovery process and will provide an opportunity to help develop and shape future strategies that could feed into the Authority's Corporate Plan and MTFs.
- 4.5 The Public Service Board is committed to playing a role in supporting the recovery and for a co-ordinated approach to be undertaken across all partners of the County Borough and to help align efforts to rebuild the economy while also minimising the impact of the crisis for disadvantaged communities and the environment. The PSB will be undertaking a Community Impact Assessment (CIA) in order to understand how the pandemic and lockdown has affected services and communities within the County Borough and what that means for wellbeing. The information gathered in the CIA will be used to consider where to adapt service delivery, to respond to communities most affected or at risk, how to benefit from positive changes and how partners can work together both in the short term and to improve resilience in the longer term. The assessment will be done as much as possible across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area in conjunction with Cwm Taf PSB. It is recommended that the Recovery Panel works closely with the PSB and regional partners to ensure that people and businesses across the regions they represent are getting the support they need.
- 4.6 The Local Government Association as part of its conference programme has held a series of webinars which will be of particular use to Members in the recovery planning (<https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-annual-conference-webinars>). In addition, the Local Government Association has also provided some helpful information via its Covid-19 Good Council Practice page, which sets out the work being undertaken

by local government to address the challenges brought by Covid-19 across all local government services (<https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-good-council-practice>).

4.7 The recommendations and or findings of the Panel will be presented to the Cabinet for consideration.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken to identify any disproportionate effect of the pandemic on some communities and individuals.

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

7.1 The establishment of the Panel and its considerations will have regard to the sustainable development principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the five ways of working.

8. Financial implications

8.1 This report has no direct financial implications. The Panel will operate within existing budgets.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the report and approve the establishment of a Cross-Party Recovery Panel comprising the 12 Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Kelly Watson
Chief Officer – Legal, HR and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB
Kelly.watson@bridgend.gov.uk

Background documents: None

Covid-19 Cross-Party Recovery Panel

Draft Terms of Reference

Purpose of Panel

The Panel has no decision making powers, but it shall inform, support and challenge the recovery exercise and ensure that Elected Members, officers and key partners have an opportunity to feed into and shape thinking.

It will support and advise on approaches that could form the basis of the recovery phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, including:

- To conduct a thorough examination of the recovery process with the aim of identifying key issues to examine in more detail and make recommendations to Cabinet;
- To test proposals for resuming council functions and services against current government guidance and other relevant considerations;
- To call for evidence from key partners and work alongside the Public Service Board and commission research and advice;
- To work in conjunction with the Bridgend County Economic Task Force on Local Economic Recovery Planning;
- To consider the evidence and its impact on policies, protocols and plans to take account of a new economic reality;
- To review the evidence and its impact on communities and continue this throughout this period which will support future strategic focus and ultimately support a revised Medium Term Financial Strategy and Corporate Plan;
- To ensure sound financial estimates of the response and recovery phases are developed;
- To ensure the adequacy of governance arrangements to support the recovery phase;
- To focus on developing strategies and collective action to rebuild the economy whilst also minimising the impact of the crisis for disadvantaged communities and the environment;
- To present recommendations and findings of its work to Cabinet.

The Panel will also receive updates from the Public Service Board on the various internal and external workstreams as they are delivered.

The administration and functions of the Panel will be held to the same standards expected by the relevant legislation in relation to local authority overview and scrutiny committees.

Membership

Membership of the Recovery Panel will comprise the 12 Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. There is representation from all three SOSCs on the COSC, including Group Leaders and Scrutiny Chairs. The knowledge and experience gained through their work as members of the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel can be utilised within the Recovery process and will provide an opportunity for the Panel to help develop and shape future strategies that could feed into the Authority's Corporate Plan and MTFs.

Meetings

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel shall be appointed by the Panel at its first meeting.

The meetings will be supported by the Chief Executive and the Scrutiny Team and by other relevant officers as required.

Meetings will be held monthly, but these may vary in frequency as the situation requires and based on need. Meetings may be rearranged, cancelled or additional meetings scheduled with the agreement of the Chair.

Meetings are to be held in private session but Members may request access to information on a confidential basis.

The quorum will be a minimum of six of the members of the Panel.

Review

The work of the Recovery Panel will be subject to monitoring and evaluation in six months.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 JULY 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL, HR & REGULATORY SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Committee with a list of potential Forward Work Programme items for formal prioritisation.

2. Connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities.

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:
1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
 2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council’s well-being objectives.

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 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) meeting with input from each Subject Overview and

Scrutiny Committee (SOSC) and any information gathered from FWP meetings with Corporate Directors and Cabinet.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee have responsibility for setting and prioritising the overall Forward Work Programme for the SOSC.

4.2 The following topics have been prioritised and agreed by the COSC:

COMMITTEE	SUBJECT
COSC	Shared Regulatory Services
COSC	Replacement Local Development Plan
SOSC3	Working Towards Plastic Free Bridgend
SOSC2	Remodeling Children's Residential Services Project
SOSC1	Youth Offending Services
SOSC3	Waste Management/Refuse Centre

4.3 The list has been compiled from suggested items at meetings of each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. 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.

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. ¹

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

¹ Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association 'If this were my child... A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers', June 2009

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 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 impacts arising directly from this report.

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

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

- Long-term - The 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. Recommendation.

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- Confirm the items prioritised as outlined in paragraph 4.2 and those items delegated to the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- Identify additional items using the Criteria Form for future consideration on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

K Watson
Chief Officer - Legal, HR & Regulatory Services

Contact Officer: Meryl Lawrence
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

Telephone: (01656) 643515

E-mail: scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

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

Background documents: None