

Public Document Pack

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



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Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

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

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Tuesday, 28 September 2021

Dear Councillor,

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

A meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 will be held remotely - via Microsoft Teams on **Monday, 4 October 2021 at 09:30.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 6
To receive for approval the minutes of the meeting of the 28 06 21
4. The Bridgend County Economic Futures Framework Invitees 7 - 16

Janine Nightingale - Corporate Director, Communities
Councillor Huw David - Leader
Councillor Stuart Baldwin - Cabinet Member Communities
Councillor Charles Smith - Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration
Zak Shell - Head of Operations - Community Services
Ieuan Sherwood - Group Manager - Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability
Sue Whittaker - Enterprise and Employability Manager
Toby Rhodes - Director - Perform Green Limited
Peter Slater - Director - Industrial Communities Alliance Wales
Jon Wood - Head of Innovation and Cluster Development - Cardiff Capital Region City Deal
5. Forward Work Programme Update 17 - 26
6. Urgent Items

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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:

JPD Blundell
N Clarke
P Davies
DK Edwards
DG Howells
DRW Lewis

Councillors

JR McCarthy
JC Radcliffe
RMI Shaw
JC Spanswick
RME Stirman
G Thomas

Councillors

MC Voisey
LM Walters
A Williams
JE Williams

Present

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson

N Clarke
JR McCarthy
LM Walters

P Davies
RMI Shaw
JE Williams

DK Edwards
JC Spanswick

DG Howells
RME Stirman

Apologies for Absence

DRW Lewis, JC Radcliffe, G Thomas and MC Voisey

Officers:

Nicola Bunston	Consultation Engagement and Equalities Manager
Meryl Lawrence	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Tracy Watson	Scrutiny Officer
Delyth Webb	Group Manager - Strategic Regeneration

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

2. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

The Chief Officer – Legal, HR & Regulatory Services submitted a report, the purpose of which was to request the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

The Chairperson invited nominations, following which it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor J C Radcliffe be nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

3. NOMINATION TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY PANEL

The Chief Officer – Legal, HR & Regulatory Services submitted a report, the purpose of which was to request the Committee to nominate one Member to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.

The Chairperson invited nominations, following which it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Cllr Paul Davies be nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 as an Invitee to meetings of the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.

4. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Senior Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny presented the Committee with the proposed draft outline Forward Work Programme (Appendix A) for discussion and consideration; requested any specific information the Committee identified to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wished to attend; requested the Committee to identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.6; and asked the Committee to note that the proposed draft Forward Work Programmes for the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of COSC, with the comments from each respective Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee, following consideration in their June Committee meetings.

Members of the Committee requested information for inclusion in upcoming FWP reports:

1. Progress of the Bridgend 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy (Ultra Low Emission Vehicles) – 19 July 2021

- Details of where within the county borough we have charging points and what type of charging points are they, how many there are. Also when/where/ how many are going to be provided in the future.
- More information on charging points in terms of connectors for cars, will there be a standard connector e.g. Tesla currently has its own, but cannot be used by other cars.
- Avoidance of duplicating charging points if not standard form.
- Include in the report details of the performance of the 6 or so electric vehicles procured by the Communities Directorate at the start of the pandemic.

2. Update on the Waste Service Contract 2024 – 19 July 2021

- A timeline.
- Ensure the right officers are invited to answer questions.
- Details on in-house option as well, t, and details about recycling costs and income, and recycling plants.
- The introduction of the contract to avoid previous issues between one contract ending and the next beginning e.g. no recycling bags available, changeovers, etc.
- Difficulties of collecting rubbish due to Council managed areas e.g. highways, double yellow lines, parked cars, etc.
- Analysis of related Member referrals over the last 12/18 months, to actually understand the issues, impacts on the existing contract and the lessons learned, to feed into the design of a new contract.

- Provide feedback and updates as the timeline progresses at regular intervals to SOSC3, so that questions can continue to be asked.
 - Include information on the procurement of vehicles
- 3. Changes in External Economic Funding - Economic Development – 29 Sept 2021**
- Provide information in relation to the potential implications of coming out of the EU (e.g. BCBC/Caerphilly excluded from some of the funding).
- 4. Transport Projects in the County Borough – 16 Feb 2022**
- Network Rail and Transport for Wales representatives need to be invited to attend the meeting.
 - Proposal to put the loop in on the railway line – why has this been delayed.
 - Details on the review of bus services
5. Confirmation was requested that the Member Development Session regarding: the process for prioritising maintenance of highways, footpaths, street lights, buildings, technology, plus Active Travel will be arranged in October 2021, before the report to Committee on 24th November 2021 regarding: Infrastructure Delivery (including roads, street lights, building and technology).

There were no further items identified for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.6, and this could be revisited at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Committee considered and agreed the proposed draft outline Forward Work Programme in Appendix A, identified specific information / invitees the Committee wished to be included in the reports listed above and noted that the proposed draft Forward Work Programmes and any update from the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of COSC.

5. **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

The meeting closed at 11:55

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

4 OCTOBER 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES

THE BRIDGEND COUNTY ECONOMIC FUTURES FRAMEWORK

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 of work to develop an Economic Futures Framework for Bridgend County, including the development of a new Economic Strategy.

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**:-

- **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.
- **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.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring 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 deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 The County Borough of Bridgend lies at the geographical heart of South Wales, equidistant between Cardiff and Swansea and covering an area of approximately 25,500 hectares. It is directly bordered by Neath Port Talbot County Borough to the west and north, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough to the north and northeast, and the Vale of Glamorgan to the east. Bridgend owes its origins to its strategic location at the lowest bridging point on the River Ogmore, which led to its initial establishment as a market town that expanded when the coal mining industry flourished to the north.
- 3.2 The local road and rail network was developed to provide access to communities from the rest of South Wales, taking advantage of the County Borough's strategic

location. The locality's position within the Cardiff Capital Region, and the historical transport links that facilitate key connections to Cardiff and Swansea, have proved critical to the County Borough developing as a major regional employment hub, with specific strengths in advanced manufacturing.

- 3.3 Bridgend County Borough is in a unique position as the gateway to both the Swansea Bay Region and the Cardiff Capital Region. The interdependencies and relationships between the two regions are of particular importance for the County Borough, and indeed, the success of the wider regions more broadly. The pivotal position of Bridgend County Borough will prove key in driving forward collaborative, inter-regional strategic planning through the co-ordination of housing, economic growth and connectivity infrastructure.
- 3.4 Prior to the coronavirus pandemic Bridgend County Borough had 3,770 enterprises, 58,700 employed jobs and an unemployment rate of 4%. However, significant changes were imminent due to the closure of the Bridgend Ford Plant in September 2020 and impacts from the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union and subsequent ending of the transition period in December 2020. The closure of the Bridgend Ford Plant alone was predicted by Welsh Government to result in the loss of 1,700 direct jobs and the removal of £190m Gross Value Added (GVA) from the local economy. Work to plan for the closure and its impact was being coordinated through a Welsh Government Task Force. At the same time evidence relating to the challenges and opportunities resulting from exiting the European Union was emerging and being closely monitored by Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) Brexit Forum.
- 3.5 The coronavirus pandemic presented significant challenges for the local economy and business community and led to BCBC undertaking a substantial level of support – financial and advisory – to mitigate the impacts. Over £53m in Welsh Government business grants was processed by officers to support Bridgend businesses and a wide range of locally bespoke actions were made available such as sneeze guards, Covid safety related training and hospitality business guest registers to support Test, Track and Trace.
- 3.6 In June 2020 BCBC Cabinet approved the creation of an Economic Taskforce which is chaired by the Leader of BCBC in response to economic uncertainties and challenges arising from the coronavirus pandemic. Alongside this, Cabinet also created an Economic Futures Fund of £1.687m and the Economic Taskforce have approved allocations of that fund towards a Start-up Business Fund (£140k), a Business Property Enhancement Fund (£350k) and an Innovation Fund (£200k).
- 3.7 The Taskforce gave a mandate to BCBC officers, in partnership with key stakeholders, to develop an economic plan for the future of the County Borough which will include action to help businesses adapt to the changing economic landscape and improve resilience, as well as support for residents to develop new skills, training and employment opportunities. Work was to be aligned with and feed in to the Council's Corporate Plan and Strategic Recovery Planning.

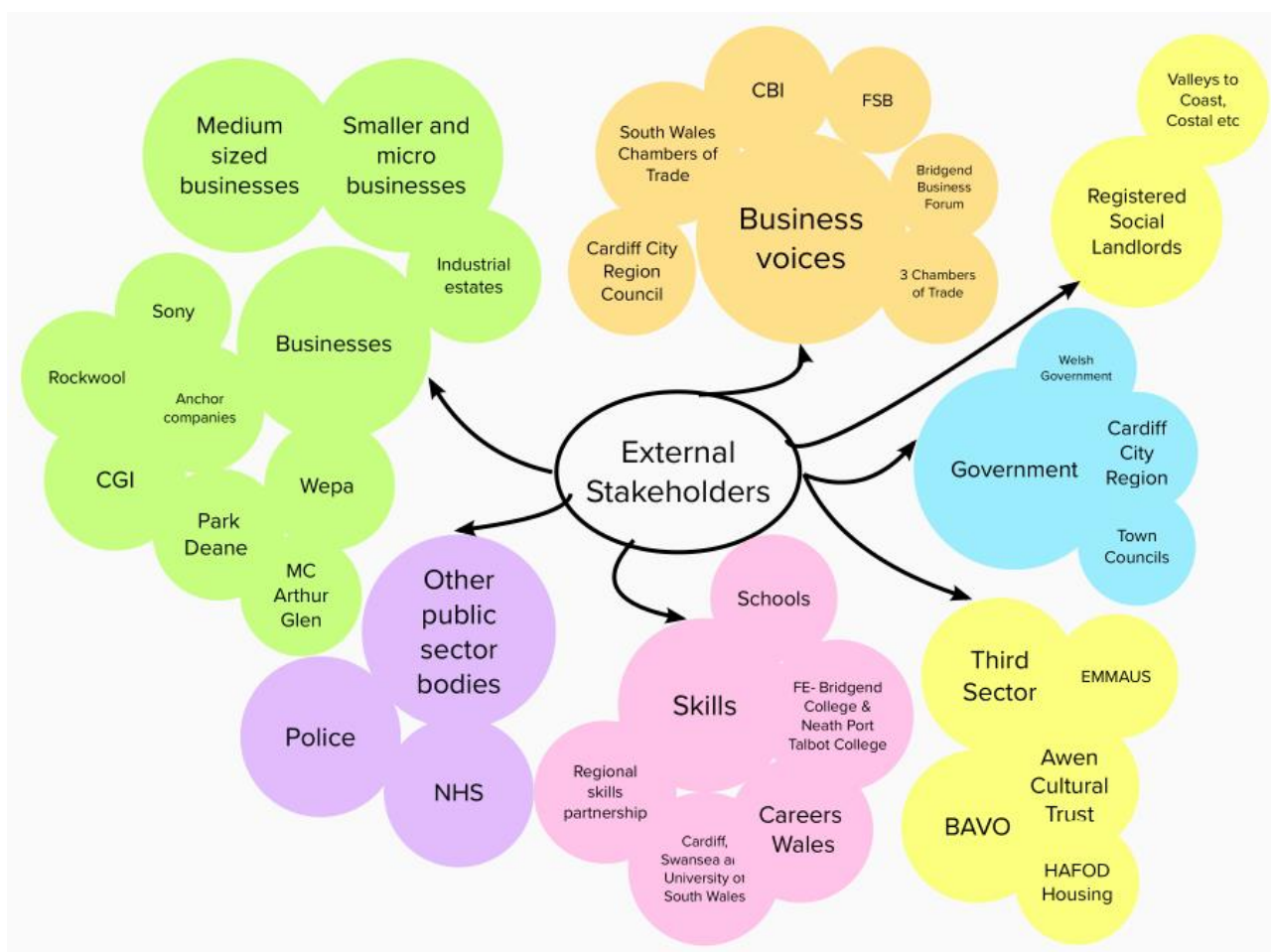
4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 Work has commenced on the development of a new Economic Futures Framework for the County Borough. The framework will include a data package, a new Economic Strategy, an investment prospectus and investment decision making toolkit and a revised governance, engagement and delivery model.
- 4.2 The Economic Futures Framework data package will involve a comprehensive review of existing research, evidence and published datasets as a core part of the basis on which the Economic Strategy will be based. This will include alignment with the replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) and recently produced evidence base and an analysis of the Bridgend Business Engagement Programme. In addition a forward plan of key indicator datasets to monitor will enable regular tracking of economic well-being and support periodic reviews of priorities, interventions and investments.
- 4.3 A new Economic Strategy will set out a long term strategic vision that clearly articulates Bridgend's growth ambitions for its economy. This will be based on a SWOT analysis and Stakeholder matrix aligned with the overall vision. An action plan setting out short, medium and long terms actions will be developed. This will include anticipated costs, clear identification of potential funding sources, lead bodies and identified stakeholders and partners, including, but not exclusively, the Bridgend County Economic Futures Fund, the Levelling Up Fund and the anticipated Shared Prosperity Fund. Within the strategy will be a clear set of strategic interventions through which the Council can overcome any barriers and maximise its capacity for supporting economic growth whilst enabling the economy to make the most of its distinctive strengths.
- 4.4 The development of a BCBC Investment Decisions Toolkit will create a bespoke criteria based tool for use by the Council in assessing and scoring which prioritised opportunities it takes forward based on agreed priorities and their relative importance. It will be an investment methodology for consideration of opportunities for the Council to use its powers and resources to directly take action to support the delivery of the aims of the strategy. Alongside this a dynamic and appealing investment prospectus will be published for the County Borough that sells strengths and promotes opportunities for future investment.
- 4.5 A new governance model will be developed to support the delivery of the Economic Strategy, including the development of a new Economic Futures Partnership as an evolution from the current Economic Task Force with a proposed membership, operating procedures and draft terms of reference. It will be accompanied by a 5 year engagement plan for the first 5 years of delivery, setting out a range of engagement methodologies, events and activities that will secure involvement from the business community and wider economy stakeholders. Key to this will be the future role of the Bridgend Business Forum. An operational plan will set out mechanisms and delivery structures for co-ordinating the delivery of the Economic Futures Framework at the county level ensuring greater collaboration across Council service areas and with multi-sector stakeholders. Approval of these will be subject to a BCBC Cabinet decision.
- 4.6 The development of a new Economic Strategy, following an in-depth review of data and extensive engagement with stakeholders, will provide the basis for dialogue on

prioritised actions with Welsh and UK Governments as well as the Cardiff Capital Region, a range of funding sources, investors and developers. This will support the Council's ongoing ambitions to play a full and active role supporting the local economy.

- 4.7 The new Economic Strategy will be ambitious and set out a clear plan of action that strengthens our linkages into all sectors of the economy and with all relevant stakeholders within the short, medium and long term. It will set out, based on stakeholder engagement and data analysis, what the key priorities are and what roles exist for stakeholders at a UK, Wales, regional and local level to take action. A great deal of work is underway and this presents an opportunity to draw that together within one framework, identify gaps and more clearly articulate current priorities and future opportunities.
- 4.8 The new Economic Strategy will be structured around the following core themes:
- Productive and competitive businesses
 - Reducing the factors that lead to income inequality
 - Supporting the transition to a zero-carbon economy
 - Healthier, fairer, and more sustainable communities and local businesses
- 4.9 Aligned to these core themes will be the following key areas of focus:
- Business support and resilience
 - Economic growth areas – geographical and sectoral
 - Skills and workforce supply
 - Economic well-being and sustainable livelihoods
 - Transport infrastructure and services
 - Place-based initiatives
 - Digitalisation
- 4.10 As such, alignment is required in these key areas of focus with:
- Welsh Government Policies
 - UK Government Policies
 - City Region Policies
 - Bridgend County Public Service Board Well-being Plan
 - Bridgend County Local Development Plan (LDP)
 - Bridgend County Local Transport Plan
 - Bridgend County Borough Council Corporate Plan and Strategic Recovery Plan
- 4.11 Over the Summer work has been progressing to engage a wide range of stakeholders based on a stakeholder analysis as set out in figure 1 below.

Figure 1 – Bridgend Economic Strategy Stakeholder analysis



4.12 In addition, work is progressing to develop the data package and has to date been based on the data set out in table 1 below.

Table 1 – Data sources for Economic Strategy

Bridgend Council Supplied Data	Cardiff Capital Region
Corporate Plans	Data Repository for CCR Skills Partnership
Economic Evidence Base Study (Stantec & PBA)	Cardiff Capital Region City Deal
Labour Market Statistics (Nomis & ONS)	Cardiff Capital Region Investment Prospectus & Business Plan
Bridgend Employability Programme	CCR Publication Library (various reports)
Wellbeing statement and report	CCR Skills Partnership, Employment and Skills Plan 2018, 2019-22
LDP economic data (data repository)	
Covid Recovery Impact Assessment	Swansea City Region
Bridgend County Borough Profile	Swansea Bay City Deal
Wellbeing Assessment economic data and reports	SW & Mid Wales Economic Frameworks
	Economic & other data (on data portal)

Welsh Government	Broadband (Current state & Roll Out plans)
Houshold Statistics & Projections	Welsh Government Broadband Briefings (multiple reports)
Various reports on infrastructure investment	Virgin Media high level approach
Regional Economic Frameworks	Openreach Ultrafast Roll out information
(draft) National Development Framework	Spectrum Internet high-level plans
Future Wales: The National Plan 2040	ISP Review broadband roll out reports
Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation	Thinkbroadband connectivity maps
	Connected Nations report
	House of Commons Library: Broadband speed mapping tool
Other Data	
Atlas of Deprivation in Wales	
UK Innovation Survey	

4.13 The stakeholder engagement and data analysis work to date has led to an interim set of findings in relation to strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as set out in table 2 below. It is important to note that these findings are interim at this stage and based on stakeholders engaged to date and the views they expressed. As the table shows, certain issues raised by stakeholders are reinforced by the data, but others are challenged.

Table 2 – Interim strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

Strengths	
Stakeholders views	Data analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong sense of community • Natural capital - mountains and sea • Good rail connections to Cardiff, Bristol, and London • Safe - low crime rate • Great place to live and work • Strong manufacturing base - good skilled labour • Easy access to good healthcare • More affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much of the qualitative literature supports strong community ties and feeling of place • The Natural capital of the region is a significant strength and opportunity that has not been fully realised • Mainline rail connections to the capital and neighbouring urban centres are strong • Population growth is positive and has exceed modelled trajectory • Employment growth has been relatively constant (preliminary observation - will take time for the data to depict full impact of the pandemic) • GVA per capita relatively constant Y/o/Y • New business births have been relatively constant

Weaknesses	
<i>Stakeholders views</i>	<i>Data analysis</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More public transport infrastructure needed • More support for active travel needed • Poor marketing and PR for the area as a place to live and work • Bridgend town centre but all the town centres need attention • Big inequalities between areas • Climate change • Lack of suitable business premises • Difficult to recruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average gross weekly earnings are down Y/o/Y • Lack of last mile transportation and active mobility • Over 10% of the population does not have access to threshold levels of min viable 10Mbps in terms of connectivity • Median incomes have not kept pace with rising housing costs • Supply of flexible commercial premises • Housing demands both private and social • Advanced skills shortages
Opportunities	
<i>Stakeholders views</i>	<i>Data analysis</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote/Flexible working • Net Zero and the green agenda • Different approaches to the nighttime economy • Need spaces to meet/co-create/innovate • Developing Porthcawl and town centres • Solving the social care crisis • Skills development • Promote the area is a great place to live and work • Using the skills of the people we have locally to attract businesses to • Supporting innovation and entrepreneurship • Making more of the natural beauty of the valleys • Large public sector – can use its economic role for good • Reducing inequality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant commercial opportunity for the County Borough to invest in sustainable public transportation & infrastructure to support active mobility i.e. running, biking etc. Increasingly so, in pandemic recovery • Travel & Tourism is a significant strength that needs to be exploited, increasingly so as we move into a post pandemic environment • Universal digital skills & democratising basic connectivity • Reskilling manufacturing-based labour to align with technical sectors i.e., batteries, home & commercial retrofitting, energy storage, sustainable infrastructure etc • Placemaking is foundational to many aspects of economic development especially town centres • Net Zero policies will be instrumental to priming economic development • Reimagining commercial spaces

Threats	
Stakeholders views	Data analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving away from EU funding not clear how much or how funding will be distributed in future • Potential loss of collaboration across counties, if funding distributed at a local level • Being between Cardiff and Swansea • Difficult to recruit staff • Lack of the right skills, digital, marketing, project management, supporting green technologies • Not being ambitious enough • Climate change • Digital exclusion • Ensuring a nuanced approach to the different places within the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep-rooted social deprivation in the area of Caerau, continuously moved up the ranking from 35th in 2005 to 5th most deprived (across the UK) in 2019 • Data suggests that housing costs account for 31% of mean household incomes, this is higher than the standard modelling based on 25% for the UK • Preliminary findings suggest a disproportionate number of long-term sick/unemployed • More work needed to embrace net-zero economic opportunities

4.14 Emerging from the engagement and data analysis work to date are a series of initial headline themes that are beginning to emerge. These themes are:

- Digital Connectivity
- Low Carbon Economy
- Place Based development approaches
- Natural Capital and Visitor Economy
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Public Sector Enablement
- Social Care
- Skills Development
- Active Travel and Public Transport
- Marketing the County
- Business Support

4.15 Further work is now underway in relation to stakeholder engagement, data analysis and refinement of priority themes which will start to present a focused basis on which the Economic Strategy and other elements of the Economic Futures Framework will be developed. It is currently proposed that the final Economic Strategy will be presented to Cabinet for approval by January 2022 with the investment toolkit, investment prospectus and new governance model work completed by March 2022.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language as a specific result of this report. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA at this stage.

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

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment Template has been completed and a summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is below:

Long-term: The elements that make up the proposed early action to support Local Economic Recovery Planning have been identified following discussion with key stakeholders and in relation to current understanding of the potential long term challenges and impacts that the coronavirus will continue to have on the local economy. Through the process of developing the Economic Futures Framework and the creation of an Economic Strategy for the area it will be possible to set out a long term response.

Prevention: BCBC has for many years worked closely with stakeholders and the local business community to support the local economy in a wide variety of proactive ways. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic a great deal of reactive work also took place in relation to the impacts of the pandemic on the local economy. As well as a continuation of this ability to react to the situation, the development of the Economic Futures Framework builds on strengths to plan for the future, take proactive action and support local businesses.

Integration: The work to develop the Economic Futures Framework is closely aligned with the BCBC Corporate Plan, the Local Development Plan and the Public Service Board's Well-being Plan.

Collaboration: The Economic Futures Framework is being steered by a cross-directorate BCBC officer group and is being developed and will be delivered in partnership with key stakeholders.

Involvement: For the Economic Futures Framework to successfully operate it will require the involvement of senior members of local public sectors organisations, business leaders, representatives of business sectors and trade bodies and other key stakeholders.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The £1.687 million Economic Futures Fund comprises resources from an established earmarked reserve for Economic Future Resilience of £800,000 and an Economic Stimulus Grant from Welsh Government (WG) of £887,000. Allocations to date include a Start-up Business Fund (£140k), a Business Property Enhancement Fund (£350k) and an Innovation Fund (£200k). Any future capital allocations from the Economic Futures Fund will be subject to Council approval for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

- 8.2 The funding required to undertake the work needed to develop the Economic Futures Framework has been made available through existing Economic Development budgets within the Communities Directorate.
- 8.3 Priority proposals that arise through the development of the Economic Strategy will be subject to financial analysis and business case development. As required, when bids for funding are made to external funding sources to support the delivery of the strategy and when external funds are offered, these will not be accepted until the Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer – Legal, HR and Regulatory Services are satisfied that BCBC can comply with all associated terms, conditions and legal requirements and grant procedure rules of BCBC.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 note the work to date to develop an Economic Futures Framework for Bridgend County, including the interim findings based on stakeholder engagement and data analysis to date which will be developed further to support a creation of a new Economic Strategy.

Janine Nightingale
Corporate Director – Communities
4 October 2021

Contact Officer: Ieuan Sherwood
Group Manager: Economy, Natural Resources and
Sustainability

Telephone: (01656) 815333

E-mail: ieuan.Sherwood@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Bridgend County Borough Council, Communities Directorate,
Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents:
None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

4 OCTOBER 2021

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

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Present the Committee with the Forward Work Programme (**Appendix A**) for consideration and approval;
- b) Request any specific information the Committee identifies to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wish to attend;
- c) Request the Committee to identify whether there are presently any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.3 of this report;
- d) Note that the Forward Work Programme and any feedback from the Committee will be reported to the next meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC);
- e) Present the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet (**Appendix B**) to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at the previous meetings.

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**:

- **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.
- **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.
- **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 The Council's Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.
- 3.2 The Council's Constitution also provides for each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee to propose items for the Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework, for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to then prioritise and schedule.

Best Practice / Guidance

- 3.3 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the forward work programme. In order to 'lead and own the process', it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee's work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be coordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.
- 3.4 Forward Work Programmes need to be manageable to maximise the effective use of the limited time and resources of Scrutiny Committees. It is not possible to include every topic proposed. Successful Scrutiny is about looking at the right topic in the right way and Members need to be selective, while also being able to demonstrate clear arguments for including or excluding topics.
- 3.5 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) guide to work effective work programming 'A Cunning Plan?' makes the following reference to the importance of good work programming:

'Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function. Done well it can help lay the foundations for targeted, incisive and timely work on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value. Done badly, scrutiny can end up wasting time and resources on issues where the impact of any work done is likely to be minimal.'

Forward Work Programme

- 3.6 Following the approval of the schedule of Scrutiny Committee meeting dates at the Annual Meeting of Council on 19th May 2021, the scheduling of standing statutory reports to Scrutiny Committees upon: the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Performance, the Corporate Plan, Budget Monitoring, etc. were mapped to the appropriate COSC meeting dates into a draft Forward Work Programme.
- 3.7 The draft Forward work programme for each Scrutiny Committee has been prepared using a number of difference sources, including:
- Corporate Risk Assessment;
 - Directorate Business Plans;
 - Previous Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme report topics / Minutes;

- Committee / Member proposed topics;
- Policy Framework;
- Cabinet Work Programme;
- Discussions with Corporate Directors;
- Performance Team regarding the timing of performance information.

3.8 There are items where there is a statutory duty for Policy Framework documents to be considered by Scrutiny, e.g. the MTFs including draft budget proposals scheduled for consideration in December 2021, following which the COSC will coordinate the conclusions and recommendations from each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in a report on the overall strategic overview of Cabinet's draft Budget proposals to the meeting of Cabinet in February 2022.

3.9 An effective FWP identifies the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear plan. However, at each meeting the Committee will have an opportunity to review this as the Forward Work Programme Update will be a standing item on the Agenda, detailing which items are scheduled for future meetings and be requested to clarify any information to be included in reports and the list of invitees. The FWP will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with updates from each SOSC FWP and any updated information gathered from FWP meetings with Scrutiny Chairs and Corporate Directors.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The Committee approved its Forward Work Programme at its previous meeting.

4.2 The Committee's Forward Work Programme has also been reported to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for coordination and oversight of the overall FWP.

Identification of Further Items

4.3 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria Form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to ensure a strategic responsibility for Scrutiny and that its work benefits the Authority. There are a number of questions and processes that can help the Committee come to a decision on whether to include a referred topic, some of which are set out below:

Recommended Criteria for Selecting Scrutiny Topics:

PUBLIC INTEREST: The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;

ABILITY TO CHANGE: Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence, and which will result in a Cabinet decision being taken;

PERFORMANCE:	Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other agencies, are not performing well;
EXTENT:	Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the County Borough;
REPLICATION:	Work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Reasons to Reject Scrutiny Topics:

- The issue is already being addressed / being examined elsewhere and change is imminent.
- The topic would be better addressed elsewhere (and can be referred there).
- Scrutiny involvement would have limited / no impact upon outcomes.
- The topic may be sub-judice or prejudicial to the Council's interest.
- The topic is too broad to make a review realistic.
- New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected within the next year.
- The topic area is currently subject to inspection or has recently undergone substantial change.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a Local Authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.
- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.
- 4.7 The Forward Work Programme for this Committee is attached as **Appendix A** for consideration.
- 4.8 The Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet for the previous meetings is attached as **Appendix B**, to track responses to the Committee's recommendations at the previous meetings.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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

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

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

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider and approve the Forward Work Programme attached as **Appendix A**;
- b) Identify any specific information the Committee wishes to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wish to attend;
- c) Identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.3 of this report;
- d) Note that the Forward Work Programme and any updates from the Committee will be reported to the next meeting of COSC;
- e) Note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at the previous meetings as **Appendix B**.

Kelly Watson

CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL, HR & REGULATORY SERVICES

28 September 2021

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Background documents: None.

<u>Date of Meeting:</u>	<u>Report Topics:</u>
Mon 28 th June 9.30am	Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel Draft Outline Forward Work Programme
Mon 19 th July 9.30am	Progress of the Bridgend 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy (Ultra Low Emission Vehicles) Update on the Waste Service Contract 2024
Wed 4 th Oct 9.30am	The Bridgend County Economic Futures Framework
Wed 24 th Nov 9.30am	Infrastructure Delivery (including roads, street lights, building and technology)
Thursday 16 th Dec 9.30am	Medium Term Financial Strategy & Budget Proposals
Wed 16 th Feb 9.30am	Transport Projects in the County Borough
Date TBC	Changes in External Economic Funding - Economic Development
Date TBC	The introduction of the WG Pavement Parking Enforcement (following the surveying of streets and collation of information for potential Traffic Parking Orders, but before implementation)

The following report has been included in the COSC Forward Work Programme:

12th Jan 22 – Replacement Local Development Plan

The following Member Development Sessions are proposed:

Process for prioritising maintenance of highways, footpaths, street lights, buildings, technology, plus Active Travel) **(October)**

Corporate Joint Committees Transport, Planning and Economic Development
(Autumn)

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Subject Overview & Scrutiny Committee 3

ACTION SHEET

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
26 April 2021	Bridgend Town Centre Regeneration Masterplan and Consultation	The Committee concluded by making a number of recommendations.	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – response and information circulated to Committee Members.
28 June 2021	Forward Work Programme	<p>The Committee requested information for inclusion in the following upcoming FWP reports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress of the Bridgend 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy (Ultra Low Emission Vehicles) – 19 July 2021 2. Update on the Waste Service Contract 2024 – 19 July 2021 3. Changes in External Economic Funding - Economic Development – 29 Sept 2021 4. Transport Projects in the County Borough – 16 Feb 2022 	Scrutiny / Corporate Director-Communities	ACTIONED - Request emailed to Corporate Director – Communities and discussed at Officer Planning meeting with Chair and Scrutiny.
		The Committee requested confirmation that the Member Development Session on the Process for prioritising maintenance of highways, footpaths, street lights, buildings, technology, plus Active Travel , will be arranged for October prior to the report to Committee on 24 November.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director-Communities	ACTIONED – confirmed to be held in October.

19 July 2021	Climate Change Response and Net-Zero Carbon by 2030	The Committee concluded by making a number of recommendations.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director-Communities	Response to be provided.
	Waste Provision Post 2024			
	Forward Work Programme Update	<p>The Committee made the following Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a report on the introduction of Pavement Parking Enforcement be added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme following the surveying of streets and collation of information for potential Traffic Parking Orders, but before implementation. 	Scrutiny	ACTIONED – added to FWP, date to be confirmed.