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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



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

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

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



Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

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

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Thursday, 15 October 2020

Dear Councillor,

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held remotely via Skype for Business on **Wednesday, 21 October 2020 at 15:00**.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest from Members/Officers in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 18
To receive for approval the minutes of 16/09/2020
4. To receive announcements from the Mayor
5. To receive announcements from the Leader
6. Presentation By Valleys To Coast & Programme Of Future Presentations To Council 19 - 20
7. Annual Report 2019-20 21 - 78
8. Capital Programme Update - Quarter 2 2020-21 79 - 100
9. Information Report for noting 101 - 104
10. To receive the following Question from:
Councillor A Hussain to the Cabinet Member Communities

In UK about 11 billion wet wipes are used every year - causing 93 percent of blockage in UK sewers. In Wales, Welsh waters deals with around 2,000 sewer blockage every month and

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the major cause of which are wipes.

Knowing that 90 percent of wipes contain more than ¾ plastic and since we are doing well with our recycling waste collection, should we not be the first Council to introduce separate collection for these wet wipes as any other single use plastic?

11. 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.

Note: Please note: Due to the current requirement for social distancing this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and 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 as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal, HR & Regulatory Services

Councillors:

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

Councillors

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

Councillors

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

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN REMOTE MEETING VIA SKYPE FOR BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 15:00

Present

Councillor SE Baldwin – Chairperson

TH Beedle	JPD Blundell	NA Burnett	MC Clarke
N Clarke	RJ Collins	HJ David	P Davies
PA Davies	SK Dendy	DK Edwards	J Gebbie
T Giffard	RM Granville	CA Green	DG Howells
A Hussain	RM James	M Jones	DRW Lewis
JE Lewis	JR McCarthy	D Patel	RL Penhale-Thomas
AA Pucella	KL Rowlands	B Sedgebeer	RMI Shaw
CE Smith	SG Smith	JC Spanswick	RME Stirman
G Thomas	T Thomas	JH Tildesley MBE	E Venables
SR Vidal	MC Voisey	LM Walters	KJ Watts
CA Webster	DBF White	PJ White	A Williams
AJ Williams	HM Williams	JE Williams	RE Young

Apologies for Absence

MJ Kearn and JC Radcliffe

Officers:

Gareth Denning	Policy Team Leader
Deborah Exton	Interim Deputy Head of Finance
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Laura Kinsey	Head of Children's Social Care
Martin Morgans	Head of Performance and Partnership Services
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Jonathan Parsons	Group Manager Development
Andrew Rees	Democratic Services Manager
Zak Shell	Head of Neighbourhood Services
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Nigel Smith	Finance Manager
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services

428. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Councillor PA Davies declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 - Presentation on The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal & Programme of Future Presentations to Council as she knows the Chair Regional Economic Partnership and Investment Panel.

Councillor SE Baldwin declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 - Presentation on The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal & Programme of Future Presentations to Council as he knows the Director of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

429. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Council of 22 July 2020, be approved as a true and accurate record.

430. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor thanked all staff across the authority for their continued hard work in these difficult times, and that their ongoing efforts are very much appreciated.

He congratulated Mr Laurence Brophy of Pencoed who had recently cycled from Land's End to John 'O Groats to raise money and awareness for the homelessness charity Llamau. He stated that Mr Brophy's journey was even more remarkable as at 88 he is set to become the oldest man to complete this challenge. To date he has raised over £3,000 for charity.

The Mayor announced with sadness of the recent passing of Mr George Davies, who acted as Mayoral consort to his daughter Marlene Thomas during her year as Civic head and was also a former community councillor. Despite celebrating his 90th birthday while consort he never missed an event and threw himself into whatever the role required, the long days never phased him and he would often go on to further community work after finishing his civic duties. On behalf of the Council the Mayor extended his condolences to Marlene Thomas and her family.

431. TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER

The Leader informed Members of announcement that Rhondda Cynon Taf has unfortunately become the second area in Wales to go into lockdown and he briefed Members on an update of the situation in Bridgend. Cabinet at its meeting yesterday, endorsed a regional action plan which outlined a raft of measures for tackling the spread of Covid-19 and responding to any incidents or outbreaks of the virus. The Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan covers the entire Cwm Taf Morgannwg area, and has been co-ordinated between local authorities and the health board and describes in detail the roles, key objectives and measures for the region, setting out arrangements for preventing the spread of infection among the most vulnerable, mitigating and controlling its impact, and monitoring it within local communities. The plan also outlines the procedures in place when decisions on implementing local actions or restrictions are required, seen most recently in the Caerphilly area, and now Rhondda Cynon Taf.

He stated that many clusters and incidents can be managed through the Test, Trace, Protect programme without any need to close premises or initiate wider lockdown restrictions, robust investigation, management and control arrangements are in place for any significant developments. He informed Council of the central role Council's have in how Covid-19 is being managed in Wales. Demonstrated in how social care and support to vulnerable residents, the childcare hubs which have supported essential key workers and vulnerable children is provided. The maintenance of essential services, the deployment of staff to support the Test Trace Protect programme. If the Council needs to respond to further significant incidents or outbreaks, it will fulfil this role.

The Leader informed Members that people may be concerned at the recent rise in infection rates across the South Wales region and the lockdowns that have already been declared, and he reassured Members and residents that necessary systems are in place to try and prevent this from happening in Bridgend County Borough. At the same time, it should be recognised by all that whether the County Borough enters a local lockdown or not largely depends on how the community chooses to act. He stressed that it was more important than ever for the County Borough to come together as one community, to behave in a responsible and safe manner, and to follow national requirements on social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, using sanitise. He stated that the pandemic was far from over, and residents must not let their guard down. He informed Members that a joint statement had been issued earlier this week between the Council and South Wales Police requesting all residents to behave responsibly and remain alert

and urging people not to turn up and gather in large numbers for the cancelled Elvis Festival in Porthcawl, and to think twice, stay safe, and stay home. He hoped Members will support these efforts and will help to promote these important key messages among their constituents.

The Leader announced that since schools started back, there had been nine incidents where staff or pupils had returned positive tests for coronavirus, resulting in pupils and staff self-isolating in line with national guidelines as a precautionary measure. He stated that such incidents are inevitable while the pandemic is ongoing, but with all reasonable safety measures in place based on full risk assessments, the advantages of attending school far outweigh the disadvantages. Schools had been preparing for pupils to return for some time now, and in each case have been able to take swift action to act promptly using advice supplied by Public Health Wales. All schools have a full range of measures to reduce risk, limit contact and maintain high standards of hygiene. Pupils who are unaffected are continuing to attend lessons as normal, those who are self-isolating are receiving lessons thanks to online access, virtual classrooms and blended learning facilities. He requested that parents, carers and guardians need to support these efforts to fight the spread of the coronavirus by remaining vigilant, and by not sending children to school if they exhibit any symptoms.

He stated that the sudden rise in cases across the UK, current news headlines are also rife with stories about how central Government and Welsh Government are dealing with delays in coronavirus testing. Measures are in development, with mobile test units are to be launched in Wales which can be deployed where they are needed most. The Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plan is available to view at the council website, and he encouraged Members to read it for a greater insight into how the pandemic is being combatted on a regional scale. He stated that the Council will continue to work alongside partners to do all it can to protect vulnerable residents, and to ensure that it continued to provide vital services for local people.

The Leader extended his sympathies to Mrs Marlene Thomas, former of the County Borough on the loss of her father, Mr George Davies, who performed the role of Consort during her year in office.

He congratulated Mr Laurence Brophy of Pencoed on his achievement of cycling from Land's End to John 'O Groats to raise funding for Llamau.

He extended a warm welcome to Janine Nightingale, Corporate Director Communities who was attending her first meeting of Council.

432. PRESENTATION ON THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL & PROGRAMME OF FUTURE PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

The Chief Executive introduced a presentation to Council on the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal programme and informed of the programme of future presentations to Council. He stated that the purpose of the presentation on the City Deal programme was threefold, namely for Members to have a better understanding of the programme, an opportunity to demonstrate the good progress made and to discuss opportunities for the programme within the County Borough of Bridgend.

Council received a presentation on the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal programme from Kellie Beirne, Director of CCR City Deal and Frank Holmes, Chair of the Regional Economic Partnership and Investment Panel. The Director of CCR City Deal stated that the CCR City Deal is a £1.3bn pound public-led investment programme across a triumvirate partnership of 10 local authorities, Welsh and Central Governments. It was targeted to generate 25,000 additional jobs, to lever £4 billion of additional

investment and an uplift of 5% in Gross Value Added to the economy. She informed Council that the Councils work together as ten because they share a functional economic geography but within that, some of the most and least competitive places co-exist, a growth strategy in isolation could exacerbate rather than address some of those endemic problems. She outlined the programme's innovation proposals, which would be used to not only be technology and business focussed, but also about powering up civic society, driving growth in foundational economies and public services sector. The ambition is to create conditions for generalised prosperity and to ensure economic ambitions are matched with more progressive social policy and to have resilience, which endures.

The Chair of the Regional Economic Partnership and Investment Panel informed Council of the processes which have been in place and that he had put together an experienced board of individuals with its role being to assess the investment programme, advisors to the joint Cabinet and to bring inward invest. He stated that the Board needed a plan to ensure money was invested in accordance with the investment programme in order to leverage the £4bn additional investment. The Board had embarked on 3 pillars needed to have true connectivity regionally with public and private partnerships. In order to be competitive there was a need for investment in innovation and connectivity with digital connectivity being paramount and to be resilient to benefit this and future generations. He stated that the plan had recently been reviewed, alongside developing an invest framework to leverage innovation and to assist companies to grow. Significant research has been undertaken to ensure money was put to good use across the region.

The Director of CCR City Deal informed Council of the mission for resilient good growth also grounding in foresight and what was coming, which was likely to be disproportionately impacted by Brexit given the reliance on EU structural funds for economic growth. She stated there would be no more city deals and that all new regional economic investment at UK Government level will now come through UKIS. Characteristics would have to be developed to allow the region to be competitive and that the public sector would need to change. The Director CCR informed Council of the solid foundations which had been built upon, how working practices and the speed of decision making had been transformed. She outlined a snapshot of the Investment and Intervention Fund, in that 28 projects in the pipeline with total investment requested of £390m. She highlighted the projects which had been approved to date in the public and private sectors and where additional investment had been secured. She informed Council that the Region had extended its voice through the Global Welsh project. The Director of CCR gave an overview of what this meant for Bridgend, building on strengths and opportunities of being a manufacturing intensive location. She concluded that City Deal had built firm foundations for the next stage of the journey.

A member of Council questioned the impact on the City Deal programme following the decision not to approve the M4 relief road. The Chair of the Regional Economic Partnership and Investment Panel stated that it was his opinion that not proceeding with the scheme would not be good for business or for Wales and it would impact on international business. The scheme had the support of the Federation of Small Businesses, the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors. The Director of CCR stated that the Regional Transport Authority believed there needed to be a levelling up of key transport schemes and that the HS2 project would impact on City Deal.

A member of Council referred to the decision that there would be no further City Deals and asked what programmes would be in place to ensure funding remained in place. The Director of CCR stated that there was a need to have sustainability and there is an expectation that City Deal will leverage more funding. The Chair of the Regional Economic Partnership and Investment Panel informed Council that the right governance

had been set up to ensure it had the trust at all levels of government so that the region can stand up against other regions in order to get its fair share of investment. The Leader informed Council that the region wants to work with global players on broadband and technology providers. He stated that the region is one of the fastest growing regions in terms of population and there is a need to ensure that investors invest in the region to benefit all residents.

A member of Council referred to Bridgend's proximity to the Swansea Bay City Deal region and questioned whether there is collaboration with that region. The Director of CCR informed Council that there is a great deal of dialogue with the Swansea Bay City Deal region and there is collaboration to ensure that programmes are aligned. The Swansea Bay City Deal differs from the CCR City Deal in that it is about projects, whilst the CCR City Deal is about economic growth. Dialogue is also held regularly with the Western Gateway region. Swansea University collaborate with the CCR City Deal due to the region having a compound semi-conductor manufacturer. The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration stated that Bridgend's location on the border with another City Deal is an advantage and that Bridgend has always been a transport hub and was keen that Bridgend develops into a hub from the west to connect with Cardiff Airport. He referred to the irregular rail service to Pyle station and commented on the need for investment in the station and for an hourly service on weekdays and for a park and ride facility to have connectivity with Porthcawl and to valley communities. A member of Council questioned whether there are plans to have an integrated solution between Pyle and Porthcawl. The Leader commented that funding had been secured from City Deal and the Welsh Government for a major investment at Pyle station to improve links with Porthcawl. The Cabinet Member Communities saw it as an advantage that Bridgend is on the border of the Swansea Bay City Deal and is uniquely placed in attracting global businesses having the second busiest train station in the region and having links with the airport.

A member of Council questioned the impact of Covid 19 on the plans for City Deal. The Director of CCR stated that all schemes had been looked at in light of Covid 19 and that a comprehensive survey has been undertaken to ensure investment and support is available to small and medium enterprises. The Leader informed Council that businesses were being invited to make bids to the Challenge Fund, particularly the medical technology sector. The Chair of the Regional Economic Partnership and Investment Panel informed Council that the Challenge Fund looks at addressing economic problems and will create opportunities.

A member of Council asked what the socio-economic impact of Covid 19 would be and sought assurances there was flexibility within the strategy to change to different circumstances. The Director of CCR stated that the programme could not standstill and there was a need to have balance within the programme as its intention is to improve lives. The Chair of the Regional Economic Partnership and Investment Panel commented that an evidence base is kept up to date and that 2 PHD students monitor this activity. He stated that it was difficult to predict the impact of Covid 19 but there was a need to have the best data available. The Leader informed Council City Deal had responded to the pandemic in reshaping its programme and is structured in such a way so that it has the agility to respond to changes.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Noted the presentation by the Director of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and the Chair of the Cardiff Capital Region Regional Economic Growth Partnership.
- (2) Noted the programme of future presentations to Council as outlined.

The meeting adjourned at 16.55 and resumed at 17.00.

433. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2019-20

The Interim Deputy Head of Finance presented a report, the purpose of which was to comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the Code), to report an overview of treasury activities for the preceding financial year and to report on the actual Treasury Management Indicators for 2019-20.

The Interim Deputy Head of Finance reported that treasury management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) before the start of each financial year. Advice to the Council on treasury management is provided by Arlingclose and following a recent tender process, they had been re-appointed for a period of 4 years, until August 2024.

The Interim Deputy Head of Finance reported that the UK's exit from the European Union and future trading arrangements remained one of the major influences on the UK economy during 2019-20. The Bank of England, which had held interest rates steady at 0.75% through most of 2019-20, moved in March 2020 to cut rates from 0.75% to 0.25% and then swiftly thereafter brought them down further to the record low of 0.1%. The Interim Deputy Head of Finance informed Council that towards the end of the financial year, the Covid-19 pandemic swiftly changed everything causing uncertainty in financial markets.

The Interim Deputy Head of Finance reported on the Treasury Management Outturn for 2019-20 and informed Council that it has complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements during 2019-20. She summarised the external debt and investment position for 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, no long-term borrowing was taken out in 2019-20 and no debt rescheduling was undertaken as there were no significant savings to be made, however, the loan portfolio would be reviewed during 2020-21. The Interim Deputy Head of Finance informed Council that favourable cash flows had provided surplus funds for investment and the balance on investments at 31 March 2020 was £30 million, with an average interest rate of 0.82%. This was an increase in investments outstanding from the start of the financial year where investments were £27.4 million at an average interest rate 0.94%. The interim Deputy Head of Finance summarised the investment strategy and outturn in that the main objectives during 2019-20 were to maintain security of cash; ensure liquidity, so funds are available when needed and only then to seek yield on investments. She informed Council that the majority of investments had been held as short-term investments with UK local authorities and banks of high credit quality.

A member of Council commented that it was standard practice for local authorities to borrow and lend to other local authorities. The Deputy Leader informed Council that the Treasury Management Strategy is approved by Council and officers implement that strategy. He stated that lending to other local authorities is a secure way for the Council to invest. The Interim Deputy Head of Finance informed Members that the Council makes short-term investments with UK local authorities and are always repaid, very often the same money is reinvested. Advice on investing is always taken from the Council's Treasury Management advisors.

A member of Council questioned whether the Council could re-negotiate its LOBO borrowing given the lower interest rates currently. The Interim Deputy Head of Finance

informed Council that the lender has the option to propose a new interest rate and the Council has the option as the borrower whether to accept that rate. She stated that with interest rates being low, lenders were unlikely to reduce their rates. She also informed Council that the Council would face penalties if it repaid early.

A member of Council asked whether officers could explore the opportunity of cheaper borrowing due to interest rates being low for inclusion in the next report on Treasury Management to Council. The Interim Deputy Head of Finance agreed to look at this.

RESOLVED: That Council:

- Approved the annual treasury management activities for 2019-20;
- Approved the actual Treasury Management indicators for 2019-20 against the ones approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20.

434. **UPDATED CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2022 REVIEWED FOR 2020-21, FOLLOWING IMPACT OF COVID-19**

The Chief Executive sought approval of the updates to the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2022 reviewed for 2020-21, following the impact of Covid-19 and for Council to adopt the revised Corporate Plan.

He reported that the Corporate Plan 2018-2022, describes the Council's vision for Bridgend County Borough, the 3 well-being objectives and the organisational values and principles that underpin how the Council will work to deliver its priorities. He stated that the Plan represented the Council's contribution to achieving the 7 national wellbeing goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its improvement objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

He reported that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic had affected the ability of the Council to progress on the delivery of its well-being objectives set out in the refreshed Corporate Plan. He stated that it was prudent to revisit the current commitments and targets and refocus the key priorities for the rest of 2020-21. He set out the proposed changes to the Corporate Plan which included some minor changes to the Council's commitments as well as some new ones to reflect the key priority areas the Council needs to focus on for the remainder of 2020-21. He stated that are a number of new success measures in the Plan, as well as current ones, where the targets have been revisited. Where targets have been reduced as a result of the impact of Covid-19 a rationale had been provided, for example, town centre closure has had an impact on businesses and footfall.

The Chief Executive informed Council that the Plan will be reviewed annually to take into account changing circumstances and progress made against the well-being objectives and to ensure that the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are met. The revised commitments and measures will supersede those commitments and measures set out in the current Corporate Plan and will become the updated Corporate Plan 2018-2022 reviewed for 2020-21. He informed Council that delivery will be supported by the Medium Term Financial Strategy and directorate business plans and monitored quarterly through the Corporate Performance Assessment process, directorate management team meetings and the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and taking into account recommendations made by the Recovery Panel.

He highlighted the main changes which proposed in relation to the learner outcomes section due to the introduction of hybrid and blended learning and the development of safe school environments. There will be an increased focus on infrastructure support for

businesses to overcome the impact of the pandemic. In relation to building resilient communities, the Council will work in partnership with Town and Community Councils and community groups to create long term solutions to manage and maintain facilities / services. In relation to culture and leisure there was a need to rebuild participation by improving accessibility and removing barriers. Opportunities would be looked at in relation to digital transformation to evolve new ways of working and service re-modelling.

He informed Council that Cabinet had proposed changes in relation to adding a narrative in relation to vacant premises and free parking and to continue to work with existing and start-up businesses. In relation to working with Town and Community Councils, the Council will also work with the third sector. There would also be an additional to work on reducing homelessness and to work with rough sleepers using Welsh Government funding. The Council will develop a mental health strategy for adults and children. The Council will also develop apprenticeship opportunities. The Leader commended the revisions to the Corporate Plan.

A member of Council questioned whether the financial impact of the pandemic will have an impact on the number of staff the Council employs. The Chief Executive informed Council that the financial impact of the pandemic was as yet unknown as it was not known the extent of what would be funded by the Welsh Government. He stated that the Council had new burdens and there may be a change of roles for staff and new roles. A covid fund had been created and he was optimistic that the Welsh Government would fund one off costs, but he was concerned at the loss of income to the Council. He stated that will be working differently and it was not about reducing the number of staff.

A member of Council stated that the mental health strategy should also include older people due to the loneliness they have experienced during the pandemic. The Leader commented that the strategy will cover all adults and children with the ambition for it to be delivered for the health board and the third sector.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the updates to the Corporate Plan 2018-22 reviewed for 2020-21 attached as Appendix A and adopts the revised Corporate Plan attached as Appendix B.

435. **BRIDGEND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) - REVISED DELIVERY AGREEMENT**

The Development Planning Team Leader advised Members of the necessity to revise the Local Development Plan Delivery Agreement (DA), previously approved by the Welsh Government (WG) in June 2018 and sought approval to make amendments to the Timetable for LDP preparation in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. He informed Council that the Development Control Committee had, at its meeting on 20 August 2020, agreed the recommendations in this report and referred the recommendations to Council for approval.

He reported that the Council received a letter from the Welsh Government on 7 July 2020 advising it to undertake an assessment of the technical evidence base underpinning the replacement LDP, alongside the preferred strategy and policies in terms of sensitivity to the consequences of the pandemic. He stated that this task had been completed with the findings outlined at Appendix 1 of the report for noting. The Welsh Government had also advised that Delivery Agreements should be adjusted to account for any necessary changes to the LDP timetable due to delays caused by the pandemic. This should also include amendments to the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) given the need to adjust to new patterns of working and consider alternative methods of stakeholder engagement brought about by the need to maintain social distancing. He outlined the proposed revisions to the timetable. He stated that the

Deposit Plan should be subject to consultation between January and March 2021 (previously July - August 2020), however an allowance had been made to extend the statutory consultation period of 6 weeks to 8 weeks to provide more time for people to provide their views whilst accounting for any further restrictions imposed due to the pandemic. He informed Council that the final adoption of the LDP is likely to be delayed by up to 6 months as a result, though the dates relating to the stages following submission of the plan to the Welsh Government are indicative. He outlined how the CIS has been amended to account for different methods of stakeholder engagement to maintain the social distancing measures that are likely to be required for the foreseeable future.

RESOLVED:

That Council:

- approved the revisions to the timetable and Community Involvement Scheme and authorised the Group Manager Planning & Development Services to submit the revised Delivery Agreement (attached at Appendix 2) to Welsh Government; and
- provided delegated authority to the Group Manager Planning & Development Services to make any factual corrections or minor amendments to the Delivery Agreement as considered necessary.

436. INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING

The Mayor informed Council that he had received a message from the Director of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal informing that there had been a release made to the Conservative press claiming that the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal supports the M4 relief road and blamed Welsh Government for its cancellation, Ms Beirne is an officer and let Mr Frank Holmes give his view as an independent businessman. Ms Beirne did not endorse the criticism of the Welsh Government in cancelling the M4 relief road. He requested that the Conservative Member who had made the original statement correct their statement made to the press.

The Leader of the Conservative Group requested a point of order as he believed there had been a breach of the Constitution. The Mayor stated that the statement was as a result of a message which he had received from the Director of the CCR City Deal. The Monitoring Officer advised that it had not been referenced which part of the Constitution had been breached. The Mayor stated that the message he had received from the Director of the CCR City Deal was that someone had spoken to the Conservative press. The Leader of the Conservative Group stated that it was not clear that the remark had been made by the Conservative Group. The Mayor stated that the remark was unlikely to have been made by the Labour Group and that the Director of the CCR City Deal did not criticise the Welsh Government, but the remarks had been by someone who is independent of the City Deal. The Conservative Group Leader and Deputy Leader took issue with assertion made against their Group. A member of Council who had asked the question at the presentation in relation to the cancellation of the M4 relief road clarified that he had not contacted anybody, which included the press.

A motion was made to move progress on the matter, which was seconded.

The result of the vote was 20 in favour to move progress on the matter and 9 in favour of continuing the debate.

The Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer reported on the following Information Reports which had been published since the last meeting of Council.

Title	Date Published
Urgent Delegated Decisions	10 September 2020
Final Statement of Accounts 2019-20	10 September 2020

RESOLVED: That Council acknowledges the publication of the documents listed in this report

437. **TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FROM:**

Question from Councillor T Thomas to the Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

Will the Cabinet Member outline their plans to reduce the risk of homelessness during the continued concern of the Covid-19 pandemic?

Response of the Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

As you have previously been informed, individuals become homeless for a plethora of reasons, for example, a relationship breakdown, difficulties in a parent and child relationship, domestic abuse. These reasons (risks) have not changed due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, but what has changed is the expectation on local authorities.

As you will know, at the start of the pandemic all local authorities were expected to ensure that no individual was street homeless during the lockdown. Welsh Government expected Bridgend County Borough Council to provide suitable temporary accommodation *with en-suite facilities* to this group. Welsh Government expanded the definition of vulnerability under the current Housing Act to consider the impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic. Their view is that the COVID- 19 pandemic presents a grave and exceptional risk to those persons who are homeless as these individuals may be unable to adhere to health advice, self- isolate, socially distance or maintain necessary hygiene requirements and it appears almost inevitable that a person who is either street homeless or faced with street homelessness is less able than an ordinary homeless person to fend for himself or herself. One impact of this change in the guidance has meant accommodation units where we would usually place homeless individuals did not meet the current requirement i.e. due to social-distancing the capacity threshold was reduced, and need for en-suite facilities due to the highly contagious nature of the COVID-19 virus.

Last year Cabinet set our strategy to tackle homelessness in Bridgend County Borough, with the aim being ***“To work collaboratively on a corporate basis with external partners, and service users, in a responsive, creative and timely manner to prevent and relieve homelessness throughout the county borough, ensuring people can access suitable accommodation, with the support required to meet their needs”***.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not changed our ambition, but with the additional funding provided by Welsh Government it has allowed us to expedite some of our plan and bring forward projects which otherwise would have been waiting in the pipeline for funding to be made available.

Our co-produced plan understood homelessness is a complex and multi-layered issue requiring a multifaceted response. Analysis of needs of the cohort of people that have been housed during the COVID-19 pandemic confirms this to be the case. For example, out of those households placed during the COVID-19 pandemic, only 1 in 15 had no support needs with everyone else having needs which required mental health and/or substance misuse support - providing accommodation is not the only answer. In order to ensure that the housing provided is suitable for the individual, the individual must be willing and wanting to address some of their other needs.

Bridgend County Borough Council has submitted funding bids to Welsh Government for both capital and revenue projects to help ease the additional housing requirement. I've set out below some examples of the types of projects we have supported with the additional funding from Welsh Government, which I hope you find useful and as always I am happy to meet to discuss in more detail or if possible arrange visits such as the one we carried out at the Brynmenyn Hostel last week.

The revenue projects include providing additional support services for Brynmenyn Hostel which has allowed for the hostel to be used for triage and identify the support need of service users. We have also used the revenue grant to support Pobl to manage accommodation on Commercial Street in Maesteg and the officers are working regionally with neighbouring authorities and the Cwm Taff Morgannwg Health Board to deliver a joint pilot outreach project related to substance misuse, which has had a positive start and I hope will be sustainable for the future.

The capital projects have received indicative support from Welsh Government and will look to increase the number of accommodation units in Bridgend. These projects range from the purchase of properties in the private sector by RSLs, and conversions of homes that no longer meet the needs of our homelessness demographic to extending the capacity in our current schemes.

The Housing Solutions Team, in my opinion has gone above and beyond to find every homeless person in Bridgend accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to do so during this period of global concern.

Councillor Thomas in his supplementary question asked what the Council is doing to support armed forces veterans from the risk of becoming homeless. The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations informed Members that the Council is working with the third sector to support veterans and has signed a commitment to support armed forces veterans. The Armed Forces Champion informed Council that it actively supports veterans charities and he outlined a recent case where a veteran had become homeless, was placed in temporary accommodation pending a move to more permanent accommodation. Councillor Thomas thanked the Members for their response and stated that he would follow this up with a written question to the Armed Forces Champion.

A member asked a supplementary question referring to the extensive discussions at the Recovery Panel and questioned the partnership working and response received from partners during the pandemic. The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations informed Council that the Council has collaborated with the third sector which has responded rapidly during the pandemic with excellent support from the Wallich, Caer Las and Pobl. She stated that key to this was the support element and that the third sector and Housing Solutions had worked excellently together and meeting weekly. In addition, South Wales Police had responded quickly to anti-social behaviour incidents and had undertaken preventative work in the community. Local businesses, such as hoteliers and owners of bed and breakfast establishments had responded positively by

providing accommodation to the homeless. Registered Social Landlords had attended meetings of the Rapid Rehousing Panel but had furloughed their staff.

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

There is a warning following publication of a joint LGA report with the Centre for Mental Health which sets out the need for preventative local services to help reduce health inequalities and ensure better mental health for all.

Could the Cabinet Member let us know what preventative measures are we taking in our County to help everyone to stay mentally well, including those affected by COVID-19?

Response of the Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

In response to the question on what preventative measures are in place to help people stay mentally well within the County Borough.

The following describes the services that are currently in place

Children's Services:

Many children will benefit from early help and support at some time in their childhood and some will require help from specialist mental health services. In addition to those young people with identified mental health needs, there are many more with early stage difficulties, including those living in situations that increase the risk of developing significant problems and who may benefit from receiving early support to actively promote good mental health.

The key to good mental health, in children and young people, is a robust graduated approach involving the family in issues such as: a healthy birth, consistent, positive parenting, balanced nutrition and exercise, attainment at school, having friends and an ability to cope with life events. Children and young people with good mental health are able to develop emotionally, creatively and intellectually and have the resilience to cope with life's difficulties. It is recognised that childhood experiences impact significantly on the ability to be an effective and nurturing parent in the future.

There are a wide range of preventative services within the integrated working and family support portfolio to support better mental health for children and young people. These include:

- Three early locality hubs located in the north, west and east of the county borough. These include family support workers, family engagement officers, school based counsellors, lead workers (youth workers), education welfare officers, emotional wellbeing workers and community counselling.
- A central hub including a range of specialist services including those to support children on the 'edge of care' and the youth justice service.
- Youth development service – youth workers, participation workers, part-time youth service etc. Specifically, there is a youth emotional wellbeing team that provide support to young people 11 to 25 years old based on an assessed need.
- Early years and childcare including Flying Start.

More specifically, there is a child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) resource within the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) alongside two public health

nurses who are able to signpost and direct children, young people and families to the correct services.

Educational Psychology Service (EPS)

The EPS has continued to support our children, young people, school staff and families with a specific focus on well-being in the following ways:

- continued contact and consultation support for schools and families using a telephone support line, emails and virtual meetings;
- developed and distributed 11 packs of materials to schools to support the mental health and well-being of staff, pupils and families during the spring summer term 2020;
- set up and led a returning to school task and finish group in summer term 2020 with representation from schools and local authority officers;
- sent out well-being surveys for school staff across BCBC and followed up all the respondents who requested support;
- developed a Recovery, Re-introduction and Renewal Handbook for Schools and Education Settings following critical incidents to support the reintegration of pupils back into school in autumn term 2020;
- following requests for support, set up two projects this autumn:
 - Year 11 support for pupils in Brynteg School;
 - Year 7 transition support for vulnerable pupils in Archbishop McGrath Catholic School;
- PERMA well-being profiling tool will be piloted this year across 10 Bridgend schools;
- 100% increase in online emotional learning support assistant (ELSA) supervision delivered by EPS focused on recovery and well-being this academic year;
- undertaking a mindfulness research project initially at Ysgol Bryn Castell;
- adverse childhood experiences (ACE)s training rollout pilot via webinars and live EPS support;
- planning meetings by the link educational psychologist (EP) with all schools to identify their priority and support needs.

There will be an increased focus on well-being and recovery this academic year, in addition to the projects specified above. Well-being and good mental health will continue to underpin all our consultation and intervention work.

Adult Services

There are a wide range of preventative services for adults including those provided jointly with the Health Board

In 2019 the Local Authority remodelled their mental health provision to offer a Prevention and Early Intervention service (**DEWR**) that provides a community service for citizens experiencing mental ill health. This was to ensure we could support our citizens who did not meet the criteria for some specialist services.

The ethos of **DEWR** is to address social issues that are impacting on an individual or their families/supporters to prevent the onset of a mental illness. **DEWR** offers a number of flexible, person-centred approaches to ensure that citizens are able to fully participate in society and that the focus remains on their views, wishes and feelings. We engage in direct work with citizens and families targeting their identified support needs in order to promote mental wellbeing.

We can support citizens aged 16 and above who are at high risk of developing poor or impaired mental health, and their families and carers. This can include people experiencing homelessness, high functioning Autistic Spectrum Disorder or aspects of a Learning Difficulty.

DEWR can provide high-quality, person-centred support to citizens designed to enable them to achieve and sustain optimum levels of independence and mental wellbeing, either by group activity or on a one to one basis. The team also supports colleagues in Children Services to assist with the development and transition of a child into adulthood, by addressing any emerging mental health issues.

During these unprecedented and unique times, our service has had to adapt to continue to meet the needs of our population. The introduction and increased use of technology has enabled us to support the community, and with the commitment of staff, we have met the challenges that Covid 19 has produced. Regular contact and assistance were vital for many within our locality, and all forms of contact were doubled, to provide reassurance and confidence to those we support.

Via the medium of Skype, staff have continued to offer group work such as gardening, crafting, cooking, and Mindfulness sessions. The day to day preventative work for sustaining mental health continues as the wellbeing of those under our care has been our priority, and we have also increased our involvement and engagement with carers and supporters to sustain stability within the home during such difficult periods. Alongside the tremendous efforts of our third sector partners such as BAVO, the team has endeavoured to support those most vulnerable in the community, to ensure their safety and manage their anxieties about the current situation.

As expected, the pressures and associated outcomes of lockdown and such uncertainty has taken its toll on many of our residents, and the team remains extremely busy. The aim for the future is to continue developing new approaches to target challenges that have surfaced during these extraordinary times. This may include self-esteem and body image anxiety, an increase in addictive behaviours and more intensive work with families where ASD is prominent. The disruption of routine has hit this group particularly hard and a section of the team will concentrate on providing targeted intervention to minimise the impact of the pandemic for those in this category. We will continue to provide support to those who require help at the earliest stage to prevent the need for long term intervention at a later period.

Assisted Recovery in the Community (ARC) is joint Health and Local Authority Prevention and Wellbeing service which provides Occupational Therapy, community support and practical advice, guidance and structured support for individuals with mental health issues. The team offer assessment, which can then provide a wide and varied range of medical interventions, psychological therapies, either in groups or on a one to one basis.

The adult team do liaise closely with our third sector partners and voluntary organisations, police, education, housing, employment services and interlink the support they can provide.

Councillor Hussain was pleased to note that the Council its best to keep residents mentally, physically and socially very healthy. He was concerned about the absence of mention about elderly population who do suffer with depression, isolation, loneliness and alcohol dependence and not to forget in this vulnerable group 'post COVID 19 stress syndrome'. Councillor Hussain in his supplementary question was curious to know more about PERMA well-being profiling tool which you are going to pilot this year across 10 Bridgend schools and could the Cabinet Member let the Council know more about it? The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help undertook to provide a written reply.

A member of Council asked what the Council's plans are for working with the third sector and did it dovetail with the Regional Partnership Board. The Head of Children's Services informed Members that the service is working very closely with the third sector who report to the Regional Partnership Board and is a priority for the region and its sub-groups.

A member of Council referred to the possibility of a local lockdown and asked if the Council could do anything differently. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help informed Members that the Council is having to respond daily to a rapidly changing picture. The Head of Children's Services informed Council that the service continues to operate on semi lockdown basis, while continuing to support citizens. Operations are subject to review daily and support to citizens is in line with the Service Delivery Plan and with Welsh Government guidance. She stated that in the event of a local lockdown, the service would resume tighter oversight mechanisms. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help informed Council that pressures are being experienced by staff working in schools which impact on services and that experiences of Caerphilly and RCT Councils will be picked up on.

438. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 18:11

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PRESENTATION BY VALLEYS TO COAST & PROGRAMME OF FUTURE PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce a presentation to Council from Valleys To Coast and to inform Members of the programme of future presentations to Council.

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

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

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 Arrangements have been made for the Chief Executive and the Director of Development of Valleys To Coast to deliver a presentation to Council at the meeting of 21 October 2020.
- 3.2 Valleys To Coast was formed on 12 September 2003 through a transfer of Bridgend County Borough Council housing stock. Following a change in its governance structure in 2019 from a local authority and tenant based Board towards a skills based Board, as part of the proposal Valleys To Coast undertook to deliver an annual presentation to Council which sets out its work; to engage in an annual discussion with the Scrutiny process and attend quarterly strategic meetings with the Council. This will be the first annual presentation to be delivered to Council.
- 3.3 Presentations will be made to future meetings of Council by the Council's partners, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of South Wales Police and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board on the following dates:

18 November 2020 - Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of South Wales Police

16 December 2020 - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Members are requested to receive the presentation by the Chief Executive and Director of Development of Valleys To Coast.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

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

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That Members note the presentation by the Chief Executive and Director of Development of Valleys To Coast.

9.2 That Members note the programme of future presentations to Council as outlined at paragraph 3.3.

Mark Shephard
Chief Executive
9 October 2020

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Background Documents

None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Council's Annual Report 2019-20 (Appendix A) for Council to consider and approve.

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

- 2.1 The annual report evaluates our progress against our well-being objectives, outlined in our Corporate Plan. This report relates to our performance for the year April 2019 to March 2020 and the well-being objectives for that financial year, namely:

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

3. Background

- 3.1 According to the [Shared Purpose Shared Future](#) statutory guidance (SPSF: 2) for the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, individual public bodies must annually review the progress of their well-being objectives and publish a report to assess the extent to which these objectives contribute to the 7 wellbeing goals in accordance with the sustainable development principal.
- 3.2 Under section 15 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and in accordance with the related statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Government, the authority must publish its assessment of performance for the previous financial year before 31 October.
- 3.3 In March 2019, the Council published its Corporate Plan 2018-22, revised 2019-20. The Plan sets out its vision, which is, always to act as 'One Council working together to improve lives', and its three well-being objectives. The Plan also reiterates the well-being objectives for 2019-20.

- 3.4 The Plan defined 41 commitments to deliver the three well-being objectives and set out 56 outcome focused indicators to measure the progress for the financial year.
- 3.5 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) identified how it would best use its resources to support the achievement of the well-being objectives and statutory duties, including the management of financial pressures and risks over the following four years.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The Annual Report, prepared under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, evaluates how well the Council succeeded in 2019-20 in delivering its commitments and planned outcomes for the financial year, using its success measures and other evidence.
- 4.2 Overall, the Council performed well in 2019-20. Of the 41 commitments 34 (82.9%) were completed successfully with 3 (7.3%) achieving most of their milestones and 4 (9.8%) missing most of their milestones.
- 4.3 Of the 56 indicators identified for the Corporate Plan, 52 can be compared against their target: 35 (67.3%) met their target, 9 (17.3%) were off target by less than 10% and 8 (15.4%) missed the target by more than 10%. Detailed information about the Council's performance is included in **Appendix A**.
- 4.4 Due to Covid-19, Welsh Government confirmed that there would be no data collection of Public Accountability Measures (PAMs) for 2019-20 therefore no analysis has been undertaken in relation to these indicators.
- 4.5 A summary of funding and financial performance for the year, regulators' findings and themes that underpin our work are also set out in the report.
- 4.6 This is an important document as it provides citizens and stakeholders with detailed information about the Council's performance against its well-being objectives and outcomes.
- 4.7 Once approved, the Annual Report will be published on the Council's website and shared with stakeholders. Hard copies of the report will be produced and placed in the Council's public libraries.

5. Effect upon policy framework & procedure rules

- 5.1 The Annual Report provides an assessment of progress on the Corporate Plan 2018-22 which forms part of the corporate policy framework.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 The Annual Report provides information on the Council's performance and has no negative equality implications.

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

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered when writing this report. It is considered there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of the well-being goals / objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That subject to any amendments by Cabinet on 20 October, that Council approves the Annual Report 2019-20 (**Appendix A**).

Mark Shephard
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Background documents

None

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ANNUAL REPORT

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR



*“One council
working
together to
improve lives”*



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Introduction

Welcome to Bridgend County Borough Council's annual report. It evaluates our progress against our well-being objectives, outlined in our Corporate Plan. This report relates to our performance for the year April 2019 to March 2020.

Our vision is to act as "one Council working together to improve lives". We will do this by delivering our well-being objectives. These represent our ambitions and commitments to our citizens and our contribution to Wales' seven well-being goals as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act).

Progress against our well-being objectives

This report looks back on the progress we made together during 2019-20 on the steps to meet our well-being objectives. To evaluate performance, we have 56 measures of success, which we review annually to set targets to drive improvement.

Analysis of performance shows that for 52 of the measures for which we have data:

- 35 (67.3%) met their target
- 9 (17.3%) were off target by less than 10%
- 8 (15.4%) missed the target by more than 10%

Trend data is available for 45 indicators. Of these, 26 (58%) indicators showed an improvement in performance or maintained the maximum level of performance compared to last year. 18 (40%) indicators showed a downturn in performance, with 1 (2%) being the same

In addition to our measures of success, we also made a number of commitments to support the delivery of our well-being objectives. We delivered what we said we would, with 34 (83%) of our commitments successfully completed. Three (7%) achieving most of their milestones and a further four (10%) judged not to have made sufficient progress.

The implementation of the Social Services and Well-being Act (SSWB) continues to be a priority and is a driver for change and for new ways of working. The principles underpinning the SSWB Act align with the sustainable development principle enshrined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

We continue to work hard to change and improve services at the same time as having to make significant efficiency savings. For 2019-20, we had to make total savings of £7.621 million with a further £2.413 million in 2020-21. Making smarter use of our resources will include prioritising our spend better. It will also mean investing in those things that make the most difference to outcomes for local people, and particularly the political priorities around young people and societies most vulnerable.

This report focuses on the key activities carried out during 2019-20 to help achieve our well-being objectives. We use a combination of quantitative (measures of success) and qualitative (case studies) evidence to measure progress.

Despite the financial challenges we face, we are proud of what we have achieved. We remain committed to working with our partners and local communities to achieve our ambitions for Bridgend County Borough now and over the longer term. We are putting in place solid foundations that future generations can benefit from and improve on. We do this so that we can provide effective services which are important to our citizens, and that will improve people's lives now and in the future.

The Covid-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges that have had a dramatic impact on the way we do business. Collaboration, partnership working, committed staff and an army of volunteers have helped us to keep delivering vital services and provide support to people from across Bridgend County Borough. Service reform and new ways of working introduced in extremely short timescales have provided insight into the benefits of doing different things to support communities. The Council is committed to maximising the lessons learned to inform our planning and service design to deliver better outcomes for people who live, work and visit Bridgend County Borough.

Please look at our annual report and let us know what you think. For those readers that would like to see more in depth information, the report includes many links to detailed reports and data. We welcome comments on how we have done and how we can further improve our services for those we serve.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huw David".

Cllr Huw David – Leader of the Council



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Shephard".

Mark Shephard – Chief Executive

A snapshot of Bridgend County Borough

In Numbers



Population	144,876
Area	98.5 square miles
Households	64,766
Average House Price	£156,365 (UK HPI: March 2020)

Primary schools	48
Secondary schools	9
Special schools	3
Faith schools	6
Wards	39
Councillors	54
Constituency AMs	2
Regional AMs	4
MPs	2
Council staff –excluding schools (Full time equivalent)	4,303

Our Services include:

Bridgend County Borough Council delivers over 800 services, these include:

- schools
- social care
- safeguarding vulnerable adults & children
- maintaining highways and public transport
- refuse and recycling
- street cleaning and safety
- parks and play areas
- elections
- collecting revenues and administering benefits
- leisure, arts and libraries
- supporting business and tourism
- special events and festivals
- environmental health
- planning and building control

Well-being

Below is a snap shot of economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being across Bridgend County Borough. These categories of well-being are prescribed in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) 2015 Act:

Economic well-being

- 76.2% of the working age population are in employment (year ending March 2020)
- 20.6% of pupils achieved 5 GCSEs at A*- A (academic year 2018-19)
- 98.8% of pupils at A level achieved level 3 threshold, (academic year 2018-19)
- 4095 active businesses
- More than 80 local entrepreneurs helped to start their own business after attending a week-long course with the PopUp Business School in Bridgend
- 7 awareness sessions held for the EU settlement scheme

- 30 local businesses attended the SME business breakfast to promote apprenticeships
- Stalls from over 50 businesses and organisations were at the Jobs Fair in Porthcawl where over 300 people came to see opportunities available

Social well-being

- 22% of adults take part in sport 3 times a week
- 30,055 junior swims – 4,219 disabled children supported
- 47,506 over 60's free swims recorded for 5,200 individual users
- 1968 referrals through the National Exercise Referral Scheme resulting in 28,625 visits to 72 weekly classes
- 70% of adults feel they have good or very good general health
- More than seven out of every 10 children is a healthy weight (74.4%)
- 5 hours of day time support provided for rough sleepers every day Monday to Friday throughout the year
- 1,857 young people got involved in 123 outreach activities and drop in sessions across Bridgend County Borough to address anti-social behaviour.

Cultural well-being

- 74% of adults attend or participate in arts, culture or heritage activities at least three times a year
- 65% of people strongly agree that the 'Welsh language is something to be proud of'
- 27% of adults volunteer
- 11,437 children attended library events and activities over the summer holidays in 2019
- 2,472 children took part in the Summer Reading Challenge in 2019
- 45,882 children attended library events and activities throughout 2019-20
- 167,127 children's books were borrowed in 2019-20
- 794 Year 6 Pupils received National Cycle Standards training during 2019-20

Environmental well-being

- 83% of people are satisfied with their local area as a place to live
- 2,210 trees were planted at 6 locations across Bridgend County Borough
- 67.66% of waste in Bridgend County Borough is recycled which is above the Welsh Government target of 64%
- In 2019-20, Bridgend County Borough residents recycled 7,893 tonnes of food waste, which is enough to power a typical school for over four years.
- Bridgend Green Network has been established to bring together volunteer coordinators for environmental and conservation activities. 22 Members from 14 different organisations are volunteering to improve our green spaces.
- Rest Bay, Trecco Bay and Porthcawl Marina retained their Blue Flag awards
- 9 parks across Bridgend County Borough achieved a Green Flag award from Keep Wales Tidy

How we assess our performance

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to act in a manner that seeks to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Based on the sustainable development principle, our well-being objectives are intended to deliver long term positive outcomes. We review progress annually to ensure planned activities are getting us closer to our goals. Our well-being objectives also discharge our statutory duty under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to ‘make arrangements to secure continuous improvement’. We use a combination of quantitative performance measures and targets to assess performance, along with the progress of our commitments to help deliver our key programmes.

Our contribution to the well-being goals

Our well-being objectives are designed to maximize our contribution to achieving the seven national well-being goals. These are set out below:

Well-being Goal	Well-being Objective: Supporting a successful economy	Well-being Objective: Helping people be more self-reliant	Well-being Objective: Smarter use of resources
A prosperous Wales	✓		✓
A resilient Wales			✓
A healthier Wales	✓	✓	✓
A more equal Wales	✓	✓	✓
A Wales of cohesive communities	✓	✓	✓
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	✓	✓	
A globally responsible Wales	✓		

Performance measures

A number of performance measures are identified within the Council’s Corporate Plan which help show the progress made in delivering the Well-Being Objectives we have set ourselves. Where applicable, targets are set against these performance measures to show what we want to achieve.

Performance measures are assigned a Red Amber Green (RAG) status:

- **green** where the measure is on or above target
- **amber** where the result is within 10% of the target
- **red** where the result is greater than 10% from the target.

The trend arrow refers to the improvement trend. An improved trend on last year's performance will indicate an upward arrow. A brief explanation of where performance is below target is also given.

Key:	↑ = increased or maximum performance	↓ = performance declined	↔ = performance stayed the same
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Commitments

Progress against our key programmes' commitments affects how we assess progress on each well-being objective. We assign a RAG status to each commitment using a balanced appraisal of performance along with the current progress of agreed tasks. The self-assessment categories are below:

A **red** status means that there are delays of more than 10% of the total length of the planned action. And/or budget and/or performance measures for the commitment are mostly red.

An **amber** status means that there are delays of less than 10% of the total length of the planned action. And/or performance measures for the commitment are a mixture of red, amber and green.

A **green** status means that the commitment is being met, and on budget. Also that the performance measures are mostly green.

Well-being Objective 1

Supporting a successful economy

Why we choose this objective?

We want to build a county borough where people have more opportunities to secure meaningful work, develop a career and improve their family income and circumstances. We know that higher levels of prosperity boost health and well-being and create more resilient communities that need fewer services. We believe that education remains the most important lever for improving the life chances of young people. We believe that a successful economy can and should be balanced against the needs of the environment.

What do we want to achieve?

Our Aims

1. To help local people develop skills and take advantage of opportunities to succeed and to extend that success to every community in the county borough
2. To create conditions for growth and enterprise
3. To create successful communities

Our key programmes.

Under this objective, there are four key programmes to help achieve our aims and deliver improvements in well-being.

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

Bridgend County Borough Council and its neighbouring South East Wales Councils, make up the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. The £1.28 billion Deal will deliver a range of programmes that will increase connectivity, improve physical and digital infrastructure as well as regional business governance over the next 10-15 years. The Deal is projected to deliver 25,000 extra jobs across the region.

Strategic Review of Post 16 Education and Training –

This programme evaluates education provision and curriculum delivery across Bridgend County Borough. It ensures there are clear options available to provide the best possible opportunities for learners in the county borough.

Successful Economy Programme –

This programme consists of key regeneration and development schemes, including regeneration and a flood defence scheme in Porthcawl and Maesteg Town Hall Redevelopment. We are also developing a programme of improvement in Bridgend Town Centre, using Welsh Government's Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme. As part of the Valleys Taskforce, we are working to maximise opportunities for regeneration in the valleys.

Tackling Poverty

To ensure a consistent and targeted approach to tackling poverty we are streamlining the available grants to tackle poverty so we can focus on alleviating child poverty and supporting vulnerable families. We are doing this through early intervention initiatives including Flying Start, Families First, Supporting People and Communities First Legacy Funding.

How did we do?

Performance Measures

Aim – To help local people develop skills and take advantage of opportunities to succeed

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018 -19	Target 2019 - 20	Actual 2019 - 20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
Percentage of working age population that is in employment.** (Higher)	70.8%	71%	76.2%	↑	76.6%
Percentage of economically active 16 - 64 year olds.** (Higher)	74.0%	74%	78.6%	↑	73.7%
Number of apprentices employed across the organisation. (Higher)	43	25	35	↓	N/A
Number of apprenticeships taken by looked after children. (Higher)	1	1	2	↑	N/A
Percentage of Year 11 leavers from schools in the authority identified as not being in education, employment or training (NEETs) in the Careers Wales Destination Survey. (Lower)	0.9%	1.3%	0.7%	↑	1.8%
Percentage of care leavers who are in education, training or employment at: a) 12 months b) 24 months after leaving care (Higher)	a) 63.64%	60%	54.55%	↓	N/A
	b) 57.89%	60%	57.14%	↓	N/A
<p>a) This was impacted by a small cohort, who disengaged from programmes they had signed up to the beginning of the academic year. A renewed focus in supervision of young people who are NEET will be taken forward into 20-21.</p> <p>b) Where the young people are NEET this relates to physical or mental health issues which prevents them from working, or they are in custody. We will continue to strive to improve our performance in this area.</p>					
Percentage of 16 - 64 year olds without qualifications.* (Higher)	10.5%	11.2%	9.2%	↑	8.2%
Percentage of schools meeting the Learning & Skills Measure in terms of the subject offer at Key Stage 4 & Post 16. (Higher)	100%	100%	100%	↔	N/A
Number of participants in the Employability Bridgend programme going into employment (Higher)	New 2019-20	180	334	N/A	N/A
Gross Value added per head (Higher, data published one year in arrears)	£3,077	£3,078	£3,209	↑	N/A

* Data for year ending Dec 2019 (Stats Wales) (statswales)

**Data for the year ending March 2020

Aim – To create conditions for growth and enterprise

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018 -19	Target 2019 -20	Actual 2019 - 20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
Total annual expenditure by tourists. (Higher)	£347.3m	£347.4m	£362.69m	↑	N/A
The number of business start-ups. (Higher)	460	461	475	↑	N/A
The number of active businesses. (Higher)	4160	4161	4095	↓	N/A
Whilst this is only slightly lower, future figures are going to be negatively affected by the impact of COVID – 19. Economic recovery planning will be at the forefront of our activities for the coming year to mitigate the potential hit as businesses go into administration (Note: Due to a lag in data, figure provided is for 2018).					
The percentage occupancy of Council-owned starter units. (Higher)	93.5%	93.5%	95%	↑	N/A

Aim – To create successful town centres

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018 -19	Target 2019 -20	Actual 2019 - 20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
The number of visitors to town centres - footfall for: (Higher)					
a) Bridgend	a) 6.7m	7.2m	6.3m	↓	N/A
b) Porthcawl	b) 2.1m	2.5m	2.7m	↑	N/A
Bridgend town centre footfall was adversely affected by a number of factors. Nationally, the uncertainty over BREXIT and a general election dented consumer confidence across the UK. Locally, the closure of the Ford plant and periods of heavy rain and flooding throughout the winter were a factor. The current configuration of the pedestrian space and Traffic Regulation Order in the town centre are seen by many visitors and businesses as barriers to footfall growth.					
The number of vacant premises in town centres (Lower)					
a) Bridgend	a) 60	69	64	↓	N/A
b) Maesteg	b) 10	9	13	↓	
c) Porthcawl	c) 11	10	19	↓	
d) Pencoed	d) 6	6	7	↓	
BCBC are progressing the review of its Local Development Plan with a view to consulting later in 2020. This will contain appropriate retail policies which will help to promote the vitality and viability of BCBC's town centres.					
The financial value of externally funded town centre regeneration projects underway/in development. (Higher)	£20.8m	£13m	£15m	N/A	N/A

Steps taken to achieve our key programmes

We made 15 commitments to support the delivery of this well-being objective, through our four key programmes. For 12 commitments, we achieved all that we had planned. Therefore, we have assessed our performance as **green**. The remaining three commitments we assessed as **red** because we did not fully complete the planned actions. We did not make a decision within the financial year 2019-20 regarding post 16 provision. We have since asked schools to work together to deliver on a range of improvements to the current situation. We did not complete our actions to progress strategies to assist young people who are more able and talented as this is now being delivered through the Central South Consortium. All activities to drive forward our agenda in support of pupils eligible for free school meals were completed apart from one. Changes to the structure of some resources planned to provide targeted support to vulnerable learners in having their educational needs met were delayed. These have now been reconfigured.

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

We are one of 10 Local Authorities that are part of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal programme. City Deal will help boost economic growth by improving transport links, increasing skills, building homes, helping people into work and giving businesses the support they need to grow.

Metro Plus

The Metro Plus programme was initially agreed in March 2019. CCR City Deal in collaboration with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales identified a proposed £50 million for local transport schemes to support the implementation of the South Wales Metro.

The programme is designed to create 'interchanges' incorporating all modes of transport which can act as key hubs for using new and extended metro networks. This will improve access to work, training, education, culture, retail and leisure throughout the region

Phase 1 of Metro Plus saw each Local Authority within South East Wales receive a £3m share towards implementing schemes in their area. In Bridgend County Borough the funding is being used to implement a Park and Ride facility at Pyle as part of the development of an integrated transport hub. The hub will serve the local community and the nearby settlements of Porthcawl, Kenfig Hill, Cefn Cribwr and Cornelly with enhanced links to Village Farm Industrial estate. A bus interchange at Porthcawl is included with Active Travel connections. Programme delivery commenced in 2019 and will be complete by 2022.

The CCR is poised for the next stage of the South Wales transport network development. The potential Metro Plus phase 2 programme includes eleven local projects across the region. For Bridgend County Borough these are the Brackla Railway station and Pencoed Crossing.

Cardiff Capital Region Graduate Internships

A significant development for the City Deal was the launch of a graduate internship scheme. The scheme has provided targeted support to assist businesses create high quality placement opportunities.

The objective is to retain talented graduates in the region by highlighting the available employment opportunities and the investments in state-of-the art sectors such as financial technology, cyber security and compound semiconductors. The scheme is open to graduates from all degree backgrounds.

Key performance data on the CCR graduate scheme to end March 2020:

- 213 businesses engaged across the region, 17 of which were within the local authority of Bridgend
- 58 placement opportunities developed and advertised across the CCR
- 26 graduates placed with businesses across the CCR

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships remain a workforce planning priority. We employed 35 apprentices during 2019-20. The Council benefits from investing in growing our own talent to help with succession planning, and there are well-being improvements for those taking up the opportunity. Learning a new skill, connecting with people helps improve self-esteem, confidence, life satisfaction and improve job prospects.

To increase the number of looked after children taking up apprenticeships, the LAC Apprenticeship Group have

- Developed a pre-apprenticeship scheme
- Promoted apprenticeships to looked after children in Year 11
- Ensured relevant support is available to access the scheme

In addition, 26 looked after children in Year 11 were contacted about work experience with seven expressing an interest. Three engaged in work placements at Bryn y Cae, BCBC Catering Department and Bryngarw Park, two more secured employment.

Strategic Review of Post 16 education and training

A final decision on post 16 provision was expected during 2019. However, it was agreed in November 2019 that it would be prudent to conduct a second public consultation to measure the public views on the final three options.

- Option 1. A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new local authority maintained sixth-form centre(s).
- Option 2. A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new further education (FE) college-governed sixth-form centre(s).
- Option 3. The retention of sixth forms in all schools - the current position

The consultation took place between 2 December 2019 and 21 February 2020. To maximise the response rate a mixed methodology was used to gather views. Analysis of the findings from each of the data sources indicated that Option 3 is the preferred option. This option is now being taken forward as a solution for the foreseeable future. Schools have been tasked to work together to deliver on a range of improvements to the current situation.

More able and talented students

Each year our schools identify the brightest students and invite them to join the Seren Academy Network. In September 2019, Year 12 students for the Seren Academy network (post-16) and the Seren Foundation network (Years 8 to 11) were identified and recruited. The programmes are supported by grants from Welsh Government and good progress was made during 2019-20.

We continue to be committed to progress the development of strategies to assist young people who are more able and talented to help them reach their potential. However, we did not progress with this initiative as this is now being delivered through the Central South Consortium (CSC). The CSC are developing a regional More Able and Talented strategy, but activity was suspended due to the Covid-19 emergency. It is anticipated this work will be restarted in the autumn term of 2020. While formal education was suspended, the Council and CSC have worked in partnership to develop an “Excellence and Equity” teaching and learning strategy. Upon completion in autumn 2020, the document will be used to continue to support the improvement in specific groups of learners.

Successful Economy Programme

Porthcawl

Porthcawl has undergone significant regeneration to secure its future as a premier seaside town, creating jobs, homes and investment in the local economy for years to come. The £3m project to replace sea defences at Town Beach, has helped to transform the seafront area and protect 260 homes, businesses and historic buildings such as the Grand Pavilion.

The next phase of the Councils’ £6m plan to protect Porthcawl from flooding and coastal erosion have been submitted to Welsh Government. The business case has been approved, and the tendering process is underway. The new flood defence will see major work undertaken on the Western Breakwater, Eastern Promenade and Sandy Bay areas. The new flood defence will protect 530 homes and 175 businesses while complementing regeneration plans for Salt Lake. The improvements will act as assurance for future and current investors, businesses, visitors, and residents.



The new £1.5m Rest Bay Watersports Centre opened in October 2019. It has been purpose-built for surfers, kayakers, canoeists and paddleboard fans, as well as cyclists and walkers. The complex also includes a café, changing cubicles and showers, all weather bicycle storage, accessible beach wheelchairs and year-round lessons in watersports activities

EU funding was made available through the Welsh Government’s Tourism Attractor programme to help create this ‘must see’ destination to be enjoyed by visitors and residents alike.

In addition to physical regeneration, efforts to boost recycling, ensure Porthcawl is a tidy, and litter free place to live and visit. In partnership with Porthcawl Town Council we are trialling an innovative solution to the problem of discarded chewing gum. People are encouraged to dispose gum in ‘Gum Drop’ bins attached to lampposts along John Street. The bins are made from recycled chewing gum. They can be removed and recycled along with their contents to create a range of products, including new bins and wellington boots. Porthcawl is one of the first Welsh towns to feature the innovative bins.

Three new-dedicated bins for recycling fast-food packing are available on the Western Promenade, John Street and Griffin Park. Two water fountains will be installed along the seafront to encourage people to fill up reusable bottles instead of buying single-use plastic bottles.

Maesteg Town Hall

In partnership with Awen Cultural Trust we are redeveloping Maesteg Town Hall, a grade II listed building to become a cultural community venue to support the social and economic regeneration of the town and wider valley communities. The project will generate employment opportunities; provide a prominent and suitable arena for commercial, learning and cultural use and help sustain Maesteg town centre and increase town centre footfall. Construction is expected to take 15 months to complete having been scheduled to commence in February 2020.

Planned improvements include a modern library, a heritage and volunteering centre, a café, new workspaces, toilets and fully accessible 'changing place' facilities. A multifunctional performing arts centre is to be created on the first floor. This will incorporate the main hall, a renovated stage, improved dressing rooms, a bar and for the first time a smaller, more intimate studio theatre and community cinema. The balcony seating area will be refurbished. Both upper and lower floors will be linked by a modern glazed atrium and foyer to address accessibility throughout the building.

Bridgend town centre

As part of our work to support business and make the town more attractive and accessible the indoor market has seen a lot of improvement work to help breathe a new lease of life into it. Over the last year, a series of illustrative panels providing information about the market's rich history have been set up to welcome shoppers. The market bell, which dates back to 1837 has been relocated to the main entrance.

A central market area is now available for specialist events, family entertainment, children's play facilities and other activities designed to encourage footfall and support trade. Tables and chairs allow people to enjoy a sit down lunch for food purchased at the market.



As part of the revamp, new public toilets were built in partnership with Bridgend Town Council and the market traders association. Located by the rear entrance, one will be wheelchair accessible and contain baby-changing facilities.

Covid-19 and the lockdown has had a significant impact on traders. To support stallholders and other small and mediums sized enterprises, the Council provided rent-free support for both the Bridgend and Maesteg markets.

Valleys Task Force

We are working alongside partner authorities in South East Wales to deliver a number of regional projects supported by the VTF, including the Empty Homes Grant. The grant helps support the delivery of the Council's priority of returning empty properties into use in the valleys area of Bridgend County Borough, to help generate communities and provide more choice and suitable accommodation for residents. Three projects are completed and the Council has committed to phase two to ensure a further year of funding.

We have also begun delivering a pilot foundational economy project B-Ridges in Bridgend and Maesteg town centres. The project will trial new approaches and create a support package for start-up businesses linked to the foundation economy. As defined by Welsh Government, this consists of basic services and products that people rely on, that keep the population safe, sound and civilised. Welsh Government provided £75,000 of the £100,000 total cost, with the 'Kickstart' funding programme supplementing the funding gap.

Work is underway with both the Bryngarw and Parc Slip discovery sites as part of the Valleys Regional Park (VRP) investment programme. Working with delivery partners AWEN (Bryngarw Park) and Wildlife Trust (Parc Slip) both schemes aim to maximise the social, economic and environmental potential of the valleys' natural, cultural and heritage assets.

Caerau Heat Scheme and Bridgend Town Heat Network Project

The Caerau Heat Scheme is an innovative project. The project aims to provide a sustainable low carbon source of heat for hundreds of homes in Caerau. The scheme forms part of our approach towards responding to the decarbonisation agenda through the delivery of our Smart Energy Plan. The project gathered further momentum during 2019-20.

The Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) approved additional funding of £330,000, with a total grant offer of approx. £7.3 million. Nordic Heat were procured to deliver the technical and financial advice to the project and will support the development of an outline business case through to procurement. Work is progressing on a private wire from a local wind farm to provide electricity to the scheme. Options for the commercial delivery of the scheme are also being looked at.

The Bridgend Town Heat Network Project aims to supply several public buildings and homes with heat and power. Energy will be generated from a gas combined heat and power unit in the Bridgend Life Centre. We received a funding award of £241,000 from the Heat Network Investment Programme (HNIP) to conduct pre-commercialisation activities. This includes planning permission for the scheme, internal approval for the revised financial model and seeking approval from Council to provide borrowing for the construction of the scheme. A further £1m of capital funding is also available up until March 2021 subject to the project successfully passing through the pre-commercialisation stage.

TACKLING POVERTY

Financial well-being

The debt burden associated with poverty can be extreme. Debt affects people's ability to make decisions, including financial decisions, causing them to focus on short-term income over long-term gains, among other effects. Supporting people to manage their finances has a significant role to play in reducing future poverty.

The Housing Benefit and Supporting People teams collaborated to procure financial advice and support services from Citizens Advice. The service ran from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2020 with an option to extend for a further year. The service, known as Financial Advice and Support Service (FASS) supports people in poverty or at risk of poverty due to any of the following reasons

- Debt problems
- Financial difficulty

- Unemployment (claiming benefits, including Universal Credit (UC))
- In work poverty
- Budget management issues

The FASS service have supported 617 new clients, 83% of these clients residing in the former Communities First areas of Bridgend County Borough. The service reported almost £20,000 of debt written off and over £1million in financial gains achieved. This was mainly through welfare benefit applications.

Bridgend Learning Partnership

Having the right skills to access quality jobs is a key route out of poverty. As a member of the Bridgend Learning Partnership, we work with partners to improve the skills level of the workforce in to tackle inequality by getting more people into work and better paid jobs.

The Partnership has continued to promote apprenticeship opportunities, particularly to under represented groups. Over 3,000 students aged 11 to 16 attended 'Have a Go events ' held in schools across the borough. The days are interactive and provide students with the opportunity to experience the wide range of apprenticeship opportunities available locally and nationally. The board also promoted the benefits of the apprenticeship programme to local businesses via business meetings and well-being events.

Seventy-two young people are undertaking the junior apprenticeship programme at Bridgend College. Students attend 5 days a week and study Maths and English GCSE as well as their chosen vocational route, and nine young people with additional learning needs have completed the Intern Programme at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Employability

Employability Bridgend has had a successful year, with a very effective outreach and engagement strategy. This included 19 drop in sessions weekly and 12 engagement events and fun days to raise awareness of the support available. During 2019-20, we supported 1,254 participants from across Bridgend County Borough. Some 334 people entered employment. We worked with people currently in jobs, to further their development and improve their job prospects through training and mentoring. Some 204 people took up this offer of in work learning.

Volunteering is another avenue we utilise to help people progress. During the year, 93 participants volunteered. This is a very effective way of learning new skills and identifying new job routes, while at the same time having a positive impact on well-being. Training is an essential aspect of the employability support. 350 participants went on courses to improve their skill set and increase their chances of gaining employment or to find better jobs. While numbers tell one part of the story, the real impact on people's lives and families is best understood through the words on one of our participants.

Case Study: Employability

Davinia had been unemployed for several years and wanted a change of direction. She had some training in electrical work but felt she was struggling to get her foot in the door of the construction industry. She wanted to show her teenage daughter that women could achieve anything they set their mind to.

A neighbour recommended she go to the local Life Centre to meet with Employability Bridgend, which she did. Once signed up, Davinia was put on a CSCS course and received support with travel costs. She passed the CSCS course and her mentor supported her to secure employment through Bluewater Recruitment.

Davinia says, "Best decision ever coming to meet you... can't believe the help I had on my doorstep, it baffles me to why people aren't queuing at your door, thanks so much for everything."

Vulnerable learners

We continued to work with schools to close the gap in educational attainments for pupils eligible for free school meals and those who are not and improve outcomes for vulnerable groups including looked after children and young carers. In the 2018-2019 academic year (reported in the 2019-2020 financial year), the gap in performance at key stage 4 between pupils eligible for free school meals and those who are not, was smaller than the all-Wales average at 28.8% compared with 32.1%. All activities to drive forward our agenda in support of pupils eligible for free school meals were completed apart from one. Changes to the structure of some resources planned to provide targeted support to vulnerable learners in having their educational needs met were delayed. These resources are now reconfigured and the new 'Access to Education Team' will focus strongly on supporting the narrowing the gap agenda in 2020-2021. A profiling tool is being offered to all schools to track wellbeing progress in children who are looked after and young carers.

We continued to work with CSC to support schools in implementing the 'Closing the gap' strategy. The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) forum was launched in December 2019. This work is ongoing. Meetings have been held with Bridgend College to look at the young people that we currently have within the education system whose pathway may be Bridgend College.

Work with Careers Wales and Job Centre Plus to identify and support young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) through the 'Inspire to Work' Project continued. These partnerships have resulted in getting more participants into employment than was originally projected. To further our partnership links, plans were in place to house Inspire 2 Work staff in Job Centres throughout the borough to simplify the offer of support when a young person presents. With the onset of the Covid-19 crisis, these plans have been put on hold. These plans will need to be amended, but the drive from all parties is to co-locate staff to enhance partnership arrangements.

Well-being Objective 2

Helping people to be more self-reliant

Why we choose this objective?

Providing the right support, in the right place, at the right time can make a real difference to outcomes and ensure individuals and families can thrive. A people centred approach with a focus on prevention and wellbeing helps ensure we support people to lead independent lives and reduces the likelihood of becoming dependent on Council services.

By building on our track record of working with the third sector, the not-for-profit and private sector, we can support communities to develop their own approaches to local issues and meet people's needs within the community.

What do we want to achieve?

Our aims

1. To give people more choice and control over what support they receive by providing early access to advice and information;
2. To reduce demand by investing in targeted early help and intervention programmes;
3. To support the third sector, town and community Councils and community groups to build community resilience.

Key Programmes

Under this objective, there are two key programmes to help achieve our aims and deliver improvements in well-being.

Remodelling Social Care

- We will continue with this large programme of recommissioning adult home care, developing extra care and information and advice services for people and their carers.
- Working with partners, we are implementing a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as a single point of contact for all safeguarding concerns.
- We are implementing new models of residential care for children and young people and respite care for children with disabilities in order to make them more targeted and more effective.

Community Asset Transfer

This programme is about the sustainable transfer of assets to communities as a way to preserve community assets for the long-term and contribute to building community resilience.

How did we do?

Performance Measures

Set out below is how we performed against the performance measures we set ourselves to meet this well-being objective and what we achieved in 2019-20 against our two key programmes.

Aim – To give people more choice and control over what support they receive by providing early access to advice and information

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019- 20	Actual 2019-20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
The percentage of a) adults b) children who received advice and assistance from the information, advice and assistance service during the year. (Higher)	a) 74.36%	65%	63.91%	↓	N/A
	b) 81.37%	75%	80.06%	↓	N/A
Target marginally missed. Staffing cover has been a challenge for the service. As transformation funding became available, recruitment has taken place towards the latter quarter of the year to mitigate this.					
The percentage of people who are satisfied with the care and support they received (Higher) a) Children aged 7-17 years b) Adults aged 18 years+	a) 86%	85%	*N/A	N/A	*N/A
	b) 82.87%	85 %	*N/A	N/A	
The number of people who have been diverted from mainstream services to help them remain independent for as long as possible. (Higher)	1284	1000	1508	↑	N/A
The percentage of adults who completed a period of reablement and six months later have (Higher) : a) a reduced package of care and support b) no package of care and support	a) 67.27%	70%	71.43%	↑	N/A
	b) 61.31%	60%	68.48%	↑	N/A

*Data no longer collected as per Welsh government decision to cancel this survey

Aim – To reduce demand by investing in targeted early help and intervention programmes

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019- 20	Actual 2019-20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
The percentage of children supported to remain living within their family (Higher)	64.13%	65%	62.83%	↓	N/A
Ongoing monitoring of caseloads to ensure care and support cases are appropriately closed or stepped down to Early Help has resulted in stable workloads, whilst LAC numbers also remained stable. The effect of these 2 factors means our performance is consistently close to target and will continue to be monitored.					
The percentage of children who receive Connecting Families interventions during the year who remain out of the care system as at 31 March of that year (Higher)	93.4%	85%	92.5%	↓	N/A
The percentage of completed TAF (Team Around the Family) support plans that close with a successful outcome (Higher)	69%	72%	70%	↑	N/A

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019- 20	Actual 2019-20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
A greater number of cases were 'stepped up' to statutory services. This was the right outcome given the presenting circumstances. As these are recorded as TAFs closing without a positive outcome, it reflects negatively on performance.					
The percentage of looked after children on 31 March who have had three or more placements during the year (Lower)	10.24%	12%	9.39%	↑	N/A
The percentage of individuals discussed at Transition Panel that have a transition plan in place by age of 16/17 (Higher)	100%	100%	100%	↔	N/A
The percentage of households threatened with homelessness successfully prevented from becoming homeless (Higher)	70.6%	70%	66.2%	↓	N/A
The latter part of the year saw the transition from the old operating system to Jigsaw, which coincided with an increase in the level of, drop ins who were homeless and required immediate response. Covid 19 had limited impact on these figures but will have a significant impact going forward, as there will be a large increase in final duties due to new WG guidelines regarding priority need status. In addition, the lockdown hampered the usual preventative actions we have been able to undertake.					
The percentage of people presenting as homeless or potentially homeless, for whom the local authority has a final legal duty to secure suitable accommodation (Lower)	8.1%	11.85%	10.51%	↓	N/A
The percentage of care leavers who have experienced homelessness during the year (Lower)	5.88%	13%	8%	↓	N/A
The percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 April that were returned to occupation during the year through direct action by the local authority (Higher)	8.41%	5%	PAM* no data available		
The number of dwellings created as a result of bringing empty properties back into use (Higher)	New 2019-20	5	20	New 2019-20	N/A
The percentage of people who feel they are able to live more independently as a result of receiving a Disabled Facilities Grant in their home. (Higher)	100%	80%	98.1%	↓	N/A

*Public Accountability Measure

Aim – To support the third sector, town and community Councils and community groups to meet local needs

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019- 20	Actual 2019-20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
The number of adults who received a service provided through a social enterprise, cooperative, user-led service or third sector organisation during the year (Higher)	529	480	526	↓	N/A
The number of Council owned assets transferred to the community for running (Higher)	4	5	4	↔	N/A
The Community Asset Transfer Policy was revised to enable applications to be Fast Tracked and the process speeded up with only a 5-Year Financial Forecast needed. Additional support and incentives for community groups and in particular sports clubs designed to stimulate community asset transfers are now in place.					

Steps taken to achieve our key programmes

We made 12 commitments to support the delivery of this well-being objective, through our two key programmes and our early help initiatives. All 12 commitments were met and within budget. We have therefore assessed our performance as **green**.

Remodelling social care

Adult Social Care- Information, Advice Assistance

The Common Access Point (CAP) is a single point of access enabling service that provides accessible health and well-being information and advice that supports people to self-manage their needs and maintain their independence. Providing high quality and reliable information ensures people can access help and assistance should it be required, in a timely manner.

The CAP is for people who need access to Adult Social Care with the exception of Learning Disability and Mental Health services. To support Mental Health services, there is an information and signposting service. Those needing help can be directed to GPs or can attend a drop in information clinic located throughout Bridgend County Borough. This service assists in identifying where specialist assessments are required and through the Assisted Recovery in the Community Service.

To ensure the benefit of quality information and advice can reach as many people as possible, we invested our resources to provide information centres within and across communities. We worked with BAVO (Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations) to develop and deliver strategic programmes and interventions such as Connected Communities.

Connected Communities

The “Connected Communities” project aims to support older adults, people with learning disabilities and carers of vulnerable people to develop their support networks within their communities.

This project has enabled BAVO to recruit staff and help support people with information, advice and assistance (IAA), community based support to maintain or enhance independence and well-being and to connect or signpost people to appropriate community opportunities that meet their needs. This has complemented the local community co-ordinator roles within the Council, helping to create a network across Bridgend County Borough.

Connected communities recognises the need for “community building” to create sustainable community opportunities that can support access to community activities such as craft groups, activity programmes and well-being sessions. Support is also available to address housing concerns, welfare benefits and make connections to health and social care via the Common Access Point. BAVO have also been able to provide telephone support for people during evenings, weekends and bank holidays. The Council and BAVO worked together on the project to harness the third sectors potential to support community well-being and develop new ways of working. By doing this we have been able to identify opportunities to support more people in the community. Over 200 local people are benefitting and this figure is set to grow. The number of organisations making referrals is increasing, as is the range of community groups offering their services to support people

There are examples of local people taking up alternatives to care visits to home or attending day services- helping to reduce demand on these services. The case study below perfectly demonstrates the impact of this project on an individual level

Case Study:

Mrs P is 85 years old and lives alone. She had always been an active member of the community, through hobbies and interest groups. A number of falls had dented her confidence and she was worried about a planned hip operation

The community navigator met Mrs P at a Friendship Coffee Morning. She raised her concerns about how she would cope following the operation. The community navigator put her in touch with the charity Age Connect Morgannwg. They have a Hospital to Home service that provides 6-8 weeks of support for people over 50 discharged from hospital.

After the operation Mrs P had been reasonably active and mobile, but her mobility and confidence was again worsening due to her right knee. The community navigator provided support, helping Mrs P:

- to contact her GP and seek medical advice for her knee condition
- to make a referral to Care & Repair
- to apply for a Blue Badge,

Mrs P herself illustrates the impact of the support provided best:

“I have more peace of mind setting out to go shopping, knowing that I can park close to the shop. I was tending to put things off because I worry about how far I will have to walk from the car to the supermarket and back.....Much happier now I know GP has visited and is going to speak to other people to support me’.

Towards the end of the year, we received additional funding to recruit volunteers, which proved to be an invaluable resource during the pandemic and lockdown. The Council and CVCs (County Volunteer Councils) streamlined their approach to recruiting volunteers, with Covid-19 creating a sense of urgency around this issue. There is a real opportunity to sustain the volunteering spirit that has emerged during the pandemic, to support longer-term community development.

Carers

All carers should feel that they have voice, choice and control over their lives and that they have the right support to make informed choices. During 2019-20, we carried out extensive engagement and consultation with service users, families and stakeholders to co-produce a vision for our carers' service. We estimate that we have 18,000 unpaid carers in the borough of which around 1,600 are known to us.

The outcome of the engagement work was to commission a new Bridgend Carers Well-being Service with a priority to offer outreach to as many previously unidentified carers as possible.

This new service has a Carers Panel made up of 12 local carers. The new service is undertaking what matters conversations and carers assessments for carers, and is establishing a presence at community venues around the borough. It is anticipated this approach will support the process of promoting more 'carer-friendly' communities

Carers choir: Case Study

“Off Duty”, the Bridgend Carers Choir was formed in 2019. It was set up to provide some “me time” for carers in a welcoming and fun atmosphere, surrounded by people with similar experiences. Originally supported by the Council, Awen Cultural Trust and Bridgend Carers Centre, the choir has gone from strength to strength. This year they worked to expand opportunities for community based singing connecting more people into the choir.

The group have performed at a number of public events and produced their own song “Strong” written by Izzy Thomas the choir’s conductor. The song was recorded by students at Bridgend College and used as part of a media campaign by Carers UK with all the proceeds going to the charity.’ The choir showcased the song at the Councils celebratory *inspire for life* event in March 2020.

Group singing is evidenced to support better well-being and is an effective way of bonding people and together. Members of the choir say the singing helps with memory and report improved happiness and well-being. Being together as a choir has supported the carers to share experiences whilst having a common focus of singing together.



During 2019-20

- The Bridgend Carers Wellbeing service provided support to 1,263 unique individual Carers;
- 392 Adult Carers Assessments were completed and 99 Young Carers Assessments;
- Action for Children continue to support young carers, providing access to relevant information advice and assistance. 31 young carers received support, where feedback showed that:
 - 100% reported improvement in emotional and mental well-being;
 - 97% reported improvement in family relationships; and
 - 95% felt they could make positive changes in lifestyle and behaviour because of the support received
- During the Covid-19 lockdown period a further 34 young carers were supported via digital platforms. There with 11 carers who received more intensive one to one telephone support and 10 families received emergency grants for food and activities.

Young carers group

Since October 2019, the young carers group meets once a week. The 35 young carers access health and well-being sessions delivered by an experienced youth worker. The weekly breakfast sessions are an opportunity for young carers to socialise with their peers and take a break from their caring responsibilities. The group have become a support network for one another and other

young carers. They have held fund-raisers to support their activities and raise awareness of young carers within the wider community. Recently they were awarded winners of the Mayors Citizenship Award.

Childrens social care: Early help

Since 2016, Children Social Care has been remodelling its services so that services focus on delivering early help and effective permanence arrangements. The service is designed to improve and promote outcomes for children and young people in the County Borough of Bridgend.

During 2019-20 there was an increase in the range of 'Universal, Additional and Vulnerable' services that assist with supporting children and their families to prevent their circumstances deteriorating and becoming more complex.

What we have done for universal services:

- Helped children and young people develop healthy behaviours
- Delivered a programme of events under the "Getting Bridgend Moving" that include activities targeting children and young people
- Developed a positive parenting programmes and partnerships with Flying Start
- Invested in early years and whole household approaches- recognising the importance of the 'First 1000 days' of a child's life

We have also changed the way we work to provide better outcomes. There has been a growing engagement with primary and secondary schools. We recognise the potential of schools to contribute to Ageing Well in Bridgend through intergenerational working and the development of age friendly communities. Closer working with schools is critical to develop the knowledge of teachers of how to refer and access appropriate services as required.

What we have done for additional services:

When children and young people need additional support to help them meet their full potential, accessing timely and appropriate early help can prevent issues from escalating and increase the likelihood that any intervention will succeed.

Early help in Bridgend delivers services in three Early Help Hubs located in the north, east and west of Bridgend County Borough. In addition, a central hub offers a range of specific family support services across the whole of Bridgend County Borough.

Within each hub, there are a range of professionals who can offer support to children and their families. Referrals are through a 'one front door' route from numerous agencies including schools and by self-referral. Early hubs use a team around the family approach, with 1,203 families supported during 2019-20.

High quality universal and additional services are the building blocks of effective early help. We will continue to develop the service so that it better supports Information, Advice and Assistance by improving content and making certain information is clear, concise and provides confidence. This will help ensure contacts and referrals to Children Services receive the appropriate level of service at the right time. We will streamline pathways between services and work closely with other professionals to advise how services should be accessed appropriately.

Services for vulnerable children

There has been significant service transformation to meet the needs of vulnerable children. These changes have led to better outcomes with a reduction in the number of children placed in out of county accommodation. In the five years between 2014 and 2019 the number of looked after children reduced from 412 to 381. Though the most recent data shows a slight increase (394 as of

31st March 2020), intensive interventions continued to be made to help children from becoming looked after.

Performance data

	Number of individual children worked with	Number of families worked with	% of children prevented from becoming looked after	% of children removed from CP Register	% of children closed to Children's Social Care
2018-2019	146	72	88.5%	54.0%	10.3%
2019-2020	115	59	92.5%	44.8%	23.5%

Our work focuses on reunifying families where this has been a necessity and the delivery of parenting groups including:

- Non-Violent Resistance – Parenting programme for children who are displaying challenging and aggressive behaviours.
- Incredible Years – Parenting programme for younger children exploring attachment, routines, boundaries and play.
- Grobrain – Early years programme for parents with babies looking at secure attachment, interactions and play.
- Connecting Dads – a programme for fathers looking at their role as a Dad and the importance of this.
- Chill Out Group – Group for teenagers looking at anxiety and stress management and strategies to deal with this.

How we assess need

To ensure that we appropriately identify need and provide the right support to families, we use the Joint Assessment Family Framework (JAFF) and Team Around the Family (TAF) processes.

The JAFF is a standardised approach to assessing a child’s needs and deciding how these should be met. The JAFF promotes more effective, earlier identification of additional needs particularly in universal services. It aims to provide a simple process for a holistic assessment of child’s needs and strengths. The process takes into account the roles of parents, carers and environmental factors on a child’s development. Practitioners are better placed to agree with children and families about appropriate modes of support. A TAF is required when the family require support from different services to meet their identified needs.

In 2019-20, we received 2,147 JAFF referrals, 28% of these were from schools and 31% from health services. 1,065 JAFF assessments were undertaken resulting in 399 TAF action plans. 70% of these were closed with a successful outcome, which is an indicator that the family’s needs have reduced.

Transition services

A key outcome for effective transitioning for looked after children has been the development of supported and semi-supported living accommodation. This has increased the range and capacity of our accommodation. There are now seven transitional supported accommodation beds, and four step down beds. These are designed to offer young people flexible staffing support to ‘step down’ from care environments that had 24 hour support. It is intended this service model will support care

leavers to move onto more permanent and independent housing accommodation. These new options have reduced the pressure on the Homelessness service. Previously this was the only way for carer leavers to access supported accommodation, and has made transitioning planning more effective. Regionally we will work with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board to identify how they can engage as appropriate to joint work cases in transition and ensure that children receive effective and equitable health services.

Fostering services

Bridgend foster care assess, recruit and support a wide range of carers. This includes general foster carers, relatives, parent and child, transitional family link, supported lodgings and When I'm Ready households.

During 2019-20 we targeted the recruitment of new carers in a number of ways

- Contributing to the National Fostering Framework to develop the all Wales brand 'Foster Wales'
- Promotional events to raise the profile of fostering – including attending school fetes, working with local church communities, and an evening in Court Coleman
- Multiple online campaigns
- New referral scheme for existing carers
- MAX cards that give foster carers discounted or free admission to activities



During 2019-20, we exceeded our target by recruiting, eight new generic foster carer households, and 14 connected persons (or kinship) carers were approved. Thirteen fostering households left the service, the majority due to significant changes in their personal circumstances. Three households were adopting the children and young people already in their care. We terminated the approval of two carers due to safeguarding concerns.

During 2019-20 we also developed new services. The “mother and baby service” is an innovative approach to the demand for high supervision of parent and baby, forming part of the parenting assessment within proceedings. It can be a direct alternative to residential care or can be a preferred resource in its own right. Reunification Support Workers is a recent new service. The objective of the service is to prevent a potential breakdown of a foster care placement.

The introduction of transitional foster carers has been an important addition. These carers are experienced short-term carers who have a therapeutic approach to parenting. The role of the carers is to use their parenting skills to prepare children for transition to a permanent placement this might be within fostering or reunited with their family.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Bridgend MASH brings together key professionals, either co-located or virtually, to ensure better decision making through timely information sharing and robust analysis ensuring effective safeguarding for vulnerable children, young people and adults. This way of working ensures MASH can identify needs early and respond proportionately leading to better outcomes for service users.

As part of our continuous improvement approach to service delivery, MASH monitors and reviews its processes and systems in line with the needs of services. The MASH are about to implement the Mhub system, a bespoke multi agency information management system which will further enhance the sharing of information between partner agencies.

We have also improved the process for assessing Public Protection Notifications (PPNs) in relation to children. All PPNs are now subject to the Joint Filtering Process which involves three services (Information Advice Assistance, Early Help and Police) collaboratively agreeing how best to meet the needs of the child. This ensures speedier decision-making and reduces the risk of any delays in response. There is also a collective agreement on whether the PPN meets the threshold for an intervention or would be better serviced by a referral to the BAVO social navigator who sits within MASH. In 2019-20, there were 6,351 contacts in relation to children to the Information Advice Assistance service. There were 3,119 contacts to our Early Help team and 325 Adult Safeguarding referrals.

Case Study: High Risk Victim of Domestic Abuse

A high-risk repeat victim of domestic violence and abuse is one of the most difficult cases that the MASH receives. Ensuring the safety and well-being of the service user requires a timely multi-agency response to address the diverse range of risks and issues. Such a referral was made to the MASH as soon as the incident had been risk assessed and is an example of how effective collaboration across sectors can provide life changing support for the most vulnerable in our community.

Upon receipt of the referral, the case was presented at the Daily Discussion meeting, which is a multi-agency risk assessment conference to agree an immediate safety plan and the long-term actions to ensure the safety of the service user. The agencies involved include police, health, child protection, adult protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors.

The case involved physical, mental, emotional and financial abuse as well as stalking. To provide appropriate support required drawing on a wide range of partners to help:

- Police provided a TESCOS alarm (panic alarm) which would immediately alert police to respond
- IDVA supported the service user to navigate the criminal court proceedings and liaised with the prosecution to request an application for special measures and a restraining order.
- IDVA contacted the prison service to stop the aggressor contacting the service user
- A debt management plan was put in place to help her manage debts affordably
- With lower rent arrears she was eligible to be put on the housing register- and was moved to a new location before the aggressor was due to be released from prison
- Additional safety measures were added to make the property secure along with a fire safety assessment by SWFR
- Police put a marker on the new address- meaning any calls to police would be prioritised

With these measures in place, the service user was able to focus on her mental health supported by her GP. The family are now back under one roof, and she is more confident to rebuild her life. The IDVA will monitor the release of the aggressor and keep the service user informed.

Community Asset Transfer

Community Asset Transfers (CAT) is one of the key ways in which Councils can help build community resilience and safeguard services and assets that are of value to the community. The Council's CAT Policy was revised to include a 'Fast Track' protocol to streamline the process and is appropriate to the scale of the asset being considered. During 2019-20, the following assets were transferred to the community.

Pencoed Pavilion (*Pencoed Town Council*) – The transfer of the Pavilion was completed in March 2020 following a refurbishment funded by the Council and the Town Council at a cost of more than £90,000. The Pavilion has been closed since March 2018 following storm damage and is due to be re-opened for the local playgroup and sports clubs.

Griffin Park Health & Wellbeing Centre (*Porthcawl Town Council*) – The Town Council has taken over day to day running of the centre on a renewable management agreement while the development of a new road scheme for Sandy Bay is being progressed by the Council. The facility is currently used to support veterans.

Caerau Community Centre (*Caerau Development Trust*) – The charity has agreed a short-term lease to enable solar panels to be installed while a long-term 35 year lease is being progressed.

Great Western Avenue Play Area (*Coity Higher Community Council*) - The Community Council has taken over the responsibility for the play areas in Coity and introduced a programme of refurbishment jointly funded under the Council's T&CC Capital Grant Scheme. Funding of £30,000 was awarded for two projects costing £60,000.

Improving places and spaces

To support the community have greater voice and control over assets, the Council has established a £1million CAT fund. This fund will enable buildings such as pavilions to be improved post transfer. The fund was extended to also be used to support pitch improvements and to provide equipment grants to enable the self-management of facilities. An additional model has seen several town and community Council's progress arrangements to manage sports pavilions. This community ownership model may in time include playing fields.

The Council has created its own £75,000 Bridgend Sport Support fund to provide immediate financial assistance to local sporting clubs. Originally intended to focus on mini, junior and youth teams involved in the CAT process it has been broadened in recognition of current pressures arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

There has been continued partnership working with national governing bodies. Football Association Wales supported a review of school and community resources to identify potential sites for community hub models.

A similar project has commenced with the Welsh Rugby Union at the Parc Derwen site in Coity with the development of an 'alternative rugby' hub. The project has already seen the site adopted as the home of the Welsh Touch Rugby Association and Wales Deaf Rugby will be using it for their training camps. The WRU intend to use the site for festivals as part of their seasonal realignment project. It is hoped it will become a hub for coach education.

Early Intervention and prevention programmes

Although not identified as one of our key programmes, one of our aims is ‘to reduce demand by investing in targeted early help and intervention programmes’. During 2019-20, we continued to develop our approach and took steps to improving well-being by delivering community based initiatives that focus on early intervention and prevention. Some of the key achievements are set out below.

Children’s Play – Activity pods

We strongly believe in the importance of play in children’s lives and the benefits it gives to their health, happiness and well-being. It is also important in laying the foundation for each child in reaching their full potential during their adult life. To help the Welsh Government achieve its commitment that Wales becomes a country where every child has a wide range of challenging and interesting opportunities to play, we offer innovative ways to help children enjoy their leisure time.

The activity pod programme, developed in partnership with the reuse charity ‘Scrap Store’, offers outdoor play opportunities for pupils in Key Stage 1. The charity diverts reusable waste away from landfill/energy recovery to help improve art and play opportunities. Scrap materials such as cardboard tubes, tyres, lengths of material, netting, ropes, crates, and bins are used to create innovative and interesting spaces to play.



Schools are provided with the scrap material and poddely (a type of play equipment) to allow them to make their own play environment that best meets their pupils needs and maximises opportunities for play, sport and physical activity. To safeguard the long-term sustainability of the programme, training is provided to all schools. This ensures there are the right skills and confidence to take full advantage of the activity pod.

The programme supports children’s inventiveness and creativity. This results in children using the items in endless different ways, enabling all ages, genders and abilities to find ways to play and socialise together. The reuse principle of the activity pod also makes a positive impact on the environment.

New Generation of Community Health and Well-being Centres

During the year there have been improvement works taking place at Bridgend Life Centre to continue our aspiration of creating a series of wellbeing hubs to support the wellbeing of people for generations to come.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act has increased our focus on ensuring our leisure facilities move with the times and recognise the changing needs of people. During 2019-20, Audit Wales carried out an in-depth examination of our Active Bridgend plan and identified a number of positive aspects of our approach. This included our focus on long-term planning to ensure the sustainability of our services to improve health and well-being.

The development of our leisure facilities as Life Centres with a broad range of services and facilities is now moving to the next level of integration. We are working with partners to provide an even

broader mix of facilities. The outcomes will focus on dementia support, falls prevention, combatting loneliness and isolation and physical and mental well-being.

Through our Healthy Living Partnership with Halo Leisure, we secured a £750,000 investment to transform the Indoor Bowls Centre in Bridgend to create our first well-being hub. Completed in October 2019, the new facilities include studio spaces for targeted programmes, meeting and training rooms, consultation spaces and a larger office base for strategic services. There was additional investment towards the end of the year to improve accessibility. This included adapted fitness equipment for people with physical disabilities, new sensory equipment to support mental well-being initiatives and an improved lift system and access to the building.

The exercise referral programme is now located in the hub, which has over 2,000 referrals per year. The programme supports conditions such as Parkinson's, stroke, pulmonary rehabilitation and falls prevention. The venue also supports the Feel Good for Life programme for people living with dementia and their carers. The programme won the Community Leisure UK award for physical activity. Through our partnership with BAVO a base for the third sector has been created and the Employability Bridgend programme has co-located its staff and services within the Life Centre. This focus on co-location and accessibility of facilities and services will be expanded to other locations.

Super Agers

The Council has been successful in securing investment for a regional programme from the Healthy and Active fund to develop a "Super Agers" project. The Super Agers is a collaborative project and includes third sector, health board, public health and the local authorities in the region. The aim is to develop age-friendly communities, recognising the health and well-being benefits this brings to older adults

Super-Agers was launched at the 2019 'Olympage' games. There were 10 teams with 239 participants, including for the first time regional teams from RCT and Merthyr Tydfil. There are now similar opportunities taking place in community hubs, programmes for people with learning disabilities, in community centres and leisure/cultural venues and in independent care settings.



A series of workshops were also conducted with Bridgend College social care students who support activity-based work with older adults including the Olympage programme.

To support Super Agers in the home, there is an 'Active at Home' resource, which includes tai chi, seated exercise videos, a home activity tracker, pedometer and thera band. 124 participants have received these resources, with packs also available for those digitally excluded.

Housing and homelessness

During 2019–20, we made strides in meeting the key aims set out in our Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022 and subsequent action plan. Tackling housing and homelessness requires a multi-agency response. The Council adopts a proactive approach with partners to tackle rough sleeping.

During the year, developments have included:

- afternoon drop in sessions at local churches for rough sleepers,
- 5 hours of day time support provided for rough sleepers every day Monday to Friday
- frequent meetings and information sharing with key third sector partners

- creation of a specific Street Vulnerable MARAC which allows for multi-agency support to tackle rough sleeping on an ongoing basis

We continue to work with our partners to deliver services funded through the Housing Support Grant. During 2019-20, we awarded contracts to allow continued provision for two key projects:

- **Alternative to Bed & Breakfast Accommodation**, suitable accommodation with specialist support to those who we offer temporary accommodation. These units ensure those in temporary accommodation are supported to develop independent living skills to help secure long-term accommodation. The service ensures less reliance on unsuitable Bed & Breakfast accommodation.
- **Kerrigan Project** provides for the continuation of longer-term supported accommodation for those with multiple and complex needs. Support staff on site 24/7 work with individuals to develop independent living skills to support a move on into independent accommodation. The project also provides step down accommodation for those with lower level support needs and 'Floor Space', which, provides a direct access, night by night accommodation service to those, who would otherwise be rough sleeping.

Successful funding bids to Welsh Government Youth Homelessness Innovation Fund has brought additional funding to allow for the development of a Housing First youth project (in partnership with Caer Las) and an Assessment Centre (in partnership with Llamau). Both projects have increased our provision to young persons who find themselves homeless.

We put in place a single point of contact, the Housing Support Gateway for those looking to access or refer to housing support services. We improved on-line capabilities with the launch of our new case management system, 'Housing Jigsaw' that allows people to make an application for housing through the BCBC website.

We continued our work with the Home Office and Welsh Government to support the Syrian Refugee Relocation Scheme. We welcomed four additional families into Bridgend County Borough throughout 2019-20.

Case Study – Housing First

Our Housing First service, delivered in partnership with Caer Las, provides an alternative method of support, with the aim of breaking the cycle of homelessness for some of the areas most entrenched and complex rough sleepers. 'Paul' (an anonymised name) was one of the first individuals supported through the project.

Paul was rough sleeping and had issues with alcohol dependency. Evicted from various temporary accommodation placements, Paul had never been able to maintain a tenancy and relations with family and friends had broken down. Housing First undertook pre tenancy work, which included building a relationship with Paul and addressing his concerns regarding his ability to maintain accommodation. After two months Paul was allocated a property through the Housing First steering group. Working with Paul, he was supported to do things for himself including setting up payments for utilities, securing furnishings and decorating the house to make it home

Paul has now been living in his property for around 9 months and is having reduced support, after gaining experience and confidence in managing his own tenancy. In line with the principles of Housing First the project is not however looking to completely end support to Paul until we can be completely confident that his support needs are completely addressed.

Empty Properties

Empty properties are a wasted resource and have many negative impacts, which can be categorised under three headings:

- **social**, such as crime including arson, graffiti, squatting, as well as reduced public confidence in the area or the Council
- **environmental**, including rodent infestation, fly tipping, dangerous structures, and a poor impression of the area
- **economic**, such as repair costs, increased burdens on Councils' resources, property devaluation, deterred investment

Over the last few years, the Council has developed many tools and approaches to encourage empty homes back into use. This included the removal of the 50% council tax reduction for properties empty for six months or longer, as well as investing grant monies and loans to support owners of empty properties. During 2019-20, thirty-four properties were renovated, creating 20 additional homes.

Most recently, we entered into a service level agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to allow them to deliver an empty property loan scheme in eligible rural parts of Bridgend County. The loan scheme is funded by the Valleys Task Force empty homes grant. The scheme aims to support the valleys area of Bridgend County helping to regenerate communities, provide choice and suitable accommodation for residents.

Well-being Objective 3

Smarter use of resources

Why we choose this objective?

Over the period 2018-19 to 2021-22, the Council is expected to make recurrent budget reductions of some £32.6 million. For 2019-20, our target budget reduction was £7.621 million and as in previous years, we continue to be committed to finding at least 50% of these reductions for the year by making smarter use of resources, and minimising any reductions in services. As austerity continues, it becomes harder each year to make further budget reductions, but this year we continued to seek ways of working to save us money, primarily by making smarter use of our resources, including our people and our buildings, and making the most of the assets we retain.

What do we want to achieve?

Our aims

1. To achieve the budget reductions identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
2. To improve the efficiency of and access to services by redesigning our systems and processes.
3. To work collaboratively to make the most of public assets.
4. To develop the culture and skills required to meet the needs of a changing organisation.

Key Programmes

Under this objective, there are three key programmes to help achieve our aims and deliver improvements in well-being:

Digital Transformation Programme

This programme aims to change the way we operate to enable customers to access information, advice and services on line.

Rationalising the Council's Estate

This programme is about disposing of assets, transferring assets to communities to manage while making the most of assets we retain.

School Modernisation Programme –

This programme invests in a sustainable education system in school buildings that reduces cost and their carbon footprint

How did we do?

Performance Measures

Set out below is how we performed against the performance measures we set ourselves to meet this well-being objective and what we achieved in 2018-19 against our three key programmes.

Aim - To achieve the budget reductions identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018- 19	Target 2019- 20	Actual 2019-20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
The percentage of budget reductions achieved (Higher)	91.7%	100%	89.4%	N/A	N/A
Not all saving measures actioned achieved full year savings as they were implemented part way through the financial period, with some not realising as much as anticipated, however overall the budget outturn showed an underspend due to savings been made elsewhere.					

Aim -To improve the efficiency of and access to services by redesigning our systems and processes

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019- 20	Actual 2019-20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
The number of new services that are available to the public on line. (Higher)	5	3	2	↓	N/A
School transport applications and the Housing Jigsaw solution were put on line. A lot of work was done to configure, set up and test the online reporting tool with the aim to go live in March. Due to the Covid-19 issues that arose, this was not achieved but will be revisited at some point in the future.					

Aim - To work collaboratively to make the most of public assets

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019- 20	Actual 2019-20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
The percentage of surplus capacity of school places in a) primary schools b) secondary schools (Lower)	a) 4.89%	10%	9.36%	↓	N/A
	b) 22.01%	18%	20.65%	↑	N/A
Changes in demographics and use of spaces has resulted in a reduction in surplus places in the secondary sector.					
Realisation of capital receipts target (Higher)	£1,821 million	£2.8 million	£794,000	N/A	N/A
The sale of Ysgol Bryn Castell was delayed by Covid 19 but contracts were exchanged and the sale receipt of £2.6 million will now be achieved in 2020/21.					
Percentage of £500k planned budget savings achieved through Implementation of Corporate Landlord model. (Higher)	New 2019-20	100%	95%	New 2019- 20	N/A
Within the end of year finance figures the service absorbed an additional known but unbudgeted cost pressures of c. £300,000. This is without the additional impact of Covid-19.					
Percentage of BCBC operational buildings achieve full statutory compliance (Higher)	New for 2019-20	100%	54.6%	New 2019- 20	N/A

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019- 20	Actual 2019-20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
Compliance is below target. This is due to us increasing the compliance testing regime by a further 3000+ items across the estate. This has impacted on the overall percentage performance. We also had issues with external certification. Provision of certificates for the period January to March by contractors were impacted by the Covid-19 lockdown as were the performance of some inspections due during March. Steps have been taken to improve the performance of contractors to ensure full compliance is achieved and maintained.					
Percentage change in carbon dioxide emissions in the non-domestic public building stock on previous year (Higher)	18.98%	6.46%	28.83%	↑	N/A
Income generated from the Council's non-operational property portfolio (Higher)	£29,028	£25,000	£30,000	↑	N/A

Aim – To develop the culture and skills required to meet the needs of a changing organisation

Measure and preferred outcome (higher or lower)	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019- 20	Actual 2019-20 & RAG	Trend	Wales average
The number of staff taking up in-work health checks (Higher)	New 2019-20	Set baseline	169	New 2019- 20	N/A
The percentage of employees completing e-learning modules (Higher)	54.1%	25%	40.02%	↓	N/A
The number of interactions from citizens on the corporate social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) (Higher)	48,701	41,444	82,422	↑	N/A
Number of participants in staff survey (Higher)	1291	1356	1150	↓	N/A
The survey was made available to 3,054 staff (non-schools) in both Welsh and English in both online and paper formats. Reminders were also published. Despite this less staff completed the survey this year. Although there was a slight reduction in the number of participants, comparison of the tracker questions shows that overall responses were more positive in 2020 compared to 2018.					
The proportion of staff reporting through survey that they agree or strongly agree with the statements: (Higher)					
a) I feel every department is working towards the same common goal	a) 35%	36%	37%	↑	N/A
b) I am satisfied with BCBC as an employer	b) 59%	60%	66%	↑	N/A
c) Working here makes me want to perform to the best of my ability	c) 69%	70%	74%	↑	N/A
d) I feel that BCBC values its employees ideas and opinions	d) 31%	32%	39%	↑	N/A
e) Do you think there are opportunities for two-way communication to discuss and raise ideas and issues?	e) 59%	60%	72%	↑	N/A

Steps taken to achieve our Key Programmes

We made 14 commitments to support the delivery of this well-being objective, through our three key programmes. Ten commitments were fully met and within budget, therefore our performance is assessed **green**. Three commitments judged **amber**, as we did not fully achieve what was planned and one assessed **red** because we did not fully complete the planned actions. We did not achieve all we set out to do in rationalising the Council's estate, as there was a delay in marketing the Waterton site and progressing with exit strategies to further reduce our administrative estate. We did not meet our planned budget reductions. However, we did still realise full savings by holding vacancies and making savings elsewhere. We therefore assessed ourselves as amber. We did not make progress in relation to the expansion of Welsh-medium childcare provision, as part of the school modernisation programme, therefore we assessed ourselves as red.

Digital Transformation Programme

The Digital Transformation programme has a citizen centred focus. We listened to the initial feedback from the 2015 budget consultation that 87% of our citizens wanted more council services online, as well as in the 2019 budget consultation where 70% of respondents stated they would support a move to digitalise services.

New, modern functionality also meets the demand of over 85% of our citizens who have access to the internet and prefer the convenience of online transactions (ONS).

In 2018, we launched a new single digital platform (My Account) for citizens to interact with us online for key services. Since launching over 36,000 has registered an online account, with over 16,000 people registering for council tax online and over 11,000 subscribing for eBilling resulting in savings on paper, postage and packaging.

In 2019-20, we received 14,000 online applications for various services including council tax, housing benefit, school admissions and school transport. In addition, 26,286 payments were made by residents using My Account.

By providing more online services and self-serve solutions, it enables us to explore opportunities to streamline and automate current manual processes as well as helping to save money. Work to centralise and automate utility payments was completed during the year, which resulted in reducing transaction costs and late payment charges. Significant work was also undertaken in automating creditor payments.

Our new chatbot "Oggie" was launched in August 2019 to enhance the customer service experience and to reduce contact volume on other traditional channels e.g. telephone face-to-face and emails. The chatbot deals with the more routine customer queries and by being available 24/7/365, it enables the citizen to contact us outside the traditional working hours. Since Oggie was launched, there have been 9,956 online conversations.

Towards the end of January 2020, we also became the first local authority in Wales to launch a new online system for people in need of housing support. The system called "Housing Jigsaw" enables people to sign up for homelessness services or join the housing register. All individual cases are available online which negates the delays previously involved in housing applications and decision-making. By including our housing partners in this journey, the customer gets a faster response and a more efficient solution to their housing needs. Since its launch, there have been 1,017 online transactions made which has also helped us reduce transaction costs as well as printing and postage.

Work to centralise and automate utility payments has reduced the number of utility bills paid each year from approximately 2,860 down to 28, i.e. a single monthly invoice is paid for electricity and gas and a quarterly invoice for water. Individual departments also have access to an on-line portal to see their individual utility invoice and monitor energy consumption over the year.

Whilst some good progress has been made in implementing new functionality within iTrent, our HR system, to streamline key managerial processes there is an ambition to assess further functionality beneficial to our staff and managers and work will continue into 2020-21.

Work has also continued to develop the Council's corporate website. Following an independent accessibility review, the Council's website was named as the most accessible in Wales for disabled people for the second quarter of 2020. The website has been designed to meet level 'AA' – a worldwide standard for websites which aims to make pages as accessible as possible. With innovations in place such as specialist software, which reads out webpage text to support blind people or to make text readable for people with dyslexia or ADHD, the Council's website achieved an overall result of 8/10, putting it among just 17 per cent of all UK Councils who scored seven or more.

At the start of the Covid-19 lockdown, it was evident that digital has enabled citizens to continue engagement with us as we have seen a transition to the digital channel. The intention is to learn from the period of lockdown, assessing the possibilities and opportunities arising from the 'new norm' by further promoting digital services and introducing more innovative ways of working and serving our communities.

Rationalising the Council's Estate

Corporate Landlord Model

We continued to develop a more commercial approach to Council assets and property services. Our Corporate Landlord operating model was fully deployed and operational. During 2019-20, we saw large increases in both productivity and volumes of work completed. This will continue to be enhanced as full condition surveys are completed and a switch is made from responsive repairs to planned preventative maintenance through 2020-21.

A commercial property portfolio review was undertaken, which will help to shape the development of a strategy for the future to deliver accommodation based on supply and demand requirements going forward. The full impact of Covid-19 is not yet fully known, though we recognise that there are significant pressures facing the accommodation portfolio. As we embrace home working it is likely that we will need to look at opportunities to rationalise the administrative estate further and this work will continue into 2020-21.

Disposal of assets

As a Council, we have some 950 assets with a value of circa £454 million and a budget of £14.6 million per annum. We need to ensure where assets are no longer needed, they are disposed of in the most effective way and that the assets we continue to hold are utilised effectively and efficiently.

We continue to rationalise the Council's administrative estate and in particular the leased estate. During 2019, work continued on exit strategies for some of our leased buildings including successfully releasing Kenfig Nature Reserve. Sunnyside House is planned for release in spring 2021.

Due to the impact of Covid-19 the sale of Ysgol Bryn Castell was delayed, resulting in the capital receipt target of £2.8 million for 2019-20 not being achieved. Capital receipts of £794,000 were realised and contracts exchanged for the sale of Ysgol Bryn Castell. The sale will complete in 2020-21. We do remain on target to achieve our enhanced disposals programme target of £21 million capital receipts by 2020-21.

Investment also continued in 2019-20. Grant funding enabled the completion of the redevelopment of the Rest Bay café and water sports centre at Porthcawl. Funding was secured for the Enterprise Hubs and new starter unit developments at Village Farm, which will progress into 2020-21.

At Waterton, our depot site, in conjunction with adjoining land, is being promoted as a comprehensive regeneration opportunity known as Parc Afon Ewenni. Currently, we are working with the adjoining landowners to ensure that the scheme retains its status as an allocated site within the emerging Local Development Plan. This work will continue throughout 2020-2021. Redevelopment options for retention of part of the site for redevelopment of a new depot or school are being reviewed and will be progressed during 2020-21. The site can then be marketed once these have been finalised.

Energy

We continued to undertake engagement, communications and training related to energy and carbon saving initiatives throughout the Council. We conducted energy audits to identify, quantify and prioritise energy saving opportunities within our buildings. We also actively looked to increase the uptake of renewable energy technologies to decrease dependency on fossil fuels.

In early 2018, capital funding was approved for the delivery of energy efficiency improvements in Council owned buildings as part of an ambitious £1.3million investment programme. Welsh Government offered free surveys from Carbon Trust to investigate potential energy saving opportunities. The energy saving measures include LED lighting, pipework insulation, Building Management System (BMS) controls or solar PV systems, to name a few. Following a review of options, the Re:fit framework - a joint venture between HM Treasury and Local Government association, specialising in delivering retrofit projects to public sector buildings was chosen.

Nineteen buildings were shortlisted, out of the initial thirty identified, and engagement with stakeholders continued during the year. A project plan was developed and the procurement process completed early 2020. A high level appraisal process has commenced on the selected buildings, sixteen of which are schools. The Council is looking to reduce £162,000 on annual energy bills and approximately 258 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This investment continues our efforts to work towards net-zero carbon and to maximise the reduction of carbon emissions produced by our own activities and assets. Work will commence during summer 2021 and is expected to take 12-18 months

In early 2020, we started a trial in five schools to reduce gas consumption by introducing a heating additive. The results of the trial showed gas consumption reduced by an average of 10%.

We replaced four diesel vans with four electric vehicles (EVs) as part of a pilot to reduce vehicle running and maintenance costs and our carbon footprint. Following the successful trial, we installed eight electric vehicle-charging points at Ravens Court. This new infrastructure will allow the expansion of EVs within the Council.

Funding was granted in 2019 to retrofit the existing Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning system and lighting system in Ravens Court. The new system is expected to save £10,000 per year in energy costs, and save approximately 38 tonnes of carbon emissions as well as improving the working environment. Work is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

Schools' Modernisation Programme

Our flagship school modernisation programme continued to work towards delivering new educational facilities for Bridgend County Borough, which are designed to support 21st century teaching and learning. With more than £68.2 million of funding set to be committed towards the next phase of the school modernisation programme, it remains our largest investment. We plan to build four efficient and sustainable primary schools and one special school over the next five to seven years as part of Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme, ensuring there is a sufficient supply of pupil places across Bridgend County Borough.

Options appraisal work in relation to the primary school projects has concluded and approved in January 2020 to progress feasibility studies in respect of each of the primary school projects. Feasibility studies are underway and will complete in 2020/2021. Programmes were affected because of Covid-19, and certain survey work could not take place as planned. Notwithstanding this, the outcome of the studies will be reported to Cabinet in 2020/2021, and a decision made regarding the preferred way forward in respect of each of the schemes.

Option appraisal work in relation to the special school is ongoing into 2020-21. Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals, the construction of two primary schools and the one special school will be funded from Welsh Government and Council capital. The other two primary schools will be funded via Welsh Government's new Mutual Investment Model (MIM) funding, whereby private partners build and maintain schools in return for a fee, and will cover the cost of construction, maintenance and financing the project. At the end of a fixed period, the buildings will become Council owned assets.

Funded by Welsh Government, the construction of the new East Hub building at Brynteg School is well underway. The Hub will allow effective joined-up working between Early Help, Safeguarding, multi-agency and joint services staff, supporting families and learners at the heart of the community that they serve. The building will be ready for occupation in the autumn of 2020.

The Council continues to work with contractors in order to maximise community benefits. Through our construction projects, we seek to ensure that schemes deliver on targeted recruitment and training, apprenticeships, work experience and pupil engagement, highlighting the future employment opportunities of a career in the construction industry.

Development work linked to the Cymraeg 2050 capital programme continued to progress in relation to the expansion of Welsh-medium childcare provision, but has been impacted by the Covid-19 emergency. Work will continue into 2020-21 to develop plans to identify childcare providers who will utilise the accommodation developed thus far to offer childcare in the communities identified (Betws, Ogmere Valley, Porthcawl and Bridgend Town).

In the Spring of 2020, we opened a Welsh-medium learning resource centre at YGG Calon Y Cymoedd. The provision, enables young children who have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) to receive their education through the medium of Welsh.

CORPORATE CHANGE

Although this was not identified as one of our key programmes, we have three aims which focus on doing things differently corporately to meet our well-being objective of 'Making smarter use of Resources'. The three aims focus on delivering budget reductions, developing culture and skills in a changing organisation and making the most of our spend on goods and services through procurement. The steps we made are set out below:

Budget reductions and our medium-term financial strategy (MTFS)

When developing our MTFS, we consider a number of different funding scenarios and aim to balance investment in preventative measures against the costs of reacting to unanticipated situations in statutory services. We aim to ensure the majority of savings are generated from smarter use of resources, with front line service reductions kept to a minimum. Each budget reduction proposal is weighted in terms of the impact on other areas of the Council, on the public and on our well-being duty as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Where a budget cut in one area of non-statutory prevention would lead to increased costs in another, this is not considered to be good financial management. Similarly, budget reductions are achieved through remodelling of existing service provision and through making services self-sufficient rather than removing them in their entirety, to make them more sustainable going forward.

Alongside this is a capital strategy aligned to a 10 year capital programme, and a treasury management strategy, which demonstrate how the Council ensures that all of its capital and investment plans and borrowing are prudent and sustainable. They are intended to give a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future sustainability. The capital strategy is monitored on a quarterly basis and reports provided to Cabinet and council. The capital programme is updated in line with the strategy and approved by council quarterly.

Of the £7.621 million budget reductions required for 2019-20, we achieved £6.815 million through smarter use of resources, avoiding cutting the quality or level of services.

These included:

- We further developed extra care housing, leading to £330,000 of savings,
- A further review of the HALO and AWEN partnership contracts leading to £150,000 of savings,
- £111,000 further efficiencies realised as part of the Shared Regulatory Services,
- Further rationalisation of software and hardware budgets, saving £200,000,
- Council wide staff restructures, leading to savings in excess of £1.4 million,
- We also reduced our corporate budgets by £2.388 million, mainly by reducing our annual capital financing commitment through a review of policy, removing funding set aside for pump priming and additional funding generated through the increase in Council tax from an original 4.2% to 4.5% in 2018-19.

We did not achieve our savings in full in respect of the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC), (£475,000) and Bridgend bus station (£45,000). Budget realignment is being considered for 2020-21. The savings relating to removing subsidies for bus services (£62,000), library and cultural facilities (£60,000) although not achieved in 2019-20, have been progressed, and full savings met in 2020-21. The savings relating to the implementation of the learner transport policy (£67,000) are dependent on the recent public consultation. The Council consults widely with citizens on all budget proposals as an integral part of its MTFS and strives annually to increase participation and involvement. This is reflected in the increased response rate year on year.

Developing culture and skills

The Council made good progress in transforming services and undertaking organisational changes. New staff engagement arrangements that were established in 2018-19, carried on into 2019-20, with regular induction sessions for new starters with the Chief Executive; open engagement sessions for staff with the Chief Executive and Leader; and a second annual staff survey undertaken. During the year, a strong focus was given to supporting managers to fulfil their

managerial responsibilities and to enable employees to look after their mental wellbeing with the introduction of mindfulness courses.

We continued to provide the learning and development opportunities for staff to meet future service needs by updating the learning and development website enabling employees to access or enrol on relevant training courses. Working with trade union colleagues, funding was secured for priority training opportunities, through the Wales Union Learning Funding (WULF).

Directorate specific training and development opportunities included extended managers' meetings taking place to ensure open communication on legislative and corporate changes. Leadership and management training opportunities continued to be offered to middle managers. Health board boundary issues were progressed and opportunities for cross-working/training continued to be examined. The availability of staff training is widely embraced by staff. Within constrained resources, the following has been achieved:

Six new e-learning modules developed:

- Managers' Induction
- GDPR
- Sensory Loss modules: Vision Loss, Hearing Loss and Dual Sensory Loss
- Safeguarding Children and Adults – Raising Awareness
- Carers E-Practice Guide
- Trans Awareness

Number of staff completing training

- IT Workshops – 21 workshops delivered and 199 employees attended
- Mental health training – 13 workshops delivered and 168 employees attended
- No of e-learning completions 2,040
- Workbook completions 685

Procurement

We spend around £170 million annually through procurement on bought-in goods, services and works and influencing the ways in which this is done can make a key contribution to 'sustainability and resilience'.

We are working towards the circular economy principles to ensure sustainable procurement, which ultimately underpins the seven well-being goals under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA). We will consider 'whole life costing' where money is spent in ways that deliver wider benefits and adds value as opposed to traditional procurement routes of awarding contracts based on lowest price. Consideration such as energy consumption and end of life decommissioning, financial and environmental factors will be considered as part of awarding contracts.

We continue to engage with businesses within our communities, to support new and innovative ideas. As well as considering how we integrate the five ways of working into our new procurement strategy and ensuring that the strategy enables procurement to maximise contribution to the well-being goals, some specific initiatives are being looked at. We have signed up to the UK Steel Charter and we are still looking at developing the foundation economy model.

As part of the new procurement strategy that we are developing, we will consider co-producing services with the public, private and community sectors to help shape innovative solutions. We will work with suppliers to identify the best solutions to suit our needs. We will work with others to replicate good practice. This new strategy will enable us to maximise our contribution to the well-being goals and encourage initiatives to help deliver sustainable procurement.

Consultations and engaging through social media

Throughout the year we carried out a range of consultations to find out your views and inform our decisions. We undertook online surveys, roadshows throughout Bridgend County Borough, ran focus groups and invited comment through social media on a number of topics. Further information can be found at <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/consultations/>.

During 2019-20, we made good progress against our aim of improving and promoting mechanisms to improve responses to consultations and to engage with the public through social media. A variety of engagement methods were used throughout the year to improve resident inclusion and the response rate of consultations. Progress was made in making available easy read versions of consultation where they were appropriate i.e. the budget consultation and strategic equality plan consultation. Youth versions were also created for the budget consultation and learner travel review. Residents and community groups were also more widely engaged using a variety of techniques including: one to one support to complete surveys, discussion groups, clicker pads and drop in sessions in libraries.



Clicker pad engagement sessions were used to include residents in the Strategic Equality Plan, Post 16 and learner travel consultations, and to carry out the Medium Term Financial Strategy budget consultation.

Sessions were held with full Council, in comprehensive schools with pupils and carers, Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum, the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People and Citizens' Panel members. We also used a variety of engagement methods including paper surveys, online surveys, Citizens Panel engagement events and public drop in sessions in libraries.

During the Budget Consultation period we also used promotional materials such as posters, flyers and business cards to aid promotion of the consultation. An explainer video was also developed and used on the website, social media channels and the digital screens within the Contact Centre to promote the budget consultation as well as a bilingual advert on Bridge FM. A QR code was also created to ensure easy access to the online surveys for residents.

During the year, we audited our social media channels and implemented new strategies and tactics to grow our social media channels, which contribute towards the Council's ability to engage with the public. Since July 2019, we have seen a significant growth in these type of interactions. We also received the highest amount of interactions on social media during the yearly budget consultation campaign than in previous years.

Being more strategic when we post content on our channels enabled us to engage with the public at the most popular times and days that people are online which contributed to a growth in the number of interactions. User generated content on Instagram proved popular and increased our interactions with the public Instagram stories with use of boomerang working well and for A-level and GCSE results day with hundreds of people viewing these videos. Trending hashtags on twitter increased reach and engagement such as #Goingtoxford on A-level results week.

On average, each post on social media reached 6,703 people. During the budget consultation social media campaign, a total of 2,009 interactions were received via social media. This included 147 interactions from the live question and answer (Q&A) session, 1,365 social media comments and 497 social media poll votes. Overall, the Council received 7,437 interactions during the budget consultation, covering survey completions, engagement event attendees and social media

interactions. This is an increase of 2,149 (40.6%) on the 5,288 interactions from last year, of which 1,200 relates to an increase on social media comments.

In the latter part of the year, due to severe weather and the Covid-19 pandemic, social media interactions increased by almost 50% which resulted in almost a doubling of the yearly target. We had the highest ever number of positive reactions (likes and loves) throughout the pandemic as the public have been engaging positively with our unsung heroes' campaign. We have turned the homepage of our website into a hub of information during the pandemic and residents have been actively engaged with our social media channels to find out the latest developments within Bridgend County Borough. In terms of developing our ability to engage with the public through social media we posted more regularly and consistently to generate more engagement. We created graphics, infographics and collages to promote important information. This resulted in a yearly increase of 9.94% in social media interactions.

Financial Performance

Our financial environment is becoming increasingly challenging. We need to make unprecedented savings in the future that can only be achieved by changing the way we work and changing the way services are delivered. Last year the gross amount we spent on delivering services to our citizens and investing in our landscape and infrastructure totalled around £439 million. The total amount that we had available to spend was made up from three main sources listed below.

Revenue Expenditure

Our revenue expenditure represents day-to-day costs such as salaries, equipment, supplies and services. Our **net** revenue expenditure in 2019-20 after allowing for appropriation to earmarked reserves, additional income from council tax and an under spend against council-wide budgets was **£270.246 million**, which resulted in an under spend of £563,435 which was transferred to the Council fund. The table below shows the expenditure and proportion of spend per well-being objective in 2019-20 and spend on other core services and statutory functions:

Well-being objective for 2019-20	Revised Budget 2019-20 (£'Million)	Actual Outturn 2019-20 (£'Million)	Actual Over/(Under Spend) 2019-20 (£'Million)
1. Supporting a successful economy	48.883	49.065	0.182
2. Helping people to be more self-reliant	55.900	54.548	-1.352
3. Smarter use of resources	5.063	5.054	-0.009
4. Core services and statutory functions	160.963	161.579	0.616
TOTAL	270.809	270.246	-0.563

Capital Expenditure

This represents our spending on schools and infrastructure such as roads, bridges and buildings. These assets will benefit the community over long periods of time and the expenditure is largely financed by borrowing and capital grants. Our capital expenditure in 2019-20 was **£22.822 million**, where the main projects carried out during the year included:

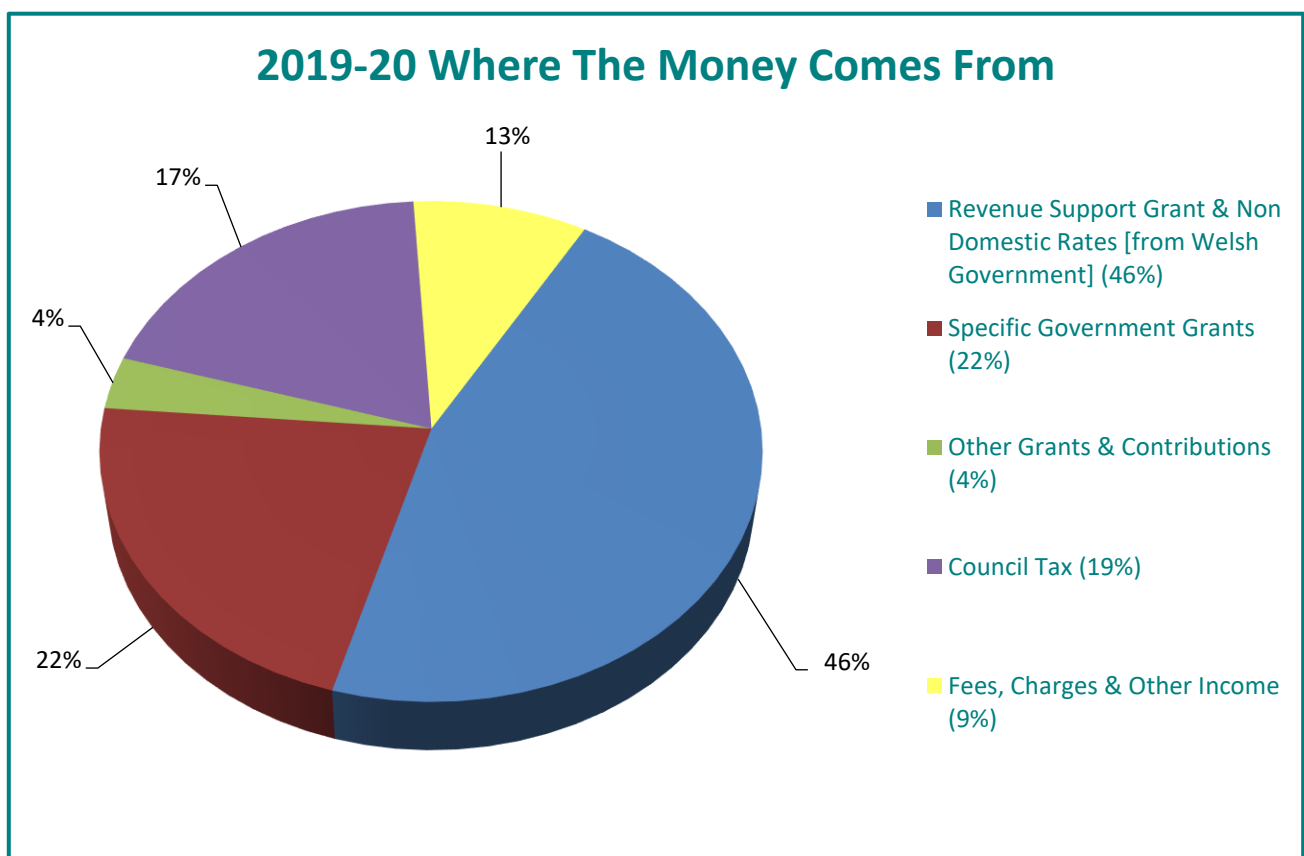
- £2.413 million Disabled Facility Grants and private sector housing
- £2.527 million on highways and carriageway works
- £1.908 million on Schools ICT infrastructure
- £1.562 million on schools capital maintenance works
- £1.117 million Porthcawl Resort Investment Focus

Grants

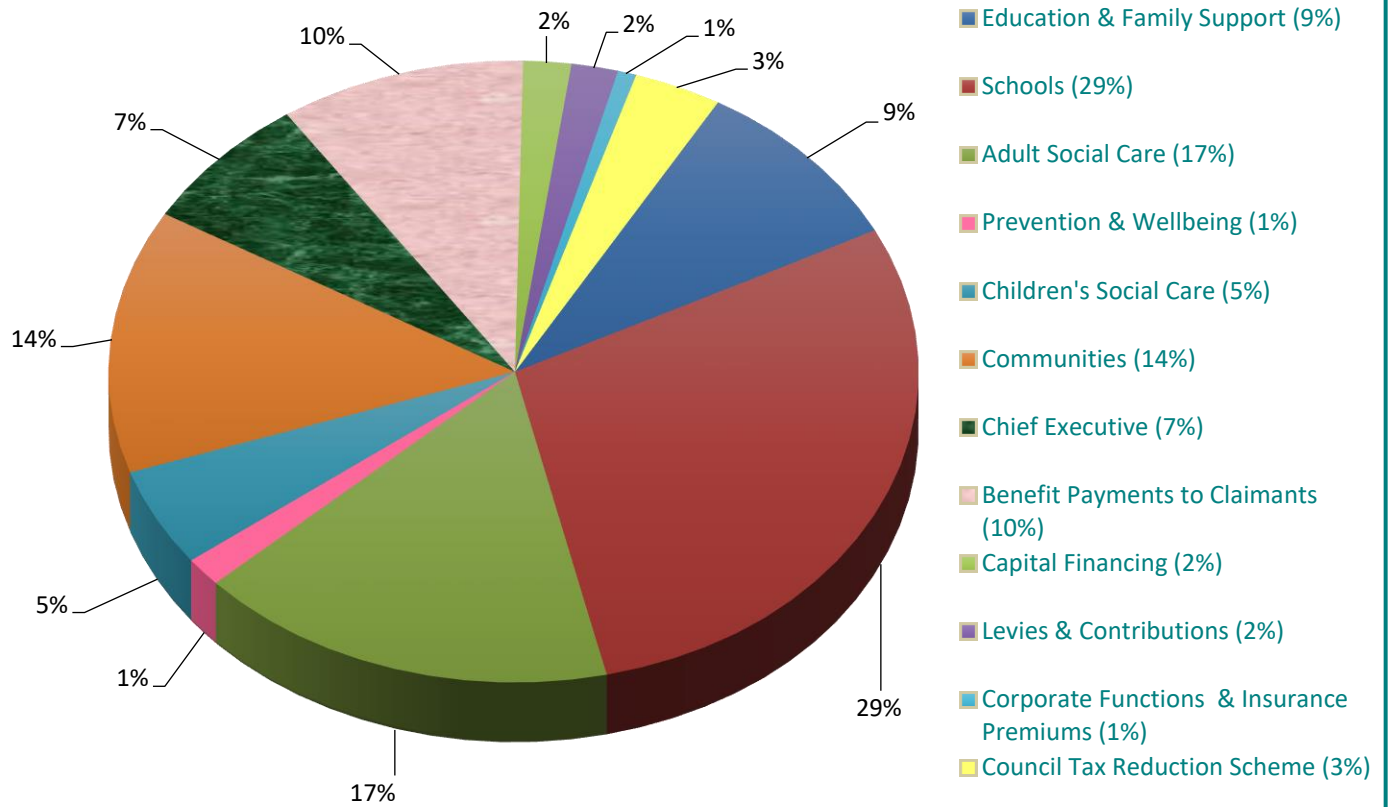
We also received specific government revenue grants in addition to the core Revenue Support Grant and Non-Domestic Rate (NDR) allocations and Housing Benefit Subsidy, totalling **£50.979 million** during 2019-20, which we are able to use in addition to our own revenue budgets. The main grants received during 2019-20 included:

- £6.105 million – Post-16 Grant
- £5.767 million – Supporting People Grant
- £4.895 million – Education Improvement Grant
- £4.592 million – Pupil Development Grant
- £3.076 million – Flying Start Grant
- £1.690 million – Families First Grant

The following charts summarise where the money came from and where the money is spent:



2019-20 Where the Money Is Spent



What Our Regulators Said about Us

Audit Wales

The work of all Councils in Wales is scrutinised by external regulators to ensure that we use public money efficiently and effectively to deliver benefits for our communities. Audit Wales has an annual programme of audit and assessment work that it undertakes in the Council, and the conclusions from all this work are brought together in an Annual Improvement Report (the latest report available is to be published October 2020).

During the course of the year the Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations, however there were a number of proposals for improvement identified in the reviews undertaken during 2019-20. These reports can be viewed on the links below.

The Auditor General also researches topics at a national level in order to share best practice and make recommendations for how public bodies can improve. The topics covered during the year included the role of Public Service Boards, Well-being of young people, Violence against women, and First point of contact. These reports can be accessed via the links below.

Performance and Audit Reviews (local)	Link
Follow up review of the corporate arrangements for the safeguarding of children in Bridgend	https://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/bridgend_safeguarding_report.pdf
Delivering with less- Environmental health services follow up review for Bridgend	https://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/bridgend_council_environmental_health_follow_up_english.pdf
Financial sustainability assessment	https://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/pdf_6.pdf
Examination under the WFG Act (Wales) 2015 – ‘Active Bridgend Plan’	https://www.audit.wales/publication/bridgend-county-borough-council-well-being-future-generations-examination-active
Savings planning follow up- Bridgend County Borough Council	https://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/1469A2019-20_BCBC_savings%20planning_final.pdf
Performance and Audit Reviews (national)	Link
Review of Public Service Boards	https://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/review-of-public-service-boards-english.pdf
The well-being of young people	https://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/well-being-of-young-people-english_0.pdf
Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014: First point of contact assessments	https://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/Front-door-to-adult-social-care-english.pdf
Tackling violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence	https://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/VAWDASV_eng.pdf

Estyn

Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. The purpose of Estyn is to provide an independent inspection and advice service on quality and standards in education and training in Wales. To search for the latest reports, please visit https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Bridgend%2520County%2520Borough%2520Council_0.pdf

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

CIW evaluate the performance of social services (children and adult services) annually and publish their findings and recommendations in a letter to the Director of Social Services. The assessment for performance in 2019-20 can be found here <https://careinspectorate.wales/200803-local-authority-annual-performance-review-letter-201920-bridgend-county-borough-council>

During 2019-20, CIW also undertook an inspection in collaboration with Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW) to evaluate how Bridgend County Borough Council is promoting independence and preventing escalating needs for older adults. The key findings and recommendations are published in a report, which can be found here <https://careinspectorate.wales/inspection-older-adults-services-bridgend-county-borough-council>

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Towards the end of the financial year 2019-20, Covid-19 presented a huge challenge for local leadership. The pandemic also underlined the importance of effective collaboration between local partners, and with national government. The need to be flexible and responsive to meet the unprecedented changes to how we lead our daily lives has meant service reform and new ways of working have been introduced in extremely short timescales.

Staff from across public services and the third sector have worked tirelessly to help their communities. This has involved delivering food boxes, securing housing for homeless people, the creation of hubs for key workers, delivering accredited online adult courses, supporting people in their homes, the distribution of business grants, supporting the roll out of the Test Trace and Protect programme, and the return of schooling before the summer holidays. Many Council staff volunteered to be redeployed to keep critical frontline services going, and had to adapt to different shift patterns, learn new skills and work through weekends, normal school holidays and bank holidays. The following are just some examples of how staff came together to help local residents at the start of the pandemic in mid March 2020:

Local schools Teachers and assistants prepared online learning materials for more than 23,000 pupils every weekday.

Housing Team In early April four pods were set up in temporary locations near projects run by the Wallich and housing association Pobl. The new pods, which contain a bed and toilet, were introduced to respond to the needs of rough sleepers, allowing them to comply with social distancing requirements and if necessary to self-isolate. 24/7 support was available to those using the pods.

Cleaning staff: Crews started work from 4am to get childcare hubs ready for each day. Armed with disinfectant and bleach, many had to travel much further than normal due to their regular schools closed. The hubs, which also acted as collection points for free school meals, and four Flying Start centres were their main focus, but they also continued to clean corporate buildings where essential staff were based.

Catering Team Around 400 cooks, catering assistants and meals at home delivery drivers fed children, keyworkers and vulnerable adults during the pandemic, providing hundreds of hot meals a day and thousands of packed lunches each week. Working in shifts, they prepared, cooked and delivered meals, with many giving up their holidays to ensure the vital service could continue.

Language and Play officers recorded a series of book readings, songs and craft sessions to help young children continue to develop and learn. Uploading the videos to a closed Facebook page for families registered under the scheme and basing themselves at one of the emergency childcare hubs, the team combined their usual roles with supporting the childcare provision for keyworkers.

ICT Team Ordering hundreds of laptops during a worldwide shortage while dealing with twice the normal number of cyber-attacks, the ICT team ensured that Council staff could work from home during the pandemic. The additional workload has been on top of supporting schools as teachers moved towards online learning, repurposing over 500 laptops and ICT devices for digitally excluded learners and providing tablets to local care homes so that residents could make video calls to relatives.

Fees waived for sports clubs Football and rugby clubs will not pay hire charges for using outdoor sports facilities for the 2019-20 season. The Council's decision takes account of both the exceptional circumstances around the Covid-19 crisis and the continued commitment of sports clubs and town and community Councils to complete community asset transfers of outdoor facilities.

Responding to the Covid-19 coronavirus in Bridgend County Borough



Business support grants paid **£29,025,000**
2,340 Business grant applications approved



Calls received to customer services **43,827**
6,172,763 Social media reach



1,553
 Volunteers registered



10,500
 Hours of domiciliary care provided each week



1,048
 Individuals supported in their own homes



1,559
 No of keyworkers' children supported to enable parents to work



169
 Staff redeployed to a different role



2,600
 Individuals supported by Telecare services



13%
 Overall increase in recycled materials compared to this time last year



1,013
 Reconditioned laptops and devices issued to school children



Stats since 23 March 2020.



Important themes that underpin our work

Performance Management Framework

Performance management is about taking action in response to actual performance to make outcomes for users and the public better than they would otherwise be. You can see our Performance Management Framework [here: https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/2281/bcbc-performance-management-framework-2017-version.pdf](https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/2281/bcbc-performance-management-framework-2017-version.pdf)

Scrutinising our performance

Overview and scrutiny committees are a valuable part of the transparent and democratic process. They support the work of the Council as a whole in the improvement of public services. You can see more information on the role of scrutiny here: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/democracy-and-elections/overview-and-scrutiny-committees/>

Risk management

With growing demands on services at a time of increasing pressure on finances, effective risk management remains an essential part of the framework for ensuring good corporate governance. Since Corp Risk Register was last agreed, the Covid-19 pandemic has occurred which has had an effect worldwide. The register is being continuously reviewed during this period to take into account any Covid-19 related risks. More information can be found here, agenda item 4 <https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/g3915/Agenda%20frontsheet%2010th-Sep-2020%2014.00%20Audit%20Committee.pdf?T=0&LLL=0>

Equality and diversity

We are committed to promoting equality and valuing diversity through all of our services and dedicated to treating our residents, customers, employees and visitors with respect, while providing services which respond to people's individual needs. More information can be found at: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/equality-and-diversity/>

Welsh language

We are committed to treating Welsh and English on an equal basis when carrying out our public business. Our five-year strategy and more information on how we promote the language can be seen at: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/welsh-language/>

Bridgend Public Services Board

Bridgend Public Services Board (PSB) is a group of public sector and not for profit organisations who work together to create a better Bridgend County Borough. In July 2020 the PSB published its second annual report highlighting the activity it has undertaken in 2019-20. You can read the full report here <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/8924/psb-bridgend-ann-report-eng-0620.pdf>

Our well-being objectives for 2020-21

In our Corporate Plan 2018-22, we set out our well-being objectives. These are:

- Supporting a successful and sustainable economy
- Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient
- Smarter use of resources

As part of our corporate planning the well-being objectives were assessed against the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to identify opportunities to maximise our contribution to the 7 well-being goals.

The Council agreed to the rewording of two objectives. The rationale behind the changes was to strengthen the alignment with the seven well-being goals. Full details on the actions we have in place can be seen in our Corporate Plan 2018-2022, reviewed for 2020-21 here: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/8471/corporate-plan-english-version.pdf>



Feedback

We welcome your comments on this annual report and your suggestions for improvement. You can give your feedback through



our website: www.bridgend.gov.uk



on Instagram www.instagram.com/BridgendCBC/



via Facebook www.facebook.com/BridgendCBC



on Twitter: @BridgendCBC



email to talktous@bridgend.gov.uk



in writing to Corporate Performance Team, Bridgend County Borough Council, Raven's Court, Brewery Lane, Bridgend CF31 4WB

This report is available in both Welsh and English. It is also available in another language or format on request.

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE - QUARTER 2 2020-21

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) 'The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities' (2017 edition).
- provide an update of the Capital Programme for the period 1 April to 30 September 2020 (**Appendix A**)
- seek approval for a revised capital programme for 2020-21 to 2029-30 (**Appendix B**)
- note the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2020-21 (**Appendix C**)

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 a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
2. **Helping people 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** – ensuring that all its 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 deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

2.2 Capital investment in the Council's assets is a key factor in meeting the Council's Priorities as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

3. Background

3.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, contain detailed provisions for the capital finance and accounting controls, including the rules on the use of capital receipts and what is to be treated as capital expenditure. They modify accounting practice in various ways to prevent adverse impacts on authorities' revenue resources.

3.2 As well as the legislation, the Council manages its Treasury Management and Capital activities in accordance with the following associated guidance:-

- CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice
- CIPFA's The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities
- Welsh Government (WG) revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments

3.3 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires Local Authorities to have in place a Capital Strategy which demonstrates that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability. To demonstrate that the Council has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out a number of Indicators that must be set and monitored each year.

3.4 On 26 February 2020, Council approved a capital programme covering the period 2020-21 to 2029-30 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The capital programme was last updated and approved by Council on 22 July 2020. This report provides an update on the following areas:

- Capital Programme 2020-21 Quarter 2 update
- Capital Programme 2020-21 Onwards
- Prudential and Other Indicators
- Capital Strategy monitoring

4. Current Situation / Proposal

Capital Programme 2020-21 Quarter 2 update

4.1 This section of the report provides Members with an update on the Council's capital programme for 2020-21 since the budget was last approved by Council and incorporates any new schemes and grant approvals. The revised programme for 2020-21 currently totals £53.541 million, of which £27.850 million is met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts and revenue contributions from earmarked reserves, with the remaining £25.691 million coming from external resources, including General Capital Grant. Table 1 below shows the capital programme for each

Directorate from the July 2020 (Quarter 1) approved Council position to quarter 2:

Table 1 – Capital Programme per Directorate 2020-21

Directorate	Approved Council 22-Jul-20 £'000	New Approvals & Adjustments £'000	Virements £'000	Slippage to future years £'000	Revised Budget 2020-21 £'000
Education & Family Support	7,624	0	125	(500)	7,249
Social Services and Well-being	2,189	0	102	0	2,291
Communities	48,237	4,691	(227)	(12,855)	39,846
Chief Executive's	3,567	420	0	(520)	3,467
Unallocated	688	0	0	0	688
Total	62,305	5,111	0	(13,875)	53,541

- 4.2 Table 2 below summarises the current funding assumptions for the capital programme for 2020-21. The capital resources are managed to ensure that maximum financial benefit for the Council is achieved. This may include the realignment of funding to maximise government grants.

Table 2 – Capital Programme 2020-21 Resources

CAPITAL RESOURCES	£'000
<i>BCBC Resources:</i>	
Capital Receipts	9,045
Earmarked Reserves	10,754
Unsupported Borrowing	2,573
Supported Borrowing	3,986
Other Loans	1,417
Revenue Contribution	75
Total BCBC Resources	27,850

External Resources:	
Grants	25,691
Total External Resources	25,691
TOTAL RESOURCES	53,541

- 4.3 **Appendix A** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing the budget available in 2020-21 compared to the projected spend.
- 4.4 A number of schemes have already been identified as requiring slippage of budget to future years (2021-22 and beyond). At quarter 2 the total requested slippage is £13.875 million, which includes the following schemes:

Porthcawl Regeneration (£2.557 million)

Council have approved £2.607 million to fund works associated with the regeneration of Porthcawl, subject to realisation of capital receipts. Feasibility works are currently underway but it is anticipated that £2.557 million will be slipped into 2021-22. Further optioneering, development and engagement work will be required to bring forward the right mix of housing, low carbon development and sustainable transport onto the site.

Llynfi Development Site (£2.246 million)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the intended site investigation works at the Maesteg Washery West site, with site access restrictions, staff resourcing issues and laboratory shut downs causing a significant delay to the programme of works. Discussions with the consultant engineers on the scheme, have indicated that the scheme can now progress (whilst following current COVID guidelines) and they have produced a revised programme to this effect.

Welsh Government has recently provided confirmation to the Council that the loan for this site, which was due to be repaid this month, can now be extended for a further 12 months. Consequently the funding has been slipped into 2021-22 and adjusted to reflect the revised capital / feasibility split.

Coastal Risk Management Porthcawl (£1.25 million)

Approval has been received from Welsh Government to tender the £6.032 million for works in Porthcawl in relation to the refurbishment of the Western Breakwater, improvement of the Eastern Promenade, repairs to Rhych Point and introduction of a dune management system to enhance and retain the relic dunes at Sandy Bay. These works will protect approximately 531 Residential and 175 Business Properties.

The tender process, which started later than originally planned whilst approval was sought from WG, is underway and it is anticipated for this to be concluded by the end of November, with an anticipated works start date of January 2021. This has resulted in slippage of £1.25 million to 2021-22.

Carriageway and Footways renewal (£1.3 million)

Due to the limited available working window for resurfacing works (generally March to October) it is anticipated that works will be complete to the value of £1.7 million for 2020-21. As a result of additional WG funding in previous years £1.3 million has been slipped into 2021-22.

Corporate Landlord Energy Efficiency Savings (£1.287 million)

The Refit Project is progressing successfully. Over the last months and despite the delays caused by the pandemic, the tenderer was appointed (Ameresco) and the high level appraisal stage was completed and approved by the Project Board. Currently the Project Board is expecting the Investment Grade Proposal report by the beginning of November 2020. As a result, the Council will have greater detail about the energy conservation measures that will be installed at the 19 sites that are part of this project. It is estimated that by January 2021 the Council would be in a good position to enter the works contract with the service provider. It should be noted that once the Investment Grade Proposal report is approved, the report will be sent for approval to Salix Finance which will substitute the prudential borrowing required for the scheme with an interest free loan.

Waterton Upgrade (£2.837 million)

£8.144m was approved by Council for works associated with the Waterton upgrade. The budget was approved on the basis that the Highways depot at Waterton was to be rationalised and refurbished. The Council is now investigating the possibility of a school being constructed at Waterton thus the Highways Depot is likely to be a new construction at a location still to be identified. When a location is identified a robust estimate will be compiled and reported to Cabinet and Council for financial approval. Therefore the 2020-21 funding of £2.87 million will be slipped into 2021-22.

The balance of slippage (£2.398 million) is across a number of schemes and are minor amendments to the financial profiles of the schemes.

Capital Programme 2020-21 Onwards

- 4.5 Since the last capital report in July 2020, there have been a number of new externally funded schemes approved and internally funded schemes, which have been incorporated into the capital programme, including:

Highways Refurbishment Grant (£0.806 million)

The Council has been awarded £0.806 million from the WG Capital Funding for Local Government Public Highways Refurbishment Grant 20-21, to undertake highway refurbishment works to the highway network. The purpose of the capital funding is to support local authorities to finance public highways refurbishment within their authority limits.

Active Travel Fund (£2.44 million)

In July 2020 WG awarded the Council with an Active Travel Fund of £2.44 million. The purpose of the fund is to increase levels of active travel, improve health and well-being, improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions, connect

communities and improve active travel access to employment, education and key services, destinations and public transport. It will include an active travel package for Bridgend to Pencoed and a package of improvements for Bridgend to Coychurch and Pencoed to Pencoed College.

Due to the late notification of funding for the schemes, it is anticipated that there will only be spend of £1.583 million in 2020-21, there is likely to be slippage of £861,000. WG cannot give assurance that this funding can be carried forward or that further grant funding will be made available in 2021-22, so the scheme has been split into phases and as much work as possible will be completed in this financial year, with the rest hopefully completed next year either through grant carried forward, additional capital funding or new bids to WG.

Fleet Replacement Programme (£0.5 million)

To enable replacement of council-wide vehicles on a cyclical nature funding of £0.5 million has been included in the capital programme in 2021-22 to be funded through prudential borrowing. The funding and corresponding charges to services will be managed through the Joint Fleet Manager.

TRI Standalone - 11a Nolton Street (£0.299 million)

The Council have been successful in securing £0.3 million from Welsh Government's Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) programme, for the redevelopment of 11a Nolton Street. The redevelopment, led by Coastal Housing Group (CHG) sees a key site in the town centre being brought back into use, providing 10 affordable new homes and supported by 2 commercial units. In March 2020, the Council entered into a funding agreement for the TRI grant with Coastal Housing Group.

Local Sustainable Transport Covid Response (£0.619 million)

In June 2020 WG awarded the Council with funding in relation to Local Sustainable Transport Covid Response (£0.619 million). The fund is to be used for 'pop up' measures which will include temporary low cost solutions to reallocate road space in favour of sustainable forms of transport.

Enable Grant (£0.180 million)

WG has awarded the Council with £0.18 million funding in relation to the Enable, Support for Independent Living Grant 2020-21. The purpose of the Funding is to support the delivery of adaptations and integrate service delivery.

Safer Routes in Communities (£0.222 million)

WG has awarded the Council with £0.222 million funding in relation to Safe Routes in Communities. The purpose of the funding is to support capital schemes that contribute to the Welsh Government's objectives to improve accessibility and safety and encourage walking and cycling in communities. There is particular emphasis on improving routes to and from schools. The aim is to change how people travel, resulting in greater social inclusion and improved community safety. Specifically this will be used to fund the Coity Higher Community Safe Routes Phase II.

A small number of other minor additions to the programme are listed below:

- Investment in ICT - £0.24 million WG Covid-19 contribution to ICT costs.
- Pyle Park and Ride Metro and Penprysg road bridge - £0.2 million Local Transport Fund grant.
- Bryngarw House & Pencoed Library - £0.05 million for agreed minor works schemes funded via the minor works revenue budget.

4.6 There are a number of other schemes within the Capital Programme that are awaiting confirmation of external funding over the Autumn period. Once approval is known, it may also result in some schemes needing re-profiling. The Capital Programme has not been updated at this time for these schemes and further reports will be brought to Cabinet and Council in due course for approval.

A Revised Capital Programme is included as **Appendix B**.

Prudential and Other Indicators 2020-21

4.7 In February 2020, Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2020-21, which included the Prudential Indicators 2020-21 to 2022-23 together with some local indicators.

4.8 The Capital Strategy is intended to give an overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future sustainability. To this end, a number of prudential indicators were included, and approved by Council. In line with the requirements of the Prudential Code, the Chief Finance Officer is required to establish procedures to monitor both performance against all forward-looking prudential indicators and the requirement specified.

4.9 **Appendix C** details the actual indicators for 2019-20, the estimated indicators for 2020-21 set out in the Council's Capital Strategy and the projected indicators for 2020-21 based on the revised Capital Programme. These show that the Council is operating in line with the approved limits.

Capital Strategy Monitoring

4.10 The Capital Strategy also requires the monitoring of non-treasury management investments and other long term liabilities. The Council does have an existing investment portfolio which is 100% based within the County Borough and primarily the office and industrial sectors. The income streams are generally spread between the single and multi-let office investments on Bridgend Science Park, the multi-let industrial estates and the freehold ground rent investments. The total value of Investment Properties was £4.635 million at 31 March 2020.

4.11 The Council has a number of Other Long Term Liabilities which are included within the Capital Strategy. No new loans have been taken out in quarter 2.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 As required by Financial Procedure Rule 3.5.3 within the Council's Constitution, "The Chief Finance Officer shall report quarterly to Cabinet an update on the Capital Strategy and the Prudential Indicators."

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Projects within the capital programme will be subject to the preparation of Equality Impact Assessments before proceeding. There are no equality implications arising 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 wellbeing goals/objectives as a result of this report. Specifically the development of a 10 year capital programme, which reflects the Council's affordability in terms of capital receipts and borrowing, supports the principle of sustainability over the long term.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The financial implications are outlined in the body of the report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Council:

- notes the Council's capital programme update for 2020-21 for the period to 30 September 2020 (**Appendix A**);
- approves the revised Capital Programme (**Appendix B**);
- notes the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2020-21 (**Appendix C**).

Gill Lewis

Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change

October 2020

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Brewery Lane
Bridgend
CF31 4AP

Background documents:

Capital Strategy 2020-21– Report to Council 26 February 2020

Capital Programme Q1 Update 2020-21 – Report to Council 22 July 20

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020 onwards – Report to Council 26 February 2020

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	Budget 20-21 (Council JULY 20) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised Budget 2020-21 £'000	Total Exp to date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
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Education & Family Support

HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B	500			(500)	-	-	-	-	-
BRYNMENYN PRIMARY	44				44	-	44	-	-
GATEWAY TO THE VALLEYS SEC SCH	97				97	1	97	-	-
GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRIMARY PROVISION	160				160	(3)	160	-	-
PENCOED PRIMARY	62				62	7	62	-	-
GARW VALLEY PRIMARY HIGHWAYS	30				30	-	30	-	-
PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORKS	56				56	-	56	-	-
BRYNMENYN SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORK	15				15	(1)	15	-	-
ALN PROVISION	7				7	-	7	-	-
REDUCTION OF INFANT CLASS SIZES	70				70	16	70	-	-
CROESTY PRIMARY SCHOOL	149				149	9	149	-	-
SCHOOLS CAPITAL MINOR WORKS	272		125		397	26	397	-	-
SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	252				252	-	252	-	-
SCHOOL MODERNISATION RETENTION	591				591	-	591	-	-
CEFN CRIBWR PRIMARY ALN	438				438	192	438	-	-
EDUCATION S106 SCHEMES	202				202	-	202	-	-
COMPLEX & MEDICAL NEEDS PROVISION	49				49	41	49	-	-
MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL MOBILES	1,200				1,200	-	1,200	-	-
SCHOOLS' CAPITAL MAINTENANCE GRANT	1,462				1,462	1,319	1,462	-	-
WELSH MEDIUM CHILDCARE PROVISION - BETTWS	578				578	20	578	-	-
WELSH MEDIUM CHILDCARE PROVISION - BRIDGEND	55				55	-	55	-	-
WELSH MEDIUM CHILDCARE PROVISION - OGMORE	128				128	24	128	-	-
WELSH MEDIUM CHILDCARE PROVISION - PORTHCAWL	55				55	-	55	-	-
WELSH MEDIUM CHILDCARE PROVISION - HIGHWAYS	100				100	-	100	-	-
WLGA - ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ICT -SCHOOLS	81				81	-	81	-	-
EAST HUB- BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE	971				971	659	971	-	-
TOTAL Education & Family Support	7,624	-	125	(500)	7,249	2,310	7,249	-	-

Social Services and Wellbeing

BRYNGARW PARK - ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS	35				35	-	35	-	-
BRYN Y CAE - HFE'S	40				40	-	40	-	-
WELLBEING MINOR WORKS	31		90		121	5	121	-	-
TY PENYBONT	38		(38)		-	-	-	-	-
BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	10				10	-	10	-	-
GLAN YR AFON CARE HOME	51				51	-	51	-	-
CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	1,864				1,864	106	1,864	-	-
HARTSHORN HOUSE			50		50	-	50	-	-
EXTRA CARE FACILITIES	120				120	-	120	-	-
TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	2,189	-	102	-	2,291	111	2,291	-	-

Communities

Street Scene

PARKS/PAVILIONS/COMMUNITY CENTRES CAT	748				748	21	748	-	-
ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	11				11	-	11	-	-
CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL	5,552				5,552	-	5,552	-	-

	Budget 20-21 (Council JULY 20)	New Approvals	Virement	Slippage	Revised Budget 2020-21	Total Exp to date	Projected Spend	Over / (Under) spend	Impact on BCBC Resources
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
PORTHCAWL TOWN SEA DEFENCE	52				52	(55)	52	-	-
COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM	835			(815)	20	5	20	-	-
REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	125		(20)		105	-	105	-	-
TRUCK PARKING ENFORCEMENT	38				38	-	38	-	-
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL	-				-	1	-	-	-
ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	64		20		84	18	84	-	-
ACTIVE TRAVEL- PENCOED TECHNOLOGY PARK	-	2,444			2,444	-	1,583	(861)	-
HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	200				200	3	200	-	-
CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	250				250	77	250	-	-
ACTIVE TRAVEL - BRIDGEND TO BRACKLA	-				-	(20)	-	-	-
ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS - HEOL MOSTYN	600				600	5	600	-	-
RIGHTS OF WAY MINOR WORKS	-	50			50	-	50	-	-
HIGHWAYS REFURBISHMENT GRANT	151	806			957	71	957	-	-
CARRIAGEWAY & FOOTWAYS RENEWAL	3,003			(1,303)	1,700	401	1,700	-	-
NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK PHASE 2	-				-	(17)	-	-	-
REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	455		(175)		280	17	280	-	-
BRIDGE STRENGTHENING A4061	1,285				1,285	656	1,285	-	-
COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	101		367		468	(27)	468	-	-
RIVER PROTECTION MEASURES	3		175		178	64	178	-	-
RETAINING WALL REPLACEMENT BETTWS	11	40			51	-	51	-	-
PYLE PARK AND RIDE METRO	-	120			120	44	120	-	-
LOCAL TRANSPORT FUND - PENPRYSG ROAD BRIDGE	-	80			80	75	80	-	-
LOCAL TRANSPORT FUND - BRIDGEND TO COYCHURCH	-				-	(30)	-	-	-
SAFE ROUTES - COITY HIGHER	-	222			222	(6)	222	-	-
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT COVID RESPONSE		619			619	68	619	-	-
RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TC	128				128	-	128	-	-
FLEET VEHICLES	2,085				2,085	190	2,085	-	-
RELOCATE RECYCLING CENTRE	1,594				1,594	-	1,594	-	-
AHP WASTE	238				238	28	238	-	-
EXTENSION TO CORNELLY CEMETERY	314			(301)	13	-	13	-	-
EXTENSION TO PORTHCAWL CEMETERY	216			(199)	17	-	17	-	-
STREET LIGHTING ENERGY SALIX	1417				1,417	287	1,417	-	-
HIGHWAYS S106 MINOR SCHEMES	63				63	-	63	-	-
TOTAL Streetscene	19,539	4,381	367	(2,618)	21,669	1,877	20,808	(861)	-

Regeneration & Development

BRIDGEND BUS SUP NETWORK	128				128	36	128	-	-
PORTHCAWL RESORT INVESTMENT FOCUS (PRIF)	99				99	59	99	-	-
EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	990				990	-	990	-	-
PURCHASE OF SALT LAKE CAR PARK	64		(64)		-	-	-	-	-
VRP - BRYNGARW PARK	263		(24)		239	1	239	-	-
VRP - PARC SLIP	139		24		163	13	163	-	-
TRI THEMATIC PROJECTS (UCPE AND UCLG)	600		220		820	54	820	-	-
TRI STANDALONE PROJECTS	220	299	(220)		299	-	299	-	-
PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	2,543		64	(2,557)	50	47	50	-	-
ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROJECT	887				887	-	887	-	-
COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM	2,750			(1,250)	1,500	10	1,500	-	-
LLYNFI DEVELOPMENT SITE	2,246			(2,246)	-	-	-	-	-
BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	450				450	-	450	-	-
MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	5,158			(60)	5,098	643	5,098	-	-
TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	249				249	10	249	-	-
CAERAU HEAT NETWORK	1,939				1,939	-	1,939	-	-
PORTHCAWL THI	134				134	-	134	-	-

	Budget 20-21 (Council JULY 20) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised Budget 2020-21 £'000	Total Exp to date £'000	Projected Spend £'000	Over / (Under) spend £'000	Impact on BCBC Resources £'000
TOTAL Regeneration & Development	18,859	299	-	(6,113)	13,045	872	13,045	-	-
Corporate Landlord									
CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND	820				820	-	820	-	-
CORPORATE LANDLORD ENERGY EFFICIENCY SAVINGS	1,299			(1,287)	12	-	12	-	-
ENTERPRISE HUB	627	(24)			603	28	603	-	-
RAVEN'S COURT MINOR WORKS	454				454	5	454	-	-
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS RAVENS COURT	25				25	13	25	-	-
RELOCATION OF REGISTRARS	9				9	53	9	-	-
BRIDGEND/MAESTEG MARKET MINOR WORKS	25				25	-	25	-	-
DDA WORKS	16		270		286	1	286	-	-
MINOR WORKS	1,233		(975)		258	-	258	-	-
FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	95		96		191	8	191	-	-
BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	151				151	10	151	-	-
NON OPERATIONAL ASSETS	480				480	-	480	-	-
WATERTON UPGRADE	2,837			(2,837)	-	-	-	-	-
EVERGREEN HALL - LEASE ACQUISITION	40				40	-	40	-	-
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	1,728				1,728	-	1,728	-	-
BRYNGARW HOUSE		30			30	-	30	-	-
PENCOED LIBRARY		5	15		20	-	20	-	-
Total Corporate Landlord	9,839	11	(594)	(4,124)	5,132	119	5,132	-	-
TOTAL Communities	48,237	4,691	(227)	(12,855)	39,846	2,868	38,985	(861)	-
Chief Executive									
CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	200		(76)		124	69	124	-	-
TOTAL Corporate Capital Fund	200	-	(76)	-	124	69	124	-	-
DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (DFG)	1,950		(24)		1,926	499	1,926	-	-
HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	100				100	-	100	-	-
VALLEYS TASK FORCE EMPTY PROPERTIES GRANT	300				300	22	300	-	-
WESTERN VALLEY EMPTY HOMES PILOT	260				260	-	260	-	-
EMERGENCY REPAIR LIFETIME GRANT		-	24		24	24	24	-	-
ENABLE SUPPORT GRANT	-	180			180	43	180	-	-
TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	2,610	180	-	-	2,790	587	2,790	-	-
DIGITAL MEETING SPACES	26				26	21	26	-	-
ICT INFRA SUPPORT	211	240	76		527	527	527	-	-
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	520			(520)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ICT	757	240	76	(520)	553	547	553	-	-
UNALLOCATED	688	-	-	-	688	-	688	-	-
TOTAL Chief Executive	4,255	420	-	(520)	4,155	1,203	4,155	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	62,305	5,111	-	(13,875)	53,541	6,492	52,680	(861)	-

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PRUDENTIAL AND OTHER INDICATORS 2020-21

The Prudential Indicators are required to be set and approved by Council in accordance with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. Table 1 shows the 2019-20 actual capital expenditure, the capital programme approved by Council on 22 July 2020 and the latest projection for the current financial year which has incorporated slippage of schemes from 2019-20 together with any new grants and contributions or changes in the profile of funding.

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2019-20 Actual £m	2020-21 Estimate (Council Jul 20) £m	2020-21 Projection £m
Council Fund services	22.822	55.954	53.061
Investment Properties	-	0.480	0.480
TOTAL	22.822	56.434	53.541

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or net financing requirement (borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative). The planned financing of the expenditure has been projected as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing

	2019-20 Actual £m	2020-21 Estimate (Council Jul 20) £m	2020-21 Projection £m
External sources	16.199	21.551	25.691
Own resources	1.408	23.664	19.674
Net Financing Requirement	5.215	11.219	7.976
TOTAL	22.822	56.434	53.541

The net financing requirement has fallen compared to the estimate in the Capital Strategy as a result of the reduction in forecast spend, increase in anticipated external funding sources, and associated reduction in the anticipated level of Prudential Borrowing in the year. The net financing requirement or 'debt' is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, and this is therefore replaced over time by other financing, usually from revenue which is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). As well as MRP, the Council makes additional voluntary revenue contributions to pay off Prudential or Unsupported Borrowing. The total of these are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Replacement of debt finance

	2019-20 Actual £m	2020-21 Estimate (Council Feb 20) £m	2020-21 Projection £m
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	2.858	2.925	2.925
Additional Voluntary Revenue Provision	1.948	1.505	1.502
Total MRP & VRP	4.833	4.430	4.427
Other MRP on Long term Liabilities	0.690	0.743	0.743
Total Own Resources	5.523	5.173	5.170

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces by the MRP amount within the year. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's estimated CFR is as follows based on the movement on capital expenditure at quarter 2:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement

	2019-20 Actual £m	2020-21 Estimate £m	2020-21 Projection £m
Capital Financing Requirement			
Opening CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	155.084	155.893	155.466
Opening PFI CFR	17.000	16.309	16.310
Total opening CFR	172.084	172.203	171.776
Movement in CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	0.382	6.790	3.550
Movement in PFI CFR	(0.690)	(0.743)	(0.743)
Total movement in CFR	(0.308)	6.047	2.806
Closing CFR	171.776	178.249	174.582
Movement in CFR represented by:			
Net financing need for year (Table 2 above)	5.215	11.219	7.976
Minimum and voluntary revenue provisions	(4.833)	(4.430)	(4.427)
MRP on PFI and other long term leases (Table 3)	(0.690)	(0.743)	(0.743)
Total movement	(0.308)	6.046	2.806

The capital borrowing need (Capital Financing Requirement) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used

as a temporary measure. This is known as Internal Borrowing. Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt, which comprises of borrowing, PFI and Other Long Term Liabilities, are shown below compared with the Capital Financing Requirement:-

Table 5: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement

	2019-20 Actual £m	2020-21 Estimate (Council Feb 20) £m	2020-21 Projection £m
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	116.867	117.867	113.367
Capital Financing Requirement	171.776	178.249	174.582

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, except in the short-term. As can be seen, the Council expects to comply with this in the medium term.

The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit. Table 6 below shows these two limits and as the current projection for debt is £113.367 million, it is within the Operational Boundary.

Table 6: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £m

	2019-20 Actual £m	2020-21 Estimate (Council Feb 20) £m	2020-21 Projection £m
Authorised limit – borrowing	145.000	170.000	170.000
Authorised limit – other long term liabilities	30.000	30.000	30.000
Authorised Limit Total	175.000	200.000	200.000
Operational boundary – borrowing	105.000	140.000	140.000
Operational boundary – other long term liabilities	20.000	20.000	20.000
Operational Boundary Limit Total	130.000	165.000	165.000
Total Borrowing and Long Term Liabilities	116.867	117.867	113.367

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from Council Tax, business rates and general government grants.

Table 7: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream

	2019-20 Actual £m	2020-21 Estimate (Council Feb 20) £m	2020-21 Projection £m
Capital Financing Central	6.728	6.995	6.975
Other Financing costs	3.893	3.451	3.451
TOTAL FINANCING COSTS	10.821	10.446	10.426
Proportion of net revenue stream	3.92%	3.85%	3.84%

This shows that in 2019-20, 3.92% of our net revenue income was spent paying back the costs of capital expenditure. The estimate for 2020-21 is 3.84% which is in-line with the approved Capital Strategy.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER LEGAL, HR AND REGULATORY SERVICES

INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOTING

1. Purpose of Report .

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the Information Reports for noting which have been published since its last scheduled meeting.

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

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-

- Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background.

- 3.1 At a previous meeting of Council, it was resolved to approve a revised procedure for the presentation to Council of Information Reports for noting.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 Information Reports

The following information report has been published since the last meeting of Council:-

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Published</u>
Urgent Delegated Decisions	14 October 2020

4.2 Availability of Documents

The document has been circulated to Elected Members electronically via Email and placed on the BCBC website. It is available from the date of publication.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 This procedure has been adopted within the procedure rules of the Constitution.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

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

7. Wellbeing 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.

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendation.

9.1 That Council acknowledges the publication of the document listed in this report.

K Watson
Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services & Monitoring Officer
8 October 2020

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Background documents: None.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 OCTOBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER LEGAL, HR AND REGULATORY SERVICES

URGENT DELEGATED DECISIONS

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To report to Council two delegated decisions executed as a matter of urgency under Scheme A1.1 of the Scheme of Delegation of Functions.

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 Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of Council in accordance with Paragraph 18 of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules which are to be found at Part 4 of the Constitution.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The urgent decisions taken and therefore by-passing the call-in procedure (as set out in paragraph 19 of Part 4 Rules of Procedure within the Constitution), are summarised below:-

Scheme A 1.1

EFS-EDSU-20-140 – To seek approval to suspend relevant parts of the Contract Procedure Rules to competitively tender and enter into a Contract with Capital Law for the provision of legal services to schools.

CE-HR-20-413 – To seek approval to suspend relevant parts of the Contract Procedure Rules to re-tender and renew the Inter Authority Agreement with Powys County Council for the provision of Disclosure and Barring Checks (Exempt Delegated Power).

5. Effect upon policy framework & procedure rules

5.1 This report has no effect on the Council's Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

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

7. Wellbeing 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

8.1 There are no financial implications relating to the report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Council notes the report.

K Watson

**Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services & Monitoring Officer
October 2020**

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Background documents: The Council's Scheme of Delegation