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: Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Ein cyf / Our ref:
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Dydd Mercher, 12 Ionawr 2022

Annwyl Cynghorydd,

CABINET

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Cabinet o bell - trwy Dimau Microsoft ar **Dydd Mawrth, 18 Ionawr 2022** am **14:30**.

AGENDA

1.	Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.	
2.	Datganiadau o fuddiant Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.	
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18. Materion Brys

I ystyried unrhyw eitemau o fusnes y, oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig y cadeirydd o'r farn y dylid eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod fel mater o frys yn unol â pharagraff 2.4 (e) o'r Rheolau Trefn y Cabinet yn y Cyfansoddiad.

19. Gwahardd y Cyhoedd

Nid oedd yr eitemau canlynol yn cael eu cyhoeddi, gan fod eu bod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth eithriedig fel y'i diffinnir ym Pharagraff 14 o Ran 4 a Pharagraff 21 o Ran 5, Atodlen 12A, Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972, fel y'i newidiwyd gan Orchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2007 (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) (Amrywio).

Os, yn dilyn cymhwyso'r prawf budd y cyhoedd yn y Cabinet yn penderfynu yn unol â'r Ddeddf i ystyried yr eitemau hyn yn breifat, bydd y cyhoedd yn cael eu gwahardd o'r cyfarfod yn ystod ystyriaeth o'r fath.

20.	Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion wedi'u Eithrio I dderbyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cofnodion gwahardd cyfarfod y 14/12/21	373 - 374

Nodyn: Sylwch: Yn sgil yr angen i gadw pellter cymdeithasol, ni fydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei gynnal yn ei leoliad arferol. Yn hytrach, bydd hwn yn gyfarfod rhithwir a bydd Aelodau a Swyddogion yn mynychu o bell. Bydd y cyfarfod yn cael ei recordio i'w ddarlledu ar wefan y Cyngor cyn gynted ag sy'n ymarferol ar ôl y cyfarfod. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiwn am hyn, cysylltwch â cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yn ddiffuant
K Watson
Prif Swyddog, Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddio, AD a Pholisi Corfforaethol

Dosbarthiad:

Cynghorwyr	Cynghorwyr	Cynghorwyr
J Gebbie	HJ David	HM Williams
SE Baldwin	CE Smith	D Patel

CABINET - DYDD MAWRTH, 14 RHAGFYR 2021

COFNODION CYFARFOD Y CABINET A GYNHALIWYD YN O BELL - TRWY DIMAU MICROSOFT DYDD MAWRTH, 14 RHAGFYR 2021, AM 14:30

Presennol

Y Cynghorydd HJ David – Cadeirydd

J Gebbie SE Baldwin CE Smith HM Williams
D Patel

Swyddogion:

Carys Lord	Prif Swyddog Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid
Claire Marchant	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles
Janine Nightingale	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Cymunedau
Gill Lewis	Pennaeth Cyllid a Swyddog 151 Dros Dro
Kelly Watson	Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Rheoleiddio
Julie Ellams	Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd - Pwyllgorau
Mark Shephard	Prif Weithredwr
Andrew Rees	Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd - Pwyllgorau
Lindsay Harvey	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd
Jackie Davies	Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol Oedolion
Joseph Cassinelli	Prif Swyddog Cynllunio – Trafnidiaeth Strategol
Nicola Fedyszyn	Rheolwr Marchnata
David Holland	Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Rheoliadol a Rennir

750. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANNAU

Fe wnaeth Claire Marchant, Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant, ddatgan buddiant personol a rhagfarnus yn eitem 17 ar yr agenda - Ailgomisiynu Gofal a Chymorth yn y Cartref gan fod aelodau o'i theulu yn derbyn cymorth yn y cartref gan y darparwyr oedd ar y rhestr yn yr adroddiad, ac aeth allan o'r cyfarfod tra roedd yr eitem hon yn cael ei hystyried.

751. CYMERADWYO COFNODION

PENDERFYNWYD: Cymeradwyo cofnodion cyfarfod y Cabinet, 16 Tachwedd 2021 fel cofnod gwir a chywir.

752. CANLYNIAD YMGYNGHORIAD 'LLUNIO DYFODOL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR'

Rhoddodd y Prif Swyddog Dros Dro - Cyllid. Perfformiad a Newid adroddiad ar ganlyniad yr ymgynghoriad ar y gyllideb yn 2021, 'Llunio Dyfodol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr', oedd yn gofyn i ddinasyddion gynorthwyo i benderfynu ar weledigaeth tymor hwy ar gyfer y fwrdeistref. Ei fwriad oedd deall beth oedd y cyhoedd yn teimlo oedd wedi gweithio'n dda, a ble mae angen i'r Cyngor barhau i wneud newidiadau neu welliannau wrth iddo ymadfer o bandemig Covid-19, er mwyn sicrhau ei fod yn darparu gwasanaethau effeithiol ac effeithlon sy'n iawn ar gyfer y cymunedau dros y 5 i 10 mlynedd nesaf.

Hysbysodd y Cabinet fod yr ymgynghoriad wedi ei gynnal dros gyfnod o 8 wythnos o 20 Medi 2021 hyd 14 Tachwedd 2021, pan ofynnwyd i atebwyr rannu eu safbwynt ar ystod o feysydd gan gynnwys y canlynol:

- Perfformiad dros y 12 mis diwethaf;

- Cefnogaeth i Fusnes, Twristiaeth a'r economi;
- Llesiant;
- Mynediad wyneb yn wyneb i gwsmeriaid;
- Digidoleiddio;
- Buddsoddiad mewn gwasanaethau;
- Ffioedd a thaliadau;
- Lefelau'r Dreth Gyngor;
- Y Dyfodol.

Hysbysodd y Prif Swyddog Dros Dro - Cyllid. Perfformiad a Newid y Cabinet fod eleni wedi gweld gostyngiad o 39% yn y rhyngweithiadau i'r ymgynghoriad a gostyngiad o 48% yn yr holiaduron a gwblhawyd o gymharu â'r llynedd. Dywedodd fod y tîm ymgynghori ac ymgysylltu wedi mynychu 17 o gyfarfodydd ar-lein ac wyneb yn wyneb yn ystod y cyfnod byw, oedd wedi arwain at 275 o ryngweithiadau wyneb yn wyneb gyda phobl mewn digwyddiadau ar-lein, oedd yn golygu 37% o gynnydd ar y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Amlinellodd y prif ffigurau a'r themâu mewn perthynas â'r meysydd y gofynnwyd i'r atebwyr rannu eu barn amdanynt.

Dywedodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd ei bod yn siomedig nodi lefel yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad eleni, o gymharu â'r llynedd, ond er hynny diolchodd i'r rheiny a gymerodd yr amser i ymateb a dywedodd y câi eu sylwadau ar wasanaethau'r Cyngor eu cymryd i ystyriaeth. Dywedodd Aelod y Cabinet dros y Cymunedau na ddylai swyddogion fod yn siomedig o angenrheidrwydd wrth ystyried lefel yr atebion gan y byddai'r trigolion i gyd wedi bod yn ymdrin â materion mwy pwysig yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf oherwydd y pandemig. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd y byddai'r Cabinet yn ystyried y sylwadau a godwyd yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad a diolchodd i'r tîm ymgynghori ac ymgysylltu am gynnal yr ymgynghoriad.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet yn nodi canlyniad yr ymgynghoriad â phartïon â diddordeb fel y disgrifiwyd yn adroddiad yr ymgynghoriad.

753. CYNLLUNIAU CLUDIANT STRATEGOL

Rhoddodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau adroddiad a roddai drosolwg ar brosiectau cludiant strategol y Cyngor ar hyn o bryd a rhai posibl yn y dyfodol ac roedd yn edrych am flaenoriaethau i gynlluniau symud ymlaen ar gyfer unrhyw gyfnodau yn rhaglen Metro De-ddwyrain Cymru yn y dyfodol neu unrhyw gyllid neu fecanwaith darparu arall.

Hysbysodd y Cabinet y byddai'r prosiectau a nodwyd hefyd yn ffurfio sail i flaenoriaethau cludiant strategol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr mewn trafodaethau gyda Llywodraeth Cymru (LlC), Trafnidiaeth Cymru a Rhwydwaith y Rheilffyrdd ac yn hwyluso ymhellach y defnydd o gludiant cyhoeddus a seilwaith teithiol llesol drwy eu gwneud yn fwy cyfleus a defnyddiol. Byddai'r cynlluniau hefyd yn cyfrannu tuag at leihau'r ôl troed carbon, gan annog newid dulliau teithio i deithio cynaliadwy a thrwy leihau tagfeydd cerbydau, gan ddarparu gwell mynediad at gludiant cyhoeddus, gostyngiad mewn traffig a'r buddion amgylcheddol cysylltiedig. Byddent hefyd yn ei gwneud yn bosibl gwella amlder gwasanaethau trên, yn enwedig y llwybr o Faesteg i Gaerdydd, sydd wedi ei adnabod fel coridor trafnidiaeth allweddol. Byddai'r cynlluniau hefyd yn rhoi cyfle i gynlluniau adfywio lleol yn y dyfodol o gwmpas meysydd y prosiect gyda'r buddion economaidd a chymdeithasol cysylltiedig.

Adroddodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau mai Dinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd drwy ei rhaglen Metro ynghyd â Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n darparu'r prif fecanwaith cyllido ar gyfer prosiectau cludiant strategol mawr o fewn y rhanbarth. Mae'r prosiectau cyfredol

yn cynnwys cyfleuster bysiau Cyswllt Metro Porthcawl yn ogystal â gwaith dichonolrwydd a chynllunio ar Bont Heol Penprysg/Teithio Llesol newydd a dileu'r groesfan reilffordd ym Mhencoed. Mae cynlluniau teithio llesol hefyd yn dibynnu'n bennaf ar gyllid LlC (sy'n cael ei reoli gan Drafnidiaeth Cymru), gyda'r rhaglen honno'n cael blaenoriaeth ar wahân. Gall prosiectau seilwaith cludiant eraill (gan gynnwys gwelliannau i deithio llesol a phriffyrdd) gael eu cyllido drwy gyfraniadau datblygwyr (drwy gytundebau cynllunio Adran 106), drwy fentrau cyllido grantiau eraill a chefnogaeth o fewn yr awdurdod ambell waith.

Hysbysodd hi'r Cabinet ei bod yn hanfodol bod y Cyngor yn cytuno ar restr o gynlluniau y gellir eu cyflwyno fel rhan o unrhyw gynigion cyllido cludiant yn y dyfodol yn ogystal â nodi prosiectau cydnabyddedig y gellid eu hyrwyddo wrth geisio cyfraniadau datblygwyr drwy gytundebau cynllunio Adran 106. Amlinellodd y cynlluniau arfaethedig a rhai presennol fel a ganlyn:

- Rhaglen Teithio Llesol
- Gorsaf Reilffordd Arhosfa Bracla
- Gwella Gorsaf Reilffordd Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
- Cyfnewidfa Heol Ewenni (Maesteg)
- Lein Leol Ford
- Seilwaith Bysiau Cyflym Cymoedd Garw ac Ogwr
- Cyffordd 36 (M4)
- Pont Heol Penprysg
- Cyswllt Metro Porthcawl
- Gwelliannau Blaenoriaeth i Fysiau Porthcawl i'r Pîl/Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
- Adleoli Gorsaf Reilffordd y Pîl a Pharcio a Theithio

Roedd Aelod y Cabinet dros y Cymunedau, wrth ganmol y cynlluniau cludiant strategol, yn falch i weld y gwaith mewn partneriaeth â Dinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd a Llywodraeth Cymru drwy raglen y Metro ar Gyswllt Metro Porthcawl, sydd ar hyn o bryd wedi symud ymlaen yn sylweddol a Phont Heol Penprysg. Dywedodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio fod y cynlluniau i gyd i'w canmol a'u bod yn dangos dychymyg ac yn obeithiol ac yn cynrychioli newid yn y dull o deithio o'r cerbyd modur i gludiant cyhoeddus a theithio llesol. Roedd yr Arweinydd yn falch i weld bod llawer o'r prosiectau yn agos i gael eu cwblhau a bod cais cynllunio wedi ei dderbyn ar gyfer cyswllt Metro Porthcawl. Roedd yn falch hefyd i weld prosiectau yn asio â'i gilydd, safleoedd tir llwyd yn cael eu datblygu a gwelliannau i orsafoedd rheilffordd, yn cynrychioli newid mewn dulliau teithio i gludiant cyhoeddus a theithio llesol, gyda'r cynlluniau i gyd yn brosiectau adfywio ac nid prosiectau cludiant yn unig. Roedd Aelod y Cabinet - Llesiant a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol yn falch i nodi bod gan y cynlluniau rywbeth ar gyfer pob rhan o'r Sir a'u bod yn welliant cadarnhaol.

Roedd Aelod y Cabinet - Llesiant a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol yn cwestiynu'r amserlenni ar gyfer cyflawni'r prosiectau. Hysbysodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau y Cabinet y byddai yna amrywiaeth o brosiectau. Gwariwyd swm o £3 miliwn ar lwybrau Teithio Llesol. Mae Gorsaf Reilffordd Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn rhan o Brif Gynllun Canol Tref Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ac mae'n cael ei symud ymlaen gyda thirfeddianwyr. Dywedodd y byddai gwelliannau i Gyffordd 36 yr M4 a'r cysylltiadau seilwaith bysiau a rheilffordd yn digwydd dros y 5 mlynedd nesaf. Prosiectau mwy hirdymor fyddai Lein Leol Ford ac adleoli Gorsaf Reilffordd y Pîl a Pharcio a Theithio.

Tanlinellodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio bwysigrwydd allweddol Dinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd, ac na ellid symud ymlaen ar Gyswllt Metro Porthcawl a Phont Heol Penprysg hebddi.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo cynnwys y prosiectau cludiant strategol a nodwyd uchod fel rhan o unrhyw raglen Metro Dinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd neu fecanwaith cyllido arall yn y dyfodol yn ogystal â bod yn sail i drafodaeth gyda chyrff cludiant allanol eraill ar flaenoriaethau cludiant strategol cenedlaethol a rhanbarthol.

754. MAP RHWYDWAITH TEITHIO LLESOL

Roedd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth i gyflwyno'r map rhwydwaith teithio llesol (MRhTLl) i Lywodraeth Cymru erbyn y dyddiad cau a ragnodwyd, sef 31 Rhagfyr 2021.

Adroddodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau fod Deddf Teithio Llesol (Cymru) 2013 yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru lunio mapiau llwybrau presennol, a rhai yn y dyfodol, o rwydweithiau cerdded a beicio a chyflawni gwelliannau teithio llesol flwyddyn ar ôl blwyddyn ar hyd y llwybrau a fapiwyd a'u cyfleusterau cysylltiedig. Term yw teithio llesol a ddefnyddir i ddisgrifio cerdded a beicio fel cyfrwng cludiant i gyrchfan ac nid er mwyn hamddena'n unig. Tynnodd sylw at mor gymhleth yw'r gwaith o ddatblygu llwybrau teithio llesol oherwydd gofynion iechyd a diogelwch a phroblemau meddiant tir y mae'n rhaid eu goresgyn. Dywedodd fod y fersiwn bresennol o'r MRhTLl wedi cael ei gymeradwyo yn 2017 a bod y MRhTLl diwygiedig, oedd wedi cael ei ddatblygu drwy broses drwyadl o gasglu data, ymgynghori a gwerthuso, i fod i gael ei gyflwyno erbyn 31 Rhagfyr 2021. Amlinellodd y 3 cham yn yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ar gyfer y MRhTLl. Hyd yma, roedd gwerth £3 miliwn o lwybrau wedi cael eu creu yn y Sir, gyda Llywodraeth Cymru yn neilltuo £70 miliwn ledled Cymru i ddatblygu llwybrau Teithio Llesol. Roedd swyddogion ar hyn o bryd yn dadansoddi'r holl adborth i'r ymgynghoriad statudol ac yn gwneud newidiadau terfynol i'r MRhTLl.

Roedd Aelod y Cabinet dros y Cymunedau, wrth ganmol y MRhTLl, yn falch i nodi bod Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau wedi tynnu sylw at gymhlethdod y gwaith o gyflawni llwybrau teithio llesol. Roedd ef yn falch fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi dangos ei bwriad drwy neilltuo £70 miliwn ar gyfer datblygu llwybrau teithio llesol ledled Cymru. Diolchodd i'r tîm am ei waith yn datblygu'r MRhTLl ac am oresgyn yr heriau o ddatblygu llwybr llesol Heol y Bont-faen, sydd wrthi'n cael ei gyflawni ar hyn o bryd. Roedd Aelod y Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio yn falch i weld yr uchelgais y tu ôl i'r MRhTLl ond yn meddwl y gallai ei gyflawni gael ei gyfyngu gan fodelu ariannol gyda chysylltiadau ar goll ar rai llwybrau. Roedd yn dda gan yr Arweinydd nodi bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi dyblu'r swm oedd ar gael ar gyfer datblygu llwybrau teithio llesol; fodd bynnag, mae'r amserlenni ar gyfer cyflawni'r llwybrau llesol yn gywasgedig a byddai'n well pe câi cyllid ei roi ar gael dros nifer o flynyddoedd.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet:

1. Yn nodi'r wybodaeth oedd wedi ei chynnwys yn yr adroddiad.
2. Yn dirprwyo awdurdod i'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Cymunedau i gyflwyno fersiwn derfynol y MRhTLl a'r ddogfennaeth gysylltiedig i Lywodraeth Cymru am ei chymeradwyaeth.

755. NEWIDIADAU YN Y POLISI GORFODI AR GYFER RHOI HYSBYSIADAU COSB BENODEDIG AM DROSEDDAU AMGYLCHEDDOL

Roedd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth i newidiadau arfaethedig i Bolisi Gorfodi'r Cyngor ar gyfer rhoi Hysbysiadau Cosb Benodedig.

Adroddodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau fod angen diwygio Polisi Gorfodi'r Cyngor ar gyfer rhoi Hysbysiadau Cosb Benodedig am droseddau amgylcheddol er mwyn ymgorffori troseddau yn unol â Deddf Cymdogaethau Glân a'r Amgylchedd 2005, Deddf Diogelu'r Amgylchedd 1990 a Deddf Gwaredu Sbwriel (Amwynder) 1978, fydd yn cynyddu cyfrifoldeb gorfodi. Dywedodd mewn perthynas â thipio anghyfreithlon, y gellir cynnig Hysbysiad Cosb Benodedig yn lle cael collfarn am y drosedd, drwy dalu cosb benodedig yn amrywio rhwng £150 a £400. Tâl y Cyngor mewn cysylltiad â'r drosedd hon yw cosb benodedig o £200 (gyda £120 yn cael ei dderbyn wrth dalu'r gosb yn fuan). Fodd bynnag, mae awdurdodau lleol cyfagos yn awr wedi dechrau gweinyddu'r gosb benodedig o £400 (gyda £200 yn cael ei dderbyn wrth dalu'r gosb yn fuan). Hysbysodd hi'r Cabinet yr argymhellir bod y Cyngor hwn yn ymgorffori lefel debyg o gosb er mwyn atal unrhyw droseddwr rhag gwahaniaethu rhwng ffiniau'r fwrdeistref wrth gyflawni trosedd o'r fath.

Adroddodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau fod ychwanegu deddfwriaeth ynglŷn â throseddau gwastraff masnachol wedi ei gynnwys i ddelio â phroblemau gwastraff mewn rhannau yng nghanol trefi. Argymhellwyd bod hyn yn cael ei gynnwys yn y polisi er mwyn galluogi Swyddogion i ymdrin â busnesau nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â'u cyfrifoldebau o ran gwastraff ac i'w gwneud yn bosibl rhoi Hysbysiadau Cosb Benodedig pan fo'n briodol.

Adroddodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau hefyd fod troseddau cerbydau wedi eu cynnwys yn y polisi, yn cynnwys y gallu i roi Hysbysiadau Cosb Benodedig am adael cerbyd, a phan fo cerbydau yn cael eu parcio ar y ffordd i'w gwerthu, gan achosi niwsans i drigolion yn yr ardal. Dywedodd ei fod wedi ei fwriadu ar gyfer sefyllfaoedd lle mae masnachwyr yn gwerthu mwy na dau gerbyd o'u heiddo mewn ardaloedd preswyl gan achosi problemau i drigolion. Cynigir hefyd yn y polisi roi Hysbysiadau Cosb Benodedig i fasnachwyr sy'n trwsio cerbydau ar ochr y ffordd.

Dywedodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd, wrth gymeradwyo'r diwygiadau i'r Polisi Gorfodi, y byddai'n peri bod yr awdurdod yn cydymffurfio â'r awdurdodau Lleol cyfagos i atal pobl rhag gwahaniaethu rhwng ffiniau wrth ystyried tipio anghyfreithlon. Dywedodd er mai addysgu'r cyhoedd fyddai'r flaenoriaeth, fod y gallu i roi Hysbysiadau Cosb Benodedig yn ddewis pwysig. Roedd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau yn ystyried ei bod yn bwysig i'r awdurdod gael y gallu i roi Hysbysiadau Cosb Benodedig ac y câi'r incwm o hyn ei ailfuddsoddi yn y gwasanaeth.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo'r Polisi Gorfodi diwygiedig ar gyfer rhoi Hysbysiadau Cosb Benodedig am Droseddau Amgylcheddol.

756. CYSGODFANNAU BYSIAU HYSBYSEBU MEWN PERCHNOGAETH BREIFAT

Roedd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau yn gofyn am gymeradwyaeth i ymgymryd â Gweithred Amrywio er mwyn amrywio telerau cytundeb presennol mewn perthynas â chodi a chynnal cysgodfannau bysiau a chaniatáu hawliau hysbysebu ar gysgodfannau bysiau.

Adroddodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau fod Clear Channel UK Ltd, sy'n darparu 25 o gysgodfannau bysiau y maent yn eu glanhau ac yn eu cynnal, wedi gofyn i'r awdurdod am amrywiad yn nhelerau'r cytundeb er mwyn cwrdd â gofynion hysbysebu cyfredol. Er mwyn amrywio'r Cytundeb, mae'n ofynnol i'r Cyngor ymgymryd â Gweithred Amrywio gyda Clear Channel UK Ltd.

Gofynnodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a fyddai cysgodfannau bysiau newydd yn cael eu gosod yn lle'r hen rai er mwyn cael arwyddion digidol i gwrdd â gofynion hysbysebu cyfredol. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau y byddai hi'n dod yn ôl gyda manylion pellach ynghylch y rhaglen o newid hen gysgodfannau bysiau am rai newydd.

Gofynnodd Aelod y Cabinet dros y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar a fyddai arwyddion digidol a fyddai'n arddangos yr hysbysebion ar gysgodfannau bysiau yn niwtral o ran carbon. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau y byddent yn edrych i mewn i hyn er mwyn sicrhau bod yr hysbysebu yn ffotofoltaidd.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet, ar yr amod fod telerau'r Weithred Amrywio yn cael eu cytuno fel yr eglurwyd yn Adran 4 yr adroddiad:

- Yn cymeradwyo ymgymryd â'r Weithred Amrywio i amrywio'r Cytundeb Cysgodfannau Bysiau rhwng y Cyngor a Clear Channel UK Ltd;
- Yn dirprwyo awdurdod i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cymunedau i drafod a chytuno ar delerau terfynol y Weithred Amrywio a threfnu bod y Weithred Amrywio yn cael ei gweithredu ar ran y Cyngor ar yr amod fod yr awdurdod dirprwyedig hwnnw yn cael ei arfer mewn ymgynghoriad â Phrif Swyddog y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol ac Adnoddau Dynol a Pholisi Corfforaethol a Phrif Swyddog Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid.

757. ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL Y GWASANAETHAU CYMDEITHASOL AR SYLWADAU A CHWYNION 2020/21

Adroddodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant am Adroddiad Blynyddol 2020/21 ar sylwadau a chwynion y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol fel sy'n ofynnol dan ganllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru.

Hysbysodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant y Cabinet am yr angen i awdurdodau lleol gael gweithdrefnau yn eu lle ar gyfer ystyried unrhyw sylwadau neu gwynion a gâi eu gwneud ynghylch cyflawni eu swyddogaethau Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Tynnodd sylw at elfennau allweddol Gweithdrefn Sylwadau a Chwynion y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a bod gan achwynwyr, ar ôl dihysbyddu'r weithdrefn gwyno, yr hawl i gyfeirio eu pryder i'w ystyried gan Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru.

Hysbysodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant y Cabinet fod yr Adroddiad Blynyddol yn gosod pwyslais nid yn unig ar gwynion ond hefyd ar y sylwadau a'r ganmoliaeth a dderbyniwyd dan ddefnyddwyr y gwasanaeth er mwyn rhoi darlun cytbwys. Dywedodd fod y gwasanaethau yn awyddus i ddysgu oddi wrth y wybodaeth a gasglwyd a defnyddio hon i hysbysu datblygiadau gwasanaeth yn y dyfodol ac unrhyw welliannau i'r gwasanaeth. Roedd hefyd yn cynnwys ystadegau yn ymwneud â chwynion yr ymdriniwyd â hwy yn unol â Gweithdrefn Gwynion Gorfforaethol yr Awdurdod, gyda'r mwyafrif o gwynion wedi derbyn sylw a'u datrys yn anffurfiol (cyn cyrraedd Cam 1 y weithdrefn gwyno). Roedd hyn yn sicrhau bod pryderon yn cael eu datrys yn gyflym ac yn cadw achwynwyr rhag gorfod defnyddio'r weithdrefn gwyno ffurfiol heb fod rhaid. Tynnodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant sylw at enghreifftiau yn yr Adroddiad Blynyddol lle roedd teuluoedd defnyddwyr gwasanaeth wedi rhoi adborth cadarnhaol iawn a chanmoliaeth i'r staff yn Gofal Cymdeithasol Oedolion a Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant am fynd uwch ben a'r tu hwnt mewn blwyddyn oedd wedi cael ei drysu gan Covid-19 a phan oedd cyfyngiadau

sylweddol yn eu lle. Gellid bod wedi disgwyl mwy o gwynion; fodd bynnag, roedd y staff wedi addasu i ffyrdd newydd o weithio.

Hysbysodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant y Cabinet fod adroddiad 2020/21 yn cynnwys gwybodaeth ystadegol ynghylch y sylwadau a'r cwynion a dderbyniwyd yn ystod y flwyddyn ynglŷn â Gofal Cymdeithasol Oedolion a Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant. Dywedodd yr ymgymerid â'r rhan fwyaf o'r gwaith a gâi ei wneud o fewn Gweithdrefn Sylwadau a Chwynion y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol mewn ymgynghoriad â naill ai'r Swyddog Monitro a/neu'r Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a bod perthynas waith gref rhwng staff cwynion y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol a thîm staff y gwasanaethau cyfreithiol.

Diolchodd Aelod y Cabinet dros y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar i holl dîm y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol am y gwaith eithriadol yr oedd wedi ei gyflawni yn y flwyddyn a aeth heibio yn cynorthwyo'r trigolion mwyaf bregus.

Gofynnodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant beth oedd yn digwydd pan dderbynnid cŵyn a beth mae'r gwasanaeth yn ei wneud i ymateb i gŵyn. Hysbysodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant y Cabinet ei bod yn bwysig cyfarfod â'r achwynwr a datrys y mater yn fuan a'i bod yr un mor bwysig cefnogi staff a sicrhau bod y staff wedi derbyn hyfforddiant ac wedi eu grymuso. Roedd hefyd yn bwysig datrys y gŵyn yn fuan er mwyn cadw'r mater rhag cael ei gyfeirio at yr Ombwdsmon. Gwnaeth yr Arweinydd sylw am bwysigrwydd cael datrysiad buan i gwynion oherwydd mai anaml, fel arall, y ceid bodlonrwydd. Dywedodd hefyd ei bod yn bwysig i drigolion gymryd rhan yn y broses gwynion. Dywedodd fod y broses yn foddion i atgoffa bod y Cyngor yno i ddarparu cymorth ar yr adeg bwysicaf ym mywydau pobl.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo'r Adroddiad Blynyddol ar weithdrefnau sylwadau a chwynion y gwasanaethau cymdeithasol ar gyfer 2020/21.

758. TALIAD UNTRO YCHWANEGOL I OFALWYR MAETH A GOFALWYR LLEOLIADAU OEDOLION PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

Adroddodd Rheolwr Grŵp Lleoliadau a Gwasanaethau Darparwyr am gynnig i wneud taliad untro i Ofalwyr Maeth a Gofalwyr Lleoliadau Oedolion Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr fel cydnabyddiaeth o'r gwaith caled yr oeddent wedi ei gyflawni drwy gydol Pandemig Covid.

Dywedodd fod y cyfnod clo wedi achosi cau ysgolion a phlant a phobl ifanc yn aros gartref ar hyd y dydd, gydag ychydig iawn o gyfle i gymdeithasu gyda'u cyfoedion a bod hynny wedi amharu ar eu bywydau. Roedd plant mewn gofal wedi dioddef yr effaith ychwanegol o fethu â chyfarfod gyda'u teulu wyneb yn wyneb a'r rhieni maeth yn ystod y cyfnod hwn yn hwyluso cyswllt gyda'r plant hyn dros y ffôn neu gan ddefnyddio Facetime, gan ymgymryd â'r rôl hon yn aml am y tro cyntaf gydag ychydig o baratoad, hyfforddiant na mynediad hawdd at gymorth. Dywedodd fod gofalwyr maeth a darparwyr oedd yn rhedeg llety â chymorth wedi dangos lefelau uchel o wytnwch, gan gynnig y safonau uchaf o ofal i'r plant yr oeddent yn gofalu amdanynt, yr oedd llawer ohonynt yn ymddwyn yn heriol o ganlyniad i'w profiadau o drawma. Hysbysodd y Cabinet mai effaith arall y pandemig oedd yr effaith ar oedolion ag anabledd dysgu oedd yn byw gyda theuluoedd lleoliadau oedolion. Nid oedd y grŵp hwn o bobl yn gallu cymryd rhan yn eu gweithgareddau dyddiol arferol bellach oherwydd y cyfyngiadau ar redeg gwasanaethau dydd, na chael cyswllt wyneb yn wyneb gyda'u cyfeillion a'u perthnasau.

Dywedodd fod dau daliad wedi cael eu gwneud i'r gweithlu gofal cymdeithasol fel rhan o fenter genedlaethol yn cael ei chyllido gan Lywodraeth Cymru, i gydnabod a gwobrwyo gwaith caled ac ymrwymiad staff oedd wedi darparu gofal hanfodol i'r dinasyddion mwyaf bregus yn ystod pandemig Covid-19. Ni chafodd gofalwyr maeth, y darparwyr oedd yn rhedeg llety â chymorth, a theuluoedd lleoliadau oedolion eu gwobrwyo yn y ffordd hon er gwaethaf eu hymrwymiad a'r swyddogaeth sylweddol yr oeddent yn ei chyflawni mewn diogelu plant agored i niwed, pobl ifanc ac oedolion ag anabledd dysgu yr oeddent yn gofalu amdanynt yn ystod cyfnod eithriadol o anodd.

Dywedodd Rheolwr Grŵp Lleoliadau a Gwasanaethau Darparwyr fod yna brinder pobl a all ddarparu gofal maeth a lleoliadau llety â chymorth i blant a phobl ifanc nad ydynt yn medru byw gartref gyda'u teuluoedd biolegol. Dywedodd nad oedd gan y Cyngor yn fewnol ddigon o ofalwyr maeth a darparwyr oedd yn rhedeg llety â chymorth ac felly, ochr yn ochr â recriwtio gofalwyr newydd ei bod yn hanfodol dangos i'r gofalwyr presennol mor werthfawr ydynt a chymaint y maent yn cael eu gwerthfawrogi, er mwyn eu cadw. Mae'r sefyllfa'n debyg mewn perthynas â recriwtio teuluoedd lleoliadau oedolion sydd wedi bod yn broblemus, er bod yna nifer fechan o deuluoedd wrthi'n cael eu hasesu ar gyfer ymuno â'r cynllun. Effaith arall y pandemig oedd bod oedolion ag anabledd dysgu, oedd yn byw gyda theuluoedd lleoliadau oedolion, yn methu â chymryd rhan yn eu gweithgareddau arferol yn ystod y dydd.

Fe wnaeth yr Aelod o'r Cabinet dros y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar, wrth gymeradwyo'r cynnig i wneud y taliad untro i ofalwyr maeth a gofalwyr lleoliadau oedolion, ddiolch iddynt am eu hymdrechion, yr oedd hi a'r Arweinydd wedi eu gweld drostynt eu hunain mewn digwyddiad diweddar i ofalwyr maeth. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd y byddai gofalwyr maeth a gofalwyr lleoliadau oedolion wedi gweld cynnydd yn eu costau byw a'u biliau tanwydd a'i bod yn bwysig cydnabod y swyddogaeth sylfaenol yr oeddent yn ei chyflawni.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo'r cynnig i wneud taliad untro i'r holl ofalwyr maeth cymeradwy, darparwyr lleoliadau llety â chymorth a theuluoedd lleoliadau oedolion fel y disgrifiwyd yn yr adroddiad.

759. DARPARIAETH AR GYFER DISGYBLION AG ANGHENION DYSGU YCHWANEGOL (ADY) - SEFYDLU CANOLFAN ADNODDAU DYSGU (CAD) AR GYFER DISGYBLION AG ANAWSTERAU DYSGU CYMEDROL (ADC) YN YSGOL CYNWYD SANT

Gofynnodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd am gymeradwyaeth i ymgynghori'n ffurfiol â rhieni, staff a chorff llywodraethol Ysgol Cynwyd Sant a phartïon eraill â diddordeb ynghylch y cynnig i sefydlu Canolfan Adnoddau Dysgu (CAD) ar gyfer disgyblion ag Anawsterau Dysgu Cymedrol (ADC) yn Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.

Dywedodd fod awdurdodau lleol ar draws y Deyrnas Unedig yn profi cynnydd yn y galw am wasanaethau i blant a phobl ifanc ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol (ADY) a bod y gost o ddarparu hyn yn aml yn fwy na'r gyllideb. Mae hyn wedi gosod pwysau ar yr holl awdurdodau lleol i gwrdd â'r anghenion hyn a darparu'r adnoddau ar eu cyfer, a hynny'n fwy anodd oherwydd pwysau ychwanegol a achoswyd gan COVID-19. Dywedodd fod y Cyngor wedi mabwysiadu dull rhagweithiol drwy gomisiynu adolygiad o'r ddarpariaeth cynllunio strategol ar gyfer anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yn 2020. Un o'r meysydd a nodwyd ar gyfer agor darpariaeth yw cyfnod allweddol 2 mewn ysgol gynradd gyfrwng Cymraeg i blant ag ADC.

Hysbysodd y Cabinet y byddai'r disgyblion yn cael profiadau fel unigolion, mewn grwpiau bychain ac fel dosbarth cyfan, fel bo'n briodol ac y câi eu cynnydd ei fonitro'n

fanwl, a'u cynlluniau unigol eu hadolygu'n rheolaidd. Byddai disgyblion prif ffrwd eraill yn Ysgol Cynwyd Sant hefyd yn elwa o'r cynnig hwn gan ei fod yn ceisio ehangu'r cyfleusterau dysgu arbenigol yn yr ysgol a darparu arbenigedd a chyngor i'r holl staff.

Hysbysodd y Cabinet hefyd am oblygiadau ariannol y cynnig a bod pwysau cyllideb o £60 mil wedi ei gymeradwyo i ddarparu dosbarth ADC ar gyfer plant cyfnod allweddol 2, sy'n cael eu haddysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, fel rhan o Strategaeth Ariannol y Tymor Canolig 2021-22.

Fe wnaeth Aelod y Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio, wrth gymeradwyo'r cynnig i gynnal ymgynghoriad, ddiolch i arweinyddiaeth yr ysgol am fod yn agored i'r cynnig, fyddai'n llenwi bwlch yn y ddarpariaeth. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd y byddai'r dysgwyr yn elwa nid yn unig o fod yn rhan o addysg prif ffrwd ond o gael cymorth arbenigol yn yr ysgol.

Gofynnodd yr Arweinydd a yw cymorth ADC yn cael ei ddarparu mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg eraill o fewn y Sir. Hysbysodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd y Cabinet fod cymorth ADC yn cael ei ddarparu drwy'r Gymraeg lle roedd gofyn.

PENDERFYNWYD: Cytunodd y Cabinet:

- ymgynghori'n ffurfiol ar y cynnig i sefydlu Canolfan Adnoddau Dysgu ar gyfer disgyblion ag ADC yn Ysgol Cynwyd Sant; a
- Adrodd yn ôl am ganlyniad yr ymgynghoriad wrth y Cabinet.

760. DARPARIAETH AR GYFER DISGYBLION AG ANGHENION DYSGU YCHWANEGOL (ADY) - SEFYDLU CANOLFAN ADNODDAU DYSGU (CAD) AR GYFER DISGYBLION AG ANHWYLDERAU AR Y SBECTRWM AWTISTIG (ASA) YN YSGOL GYNRADD TREMAEN.

Gofynnodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd am gymeradwyaeth i ymgynghori'n ffurfiol â rhieni, staff a chorff llywodraethol Ysgol Tremaen a phartïon eraill â diddordeb ynghylch y cynnig i sefydlu Canolfan Adnoddau Dysgu (CAD) ar gyfer disgyblion ag Anhwylderau Sbectrwm Awtistig (ASA) yn Ysgol Gynradd Tremaen.

Dywedodd fod awdurdodau lleol ar draws y Deyrnas Unedig yn profi cynnydd yn y galw am wasanaethau i blant a phobl ifanc ag anghenion dysgu ychwanegol (ADY) a bod y gost o ddarparu hyn yn aml yn fwy na'r gyllideb. Mae hyn wedi gosod pwysau ar yr holl awdurdodau lleol i gwrdd â'r anghenion hyn a darparu'r adnoddau ar eu cyfer, a hynny'n fwy anodd oherwydd pwysau ychwanegol a achoswyd gan COVID-19. Dywedodd fod y Cyngor wedi mabwysiadu dull rhagweithiol drwy gomisiynu adolygiad o ddarpariaeth cynllunio strategol ar gyfer anghenion dysgu ychwanegol yn 2020. Un o'r meysydd a nodwyd ar gyfer darpariaeth ychwanegol yw cyfnod allweddol 2 ar gyfer plant ag ASA a bod angen wedi ei nodi i agor CAD ychwanegol ar gyfer plant ag ASA.

Hysbysodd y Cabinet y byddai'r disgyblion yn cael profiadau fel unigolion, mewn grwpiau bychain ac fel dosbarth cyfan, fel bo'n briodol ac y câi eu cynnydd ei fonitro'n fanwl, a'u cynlluniau unigol eu hadolygu'n rheolaidd. Byddai disgyblion prif ffrwd eraill yn Ysgol Gynradd Tremaen hefyd yn elwa o'r cynnig hwn gan ei fod yn ceisio ehangu'r cyfleusterau dysgu arbenigol yn yr ysgol a darparu arbenigedd a chyngor i'r holl staff.

Hysbysodd y Cabinet hefyd am oblygiadau ariannol y cynnig a bod pwysau cyllideb o £82 mil wedi ei gymeradwyo i ddarparu CAD/dosbarth ASA ysgol gynradd ychwanegol ar gyfer plant cyfnod allweddol 2, fel rhan o Strategaeth Ariannol y Tymor Canolig 2021-22.

Fe wnaeth Aelod y Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio, wrth gymeradwyo'r cynnig i gynnal ymgynghoriad, ddweud y byddai yn darparu lle ychwanegol at yr hyn oedd yn cael ei ddarparu ar hyn o bryd yn Ysgol Iau Llangewydd ac Ysgol Gynradd Pencoed gan fod y ddwy Ganolfan Adnoddau Dysgu hynny'n llawn. Dywedodd fod galw parhaus ar draws y Sir a bod bwlch mewn darpariaeth o'r fath yn enwedig ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Dywedodd hefyd fod Ysgol Gynradd Tremaen yn ganolfan rhagoriaeth a phe bai'r cynnig yn mynd rhagddo, y byddai'r ysgol yn cyflwyno'r ddarpariaeth newydd hon yn llwyddiannus iawn.

Hysbysodd Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd y Cabinet fod yr holl ysgolion yn y Sir yn gynhwysol ac y byddai'r ddarpariaeth hon yn cyflwyno darpariaeth ychwanegol at yr hyn sy'n bod eisoes yn Ysgol Iau Llangewydd ac Ysgol Gynradd Pencoed. Dywedodd fod Ysgol Gynradd Tremaen yn ganolog ei lleoliad ac yn rhan o glwstwr Ysgol Gyfun Brynteg.

PENDERFYNWYD: Cytunodd y Cabinet:

- ymgynghori'n ffurfiol ar y cynnig i sefydlu Canolfan Adnoddau Dysgu ar gyfer disgyblion ag ASA yn Ysgol Gynradd Tremaen; ac adrodd yn ôl am ganlyniad yr ymgynghoriad wrth y Cabinet.

761. DEDDF GAMBLO 2005 - DATGANIAD O EGWYDDORION TRWYDDEDU 2022-2025

Gofynnodd Pennaeth y Cyd-wasanaethau Rheoleiddio am gefnogaeth i gyhoeddi Datganiad o Egwyddorion Trwyddedu'r Cyngor ar gyfer y cyfnod nesaf o dair blynedd 2022-2025, a'i anfon ymlaen i'r Cyngor am gymeradwyaeth a'i gyhoeddi yn unol â'r rheoliadau.

Dywedodd fod yn rhaid i'r Cyngor, fel awdurdod trwyddedu, gyhoeddi Datganiad o Egwyddorion Trwyddedu bob tair blynedd oedd yn llywodraethu'r polisi, rheoli a phroses gwneud penderfyniadau yn ymwneud â mangreoedd gamblo. Roedd ymgynghoriad ffurfiol wedi cael ei gynnal cyn cyhoeddi'r datganiad newydd. Dywedodd fod atebion wedi cael eu cyflwyno i'r ymgynghoriad a bod argymhellion wedi cael eu gwneud i ddiwygio'r Datganiad o Bolisi Trwyddedu ac mai swyddogaeth y Cyngor oedd ei gymeradwyo. Hysbysodd y Cabinet fod yr adolygiad wedi ystyried effaith ddigynsail pandemig y Coronafeirws ar fusnesau sy'n darparu cyfleusterau gamblo.

Wrth gymeradwyo'r Datganiad o Egwyddorion diwygiedig, roedd yn dda gan Aelod y Cabinet Llesiant a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol nodi'r gostyngiad mewn mangreoedd gamblo, ond canlyniad hyn fu cynnydd mewn gamblo ar-lein. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd mai canlyniad gamblo ar-lein yw nad yw'n cael ei reoleiddio ac y gall fynd yn gaethiwus a bod hyn wedi cael ei gydnabod gan y Prif Swyddog Meddygol fel testun pryder o ran iechyd.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet yn cefnogi anfon y Datganiad o Egwyddorion Trwyddedu, yn cynnwys y diwygiadau y tynnwyd sylw atynt yn Atodiad A ynghyd â'r diwygiad ychwanegol yn 4.6 yr adroddiad, i'r Cyngor i'w gymeradwyo a'i gyhoeddi yn unol â'r rheoliadau.

762. EITEMAU BRYS

Nid oedd eitemau brys.

763. GWAHARDD Y CYHOEDD

PENDERFYNWYD: O dan Adran 100A (4) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 fel y'i diwygiwyd gan Orchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) (Amrywiad) (Cymru) 2007, bod y cyhoedd yn cael eu gwahardd o'r cyfarfod tra byddent yn ystyried yr eitemau busnes canlynol am eu bod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth oedd wedi ei heithrio fel y'i diffiniwyd ym Mharagraff 14 o Ran 4 a Pharagraff 21 o Ran 5 o Atodlen 12A y Ddeddf.

Yn dilyn cymhwyso prawf lles y cyhoedd, penderfynwyd, yn unol â'r Ddeddf y cyfeiriwyd ati uchod, ystyried yr eitemau canlynol yn breifat, gyda'r cyhoedd wedi eu gwahardd o'r cyfarfod, gan yr ystyrid yn yr holl amgylchiadau yn ymwneud â'r eitemau, fod lles y cyhoedd mewn cynnal yr eithriad yn gorbwyso lles y cyhoedd mewn datgelu'r wybodaeth.

764. CYMERADWYO COFNODION A EITHRIWYD

765. AILGOMISIYNU GOFAL A CHYMORTH RHEOLEDIG YN Y CARTREF

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 16:37

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

UPDATE ON REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEES AND RESULTANT CHANGES TO THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION JOINT COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- Update Members on the introduction of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) as provided for in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021;
- Consider The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 that came into force on 1st April 2021, in respect of the establishment and operation of CJCs, with the economic well-being, transportation and strategic planning functions coming into being on 28th February 2022;
- Consider the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Committee Cabinet Report dated September 2021 that sets out how the functions of the current Joint Committee will be transferred to the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee on 1st March 2022 and note the recommendations;
- Note the events that have now taken place since that Report and consider the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Committee Cabinet Report dated December 2021 that sets out the "twin track" approach which will now be implemented ahead of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee setting its first statutory budget on 31st January 2022;
- appraise Cabinet of the next phases with resolving the current barriers to full implementation of the "lift and shift" model which seeks to eventually bring together the Cardif Capital Region City Deal and the CJC into one coherent model of regional economic governance.

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 Part 5 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 included provisions to create Corporate Joint Committees (CJC) as a vehicle for consistent regional collaboration between principal councils. The aim is to ensure there are consistent, resilient and accountable regional arrangements for the delivery of three important functions (i) strategic land use planning (ii) strategic transport planning and (iii) economic development.

3.2 Welsh Government (WG) maintain that the model of CJCs builds on what has already been achieved in the development of regional arrangements in different parts of Wales. In South East Wales, the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Cabinet Committee which has led on the City Deal is an example where councils achieve significantly more than they would individually by collaborating in areas that no individual council had the capacity or the capability to undertake.

3.3 WG consulted local government and other interested parties on the specific functions of a CJC, how it will be governed, its legal status as a corporate body, whether it can employ staff and financial powers. This information was used to develop the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 (the "Establishment Regulations"), which came into force on 1st April 2021.

3.4 The aim of the Establishment Regulations is to reduce complexity and duplication of effort and resource. WG hope they act as the catalyst to the development and implementation of collaborative arrangements across local government, where regional planning and delivery makes sense, using them as a means of maximising outcomes for the people of Wales by maintaining local democratic accountability, reducing complexity and making the best use of resources. CJCs aim to offer a consistent approach to strategic planning and delivery at a scale where it makes sense to do so.

3.5 In contrast to other joint committee structures, CJCs will be separate corporate bodies and legal entities to their constituent councils which will be able to directly employ staff, hold assets and budgets, and be directly responsible for exercising functions. CJCs present an opportunity to respond to some of the operating model challenges whilst retaining and building upon the features and integrity of the current Joint Working Agreement (JWA).

3.6 Since its inception in 2016, the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRCD) has delivered a range of high value programmes and initiatives across the region, totalling some £198M of investments. The investment strategy has been predicated on meeting local basic needs – provision of sustainable transport schemes, roll-out of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) infrastructure, closing viability gaps on industrial sites for housing, support for skills and strategic development sites – alongside a range of more targeted market driven investments around the innovation economy and growing vital research and development intensity. Key principles have been developed to leverage investment made, through an investment framework that has prioritised private sector leverage and the high-skill nature of jobs created. To date,

projected leverage is in the region of £2.5BN with a target of 6,900 jobs. Outwardly, competitiveness has grown with two Strength in Places awards made within a two year period from UK Research and Innovation spanning the Compound Semiconductor and Creative Industries priority sectors and nearly £100M of new direct investment.

3.7 In terms of the forward pipeline, there are c£150M of potential programmes in development, potentially straddling an Innovation Investment Fund, large-scale energy demonstrator and innovation in Fintech, Cyber and the foundational economy.

3.8 CCRCD is delivering for the region but it is clear that it cannot stand still. The current operating model has been outgrown and there are specific issues and barriers, with respect to its:

- Inability to act direct or in its own right – doesn't have its own contracting arrangements or structure or balance sheet;
- Inability to borrow;
- Inability to hold or acquire assets.

These are critical factors in a world in which competition for investment is growing and where systems of regional economic governance equip places to be more competitive and resilient, through building upon their scale and critical mass. With the new levelling-up agenda, ambitions for Global Britain, the UK as a Science Superpower and a new Welsh Government Programme for Government – the world is not waiting for the CCR to mobilise and every step must be taken to ensure the region is able to access all investment and opportunities available to it – irrespective of where these sit.

4. Current situation/proposal

Transfer of the Functions of the Cardiff Capital Region to the South East Wales Cardiff Capital Region – Governance and Delivery

4.1 The Establishment Regulations provide the functions of the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) that comes into force on 28th February 2022. This effectively means that the Cardiff Capital Region Joint Committee must be ready to "go live" and operate via the CJC body by 1st March 2022.

4.2 At the Cardiff Capital Region Cabinet ("the Regional Cabinet") meeting on 20th September 2021, the CCR Cabinet considered the following four options:

- **Option 1 – Do nothing and stay as we are** – This option is therefore a continuation of CCR's existing operational and delivery model which consists of Cardiff Council assuming the role of Accountable Body, to deliver CCR's investments/projects on behalf of itself and the other partner councils to fulfil the objectives of the CCR;
- **Option 2 – Lift & shift – "like for like" model** – This option involves transposing CCR's existing governance arrangements into the CJC such that the CJC acts as the decision maker and adopts the existing role of the Joint Committee by replicating the CCR (JWA) governance arrangements. However, under this option the Accountable Body would continue to act as the vehicle body for project delivery and not the CJC;

- **Option 3 – Lift & shift – single corporate entity/CJC** – This option involves transitioning CCR's existing operational and delivery model into a single corporate body, the CJC. This would mean:
    - Carrying across CCR's existing governance arrangements under the JWA to the CJC such that the CJC adopts the existing decision-making and oversight role of the Joint Committee; and
    - Analysing existing projects/pipeline projects and, where appropriate (in the case of existing projects), transferring such projects to the CJC to act as the vehicle for project delivery going forwards.
- **Option 4 – Holding Company Structure** – This option establishes the CJC as the decision-making entity and provides for the CJC to adopt the existing role of the Joint Committee. This would be achieved by overlaying the governance arrangements of the CJC set out under the Regulations with CCR's existing governance arrangements under the JWA.

4.3 The Regional Cabinet considered a detailed option appraisal and decided that Option 3 was the preferred model as it:

- Ensures that the partner councils retain absolute control over CCR decision making;
- Allows for a bespoke governance model which can follow the terms of CCR's JWA;
- Does not require a partner council to assume the role of accountable body and the additional burden and risks associated with that role;
- Ringfences delivery risk from the partner councils;
- Takes advantage of Welsh Government policy and the Regulations by transposing CCR's existing decision-making and project delivery into the CJC;
- Provides a framework by which the CJC, as a separate corporate body, can naturally evolve over time on a project by project basis.

4.4 The preferred option 3 – "lift and shift" sees the CJC act as decision maker and as a conduit for project delivery (in place of the current arrangement of an Accountable Body). This is identified as an efficient and viable option that moves out of the current Accountable Body-led approach and satisfies the immediate requirement to transition to a CJC (albeit some projects could need to remain with the Accountable Body). This will however mean a wide range of risk profiles will sit under one body – a risk to be mitigated through ongoing evolution of the CJC and to establish subsidiary bodies (such as the CSC Foundry Ltd company) on a project-by-project basis and with the approval of Regional Cabinet.

4.5 Further information on the decision of the CCR Cabinet is available on the following link: Agenda for Regional Cabinet on Monday, 20th September, 2021, 9.30 am - Modern Council (moderngov.co.uk).

4.6 The report also described a number of live risks and issues, relating to a series of unresolved matters concerning the implications of the CJCs' financial status for taxation purposes and borrowing and their impacts. It was stated that work would continue to be undertaken with CCR's advisory team and Welsh Government to resolve the issues sufficiently to allow for Option 3 to be implemented in early 2022. A letter was also provided from the Welsh Government's Minister for Finance and Local Government to reiterate this intent and the report sought to commit to a "no worse off" principle, on this basis as at the point of transition.

4.7 However, since that meeting of the Regional Cabinet, it has become clear that the risks and issues highlighted cannot be substantially resolved in order to support Option 3 and by the date that the CJC is required to set its budget, being 31st January 2022. The main issues which require resolution are:

- section 33 VAT status which requires the approval of bodies such as HMRC and HM Treasury which sit outside the sphere of direct influence and control of Welsh Government;

- Corporation Tax. This is a complex matter which has not yet been addressed in the Establishment Regulations and could have significant implications to the CCR operating model unless addressed through an application to HM Treasury for relevant dispensations.

Work is currently underway on addressing this, with CCR supporting Welsh Government's business case application to HMRC for the relevant dispensations. However, there could be a significant impact unless these issues are addressed and resolved prior to the implementation of the "lift and shift" model and are understood and mitigated against ahead of a "bare minimum" implementation. Even basic activities under a "bare minimum" approach could still lead to the CJC incurring a level of irrecoverable VAT. Consequently, a report was taken to a meeting of the Regional Cabinet on 13th December 2021 where it was proposed that an initial scaled back approach be followed which reduces such a risk.

4.8 The report highlighted that these issues are not standalone and consideration also has to be given to seeking UK Government support regarding the timing and transfer of the existing CCRCD Funding Agreement to the CJC. In addition, the report emphasised that these are complex and inter-connected issues with no 100% guarantee of success.

4.9. CCR has made representations to Welsh Government on these issues, including seeking a reset of the statutory budget timeframe. However, Welsh Government has advised that this is not possible due to timescales and the need to carry out statutory consultation on any proposed changes. However, Welsh Government has recognised and understood the issues raised and the implementation proposed is supported. Additionally, legal advice has been taken on the risks and challenges posed to CCR of 'doing nothing' and it is clear that the Constituent Councils must be minimally compliant at this stage.

4.10. The "bare minimum" approach will need to delivered alongside the continuation of the current Joint Committee/Accountable Body-led model for delivery of the CCR. This "twin-tracked" approach is unavoidable but will provide for business continuity for the delivery of the City Deal.

4.11. Welsh Government has also stated that the date of commencement of the CJC exercising its functions around preparation of the Regional Transport Plan, Strategic Development Plan and economic wellbeing powers can be changed from the original date set for 28th February 2022 to 30th June 2022. This will bring it in line with other CJC regions. The report to the Regional Cabinet on 13th December 2021 recommended that the date of 30th June 2022 be accepted in order to better align with the proposed "bare minimum" approach.

4.12. Further background information pertinent to this is set out in the report to the Regional Cabinet on 13th December 2021 and is available on the following link: Agenda for Regional Cabinet on Monday, 13th December, 2021, 9.30 am - Modern Council (moderngov.co.uk).

Next Steps

4.13. Whilst the above issues are complex and requires the re-doubling of efforts across Welsh Government with support from the CCR and its technical and legal advisory team, it is recognised that where progress can be made, then it should be made. The proposed "bare minimum" approach provides a pragmatic way of enabling the CCR and the ten Constituent Councils to start implementing the CJC requirements and adopting the statutory duties whilst at the same time supporting Welsh Government to resolve the issues which are preventing transition to the "Lift and Shift" model. Consequently, a series of steps are required to be put in place between now and 31st January 2022 (being the date by which the CJC must approve its budget) in order to ensure compliance with legislation but which protects the short and long term position of the ten Constituent Councils and, wherever possible, safeguards against any detriment.

4.14. On the basis of external advice and technical support, the proposed "bare minimum" approach will enable the CCR to demonstrate that it has commenced transition and ensures compliance with the legislation. It will essentially create an outline of the CJC as an absolute statutory minimum and an interim holding position only. It will operate on the expectation that only the absolute minimum of operational activity required will be undertaken. Any extraneous activity (such as production of a business plan, meetings of the CJC beyond initial budget setting/establishment meetings, meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee, staffing arrangements beyond those linked to the aforementioned) will be unlikely to take place. It will include:

- Setting minimal nominal budgets and the amounts payable by each Constituent Council for the operation of the CJC no later than 31st January 2022;

- Agreeing with the Auditor General for Wales the CJC audit scope and fee, which is proportionate and reflects the CJC's bare minimum operations;

- Adopting model Standing Orders and any basic supplements – for example a scheme of delegations (a draft is attached at Appendix 1 to this report);

- Arrangements to place any staff at disposal of CJC – again this will be on the basis of proportionality;

- Establish statutory sub-committees e.g. Audit and Governance Committee etc.;

- Appoint Chair/ Vice Chair/s – which can mirror existing CCR arrangements; and,

- Establish practical arrangements in respect of the CJC's basic infrastructure as a separate legal entity – accounting and reporting requirements, bank account, VAT registration, minimum insurances, proportionate records scheme etc

4.15. In order to provide a level of certainty to all CJC stakeholders and Constituent Councils, the "bare minimum" approach will be predicated on being in place until 31st March 2023. However, should the issues be resolved sooner, there is provision for the budget requirement to be re-visited in-year and as the "lift and shift" model becomes doable. For the initial operating period, a nominal budget will be set with the clear expectation of minimum expenditure against it (with a strong case that even low-level expenditure which can be justified should be avoided if it can be demonstrated that it would 'prejudice the CJC's position or suffer any detriment').

4.16. Aside from the provisional budget being set and actions taken to set up and 'ready' the CJC, no further action beyond this is necessary, at least until such time that the CJC is ready to be operable and "lift and shift" can occur. The above timeframe will be kept under constant review throughout the year and an update report will be taken to the Regional Cabinet for further consideration once sufficient information is available to do so. It is envisaged that once a timescale is known to enable to re-commencement of the "lift and shift" model, the original Transition Plan and arrangement set out in the report of 20th September 2021 can be re-activated.

4.17 It should be noted that the clear milestone to work towards is budget setting for the CJC on or before 31st January 2022. Approval of the budget requires unanimous support of the Constituent Councils. Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will feature as part of this in relation to the estimated budget for preparing an SDP and as such, ongoing communication and engagement is taking place.

4.18. Whilst the work led by Welsh Government, on behalf of all regions/ constituent CJCs in Wales, is underway with HMRC and HM Treasury on the outstanding issues named in this report, there are further updates to note. The CJC is not a 'levying body' with an expectation that 'Connected Body' status can be secured to enable access to the Local Government Pension Scheme. In relation to access to Public Works Loan Board borrowing, at the relevant future point, Welsh Government has had initial positive discussions with HM Treasury that suggest that borrowing capability through this medium, can be considered and potentially, developed.

4.19 Work is ongoing in respect of arrangements for interim accounting systems, processes and relevant systems infrastructure for the CJC. This is being carried out in partnership with RCTCBC who will provide the basic transactional services for the initial operating period. The CCR will continue to be supported by the 'Lead Council/ Accountable Body' mechanism. This reflects the arrangements underpinning the "twin-tracked" approach which is required initially and until the remaining issues are resolved.

4.20 There are several risks related to the proposed "twin-track" approach. However, if the principles of the "bare minimum" approach set out above are adopted and risks are continually mitigated against by the detailed technical work that is ongoing and continued liaison with Welsh Government and Audit Wales, it is suggested that these can be kept in check, monitored and managed. This means that the CJC shall keep expenditure to the bare minimum during this interim operating period and on the basis of no significant detriment to its short or long-term operating model.

4.21 Other risks concern the resources now needed to implement the "bare minimum" approach which will be met from existing budgets, although there will be some effect given the efforts that will need to now be fully channelled into getting the work completed in an ever-decreasing timeframe. Timeframes present a further risk because there is no clear point at which the "lift and shift" model can be estimated as commencing although this could be clarified via Welsh Government shortly. Arguably, the bigger issue is guaranteeing successful outcomes – although it is anticipated that a strong case will be made to both HMRC and HM Treasury and it remains the strong intent, and wider effect, of the Enabling Regulations for CJCs to be part of the Local Government landscape and be treated as if it is a Local Authority.

4.22 It should be noted that further risks may arise but that these will only become apparent throught the process of application and implementation.

4.23 There are also potential risks around the potential for double taxation at the point of the “lift and shift” model which are unpreventable, with work required to develop the conversations, flexibilities where they exist and pragmatism to deal with such eventualities. The possibility of fragmented legacy accounts also requires analysis and conclusions to be presented at the relevant time.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There are no effects on BCBC’s Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

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. The CJC will be subject to the same requirements. 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 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 CJCs will be funded by their Constituent Councils, in proportions that they will be able to determine. As is the case with the Constituent Councils, a CJC will be required to calculate its budget requirement, taking into account any other funding streams it might receive. The regulations state the CJC members (leaders) must unanimously agree a budget and that ‘constituent’ councils must pay a proportionate amount. If there is a disagreement on the proportionality of funding, Ministers have powers of direction. In providing further detail, there are essential matters that need to be considered by Welsh Government before the CJCs are able to set a budget, such as the CJC’s status in terms of VAT, and other taxation matters, associated pensions arrangements (e.g. a ‘Scheduled Body’ or an ‘Admitted Body’) and the financial responsibility for any borrowing, lease, financial guarantee and similar future liabilities and risks.

8.2 This report recommends the implementation of a “bare minimum” approach until the “lift and shift” model can take place and following resolution of issues identified in this report. Movement to a bare minimum will require the establishment of practical arrangements in respect of the CJC’s basic infrastructure as a separate legal entity – accounting & reporting requirements, bank account, VAT registration, minimum insurances, etc. It will also include appointment of key officers such as the Responsible Finance Officer with the approach to remuneration etc. being the

subject of a future report. CJCs have the same financial reporting and disclosure requirements as existing local authorities, including compliance with relevant codes of practice where deemed to be relevant. A “bare minimum” approach to the CJC will need to consider and work with partners such as Welsh Government and Audit Wales at an early stage to determine the approach to compliance in a proportionate way.

8.3 It should be noted that the Establishment Regulations require the CJC to determine a capital and revenue budget by 31st January 2022. This is for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial year. It is proposed that any budget set will be on a bare minimum basis and will be a minimal nominal budget. This will be the subject of a future report the Regional Cabinet and similar approval by the CJC in accordance with the deadlines.

8.4 Where activities are undertaken within the scope of the CJC, the expenditure and income of these activities will need to be costed and identified as part of CJC budget proposals by 31st January 2022 and annually thereafter. This is to include:

- where there are increases or reductions in budgetary requirements from local authorities;
- whether additional activities are to be paid for as part of grant support from Welsh Government and or other grant funding providers;
- where additional costs are to be met from within existing budgets
- where there are commitments to support credit arrangements or similar liabilities arising as part of approved investment plans

8.5. This should be considered for revenue costs as well as the approach in respect to the servicing costs of any liabilities undertaken for capital expenditure and the operating costs of any financial or physical assets. This will need to be considered as part of the annual budget setting process for the CJC for inclusion in respective Local Authority budgets.

8.6 This report will also need to include the basis on which any budget requirement not funded by external grant or similar is to be met by the Constituent Councils and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority where relevant.

8.7 It should be noted that in accordance with the Establishment Regulations, the budget must be agreed on a unanimous basis by the Constituent Councils, with Welsh Government determining contributions in any scenario where a budget cannot be agreed. Any assets or liabilities entered into by the CJC are the liabilities of the Constituent Councils and will need to be included as part of the budget setting processes of respective local authorities.

8.8. The current JWA and the principles of the financial model in respect to delivery of City Deal activities set out Local Authority Contributions towards the Wider Investment Fund. The establishment of the “bare minimum” approach does not change the quantum of the already agreed financial obligations of each authority in respect to the Wider Investment Fund.

8.9 The local authority received its provisional local government settlement from Welsh Government on 21st December 2021. The Minister for Finance and Local Government indicated that within the settlement “The Local Government and

Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (the Act) provides for the creation and ongoing development of corporate joint committees to allow authorities to work together on specific functions such as transport, economic development and planning. Following one-off specific grant funding this financial year to support preparatory work I am delivering ongoing additional funding to support the core operation of these committees though the Local Government Settlement". Whilst a specific amount for each local authority has not been specified, based on the current contribution that the local authority makes to the CCR, a sum of £200,000 has been set aside in the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2022/23 onwards to meet this contribution. This will be reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

(i) Note the new Establishment Regulations that have established the South East Wales CJC;

(ii) Note the decision of the Regional Cabinet on 20th September 2021 to transfer its existing functions, which are principally in respect of the City Deal agreement as committed to by the ten South East Wales councils in March 2016, to the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee on 28th February 2022;

(iii) Note the decisions of the Regional Cabinet on 13th December 2021, following the realisation of the risks and issues that now prevent full implementation of the chosen Governance and Delivery option 3 "Lift and Shift" model on the previously proposed timescale and the revised arrangements, to:

a. approve the re-direction and re-purposing of the principles contained in the report of 20 September 2021 and agreed the implementation of the "bare minimum" and "twin track" approaches set out in the report, allowing the CCR to be compliant with the Estabishment Regulations, until such time transition via the "lift and shift" model can be resurrected and in tandem with outstanding issues being resolved;
b. approving the reset of the critical path in relation to the tasks and acitvites which need to be undertaken prior to the setting of the budget by 31st January 2022 and resolving to stand down the Transition Board in this period;
c. agreed to ask Welsh Government to amend the Establishment Regulations to change the date of commencement of the exercise of its functions in relation to the Regional Transport Plan, Strategic Development Plan and economic wellbeing power from 28th February 2022 to 30th June 2022;

(iv) Notes the requirement for the CJC to set and approve a budget on or before the 31st January 2022 and the steps set out in the report to enable this;

(v) Notes the risks and issues set out in the report which require ongoing monitoring, mitigation and management;

(vi) Notes the draft Standing Orders at Appendix 1 to this Report which set out the initial requirements and operating model for the CJC as well as initial business for the inaugural meeting on 31st January 2022;

(vii) Notes the work ongoing by CCR and its Constituent Councils to work with Welsh Government, Audit Wales and advisors as appropriate, to help inform resolution of the remaining issues wherever possible;

(viii) Notes that the Leader of this Council, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer, will consider and set the first budget of the CJC no later than 31st January 2022 in order to ensure the Council is complying with the legislation as required;

(ix) Notes that updates are provided on progress from the "twin track" approach to the "lift and shift" model.

Mark Shephard
Chief Executive
January 2022

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Background documents: None

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APPENDIX 1

STANDING ORDERS

SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE STANDING ORDERS

PART 1 - GENERAL

1. **SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (CJC) MEMBERSHIP**

1.1 The members of the CJC are the executive leaders of the 10 Constituent Councils:

1.1.1 Cardiff County Council

1.1.2 Monmouthshire County

1.1.3 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

1.1.4 Bridgend County Borough Council

1.1.5 Caerphilly County Borough Council

1.1.6 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

1.1.7 Newport County Borough Council

1.1.8 Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

1.1.9 Torfaen County Borough Council

1.1.10 The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

("the **Council Members**") and

1.1.11 the Brecon Beacons Member; and

1.1.12 any Co-opted Member

(together, the "**CJC**").

1.2 The Brecon Beacons Member will be appointed by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (the "**Authority**") and must be one of the following office-holders:

1.2.1 The chairman of the Authority;

1.2.2 The deputy chairman of the Authority; or

1.2.3 The chairperson of a committee with responsibly for planning matters as may be established by the Authority.

1.3 Provisions in the regulations establishing and regulating the CJC (the "**Establishing Regulations**") in relation to the suspension of Council Members and/or the Brecon Beacons Member will apply.

1.4 Each Council Member will act as a member of the CJC in relation to all of the CJC's functions.

1.5 The Brecon Beacon Member will act as a member of the CJC only in relation to the Strategic Development Plan Function.

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1.6 The CJC can co-opt one or more individuals as members of the CJC ("**Co-opted Members**" and each a "**Co-opted Member**"). Provisions in the Establishing Regulations will apply in relation to such Co-opted Members.

1.7 Council Members, the Brecon Beacon Member and any Co-opted Member of the CJC (together the "**Members**" and each a "**Member**") shall have a duty to comply with the Members Code of Conduct.

2. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

2.1 The CJC must establish a sub-committee (known as the Governance and Audit Sub-committee) to

2.1.1 review and scrutinise the CJC's financial affairs;

2.1.2 make reports and recommendations in relation to the CJC's financial affairs;

2.1.3 review and assess the risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements of the CJC;

2.1.4 make reports and recommendations to the CJC on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements;

2.1.5 oversee the CJC's internal and external audit arrangements;

2.1.6 review any financial statements prepared by the CJC;

2.1.7 exercise such other functions as the CJC may specify.

2.2 The terms of reference of the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee are adopted by the CJC as set out in Schedule 1Appendix 1 and may be amended by the CJC from time to time.

3. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

3.1 The CJC will appoint a Standards Committee in accordance with the terms of reference adopted by the CJC as set out in Schedule 1Appendix 2 which may be amended by the CJC from time to time.

4. OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES

4.1 The CJC may establish sub-committees. Provisions in the Establishing Regulations apply to such sub-committees.

4.2 Any delegation to a sub-committee will be subject to Standing Order 6 below.

5. DELEGATION

5.1 Subject to Standing Order 6 below, the CJC may arrange for the discharge of its function by-

5.1.1 A sub-committee;

5.1.2 A member of staff;

5.1.3 Any other corporate joint committee;

5.1.4 Any county or county borough council in Wales.

5.2 Subject always to Standing Order 6 below, the CJC delegates operational decisions on the discharge of its functions and anything that is required to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions as set out in the Scheme of Delegation appended at Schedule 1Appendix 3.

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6. RESTRICTIONS ON DELEGATION

6.1 The CJC may not delegate any of the following to any other person or sub-committtee:

6.1.1 Its function in relation to developing policies under the relevant provisions of the Transport Act 2000 ("Transport Policy Function");

6.1.2 Its function in relation to preparing a Strategic Development Plan (the "Strategic Development Plan Function");

6.1.3 The decision to agree the CJC budgets and contributions of the Constituent Councils and the Authority; and

6.1.4 Other specific decisions and responsibilities set out in the Establishing Regulations.

7. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

7.1 Where there is an operational need for a policy or procedure other than as set out in these Standing Orders or the Establishing Regulations, the CJC will refer to the policies and procedures of one of its Constituent Councils as determined by the Executive Team and with such amendments necessary for and applicable to the circumstances of the CJC.

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PART 2 - MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS

8. CHAIRING MEETINGS

8.1 At the first CJC meeting the appointment of a chairperson and vice-chairperson is to be the first business transacted.

8.2 The first CJC meeting must be chaired by the Council Member for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council until the chairperson is appointed (and the chairperson is to chair the remainder of the meeting).

8.3 The appointment of the chair and vice-chairperson must be confirmed, or a new chairperson and vice chairperson must be appointed at each annual general CJC meeting.

8.4 The chairperson and vice-chairperson must each be a Council Member and must be appointed, or confirmed by the Council Members, and any other Member entitled to vote on the matter.

8.5 A person appointed as chairperson or vice chairperson may at any time resign that office by notice in writing given to the other Member.

8.6 Arrangements in the Establishing Regulations for dealing with a vacancy in the post of chairperson or vicechairperson will apply.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS AND OTHER MEETINGS

9.1 The CJC must hold an annual general meeting in each financial year on a date determined by the CJC.

9.2 The CJC may hold other meetings on dates specified in the standing orders. An extraordinary CJC meeting may be called at any time by any person entitled to vote on a matter to be decided at that meeting.

10. QUORUM

10.1 All persons entitled to vote must be present for:

10.1.1 a meeting to decide the amounts payable by the relevant CJC Members for the Strategic Development Plan Budget and for the General Budget; and

10.1.2 for decisions to change voting procedures.

10.2 For any other matters, no fewer than 70% of the persons entitled to vote must be present.

11. VOTING

11.1 The number of Co-opted Members entitled to vote may not exceed the number of other Members entitled to vote.

11.2 Each person entitled to vote has one vote.

11.3 Other than the matters listed in 11.4 and 11.5 below, any vote to be decided by simple majority and if a vote is tied the matter is not carried.

11.4 The funding of budget decisions shall be determined by the unanimous agreement of the Members entitled to vote. If the Members cannot reach agreement, the proportions are to be determined by the Welsh Government.

11.5 Any change to voting arrangements requires unanimous agreement of all Members entitled to vote on the matter.

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11.6 Where the matter relates to strategic planning and a vote is tied, the chairperson has the casting vote.

11.7 The CJC may adopt an alternative voting procedure for any decision other than the decision on the budget and the decision to change the voting procedure itself.

12. LOCATION OF MEETINGS

12.1 A CJC meeting may be held

12.1.1 at a location determined by the CJC;

12.1.2 by remote means; or

12.1.3 partly by remote means and partly at a location determined by the CJC.

12.2 CJC meetings must be open to the public unless the public are excluded for applicable confidentiality reasons or if the nature of the business is exempt information.

13. NOTICE OF MEETINGS AND SUMMONS TO ATTEND

13.1 A CJC must give public notice of a CJC meeting

13.1.1 at least three clear days before the meeting, or

13.1.2 if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, at the time the meeting is convened.

13.2 The notice must be published electronically.

13.3 Where the meeting is called by one of the Members of the CJC, the notice must specify the business proposed and be signed by the Member(s) calling the meeting or signify the approval of those Members by electronic means.

14. ACCESS TO AGENDA AND CONNECTED REPORTS

14.1 Copies of the agenda for a CJC meeting and copies of any report for the meeting must be published by the CJC

14.1.1 electronically, and

14.1.2 at least three clear days before the meeting, or, if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, then at the time it is convened. However, such documents must be available to the Members of the CJC before they are published.

14.2 An item of business may not be considered at a CJC meeting unless either

14.2.1 copy of the agenda including the item (or a copy of the item) is published electronically at least three clear days before the meeting, or, if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, at the time it is convened, or

14.2.2 by reason of special circumstances, which must be specified in the minutes, the chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

15. MINUTES

15.1 The names of the Members present at a CJC meeting must be recorded.

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15.2 Minutes of the proceedings of a CJC meeting must be drawn up and recorded. The minutes must be approved by the person chairing the CJC meeting or the person chairing the next suitable such meeting by signing the minutes, or by electronically signifying approval.

16. INSPECTION AND PUBLICATION OF MINUTES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AFTER MEETINGS

16.1 After a CJC meeting the CJC must

16.1.1 Publish the minutes, or a copy of the minutes, where applicable a summary of proceedings in consequence the of the exclusion of material which discloses exempt information, a copy of the agenda for the meeting and a copy of any report for the meeting as relates to any item during which the meeting was open to the public.

16.1.2 ensure that those documents remain accessible electronically to members of the public until the expiration of the period of six years beginning with the date of the meeting.

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PART 3 - FINANCE AND BUDGET

17. **BUDGET**

17.1 For each financial year, the CJC must calculate its budget for its functions:

a) Strategic Development Plan Function (the "**Strategic Development Plan Budget**")

b) Other functions (the "**General Budget**")

17.2 The budget shall be agreed no later than 31st January 2022 for the first financial year and no later than 31st January for each subsequent year.

17.3 Revisions can be made to the budget during the financial year to which that budget relates.

17.4 The Strategic Development Plan Budget requirement must be paid by the Constituent Councils and the Authority – the proportion to be paid by each is to be decided by unanimous agreement of the Council Members and the Brecon Beacons Member.

17.5 The General Budget requirement must be paid by the Constituent Councils – the proportion to be paid by each is to be decided by unanimous agreement of the Council Members.

18. GENERAL FUND

18.1 The CJC must establish and maintain a fund to be known as the CJC's General Fund.

18.2 Any sums received or paid by the CJC, other than for specific external funds set out in the Establishing Regulations, must be done so through the CJC's General Fund.

18.3 The CJC must keep an account of receipts into and payments out of its General Fund.

19. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Provisions in the Establishing Regulations will apply to the financial administration of the CJC.

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PART 4 STAFFING

20. **STAFFING**

20.1 The CJC will make arrangements in relation to staffing as are necessary for the proper discharge of its functions. Provisions in the Establishing Regulations apply to the CJC's arrangements for staffing.

21. **DUTY TO APPOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

21.1 The CJC will appoint a chief executive officer.

21.2 The chief executive must

21.2.1 Keep review of how the CJC exercises its different functions, the CJC's arrangements and staffing matters, and

21.2.2 where appropriate to do so, make a report to the CJC setting out the chief executive's proposals in respect of any of those matters.

21.3 Provisions in the Establishing Regulations in relation to the direct employment of a chief executive officer will apply.

22. **DUTY TO APPOINT CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER AND REPORTING FUNCTIONS**

22.1 The CJC will appoint a chief finance officer.

22.2 The CJC's chief officer will have the same duties and obligations for the CJC as a local authority's chief finance officer for their authority.

23. DESIGNATION AND REPORTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

23.1 The CJC must designate a monitoring officer, who will not be the same individual as the CJC's chief executive officer or chief finance officer.

23.2 The CJC's monitoring officer will have the same duties and obligations for the CJC as a local authority's monitoring officer for their authority.

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PART 5 - DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

24. RECORDS

24.1 The CJC will make arrangements for the proper care, preservation and management of the CJC's records, and make and maintain a scheme setting out those arrangements which are approved by the CJC and set out at Appendix 4 (the "Records Scheme").

24.2 Provisions in the Establishing Regulations relate to the preparation, retention, publications and facilitation of access to documents and records by the CJC.

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PART 6 – STANDARDS

25. CODE OF CONDUCT

25.1 The CJC will adopt a code of conduct for Members (the "**Members Code of Conduct**") as appended at Appendix 5.

25.2 Provisions in the Establishing Regulations in relation to a code of conduct for paid officers employed by CJC will apply.

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APPENDIX 1 – GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

[PM NOTE: TO BE ADDED, BASED ON SIMILAR TERMS OF REFERENCE FROM ONE OF THE CONSTITUENT COUNCILS]

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APPENDIX 2- STANDARDS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

[PM NOTE: TO BE ADDED, BASED ON SIMILAR TERMS OF REFERENCE FROM ONE OF THE CONSTITUENT COUNCILS

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APPENDIX 3 - SCHEME OF DELEGATION

All decisions are to be taken by the CJC except as set out below:

Decisions to incur expenditure up to a maximum aggregate of £50,000 where this is: a) Within the approved budget of the CJC for that financial year; and b) In accordance with the CJC's Standing Orders.	Director, Cardiff Capital Region
Decisions on the management, allocation, direction and supervision of staff resources made available to the CJC where this is: a) In accordance with the staffing arrangements put in place with the employers of any staff made available to the CJC; and b) In accordance with the CJC's Standing Orders	Director, Cardiff Capital Region
The engagement (and terms of engagement of) any individual person as a consultant where the value of the appointment does not exceed £50,000 per accounting period	Director, Cardiff Capital Region

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APPENDIX 4 – RECORDS SCHEME

[PM NOTE: TO BE ADDED, BASED ON SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS IN ONE OF THE CONSTITUENT COUNCILS]

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APPENDIX 5 – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

[PM NOTE: TO BE ADDED, BASED ON SIMILAR CODE FROM ONE OF THE CONSTITUENT COUNCILS]

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

BUDGET MONITORING 2021-22 – QUARTER 3 REVENUE FORECAST

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's revenue financial position as at 31st December 2021, and to seek approval for budget virements between £100,000 and £500,000, as required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

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 focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of 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** – 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

2.2 The allocation of budget determines the extent to which the Council's well-being objectives can be delivered.

3. Background

3.1 On 24th February 2021, Council approved a net revenue budget of £298.956 million for 2021-22. As part of the Performance Management Framework, budget projections are reviewed regularly and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The delivery of agreed budget reductions is also kept under review and reported to Cabinet as part of this process.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Summary financial position at 31st December 2021

4.1.1 The Council's net revenue budget and projected outturn for 2021-22 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Comparison of budget against projected outturn at 31st December 2021

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2021-22 £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000	Projected Outturn Q3 2021-22 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend 2021-22 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 2 2021-22 £'000
Directorate					
Education and Family Support	127,055	127,580	128,599	1,019	1,089
Social Services and Wellbeing	74,043	74,536	73,443	(1,093)	471
Communities	28,137	28,317	28,407	90	(313)
Chief Executive's	21,304	21,520	19,432	(2,088)	(1,417)
Total Directorate Budgets	**250,539**	**251,953**	**249,881**	**(2,072)**	**(170)**
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,329	7,329	8,329	1,000	1,000
Levies	7,783	7,797	7,775	(22)	(22)
Apprenticeship Levy	650	650	673	23	17
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	15,654	15,654	15,504	(150)	0
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	1,425	62	67
Repairs & Maintenance	670	670	520	(150)	(100)
Pension Related Costs	430	430	430	0	2
Other Corporate Budgets	14,538	13,110	4,890	(8,220)	(6,882)
Total Council Wide Budgets	**48,417**	**47,003**	**39,546**	**(7,457)**	**(5,918)**
Appropriations to Earmarked Reserves			**7,004**	**7,004**	**4,004**
Total	**298,956**	**298,956**	**296,431**	**(2,525)**	**(2,084)**

4.1.2 The overall projected position at 31st December 2021 is a net under spend of £2.525 million comprising a £2.072 million net under spend on directorates and a £7.457 million net under spend on council wide budgets, offset by a net appropriation to earmarked reserves of £7.004 million. The projected position is based on:-

- Inclusion of reimbursed expenditure/loss of income to date on areas impacted by Covid-19 received from Welsh Government (WG).
- Exclusion of Covid-19 expenditure/loss of income claims that are currently on hold with WG at the time of writing this report where reimbursement is not certain.

- Exclusion of Covid-19 expenditure/loss of income claims that have not yet been submitted as they relate to quarter 4 of 2021-22.

4.1.3 The projected under spend on the Council budget at quarter 3 significantly masks the underlying budget pressures in some service areas that were reported in 2020-21 and still persist in 2021-22, for the reasons outlined below. The main financial pressures are in Home to School Transport, Social Services and Wellbeing, Homelessness and Waste.

4.1.4 The Home to School Transport budget has been supported in 2021-22 by a one-off MTFS Budget Pressure of £1.210 million that was approved by Council in February 2021. The quarter 3 projections indicate further pressure of £755,000 on this budget, with additional procurement exercises due to conclude shortly for taxis and minibuses which could put further pressure on the budget going into 2022-23, increasing the budget pressure to over £2 million.

4.1.5 It is forecast that the long-term impact of Covid-19, alongside the already known pressures of an ageing population, increasing dementia rates and more complex and challenging needs is going to result in increasing demands on already pressurised services in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. The underlying pressure on the budget at quarter 3 is masked by grant funding of £2.916 million from the Social Care Recovery Fund, along with under spends on staffing budgets due to difficulties in recruitment, which subsequently impacts on the ability to meet demands for packages of care.

4.1.6 Whilst budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy budget setting process in February 2021, to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals, the Council has seen a significant increase in the provision of temporary accommodation. Secondly, further to the budget being approved for 2021-22, Welsh Government confirmed that the Covid Hardship Fund was to be extended into 2021-22, including support for temporary accommodation. Given the increase in provision, and as the Hardship Fund will not be in place beyond 31st March 2022, the budget growth might be insufficient to meet the increase in demand going into 2022-23.

4.1.7 Waste tonnages increased in 2020-21, primarily due to lockdowns and more residents working from home in general, and this trend is continuing into 2021-22. Support was received in 2020-21 and in the first half of 2021-22 from the WG Hardship Fund towards these increased costs. Support is continuing for the second half of 2021-22, albeit that funding is reduced to 50% of the increased costs. As the Hardship Fund will not be in place beyond the 31st March 2022, the underlying budget pressure is likely to continue into 2022-23.

4.1.8 As a consequence of the projected one-off under spends, we have been able to create in-year earmarked reserves to support the capital programme and investment in our communities at this unprecedented time. Detailed movements in earmarked reserves can be found in section 4.4, and quarter 3 has seen a new £3 million addition to the unallocated capital reserve to be utilised against projected capital pressures.

4.1.9 In addition, given the significant funding required to meet pay and price costs in 2022-23, and potential pressures on Council Tax collection (see 4.1.20) and

increase in eligibility for council tax support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (see 4.1.21), any uncommitted funding from other council wide budgets in 2021-22 will be carried forward to meet those pressures in the new financial year.

4.1.10 The Council received its provisional local government settlement for 2021-22 from Welsh Government on 21st December 2021. A report is being presented to Cabinet on 18th January 2022 on the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 which sets out the spending priorities of the Council, key investment objectives and budget areas targeted for necessary savings. The strategy includes a financial forecast for 2022-26 and a detailed draft revenue budget for 2022-23. It is clear from the report that there will be difficult choices to make and pressures to meet going forward. In addition, there is still one quarter of the financial year remaining and there are a number of volatile budgets which could impact upon this position as well as the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, particularly during the winter months.

4.1.11 A detailed analysis of the more significant projected under and over spends is set out in section 4.3. The position on directorate budgets has improved since quarter 2, with the projected under spend increasing by £1.9 million. This is primarily due to additional income relating to Homelessness accommodation costs from the Covid-19 Hardship Fund, with £1.313 being successfully claimed during quarter 3. Covid-19 Hardship claims will continue to be made to WG for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year and, if successful, will further improve the financial position by the year end. In addition, WG awarded an additional £3,132,108 to the Local Authority Education Grant 2021-22 for Bridgend on the 21st December 2021. We are currently reviewing the allocation to determine if there is any impact on service budgets or school balance projections.

Covid-19

4.1.12 The UK was put into lockdown on 23rd March 2020 in an unprecedented step to attempt to limit the spread of coronavirus. A Covid-19 Hardship Fund was set up at an early stage by the Welsh Government to the value of £188.5 million which the Council was able to draw on for financial support. Bridgend successfully claimed over £15 million in expenditure claims and over £5.5 million in loss of income claims in 2020-21.

4.1.13 The Welsh Government allocated £206.6 million in its budget to the Hardship Fund to support local government for the first six months of 2021-22. In addition, £23.3 million was allocated to support free school meals during the school holidays. WG subsequently confirmed a further allocation of £97.5 million for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year with revised principles for claims and tapering of support for social care uplifts and void payments. Three new allocations have been added to the Hardship Fund in quarter 3 - £38 million for winter fuel support, £600,000 for community hubs and £2 million for homelessness support. It is anticipated that the Hardship Fund will not be in place beyond 31st March 2022.

4.1.14 The Authority will continue to claim from the Hardship Fund against the eligible criteria and directorates will continue to capture costs incurred as a result of the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.1.15 Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CCMB) agreed to establish a £1 million Covid-19 Recovery Fund in 2020-21 to provide funding for conscious and proactive decisions aimed at boosting recovery that were unlikely to be paid for by WG. The balance on this fund has been carried into 2021-22 and CCMB have approved the use of this fund to support the free car parking offer for town centres to the end of January, a phased rental income increase for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) owned premises and the waiver of sports fees for the remainder of the 2020-21 season. These have been built into the quarter 3 projections.

Estimated costs of the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic

4.1.16 Welsh Government has provided specific eligibility criteria for each of its funding streams, and all directorates have been made aware of them, and are capturing costs accordingly. Any Covid-19 costs which are not identified and claimed will need to be funded from the normal service budgets or established earmarked reserves. Claims submitted to date to Welsh Government, and the outcome of these claims, are shown in Table 2.

Table 2 – Covid-19 expenditure claims up to end of November 2021

Specific Hardship Fund	Claimed £'000	Paid £'000	On hold/ pending review £'000	Disallowed £'000
General	511	472	29	10
Homelessness	2,616	2,586	30	0
Free School Meals	814	0	814	0
Schools	823	746	76	1
Adult Social Services	3,606	3,201	405	0
Visitor Economy	84	84	0	0
Self Isolation Payments (SIP)/ Statutory Sick Pay Enhancements (SSP)	858	671	187	0
Total	**9,313**	**7.760**	**1,542**	**11**

4.1.17 The disallowed expenditure relates primarily to reimbursement of costs incurred by the Council in relation to ongoing home working arrangements and the provision of temporary outdoor structures at schools. Whilst the WG Hardship panel agreed that these costs may be additional and not within the Council's financial plans, they also felt that having such assets in place provides longer term benefits to local authorities. A contribution of 50% has therefore been agreed across Wales toward these costs for the first six months of 2021-22. WG have confirmed that these are no longer eligible to be claimed for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year. The claims not paid to date of £1.542 million relate mostly to those pending review by the Free School Meal Panel (£814,000) and the latest submitted claim which is not due to be reviewed by WG until early in the New Year (£724,000). As there is no certainty at the time of writing this report in relation to the outcome of the items placed on hold (excluding FSM claims which have been fully funded by WG since the introduction of the Hardship grant), the reimbursement of costs has not been assumed in the quarter 3 projections and these are covered in detail in section 4.3 of the report.

4.1.18 The Council has also submitted a claim for loss of income to the Welsh Government for the first two quarters of 2021-22 totalling £1.154 million as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Covid-19 loss of income to Quarter 2 2021-22

Directorate	Claimed (covers to end of Qtr 2)	Paid	On hold	Main areas
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**	
Education and Family Support Directorate	48	48	0	**£48k - School meal income**
Schools	110	110	0	**£65K - school meal income, £45K - loss of income from hire of school premises**
Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate	655	655	0	**£628k – contribution to Council's leisure service provider, £27k – dual use sites where facilities are managed for community use outside of school hours**
Communities Directorate	159	159	0	**£74k - Car Park Income, £45k pitch and pavilion hire, £27k – civil enforcement income**
Chief Executive's Directorate	183	183	0	**£48K – court cost income £103k – registrars, taxi licensing and licensing income,**
Total	**1,154**	**1,154**	**0**	

4.1.19 All of the claims for the first half of 2021-22 have been approved and paid by WG. Future claims will be submitted to cover the loss of income for the second half of the financial year, the outcome of which will be reported in the outturn report to Cabinet.

4.1.20 In addition to lost income from service provision, the Council is also likely to see a reduction in council tax income over the 2021-22 financial year as more people have suffered financial hardship through the pandemic along with the furlough scheme ending. Bridgend received £1.261 million from WG in 2020-21 in recognition of the reduced collection rates experienced by councils as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and reduced court time for debt recovery. Recognising that recovery may be slow the Council reduced its own budgeted collection rate by 0.5% when it approved the council tax base in November 2020. A 1% reduction in the council tax income collection rate could result in an additional pressure to the Council of around £1 million. It is too early to provide a realistic indication of projected council tax for this financial year, and whilst no funding has been identified by WG for reduced council tax income, WG are monitoring this across all Welsh Local Authorities.

4.1.21 Alongside the impact on Council Tax, the ending of the furlough scheme and the potential for new restrictions to address the Omicron variant could both manifest itself in an increase in eligibility for council tax support. Support of £325,469

from WG was provided in 2020-21 towards the increased demand on the council tax reduction scheme due to the impact of Covid-19 on personal financial circumstances, however, no additional funding has yet been identified by Welsh Government for increased council tax support.

Budget virements/technical adjustments

4.1.22 There have been a number of budget virements and technical adjustments between budgets since the quarter 2 Revenue Forecast was presented to Cabinet in October. The budget position is reported on the assumption that these virements will be approved. The main virements and technical adjustments in quarter 3 are outlined below:

Budget Virements

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of funding from Directorate Print budgets to ICT to reflect reduced print activity due to staff working from home and ICT being unable to recover the fixed costs of printers and photocopiers through the re-charge to service departments.	£150,000

Technical Adjustments

Service vired from / to	Amount
Transfer of inflationary uplifts not confirmed when the MTFS is agreed that are held centrally until evidence of the uplift is provided by the service areas	£563,047
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of teachers' pay award 2021-22, net of grant received	£463,260

Pay/Price Inflation

4.1.23 When the budget for 2021-22 was set, directorates were provided with funding for known pay and price inflation. The remaining provision was retained centrally within Council wide budgets, to be allocated as further information was known about specific contractual price increases. The technical adjustments table above presents further release of these budgets as and when evidence is provided by the service areas.

4.1.24 Inflationary pressures include those arising from specific contractual commitments and significant increases in staffing costs arising not only from the above inflation increases in the national living wage, the agreed pay award of 1.75% for Teachers, but also the ongoing discussions regarding the pay claim for National Joint Council (NJC) workers.

4.1.25 Inflation rates have fluctuated since the budget was set - CPI was 0.7% in February 2021, had increased to 3.2% in August and has further increased to 5.1% in November. With the uncertainty around Brexit and Covid-19 and the possible economic fallout arising from these, along with the projected and rising energy costs, it is likely that the provision set aside in the MTFS for 2022-23 will need to be supplemented by any funding not committed from the council wide budgets this financial year.

Budget Reduction Proposals

4.1.26 The net budget for the financial year has been set assuming full implementation of the current year budget reduction requirements across the Council's budget, which amount to £1.760 million. Where proposals to meet this requirement have been delayed or are not achievable directorates have been tasked with identifying alternative proposals to meet their requirements such as vacancy management or bringing forward alternative budget reduction proposals.

4.1.27 The draft Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2022-23 to 2025-26 which is being presented to Cabinet on 18th January 2022 includes a number of pressures facing Bridgend County Borough Council over the life of the MTFS. The report reiterates the need to develop recurrent budget reduction proposals, based on the most likely scenario, amounting to £21.029 million over the next four years. Against that background it is essential that expenditure is kept within the overall approved budget and that longer term proposals continue to be developed so that the Council has as much flexibility as possible to meet the challenges which lie ahead.

4.1.28 At year end consideration will be given to requests from directors to carry forward any planned directorate under spends for specific purposes, as earmarked reserves, into the following year, in line with the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol, as long as these can be met from within the Council's cash limited budget for 2021-22. This is in line with the reports to Cabinet and Council on the MTFS, and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules. Similarly, consideration will be given to any budget over spends to determine whether these should be carried forward as a first call on the directorate budget for the following year. If over spends are due to budget reduction proposals not being achieved, Directors will be asked to identify if any of these proposals are still not likely to be achieved in full during the 2022-23 financial year, and to identify mitigating actions that will be undertaken to achieve them. However, a decision will not be made until towards the end of the financial year when the overall outturn position is more definite.

4.2 Monitoring of Budget Reduction Proposals

Prior Year Budget Reductions

4.2.1 A report was presented to Cabinet on 22nd June 2021 on the Revenue Budget Outturn 2020-21. In the report it was highlighted that, for 2017-18 to 2019-20, there were £2.501 million of budget reduction proposals that were not met in full, with a total outstanding balance to be met of £709,000. In addition, of the 2020-21 budget reduction proposals of £2.413 million, it was reported that there was a total outstanding balance to be met of £342,000. Directors have been asked to identify if any of these proposals are still not likely to be achieved in full during the 2021-22 financial year, and to identify mitigating actions that will be undertaken to achieve them. All remaining outstanding prior year budget reductions are summarised in **Appendix 1** with a summary per directorate provided in Table 4.

Table 4 – Outstanding Prior Year Budget Reductions

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Education and Family Support	344	344	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	185	185	0
Communities	1,847	1,726	121
TOTAL	**2,376**	**2,255**	**121**

4.2.2 Table 4 shows that of the £2.376 million outstanding reductions, £2.255 million is likely to be achieved by 2021-22 leaving a shortfall of £121,000. The main proposal still not likely to be achieved is:

- COM19 – Streetworks review (£100,000) – the business case was submitted to WG in quarter 3 and the service area are awaiting final comments back for approval before steps can be taken towards implementation. The Highways network budget area is committed to stay within budget through the implementation phase.

Budget Reductions 2021-22

4.2.3 The budget approved for 2021-22 included budget reduction proposals totalling £1.760 million, which is broken down in **Appendix 2** and summarised in Table 5 below. The current position is a projected shortfall on the savings target of £65,000, or 3.7% of the overall reduction target.

Table 5 – Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2021-22

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Education and Family Support	116	116	0
Schools	0	0	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	315	315	0
Communities	823	758	65
Chief Executive's	130	130	0
Council Wide Budgets	376	376	0
TOTAL	**1,760**	**1,695**	**65**

4.2.4 The main budget reduction proposal unlikely to be achieved in full is COM 2 – Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site (£60,000). The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open in the final quarter of 2021-22, with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2022-23.

4.2.5 **Appendix 2** identifies the projected amount of savings against these proposals in detail and action to be taken by the directorate to mitigate the shortfall. Directors continue to work with their staff to deliver their proposals or alternatives and this is reflected in the forecast outturn for the year.

4.2.6 As outlined in the MTFS reports to Cabinet and Council, MTFS Principle 7 states that *"Savings proposals are fully developed and include realistic delivery timescales prior to inclusion in the annual budget. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency Reserve will be maintained to mitigate against unforeseen delays".* An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve was established in 2016-17. This reserve has been used to meet specific budget reduction proposals in previous years on a one-off basis pending alternative measures. During the financial year, the Section 151 Officer considers applications from Directorates to the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve to mitigate some of the shortfalls, however it is unlikely any applications will be made in the 2021-22 financial year.

4.2.7 In the longer term, these proposals must be realised or must be met through alternative budget reduction proposals in order to deliver a balanced budget position. These will continue to be closely monitored and draw down from the MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve will be made as part of the overall review of earmarked reserves during quarter 4 if required, however it is unlikely to be utilised in the 2021-22 financial year.

4.3 Commentary on the financial position at 31st December 2021

Financial position at 31st December 2021

A summary of the financial position for each main service area is attached as **Appendix 3** to this report and comments on the most significant variances are provided below.

4.3.1 Education and Family Support Directorate

The net budget for the Directorate for 2021-22 is £127.580 million. Current projections indicate an over spend of £1.019 million. WG awarded an additional £3,132,108 to the Local Authority Education Grant 2021-22 for Bridgend on the 21st December. The majority of the funding is additional Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards funding for schools and non-maintained settings (£1.535 million), with the other main categories being an ALN Covid recovery grant and new system funding (£706,000), Attendance support and community schools funding (£335,000), Winter of Wellbeing (£253,000) and PDG Access extension funding (£158,000). We are currently reviewing the allocation to determine if there is any impact on service budgets or school balance projections and will provide further updates in the outturn report.

The main variances at quarter 3 are:

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance	Over/ (under) specifically Covid-19 related
Support for Learners with Additional Learning Needs	2,578	3,140	562	21.8%	
Home to School Transport	6,737	7,492	755	11.2%	
Health and Safety	384	278	(106)	-27.7%	

Schools' Delegated Budgets

Total funding delegated to schools in 2021-22 is £104.012 million.

The schools' delegated budget is reported as balanced as any under or over spend is automatically carried forward into the new financial year before being considered by the Corporate Director - Education and Family Support in line with the 'Guidance and Procedures on Managing Surplus School Balances'.

At the start of 2021-22, projections indicated an overall surplus balance for school delegated budgets of £5.241 million at year end. At quarter 3 this has reduced to a projected surplus of £3.93 million due primarily to schools utilising the grant funding awarded at the end of last financial year, in line with the terms and conditions of the grant to be spent by the end of the 2021-22 academic year. There are 8 primary schools (13.6% of all schools) projecting a deficit balance at year end.

Central Education and Family Support Budgets

Support for Learners with Additional Learning Needs

- There is a projected over spend of £562,000 which primarily relates to the shortfall in recoupment income for other Local Authority (LA) placements at Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell. A budget pressure of £500,000 was agreed by Council as part of the MTFS in February 2021, but there has been a further reduction in the number of other LA pupils in Bridgend schools. Whilst there were 20 pupils at the end of 2020-21 this has reduced to 13 due to increased demand from BCBC pupils.

Home to School Transport

- There is a projected over spend of £755,000 for Home to School Transport (HTST). This is on top of the underlying pressure on the HTST budget which has been supported by a one-off MTFS Budget Pressure of £1.210 million that was approved by Council in February 2021 to support the increased costs of HTST and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.
- In addition to the historic pressures, Cabinet and Corporate Management Board also determined in 2020-21 that in order to ensure the safety of nursery pupils on school transport vehicles, those previously transported on big buses should be transported in either dedicated minibuses or taxis or in existing taxis and minibuses. This is an additional requirement for the 2021-22 school year onwards and has increased costs annually by an estimated £170,000.
- School transport operators have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and have passed many of the risks associated with continuing to operate including, for example, driver retention, relatively low paid jobs and ongoing insecurity in the market, on to the local authority. For example, the cost of drivers and escorts has increased significantly.
- A retendering exercise has also been completed on home to school transport contracts, principally big buses and minibuses, with an annual increase of £752,000.
- A further procurement exercise has been undertaken for special taxis, taxis, and minibus contracts which could put further pressure on the HTST budget going into 2022-23.

Health and Safety

- There is a projected under spend of £106,000 within the corporate Health and Safety service which is due to staff vacancy management. The service are actively recruiting to fill the vacant posts.

4.3.2 **Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate**

The Directorate's net budget for 2021-22 is £74.536 million. Current projections indicate an under spend of £1.093 million at year end. Covid-19 expenditure and loss of income included in this projection amount to £197,000 – if these were to be successfully claimed from WG, the projection would improve to an under spend of £1.290 million.

As noted in the quarter 2 budget monitoring report, the directorate had been notified of £1.777 million in grant funding from the WG Social Care Recovery Fund. A further allocation of £1.139 million has been received since quarter 2, increasing the overall 2021-22 Social Care Recovery Fund to £2.916 million. A spend plan for this funding has been finalised and any impact on service budgets has been included in the quarter 3 projections. A significant amount of the grant is planned to be used on staffing to provide additional support in key areas throughout the directorate, for example, Front Door, Network teams, Fostering and Behavioural Therapy. Due to difficulties in recruitment currently being experienced, the allocation of the grant is constantly under review and will continue to be maximised in the final quarter of 2021-22.

The directorate has submitted a bid for Winter Pressures funding via the local Health Board. The Directorate received £522,000 in 2020-21. The outcome of the bid is not known at the time of writing this report therefore the impact on the service budgets has not been built into the quarter 3 projections.

The main variances at quarter 3 are:

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance	Over/ (under) specifically COVID-19 related £'000
Adult Social Care	49,903	48,418	(1,485)	-3.0%	145
Prevention & Wellbeing	5,229	5,116	(113)	-2.2%	
Childrens Social Care	19,404	19,909	505	2.6%	52

Adult Social Care

There is projected net under spend of £1.485 million on the Adult Social Care budget. This has improved from the quarter 2 projected under spend of £101,000. The main reasons for the movement are:-

- Reimbursement of direct payments - £530,000. The local authority undertook a procurement exercise during 2021-22 which resulted in a change of provider for payroll/managed accounts services and advisor support as part of the Direct Payments service. Managed direct payment accounts are constantly under review and reimbursements actioned periodically in line with contract requirements where accounts are under spent due, for example, to under-utilisation of hours or no cover arrangements being required. These circumstances have been more prevalent during the pandemic, due primarily to social distancing requirements. During quarter 3 a one-off transfer of reimbursements was actioned upon the cessation of the contract with the previous provider.

- Reduction in staffing costs due to drawing on the Recovery Fund to support additional posts and also due to continued difficulty in recruitment being experienced - £128,000.
- Reduced placements – £242,000. Independent Domiciliary Care is encountering capacity issues in terms of staffing shortages and inability to recruit, impacting on the ability to meet demands for packages of care. Short break placements have been reduced due to the impact of the social distancing guidance.

The most significant variances contributing to the £1.485 million projected under spend are:-

ADULT SOCIAL CARE	**Projected Variance Over/(under) budget** **£'000**
Residential Care for Older People	(320)
Homecare	168
Direct Payments	(424)
Residential Care – Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment	(115)
Supported and Other Accommodation – Mental Health	(175)
Assessment and Care Management	(432)

- Residential Care for Older People – the projected under spend of £320,000 is mainly due to reduced residential/nursing placements (£180,000) and an increase in personal contributions (£62,000). While residential/nursing are recovering from their lowest vacancy rate of around 19% earlier in the pandemic (currently around 12%), increases are still at a slow rate. Nursing placements have limited capacity due to nursing staff shortages.
- Homecare – the projected over spend of £168,000 within the homecare service in Adult Social Care is mainly due to an increase in the number of people receiving domiciliary care within a home setting or supported accommodation within Learning Disabilities and an increasing number of placements requiring complex packages of support within Mental Health Services.
- Direct Payments – the projected under spend of £424,000 within the direct payments service in Adult Social Care is mainly due to the one-off reimbursement received from the previous provider as previously noted.
- Residential Care – Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment – the projected under spend of £115,000 is mainly due to a reduction in placements compared to those budgeted for. This budget area will be closely monitored with a view to determining whether the under spend is recurring, with potential re-alignment to other budgets facing projected over spends within Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment service areas
- Supported and Other Accommodation – Mental Health – the projected under spend of £175,000 is primarily due to maximisation of grant funding available.
- Assessment and Care Management – there is a projected under spend of £432,000 across all service areas due to a continuing challenging recruitment environment for qualified social workers. Various recruitment activities have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts.

Prevention and Wellbeing

- The projected under spend of £113,000 has improved from the £40,000 projected under spend at quarter 2 due primarily to successful claims from the WG Loss of Income grant (£27,000) and an improvement in hire charge income as groups start to use facilities again (£39,000). The projection does not include any estimate for a contribution to the Council's leisure provider for the gross net loss of running the leisure services in 2021-22 due to Covid-19. Successful claims of £628,000 have made for quarter 1 and quarter 2 through the WG Hardship loss of income fund (see Table 3) and claims will continue to be made for the remainder of 2021-22.

Childrens' Social Care

- There is projected net over spend of £505,000 on the Children's Social Care budget, an improvement on the quarter 2 projection of £612,000.
- The main reason relates to a projected over spend on the Care Experienced Children budget of £362,000 which has improved from the quarter 2 projected over spend of £442,000. It is important to note that decisions on the accommodation, care and support needed for a child is always made in their best interest and that, overall, the number of residential placements made by BCBC remains low when benchmarked with other comparable authorities. As noted in the quarter 2 budget monitoring report, this budget area can be volatile and small changes in demand can result in relatively high costs being incurred.
- The Care Experienced population at the end of 2020-21 was 390. Movements in year has resulted in there being 385 at quarter 1, 388 at quarter 2 and 377 at quarter 3.
- At the end of quarter 2 there were 10 children in independent residential placements (in and out of authority) and 2 in BCBC 39 week local authority education provision. At the end of quarter 3 the numbers have increased to 11 children in independent residential placements and 3 in BCBC local authority education provision. However, as one high cost placement has now ended, despite the increase in numbers there has been a slight reduction in the overall projected over spend for Children's Social Care.

4.3.3 **Communities Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2021-22 is £28.317 million. The current projection is an anticipated over spend of £90,000. Covid-19 expenditure included in this projection amounts to £80,000 – if this were to be successfully claimed from WG, the projection would improve to an over spend of £10,000.

The main variances are:

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance	Over/ (under) specifically COVID-19 related £'000
Development Control	-231	-16	215	-93.1%	
Waste Disposal & Collection	9,002	9,389	387	4.3%	80
Street Lighting	1,616	1,379	(237)	-14.7%	
Highways Services (DSO)	2,936	2,855	(81)	-2.8%	
Parking Services	-295	-436	(141)	47.8%	
Engineering Services	81	-52	(133)	-164.2%	
Parks, Playing Fields and Open Spaces	2,004	1,886	(118)	-5.9%	
Corporate Landlord	2,684	2,792	108	4.0%	

Development Control

- The projected over spend in Development of £215,000 is primarily due to a forecast downturn in planning application income based on income to date and comparison with the 2020-21 outturn. Fee income is subject to considerable fluctuations between years, depending on number and types of applications and will require close monitoring for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year.

Waste Disposal and Collection

- There is a projected over spend of £387,000 on the Waste Disposal and Collection budget. £60,000 of this is due to the delay in the achievement of COM 2 - Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at the existing site. The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open in the final quarter of 2021-22, with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2022-23.
- The balance of the over spend is due to continued increased tonnages of residual waste being experienced by the service. Tonnages increased in 2020-21, primarily due to lockdowns and more residents working from home in general and this trend is continuing into 2021-22. We have successfully claimed £211,828 from the WG Hardship fund to date and WG have indicated continuing support for increased tonnage as a result of homeworking, albeit that funding will be reduced to 50% of the increased costs for the second half of 2021-22. Claims will continue to be submitted, and if successful could improve the projections by up to £80,000.

Street Lighting

- There is a projected under spend of £237,000 on Street Lighting. Due to a change in energy providers in 2021-22, the kilowatt per hour charge decreased by 7% which, based specifically on the energy budget for street lighting, would

lead to a reduction in costs of circa £63,000. £73,000 of the projected under spend is one-off due to financial profiling of the annual loan repayments. Finally, the LED replacement programme has generated the balance of the saving due to reduced energy consumption. This budget area will be closely monitored with a view to determining the element of under spend that is recurring, with potential re-alignment to other budgets facing projected over spends within the Communities Directorate as part of the 2022-23 budget setting process. The project demonstrates a successful outcome of an invest to save programme within the Council.

Highways Services

- The projected under spend of £81,000 within Highways Services is primarily due to members of staff working on, and hence charging their time to, the SALIX capital scheme to enable the replacement of street lighting with new energy efficient LED units. This is not a recurring saving and is a reduced projection from the 2020-21 outturn of £244,000 as the SALIX Scheme completed in quarter 2 of 2021-22.

Parking Services

- The projected under spend of £141,000 on Parking Services is primarily due to a fortuitous upturn in car park income experienced during quarter 2 as a direct result of the popularity of the 'staycation' and a significant improvement on the income received in quarter 2 in 2020-21 when the country was in lockdown. The current under spend masks a pressure on the service area of £180,000 due to the current shortfall in staff car pass income due to the ongoing working from home principle. There is a potential for this to be a long term budget pressure for the service area.

Engineering Services

- The projected under spend of £133,000 within Engineering Services is primarily due to an increase in the level of fee earning jobs (grant funded/non grant funded projects) and the differing chargeable rates allowed on the schemes.

Parks, Playing Fields and Bereavement Services

- The projected under spend of £118,000 is primarily due to a projected increase in income within Bereavement Services compared with pre-pandemic income and budgeted income levels. 2020-21 saw an increase in burials of 34% and whilst it was anticipated that income levels would have returned to normal levels in 2021-22, this has not materialised.

Corporate Landlord

- There is a projected over spend on the Corporate Landlord budget of £108,000. This partly relates to shortfalls in income generated from properties run by the Council that are not necessarily Covid-19 related but relate to occupancy shortfalls – e.g. Bridgend Market, Innovation Centre. The balance of the shortfall is primarily due to a reduction in productivity levels in the Facilities Management team due to social distancing requirements in the workplace.

4.3.4 **Chief Executive's**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2021-22 is £21.520 million. Current projections anticipate an under spend against this budget of £2.088 million. The projections have improved since the quarter 2 projected under spend of £1.417 million due primarily to additional income relating to Homelessness Accommodation costs from the Covid-19 Hardship Fund. £1.273 million had been approved as at quarter 2 which has increased to £2.586 million at quarter 3 (Table 2), an increase of £1.313 million.

The projections do not include loss of income claims that WG will be considering in the final quarters of 2021-22 which are estimated to be in the region of £132,000. There are further anticipated housing costs to be reclaimed from the Covid-19 Hardship fund of £58,000. If all these claims are approved, the projections could further improve to an under spend position of £2.278 million.

The main variances are:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance	Over/ (under) specifically COVID-19 related £'000
Finance	3,683	3,565	(118)	-3.2%	96
HR and Organisational Development	1,911	1,813	(98)	-5.1%	
Partnerships	2,045	1,985	(60)	-2.9%	
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	4,919	5,208	289	5.9%	33
ICT	3,928	4,068	140	3.6%	
Housing & Homelessness	3,354	1,060	(2,294)	-68.4%	61

Finance

- Whilst there is a projected under spend of £118,000 in Finance, included in this projection is a shortfall in income levels of £96,000, the largest of which is for court cost income (£78,000). Claims will continue to be made to WG for the remainder of the financial year to support the identified shortfall in income. The shortfall has been offset by staffing vacancies across Finance and Housing Benefits as the service is currently going through a restructure. The structure is anticipated to be populated in the final quarter of the 2021-22 financial year.

HR and Organisational Development

- There is a projected under spend of £98,000. This primarily relates to staffing and apprenticeship vacancies, however HR are actively recruiting to fill, or have already filled these vacancies.

Partnerships

- This service areas includes Transformation, Partnerships and Customer Services & Engagement. The projected under spend of £60,000 is primarily due to staff vacancies. Various recruitment activities have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts, but appointments have been affected by Covid-19.

Legal, Democratic & Regulatory

- There is a projected over spend of £289,000 within Legal, Democratic and Regulatory services. This is primarily due to the projected over spend of £448,000 on Childcare Legal costs. There has been an unprecedented increase in public and private law childcare cases. The volume has increased considerably since the start of the pandemic, along with an increase in volume of complex cases that have required Senior Counsel.
- The projections also include a rebate of £102,000 relating to Shared Regulatory Services as anticipated service level delivery has been impacted by the pandemic resulting in an under spend.
- Included in the projections are successful claims of £120,000 from the WG Loss of Income fund to support lower levels of income being experienced for registrars, land charges, licencing fees and public health fees. A further £33,000 is anticipated to be claimed from WG relating to the final two quarters of 2021-22, therefore the projections could improve by the year end if the future claims prove to be successful.

ICT

- There is a projected net over spend of £140,000 across ICT budgets. Due to reduced printing activity ICT have been unable to recover the fixed costs of printers and photocopiers through the recharge to service departments. Consequently, reduced spend has been incurred on printing budgets across the service departments. Given the continuing working from home principle for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year, an exercise was undertaken in quarter 3 to re-align budgets and the position in ICT reflects a £150,000 realignment from service area budgets as referred to in 4.1.22. The remaining over spend is due to increased postage costs due to staff working from home and an increased spend on IT infrastructure.

Housing & Homelessness

- Budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the MTFS budget setting process in February 2021 to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals, providing them with accommodation. The budget was approved prior to confirmation from WG that the Covid Hardship Fund was to be extended for the first six months of 2021-22. Table 2 sets out that successful claims of £2.586 million have been made to the WG Hardship Fund and these claims are the major contributor to the projected under spend within Housing and Homelessness.
- The Council has seen a significant increase in the provision of temporary accommodation. At quarter 3, the service are providing temporary accommodation for 348 people from 204 households, compared with 74 households in temporary accommodation in March 2020. As the Hardship Fund will not be in place beyond 31st March 2022, and given the significant increase in provision of temporary accommodation, the budget growth will be needed in full in 2022-23 to continue to provide support for homeless individuals, providing them with accommodation.

4.3.5 **Council Wide budgets**

This section includes budgets, provisions and services which are council wide, and not managed by an individual directorate. The budget for 2021-22 is £47.003 million. The projected outturn is £39.546 million, resulting in a projected under spend of £7.457 million. The main variances are detailed below:-

COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £'000	% Variance
Capital Financing	7,329	8,329	1,000	13.6%
Other Council wide Budgets	13,110	4,890	(8,220)	-62.7%

Capital Financing

- The projected over spend on capital financing costs is due to utilising the budget in 2021-22 to pay off historic prudential borrowing costs, where feasible, which will have a long term revenue cost saving benefit for the Council.

Other Council wide Budgets

- Other Council wide budgets includes funding for pay, price and pension increases along with funding to deal with unexpected costs unforeseen when the budget was set.
- When the MTFS was approved in February 2021, the pay increases for NJC employees and teachers had not been finalised. Provision was made in the budget with an element of contingency built in. As noted in 4.1.24 the Teachers' pay award has been agreed at 1.75%. As WG have provided a grant to contribute to this increase, this has been built into the projected under spend for 2021-22.
- There are ongoing discussions regarding the pay claim for National Joint Council (NJC) workers. Even a variance of 1% on the pay settlement of NJC staff alone can result in a swing of required funding of over £1 million per annum.
- Inflation rates have fluctuated since the budget was set - CPI was 0.7% in February 2021, had increased to 3.2% in August and has further increased to 5.1% in November. The majority of the budget estimated for price inflation is retained centrally within Council wide budgets and allocated to directorates/ schools as further information is known about specific contractual price increases e.g. for energy. Part of the under spend relates to projected reductions in requirements to allocate price budgets to service areas in-year as the Council has not seen the estimated increases in CPI impact on contractual arrangements to date in 2021-22. However, given the uncertainty around Brexit and Covid-19 and the possible economic fallout arising from these, along with the projected and rising energy costs, this will require close monitoring for the remainder of the financial year.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has also impacted on projected spend on other Council wide budgets, for example, there has been reduced spend on feasibility as projects have been delayed and reduced corporate support required to enable restructures to be undertaken as these have also been delayed by the pandemic.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- There is currently a projected under spend of £150,000 on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme based on spend to date, however this is a demand led budget and take-up is difficult to predict. As noted in paragraph 4.1.20, the ending of the furlough scheme could also manifest itself in an increase in eligibility for council tax support, although this has not been evidenced to date. The final additional cost of this is difficult to predict as we have yet to see the impact of the end of the furlough scheme/newly unemployed and a likely increase in the number of benefit claimants.

4.4 Review of Earmarked Reserves

4.4.1 The Council is required to maintain adequate financial reserves to meet the needs of the organisation. The MTFS includes the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol which sets out how the Council will determine and review the level of its Council Fund balance and earmarked reserves. At quarter 3 a review of the particular pressures that were to be covered by earmarked reserves was undertaken and Directorates have drawn down funding. The review also examined:-

- Commitments against existing reserves and whether these were still valid;
- Earmarked reserve requests from directorates as a result of emerging issues, and;
- Emerging risks for the Council as a whole.

4.4.2 Table 6 below details the creation of new earmarked reserves, increases to existing earmarked reservices and amounts that have been unwound from reserves since the beginning of the financial year. There have been net additions of £7.498 million, the cumulative draw down by directorates is £2.872 million and £494,000 has been unwound.

Table 6 – Usable Earmarked Reserves (Excluding Council Fund) – Quarter 3

		Movement as at Quarter 3			
Opening Balance 01 Apr 21	**Reserve**	**Net Additions/ Reclassification**	**Unwound**	**Draw-down**	**Closing Balance 31 Dec 21**
£'000		**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
	Corporate Reserves:				
34,118	Capital Programme Contribution	7,295	(18)	-	41,396
6,103	Asset Management Reserves	157	(118)	(550)	5,591
7,556	Major Claims & Insurance Reserves	4	-	-	7,559
4,993	Service Reconfiguration	-	-	-	4,993
3,050	Change Management/Digital Transformation	-	(163)	(249)	2,638
2,000	Economic and Future Resilience Fund	-		-	2,000
57,819	**Total Corporate Reserves**	**7,456**	**(299)**	**(799)**	**64,176**
	Directorate Reserves:				
502	Education & Family Support	-	(12)	(18)	472
3,349	Social Services & Wellbeing	-	(42)	(92)	3,215
3,657	Communities	-	(141)	(89)	3,427
2,716	Chief Executives	42		(176)	2,582
10,224	**Total Directorate Reserves**	**42**	**(195)**	**(375)**	**9,696**
	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:				
1,961	Education & Family Support	(68)	-	(775)	1,118
594	Social Services & Wellbeing	(243)	-	-	350
2,532	Communities	-	-	(185)	2,347
1,228	Chief Executives	(544)	-	(170)	513
-	Cross Directorate	856	-	(567)	289
6,315	**Equalisation & Grant Reserves:**	**-**	**-**	**(1,698))**	**4,617**
8,490	School Balances	-		-	8,490
82,848	**TOTAL RESERVES**	**7,498**	**(494)**	**(2,872)**	**86,979**

4.4.3 The net appropriation to earmarked reserves as at quarter 3 is £7.004 million (£7.498 million additions offset by £0.494 million that have been unwound). This net addition has been funded from the projected under spend on non-Directorate budgets at the end of quarter 3 as shown in Table 1.

4.4.4 The main addition in quarter 3 was a £3 million addition to the Capital Programme Contribution reserve which was established to avoid the Council needing to borrow, which would result in consequential borrowing costs on the revenue budget, and will be used to fund schemes within the capital programme, both current and future capital pressures. No further reserves have been unwound in quarter 3.

4.4.5 The capital programme contribution reserve supplements the funding we receive from WG and via capital receipts to fund our capital programme. Currently we have a balance of £41 million of funding in this reserve which constitutes 47% of our overall earmarked reserves balance. This will be used to fund a wide range of schemes in the capital programme.

4.4.6 The School balances reserve increased significantly to £8.490 million at the end of 2020-21 due to additional school grant funding announced late in 2020-21. As noted in paragraph 4.3.1 the quarter 3 projections indicate a projected overall surplus balance for school delegated budgets of £3.93 million at year end as this grant funding gets utilised in-year. This will reduce this reserve accordingly by year end.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 As required by section 3 (budgetary control) of the Financial Procedure Rules; Chief Officers in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member are expected to manage their services within the approved cash limited budget and to provide the Chief Finance Officer with such information as is required to facilitate and monitor budgetary control.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, 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 well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. As the report is for information 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 These are reflected in the body of the report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the projected revenue position for 2021-22
- recommend that Council approve the virements between £100,000 and £500,000 as outlined in paragraph 4.1.22

Carys Lord
Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
January 2022

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Background documents: Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports

PRIOR YEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2021-22

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Revised RAG £000	Total amount of saving likely to be achieved by 21-22 £000	Reason why not achievable	Proposed Action in 2021-22 to achieve

RAG STATUS KEY	
RED	Not likely to be achieved **at all** in this financial year or less than 25%.
AMBER	Reduction not likely to be achieved in full in financial year but greater than 25%
GREEN	Reduction likely to be achieved in full

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

EFS1 (2017-18)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		20		20	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A review is being undertaken by Welsh Government of the current statutory distances. Whilst we await the outcome of the review it is unlikely that any change to the statutory distances by WG will follow until 2022 at the earliest. The service area have developed an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
EFS2 (2017-18)	School transport route efficiencies.		40		40	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A review is being undertaken by Welsh Government of the current statutory distances. Whilst we await the outcome of the review it is unlikely that any change to the statutory distances by WG will follow until 2022 at the earliest. The service area have developed an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
EFS1 (2018-19)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		67		67	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A review is being undertaken by Welsh Government of the current statutory distances. Whilst we await the outcome of the review it is unlikely that any change to the statutory distances by WG will follow until 2022 at the earliest. The service area have developed an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
EFS27 (2018-19)	Review arrangements for Special Schools Home to School Transport with a view to achieving efficiency savings		75		75	A Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	The service area have developed an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
EFS 1 (2019-20)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		67		67	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A review is being undertaken by Welsh Government of the current statutory distances. Whilst we await the outcome of the review it is unlikely that any change to the statutory distances by WG will follow until 2022 at the earliest. The service area have developed an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
EFS 1 (2020-21)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		75		75	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A review is being undertaken by Welsh Government of the current statutory distances. Whilst we await the outcome of the review it is unlikely that any change to the statutory distances by WG will follow until 2022 at the earliest. The service area have developed an updated budget pressure to include historic and emerging pressures on the HTST budget for consideration as part of the MTFS 2022-23 budget setting process.
	Total Education & Family Support Directorate		**344**		**344**		

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Revised RAG £000	Total amount of saving likely to be achieved by 21-22 £000	Reason why not achievable	Proposed Action in 2021-22 to achieve
SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING							
SSW19	Further review of HALO partnership contract, including the Council taking over the management and payment of utility bills currently incurred by HALO. This will result in VAT efficiencies for HALO and contribute towards the reduction in the management fee		40		40	Detailed discussions and advice received from VAT consultants resulted in this budget reduction proposal not being able to be progressed.	Alternative savings have been found from changes to utility contracts – full savings should be achieved in 2021-22.
SSW20	Identify further savings from library and cultural facilities and related services including reviewing the numbers of facilities (libraries, community centres) and also reductions in services or opening hours.		70		70	Covid-19 has impacted on the delivery of this saving.	Realignment of the management fee with AWEN has been achieved based on agreed reductions to services and buildings.
SSW27	Increase income generation from mobile response and telecare charging		75		75	Income levels have sufficiently increased to meet budget reduction proposal	No action required
	Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate		**185**		**185**		
COMMUNITIES							
COM19 (2017-18)	Permitting Scheme road works net of existing income of £95,000		100		0	The Streetworks Review (Stage 3) was submitted to WG during quarter 3 for their final comments for approval before steps can be taken towards implementation.	The Highways network budget area is committed to stay within budget through the implementation phase with full savings anticipated in 2022-23.
COM 4 (2019-20)	Review of School Crossing Patrol service in line with GB standards		10		10	Budget re-alignment actioned within Traffic & Transport budgets in 2021-22.	No action required. Budget re-alignment actioned in 2021-22.
COM 26 (2019-20)	Investigate the introduction of charging to users of the Shopmobility facility in Bridgend Town Centre to reduce/remove the current level of subsidy		5		5	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	No action required.
COM 52 (2019-20)	Reductions to the budget for the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC) to be achieved through the current procurement being undertaken with Neath Port Talbot CBC for the provision of new operator arrangements for the MREC facility at Crumlyn Burrows		1,300		1,300	A Budget Pressure of £300,000 representing the shortfall for this Budget Reduction proposal was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021.	None required - historic shortfall in savings target addressed through a Council approved budget pressure
COM 55 (2019-20)	Increase charge for Green Waste Service from £28.30 per household to £38.30		25		25	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	No action required.
COM 26 (2020-21)	Investigate the introduction of charging to users of the Shopmobility facility in Bridgend Town Centre to reduce/remove the current level of subsidy		18		18	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	No action required.
COM51	The savings will be delivered in a number of ways including operational efficiencies, streamlined business processes, IT investment, improved procurement and contract management, and some deletions of vacant posts.		350		329	Level of savings identified as at 31 December 2021.	Service area to identify efficiencies to meet the shortfall in 2021-22 with budget re-alignment to take place as part of the budget setting process for 2022-23
COM 55 (2020-21)	Increase charge for Green Waste Service from £28.30 per household to £38.30		25		25	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	No action required.
COM96	WG National AHP Waste Programme - capital contribution from WG towards 7.5 tonne vehicle to collect AHP recycling		14		14	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	No action required.
	Total Communities Directorate		**1,847**		**1,726**		
	GRAND TOTAL OUTSTANDING REDUCTIONS		**2,376**		**2,255**		
	REDUCTIONS SHORTFALL				**121**		

MONITORING OF 2021-22 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2021-22 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2021-22 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT					
CENTRAL EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT					
EFS2	Removal of a vacant post within Cognition and Learning Team	Potential reduction in support for a vulnerable group, however it is anticipated that this has been mitigated by a change in working practices by the team as a result of the ALN reform	61	61	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
EFS3	Reconfiguration of the team providing support to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller learners to create a more efficient service	Whilst the impact is more on the management and leadership of the team, this may result in some slight reduction in the service offered to this vulnerable group but there will still be a service offering support	50	50	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
EFS4	Reduction in Central South Consortium (CSC) Budget of 1%	Reduction is achievable within the overall CSC budget and will be mainly achieved through efficiency savings	5	5	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
	Total Education and Family Support		**116**	**116**	
SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING					
SSW1	Remodelling day service provision for older people and learning disability services	Full review of services which could mean alternative methods of service delivery	90	90	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
SSW2	Across Adults and Children's services embed and consolidate outcome focussed practice and commissioning for all service areas	This will support people to live their lives and will require our systems to be adapted to support the changes in practice. There will be a shift to embed outcome focussed practice which will have a focus on targeted prevention initiatives and by developing collaborative, long term relationships with providers as well as maximising the opportunities of the use of technology. this will be underpinned by planning accommodation, care and support together and listening to people who are experts in their own lives and acting upon what will make a difference.	225	225	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
	Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate		**315**	**315**	

MONITORING OF 2021-22 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2021-22 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2021-22 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
COMMUNITIES					
COM1	Transfer of pitches/pavilions through Community Asset Transfer. Increased charges for end-users to achieve full cost recovery for pitches/pavilions that do not transfer. Reduction of grass cut areas and areas within maintained parkland.	The savings identified will see the removal of the remaining seasonal operatives' budget with corresponding cuts to plant, equipment and materials. Where asset transfers occur the respective club (rugby, football, bowls and cricket etc) will be expected to fully fund the ongoing maintenance of the asset. The remaining parks budget will be used to maintain the Council's main parks, including children's play areas, highway grass cutting which is safety related, and to secure the ongoing site management and safety of the sites that will remain in Council ownership. the level of funding will also dictate the standard of open space maintenance and may result in a further reduction of grass cut areas if the proposed savings are not forthcoming through the asset transfer process.	300	300	The full saving in 2021-22 has been achieved as the seasonal operative budget has been capped at a level to ensure the Parks and Playing Fields expenditure does not exceed available budget. Successful CAT transfers have taken place to date, and will continue to be progressed by the CAT Officer.
COM2	Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site	Construction of the new site will mean that this saving will not be effective until 2021/22	60	0	The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open in the final quarter of 2021-22, with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2022-23.
COM5	The lease for Sunnyside House expires on 31/03/21 - savings will be made from this date.	No impact on service provision	309	309	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
COM6	One off capital payment for the fire suppression system required at Tondu. Revenue cost of system is included in the annual contract price with Kier.	Minimal impact. The fire system will be provided and if paid from the Capital Asset Management Fund as opposed to the revenue budget, the £60K per annum can be saved.	60	60	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
COM7	WG National AHP Waste Programme - capital contribution from WG towards 7.5 tonne vehicle to collect AHP recycling	A Contract Variation will be progressed with Kier to achieve the saving levels proposed based on a reduction in costs in relation to the current AHP vehicle that is leased.	19	14	New vehicle purchased part-way through 2021-22 therefore only partial saving achieved.
COM8	Reduction to energy budget for Street Lighting - savings due to replacement with more efficient LED	Reduction will have limited impact	75	75	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
	Total Communities Directorate		**823**	**758**	

MONITORING OF 2021-22 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

APPENDIX 2

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2021-22 £'000	Value Likely to be Achieved 2021-22 £'000	Reason why not likely to be achievable
CHIEF EXECUTIVES					
CEX1	Reduction of the ICT Telephony Budget	No impact on the communications infrastructure and maintenance	41	41	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
CEX2	Reduction of HR Staffing Budget	Reduction of a post and increased workload. Where possible savings will be made from vacant posts.	24	24	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
CEX3	Reduction of Finance staffing budgets	Reduction in capacity across the finance service following proposed restructure, which could impact on time taken to undertake functions. Will endeavour to make savings from vacant posts where possible	65	65	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
	Total Chief Executive's Directorate		**130**	**130**	
CORPORATE / COUNCIL WIDE					
CWD1	Reduction in insurance budget through on-going efficiencies in managing the insurance contract.	No impact as favourable insurance contract renewals have been achieved, however no mitigation available for potential increases to premiums in future years.	75	75	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
CWD2	Savings on building maintenance prudential borrowing budget	No impact - capital financing budget was utilised in 2019-20 to pay off prudential borrowing associated with Minor Works with a long term cost saving benefit for the Council.	120	120	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
CWD3	Reduce provision made for pay and prices following Chancellor's announcement of pay freeze, and lower than anticipated current inflation rate.	Impact will need to be kept under review, and may be risk depending on final pay awards agreed and inflation increases during the year.	181	181	Full saving achieved in 2021-22
	Total Corporate / Council Wide		**376**	**376**	
	GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS		**1,760**	**1,695**	
	TOTAL BUDGET REDUCTION REQUIREMENT		**1,760**	**1,760**	
	REDUCTION SHORTFALL		**0**	**65**	

740	**1,681**
795	**19**
225	**60**
1,760	**1,760**

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2021-22 Expenditure Budget £000	Income Budget £000	Net Budget £000	Projected Outturn £000	Projected Variance Over/(under) budget £000	% Variance
EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT						
School Delegated Budgets	125,314	(21,302)	104,012	104,012	-	0.0%
Learning	9,922	(2,398)	7,524	8,059	535	7.1%
Strategic Partnerships & Comm	25,799	(10,139)	15,660	16,250	590	3.8%
Health and Safety	386	(2)	384	278	(106)	-27.5%
TOTAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	**161,421**	**(33,841)**	**127,580**	**128,599**	**1,019**	**0.8%**
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
Adult Social Care	69,003	(19,100)	49,903	48,418	(1,485)	-3.0%
Prevention and Wellbeing	6,059	(830)	5,229	5,116	(113)	-2.2%
Childrens Social Care	20,488	(1,084)	19,404	19,909	505	2.6%
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	**95,550**	**(21,014)**	**74,536**	**73,443**	**(1,093)**	**-1.5%**
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE						
Planning & Development Services	2,066	(1,523)	543	785	242	44.6%
Strategic Regeneration	2,274	(597)	1,677	1,677	-	0.0%
Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	8,108	(6,894)	1,214	1,205	(9)	-0.7%
Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	12,467	(1,585)	10,882	11,210	328	3.0%
Highways and Green Spaces	23,266	(12,217)	11,049	10,462	(587)	-5.3%
Director and Head of Operations - Communities	268	-	268	276	8	3.0%
Corporate Landlord	14,774	(12,090)	2,684	2,792	108	4.0%
TOTAL COMMUNITIES	**63,223**	**(34,906)**	**28,317**	**28,407**	**90**	**0.3%**
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S						
Chief Executive Unit	583	-	583	527	(56)	-9.6%
Finance	46,655	(42,972)	3,683	3,565	(118)	-3.2%
HR/OD	2,247	(336)	1,911	1,813	(98)	-5.1%
Partnerships	2,891	(846)	2,045	1,985	(60)	-2.9%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	5,897	(978)	4,919	5,208	289	5.9%
Elections	153	(49)	104	179	75	72.1%
ICT	5,055	(1,127)	3,928	4,068	140	3.6%
Housing & Homelessness	10,773	(7,419)	3,354	1,060	(2,294)	-68.4%
Business Support	1,104	(111)	993	1,027	34	3.4%
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	**75,358**	**(53,838)**	**21,520**	**19,432**	**(2,088)**	**-9.7%**
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS	**395,552**	**(143,599)**	**251,953**	**249,881**	**(2,072)**	**-0.8%**
Council Wide Budgets	47,973	(970)	47,003	39,546	(7,457)	-15.9%
Appropriations to Earmarked Reserves				7,004	7,004	0.0%
NET BRIDGEND CBC	**443,525**	**(144,569)**	**298,956**	**296,431**	**(2,525)**	**-0.8%**

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022-23 TO 2025-26

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26, which sets out the spending priorities of the Council, key investment objectives and budget areas targeted for necessary savings. The strategy includes a financial forecast for 2022-2026 and a detailed draft revenue budget for 2022-23.

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** – 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

2.2 The Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) identify the Council's service and resource priorities for the next four financial years, with particular focus on 2022-23.

3. Background

Corporate Plan - Policy Context

3.1 The Council's well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are currently:

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

3.2 This draft MTFS has been significantly guided by these objectives. Although previous year-on-year changes in Aggregate External Finance (AEF) have necessitated significant budget reductions across different service areas, the Council still plays a very significant role in the local economy of Bridgend County Borough and is responsible for annual gross expenditure of around £480 million and is the largest employer in the county borough. The Corporate Plan will be presented to Council for approval alongside the MTFS 2022-26 in February 2022 and will be fully aligned with the MTFS including explicit links between resources and well-being objectives.

Impact of Covid-19

3.3 The quarterly reports to Cabinet on the revenue position for 2021-22 have outlined in detail the impact on the budget of the additional cost pressures and loss of income faced by the Council throughout the year as a result of the ongoing pandemic. Welsh Government has played a significant role in mitigating the majority of these losses through their various funding streams, most notably the Covid-19 Hardship Fund.

3.4 However, Cabinet and Council now need to consider the longer-term impact of the pandemic and how it will shape the Council as part of its Recovery Programme, given that the Hardship Fund is due to come to an end in March 2022.

3.5 Budget planning for the financial year 2022-23 is still more uncertain than usual due to the impact of the ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic, which is on top of the ongoing uncertainties and financial pressures arising from the United Kingdom's (UK) withdrawal from the European Union (EU). While, on the whole, the UK and Welsh Governments have been supportive of the additional costs and burdens that have emerged from Covid, and covered most of the directly incurred costs, we are aware that this funding is not going to be available going forward. In particular it is anticipated that some of the impact on levels of income in leisure, car parking and rental income, for example, may be a medium-term problem. In addition it is likely that there will be an additional call on the council tax reduction scheme in view of the inevitable economic impact of the pandemic and the end of the furlough scheme, and the level of council tax collection is estimated to be lower than pre-pandemic levels. Furthermore, ongoing expenditure on matters relating to public health, such as the test, trace and protect scheme, use of personal protective equipment and arrangements for the public vaccination programme, as well as other expectations with regard to addressing homelessness more robustly, and supporting social care which is experiencing increased costs and need and demand for services, are likely to be significant.

3.6 In these circumstances setting a balanced budget for 2022-23 is even more challenging than usual, particularly on the back of 10 years of significant budget savings during the austerity years.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 Budget Narrative

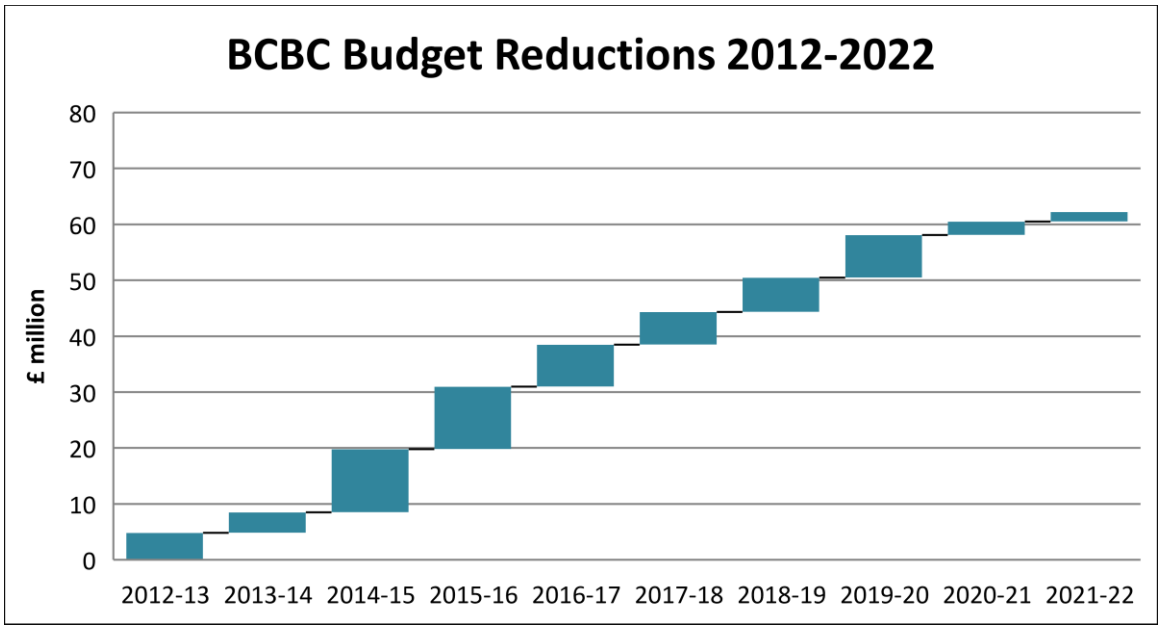
The Council aspires to improve understanding of its financial strategy, link more closely to the agreed corporate well-being objectives and explain the Council's goal of delivering sustainable services in line with the overarching ambition of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The following budget narrative aims to articulate the continued and significant investment in public services that the Council will make. It sets

out how the Council aims to change particular areas of service delivery, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the financial consequences of this.

4.1.1 Corporate Financial Overview

Over the last 10 years, the Council has made £62 million of budget reductions, as shown below. This represents almost 21% of the Council's current budget:

Bridgend County Borough Council Budget Reductions 2012 to 2022



While the Council's net revenue budget is planned at £319.510 million for 2022-23, its overall expenditure far exceeds this. Taking into account expenditure and services which are funded by specific grants or fees and charges, the Council's gross budget will be around £480 million in 2022-23. The local authority's annual revenue budget covers the day-to-day running costs of the local authority (including staff salaries, building maintenance, pensions, operational costs etc.). Around £190 million of the gross budget is spent on the Council's own staff including teachers and school support staff. Much of the cost of the services provided by external organisations is also wage related – these include for example waste collection operatives, social care workers, leisure staff and foster carers.

The Council gets the majority of its revenue funding from Welsh Government through the Revenue Support Grant and a share of Non Domestic Rates. It supplements this through council tax collection, other grants and fees and charges. Council tax is a charge that local authorities charge to help to pay for their services. The amount that council tax payers pay is made up of 3 elements:

- Bridgend County Borough Council charge
- Town or Community Council charge
- Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales charge

In terms of council tax, the proportion of council tax required to balance the Council's budget has steadily increased over recent years and it currently funds almost 30% of the budget.

As well as having reduced real income to fund services, there are other pressures that squeeze resources. Amongst these are:

- Legislative changes e.g. the Environmental (Wales) Act 2016, the Welsh Government's commitment to eradicate homelessness, local authorities' responsibilities in respect of responding to climate change and meeting net zero carbon targets, the implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and legislative changes in social care including new adult protection safeguarding requirements and changes to the Public Law Outline for children.

- Demographic changes – the population is increasing and also people are living longer which is obviously good news but that also can bring increased dependency through people living with more complex or multiple conditions which require social care and support. This has been exacerbated by the pandemic as there have been delays in access to NHS treatment and an impact on physical and mental health from extended lockdown periods. In addition the complexities and challenges for children and families are very evident.

- An increase in the number of pupils at our schools, which places increased pressure on school budgets, along with an increase in free school meals entitlement which brings additional funding pressures.

- More recently, a reduction in the amount of council tax being collected, due to the difficult economic circumstances that people find themselves in. This is coupled with an increase in council tax support as more people find themselves on low incomes or claiming benefits following the end of the furlough scheme.

The Council has adopted a Corporate Plan that sets out the approaches that it will take to manage these pressures whilst continuing to ensure that, as far as possible, services can be provided that meet the needs of the citizens and communities in Bridgend. These approaches are:

- Though a large and complex organisation, the Council will make every effort to work as one single organisation. That means avoiding duplication and double handling of data through sharing of systems and processes. This is not always as easy as it sounds because often different rules or opportunities apply to different services. Nevertheless acting as 'One Council working together to improve lives' is enshrined in the Council's vision.
- Wherever possible the Council will support communities and people to become more resilient by creating their own solutions and reducing dependency on the Council. This is because it is not sustainable for the Council to continue to aspire to meet all and every need that arises and because there is capacity, talent and ideas in other parts of the community that can be encouraged to play an active and effective role in sustaining and often enhancing local services. The Council has a role in encouraging, enabling and leading this approach and has adopted this as one of its underlying principles.
- The Council has agreed a principle of focusing diminishing resources on communities and individuals with the greatest need. Parts of our community have long standing problems of poverty and disadvantage. The solutions to this are not all in the direct

control of the Council (for example the effects of changes to the welfare system) but where possible the Council has agreed that it wants to both alleviate problems in these areas and develop longer term sustainable solutions. The new socio-economic duty on public bodies, which came into force on 31 March 2021, reflects these aims.

- The Council has three well-being objectives that reflect these and other principles. One of these objectives is to make "Smarter Use of Resources". This means we will 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.

In seeking to continue to meet the Council's identified priorities and protect its investment in Education and early intervention, Social Services and Wellbeing, and prioritise the most vulnerable in our society, we are proposing the following changes in the 2022-23 budget.

Additional Income

Where possible, and still recognising the ongoing economic challenges that local people and businesses will face next year, the Council will seek to raise additional income. However, there will be limited opportunities to do so given the immense challenges that Covid-19 has brought to the population. We will continue to look for opportunities where that might be possible.

Alternative Delivery Models

We will continue to seek alternative ways of delivering services if that can ensure greater sustainability and efficiency. Over recent months there has been a significant acceleration in the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Programme and it is anticipated that a total saving of £300,000 will be made by transferring responsibility for the management of assets, predominantly outdoor sports related playing fields and pavilions, to town and community councils or community clubs and groups. In addition the Covid-19 pandemic has shown how some Council services can be delivered differently and it is important that, where appropriate, this is something that endures, and that investment is made to ensure that services can be maintained and delivered safely. Specifically it is anticipated that an acceleration of the Council's digital programme may allow staff efficiency savings. Wherever possible, staff restructuring will be done sympathetically allowing those that wish to leave to do so, but also making appropriate investments in home and agile working and digital technology to ensure the Council is fit for the future.

Efficiency Savings

The best kind of budget savings, of course, remain ones where there is little or no direct impact on staff or residents. After a decade of substantial budget savings, opportunities for large scale savings of this sort are now more scarce, but where they emerge, they remain an important component of the MTFS. For next year savings include reviewing and rationalising the Council's supplies and services budgets. Further savings are proposed from a review and rationalisation of office accommodation following the pandemic. The ongoing investment in installing energy efficiency measures in the Council's buildings, including schools, will continue to offer savings. The Council will continue to seek to apply and secure grants where they can lead to revenue savings and greater sustainability of important services. Other potential savings are being considered in relation to the

remodelling of social services provision, which may allow some ongoing revenue savings but also provide a better service for individuals following the pandemic.

Property Savings

The Covid-19 pandemic reinforced the need for the Council to consider very closely the need for all of its portfolio of building assets. Over recent years savings have already been made by rationalising the number of operational depots and releasing two of the Council's major staff offices at Sunnyside and Sunnyside House. For 2022-23, as part of the Council's Future Service Delivery Review, further savings are proposed by commercially letting a wing of Ravens Court to a partner organisation or business. Furthermore, the Council's investment in a new, modern, Community Recycling Centre in Pyle, due to open early in 2022, will mean the lease for the site at Tythegston can be ended thus realising the 2021-22 saving of £60,000 per year.

Changes to Service Provision

Unfortunately, despite the settlement we will receive for 2022-23 being an increase overall, due to the number of unavoidable pressures we are facing it is highly unlikely that we will be able to balance the budget without also making changes to the level of services that we can provide and prioritising those services that are deemed most important in terms of meeting the Council's agreed priorities. In particular it is important that where the Council runs a service that also benefits other organisations and partners that appropriate contributions are made, where possible, to complement the Council's investment.

4.1.2 **Education**

The Council is proposing to spend £131 million on services delivered by the Education and Family Support Directorate in 2022-23. The majority of this money will be spent by Bridgend's 59 schools and one pupil referral unit.

In addition to the £105 million proposed budget to be delegated to schools in 2022-23, which mostly pays for the salaries of teaching and other school staff and the running costs of the facilities (ongoing revenue expenditure), the Council has already spent £21.6 million in building and refurbishing schools as part of our 21st Century School Modernisation Band A Programme and has provisionally committed to a further £19 million as part of the Band B Programme. This comprises one-off capital expenditure across several years, with significant match funding from Welsh Government. Welsh Government has provided approval in principle in respect of the Strategic Outline Programme submitted by the Council around our aspirations for Band B funding. However, approval will also be required for individual project business cases. The concepts proposed are based around forecast demand for primary school places, our support to promote the growth in Welsh-medium education and our desire to create additional capacity to meet the needs of children with additional learning needs in our main special school, mainly in the primary sector. It is likely that this will represent the most significant area of capital expenditure for the Council in future years.

The Council has a longer-term goal to make the overall schools' system more efficient (e.g. through making sure we have the right number of school places available in the right parts of the county (including ensuring enough capacity for anticipated future increases in school age population)).

For 2022-23 the level of budget reductions required is not as great as had been feared. As a result, it has been possible to protect schools from the proposed 1% annual efficiency target for one year. However, the forecast pressure on Council budgets for future years is such that it may be unavoidable for 2023-2024 onwards, and so it will be necessary for headteachers and governing bodies to plan ahead.

The Council has identified 'Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient' as a 'Well-being Objective' and early intervention is an important part of this – taking steps wherever possible to prevent people becoming reliant on Council services. As well as being of great social value to individuals and communities, this approach is more cost effective. Successful intervention at an early age and at an early stage can prevent needs from escalating and requiring more costly and complex help later on.

In seeking to protect our investment in education and early intervention, and to provide as much support as possible to pupils following the disruption caused by the pandemic, the Council is making minimal changes to the services delivered at this time. However, we will continue to seek efficiencies in the application of the Council's Home-to-School / College Transport Policy.

4.1.3 **Social Care and Well-being**

After Education, the largest area of Council spend is on social care. This includes social work and social care for children and for adults with care and support needs. Within the Directorate there is a focus on well-being and independence, outcome focussed practice which supports people to live the lives that matter to them. This way of working can result in less dependency on commissioned social care services for many individuals and more effective and cost-effective use of statutory services. The Directorate continues to develop new approaches to service delivery and this includes better support and outcomes for prevention, early intervention and well-being. This approach supports the well-being objective of 'helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient' and is also part of the Directorate's transformation plan with a clear link to the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

There are established working relationships between children's social care and early help and intervention services with mechanisms in place to ensure close working and appropriate and proportionate responses to families and children in need. It is evident that the complexity of issues facing children and families has increased and requires a high level of professional social work intervention, working closely with partners, as well as access to service provision.

Our strategy for the next few years is to more effectively embed strength-based practice and support individuals and families to live their best lives, remodelling the way we work in order to deliver outcome focussed services and approaches which enable people to maximise their independence and families to stay together with targeted support where needed.

Social services is largely a needs-led service and whilst the long-term strategy is to enable people and families to live well and inter-dependently, the demographics show that people are living longer, often with more complex conditions than ever before. This means that there are more people living in the community who would previously have remained in hospital or entered a care home. Children's social care is also needs led and the financial pressure to meet need can fluctuate very rapidly. Needs are met and personal outcomes

achieved within available budgets. In total, the Council is proposing to spend £78 million on social care and well-being services in 2022-23.

The Council's strategy is to continue to transform how we work with people and ensure that service and financial strategies align. The cost, as well as the need for services, is changing and the Council recognises that all the roles in social care are professional and should be recognised through the terms and conditions which the Council and third party providers pay. Introducing new ways of working which will be sustainable in the long term, alongside a service which has to meet a range of statutory needs, requires strength-based culture and practice. The service has made good progress in achieving the required savings to date, however the increase in demand, complexity and fair price of care required continues to put pressure on our budgets. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on people with care and support needs and the social care sector is significant in the short and medium term and plans are being adjusted to reflect this changed context.

In order to be sustainable going forward, the Council is ensuring that any changes are introduced in a planned and timely way, and co-produced with the people that such changes impact on with us, as well as the general workforce. This work has already commenced and the budget saving proposals for 2022-23 build on the implementation plans that are already underway. The re-modelling programmes focus on changing the culture and reviewing what has become 'custom and practice'.

The Council has already made changes. In adult social and children's social work we are implementing strength-based practice in order to improve the outcomes for people who need care and support whilst also reducing the numbers of people who require long term support. The Council focuses on helping people to achieve the outcomes they want for themselves, targeting our interventions on what is missing, rather than going straight to what package of care we can give them. We are also actively reviewing the way we deliver care and support at home, day opportunities and accommodation, care and support for children. There has also been an increased focus on developing the Council's in-house foster care and remodelling residential services.

Importantly these transformations are designed to both better support people to live well and make best use of investments. The Council has identified a number of further transformations that continue this approach, some of which are reflected in changes to the budget. These include a full review of the learning disability day opportunities and accommodation strategy and further remodelling of Children's residential and fostering services.

Housing as a determinant of physical and mental health is widely recognised and this link is reinforced by the range of activities and services provided by the Housing Team. The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 introduced the need to move to a more preventative approach to homelessness and this is a core principle of the work undertaken. The service has responded to the challenges of Covid-19 and new guidance introduced by Welsh Government in relation to homelessness presentations, and has already recognised these as budget pressures for the Council, with the aim of providing temporary accommodation to people in need, in order to reduce the number of street homeless people. The Council does not have any housing stock of its own but retains a number of statutory functions relating to addressing housing need and combatting homelessness.

The service also administers the Housing Support Grant from Welsh Government (£7.8 million). The support activities are both broad and diverse. This is done both through a range of corporate joint working and contract arrangements with third sector organisations,

delivering specific projects for people who are vulnerable with complex needs. These projects include services for people suffering domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse issues, learning disabilities, accommodation for young people, people with mental health support needs and other housing related support for people who need help to access or maintain accommodation successfully.

Housing will continue to adopt a strategic approach to homelessness prevention and provision by working with Welsh Government and partner organisations. Work with Registered Social Landlords is on-going to support new housing developments and housing will continue to use the Social Housing Grant effectively to increase the supply of social housing.

4.1.4 **Public Realm**

Most of the Council's net budget is spent on education and social care – these are very valued services, but are naturally aimed at certain groups within our community. However, the Council's work on the public realm has a direct and visible impact on everybody. This includes our work to maintain highways, parks and open spaces, clean our streets, and collect and dispose of our waste.

In 2022-23 the Council is likely to receive around £4 million of direct Welsh Government grant for public realm services. This includes waste services, public transport, rights of way and road safety.

The overall net budget that the Council proposes to spend on public realm services is around £22 million. The fact that schools have had a high degree of financial protection in previous years has meant that the Council's other services have been under considerable pressure to make savings and, in many cases, we have had to reduce levels of service. However the services in the Communities Directorate have also been subject to service changes that have resulted in alternative delivery models that have increased productivity, as well as collaborative approaches that have increased both efficiency and service resilience. Investment in this area is proposed to continue into 2022-23.

The seven year contract with Kier is now moving into its fifth year and the costs associated with waste collection still remain competitive on an all-Wales basis. During the first few years of the contract there was a significant increase in the amount of waste recycled, (Bridgend is consistently in the top 5 of best performing waste authorities in Wales), and therefore a significant reduction in the volume of our residual waste, which is expected to benefit the Council financially over time, subject to contractual conditions with our disposal arrangements. However, the Council has seen higher overall domestic waste due to the impact of the pandemic and the higher number of people continuing to work from home. An indicative net saving of £1 million was identified in 2019-20 as a result of negotiating new operating arrangements at the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC). An agreement with Neath Port Talbot Council has been made for waste disposal going forward until 2030 or until a regional facility comes online. We expect to spend in the region of £9.4 million on the collection and disposal of waste in 2022-23. Work will also commence on looking at the provision of waste and recycling services post 2024, when the Kier contract ends, and this will be reported to Cabinet during 2022-23.

A major challenge for the Council is how to continue to meet public expectations for many highly visible and tangible services when the available overall Council budget inevitably means the Council will be less able to deliver these services to the same level and frequency. These services are often the ones the public identify with their council tax

payments.

The Council's strategy is to retain and maintain the most important public services in this area whilst driving ever greater efficiency, making some service reductions where we think it will have the least impact across Council services, recognising that this still may be significant in some areas. We will also develop alternative ways of delivering and sustaining services including greater and more effective collaboration and encouraging others to work with us or assume direct responsibility for services in some cases. The most significant proposed change in this respect is a move to shift the responsibility for the management and maintenance of sports fields and pavilions from the Council to user clubs and groups or local town and community councils. The Council has adopted a flexible approach to community asset transfer (CAT), utilising a streamlined CAT process, and ensuring that appropriate advice and both capital investment (from the CAT fund in the capital programme) and revenue support (from the sports club support fund) are made available. The Council aims to achieve savings of £300,000 over 2021-22 and 2022-23 from transferring these assets.

Reductions in spend in this area will allow us to protect our investment in the Council's priorities and in areas where we have far less ability to exercise control.

4.1.5 **Supporting the Economy**

Whilst this is a Council priority, services such as regeneration and economic development as a discretionary service have nevertheless made significant reductions to their budgets over recent years. The Council has delivered this by employing fewer but more highly skilled staff, and focussing activity more narrowly on priority areas to maximise impact. Going forward, we will increasingly collaborate on a regional basis with the nine other Councils that make up the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, particularly in areas such as transport, economic development and strategic planning. The City Deal is creating a £1.2 billion fund for investment in the region over the next 20 years. This long-term investment will be targeted to focus on raising economic prosperity, increasing job prospects and improving digital and transport connectivity. In order to play an effective part in the City Deal, the Council will maintain as far as possible existing investment in its transport planning, spatial planning and regeneration teams to reflect this direction of travel. The Council will be spending in the region of £2.2 million a year running these services, plus a further £700,000 as Bridgend's contribution to the Deal itself. These teams will ensure successful delivery of high profile regeneration projects, including the numerous regeneration projects in Porthcawl such as the regeneration of Cosy Corner, development of a retail store and the Placemaking Strategy. Other schemes include the redevelopment of the Ewenny Road in Maesteg for both housing and employment uses and the comprehensive re-development of Parc Afon Ewenni in Bridgend through City Deal and Welsh Government funding. In addition, through its Metro programme, and together with Welsh Government, the Cardiff Capital Region provides the principal funding mechanism for large strategic transport projects within the region. Current projects include the Porthcawl Metrolink bus facility as well as feasibility and design work on the replacement Penprysg Road/Active Travel Bridge and removal of the level crossing in Pencoed. The delivery of this regionally significant Penprysg Bridge project will be dependent on a successful bid to the UK Government Levelling Up Fund. We are also in the process of delivering a replacement Local Development Plan and an important part of our budget planning is making sure that it is resourced appropriately to ensure our plan is properly researched and evidenced and sets out the development planning proposals for the County Borough which will shape its future, including housing growth.

More specifically, the Council has made and continues to make good progress in pursuit of the development of our main towns. These include the regeneration of the waterfront at Porthcawl, including the Salt Lake site, the redevelopment of Maesteg Town Hall, and investment in initiatives to improve the town centre in Bridgend. This includes potentially relocating Bridgend College to a town centre location. Much of this investment is not the Council's own money, but skilled teams are required to bid successfully in a competitive environment to ensure money is levered in.

The Council will continue to operate a number of grant funded programmes of work to support our most vulnerable groups and those furthest away from employment, including training and skills and work support programmes under the Employability Bridgend programme.

4.1.6 **Regulatory and Corporate Services**

The Council operates a number of other services which it recognises fulfil specific and important roles. In many cases these are statutory though the precise level of service to be provided is not defined in law. The most significant areas are as follows:

Regulatory Services

This is a combined service with the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff City Councils, for which Bridgend will contribute around £1.7 million towards a group of services that includes Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Animal Health and Licensing (Alcohol, Gambling, Safety at Sports Grounds, Taxis etc.). These services all ensure, in different ways, that the public is protected.

As well as allowing for financial savings, the collaboration delivers greater resilience in the service and stronger public protection across all three Council areas.

Registrars

The Council operates a registrar's service that deals primarily with the registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths. The service also undertakes Civil Partnership and Citizenship ceremonies. The main base for the registrars' service was moved from Ty'r Ardd to the Civic Offices during 2020-21, creating efficiencies in terms of operating costs by rationalising the Council's estate and generating an additional capital receipt.

Council Tax and Benefits

The taxation service collects over £85 million in council tax from around 65,000 households across the county borough. Our collection rates in recent years were the highest ever in the Council's history, but this has been seriously impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. We are determined to regain this high level, but we are seizing the opportunity to reduce the cost of operating the service, by offering online services. We now offer a range of secure council tax functions online, allowing residents to self-serve at a time and location convenient to them. This will allow us to reduce the cost of running the service.

Benefits are funded by the central UK government but the administration of Housing Benefit and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme falls to the Council.

Universal Credit (UC) for working age people was fully introduced in Bridgend during June 2018. In conjunction with Citizens Advice, the Benefits Service will provide digital and personal budgeting support to assist people making new claims for UC.

4.1.7 **Other Council Wide Services**

There are a number of things that the Council does that support the delivery of services but which themselves are not visible to the public. We need to maintain these services with sufficient capacity to support our services whilst making them as efficient and effective as possible. In many cases we operate such services by sharing with other organisations. Opportunities for further collaboration or sharing in these service areas has been and will continue to be explored.

Property and building maintenance

The Council continues to review its commercial property portfolio, identifying asset management opportunities and the mechanisms required to deliver a sustainable increase in income. Alongside this, the Council is continuing to dispose of assets it no longer requires to deliver services, in order to provide further investment in our capital programme.

The Council has brought together its asset management and building maintenance functions, and has centralised all premises repairs, maintenance and energy budgets into a single 'corporate landlord' service within the Communities Directorate. This will better enable us to manage compliance, embed 'whole life costing' approaches into decision-making, manage the quality of work undertaken by contractors, and thereby deliver efficiencies in the management of our estate. This focus on reducing our assets and energy efficiency will be essential if the Council is to meet Welsh Governments targets of all public sectors bodies being net carbon neutral by 2030. A draft decarbonisation strategy entitled "Bridgend 2030", is under development with the Carbon Trust and will be supported with a detailed action plan, setting out how the Council will reach a net zero carbon position in Bridgend by 2030. This will be presented for approval to Cabinet in early 2022.

The service will continue to review its processes in 2022-23 including seeking further operational efficiencies and streamlined business processes, from IT investment, improved procurement and contract management.

Legal services

The Council needs to maintain effective legal support for all of its services. At a time when the Council is trying to transform services it is important to bring about these changes within the law. The service also directly supports front line services such as Education and Social Services, and is provided by a mix of permanent internal staff and expertise purchased from the private sector when necessary. Almost half of our in-house legal team is specifically focussed on child protection cases.

The service is nevertheless very lean and so our focus will be on ensuring that we can build more resilience and responsiveness into the service through some changes in responsibilities and operating practice.

Finance

The Council has a central team that manages all of the financial management of the Council. This includes high level strategic advice, the Council's accounts, monitoring of financial performance and supports the oversight and management of the Council's finances. The service fulfils certain legal requirements that ensures transparency and accountability in the way that public money is used – for example in producing accounts which are then audited and in delivering value for money in service delivery.

The Finance Section will be looking to further improve and enhance business processes to improve efficiency and also meet legislative changes. Significant progress has been made in automating payments and the Council will continue to develop and extend this to a wider range of suppliers.

Human Resources (HR) and Organisational Development (OD)

With over 6,000 employees including schools, the Council needs a dedicated human resources service. The primary role of the service is to provide professional advice, guidance and support to managers and staff on a wide range of HR and OD issues as well as provide HR services for the payment of salaries, pension, contracts and absence administration. Other services include training and development, recruitment and retention, developing employee skills and 'growing our own'. We intend making greater investment in recruiting more apprentices and graduates next year.

Working closely with our recognised trade unions, it maintains positive and transparent employee relations arrangements.

ICT

We are continuing to invest in the automation and digitisation of services in line with our recently approved Digital Strategy, where it is appropriate to do so, and work is ongoing to identify priority areas through the Digital Transformation Programme which will help achieve savings in future years of the MTFS.

The ICT service is assisting the Digital Transformation Programme, supporting the changes across a range of services that in turn allow savings or improvements through more flexible working or new ways to access services. The Council spends around £5 million on its ICT services provision to support main Council activities and schools. The ICT service has focused on developing staff through the apprenticeship programme in conjunction with HR, developing skills and enabling career progression in-house.

Procurement

The Council has a central team that provides procurement support across the range of services that we provide. Effective procurement is essential to ensuring good value for money across the Council, but we will still continue to seek corporate wide efficiencies in the operation of this service. The service is also focusing more efforts on developing the foundational economy based on local procurement as well as reviewing its overall approach in an effort to secure better outcomes for the Council from its large annual spend in this area.

Democratic Services

The Council is a democratic organisation with 54 elected members (Councillors) who make decisions, set policy direction and oversee the general performance of the Council. Like many Councils, Bridgend has a mayor whose job is to chair meetings of the Council and represent the Council in the community (this is completely different to the elected mayors in cities like London and Bristol). These democratic processes require support to ensure accountability and transparency in decision making. The number of elected members in each authority is set independently. Their remuneration is also determined by an independent Panel.

Internal Audit

Our Regional Internal Audit Shared Service is provided by a joint service that we share with the Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Councils. The service carries out routine checks and investigations to ensure that the Council maintains good governance – especially as it relates to the proper accountability of money and other resources.

4.2 The Financial Context

4.2.1 The Council's MTFS is set within the context of UK economic and public expenditure plans, Welsh Government's priorities and legislative programme. The MTFS articulates how the Council plans to use its resources to support the achievement of its corporate priorities and statutory duties, including the management of financial pressures and risks over the next four years. It helps the Council to work more effectively with partners in other sectors and provides a strategy for the use of balances to meet changes in resources or demands from year to year without impacting unduly on services or council tax payers.

4.2.2 The MTFS includes:

- The principles that will govern the strategy and a four year financial forecast, comprising detailed proposals for 2022-23 and outline proposals for 2023-24 to 2025-26.

- The capital programme for 2021-22 to 2031-32, linked to priority areas for capital investment and the Capital Strategy, which will be presented for approval by Council in February 2022, along with the Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23.

- The Corporate Risk Assessment, which will be updated and included in the final MTFS in February 2022.

4.2.3 In October 2020 the Treasury confirmed that the Comprehensive Spending Review would only set departmental budgets for the following year, due to the economic disruption caused by Covid-19, and the ongoing uncertainties around Brexit. This was the second single year spending review in succession, and on 25 November 2020 the Chancellor delivered the outcome of the review. On 7 September 2021 the Chancellor of the Exchequer wrote to the Secretaries of State to launch the Spending Review 2021 (SR21), which would conclude on 27 October 2021 alongside an Autumn Budget and set out the government's spending priorities for the Parliament. The three-year review (2022-23 to 2024-25) would set the devolved administrations' block grants for the same period. At its launch the Chancellor stated:

"At the Spending Review later this year, I will set out how we will continue to invest in public services and drive growth while keeping the public finances on a sustainable path."

4.2.4 On 27 October 2021 the Chancellor announced his Autumn Budget, alongside the results of the spending review, which would set out how the government would fund public services for the next three years. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) also published an update on the economic and fiscal outlook on that date. A number of measures were announced in advance of the Budget, including a rise in the National Living Wage from £8.91 per hour to £9.50 and an end to the public sector pay freeze, and in his speech the Chancellor promised that his budget would deliver a "stronger economy for the British people". In terms of the state of the economy, it was reported that the OBR had revised up its forecasts for UK economic growth and now expected gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 6.5% this year compared to the 4% it forecast at the Budget in March 2021, which is faster than expected. However, the OBR also estimated that inflation is likely to rise to an average 4% over the next year.

4.2.5 The Chancellor pledged a major increase in public spending amid higher than expected economic growth with extra money for schools, tax cuts for businesses and changes to Universal Credit to allow working claimants to retain more of their benefits. In terms of the devolved administrations, the Chancellor said that through the Barnett formula Welsh government funding would go up by £2.5 billion. The Chancellor acknowledged concerns about rising inflation and the cost of living but said that the government would be responsible with the public finances, with borrowing as a percentage of GDP forecast to fall from 7.9% this year to 3.3% next year, and lower again in the following four years.

4.2.6 In response to the Spending Round the Welsh Government Finance Minister stated that:

"This UK government Spending Review hasn't delivered for Wales. Vital funding priorities, such as the long-term remediation of coal tips and greater funding in rail infrastructure, have been ignored. While the Spending Review does give us some medium term financial certainty and some additional investment, it is more than offset by the inflationary and system pressures that we are facing. The budget fails to meet the scale of the challenge that families, public services and the wider economy are still facing as a result of the pandemic".

She also expressed concern over future arrangements for replacing EU structural funds, but stated that she was determined to "*deliver a Budget that builds a stronger, greener, fairer Wales - helping public services and our economy recover from the pandemic, and moving us closer towards being a zero-carbon nation*".

4.2.7 As a result of the late announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review, Welsh Government decided to defer the announcement of their draft budget, along with the provisional local government settlement, until 20 and 21 December 2021, respectively. This also means a delay in the announcement of the Welsh Government's final local government settlement until 1 March 2022, so the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the budget for 2022-23 is proposed on the basis of the provisional settlement.

4.2.8 On 20 December 2021 the Minister for Finance and Local Government (the Minister) announced the Welsh Government's draft budget for 2022-23, and the first multi-year Welsh budget since 2017. The draft budget set out revenue and general capital spending plans for 2022-23, alongside planned allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25. The Minister indicated that the budget was to be used to support the Welsh Government's plans to

ensure a stronger, fairer and greener future for Wales. She stated that they would use the budget to deliver on their ambitious Programme for Government, and support their path to recovery by continuing to protect, rebuild and develop our public services. This included investing close to an additional £1.3 billion in the Welsh NHS to enable high quality and sustainable healthcare to help us to recover from the pandemic, and prioritising social care.

4.2.9 The budget included an additional £60 million direct additional grant funding up to 2024-25 to drive forward reforms to the social care sector, to improve delivery and increase the sustainability of services across the social care sector. To respond to ongoing recruitment and retention issues within the sector Welsh Government has also included funding through the Local Government settlement to enable authorities to meet the additional costs of starting to pay the Real Living Wage of £9.90 an hour to social care workers from April 2022. There is also an additional £100 million targeted at mental health, including more than £10 million for children and young people, recognising the risks of the lasting and long-term impacts of the pandemic. Again, in response to the pandemic, and the ongoing impacts of the UK leaving the European Union, £110 million has been provided for 2022-23 in additional non-domestic rates relief to businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors, to support 50% rates relief.

4.2.10 The Minister outlined that investing in early years and education remains one of their most powerful levers to tackle inequality, embed prevention and invest in our future generations, and that the budget contained an additional £320 million up to 2024-25 to continue their long-term programme of education reform, and ensure educational inequalities narrow and standards rise. This funding included an additional £30 million for childcare and early years provision; £40 million for Flying Start and Families First; £90 million for free school meals; £64.5 million for wider schools and curriculum reform; and £63.5 million investment in post 16 provision.

4.2.11 In terms of capital investment the Minister indicated that she had published a new three year Infrastructure Finance Plan underpinned by £8 billion of capital expenditure, including full use of their capital borrowing powers over this three year period. At the heart of this new plan is a £1.8 billion targeted investment in the Welsh Government's response to the climate and nature emergency including the national forest, biodiversity, active travel, decarbonising housing, the circular economy, renewable energy, and flood prevention. Alongside the investment in decarbonising housing they are also investing close to £1.6 billion capital in their housing priorities, including £1 billion in social housing and £375 million for building safety. This was supported by close to £30 million of revenue in support of their housing and homelessness priorities.

4.3 Welsh Government Provisional Local Government Settlement 2022-23

4.3.1 Councils received their provisional settlements from Welsh Government on 21 December 2021. The headline figure is an overall increase, after adjusting for transfers, of 9.4% across Wales and, for Bridgend, a reported increase of 9.2% in Aggregate External Finance (AEF), or £19.6 million. The settlement includes additional funding for the costs arising from the 2021-22 teachers' pay deal and funding for the costs arising from the 2022-23 pay deal, as well as funding to cover the increased costs that local authorities will face arising from the UK government's announcement to increase National Insurance Contributions for employers, to fund a Health and Social Care levy. It also includes funding to enable local authorities to meet the additional costs of introducing the Real Living Wage for care workers. Further funding was included within the provisional settlement to support the core operations of corporate joint committees, which are to be established under the

Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. There are not intended to be any significant changes in the final settlement, which will be announced in March 2022.

4.3.2 The Minister for Finance and Local Government stated: "*This is a good Settlement for local government, including Wales-level core funding allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25. It provides local authorities with a stable platform on which to plan their budgets for the coming financial year and beyond. We have worked closely with local government and we appreciate the pressures local government is facing. We will continue to protect local government, particularly at this difficult and challenging time*".

4.3.3 The Minister also stated that "*the progress of the pandemic and its ongoing impact on public services continues to be highly uncertain. The comprehensive spending review did not provide any additional financial support, which is a concern, especially following the emergence of the new Omicron variant. I have carefully considered how to manage pandemic support for local authorities and concluded the balance lies in providing funding in the first year through the Settlement. But in determining the overall Settlement, I have recognised the ongoing impact of the pandemic on services which authorities will need to manage*". The settlement figures show the end to the Local Government Hardship Fund for 2022-23.

4.3.4 Looking forward, Welsh Government has provided indicative Wales-level core revenue funding allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25, which equate to uplifts of 3.5% and 2.4% respectively.

4.3.5 In February 2021 Council approved a capital programme for 2020-21 to 2030-31, which included additional funding for 2021-22 from Welsh Government to enable local authorities to respond to the joint priority of decarbonisation, including for housing and economic recovery following Covid-19. Council has approved revised versions of the capital programme during the financial year to incorporate budgets carried forward from 2020-21, slippage into 2022-23, and any new schemes and grant approvals. The provisional local government capital settlement provides this Council with £6.678 million of capital funding for 2022-23, which is £1.238 million less than 2021-22 but £328,000 more than was originally anticipated. General capital funding across Wales is set at £150 million for 2022-23, but it increases for £200 million for the following two years, including £20 million in each year to enable authorities to respond to the joint priority of decarbonisation. The Minister has indicated that she would like to consider, through the Partnership Council and the Decarbonisation Strategy Panel, how this funding might best be used. No indications have been given for 2025-26 or beyond but it is assumed that the funding will return to the 2022-23 levels.

4.4 Settlement Implications for 2023 to 2026

4.4.1 As mentioned above, when the draft Welsh Government budget was announced on 20 December, the Minister for Finance and Local Government presented a multi-year budget. The provisional local government settlement sets out funding implications for 2023-24 at an individual local authority level and indicative all-Wales core revenue funding allocations for 2023-24 (3.5%) and 2024-25 (2.4%). However it was stated that these figures are indicative and are dependent on the Welsh Government's current estimates of Non Domestic Rates income over the multi-year settlement period, and the funding provided by the UK Government through the 2021 comprehensive spending review.

4.5 Transfers into and out of the 2022-23 Revenue Settlement

4.5.1 The provisional settlement includes information on a small number of transfers into the Revenue Support Grant (RSG), in respect of funding for the Eastern Promenade Coastal Risk Management scheme (£296,000 to fund borrowing costs) and Social Care Workforce and Sustainability Grant (£222,000).

4.6 Specific Grants

4.6.1 The picture on changes to specific grants is available at an all-Wales level for most grants, but not yet at an individual authority level. Many of the grants remain unchanged from 2021-22 figures, and some are yet to be finalised. The biggest change is the end of the Local Government Hardship Grant, for which funding is now included within the settlement. A new grant of £40 million for 2022-23, with further allocations of £70 million in 2023-24 and £90 million in 2024-25 is included to support the increased entitlement to free school meals for all primary aged pupils as agreed as part of the Plaid Cooperation agreement.

4.6.2 While many of the grants remain unchanged from the 2021-22 figure, there are increases on an all-Wales level in the Pupil Development Grant (10.8%), the Childcare Offer grant (39.5%), Bus Services Support (3.5%) and the Children and Communities Grant of around 2.2%. There are indicative reductions in the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant of 8.4% and the Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards grant of around 45% in 2022-23 as this tapers out over the next few years. No information is yet available for the Sustainable Waste Management Grant. Welsh Government has advised that the specific information will be updated for the final settlement.

4.7 Current Year (2021-22) Financial Performance

4.7.1 The in-year financial position as at 31 December 2021 is shown below.

Table 1- Comparison of budget against projected outturn at 31 December 2021

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2021-22 £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000	Projected Outturn Q3 2021-22 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend 2021-22 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 2 2021-22 £'000
Directorate					
Education and Family Support	127,055	127,580	128,599	1,019	1,089
Social Services and Wellbeing	74,043	74,536	73,443	(1,093)	471
Communities	28,137	28,317	28,407	90	(313)
Chief Executive's	21,304	21,520	19,432	(2,088)	(1,417)
Total Directorate Budgets	**250,539**	**251,953**	**249,881**	**(2,072)**	**(170)**
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,329	7,329	8,329	1,000	1,000
Levies	7,783	7,797	7,775	(22)	(22)
Apprenticeship Levy	650	650	673	23	17
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	15,654	15,654	15,504	(150)	0
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	1,425	62	67
Repairs & Maintenance	670	670	520	(150)	(100)
Pension Related Costs	430	430	430	0	2
Other Corporate Budgets	14,538	13,110	4,890	(8,220)	(6,882)
Total Council Wide Budgets	**48,417**	**47,003**	**39,546**	**(7,457)**	**(5,918)**
Appropriations to Earmarked Reserves				**7,004**	**4,004**
Total	**298,956**	**298,956**	**289,427**	**(2,525)**	**(2,084)**

4.7.2 The overall projected position at 31 December 2021 is a net under spend of £2.525 million, which comprises a £2.072 million net under spend on directorates and a £7.457 million net under spend on council wide budgets, offset by a net appropriation to earmarked reserves of £7.004 million, the majority of which is to support capital expenditure. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the position during this financial year has again been very fluid and has relied heavily on securing additional funding from Welsh Government to support cost pressures and loss of income. At the start of the financial year we had no indication that this funding would be available for the full financial year, so this has led to an overall improved budgetary position for the year. The position on directorate budgets has improved since quarter 2, with the projected under spend increasing by £1.9 million. This is primarily due to additional income relating to Homelessness accommodation costs being received from the Covid-19 Hardship Fund, with £1.313 million being successfully claimed during quarter 3. The main reasons for the increase in under spend on 'Other Council Wide Budgets' are:

- lower than anticipated inflation rates at the start of the financial year, although they have seen significant increases more recently;
- funding from Welsh Government towards teachers' pay increases in September 2021;

- delays in spending on repairs and maintenance and feasibility due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.7.3 The projected under spend on the Council budget at quarter 3 significantly masks the underlying budget pressures in some service areas that were reported in 2020-21 and still persist in 2021-22. The main financial pressures are in Home to School Transport, Social Services and Wellbeing, Homelessness and Waste.

4.8 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-23 to 2025-26

4.8.1 This section of the report sets out the proposed MTFS for the Council for the next four financial years, based on the latest information available from Welsh Government. It does not include fixed funding, expenditure or activity projections, but sets best, worst and most likely scenarios for the resources that will be available. The MTFS is reviewed regularly and amended as additional information becomes available, with the detail for future years being developed over the period of the strategy.

4.8.2 The development of the MTFS 2022-23 to 2025-26 is led by Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CMB) and takes into account auditors' views, the recommendations of the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP), views of scrutiny and issues arising during 2021-22, underpinned by the ongoing aim to embed a culture of medium term financial planning closely aligned with corporate planning.

4.8.3 Implementation of the MTFS will continue to be led by Cabinet and CMB, supported by financial and performance data. Cabinet and CMB will seek to ensure that it is widely understood by internal stakeholders (Members, employees and Unions) and external stakeholders (citizens, businesses and partners).

4.9 MTFS Principles

4.9.1 As well as consideration of future income and expenditure scenarios, the MTFS provides a set of clear principles which drive the budget and spending decisions over 2022-2026 and which Members and others can examine and judge the Council's financial performance against. The thirteen MTFS principles are:

1. There will be a "One-Council" approach to the Medium Term Financial Strategy with a view on long term, sustainable savings proposals that are focused on re-shaping the Council over the full period of the MTFS.

2. All budget related decisions will align with the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

3. The Council will continue to meet its statutory obligations and demonstrate how it directs resources to meet the Council's corporate priorities. Other resource strategies (including the Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy) are kept under review to maintain alignment with the MTFS and the Corporate Plan.

4. The financial control system is sufficiently robust to support the delivery of financial plans and mitigate corporate risks, with adequate provision being made to meet outstanding and reasonably foreseen liabilities.

5. All services will seek to provide value for money and contribute to public value, and will continuously review budgets to identify efficiency savings.

6. Financial plans will provide an optimum balance between income and expenditure for both capital and revenue, with opportunities for generating additional income taken in line with the Council's Income Generation and Charging Policy.

7. Savings proposals are fully developed and include realistic delivery timescales prior to inclusion in the annual budget. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency Reserve will be maintained to mitigate against unforeseen delays.

8. Balances are not used to fund recurrent budget pressures or to keep down Council Tax rises unless an equivalent budget reduction or increase in Council Tax is made in the following year in recognition that balances are a one-off resource.

9. The Council Fund balance should be set at a prudent but not excessive level. This will normally be maintained at a level of 5% of the Council's net budget, excluding schools.

10. Capital investment decisions are in alignment with the Council's Capital Strategy, and mitigate any statutory risks taking account of return on investment and sound option appraisals.

11. Prudential borrowing is only used to support the capital programme where it is affordable and sustainable within the Council's overall borrowing limits and the revenue budget over the long term.

12. Decisions on the treatment of surplus assets are based on an assessment of the potential contribution to the revenue budget and the capital programme.

13. Resources are allocated to deliver transformational projects based on clear strategic plans that are kept under review by Corporate Directors to maintain alignment with the MTFS.

4.9.2 The MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency Reserve referenced in Principle 7 enables the Council to manage delays or unforeseen obstacles to the delivery of significant MTFS budget reduction proposals. No allocations have been made to date in 2021-22 from this reserve, but further reviews will be undertaken during the remainder of the financial year, and draw down made accordingly, and the level of this reserve will be kept under review by the Section 151 officer in light of forecast difficulties in delivering specific future budget reduction proposals.

4.10 Council Tax

4.10.1 The 2022-23 draft Revenue Budget, shown in Table 6 below, assumes no increase in council tax for 2022-23. This is due to the better than anticipated provisional settlement and as a consequence of the responses received through the budget consultation. It is proposed that it is frozen on a one-off basis for 2022-23 only, to support the citizens of Bridgend in dealing with the current rising cost of living. Going forward the scale of the financial challenge remains considerable once external pressures and risks have been taken into consideration so an assumed annual increase of 4.5% has been included for 2023-2026.

4.10.2 It must be noted that by not increasing the council tax in 2022-23 this will reduce the level of potential funding available to the council in 2022-23 and future years, as it will reduce the base on which future tax rises will be applied.

4.11 MTFS Resource Envelope

4.11.1 The published provisional 2022-23 Aggregate External Finance (AEF) figure is an increase of 9.2% for Bridgend. In the MTFS 2021-22 to 2024-25, it was stated that the Council would continue to work towards a most likely scenario in its planning assumptions for 2022-23 of an annual 0% change in AEF and an assumed increase in council tax of 4.5% for 2022-23 to 2024-25, recognising the ongoing uncertainty around our funding in future years. However, as stated above, as a result of the significantly better than anticipated settlement for next year, it is proposed to freeze the level of council tax for 2022-23 only, to support the citizens of Bridgend to deal with the rising cost of living, such as increased energy and food bills, other inflationary increases, mortgage interest rises and national insurance increases.

4.11.2 The MTFS is regularly reviewed against service performance and external economic and fiscal information to ensure that early action can be taken as necessary to keep it and the Corporate Plan on track. This is particularly important given the uncertainties around Brexit and the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, in the coming months and years. In view of these uncertainties, the MTFS has been developed taking into account possible resource envelope scenarios based on percentage changes in AEF shown in Table 2.

4.11.3 Given the Welsh Government's lower indicative changes to AEF for 2023-24 and 2024-25 than that published for 2022-23, the fact that the settlement usually includes funding for new responsibilities, and the other pressures already outlined, not least rising inflation, these assumptions will be maintained, along with an estimated council tax increase of 4.5%. However, they will continue to be monitored and will be amended as further fiscal and economic information is made known.

Table 2 – MTFS Scenarios: % Change in AEF

	2022-23 % Change	2023-24 % Change	2024-25 % Change	2025-26 % Change
Best Scenario	+9.2%	+1.0%	+1.0%	+1.0%
Most Likely Scenario	**+9.2%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Worst Scenario	+9.2%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-1.0%

4.11.4 Table 3 shows the Council's potential net budget reduction requirement based on the forecast resource envelope, inescapable spending assumptions and assumed Council Tax increases.

Table 3: MTFS Potential Net Budget Reductions Requirement

	2022-23 £'000	2023-24 £'000	2024-25 £'000	2025-26 £'000	Total £'000
Best Scenario	631	4,655	4,455	4,248	**13,989**
Most Likely Scenario	631	6,978	6,802	6,618	**21,029**
Worst Scenario	631	9,302	9,102	8,895	**27,930**

4.12 Managing within the MTFS Resource Envelope

4.12.1 Whilst we have been able to restrict the amount of budget reductions for 2022-23, over the period of the MTFS the financial forecast for 2022-2026 is predicated on £21.029 million budget reductions being met from Directorate and Corporate budgets and these are referred to later in the report. It is also predicated on a number of spending assumptions, including:

- Projections for demographic changes, including an ageing population and an increasing number of young people with complex disabilities living into adulthood and adding progressively to the demand for care.

- Inflationary uplifts to support specific contractual commitments including recent increases in energy costs. However, this is particularly uncertain at present, with inflation rates recently rising above 5% (5.1% in the 12 months to November 2021, up from 4.2% in October), the highest in a decade, which aligns with the Bank of England's chief economist warning that UK inflation is likely to hit or surpass 5% in the coming months. There is also a risk to the Council of rising prices following the UK's departure from the European Union and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Office of National Statistics has highlighted the impact of supply chain problems, which businesses have been struggling with for several months as they adjust to labour shortages and disruption at container ports. The impact is leading to higher prices faced by the Council for its goods and services.

- The future impact of national policies and new legislation which may not be accompanied by commensurate funding, such as the Welsh Government's commitment to eradicate homelessness, local authorities' responsibilities in respect of responding to climate change and meeting net zero carbon targets, and the implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

- Fees and Charges will increase by the statutory minimum or CPI (as at December 2021) in line with the revised Fees and Charges Policy, approved by Cabinet in October 2021.

- Increases in staffing costs, including a confirmed 6.6% increase in the national living wage from April 2022 (from £8.91 to £9.50), along with the impact of staff pay increases in both 2021-22 and 2022-23. These include the full year effect of the teachers' pay increase of September 2021 (1.75% increase), the unknown teachers' pay increase in September 2022 and increases for non-teachers for 2021-22, which is still to be determined, and subsequently any increases in April 2022. This also includes the impact on the Council's employer National Insurance Contributions as a result of the introduction of the Health and Social Care Levy. This results in an increase of 1.25% (from 13.8% to 15.05%) in contributions on

earnings above the secondary threshold. The cost of this is estimated to be in the region of £1.2 million for BCBC employed staff alone. Therefore any increases higher than anticipated would significantly increase the overall pay bill, and the amount we pay in respect of external contracts.

4.13 Net Budget Reduction Requirement

4.13.1 Table 4 shows the current position in respect of addressing the most likely forecast budget reduction requirement of £21.029 million. It shows that £4.07 million of budget reduction proposals have already been identified over the period of the MTFS, including the full £631,000 required for 2022-23. However, the majority of future savings relate to school delegated budgets, which may or may not be feasible going forward, and the table shows that the Council still needs to develop proposals to the value of £16.96 million, for which a range of options are under consideration including:

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

Table 4 - Risk Status of Budget Reduction Proposals 2022-23 to 2025-26

Year	GREEN: Proposal developed and deliverable	AMBER: Proposal in development but includes delivery risk	RED: Proposals not fully developed and include high delivery risk	Budget reductions Identified so far	Budget reductions not yet developed	Total Required
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
2022-23	73	158	400	**631**	0	**631**
2023-24	0	1,080	279	**1,359**	5,619	**6,978**
2024-25	0	1,040	0	**1,040**	5,762	**6,802**
2025-26	0	1,040	0	**1,040**	5,578	**6,618**
Total	**73**	**3,318**	**679**	**4,070**	**16,959**	**21,029**
Percentage of total required	0%	16%	3%	**19%**	81%	100%

4.13.2 Table 4 illustrates the difficult position that the Council finds itself in financially over the life of the MTFS. For 2023-24 only £1.359 million (19%) of savings have been identified, the majority of which relates to school delegated budgets, which leaves the Council at risk of not balancing the budget. This will depend on the level of settlement that the Council receives and the total budget reductions required to balance the budget. Indications from Welsh Government are that the Council will receive a much reduced settlement in 2023-24, and will face higher pay and price pressures. Consequently we will continue to identify options to close the gap during the remainder of the financial year and into 2022-23, at the same time seeking additional funding from Welsh Government, particularly for new responsibilities.

4.13.3 The budget reduction proposals identified can be categorised as:

i. Smarter Use of Resources;
ii. Managed Service Reductions;
iii. Collaboration and Service Transformation; and
iv. Policy Changes.

4.13.4 The value of budget reduction proposals identified to date is shown in Table 5 by category. The categories are also shown by individual proposal in Appendix B.

Table 5 – Budget Reduction Proposals Identified 2022-23 to 2025-26

	2022-23 £'000	2023-24 £'000	2024-25 £'000	2025-26 £'000	Total £'000	%
Smarter Use of Resources	166	1,080	1,040	1,040	3,326	82%
Managed Service Reductions	410	279	0	0	689	17%
Collaboration & Service Transformation	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Policy Changes	55	0	0	0	55	1%
Total Identified	**631**	**1,359**	**1,040**	**1,040**	**4,070**	**100%**

4.13.5 The table shows that over three quarters of the proposed budget reductions identified so far will come from Smarter Use of Resources, for example through:

- Smarter use of our assets and energy efficiencies;
- Efficiency savings arising from agile working;
- Rationalisation of services.

4.13.6 Managed service reductions amount to 17% of the total savings, and generally relate to remodelling of services within social care.

4.13.7 All of the proposals have implications for the Council workforce given that around two thirds of the Council's net revenue budget relates to pay costs. It follows that annual real terms' reductions in Council budgets over the next four years will lead to a reduced workforce over the MTFS period. The intention is to manage such a reduction through the continuation of strong vacancy management, redeployment, early retirements and voluntary redundancies, but some compulsory redundancies will continue to be considered and could be necessary.

4.14 Scrutiny and Challenge

4.14.1 A full consultation "Shaping Bridgend's Future" was launched on 20 September 2021 and ran until 14 November 2021. The aim of the consultation was to try to engage with residents on a longer-term vision for Bridgend County Borough. The impact of Covid-19 meant that in 2020 and 2021 we have had to deliver things very differently, and so were asking residents to support us in Shaping Bridgend's Future. We needed to know what has worked well, and where we need to continue to make changes or improvements as we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure that the Council is able to deliver sustainable and effective services for the next five to ten years. The consultation included an online survey, attendance at engagement events, a social media / web campaign and via the Authority's Citizens' Panel, and targeted a range of stakeholders.

4.14.2 Respondents were asked to share their views on a range of areas including:

- ❖ Performance over the past 12 months
- ❖ Support for Business, Tourism and the economy
- ❖ Well-being
- ❖ Customer face-to-face access
- ❖ Digitalisation
- ❖ Investment in services
- ❖ Fees and charges
- ❖ Council Tax levels
- ❖ The Future

4.14.3 The results were collated and presented to Cabinet on 14 December 2021 in order to further inform decisions on the MTFS. The main headlines from the consultation report were:

- The consultation received 1,115 interactions from a combination of survey completions, attendance at engagement events, social media engagement and via the authority's Citizens' Panel, which was a decrease of 39% on last year's interactions.
- Of the total interactions, a total of 737 survey responses were received, which demonstrates a decrease of 48% on last year's survey completions.
- The three services that had been the most important to residents over the past 12 months were recycling and waste followed by highways and infrastructure improvements and then sport and recreational services (including parks, leisure centres and open spaces).
- In response to questions about the future, the three most popular long-term priorities were: make more efficiencies in-house i.e. review processes and rationalise the number of offices, followed by encourage citizens to take more responsibility i.e. litter, graffiti etc. and then focus on economic growth i.e. supporting businesses.

4.15 2022-23 Draft Revenue Budget

4.15.1 The following table shows the draft revenue budget for 2022-23.

Table 6 – Draft Revenue Budget 2022-23

	Revised Budget 2021-22	Specific Transfers to/ (from) WG	NI Increase (Health and Social Care Levy)	Pay / Prices	Budget Pressures	Budget Reduction Proposals	Revenue Budget 2022-23
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Service Directorate Budgets:							
Central Education & Family Support	22,388		85	18	3,233	-68	25,656
Schools	104,012		657	825	92	0	105,586
Education and Family Support	**126,400**	**0**	**742**	**843**	**3,325**	**-68**	**131,242**
Social Services & Wellbeing	**74,564**	222	180		3,833	-365	**78,434**
Communities	**28,364**	296	98		387	-150	**28,995**
Chief Executives	**21,415**		93		435	-48	**21,895**
Total Directorate Budgets	**250,743**	**518**	**1,113**	**843**	**7,980**	**-631**	**260,566**
Council Wide Budgets:							
Capital Financing	7,329						7,329
Levies	7,797				380		8,177
Repairs and Maintenance	670						670
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	15,654			400			16,054
Apprenticeship Levy	650						650
Pension Related Costs	430						430
Insurance Premiums	1,363						1,363
Other Council Wide Budgets	14,320	0	1,000	5,451	3,500		24,271
Total Council Wide Budgets	**48,213**	**0**	**1,000**	**5,851**	**3,880**	**0**	**58,944**
Net Budget Requirement	**298,956**	**518**	**2,113**	**6,694**	**11,860**	**-631**	**319,510**

4.15.2 The proposed net budget for 2022-23 will be funded by:

Table 7 – Net Budget Funding

	£	%
Revenue Support Grant	179,590,994	56.21
Non Domestic Rates	52,772,627	16.52
Council Tax Income	87,146,456	27.28
Total	**319,510,077**	**100%**

4.16 Council Tax Implications

4.16.1 Based on the proposed budget of £319.510 million, there will be no increase in council tax for 2022-23. This aligns with the response from the budget consultation whereby 54% of respondents stated to keep council tax at the same level. It also takes into account the better than anticipated settlement, but going forward we need to be mindful of the ongoing pressures still facing the Council.

4.17 Pay, Prices and Demographics

4.17.1 As outlined above, discussions around the pay award for National Joint Council (NJC) staff in 2021-22 is still ongoing, the latest position being a full and final offer from the employers of 1.75% on all pay points, with an increase of 2.75% on the lowest pay point. The final offer would also provide for completion of work on term time only arrangements,

discussions on homeworking and mental health joint guidance and a commitment to incorporate statutory provisions on neo-natal leave and pay. Unions are currently balloting members on strike action and the deadlines for return of ballots are January / February 2022. It is impossible to determine what the pay pressure will be in 2022-23 when the 2021-22 position is still so uncertain.

4.17.2 In addition, whilst the teachers' pay award has been agreed for the 2021-22 academic year, up until the end of August 2022, there will be additional pressure from any subsequent pay award to be implemented from September 2022.

4.17.3 Within the provisional local government settlement the Welsh Government included funding to enable local authorities to implement the Real Living Wage for social care staff from April 2022. This will apply to in-house and externally commissioned staff. Welsh Government will work with local authorities, health boards and providers to develop guidance for all stakeholders on the detailed approach to implementation. Funding will be held corporately and allocated out during the year in line with the agreed process. As indicated in the report to Cabinet on 16 November 2021 the Council is currently applying to become a Real Living Wage accredited employer. While not currently an accredited organisation, the local authority has committed to paying the Real Living Wage to its own employees for the last two years, but the funding through the settlement will enable this to be extended to all externally commissioned social care staff.

4.17.4 Funding for price inflation has mostly been retained centrally to meet provision for increases in energy costs, rents, allowances and contractual commitments, which are still largely unknown, especially given rising inflation rates. A further review of allocations will be undertaken before the final budget is agreed and any necessary amendments made. Welsh Government has already announced that there will be no increase in the business rates multiplier for next year.

4.17.5 Following approval of the final budget, the remaining inflationary provision will be retained centrally and allocated during the year as any unknown or unforeseen contract price inflation is agreed, in particular where the index is set after the Council's budget is approved.

4.17.6 In addition to increases in pupil numbers in schools in recent years, which puts pressure on school delegated budgets, there is also evidence of an increase in the older persons' population. Over the last 5 years the average population increase has been around 1.6%, resulting in increased pressure on a number of service areas, including residential care, home care and the assessment and care management teams.

4.18 School Delegated Budgets

4.18.1 In 2021-22 school budgets were again protected from the proposed 1% annual efficiency target. However, the forecast pressure and uncertainty around Council budgets for future years was deemed to be such that it was felt to be almost impossible not to include the 1% efficiency target in proposals for 2022-23 onwards, given that school budgets account for around a third of net revenue expenditure. However, following receipt of the better than anticipated 2022-23 provisional settlement from Welsh Government, the additional costs they have incurred during the pandemic, and the pressures to address lost learning, school budgets have again been protected from the 1% efficiency target in 2022-23.

4.18.2 There are a significant number of pressures on school delegated budgets for 2022-23 and beyond, not least the full year cost of the teachers' pay award, the increases in National

Insurance contributions, and costs of implementing the Additional Learning Needs Educational Tribunal (ALNET) Act (2018). This includes the establishment of new provisions and support for pupils with moderate learning difficulties through the medium of Welsh. The total impact of these pressures is around £1.57 million, and these are included in the proposed budget.

4.18.3 It should be noted that the efficiency target is maintained for schools for 2023-24 and beyond, in recognition of the pressures stated above, potentially lower future budget settlements and mounting external pressures across Council services.

4.19 Budget Pressures

4.19.1 During 2021-22 a number of unavoidable service budget pressures have arisen for 2022-23 and future years, and they are detailed in **Appendix A**. The total of the budget pressures identified for 2022-23 is £11.860 million, but there are already additional pressures identified for future years, of at least a further £3.6 million. A number of these have arisen as a result of contract renewals and are linked to price increases resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and the departure of the UK from the European Union. Others are demographic or statutory in nature, and therefore unavoidable. There may be additional pressures arising over the coming months and consequently the total pressures requirement may change between draft and final budget.

4.19.2 Some of the more significant pressures facing the Authority include:

- Costs of the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET) and to meet additional demand on the Council's special schools from Bridgend pupils.
- Recurrent increased costs of home to school transport - a combination of historic budget pressures, new costs of transporting nursery pupils more safely, and also cost pressures arising from recent tender exercises.
- Increases in the older persons' population, which place additional pressures on adult social services.
- Increased costs in the Supported Living Service as a result of a recent tender exercise.
- Increased costs of commissioned services in the social care sector following the 6.6% increase in the National Living Wage announced by the UK government.

4.19.3 These are in addition to new pressures and responsibilities on the Council as a result of Welsh Government initiatives or legislation, for which funding has been included within the settlement, including the establishment of corporate joint committees, funding for ongoing costs arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the payment of the Real Living Wage for care workers. Other one-off pressures have been, and will be, funded from earmarked reserves, as appropriate.

4.19.4 The budget pressure of £2.192 million to prevent homelessness and eradicate rough sleeping, which was included in the MTFS for 2021-22, but which has been funded from the Welsh Government Hardship Fund during 2021-22, remains in the base budget for 2022-23 onwards. This is particularly crucial now that the Hardship Fund has come to an end to continue to meet this unavoidable pressure.

4.20 Budget Reduction Proposals

4.20.1 Budget reduction proposals of £631,000 for 2022-23 have been identified from service and corporate budgets to achieve a balanced budget, detailed in **Appendix B**.

4.21 Council Wide Budgets

4.21.1 Council Wide budgets include funding for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, costs of financing capital expenditure, levies, including that for the South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, centrally held pay and prices provisions, insurance budgets, discretionary rate relief and provision for redundancy related costs. A number of these budgets are fixed and unavoidable, and therefore cannot be reduced without putting the Council at risk. The higher than anticipated pay awards in recent years and unprecedented amount of budget pressures has put also additional pressure on these budgets.

4.21.2 The South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority covers 10 South Wales Council areas including Bridgend County. It is funded by raising a levy on its constituent Councils, based on population. For 2022-23 the levy on Bridgend, and consequently its council tax payers, is proposed to be £7,544,032, an increase of 2.45% from 2021-22. This is as a result of demographic increases and unavoidable pay and price increases. The final budget is subject to approval by the Fire and Rescue Authority at its budget meeting in February 2022 so the final increase may change.

4.22 Fees and Charges

4.22.1 In general, fees and charges will be increased by CPI (as at December 2021), subject to rounding, or in line with statutory or service requirements, except where a clear decision is taken not to do so. Schedules of fees and charges will be reported separately, as usual, under Delegated Powers and Directorates will apply the new requirements outlined in the Council's updated Fees and Charges Policy, approved by Council in October 2021. A full list of all fees and charges for 2022-23 will be published on the Council's webpages once the budget has been approved for 2022-23.

4.23 Council Reserves

4.23.1 In line with the MTFS principle 8, the Council Fund will normally be maintained at a level of 5% of the Council's net budget, excluding schools. Details of the Council's earmarked reserves position at 31 December 2021 are shown in Table 8. These are kept under review, and will be drawn down where required, and the position will be updated in the Final MTFS report to Council in February 2022.

Table 8 – Earmarked Reserves

		Movement as at Quarter 3			
Opening Balance 1 Apr 2021	Reserve	Net Additions/ Reclassification	Draw-down	Unwound	Closing Balance 31 Dec 2021
£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
	Corporate Reserves:				
34,118	Capital Programme Contribution	7,295	-	(18)	41,396
6,103	Asset Management Reserves	157	(550)	(118)	5,591
7,556	Major Claims & Insurance Reserves	4	-	-	7,559
4,993	Service Reconfiguration	-	-	-	4,993
3,050	Change Management/Digital Transformation	-	(249)	(163)	2,638
2,000	Economic and Future Resiliance Fund	-	-	-	2,000
57,819	**Total Corporate Reserves**	**7,456**	**(799)**	**(299)**	**64,176**
	Directorate Reserves:				
502	Education & Family Support	-	(18)	(12)	472
3,349	Social Services & Wellbeing	-	(92)	(42)	3,215
3,657	Communities	-	(89)	(141)	3,427
2,716	Chief Executives	42	(176)	-	2,582
10,224	**Total Directorate Reserves**	**42**	**(375)**	**(195)**	**9,696**
	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:				
1,961	Education & Family Support	(68)	(775)	-	1,118
594	Social Services & Wellbeing	(243)	-	-	350
2,532	Communities	-	(185)	-	2,347
1,228	Chief Executives	(544)	(170)	-	513
-	Cross Directorate	856	(567)	-	289
6,315	**Equalisation & Grant Reserves:**	**-**	**(1,698)**	**-**	**4,617**
8,490	School Balances	-	-	-	8,490
82,848	**TOTAL RESERVES**	**7,498**	**(2,872)**	**(494)**	**86,979**

4.24 Capital Programme and Capital Financing Strategy

4.24.1 This section of the report deals with the proposed Capital Programme for 2021-22 to 2031-32, which forms part of, but extends beyond the MTFS. It has been developed in line with the MTFS principles and reflects the Welsh Government draft capital settlement for 2022-23, which provides General Capital Funding (GCF) for 2022-23 of £150 million across Wales and of £6.678 million for the Council for 2022-23, of which £3.953 million is un-hypothecated supported borrowing and the remainder £2.725 million is provided through general capital grant. Indicative figures for 2023-24 and 2024-25 have been provided on an all-Wales basis of £180 million for each year, in addition to £20 million each year for Local Government Decarbonisation.

4.24.2 The original budget approved by Council on 24 February 2021 has been further revised and approved by Council during the year to incorporate budgets brought forward from 2020-21, slippage into 2022-23 and any new schemes and grant approvals. A review has also been undertaken of the capital resources available to the Council, along with the capital pressures that it faces. Due to the limited capital resource available, following a number of years of significant investment in the Council's infrastructure, service managers have not been asked to submit capital bids for funding at this stage, although it is accepted that there are a number of capital pressures that will need financing going forward, including economic recovery, decarbonisation, homelessness, digitalisation and coastal defences.

4.24.3 Following the approval by Council of the Capital Strategy in February each year, and the subsequent quarterly monitoring reports to Cabinet and Council, any amendments to the capital programme are usually dealt with during the year rather than just as part of the MTFS. The latest capital programme was approved by Council in October 2021 and any further changes will be included in the updated capital programme presented to Council for approval in January 2022 or the capital programme to be included in the final MTFS to be approved by Council in February 2022.

4.24.4 The capital programme contains a number of annual allocations that are met from the total general capital funding for the Council. It is not currently proposed to amend these for 2022-23 and the proposed allocations are shown in Table 9 below.

Table 9 – 2022-23 Proposed Annual Allocations of Capital Funding

	Proposed 2022-23 £'000
Highways Structural Works	340
Carriageway Capital Works	250
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,950
Housing Renewal / Empty Property Schemes	100
Minor Works	1,130
Community Projects	50
Corporate Capital Fund (Renewals / Match Funding)	200
Street lighting / Bridge infrastructure replacement	400
ICT equipment replacement	400
Total	**4,820**

4.25 Capital Receipts

4.25.1 The Council's enhanced disposals programme, which commenced in 2014, was completed in December 2020 having brought in total receipts of £21.36 million against an original estimate of £21 million. In addition to this, there is an additional £176,000 held in escrow, part of which may also be released to the Council.

4.25.2 The disposals strategy for the years to 2030 is currently being drafted and it is anticipated that the majority of the receipts will emanate from the Parc Afon Ewenni (Waterton), Ewenny Road (Maesteg) and Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration sites, which will be the focus of the disposal programme in the future. Good progress is being made on all three of these projects, most notably with an agreed sale of 2 acres at Porthcawl Salt Lake to Aldi Stores, subject to planning being granted for a retail food store. Capital receipts are subject to the exchange of contracts, so it is prudent not to commit them until we have a contractual agreement.

4.26 Prudential (Unsupported) Borrowing

4.26.1 Total Prudential Borrowing taken out as at 1 April 2021 was £46.248 million, of which £26.597 million was outstanding. It is estimated that the total borrowed will increase to £49.413 million by the end of this financial year.

4.26.2 Future prudential borrowing could include an estimated £1.8 million towards the costs of the Smart System and Heat Programme and £2.3 million towards the costs of highways schemes for 21st Century Band B schools.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The budget setting process is outlined within the Council's Constitution and Financial Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 A high level Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out and included within the Final MTFS in February 2022. The high level EIA considers the impact of the strategy, policy or proposal on the nine protected characteristics, the Socio-economic Duty and the use of the Welsh Language.

6.2 The proposals contained within this report cover a wide range of services and it is inevitable that the necessary budget reductions will impact on the local population in different ways. In developing these proposals, consideration has been given to their potential impact on protected groups within the community and on how to avoid a disproportionate impact on people within these groups.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides a framework for embedding sustainable development principles within the activities of Council and has major implications for the long-term planning of finances and service provision. The 7 well-being goals identified in the Act have driven the Council's three well-being objectives:

1. Supporting a successful sustainable economy

2. Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient

3. Smarter use of resources

The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and be part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for people in Bridgend County. In developing the MTFS, officers have considered the importance of balancing short-term needs in terms of meeting savings targets, with safeguarding the ability to meet longer-term objectives.

7.2 The proposals contained within this report cover a wide range of services and it is inevitable that the necessary budget reductions will impact on the wellbeing goals in different ways. A Well-being of Future Generations Assessment will be undertaken on proposed individual projects and activities where relevant and will feed into specific reports to Cabinet or Council.

7.3 The Council's approach to meeting its responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, including acting in accordance with the sustainable development principle, is reflected in a number of areas within the Medium Term Financial Strategy, not least:

5 Ways of Working	**Examples**
Long Term	• Outlining the impact of a number of different funding scenarios (Best, Most Likely and Worst) to provide an element of flexibility to the Council. • Majority of savings generated from making smarter use of resources with service reductions kept to a minimum and only as a last resort. • The development of a Capital Strategy and 10 year capital programme which reflects the Council's affordability in terms of capital receipts and borrowing. • Investment in capital schemes that support the Council's corporate priorities and benefits the County Borough over a longer period.
Prevention	• Investment in preventative measures to reduce the burden on more costly statutory services.
Collaboration	• Savings generated from collaboration and integrated working.
Integration	• Explicit links between the Corporate Plan, the Capital Strategy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Medium Term Financial Strategy
Involvement	• A robust budget consultation exercise, including surveys, community engagement stands and social media debates, to inform proposals.

7.4 The above features are aimed at ensuring the Council's finances are as healthy as they can be for future generations. Although resources are limited, they have been targeted in a way that reflects the Council's priorities, including the seven well-being goals included in Bridgend's Well-being Plan, and this is reflected in the relevant appendices. Where possible, the Council has aimed to protect front line services and invest to save, with budget reductions targeted at making smarter use of resources, commercialisation, collaboration and transformation. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment is attached at **Appendix C**.

8. Financial implications

8.1 This report outlines the financial issues that Council is requested to consider as part of the 2022-23 to 2025-26 MTFS. The Council's Section 151 Officer is required to report annually on the robustness of the level of reserves. The current and future anticipated level of Council reserves is sufficient to protect the Council in light of unknown demands or emergencies and current funding levels. It must be emphasised that the biggest financial risks the Council is exposed to at the present time relates to the uncertainty of Welsh Government funding, both generally for local government into the medium term with recent one-year settlements, and specifically any ongoing funding to support the additional cost pressures and loss of income into the next and future years as a result of Covid-19, the

increasing difficulty in the delivery of planned budget reductions as well as the identification of further proposals. Therefore, it is imperative that the Council Fund balance is managed in accordance with the MTFS Principle 9, as set out in the MTFS, and it is essential that revenue service expenditure and capital expenditure is contained within the identified budgets.

8.2 The Section 151 Officer is also required to report to Council if they do not believe that they have sufficient resource to discharge their role as required by s114 of the Local Government Act 1988. Members should note that there is currently sufficient resource to discharge this role.

8.3 The proposed budget includes estimates which take into account circumstances and events which exist or are reasonably foreseeable at the time of preparation. Subject to the risks identified the proposed MTFS provides a firm basis for managing the Council's resources for the year 2022-23 and beyond.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet submits for consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committees the 2022-23 annual budget and development of the MTFS 2022-23 to 2025-26, as set out in this report, prior to presenting a final version for approval by Council in February 2022.

Carys Lord
Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change (Section 151 Officer)
January 2022

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Background documents: Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports
Provisional Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlements 2022-23

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BUDGET PRESSURES 2022-23 TO 2025-26

Ref	Directorate	Well-being Objective	Pressure	Proposed 2022-23	Indicative 2023-24	Indicative 2024-25	Indicative 2025-26
				£000	£000	£000	£000
EFS1	Education and Family Support	Supporting a Successful Sustainable Economy	Revenue implications for supporting the School Modernisation Programme (Mutual Investment Model).		500		
EFS2	Education and Family Support	Supporting a Successful Sustainable Economy	Welsh-medium Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) Learning Resource Centre (LRC) at Secondary school level	92			
EFS3	Education and Family Support	Supporting a Successful Sustainable Economy	Increase in demand on the Educated Other Than at School (EOTAS) budget - projections indicate that within the next two years around 25 additional places will be required as part of the EOTAS provision. By employing staff directly this will avoid the need to employ tutors (2 teachers and 2 LSO's).	162			
EFS4	Education and Family Support	Supporting a Successful Sustainable Economy	Resources required to support the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs Educational Tribunal (ALNET) Act (2018) particularly to support the increase in age range (0-25). Two Individual Development Plan co-ordinators, one Additional Learning Provision co-ordinator and a Higher Level Teaching Assistant.	173			
EFS5	Education and Family Support	Supporting a Successful Sustainable Economy	Other Local Authority recoupment income shortfall due to increased demand from Bridgend pupils to attend Heronsbridge and Ysgol Bryn Castell. Whilst there were 20 OOC placements at the end of 2020-21 this has reduced to 16 with an expectation this will reduce further to 12 from the Autumn Term due to increased demand from BCBC pupils.	200			
EFS6	Education and Family Support	Supporting a Successful Sustainable Economy	Recurrent increased costs of home to school transport - a combination of historical budget pressures, but also the additional requirement for the transportation of nursery pupils, alongside cost pressures arising from the recent tender exercise for buses and minibuses, and the estimated increase in prices following the current tender exercise for special taxis, taxis and special minibuses. The outcome of the WG review of learner transport is still awaited.	2,472			
EFS7	Education and Family Support	Supporting a Successful Sustainable Economy	Investment in the Early Help service, to ensure the full assessment process is completed, reduce waiting times for referrals and improve quality. The capacity within locality hubs will be increased to enable them to provide interventions, along with additional counselling capacity.	226			
SSW1	Social Services & Wellbeing	Helping People and Communities to be more Healthy and Resilient	Increase to 'Connected Persons' Fostering Fees stemming from a National Eligibility Criteria in Wales	191			
SSW2	Social Services & Wellbeing	Helping People and Communities to be more Healthy and Resilient	Increased pressure on Mental Health Services due to the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns	147			
SSW3	Social Services & Wellbeing	Helping People and Communities to be more Healthy and Resilient	Implications of National Living Wage uplifts on commissioned contracts within Social Services and Wellbeing based on announced increase to NLW from £8.91 in 2021 to £9.50 in 2022 (6.6% increase) increasing up to the Government target of £10.50 by 2024.	1,458	808	799	790
SSW4	Social Services & Wellbeing	Helping People and Communities to be more Healthy and Resilient	Increase in the Older Persons population and corresponding increase in pressure on services. It is estimated that the older person population will increase by 1.31% in 2021, and for future years the average of the population increases over the last 6 years, being 1.77%, has been used.	274	361	367	

Ref	Directorate	Well-being Objective	Pressure	Proposed 2022-23	Indicative 2023-24	Indicative 2024-25	Indicative 2025-26
				£000	£000	£000	£000
SSW5	Social Services & Wellbeing	Helping People and Communities to be more Healthy and Resilient	Children's Services workforce pressures, including market supplement to address 30% vacancy rate in Children's Safeguarding and Care Experienced Team, apprentices, information, advice and assistance social work capacity and Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO).	1,026			
SSW6	Social Services & Wellbeing	Helping People and Communities to be more Healthy and Resilient	Increase in take up of Direct Payments within Children's Services (up 22.5% on 20-21 actuals)	87			
SSW7	Social Services & Wellbeing	Helping People and Communities to be more Healthy and Resilient	Increase in costs of Supported Living Service following re-tender. The budget pressure is based on current levels of need that were identified at the point of going to tender, and therefore could fluctuate either up or down, based on assessed needs and requirements post-Covid.	650			
COM1	Communities	Smarter Use of Resources	Increase in disposal costs due to increased Kitchen Waste tonnages being collected at the Kerbside. This is due to both an increasing number of households in the borough and lifestyle changes due to the pandemic - more people working from home, producing more domestic waste as a result.	37			
COM2	Communities	Smarter Use of Resources	Increase in disposal costs due to increased blue bag waste being collected at the Kerbside. This is due to both an increasing number of households in the borough and lifestyle changes due to the pandemic - more people working from home, producing more domestic waste as a result.	200			
COM3	Communities	Smarter Use of Resources	Increase in disposal costs due to increased Street Litter being collected by the Street Scene Team. This is due to both an increasing number of households in the borough and lifestyle changes due to the pandemic - more people working from home, increased stay-cations, producing more street litter waste as a result.	150			
CEX1	Chief Executives	Smarter Use of Resources	ICT e-Post Room Postages - budget pressure due to increased costs incurred in sending printed information to BCBC staff working at home	30			
CEX2	Chief Executives	Smarter Use of Resources	Funding to implement Phase 2 of the Business Support review, increasing capacity for the provision of cross-Council business support, where additional pressures have been identified, particularly in respect of children's social care and early help, generally and as a result of the pandemic. This extra capacity will enable services to direct professional staff to front line service delivery.	405			
CW1	Council Wide	Core Services and Statutory Functions	Increase in Fire Service Precept to cover pay, price and demographic increases. The final budget is subject to approval by the Fire and Rescue Authority at its budget meeting in February 2022 so the final increase may change .	180			
CW2	Council Wide	Core Services and Statutory Functions	The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provides for the creation and ongoing development of corporate joint committees to allow authorities to work together on specific functions such as transport, economic development and planning. Additional funding has been provided through the settlement to support the core operation of these committees.	200			
CW3	Council Wide	Core Services and Statutory Functions	Following the end of the Welsh Government Hardship Fund in 2021-22 funding has been set aside to meet ongoing budget pressures as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, both in respect of additional cost pressures and ongoing loss of income. This pressure will be allocated out during the year in line with need and will be reviewed annually to determine whether or not it is still required.	1,000			

Ref	Directorate	Well-being Objective	Pressure	Proposed 2022-23	Indicative 2023-24	Indicative 2024-25	Indicative 2025-26
				£000	£000	£000	£000
CW4	Council Wide	Core Services and Statutory Functions	Funding has been provided through the settlement to enable local authorities to meet the additional costs of introducing the Real Living Wage for care workers. Once a detailed implementation process has been agreed by Welsh Government this funding will be allocated out accordingly.	2,500			
	Total Budget Pressures			**11,860**	**1,669**	**1,166**	**790**

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Budget Reduction Proposals 2022-23 to 2025-26

APPENDIX B

Ref.	Links to 7 Wellbeing Goals	Well-being Objective	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget 2021-22 £'000	Total Budget Reduction 2022-2026 as % of 2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Budget Reductions £'000	Proposed 2022-23 £'000	Indicative 2023-24 £'000	Indicative 2024-25 £'000	Indicative 2025-26 £'000

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE

IP1 - Supporting a successful sustainable economy

IP2 - Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient

IP3 - Smarter use of resources

NONPTY - Core services & statutory functions

CATEGORIES

SUR- Smarter Use of Resources

MSR- Managed Service Reductions

CST - Collaboration and Transformation

PC - Policy Changes

RAG STATUS KEY

RED	Proposals not fully developed and include high delivery risk
AMBER	Proposal in development but includes delivery risk
GREEN	Proposal developed and deliverable

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

CENTRAL EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

EFS1	A more equal Wales	IP2	SUR	Rationalisation of Adult Community Learning Service	Remove the council subsidised support to adult learners although there are other providers - e.g. College. Less opportunity for adults to gain new skills.	129	53%		68			
				Total Education and Family Support					**68**	**0**	**0**	**0**

SCHOOLS

SCH1	A more prosperous Wales	IP3	SUR	Efficiency savings against School Delegated Budgets	The annual saving represents a 1% efficiency per annum against individual schools budgets. Risk of increased school deficit positions. Implementation will be a matter for individual schools - potential to result in some teacher and other staff redundancies. If efficiency is made solely from staffing budgets, this could range from a minimum of 1 teacher in our larger Primary Schools to 5 teachers in our larger Comprehensive schools over the MTFS period.	£1.040m - ISB Budget	3%			1,040	1,040	1,040
				Total Schools					**0**	**1,040**	**1,040**	**1,040**
				Total Education & Family Support Directorate					**68**	**1,040**	**1,040**	**1,040**

SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

SSW1	A healthier wales	IP2	MSR	Across Adults and Children's services embed and consolidate outcome focussed practice and commissioning for all services areas.	This will support people to live their lives and will require our systems to be adapted to support the changes in practice. There will be a shift to embed outcome focussed practice which will have a focus on targeted prevention initiatives and by developing collaborative, long term relationships with providers as well as maximising the opportunities of the use of technology. This will be underpinned by planning accommodation, care and support together and listening to people who are experts in their own lives and acting upon what will make a difference.	Not specific	N/A	225	200			
SSW2	A healthier Wales	IP2	MSR	Remodelling day service provision for older people and learning disability services	The recent experience of the pandemic has enabled the service to find new ways of working and the service are proposing to review and refine the operating model for day time opportunities.	3,187	4%	90	115			
SSW3	A healthier wales	IP2	MSR	Remodelling Supported Living Services	A review of the service provision and alternative delivery models based on the current and predicted needs of individuals	2,160	2%		50			
				Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate					**365**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Budget Reduction Proposals 2022-23 to 2025-26

APPENDIX B

Ref.	Links to 7 Wellbeing Goals	Well-being Objective	Categories	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget 2021-22 £'000	Total Budget Reduction 2022-2026 as % of 2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Budget Reductions £'000	Proposed 2022-23 £'000	Indicative 2023-24 £'000	Indicative 2024-25 £'000	Indicative 2025-26 £'000
COMMUNITIES												
COM1	A Wales of cohesive communities	IP2	MSR	Strategic Regeneration Fund - reduction to annual allocation	The reduction to the Strategic Regeneration Fund will directly impact on the Council's ability to provide match-funding, through which to lever other external funding. There will be no funding for feasibility or development work, on which to prepare bids for funding. Also potential for a loss of private sector investment as a result of inability to engage productively with developers and present Bridgend County in a positive light.	299	100%		20	279		
COM2	A prosperous Wales	IP2	MSR	Cessation of Tourism contract with AMA Associates an external Public Relations Company who promote Bridgend with a range of publishers.	News coverage about Bridgend County will reduce and this potentially would have implications for visitor numbers and the local economy.	25	100%		25			
COM3	A prosperous Wales	IP3	PC	Change the composition of Household Food Waste bags	The current bags cause issues with bio-degrading due to the speed of the food waste digestion process. Change the supply of bags to remove this issue.	51	69%		35			
COM4	A prosperous Wales	IP1	PC	Remove Business in Focus from running Enterprise Centres in Bridgend	This would be dependent on Corporate Landlord picking up the responsibilities and ensuring a higher rate of occupancy of the units to remove voids.	20	100%		20			
COM5	A prosperous Wales	IP1	SUR	Commercially let a wing of Ravens Court to a partner organisation or business.	Savings would be predicated on reduction in utilities from not occupying the space and rental income	133	38%		50			
				Total Communities Directorate					**150**	**279**	**0**	**0**
CHIEF EXECUTIVES												
CEX1	None	IP3	SUR	Reduction of ICT Printing Costs	Due to the increase in working from home across the authority, savings can be found in the ICT Print Strategy area. These savings are in line with the cultural shift towards the paperless office agenda.	76	53%			40		
CEX2	None	IP3	SUR	Efficiency saving targeting supplies and services budgets across the Chief Executive's Directorate	Limited impact as review has identified small historic underspends against this budget category	1,347	4%		48			
				Total Chief Executive's Directorate					**48**	**40**	**0**	**0**
				GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS					**631**	**1,359**	**1,040**	**1,040**
				ESTIMATED BUDGET REDUCTION REQUIREMENT (MOST LIKELY)					**631**	**6,978**	**6,802**	**6,618**
				REDUCTION SHORTFALL					**0**	**5,619**	**5,762**	**5,578**

73	**0**	**0**	**0**
158	**1,080**	**1,040**	**1,040**
400	**279**	**0**	**0**
631	**1,359**	**1,040**	**1,040**

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

Project Description (key aims): **Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-23 to 2025-26**	
Section 1	**Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.**
Long-term	**1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?**
	The development of the MTFS aims to balance short-term needs in terms of meeting savings targets, while safeguarding the ability to meet longer-term objectives. It provides a financial basis for decision making and aims to ensure that the Council's finances can be as healthy as they can be for future generations. It does this by: • Outlining the impact of a number of different funding scenarios (Best, Most Likely and Worst) to provide an element of flexibility to the Council. • Adhering to a clear set of MTFS principles that drive expenditure decisions. • Ensuring that the majority of savings are generated from making smarter use of resources with front line service reductions kept to a minimum and only as a last resort. • The development of a 10 year capital programme which reflects the Council's affordability in terms of capital receipts and borrowing and investment in capital schemes that support the Council's well-being objectives and benefits the County Borough over a longer period. • Protecting front line services as far as possible.
Prevention	**2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?**
	The MTFS attempts to balance investment in preventative measures against costs of reacting to unanticipated situations in statutory services. Each budget reduction proposal is weighed in terms of the impact on other areas of the Council, on the public and on the Well-being of Future Generations. 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. A number of budget pressures target investment in preventative services, and budget reductions are achieved through remodelling of existing service provision to prevent more costly long term pressures. In addition, the Council's capital programme targets significant investment in refurbishing or replacing highways, buildings and other infrastructure to prevent longer term maintenance costs.

Integration	**3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?**
	The Medium Term Financial Strategy is closely aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan, with explicit links between resources and well-being objectives. The MTFS has been guided by the 3 Well-being Objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan. The development of the Corporate Plan and MTFS are both the responsibility of Cabinet and the Corporate Management Board.
Collaboration	**4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?**
	A number of budget reduction proposals are achievable through inter-agency working, with the Third Sector, Social Enterprises, other local authorities and partners. These include joint services across local authorities, and with the Health Service, and new models of working internally to provide more resilient services. A number of services already collaborate with other partners and these continue to improve performance whilst operating with reducing resources.
Involvement	**5. How does your project / activity involve stakeholders with an interest in achieving the well-being goals? How do those stakeholders reflect the diversity of the area?**
	A full consultation "Shaping Bridgend's Future" was launched on 20 September 2021 and ran until 14 November 2021. The consultation asked citizens to share their views on a range of areas, including performance over the last 12 months, support for business, tourism and the economy, well-being, face to face access to Council services, digitalisation, investment in services, fees and charges, council tax levels and the future of the Council. The intention was to understand what the public felt had worked well, and where we need to continue to make changes or improvements as we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, to ensure that we deliver effective and efficient services that are right for our communities over the next 5 to 10 years. A wide variety of methods of communication were used including surveys, social media, a number of online engagement sessions, online FAQ sessions as well as videos, radio adverts and media releases. Due to the impact of Covid-19 and the restrictions on engaging with residents face to face in the community, the council wanted to make sure that as many people as possible could get involved in the consultation and ensured that accessible versions of the survey were available – large print, easy read and youth, as well as standard versions. Bridgend People First and Bridgend Youth Council supported the consultation team to produce the easy read and youth surveys. An advert was also placed in the Glamorgan Gazette notifying non-domestic rates payers of the consultation, and inviting them to participate, as required by Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. The results were collated and presented to Cabinet on 14 December 2021 in order to further inform decisions on the MTFS.

Section 2	Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals	
Description of the Well-being goals	**How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?**	**Is there any way to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?**
A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	• Improved educational outcomes for children and young people leading to a well-educated and skilled population to meet future skills needs. • Improve future outcomes for young people including educational attainment, cohesive safe communities are more attractive and easier places to do business. • Increase productivity, employment and skills. Encourage a lower carbon economy.	The majority of savings will be generated from making smarter use of resources with front line service reductions kept to a minimum and only as a last resort. The MTFS is aligned with the Corporate Plan to achieve the Council's current Well-being Objectives: <u>Supporting a successful sustainable economy</u> - 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. <u>Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient</u> - 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.

		<u>Smarter use of resources</u> – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives. Funding is targeted in line with these priorities and in line with the 13 MTFS Principles.
A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	• Break long term cycles to secure better outcomes for people and communities. • Stronger individuals and communities are more resilient to change. • Communities place a greater value on their environment and more people get involved in local issues and recognise the importance of green space in wellbeing and as a prevention factor. • Healthy active people in resilient communities, volunteering, keeping young people in the local area, reducing travel to work, increased use and awareness of green spaces.	The impact on local communities will be monitored through the wide range of services that will continue to be provided by the Council or its partners.

A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	• Improved future physical and mental well-being, by reducing health harming behaviours. • Promote more involvement in communities to benefit mental health, social and physical activity. • Focus on healthy lifestyles and workplaces, increased income linked to health.	The impact on local communities will be monitored through the wide range of services that will continue to be provided by the Council or its partners.
A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).	• Helping all children and young people to reach their full potential, by improving their early years experiences and ensure access to information to help make informed decisions. Improving outcomes for teenage parents and their children. • Recognising that communities are becoming more diverse. Addressing barriers that some groups have in feeling part of communities. • Address income inequality and health inequality, focus on disability, older people and other equality groups. Focus on increasing income and reducing the skills gap.	The impact on local communities will be monitored through the wide range of services that will continue to be provided by the Council or its partners.

A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	• Increased number of confident secure young people playing an active positive role in their communities. • Healthy active people in resilient communities, keeping young people and skills in the local area, tackling poverty as a barrier to engagement in community life a supportive network, developed through initiatives at work, can help to support staff through challenging times in their lives.	The impact on local communities will be monitored through the wide range of services that will continue to be provided by the Council or its partners.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	• Cultural settings provide support sensitive to our increasingly diverse communities and help us identify opportunities to increase the number of Welsh speakers. • Importance of culture and language as a focus for communities coming together. • Bringing more people from different cultures together. More people identifying with their community. • Encourage take up of sports, arts and recreation initiatives through the workplace. • Ensure Welsh culture and language are a part of this. Welsh language skills are beneficial to businesses and in increasing demand.	Compliance with the Welsh Language act and specific Welsh Language Standards will be monitored as part of the annual report.

A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	• Diverse, confident communities are resilient to change. Promotes a better knowledge of different cultures and a better knowledge of the local environment. • Healthy lifestyles include cultural activities that promote understanding of diversity of communities, different cultures, races. Promote apprenticeships to people from different backgrounds.	The impact on local communities will be monitored through the wide range of services that will continue to be provided by the Council or its partners.

Section 3	**Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts**		
Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age:	Unknown - The impact, positive or negative, will depend on the nature of the service delivered, the specific budget reduction proposed or budget pressure funded and the service user.		This will vary according to the service provided and will be considered through individual Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs).
Gender reassignment:	See above		This will vary according to the service provided and will be considered through individual EIAs.
Marriage or civil partnership:	See above		This will vary according to the service provided and will be considered through individual EIAs.
Pregnancy or maternity:	See above		This will vary according to the service provided and will be considered through individual EIAs.
Race:	See above		This will vary according to the service provided and will be considered through individual EIAs.

Religion or Belief:	See above	This will vary according to the service provided and will be considered through individual EIAs.
Race:	See above	This will vary according to the service provided and will be considered through individual EIAs.
Sex:	See above	This will vary according to the service provided and will be considered through individual EIAs.
Welsh Language:	See above	This will vary according to the service provided and will be considered through individual EIAs.

Section 4	**Identify decision meeting for Project/activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decision taken by Executive members and/or Chief Officers**
Cabinet	
Compiling Officers Name:	Deborah Exton
Compiling Officers Job Title:	Deputy Head of Finance
Date Completed:	21/12/21

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE - QUARTER 3 REPORT 2021-22

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 position for 2021-22 as at 31 December 2021 (**Appendix A**)
- seek agreement from Cabinet to present a report to Council for approval for a revised capital programme for 2021-22 to 2030-31 (**Appendix B**)
- note the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2021-22 (**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 borough a great 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 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** – 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 to 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 well-being objectives 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. The Council's Capital Strategy, incorporating the Prudential Indicators for 2021-22, was approved by Council on 24 February 2021.

3.4 On 24 February 2021 Council approved a capital budget of £62.363 million for 2021-22 as part of a capital programme covering the period 2021-22 to 2030-31. The programme was last updated and approved by Council on 20 October 2021. This report provides an update on the following:

- Capital Programme monitoring quarter 3 2021-22
- A revised Capital Programme for 2021-22 to 2030-31
- Capital Strategy monitoring
- Prudential and other indicators

4. Current situation/proposal

Capital Programme 2021-22 Quarter 3 update

4.1 This section of the report provides Members with an update on the Council's capital programme for 2021-22 since it was last approved by Council and incorporates any new schemes and grant approvals. The revised programme for 2021-22 currently totals £49.603 million, of which £28.495 million is met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts and revenue contributions from earmarked reserves, with the remaining £21.108 million coming from external resources, including Welsh Government General Capital Grant. Table 1 below shows the capital programme for each Directorate from the October 2021 (quarter 2) approved Council position to quarter 3:

Table 1 – Capital Programme per Directorate 2021-22

Directorate	Approved Council October 2021 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virements £'000	Slippage to future years £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000
Education & Family Support	15,436	2,436	0	(6,984)	10,888
Social Services and Well-being	1,575	0	1	0	1,576
Communities	52,594	596	(1)	(23,045)	30,144
Chief Executive's	6,291	0	27	0	6,318
Council Wide	704	0	(27)	0	677
Total	**76,600**	**3,032**	**0**	**(30,029)**	**49,603**

4.2 Table 2 below summarises the current funding assumptions for the capital programme for 2021-22. 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 2021-22 Resources

CAPITAL RESOURCES	£'000
BCBC Resources:	
Capital Receipts	4,643
Earmarked Reserves	8,632
Unsupported Borrowing	1,513
Supported Borrowing	3,953
Other Loans	8,660
Revenue Contribution	1,094
Total BCBC Resources	**28,495**
External Resources:	
Grants	21,108
Total External Resources	21,108
TOTAL RESOURCES	**49,603**

4.3 **Appendix A** provides details of the individual schemes within the capital programme, showing any new approvals, virements and slippage to the revised budget 2021-22.

4.4 A number of schemes have already been identified as requiring slippage of budget to future years (2022-23 and beyond). At quarter 3 the total requested slippage is £30.029 million, which comprises the following schemes:

Highways Schemes Band B Schools (£3.400 million)
The highways budget in relation to Band B schemes will be expended once works have been designed and commissioned. It is anticipated that costs will be incurred in future years of the programme. Therefore £3.400 million is being slipped for use in 2022-23.

Schools Capital Maintenance (£2.436 million)
Welsh Government has awarded the Council with £2.436 million capital funding grant towards improving ventilation, supporting decarbonisation and reducing backlog maintenance in schools. As a result of this the existing funding for school maintenance across a number of schemes has been slipped and will now be utilised in 2022-23.

Fleet Vehicles (£1.376 million)
Due to delays in procuring vehicles and a global shortage of electronic components, there is no more spend anticipated in 2021-22. Therefore the £1.376 million budget is being slipped for use in 2022-23.

Cosy Corner (£1.965 million)
The project is still currently in the design stages with a planning decision due in January 2022. It is anticipated that the construction works and landscaping elements of the scheme will then take place during summer 2022, upon successful appointment of a suitable contractor. Therefore £1.965 million is being slipped into 2022-23.

Porthcawl Regeneration (£2.441 million)
Development work is still ongoing. It is anticipated that enabling works in relation to the scheme will commence in 2022-23 therefore £2.441 million is being slipped for future use.

Coastal Risk Management Programme (£2.000 million)
The scheme tender process was completed in November 2020. As this was a Welsh Government part funded scheme there was a need to gain an award letter from Welsh Government. This, coupled with the standard procurement award process being followed, meant that the scheme was unable to start until March 2021, and at this stage it was only minor setup costs that were incurred. The scheme was anticipated to take 18 months, however the delay in the start of physical works on site has pushed the completion date into October 2022. This has resulted in £2.000 million slipping into 2022-23.

Maesteg Town Hall (£2.976 million)
Project progress for this financial year is less than anticipated due to Covid-19 and the associated re-programming to accommodate safe working conditions in line with social distancing and to mitigate against labour shortages due to positive covid cases. Clock tower works and the requirement to delay other repair works due to the associated scaffolding required for the clock tower has also had an impact. These have resulted in the construction works now programmed to be completed by August 2022 with the town hall reopening in November 2022. Therefore £2.976 million is being slipped for use in 2022-23.

Capital Asset Management Fund (£0.820 million)
This is a one-off fund that was established in 2019-20 to meet the costs of works to comply with any health and safety or other legislative requirements in respect of the Council's assets, taking into account the results of condition surveys. Any allocations from this budget are agreed by Corporate Management Board. No spend is planned on the fund during this financial year. Therefore £0.820 million has been slipped into 2022-23.

Enterprise Hub Innovation centre (£1.802 million)
A limited and significantly over-budget response to the tender invitation has led to delays as the project team reviews procurement options. Further new units are currently in the planning process and a review is underway in relation to highway implications. Revisions to the programme timetable will be based on the outcome of these pieces of work and therefore £1.802 million is being slipped into 2022-23 leaving a budget of £0.100 million to cover fees likely to be incurred this year.

Waterton Upgrade (£8.144 million)
The progression of the scheme is dependent on the inclusion of a capital receipt from the sale of land at Waterton (£3.5 million estimated). As a result there is no capital spend anticipated in the current financial year although there is likely to be survey fees. A cabinet report is being prepared to identify the alternative options for the highways depot, following which, the capital budget will need to be reviewed and any proposed changes brought back to cabinet and council. £8.144 million has therefore been slipped to 2022-23.

The balance of £2.669 million is made up of various other schemes with individual slippages under £0.5 million.

Capital Programme 2021-22 Onwards

4.5 Since the last capital report approved by Council in October 2021, there have been a number of new externally funded schemes approved and internally funded schemes, which have been incorporated into the capital programme, including**:**

Schools Capital maintenance Grant (£2.436 million)
As noted above, Welsh Government has awarded the Council £2.436 million to be used towards improving ventilation, supporting decarbonisation and reducing backlog maintenance in schools. A condition of this grant was that it

had to be used by 31 March 2022 and it was therefore utilised against schemes originally funded by the Council. The Council funding was slipped into 2022-23.

Fleet Transition Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (£0.300 million)
Welsh Government set the ambition for all cars and light vans to be net zero by 2025 and all fleet vehicles to be ultra-low carbon by 2030 and have awarded funds via the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to support this transition for the public sector in Wales. The Council has been awarded £0.300 million in 2021-22. The fund can be used for: Optimising Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) fleet vehicles and data analysis, linked to the development of a ULEV Infrastructure Fleet and Workplace Strategy. The fund also supports early ULEV installations at operational depots, including heavier fleet charging infrastructure and trials, enablement of district network operators (DNO) to upgrade power supplies, support solar-to-battery power installations where applicable, and programme management and specialist support costs for design and implementation.

Metro Plus Local Transport Fund (£0.330 million)
Local Transport Funding has been awarded to the Council of up to £0.180 million for the Porthcawl Bus Interchange (Pyle Park and Ride Metro) and £0.150 million for the Pencoed Rail Crossing scheme (Penprysg Road Bridge) from the Metro Plus programme for 2021-22.

Bryncethin Depot Facilities (£0.161 million)
Electrical Infrastructure works of £0.246 million are needed for Bryncethin Depot Facilities. A Salix loan of £0.161 million has been secured to fund these works and the balance of the project would be met from the existing £0.370 million capital funding for Bryncethin Depot. The works are focused on the replacement of the existing light fittings (offices ground and first floor) for LED lighting. Some light fittings will also have automatic lighting controls. It is also planned to install a 60kwp solar PV system on the roof of the barn as well as a set of batteries that will provide a significant degree of self-sufficiency from the grid.

4.6 There are a number of other schemes within the Capital Programme that are awaiting confirmation of external funding over the winter 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.

4.7 A revised Capital Programme is included as **Appendix B**.

Prudential and Other Indicators 2021-22 Monitoring

4.8 In February 2021, Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2021-22, which included the Prudential Indicators 2021-22 to 2023-24 together with some local indicators.

4.9 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 within the Capital Strategy and approved by Council. In line with the requirements of the Prudential Code, the Chief Finance Officer is required to establish procedures to monitor performance against all forward-looking prudential indicators.

4.10 **Appendix C** details the actual indicators for 2020-21, the estimated indicators for 2021-22 set out in the Council's Capital Strategy and the projected indicators for 2021-22 based on the revised Capital Programme. These show that the Council is operating in line with the approved limits.

Capital Strategy Monitoring

4.11 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 £5.090 million at 31 March 2021.

4.12 The Council has a number of other long term liabilities which are included within the Capital Strategy, the most significant being the Maesteg School Private Finance Initiative (PFI), for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg. This forms a long-term liability for the Council which is £14.77 million at 31 March 2021. This is a 25 year agreement which will end during the 2033-34 financial year. Other long term liabilities totalling £2.036 million include lease arrangements for the Innovation Centre, the Council's Waste Contract and a Welsh Government energy efficiency loan.

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 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. Projects within the capital programme will be subject to the preparation of Equality Impact Assessments before proceeding. However, 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 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. 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. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- notes the Council's Capital Programme 2021-22 Quarter 3 update to 31 December 2021 (**Appendix A**)
- agrees that the revised Capital Programme (**Appendix B**) be submitted to Council for approval
- notes the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2021-22 **(Appendix C)**

Carys Lord
Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
January 2022

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Background documents:	None

Bridgend County Borough Council

APPENDIX A

CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT **QUARTER 3 TO 31 December 2021**

	Budget 21-22 (Council October 21) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000	Total Expenditure To Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000
Education & Family Support							
21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS BAND B	400	-	-	(300)	100	-	100
CCYD CLASSROOMS	30	-			30	2	30
HIGHWAYS SCHEMES BAND B	3,400	-	-	(3,400)	-	-	-
YSGOL BRYN CASTELL SPECIAL SCHOOL	22	70	70	(70)	92	62	92
BRYNMENYN PRIMARY	44	-	-	-	44	-	44
LAND PURCHASE BAND B SCHOOLS	4,910	-	-	-	4,910	1	4,910
YSGOL GYFUN GYMRAEG LLANGYNWYD	50	-	-	(50)	-	-	-
GATEWAY TO THE VALLEYS SECONDARY SCHOOL	135	-	-		135	93	135
GARW VALLEY SOUTH PRIMARY PROVISION	139	-	-	-	139	(8)	139
PENCOED PRIMARY	54	-	-	-	54	-	54
GARW VALLEY PRIMARY HIGHWAYS	30	-	-	-	30	-	30
PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORKS	56	-	-	-	56	-	56
ABERCERDIN PRIMARY SCHOOL HUB	300	105	-	(105)	300	1	300
BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL ALL WEATHER PITCH	324	162	-	(162)	324	-	324
BRYNMENYN SCHOOL HIGHWAYS WORK	12	-	-	-	12	-	12
REDUCTION OF INFANT CLASS SIZES	15	-	-	-	15	5	15
SCHOOLS CAPITAL MINOR WORKS	361	-	-	(325)	36	10	36
SCHOOLS TRAFFIC SAFETY	208	-	-	-	208	89	208
SCHOOL MODERNISATION	573	-	-	(473)	100	-	100
CEFN CRIBWR PRIMARY ALN	-	-	-	-	-	(6)	-
EDUCATION S106 SCHEMES	169	-	-	-	169	-	169
MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL MOBILES	98	12	-	(12)	98	(8)	98
SCHOOLS' CAPITAL MAINTENANCE GRANT	2,189	2,087	(70)	(2,087)	2,119	467	2,119
WELSH MEDIUM CHILDCARE PROVISION - BETTWS	747	-	(50)	-	697	15	697
WELSH MEDIUM CHILDCARE PROVISION - BRIDGEND	53	-	-	-	53	-	53
WELSH MEDIUM CHILDCARE PROVISION - OGMORE	807	-	50	-	857	28	857
WELSH MEDIUM CHILDCARE PROVISION - PORTHCAWL	53	-	-	-	53	-	53
WELSH MEDIUM CHILDCARE PROVISION - HIGHWAYS	100	-	-	-	100	-	100
EAST HUB - BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE	-	-	-	-	-	(27)	-
MAES YR HAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL SOLAR PANELS	32	-	-	-	32	-	32
CYNFFIG COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL EXTERNAL CANOPY	42	-	-	-	42	-	42
ICT FOR SCHOOLS KITCHENS	40	-	-	-	40	40	40
LITCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL SOLAR PANELS	43	-	-	-	43	-	43
TOTAL Education & Family Support	**15,436**	**2,436**	**-**	**(6,984)**	**10,888**	**764**	**10,888**
Social Services and Wellbeing							
COMMUNITY CENTRES	280	-	-	-	280	52	280
BRYNGARW PARK - ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS	49	-	-	-	49	2	49
BRYN Y CAE - HFE'S	40	-	-	-	40	-	40
TY CWM OGWR	340	-	-	-	340	6	340
WELLBEING MINOR WORKS	163	-	-	-	163	-	163
TREM Y MOR - ACCOMODATION	175	-	-	-	175	155	175
BAKERS WAY MINOR WORKS	10	-	-	-	10	-	10
GLAN YR AFON CARE HOME	51	-	-	-	51	-	51
CHILDRENS RESIDENTIAL HUB	100	-	-	-	100	39	100
HARTSHORN HOUSE	67	-	1	-	68	68	68
BRIDGEND RECREATION	150	-	-	-	150	76	150
HALO AND AWEN ACCESSIBILITY	150	-	-	-	150	-	150

	Budget 21-22 (Council October 21) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000	Total Expenditure To Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000
TOTAL Social Services & Wellbeing	**1,575**	**-**	**1**	**-**	**1,576**	**399**	**1,576**

Communities

Street Scene

COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS	100	-	-	-	100	10	100
PARKS/PAVILIONS/COMMUNITY CENTRES CAT	580	-	-	-	580	188	580
ABERFIELDS PLAYFIELDS	11	-	-	-	11	-	11
PORTHCAWL TOWN SEA DEFENCE	27	-	-	-	27	-	27
ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	148	-	-	-	148	1	148
COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM	815	-	-	(465)	350	239	350
REMEDIAL MEASURES - CAR PARKS	135	-	-	(135)	-	-	-
CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT	38	-	-	(30)	8	-	8
ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES	336	-	-	(136)	200	102	200
PYLE TO PORTHCAWL PHASE 1	348	-	-	-	348	32	348
ACTIVE TRAVEL- BRIDGEND TO PENCOED PHASE 2	1,841	-	-	-	1,841	1,106	1,841
HIGHWAYS STRUCTURAL WORKS	344	-	81	-	425	98	425
CARRIAGEWAY CAPITAL WORKS	255	-	-	-	255	193	255
ACTIVE TRAVEL - BRIDGEND TO BRACKLA	-	-	-	-	-	(14)	-
ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	229	-	-	-	229	3	229
PROW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT STRUCTURES	181	-	-	-	181	4	181
HIGHWAYS REFURBISHMENT GRANT	810	-	-	-	810	153	810
CARRIAGEWAY & FOOTWAYS RENEWAL	1,560	-	-	-	1,560	1,426	1,560
NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK PHASE 2	-	-	-	-	-	(2)	-
REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING	388	-	-	-	388	173	388
BRIDGE STRENGTHENING A4061	51	-	-	-	51	27	51
COMMUNITIES MINOR WORKS	461	-	-	-	461	26	461
RIVER PROTECTION MEASURES	161	-	(81)	-	80	-	80
RESILIENT ROADS FUND	475	-	-	-	475	139	475
ULTRA LOW EMISSIONS VEHICLE TRANSFORMATION FUND	462	-	-	-	462	-	462
FLEET TRANSITION-ULEV		300	-	-	300	-	300
PYLE PARK AND RIDE METRO	-	180	-	-	180	105	180
LOCAL TRANSPORT FUND - PENPRYSG ROAD BRIDGE	-	150	-	-	150	47	150
SAFE ROUTES	174	-	-	-	174	34	174
RESIDENTS PARKING BRIDGEND TC	128	-	-	(100)	28	4	28
FLEET VEHICLES	1,376	-	-	(1,376)	-	-	-
RELOCATE RECYCLING CENTRE	798	-	-	-	798	723	798
AHP WASTE	207	-	-	-	207	183	207
HEOL MOSTYN JUNCTION	540	-	-	-	540	300	540
EXTENSION TO CORNELLY CEMETERY	301	-	-	(235)	66	11	66
EXTENSION TO PORTHCAWL CEMETERY	199	-	-	(180)	19	7	19
STREET LIGHTING ENERGY SALIX	629	-	-	-	629	250	629
HIGHWAYS S106 MINOR SCHEMES	60	-	-	-	60	15	60
TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPLACEMENT	250	-	-	-	250	-	250
FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM TONDU WASTE DEPOT	140	-	-	-	140	-	140
TOTAL Streetscene	14,558	630	-	(2,657)	12,531	5,582	12,531

Regeneration & Development

BRIDGEND BUS SUP NETWORK	135	-	-	-	135	122	135
PORTHCAWL RESORT INVESTMENT FOCUS (PRIF)	70	-	-	-	70	42	70
COSY CORNER PRIF	1,885	-	230	(1,965)	150	72	150
EU CONVERGANCE SRF BUDGET	880	-	(425)	-	455	-	455
VRP - BRYNGARW PARK	151	-	13	-	164	164	164
VRP - PARC SLIP	88	-	(13)	-	75	56	75
TRI THEMATIC PROJECTS (UCPE AND UCLG)	687	-	-	-	687	287	687

	Budget 21-22 (Council October 21) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000	Total Expenditure To Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000
PORTHCAWL REGENERATION PROJECT	2,541	-	-	(2,441)	100	2	100
KERWYN CENTRE AND OGMORE VALE WASHERIES	183	-	-	-	183	133	183
COVID RECOVERY FOR TOWN CENTRES	334	-	-	-	334	81	334
TRANSFORMING TOWNS BRIDGEND POLICE STATION	650	(195)	195	-	650	-	650
ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROJECT	831	-	-	-	831	201	831
COASTAL RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME	6,309	-	-	(2,000)	4,309	2,949	4,309
LLYNFI DEVELOPMENT SITE	2,260	-	-	-	2,260	-	2,260
BRIDGEND HEAT SCHEME	390	-	-	-	390	40	390
MAESTEG TOWN HALL CULTURAL HUB	5,671	-	-	(2,976)	2,695	1,287	2,695
TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND	224	-	-	(150)	74	32	74
PORTHCAWL THI	15	-	-	-	15	-	15
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ENHANCEMENT FUND	150	-	-	(90)	60	31	60
TOTAL Regeneration & Development	23,454	(195)	-	(9,622)	13,637	5,498	13,637
Corporate Landlord							
CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND	820	-	-	(820)	-	-	-
CORPORATE LANDLORD ENERGY EFFICIENCY SAVINGS	1,279	-	-	-	1,279	471	1,279
ENTERPRISE HUB	1,902	-	-	(1,802)	100	45	100
RAVEN'S COURT MINOR WORKS	447	-	-	-	447	1	447
BRIDGEND/MAESTEG MARKET MINOR WORKS	10	-	-	-	10	10	10
DDA WORKS	408	-	-	-	408	256	408
MINOR WORKS	296	-	(1)	-	295	25	295
FIRE PRECAUTIONS MINOR WORKS	249	-	-	-	249	67	249
BRYNCETHIN DEPOT FACILITIES	370	161	-	-	531	20	531
NON OPERATIONAL ASSETS	480	-	-	-	480	-	480
WATERTON UPGRADE	8,144	-	-	(8,144)	-	-	-
EVERGREEN HALL	130	-	-	-	130	12	130
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES	47	-	-	-	47	-	47
TOTAL Corporate Landlord	14,582	161	(1)	(10,766)	3,976	907	3,976
TOTAL Communities	**52,594**	**596**	**(1)**	**(23,045)**	**30,144**	**11,987**	**30,144**
Chief Executive							
DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (DFG)	2,039	-	(47)	-	1,992	945	1,992
TARGET HARDENING GRANTS	11	-	8	-	19	19	19
DISCRETIONARY HOUSING GRANTS	200	-	-	-	200	-	200
HOUSING RENEWAL AREA	118	-	-	-	118	8	118
VALLEYS TASK FORCE EMPTY PROPERTIES GRANT	300	-	-	-	300	-	300
COMFORT SAFE & SECURITY GRANTS	4	-	-	-	4	4	4
WESTERN VALLEY EMPTY HOMES PILOT	260	-	-	-	260	-	260
EMERGENCY REPAIR LIFETIME GRANT	39	-	39	-	78	78	78
ENABLE SUPPORT GRANT	198	-	-	-	198	93	198
HEALTH AND WELLBEING VILLAGE	480	-	-	-	480	-	480
TOTAL Housing/Homelessness	3,649	-	-	-	3,649	1,147	3,649
ICT INFRA SUPPORT	423	-	27	-	450	125	450
WCCIS HARDWARE REFRESH	1,352	-	-	-	1,352	797	1,352
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	200	-	-	-	200	-	200
REPLACEMENT CCTV	667	-	-	-	667	-	667
TOTAL ICT	2,642	-	27	-	2,669	923	2,669
TOTAL Chief Executive	**6,291**	**-**	**27**	**-**	**6,318**	**2,070**	**6,318**

	Budget 21-22 (Council October 21) £'000	New Approvals £'000	Virement £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised Budget 2021-22 £'000	Total Expenditure To Date £'000	Projected Spend £'000
Council Wide Capital Budgets							
CORPORATE CAPITAL FUND	200	-	(27)	-	173	-	173
UNALLOCATED	504	-		-	504	-	504
	704	-	(27)	-	677	-	677
GRAND TOTAL	**76,600**	**3,032**	**-**	**(30,029)**	**49,603**	**15,221**	**49,603**

Credit balances under 'Total Expenditure to Date' represent amounts payable and accrued as at 31 March 2021. Payments made during 2021-22 will be set against credit balances shown

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021-2031

APPENDIX B

	Total 2021-2031			2021-2022					FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
	Total Cost £'000	BCBC Funding £'000	External Funding £'000	Council October 2021 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Vire £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised 2021-22 £'000	2022-2023 £'000	2023-2024 £'000	2024-2025 £'000	2025-2026 £'000	2026-2027 £'000	2027-2028 £'000	2028-2029 £'000	2029-2030 £'000	2030-2031 £'000	Total 2021 - 2031 £'000
Education & Family Support																		
Highways Schemes Band B Schools	3,400	3,400	-	3,400			(3,400)	**-**	3,400									**3,400**
21st Century Schools Band B	49,505	15,654	33,851	400			(300)	**100**	2,771	6,051	29,528	10,302	753					**49,505**
CCYD classrooms	30	30		30				**30**										**30**
Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School	92	22	70	22	70	70	(70)	**92**										**92**
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	50	50		50			(50)	**-**	50									**50**
Brynmenyn Primary School	44	44		44				**44**										**44**
Land Purchase Band B	4,910	4,910		4,910				**4,910**										**4,910**
Gateway to the Valleys C C Y D Comprehensive School	135	135	-	135				**135**										**135**
Garw Valley South Primary Provision	139	139		139				**139**										**139**
Pencoed Primary School	55	55		55				**55**										**55**
Garw Valley Primary Highways Works	30	30	-	30				**30**										**30**
Pencoed School Highways Works	55	55	-	55				**55**										**55**
Abercerdin Primary School Hub	300	195	105	300	105		(105)	**300**										**300**
Brynteg Comprehensive School All Weather Pitch	324	162	162	324	162		(162)	**324**										**324**
Brymenyn Primary Highways Works	12	12	-	12				**12**										**12**
Reduction of Infant Class Sizes - Bro Ogwr	15	-	15	15				**15**										**15**
Schools Minor Works	361	361	-	361			(325)	**36**	325									**361**
Schools Traffic Safety	208	208	-	208				**208**										**208**
School Modernisation	573	573	-	573			(473)	**100**	473									**573**
Education S106 Schemes	169	-	169	169				**169**										**169**
Mynydd Cynffig Primary School Mobiles	98	86	12	98	12		(12)	**98**										**98**
School's Capital Maintenance Grant	4,555	2,436	2,119	2,189	2,087	(70)	(2,087)	**2,119**	2,436									**4,555**
Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Bettws	747	-	747	747				**747**										**747**
Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Bridgend	550	-	550	53				**53**	497									**550**
Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Ogmore	807	-	807	807				**807**										**807**
Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Porthcawl	550	-	550	53				**53**	497									**550**
Welsh Medium Childcare Provision - Highways Schemes	100		100	100				**100**										**100**
Maes Yr Haul Primary School Solar Panels	32	32		32				**32**										**32**
Cynffig Comprehensive School External Canopy	42	42		42				**42**										**42**
ICT for School Kitchens	40	40		40				**40**										**40**
Litchard Primary School Solar Panels	43	43	-	43				**43**										**43**
Total Education and Family Support	**67,971**	**28,714**	**39,257**	**15,436**	**2,436**	**-**	**(6,984)**	**10,888**	**10,449**	**6,051**	**29,528**	**10,302**	**753**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**67,971**
Social Services and Well-being																		
Adult Social Care																		
Bridgend Recreation	150	150		150				**150**										**150**
Bryngarw Park- Access	49	49		49				**49**										**49**
Bryn Y Cae	40	40		40				**40**										**40**
Trem Y Mor	175	175		175				**175**										**175**
Ty Cwm Ogwr Care Home	340	340		340				**340**										**340**
Wellbeing Minor Works	163	163		163				**163**										**163**
Bakers Way	10	10	-	10				**10**										**10**
Glan Yr Afon Care Home	51	51	-	51				**51**										**51**
Children's Residential Accommodation Hub	2,036	2,036	-	100				**100**	1,936									**2,036**
Hartshorn House	68	68		67		1		**68**										**68**
Culture																		
Community Centres	280	280		280				**280**										**280**
HALO and AWEN Accessibility	150	150		150				**150**										**150**
Total Social Services and Well-being	**3,512**	**3,512**	**-**	**1,575**	**-**	**1**	**-**	**1,576**	**1,936**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**3,512**
Communities																		
Street Scene								**-**										
Community Play Areas	796	796	-	100				**100**	696									**796**
Parks/Pavilions/Community Centres CAT	580	580	-	580				**580**										**580**
Aber Playing Fields	11	11		11				**11**										**11**
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal	7,691	7,691	-					**-**	3,138	4,451	103							**7,691**

	Total 2021-2031			2021-2022					FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
	Total Cost £'000	BCBC Funding £'000	External Funding £'000	Council October 2021 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Vire £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised 2021-22 £'000	2022-2023 £'000	2023-2024 £'000	2024-2025 £'000	2025-2026 £'000	2026-2027 £'000	2027-2028 £'000	2028-2029 £'000	2029-2030 £'000	2030-2031 £'000	Total 2021 - 2031 £'000
Town Beach Revetment Sea Defence, Porthcawl	27	27		27				**27**										**27**
Accessibility & Safety Road Improvements	148	-	148	148				**148**										**148**
Coychurch Crem Works	815	-	815	815			(465)	**350**	465									**815**
Remedial Measures - Car Parks	135	135	-	135			(135)	**-**	135									**135**
Civil Parking Enforcement	38	38	-	38			(30)	**8**	30									**38**
Road Safety	336	336	-	336			(136)	**200**	136									**336**
Pyle to Porthcawl Phase 1	348		348	348				**348**										**348**
Active travel Bridgend to Pencoed Phase 2	1,841	-	1,841	1,841				**1,841**										**1,841**
Road Safety Improvements	229		229	229				**229**										**229**
Highways Structural Works	3,485	3,485	-	344		81		**425**	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	**3,485**
Carriageway Capital Works	2,505	2,505	-	255				**255**	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	**2,505**
Road Safety Improvements - Heol Mostyn	540	540	-	540				**540**										**540**
Prow Capital Improvement Programme	181	181		181				**181**										**181**
Highways Refurbishment Grant	810	-	810	810				**810**										**810**
Carriageway Resurfacing & Renewal of Footways	1,560	1,560	-	1,560				**1,560**										**1,560**
Replacement of Street Lighting Columns	3,988	3,988	-	388				**388**	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	**3,988**
Bridge Strengthening - A4061 Ogmore Valley	51	51	-	51				**51**										**51**
Communities Minor Works	461	461	-	461				**461**										**461**
River Bridge Protection Measures	80	80	-	161		(81)		**80**										**80**
Resilient Roads Fund	475		475	475				**475**										**475**
Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle Transformation Fund	462		462	462				**462**										**462**
Fleet Transition Ultra Low Emmissions Vehicles	300	-	300		300			**300**										**300**
Pyle Park and Ride Metro	180		180		180			**180**										**180**
Local Transport Fund - Penprysg Road Bridge	150	-	150		150			**150**										**150**
Safe Routes-	174	-	174	174				**174**										**174**
Residents Parking Bridgend Town Centre	128	128	-	128			(100)	**28**	100									**128**
Fleet Vehicles	1,376	1,376	-	1,376			(1,376)	**-**	1,376									**1,376**
Re-locate Household Waste Recycling Centre - West	798	798	-	798				**798**										**798**
AHP Waste	207	207	-	207				**207**										**207**
Extension to Cornelly Cemetery	301	301	-	301			(235)	**66**	235									**301**
Extension to Porthcawl Cemetery	199	199	-	199			(180)	**19**	180									**199**
Street Lighting Energy Efficiency	629	629		629				**629**										**629**
S106 Highways Small Schemes	60	-	60	60				**60**										**60**
Traffic Signal Replacement	250	250		250				**250**										**250**
Fire Suppression System Tondu Waste Depot	140	140		140				**140**										**140**
Regeneration & Development																		
Business Support Framework	135	135	-	135				**135**										**135**
Porthcawl Resort Investment Focus	70	50	20	70				**70**										**70**
Special Regeneration Funding	455	455		880		(425)		**455**										**455**
Cosy Corner (PRIF)	2,115	1,115	1,000	1,885		230	(1,965)	**150**	1,965									**2,115**
VRP- Bryngarw Country Park	164	-	164	151		13		**164**										**164**
VRP - Parc Slip	75	-	75	88		(13)		**75**										**75**
Tri Thematic Projects (UCPE and UCLG)	687	-	687	687				**687**										**687**
Transforming Towns Bridgend College Relocation	650	195	455	650	(195)	195		**650**										**650**
Porthcawl Regeneration	2,541	2,541	-	2,541			(2,441)	**100**	2,441									**2,541**
Berwyn Centre and Ogmore Vale Washeries	183		183	183				**183**										**183**
Covid recovery for town centres	334		334	334				**334**										**334**
Economic Stimulus Grant	831	831	-	831				**831**										**831**
Coastal Risk Management Programme	6,459	6,459		6,309			(2,000)	**4,309**	2,150									**6,459**
Llynfi Valley Development Programme	2,260	2,260	-	2,260				**2,260**										**2,260**
Bridgend Heat Scheme	3,390	2,323	1,067	390				**390**	3,000									**3,390**
Maesteg Town Hall Cultural Hub	5,671	2,717	2,954	5,671			(2,976)	**2,695**	2,976									**5,671**
Town & Community Council Fund	674	674	-	224			(150)	**74**	200	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	**674**
Caerau Heat Network	6,293	1,168	5,125					**-**	5,904	389								**6,293**
Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative	134	134	-	15				**15**	119									**134**
Commercial Property Enhancement Fund	150	150		150			(90)	**60**	90									**150**
Corporate Landlord																		
Capital Asset Management Fund	820	820	-	820			(820)	**-**	820									**820**
Corporate Landlord - Energy Savings Strategy	1,279	1,279		1,279				**1,279**										**1,279**
Enterprise Hub - Innovation Centre	1,937	589	1,348	1,902			(1,802)	**100**	1,837									**1,937**
Raven's Court	447	447		447				**447**										**447**

	Total 2021-2031			2021-2022					FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
	Total Cost £'000	BCBC Funding £'000	External Funding £'000	Council October 2021 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Vire £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised 2021-22 £'000	2022-2023 £'000	2023-2024 £'000	2024-2025 £'000	2025-2026 £'000	2026-2027 £'000	2027-2028 £'000	2028-2029 £'000	2029-2030 £'000	2030-2031 £'000	Total 2021 - 2031 £'000
Bridgend Market	10	10	-	10				**10**										**10**
DDA Works	408	408	-	408				**408**										**408**
Minor Works	10,465	10,465	-	296		(1)		**295**	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	**10,465**
Fire Precautions	249	249	-	249				**249**										**249**
Bryncethin Depot Facilities	531	531	-	370	161			**531**										**531**
Non-Operational Assets	480	480	-	480				**480**										**480**
Waterton Upgrade	8,144	8,144	-	8,144			(8,144)	**-**	8,144									**8,144**
Evergreen Hall	130	130	-	130				**130**										**130**
Investing in Communities	47	47	-	47				**47**										**47**
Total Communities	**90,703**	**71,299**	**19,404**	**52,594**	**596**	**(1)**	**(23,045)**	**30,144**	**38,257**	**7,010**	**2,273**	**2,170**	**2,170**	**2,170**	**2,170**	**2,170**	**2,170**	**90,703**
Chief Executive's																		
Housing / Homelessness																		
Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)	17,742	17,020	722	2,039		(47)		**1,992**	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	**17,742**
Target Hardening Grants	19	19	-	11		8		**19**										**19**
Discretionary Housing Grants	2,000	2,000		200				**200**	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	**2,000**
Housing Renewal / Empty Properties	1,018	1,018	-	118				**118**	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	**1,018**
Valleys Taskforce Empty Properties Grant	300	105	195	300				**300**										**300**
Comfort Safe & Security Grants	4	4		4				**4**										**4**
Western Valley Empty Homes Pilot	260	91	169	260				**260**										**260**
Emergency Repair Lifetime Grant	78	78	-	39		39		**78**										**78**
Enable Grant	1,008	-	1,008	198				**198**	270	270	270							**1,008**
Health and Wellbeing Village	480	-	480	480				**480**										**480**
ICT																		
Investment in ICT	4,050	4,050	-	423		27		**450**	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	**4,050**
WCCIS Hardware Refresh	1,352		1,352	1,352				**1,352**										**1,352**
Digital Transformation	200	200	-	200				**200**										**200**
Replacement CCTV	667	667		667				**667**										**667**
Total Chief Executive's	**29,178**	**25,252**	**3,926**	**6,291**	**-**	**27**	**-**	**6,318**	**2,720**	**2,720**	**2,720**	**2,450**	**2,450**	**2,450**	**2,450**	**2,450**	**2,450**	**29,178**
Council Wide Capital Budgets																		
Corporate Capital Fund	1,973	1,973		200		(27)		**173**	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	**1,973**
Unallocated	19,102	19,102	-	504				**504**	495	1,679	1,679	343	2,962	3,194	1,858	3,194	3,194	**19,102**
Total Council Wide Capital budgets	**21,075**	**21,075**	**-**	**704**	**-**	**(27)**	**-**	**677**	**695**	**1,879**	**1,879**	**543**	**3,162**	**3,394**	**2,058**	**3,394**	**3,394**	**21,075**
Total Expenditure	**212,439**	**149,852**	**62,587**	**76,600**	**3,032**	**-**	**(30,029)**	**49,603**	**54,057**	**17,660**	**36,400**	**15,465**	**8,535**	**8,014**	**6,678**	**8,014**	**8,014**	**212,439**
Expected Capital Resources																		
General Capital Funding																		
General Capital Funding - General Capital Grant	31,758	31,758	-	3,963				**3,963**	2,725	3,270	3,270	2,725	3,270	3,270	2,725	3,270	3,270	**31,758**
General Capital Funding - Supported Borrowing	44,276	44,276	-	3,953				**3,953**	3,953	4,744	4,744	3,953	4,744	4,744	3,953	4,744	4,744	**44,276**
Capital Receipts - Schools	3,184	3,184	-	576			(268)	**308**	268		1,762	846						**3,184**
Capital Receipts - General	20,304	20,304	-	18,128		(180)	(13,613)	**4,335**	15,448				521					**20,304**
Earmarked Reserves	31,856	31,856	-	15,557		(180)	(6,745)	**8,632**	12,671	5,300	5,254							**31,856**
Revenue Contribution	1,346	1,346	-	1,147		360	(413)	**1,094**	252									**1,346**
Prudential Borrowing (Directorate Funded)	3,474	3,474	-	1,652			(1,652)	**-**	3,474									**3,474**
Prudential Borrowing (Corporately Funded)	3,813	3,813	-	3,813			(2,300)	**1,513**	2,300									**3,813**
Local Govt Borrowing Initiative (Coastal defence)	5,490	5,490	-	5,362			(1,053)	**4,309**	1,181									**5,490**
SALIX Interest Free Loan - WG	2,091	2,091		1,930	161			**2,091**										**2,091**
Llynfi Development Site Loan - WG	2,260	2,260	-	2,260				**2,260**										**2,260**
Sub-Total General Capital Funding	**149,852**	**149,852**	**-**	**58,341**	**161**	**-**	**(26,044)**	**32,458**	**42,272**	**13,314**	**15,030**	**7,524**	**8,535**	**8,014**	**6,678**	**8,014**	**8,014**	**149,852**
External Funding Approvals																		
WG - Highways Grant	810	-	810	810				**810**										**810**
WG - Other	5,096	-	5,096	4,796	300		(2,102)	**2,994**	2,102									**5,096**
WG - 21st Century Schools	33,802	-	33,802					**-**	1,100	3,661	21,100	7,941						**33,802**
School's Capital Maintenance Grant	2,436	-	2,436		2,436			**2,436**										**2,436**
WG - Enable Grant	1,008	-	1,008	198				**198**	270	270	270							**1,008**
WG - Safe Routes in Communities	403	-	403	403				**403**										**403**
WG - Integrated Care Fund (ICF)	1,202	-	1,202	1,202				**1,202**										**1,202**
WG - Welsh Medium Capital Grant	2,754	-	2,754	1,760				**1,760**	994									**2,754**
WG - Infant Class Size Grant	15	-	15	15				**15**										**15**
WG- VRP/Transforming Towns	1,211	-	1,211	1,406	(195)			**1,211**										**1,211**
WG - TRI	687	-	687	687				**687**										**687**
S106	310	-	310	261				**261**	23	26								**310**
Transport Grant	3,604	-	3,604	3,274	330			**3,604**										**3,604**
Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)	682	-	682	682				**682**										**682**

	Total 2021-2031			2021-2022					FUTURE YEARS									CUMULATIVE
	Total Cost £'000	BCBC Funding £'000	External Funding £'000	Council October 2021 £'000	New Approvals £'000	Vire £'000	Slippage £'000	Revised 2021-22 £'000	2022-2023 £'000	2023-2024 £'000	2024-2025 £'000	2025-2026 £'000	2026-2027 £'000	2027-2028 £'000	2028-2029 £'000	2029-2030 £'000	2030-2031 £'000	Total 2021 - 2031 £'000
Westminster	390	-	390	390				**390**										**390**
EU	6,493	-	6,493	1,368			(1,248)	**120**	5,984	389								**6,493**
Other	1,074	-	1,074	1,007			(635)	**372**	702									**1,074**
Sub-Total External Funding Approvals	**62,587**	**-**	**62,587**	**18,259**	**2,871**	**-**	**(3,985)**	**17,145**	**11,785**	**4,346**	**21,370**	**7,941**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**62,587**
Total Funding Available	**212,439**	**149,852**	**62,587**	**76,600**	**3,032**	**-**	**(30,029)**	**49,603**	**54,057**	**17,660**	**36,400**	**15,465**	**8,535**	**8,014**	**6,678**	**8,014**	**8,014**	**212,439**
Funding Shortfall/(Surplus)	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

APPENDIX C

PRUDENTIAL AND OTHER INDICATORS 2021-22

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 2020-21 actual capital expenditure, the capital programme approved by Council on 24 February 2021 and the latest projection for the current financial year which has incorporated slippage of schemes from 2020-21 together with any new grants and contributions or changes in the profile of funding.

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2020-21 Actual £m	2021-22 Estimate (Council Feb 21) £m	2021-22 Projection £m
Council Fund services	23.461	61.883	49.123
Investment Properties	-	0.480	0.480
TOTAL	**23.461**	**62.363**	**49.603**

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

	2020-21 Actual £m	2021-22 Estimate (Council Feb 21) £m	2021-22 Projection £m
External sources	15.583	16.563	21.108
Own resources	1.511	30.939	14.369
Net Financing Requirement	6.367	14.861	14.126
TOTAL	**23.461**	**62.363**	**49.603**

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

	2020-21 Actual £m	2021-22 Estimate (Council Feb 21) £m	2021-22 Projection £m
Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	2.927	**2.997**	**2.969**
Additional Voluntary Revenue Provision	1.502	**1.925**	**1.832**
Total MRP & VRP	**4.429**	**4.922**	**4.801**
Other MRP on Long term Liabilities	**0.743**	**0.801**	**0.801**
Total Own Resources	**5.172**	**5.723**	**5.602**

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 3:

Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement

	2020-21 Actual £m	2021-22 Estimate £m	2021-22 Projection £m
Capital Financing Requirement			
Opening CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	155.466	157.405	157.405
Opening PFI CFR	16.310	15.566	15.566
Total opening CFR	**171.776**	**172.971**	**172.971**
Movement in CFR excluding PFI & other liabilities	1.938	9.939	9.325
Movement in PFI CFR	(0.743)	(0.801)	(0.801)
Total movement in CFR	**1.195**	**9.138**	**8.524**
Closing CFR	**172.971**	**182.109**	**181.495**
Movement in CFR represented by:			
Net financing need for year (Table 2 above)	6.367	14.861	14.126
Minimum and voluntary revenue provisions	(4.429)	(4.922)	(4.801)
MRP on PFI and other long term leases (Table 3)	(0.743)	(0.801)	(0.801)
Total movement	**1.195**	**9.138**	**8.524**

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

	2020-21 Actual £m	2021-22 Estimate (Council Feb 21) £m	2021-22 Projection £m
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	113.670	**120.545**	**114.200**
Capital Financing Requirement	172.971	**182.109**	**181.495**

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 guidance.

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

	2020-21 Actual £m	2021-22 Estimate (Council Feb 21) £m	2021-22 Projection £m
Authorised limit – borrowing	170.000	**170.000**	170.000
Authorised limit – other long term liabilities	30.000	**30.000**	30.000
Authorised Limit Total	**200.00**	**200.000**	**200.000**
Operational boundary – borrowing	120.000	**130.000**	130.000
Operational boundary – other long term liabilities	25.000	**25.000**	25.000
Operational Boundary Limit Total	**145.000**	**155.000**	**155.000**
Total Borrowing and Long Term Liabilities	**113.670**	**120.545**	**114.200**

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

	2020-21 Actual £m	2021-22 Estimate (Council Feb 21) £m	2021-22 Projection £m
Capital Financing Central	6.623	6.707	6.597
Other Financing costs	3.448	3.872	3.779
TOTAL FINANCING COSTS	**10.072**	**10.579**	**10.376**
Proportion of net revenue stream	3.71%	3.89%	3.81%

This shows that in 2021-22, 3.81% of our net revenue income will be spent paying back the costs of capital expenditure.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to consult with the Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and other relevant bodies in relation to:

- The extension of the existing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) relating to control of alcohol
- The extension of the existing PSPO relating to the restriction on access to public space in the area between Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg
- The extension of the existing PSPO relating to Dog Control
- Varying the control of the alcohol area in Bridgend to include the area known as the play park on Quarella Road, Wildmill
- Noting that following the consultation, a further report will be made to cabinet for a decision on extending and varying the PSPO

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**:

- **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 Anti-social behaviour is a broad term to describe the day to day incidents of crime, nuisance and disorder that make many people's lives a misery: from litter and

vandalism, to public drunkenness or aggressive dogs, to noisy or abusive neighbours. Such a wide range of behaviours means that responsibility for dealing with anti-social behaviour is shared between a number of agencies, particularly the police, councils and social landlords. The Home Office has reformed the anti-social behaviour powers to give professionals the increased flexibility they need to deal with certain situations.

3.2 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act') makes provision about anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder. The Act sets out the following 6 new tools for responsible bodies and responsible authorities:

i. Injunction
ii. Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO)
iii. Dispersal power
iv. Community Protection Notice (CPN)
v. Closure Power
vi. Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO)

3.3 The existing PSPO in Bridgend County Borough was enacted on 18 June 2019 and relates to control of alcohol, restriction of access to public space and dog control. It expires on 18 June 2022. A PSPO remains in place for three years unless discharged by the local authority.

3.4 A PSPO is an effective deterrent to deal with particular nuisance or problems in a specified area that is detrimental to the quality of life of the local community.

3.5 A PSPO works by imposing conditions on the use of a specified area, which applies to everyone. A PSPO is designed to ensure that residents and visitors can enjoy public spaces without experiencing anti-social behaviour.

3.6 In accordance with s60 (2) of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Police Act 2014, ('the Act') a PSPO may not have effect for more than 3 years, unless extended under s60. This section permits a local authority to extend a PSPO where it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent an occurrence or recurrence of the activities identified in the order or to prevent an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities.

3.7 The introduction of the PSPO for the control of alcohol in public spaces has enabled the police to remove alcohol from those that are engaging or likely to engage in anti-social behaviour.

3.8 The PSPO for Dog Control enables officers from Bridgend County Borough Council to give direction in regards to dogs off lead and dogs causing nuisance in a public place. This includes dog fouling and other related issues.

3.9 The PSPO which restricts public access to the area between Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street has seen a reduction in the number of reports of anti-social behaviour in that area.

3.10 The existing PSPO has enabled the Council and Police to take preventative enforcement action in public places. Detailed information is outlined below.

3.11 Dog Control Order

This relates to all public open spaces throughout the borough and imposes the following conditions on the use of that land:-

a) Person(s) within the Restricted Area will collect and dispose of the faeces of dogs within their control by removing it and depositing the dog faeces in a bag which should be left in a litter bin or taken home

b) Person(s) within the Restricted Area who have dogs within their control must carry bags or other suitable means for the collection of dog faeces

c) Person(s) within the Restricted Area must when requested to do so by an Authorised Officer place dogs in their control on a lead. The Authorised Officer must specify the location and duration covered by a direction given under Paragraph 6 (C) of this Order.

3.12 Alcohol consumption in a prohibited area.

a) Any person who without reasonable excuse continues consuming alcohol in the Restricted Area when asked to desist by a Police Officer, Police Community Support Officer or authorised person from the Council under Section 63 of the Act, or fails to surrender any intoxicating substance in his possession when asked to do so by a Police Officer, Police Community Support Officer or authorised person from the Council under Section 63 commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (currently £500.00) or if in receipt of a Fixed Penalty Notice, to a penalty of a maximum of £100.00.

b) It is not an offence to drink alcohol in a controlled drinking area. It is an offence to fail to comply with a request to stop drinking or surrender alcohol in the area covered by the PSPO.

3.13 Restriction of Public Access (Gating)

a) The PSPO restricts public rights of way of the restricted area covering the rear lane between Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg in Bridgend County by the installation of lockable steel swing gates.

b) Access is restricted between Monday to Saturday during the hours of 17:30 on one day and 09:00 on the next and on Sunday and every bank holiday for 24 hours.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Before the Council can make, extend or vary a PSPO there is a procedure set down by statute which must be followed. In particular a Local Authority must carry out the necessary consultation, the necessary publication and the necessary notification (if any).

Necessary consultation means that a Local Authority must consult with:

I. the chief officer of police and the local policing body for the police area that includes the restricted area (statutory guidance issued states that this should be done through the chief officer of and the Police and Crime Commissioner but details could be agreed by working level leads).

II. any community representatives the local authority thinks it is appropriate to consult (community representative means any individual or body appearing to the authority to represent the views of people who live in, work in or visit the restricted area). Community representatives could include residents' groups or particular groups of individuals who use a local amenity (e.g. regular users of the park or specific activities such as busking or other types of street entertainment).

III. the owner or occupier of land within the restricted area (this does not apply to land owned and occupied by the Local Authority and applies only if, or to the extent that, it is reasonably practicable to consult the owner or occupier of the land).

4.2 If approved the statutory consultation will commence on 7 February 2022 and continue for 12 weeks.

4.3 The Consultation will:

- Seek views on the extension of the current PSPO relating to alcohol control in Caerau, Pencoed, Porthcawl, Maesteg and Bridgend on identical terms. A copy of the current order is attached at **Appendix 1.**

- Seek views on extending the area covered by the Bridgend PSPO relating to alcohol control to include the area known as the play park on Quarella Road, Wildmill, Bridgend. A map indicating the extended area is attached at **Appendix 2.**

- Seek views on extending the PSPO that restricts access between Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street, Monday to Saturday between 17:30 on one day and 09:00 on the next and on Sundays and all bank holidays for 24 hours. A copy of the current order is attached at **Appendix 1.**

- Seek views on the extension of the current PSPO regarding dog control in Bridgend County on identical terms. A copy of the current order is attached at **Apprendix 3.**

4.4 It is not intended to extend the PSPO relating to restricting access between Wesley Street and Lloyd Street, Caerau. A copy of the current order is attached at **Appendix 1.**

4.5 If a premises/area is licenced to service alcohol by way of a temporary events notice or another type of licence under the Licensing Act 2003, the PSPO will not be effective for the period of that licence.

4.6 As recommended in the Local Government Association Guidance for PSPO's, the PSPO relating to the restriction of public access shall not apply to any registered owner of, or person who lives in or works in, premises adjoining the Restricted Area, or to any police, ambulance or fire service personnel, acting in pursuance of statutory powers or duties or to any statutory undertaker, gas, electricity, water or communications provider requiring access to their apparatus situated in the

Restricted Area, or persons and/or vehicles required, where necessary, in connection with maintenance work or other function of the Council. As such, keys are held by all relevant commercial premises and residential premses which have access to the area covered by the gates and are also held in Maesteg Police Station, by Council Community Safety Partnership officers and by Council Highways department.

4.7 The PSPO relating to dog control shall not apply to Disabled persons as defined by the Equality Act 2010 where the person suffers from a disability which would prevent them from collecting their dog faeces.

4.8 All Town and Community Councils in the areas covered by the PSPO will be notified.

4.9 Specific consultees outlined in the legislation will be contacted directly via letter. These are:

- Elected members as representatives of their constituients
- The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- The South Wales Police Chief Superintendent for the area
- All town and community councils
- Bridgend Association of Voluntary Associations (BAVO)
- Bridgend Business Against Crime (BBAC)
- Bridgend Dogs Trust

4.10 An on line survey will be available on the BCBC website. This will be promoted via social media platforms to individuals who who live in, work in, or visit Bridgend County.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 No effect upon policity framework and procedure rules result from this report.

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.

6.2 Full Equality Impact Assessments were carried out when the PSPOs were created in 2018.

6.3 A new EIA screening will be carried out when the consultation questions are developed and the results of that screening reported to cabinet alongside the consulation report to inform whether a further full EIA is required.

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

7.1 The recommendations in this report demonstrate the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and this is evidenced through the 5 ways of working:

- Long term – the report seeks to address the long term problems associated with anti-social behaviour. These include addressing issues relating to control of dogs, issues associated with the consumption of alcohol in public areas and other forms of anti-social behaviour
- Prevention – working with partners to prevent the negative effects of anti-social behaviour on those living, working or visiting Bridgend County Borough
- Integration – the project contributes to the wellbeing goals: a healthier Wales, a Resilient Wales, and a Wales of Cohesive Communities and to the Wellbeing objective Supporting communities in Bridgend to be Safe and Cohesive
- Collaboration – the initiative is a collaboration between Bridgend County Borough Council Communities Directorate ,the Bridgend Community Safety Partnership South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Involvement – the consultation with partners, stakeholders, local residents, communities and elected members will inform the decision of whether to extend the PSPOs.

8. Financial implications

8.1 If the extension to the PSPO is approved there will be costs associated with signage, promotional leaflets and maintenance of the steel gates.

8.2 The estimated costs are:

Design, manufacture and fixing of hard signs	£1500
Printing	£ 500
Annual maintenance of steel gates	£ 250 per annum

Total equals £2250 in the first year, then an annual cost of £250 for the 3 year life of the order. These costs will be funded from the Community Safety budget.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet give approval for a public consultation to approve the proposed extension of the Public Space Protection Order as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of this report, specifically:

- The extension of the current PSPO relating to alcohol control in Caerau, Pencoed, Porthcawl, Maesteg and Bridgend on identical terms.

- Extending the area covered by the current Bridgend PSPO relating to alcohol control to include the area known as the play area, Quarella Road, Wildmill, Bridgend.

- Extending the current PSPO that restricts access between Talbot Street and Plasnewydd on identical terms
- Extension of the current PSPO regarding Dog control in Bridgend County on identical terms.

9.2 Cabinet is also asked to note that, following the consultation, a further report will be made to cabinet for a decision on extending and varying the PSPO.

CARYS LORD
CHIEF OFFICER, FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE
18 JANUARY 2022

Contact officer: Judith Jones
Partnership and Community Safety Manager

Telephone: (01656) 642759

Email: Judith.Jones@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Centre
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

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Appendix 1

Public Spaces Protection Order
Covering the lane to the rear of Wesley Street and Lloyd Street, Caerau, Maesteg

Bridgend County Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Section 59, 64 and 72 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") hereby makes the following Order:-

1. This Order shall come into operation on 18 June 2019 and shall have an effect for 3 years thereafter, unless extended by further order under the Council's statutory powers.

2. This Order relates to the Highway to the rear of Wesley Street and Lloyd Street, Caerau, and specified on the attached Plan Gating Order covering the lane to the rear to Wesley Street and Lloyd Street, Caerau and specified on the attached plan (Schedule 2 Wesley Street and Lloyd street Gating Order) ("the Restricted Area"). This is land to which the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 applies and will be protected by the making of this Proposed Order.

3. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (2) of the Act have been met. Namely, that anti-social behaviour and criminal activities have been carried out within the Restricted Area. These activities have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, and it is likely that the activities will be carried out within that area and have such an effect.

4. The Council is also satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (3) of the Act have been met. Namely, that the effect or likely effect of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature and that these activities are unreasonable and justify the restrictions imposed by this Order and that it is in all the circumstances expedient to make this Order for the purpose of reducing crime and/or anti-social behaviour in a public place.

5. The Proposed Order may be cited as the Bridgend County Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order for the Borough covering the Rear Lane between Wesley Street and Lloyd Street, Caerau, Maesteg

By this Proposed Order

6. The effect of this Order will be to restrict the public right of way over the Restricted Area between Monday to Saturday during the hours of 5.30pm on one day and 9.00am on the next and on Sunday and every Public Holiday, for 24 hours. The winter and summer timings will mirror the Greenwich Mean Time and British Summer Time schedules. This Order authorises the installation of lockable swing gates which will enforce the restriction.

7. The restriction in Article 6 of this Order shall not apply to any registered owner of, or person who lives in or works in, premises adjoining the Restricted Area, or to any police, ambulance or fire service personnel, acting in pursuance of statutory powers or duties or to any statutory undertaker, gas, electricity, water or communications provider requiring access to their apparatus situated in the Restricted Area, or persons and/or vehicles required, where necessary, in connection with maintenance work or other function of the Council.

8. This Order authorises the installation of barriers which will enforce the restriction.

9. Responsibility for the maintenance of the barriers will lie with Bridgend County Borough Council who can be contacted at any time on 01656 643643

10. There are alternative routes available via Wesley Street, Lloyd Street, the un-named road that runs between Wesley Street and Lloyd Street and Library Road

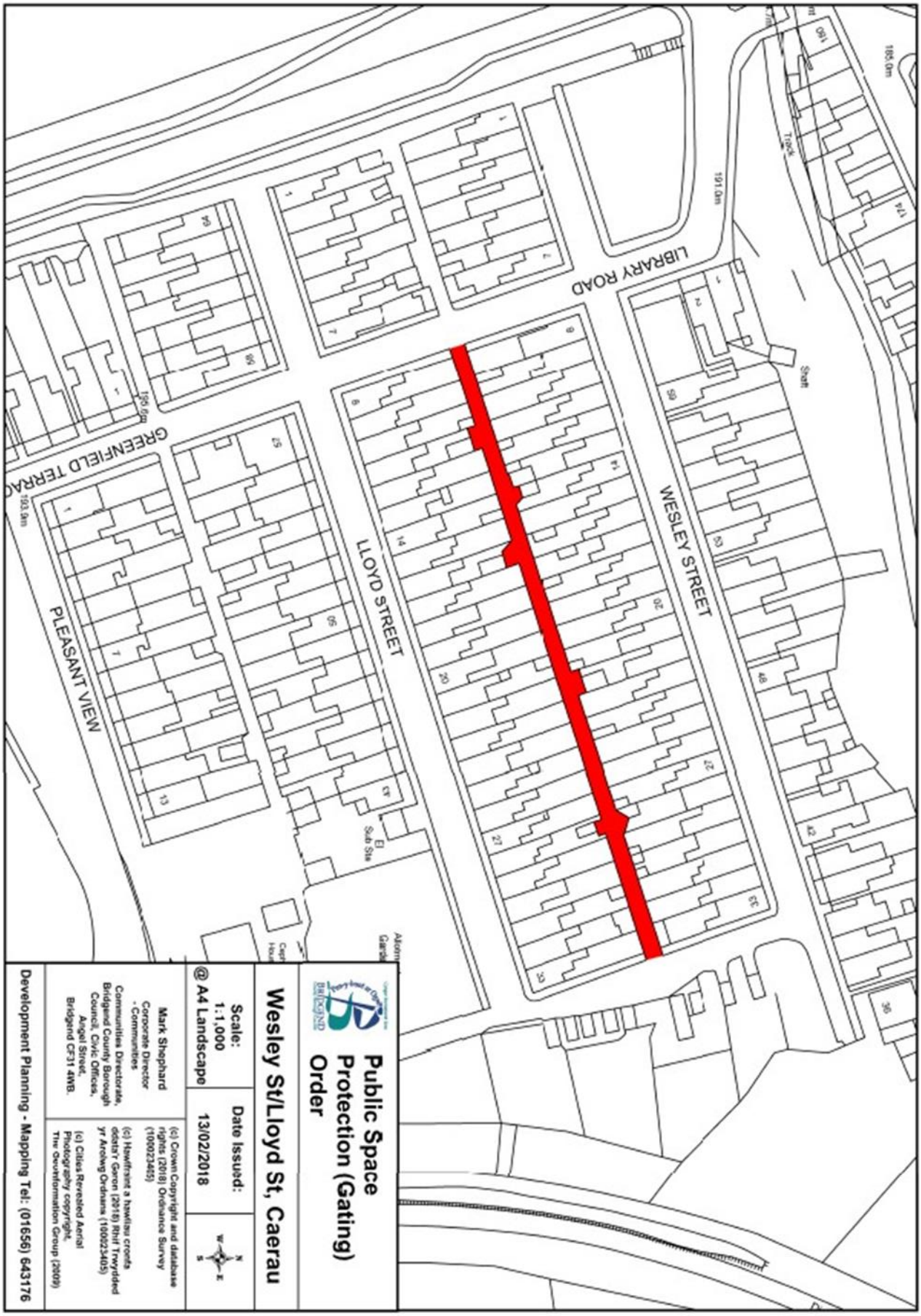
11. In consulting regarding this Proposed Order the Council has had particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

12. In accordance with section 66 of the Act, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or that a requirement under the Act has not been complied with may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date upon which the Order is made.

Given under the Common Seal of
Bridgend County Borough Council

On the

18 June 2019


LIBRARY ROAD
WESLEY STREET
LLOYD STREET
GREENFIELD TERRACE
PLEASANT VIEW
Shaft
El Sub Sta
191.0m
185.0m
195.6m
193.9m
Public Space Protection (Gating) Order
Wesley St/Lloyd St, Caerau
Scale: 1:1,000 @ A4 Landscape
Date Issued: 13/02/2018
Mark Shephard
Corporate Director - Communities
Communities Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB.
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Development Planning - Mapping Tel: (01656) 643176

Public Spaces Protection Order
Covering the Rear Lane between
Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg, Bridgend

Bridgend County Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Section 59, 64 and 72 of the Anti-social
Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") hereby makes the following Order:-

13. This Order shall come into operation on 18 June 2019 and shall have an effect for 3 years thereafter, unless extended by further order under the Council's statutory powers.

14. This Order relates to the Rear Lane between Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg, Bridgend, and specified on the attached Plan (Schedule 1 Maesteg Gating Order) ("the Restricted Area"). This is land to which the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 applies and will be protected by the making of this Proposed Order.

15. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (2) of the Act have been met. Namely, that anti-social behaviour and criminal activities have been carried out within the Restricted Area. These activities have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and it is likely that the activities will be carried out within that area and have such an effect.

16. The Council is also satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (3) of the Act have been met. Namely, that the effect or likely effect of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature and that these activities are unreasonable and justify the restrictions imposed by this Order and that it is in all the circumstances expedient to make this Order for the purpose of reducing crime and/or anti-social behaviour in a public place.

17. The Proposed Order may be cited as the Bridgend County Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order for the Borough covering the Rear Lane between Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street, Maesteg, Bridgend.

By this Proposed Order

18. The effect of this Order will be to restrict the public right of way over the Restricted Area between Monday to Saturday during the hours of 5.30pm on one day and 9.00am on the next and on Sunday and every Public Holiday, for 24 hours. The winter and summer timings will mirror the Greenwich Mean Time and British Summer Time schedules. This Order authorises the installation of lockable swing gates which will enforce the restriction.

19. The restriction in Article 6 of this Order shall not apply to any registered owner of, or person who lives in or works in, premises adjoining the Restricted Area, or to any police, ambulance or fire service personnel, acting in pursuance of statutory powers or duties or to any statutory undertaker, gas, electricity, water or communications provider requiring access to their apparatus situated in the Restricted Area, or persons and/or vehicles required, where necessary, in connection with maintenance work or other function of the Council.

20. This Order authorises the installation of barriers which will enforce the restriction.

21. Responsibility for the maintenance of the barriers will lie with Bridgend County Borough Council. who can be contacted on 01656 643643 at any time

22. There are alternative routes available via Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street Maesteg and the two unnamed lanes that run between Talbot Street and Plasnewydd Street.

23. In consulting regarding this Proposed Order the Council has had particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

24. In accordance with section 66 of the Act, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or that a requirement under the Act has not been complied with may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date upon which the Order is made.

Given under the Common Seal of
Bridgend County Borough Council

On the

18 June 2019

Public Space Protection (Gating) Order
Talbot Street (r/o), Maesteg
Scale: 1:750 @ A4 Landscape
Date Issued: 13/02/2018
Mark Shephard
Corporate Director - Communities
Communities Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB.
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TALBOT STREET
PLASNEWYDD STREET
CASTLE STREET
Club
Bank
Shelter
Town Hall and Market
Shelters
Monument
War Mem
St David's Church
Sub Sta
El
FB
GP
PC
127.7m
129.5m
125.6m

Public Spaces Protection Order
Covering the Bridgend County Borough Council

Bridgend County Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Section 59 and 72 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act") hereby makes the following Order:-

25. This Order shall come into operation on 18 June 2019 and shall have an effect for 3 years thereafter, unless extended by further order under the Council's statutory powers.

26. The land identified by the appendices map(s) being land in the area of the Council is land to which the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 applies and will be protected by the making of this Proposed Order ("the Restricted Area").

27. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (2) of the Act have been met. Namely, that anti-social behaviour and criminal activities have been carried out within the Restricted Area through the use of intoxicating alcoholic substances. These activities have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, and it is likely that the activities will be carried out within that area and have such an effect.

28. The Council is also satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (3) of the Act have been met. Namely, that the effect or likely effect of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature and that these activities are unreasonable and justify the restrictions imposed by this Order and that it is in all the circumstances expedient to make this Order for the purpose of reducing crime and/or anti-social behaviour in a public place.

29. The Proposed Order may be cited as the Bridgend County Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order for the Borough.

By this Proposed Order

30. The effect of this Order is to impose the following conditions on the use of the land:

(a) Person(s) within the Restricted Area will not consume alcohol, or be in possession of an open container of alcohol, in a public space.

31. The conditions above shall not apply to:

(a) Premises authorised by a premises licence to be used for the supply of alcohol;

(b) Premises authorised by a club premises certificate to be used by the club for the supply of alcohol;

(c) A place within the curtilage of premises within paragraph (a) or (b);

(d) Premises which by virtue of Part 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 may at the relevant time be used for the supply of alcohol or which, by virtue of that Part, could have been so used within 30 minutes before that time;

(e) A place where facilities or activities relating to the sale or consumption of alcohol are at the relevant time permitted by virtue of a permission granted under s 115 of the Highways Act 1980 (highway-related uses)

32. A person guilty of an offence of failing to comply with the Proposed Order under Section 67 of the Act, is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000.00) or if in receipt of a Fixed Penalty Notice to a penalty of a maximum £100.00.

i. No proceedings may be taken for the offence before the end of the 14 day period following the date of notice; and
ii. The person may not be convicted of the offence if the person pays the fixed penalty before the end of that period.

33. Any person who without reasonable excuse continues consuming alcohol in the Restricted Area when asked to desist by a Police Officer, Police Community Support Officer or authorised person from the Council under Section 63, or fails to surrender any intoxicating substance in his possession when asked to do so by a Police Officer, Police Community Support Officer or authorised person from the Council under Section 63 commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (currently £500.00) or if in receipt of a Fixed Penalty Notice to a penalty of a maximum of £100.00.

34. In consulting regarding this Proposed Order the Council has had particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

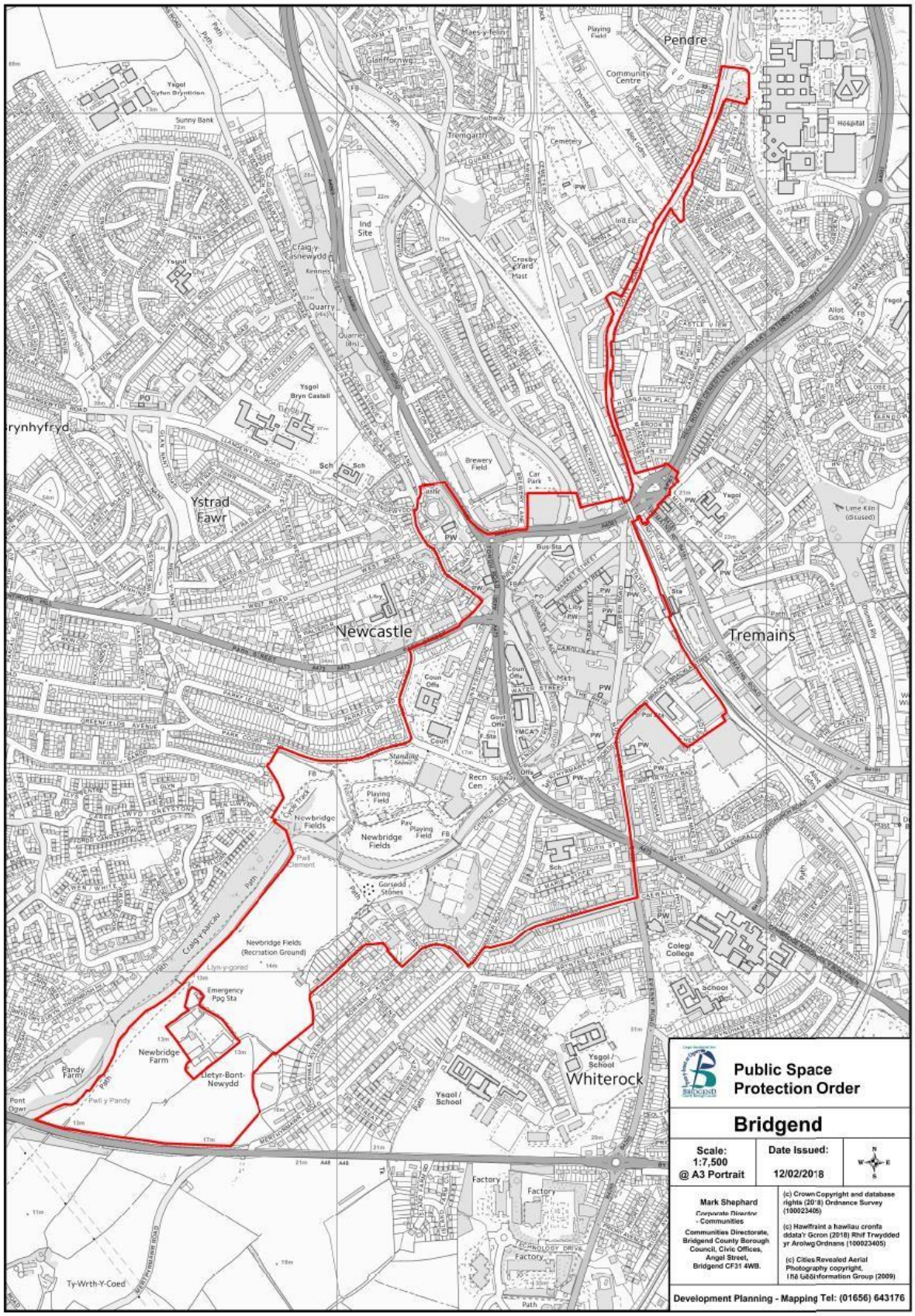
35. In accordance with section 66 of the Act, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or that a requirement under the Act has not been complied with may apply to the High Court within six weeks from the date upon which the Order is made.

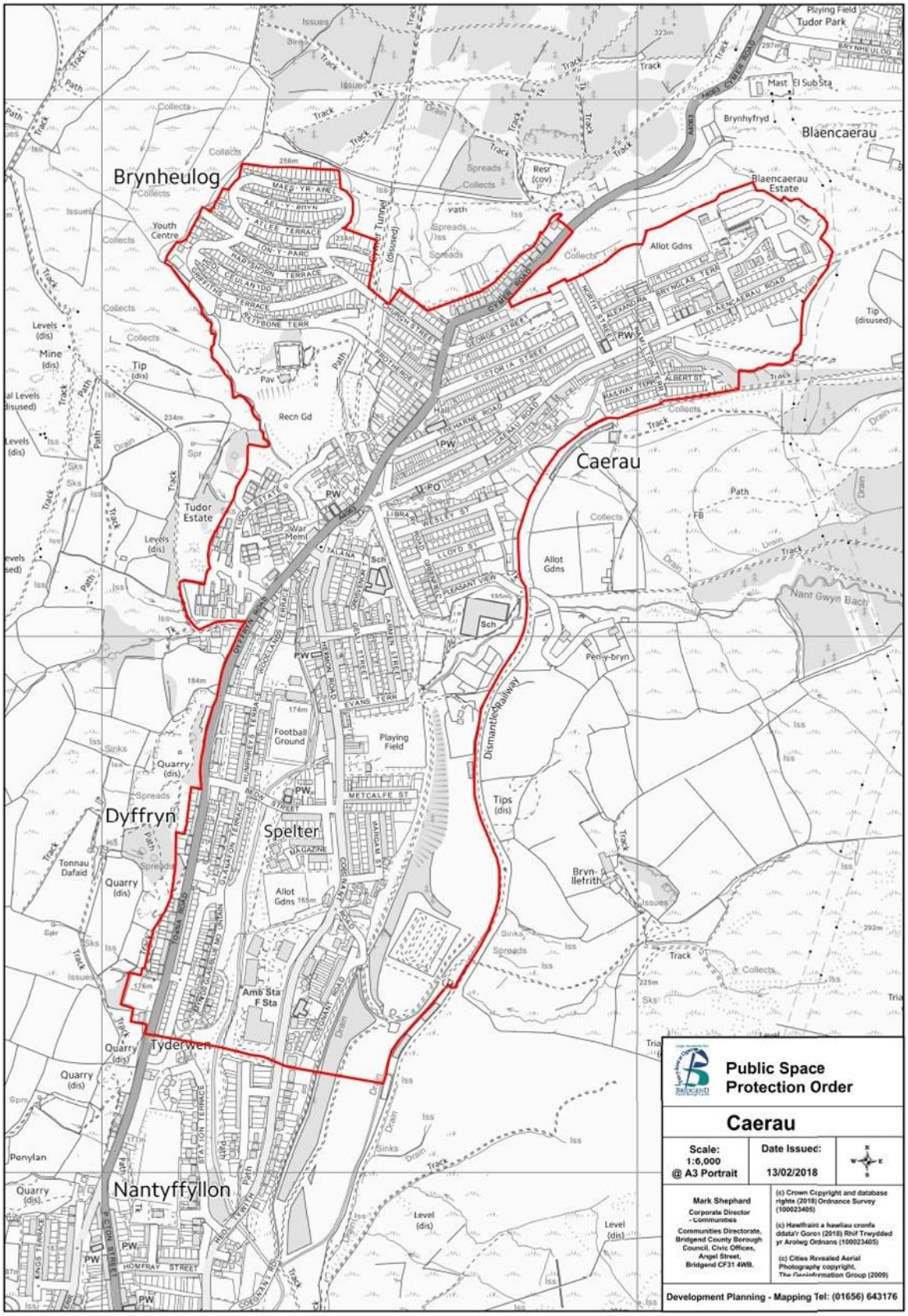
Given under the Common Seal of
Bridgend County Borough Council

On the

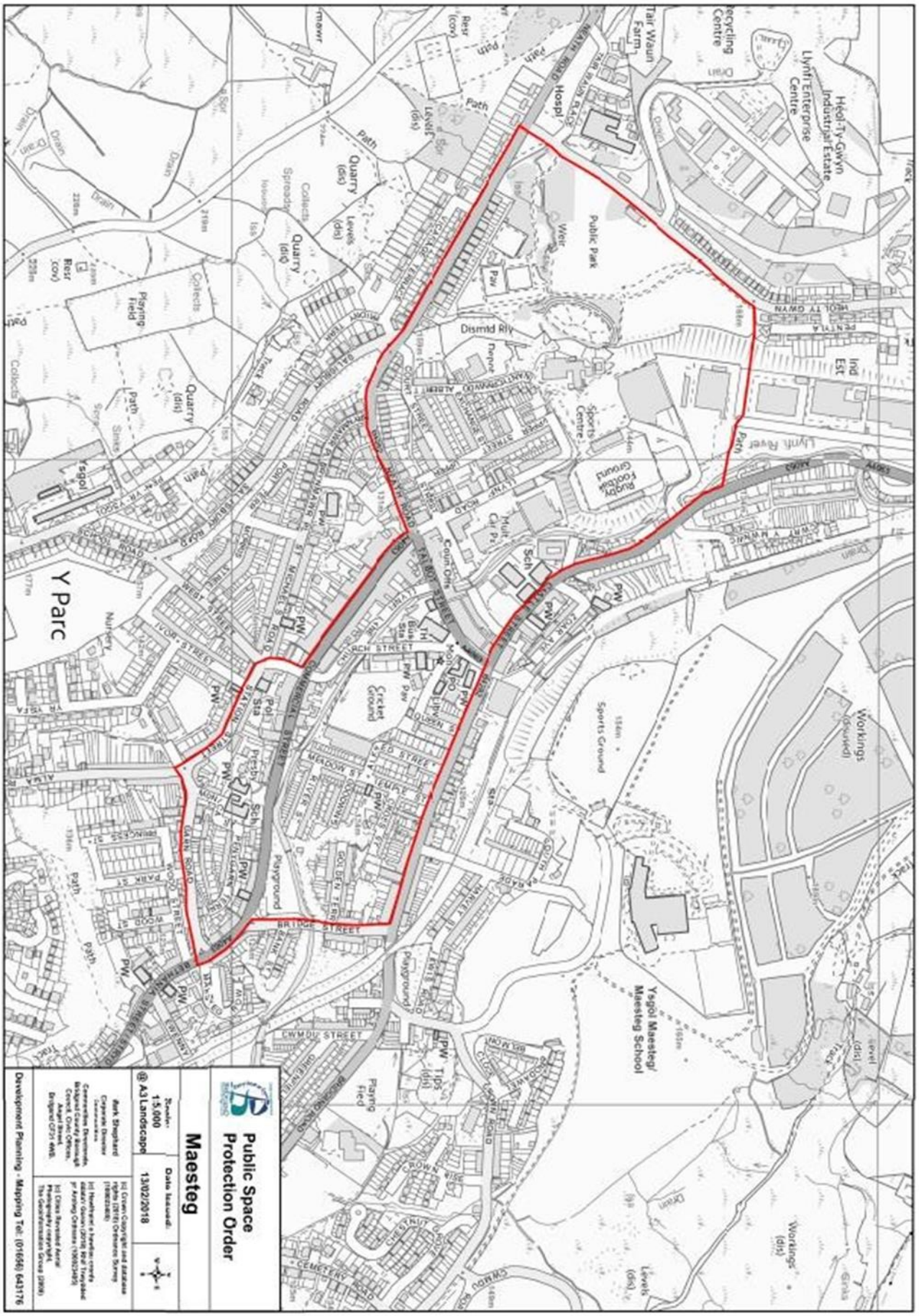
18 June 2019

Appendix 1

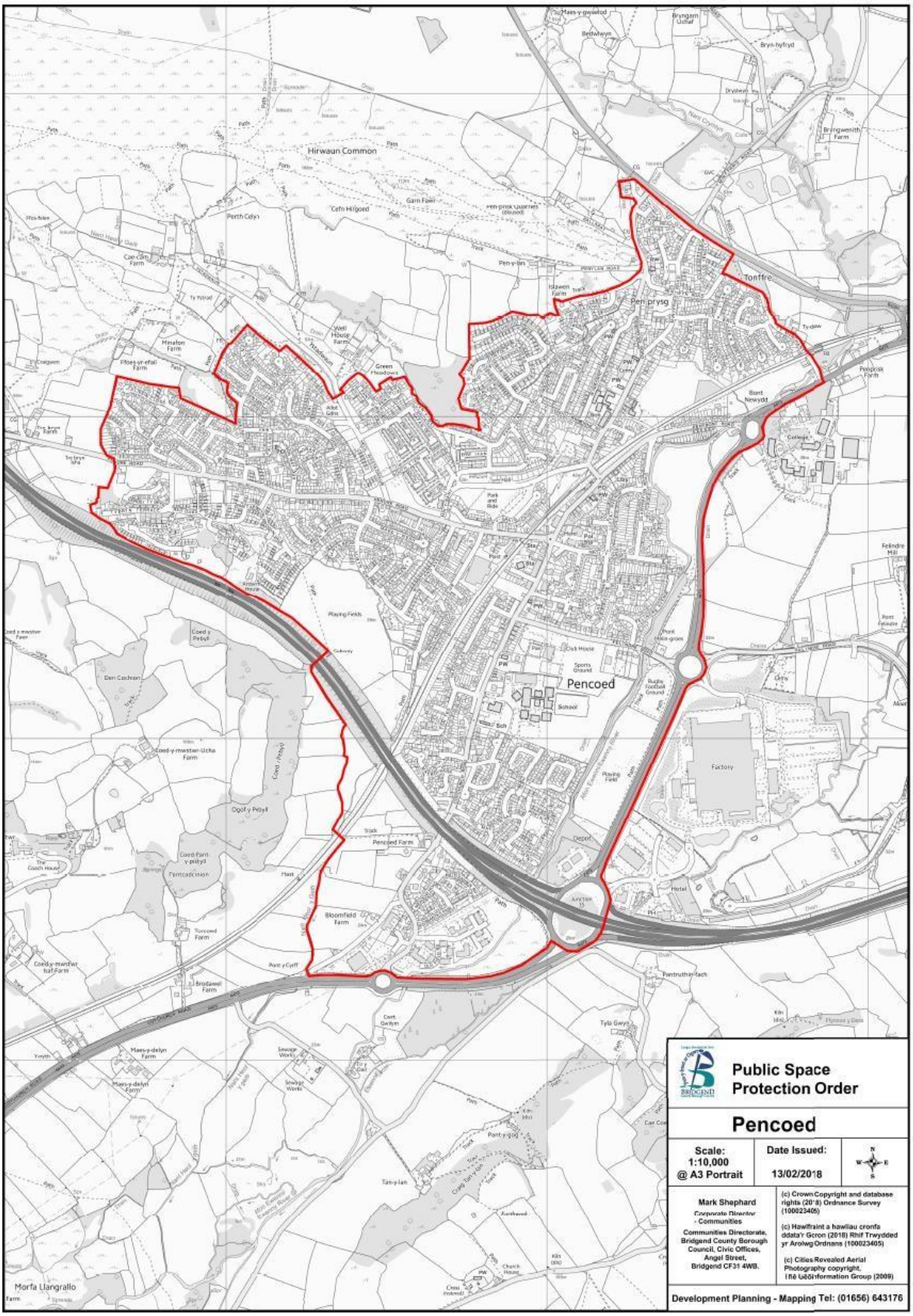

Pendre
Community Centre
Hospital
Cemetery
Tremgarth
Subway
Ind Site
Ind Est
Crosby Yard Mast
Craig-y-casnewydd
Quarry
Ysgol Bryn Castell
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynfyn
Sunny Bank
Ysgol
Ysgol Cefn Glas
Ysgol Heol-y-Cyw
Glanffornwg
Maes-y-felin
Ysgol Cynfyn Bryntirion
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bryntirion
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynfyn


Brynheulog
Caerau
Blaencaerau
Dyffryn
Spelter
Nantyffyllon
Tyderwen
Tudor Estate
Blaencaerau Estate
Tudor Park
Playing Field
Football Ground
Youth Centre
Allot Gdns
Recn Gd
Tip (disused)
Dismantled Railway
Nant Gwyn Bach
Public Space Protection Order
Caerau
Scale: 1:6,000 @ A3 Portrait
Date Issued: 13/02/2018
Mark Shephard
Corporate Director - Communities
Communities Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB.
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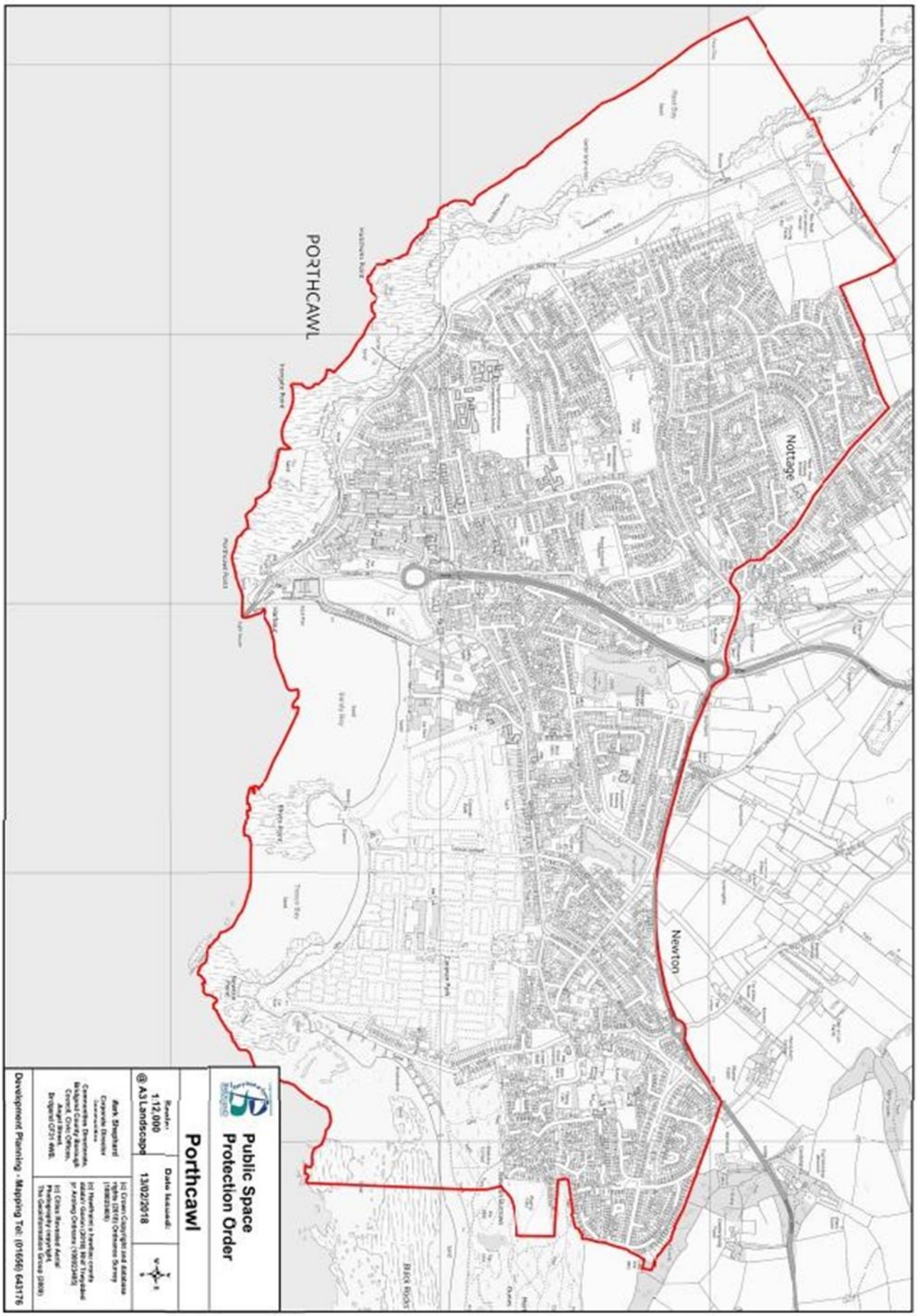
Appendix 1


Public Space Protection Order
Maesteg
Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3 Landscape
Date Issued: 13/02/2018
Mark Shephard
Corporate Director
Communities
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend CF31 4WB
Development Planning - Mapping Tel: (01656) 643176
Tair Waun Farm
Recycling Centre
Llynfi Enterprise Centre
Heol-Ty-Gwyn Industrial Estate
Hospl
Public Park
Weir
Dismtd Rly
Sports Centre
Rugby Football Ground
Ind Est
Llynfi River
Y Parc
Nursery
Pol Sta
Presby Sch
Cricket Ground
Playground
Sports Ground
Workings (disused)
Ysgol Maesteg/ Maesteg School
Playing Field
Tips (dis)
Levels (dis)
Quarry (dis)
Quarry (disq)
Rese (cov)
Path
Drain
Pw
Sch
Ysgol
Mult
Car Pk
Bus Sta
TH
PO
Stn
Ch
Cemetery
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Ordnance Survey Heathfield is a trading name of Ordnance Survey (GB) Ltd Tiverpool Rd Pyrmont Green (2016) Ltd Tiverpool Rd Pyrmont Green (2016) Ltd Tiverpool Rd Pyrmont Green (2016

Appendix 1


Hirwaun Common
Tonffre
Pen-prysg
Pencoed
Public Space Protection Order
Pencoed
Scale: 1:10,000 @ A3 Portrait
Date Issued: 13/02/2018
Mark Shephard
Corporate Director - Communities
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Appendix 1


PORTHCAWL
Nottage
Newton
Public Space Protection Order
Porthcawl
Scale:
1:12,000
@ A3 Landscape
Date Issued:
13/02/2018
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Public Space Protection Order

Bridgend

Scale:	Date Issued:	
1:7,500 @ A3 Portrait	01/10/2021	N W E S

Mark Shephard
Corporate Director - Communities
Communities Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB.

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Development Planning - Mapping Tel: (01656) 643168

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Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Control
Bridgend County Borough Council

Notice is hereby given that Bridgend County Borough Council ('the Council') proposes the following Public Spaces Protection Order under Sections 59 and 72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act').

1. The Order shall come into operation on the 18th June 2019 and shall have an effect for 3 years thereafter, unless extended by further order under the Council's statutory powers.

2. This Order relates to all public open spaces throughout the borough and is specified on the attached plan ("the Restricted Area"). This is land to which the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 applies and will be protected by the making of this Proposed Order.

3. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (2) of the Act have been met. Namely that Anti-Social behaviour and criminal activities have been carried out within the Restricted Area. These activities have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, and it is likely that the activities will be carried out within that area and have such an effect.

4. The Council is also satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 (3) of the Act have been met. Namely, that the effect or likely effect of the activities is, or is likely to be of a persistent or continuing nature and that these activities are unreasonable and justify the restriction imposed by this Order and that it is in all the circumstances expedient to make this order for the purpose of reducing crime and/or anti-social behaviour in a public place.

5. The Proposed Order may be cited as the Bridgend County Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Control covering all public open spaces within the borough.

By this Proposed Order

6. The effect of this Order is to impose the following conditions on the use of the land:-

a) Person(s) within the Restricted Area will collect and dispose of the faeces of dogs within their control by removing it and depositing the dog faeces in a bag which should be left in a litter bin or taken home

b) Person(s) within the Restricted Area who have dogs within their control must carry bags or other suitable means for the collection of dog faeces

c) Person(s) within the Restricted Area must when requested to do so by an Authorised Officer place dogs in their control on a lead. The Authorised Officer must specify the location and duration covered by a direction given under Paragraph 6 (C) of this Order.

7. The restrictions in Article 6 of this Order shall not apply to Disabled persons as defined by the Equality Act 2010 where the person suffers from a disability which would prevent them from collecting their dog faeces.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

THE CONNECT ENGAGE LISTEN TRANSFORM REGIONAL PROJECT

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek permission for Bridgend County Bourough Council (BCBC) to enter into a regional Relationship Agreement relating to funding and delivery of the Connect Engage Listen Transform (CELT) Project, funded through the UK Government Community Renewal Fund (CRF) with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Cardiff Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Torfaen Torfaen County Borough 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 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 ending of the European Social Fund (ESF) during 2022 and 2023 has created a need to replace funding especially that which focuses on employability.

3.2 The 10 Local Authorities who form the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal are part of the Regional Skills Partnership and have been working as a Local Authority Cluster Group to discuss new funding opportunities which could replace the ESF employability funding.

3.3 The UK Government created a new fund called the Community Renewal Fund (CRF) and working together all the local authorities that form the CCR developed the CELT project which was submitted by Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) on behalf of the CCR to UK Government on the 18th June 2021.

3.4 The BCBC element of the project requested £274,817 from the CRF based on outcomes of working with 140 clients and to get 26 into employment in the Bridgend County Borough area. The whole project submitted by TCBC requested £1,947,234. The project was initially set to operate from July 2021 to March 31st 2022.

3.5 It is anticipated that the CRF may act as a pilot to inform the development of the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), which is considered by many as a substantial replacement of the European Union monies and the on-going mechanism to provide funding support for employability delivery in the future.

3.6 Whilst the proposal submitted by TCBC was for the CCR, there was the opportunity for each local authority to respond to needs as they exist locally. The key areas of focus for BCBC were proposed as:

- Engaging participants furthest from the labour market working with the third sector and mentoring and signposting them to improve their employability, focusing on youth and adults
- Engage with GPs and other health providers to increase employability referrals from clients who have health barriers
- Work with clients who want to develop a new enterprise and support them to access mainstream business support
- Developing a new employability partnership model to be called Bridgend Employability Network (BEN)
- To work on piloting a new Triage database to ensure clients get the correct support

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 On the 4th November 2021 TCBC received confirmation from UK Government that the CELT application was successfully approved. As the initial timescales saw the project run from July 2021 to March 31st 2022 the late notification on the outcome of the application prompted UK Government to extend the project by 3 months to June 30th 2022 with a revised start date of November 3rd 2021.

4.2 At the point that TCBC consolidated the CCR bid, different outcomes were submitted against the BCBC request for funding. A new set of negotiated targets from those identified in 3.4 have been agreed (Table 1) and will be reflected in the Relationship Agreement. It is confirmed that despite the revised outcomes and shorted timescales for delivery of the project since the original request, the outcomes are still achievable.

Table 1 - BCBC Outcomes for CELT Funding

CELT Outcomes	BCBC Original submission	CELT Bid Submitted to UK Government	New negotiated Working Targets

People	140	120	130
Into Employment	26	33	26
Into Education/ Training	30	75	40
Into Life Skills Support	15	80	40
Into Job Searching	50	65	50
Engaging with Benefits System	11	6	6

4.3 Each local authority has a key milestone within the CELT bid and was chosen to show the breadth and reach of the project so that capacity and expertise could be demonstrated putting the region in good stead for future funding applications. The BCBC milestone is holding the first meeting of the new Bridgend Employability Network (BEN) which is scheduled to take place on 28th January 2022.

4.4 Currently TCBC are developing the Relationship Agreement for CELT which will need to be agreed with all of the other local authorities in order to progress the scheme. The agreement will set out the overall terms and conditions of the project and highlight BCBC specific detail in relation to outputs and funding, as summarised above. It is proposed therefore that the Corporate Director Communities is delegated authority to negotiate and agree the final version of the Relationship Agreement and that the project commence whilst that process is ongoing so that the outcomes can be achieved in the timescales.

4.5 The CELT Relationship Agreement will include an obligation on each local authority participant to establish an Operational Delivery Group which will be made up of representatives of each local authority and that will be responsible for the day to day running and management of the project and to make arrangements for a senior official of each participant to be a member of a Strategic Management Board which will oversee the project and share information and best practice, review progress and resolve outstanding issues, in particular those escalated by the Operational Delivery Group. It is proposed that the Employability and Enterprise Manager be nominated to represent BCBC on the CELT Strategic Management Board and that the Employability Team Leader be nominated to represent BCBC on the CELT Operational Delivery Group.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's 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. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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

7.1 The CELT project demonstrates the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is evidenced through the 5 ways of working as follows:

- Long term – this project seeks to understand and mitigate the long-term implications on Bridgend County Borough residents of the withdrawal of EU funding for employability by seeking alternate funding.
- Prevention – working with partners to identify potential replacement funding opportunities.
- Integration – The CELT project contributes to the well-being goals: an Equal Wales, a Prosperous Wales, and a Healthier Wales. It contributes to the well-being objective of Reducing Social and Economic Inequalities.
- Collaboration – the success of this project and any future employability projects relies on collaboration with partners across the CCR region including local authorities, Department for Work and Pensions and Welsh Government.
- Involvement – a significant element of the CELT programme involves engaging with local residents, their families and communities.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The CELT project is fully funded by the UK Government CRF. TCBC have already accepted the funding offer from UK Government which sets out BCBC's requested allocation.

8.2 BCBC is not required to provide any match funding.

8.3 The Relationship Agreement will set out the detail of BCBC's allocated project funding (£274,817), and will passport the Terms and Conditions of the UK Government CRF offer to each of the CCR regions and set out the claims process to draw down the funding.

8.4 Due to time constraints the project will need to commence before all CCR parties have signed the Relationship Agreement which will contain the formal offer of funding and confirm the outputs. This will be underwritten by the Communities Directorate budget with the risk mitigated that TCBC have already received and accepted the CELT funding offer from UK Government.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Note progress in developing the CELT project as part of the future way of working in relation to the delivery of employability support in Bridgend County.

- Delegate authority to the Corporate Director Communities, in consultation with Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy and Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change to negotiate and enter into the CELT

Relationship Agreement, and any subsequent amendments to it as agreed and to enter into any further deeds and documents which are ancillary to the Relationship Agreement.

- Agree that the Employability and Enterprise Manager will represent BCBC on the CELT Strategic Management Board and that the Employability Team Leader will represent BCBCon the CELT Operational Delivery Group.

Janine Nightingale
Corporate Director - Communities
10 January 2022

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Background documents: None

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18th JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

BRIDGEND LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN

1. Purpose of Report.

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to and seek approval from Cabinet for the refresh to the Bridgend Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP).

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 focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county borough.

2. **Smarter use of resources**– ensure 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.

3. Background.

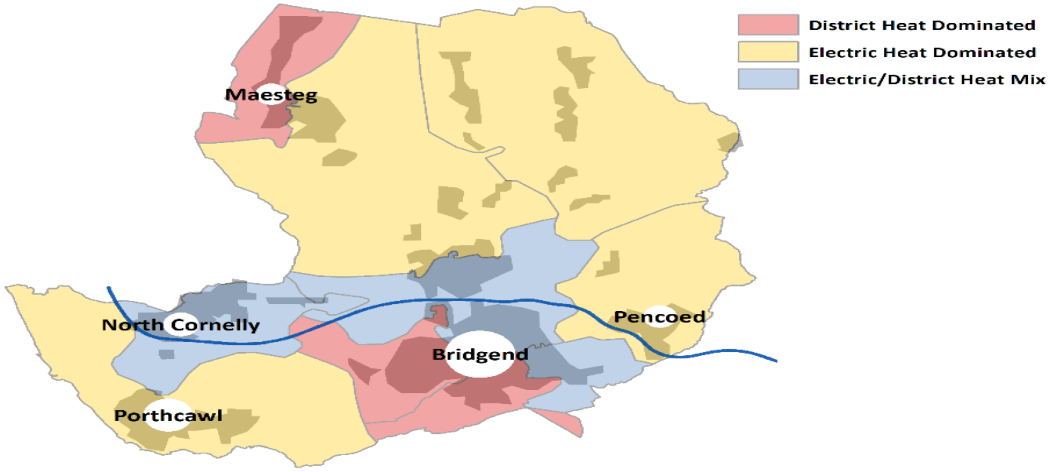
3.1 Bridgend County Borough Council was selected in 2014 as one of the three demonstration areas for the UK Government Smart System and Heat Programme. Cabinet authorised BCBC participation in the SSH Programme in a report presented on the 3rd February 2015. The programme was designed to create innovative tools that would enable heat to be decarbonised across the UK in line with 2050 carbon reduction targets.

3.2 One of the tools that was created within the Smart System and Heat Programme was Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP). LAEP does not adopt a traditional approach to strategy development in that it does not offer a clear what, when and how activities need to happen in order to achieve the 2050 decarbonisation targets. Rather the LAEP proposes a pathway to achieving those targets.

3.3 LAEP is an area based tool that considers local characteristics such as building type, fabric energy efficiency etc. and using the EnergyPath Networks tool developed by the Energy System Catapult creates a pathway to achieving decarbonisation. As part of the Smart System and Heat Programme a LAEP was developed for Bridgend

County Borough that created a potential route map for the decarbonisation of heat at the local level. Figure 1 is a graphical display of the plan and the technologies suggested to achieve the decarbonisation of Bridgend County Borough.

Figure 1. Bridgend Local Area Energy Plan (2018)



3.4 The Bridgend LAEP was developed via a partnership between BCBC, Energy Systems Catapult, Welsh Government, Western Power Distribution and Wales and West Utilities. The Bridgend LAEP was completed in 2018 and the recommendations of the Bridgend LAEP were accepted by Cabinet in February 2019.

3.5 The Bridgend LAEP was presented as a Local Area Energy Strategy in the report to Cabinet in February 2019. Following the publication of formal guidelines commissioned by OFGEM and prepared by the Energy Systems Catapult and the Centre for Sustainable Energy in 2020 the documents are now universally referred to as Local Area Energy Plans and this is the terminology that will be used within this report.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 Following Cabinet's decision in February 2019, the UK Government has moved the UK carbon reduction targets away from an 80% reduction by 2050 to one of Net Zero by 2050. The Bridgend LAEP was based around achieving the 80% reduction target.

4.2 Following the change in the UK Government's targets for carbon reduction, BCBC considered its position in relation to its LAEP and considered that a refresh of the plan was needed to maintain its relevance. The refreshed LAEP will not replace the original LAEP but rather provides updated modelling that will need to be viewed alongside the original LAEP. The refresh serves only to update the modelling to capture significant changes that have occurred since the original LAEP such as the UK Government Net Zero target of 2050, the phasing out of fossil fuel vehicle sales by 2030 and the role that hydrogen could have in delivering a Net Zero Bridgend.

4.3 Welsh Government supported BCBC in the refreshing of its LAEP and provided a £47,000 grant to cover the costs of updating the plan.

4.4 The Energy Systems Catapult were appointed to start updating the Bridgend LAEP in April 2021. The partnership approach used to deliver the initial plan was reformed and assisted in the shaping of the refreshed Bridgend LAEP.

4.5 The refreshed LAEP was developed to align with the UK Government Net Zero carbon reduction target and also consider the role that hydrogen could have in delivering a Net Zero Bridgend. Two scenarios are presented within the refreshed LAEP firstly a Net Zero Bridgend without hydrogen and a Net Zero Bridgend with hydrogen. Figures 2 and 3 graphically displays how each option looks. The full refreshed LAEP is contained at Appendix 1 to this report.

Figure 2 Refreshed Bridgend LAEP (without hydrogen)

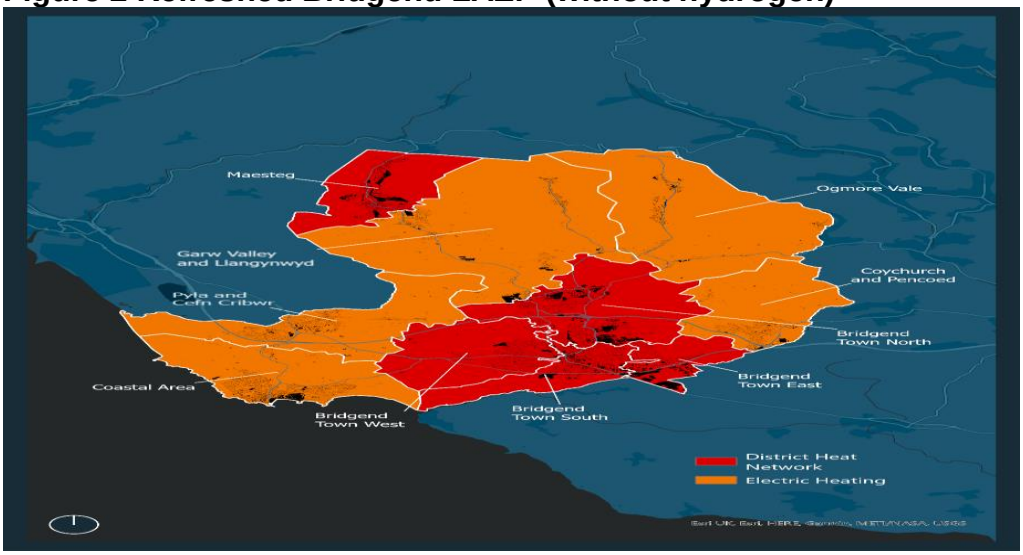
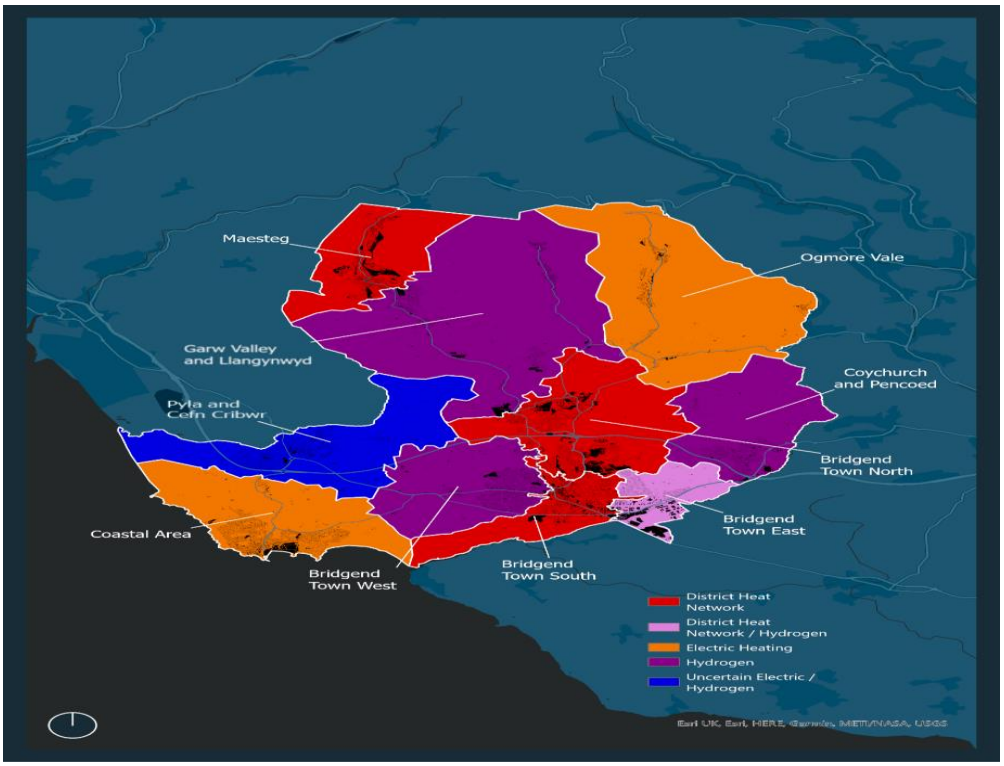


Figure 3 Refreshed Bridgend LAEP (with hydrogen)



4.6 The transition to reach a Net Zero Bridgend as laid out in the refreshed LAEP will involve whole-scale infrastructure change across Bridgend over the next two decades. Key sections of this LAEP refresh illustrate the scale of change and investment needed, based on a primary scenario. An alternative scenario focusing on hydrogen for heat is presented and discussed with hydrogen having the potential to play an important role in the decarbonisation of Bridgend. Given the importance of having a view of the future (or scenario) now, this document promotes a demonstration and scale-up approach over the coming short-term, before moving to full-scale implementation. Therefore, this document highlights several 'priority areas' in which to work with citizens and stakeholders to build capacity and test approaches to delivery.

4.7 Two scenarios have been created for the purpose of this LAEP refresh: a primary (cost-effective) scenario and a secondary (hydrogen) scenario. It is not intended that the Council choose a scenario to pursue but rather both scenarios are presented as potential future decarbonisation pathways for Bridgend County Borough. The Council via its Smart Energy Plan (which will be reviewed, updated and reported to Cabinet as considered necessary to reflect the refresh in the LAEP) will develop projects that test and validate both scenarios and this information will help shape and inform the direction of decarbonisation in the decades ahead. Ultimately it must be remembered that the market will largely dictate the direction that decarbonisation takes through the choices that consumers (commercial and non-domestic) make.

4.8 The primary scenario makes assumptions around changes to behaviour and advances in technology and innovation whilst recognising uncertainty in key areas such as the potential use of hydrogen for transport and heating in homes and buildings, as well as advances in energy storage and controls. While it is not a prescriptive plan to be followed exactly, it does provide a detailed spatial evidence base and supporting data that can be used to inform the planning and coordination of activity in Bridgend over the coming years. Even if hydrogen for building heating does become available, it is expected that all the components within the primary pathway (heat pumps, district heating, solar PV, EV charging, building fabric retrofit and flexibility and storage systems) will still be needed to decarbonise Bridgend; any uncertainty is generally around the scale of deployment. Therefore, it is deemed low risk to demonstrate how to deploy these components and prepare for significant scale-up.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework& Procedure Rules.

5.1 There is no effect upon the Council's Policy Framework or Procedure Rules as a result of this report.

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 Assessment

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Council should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The Council must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

7.2 The LAEP addresses the five ways of working under the Act through:

- **Involvement**: The plan involves working with a variety of stakeholders to deliver sustainable solutions around the delivery of decarbonised heat for residents.
- **Long Term**: The LAEP will provide the template and the tools to provide Bridgend County Borough with a Net Zero energy system that meets the UK 2050 decarbonisation targets.
- **Prevention**: The LAEP will provide an opportunity for all to benefit from the decarbonisation transition and ensure that solutions are designed and available for everyone and not just the ability to pay market
- **Integration**: The LAEP offers an opportunity to create a low carbon hub within Bridgend that will offer carbon reductions, reduced fuel bills and create economic opportunities through a clearly identified value chain.
- **Collaboration**: BCBC is working in partnership with both Government and the private sector to deliver the decarbonisation agenda.

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 The costs of developing the refreshed LAEP has been fully funded by Welsh Government. Any projects emerging from the LAEPwhere BCBC is lead or requested to contribute funding, will be developed in line with usual processes with business cases being developed and funding sought to deliver the projects.

8.2 The Bridgend LAEP recognises that the decarbonisation of heat within Bridgend County Borough is not something that can be achieved and funded by BCBC alone. The delivery of the LAEP requires significant private investment (domestic and non-domestic) and the majority of this will happen without the direct involvement of BCBC. The Bridgend LAEP should be viewed as a guidance document for the decarbonisation of heat within the County Borough, creating a spatial awareness plan for a Net Zero Bridgend providing an informed direction of travel that will allow decisions to be made and planning carried out that will facilitate both environmental and economic benefits from the journey towards Net Zero.

9. Recommendation.

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approves the refreshed Bridgend Local Area Energy Plan.

Janine Nightingale
Corporate Director Communities
January 2021

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Background documents

BCBC Local Area Energy Strategy Refresh Report, August 2021.

Local Area Energy Plan

Bridgend County Borough Council

August 2021

Contents

1. The Vision
2. Introduction
3. Heating System Zones
4. Fabric Retrofit Zones
5. Non-Domestic
6. EV Charging
7. Energy Networks
8. Cost and Investment
9. Summary & Conclusions

1. The Vision

This refresh to the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) aims to support Bridgend to transition to an affordable and decarbonised energy system and to support both the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050 and local commitments to reach this level by 2040.

Decarbonising Bridgend's local energy system by this date is achievable and expected to require capital investment of up to £2.8bn. Total energy costs including capital investments, operations and energy consumed is around £4.5bn to 2038*. The column chart (right) shows the source of emissions in each time period for the primary scenario. The emissions reduce over time as the economy is decarbonised with a residual 23.9ktCO_2 in 2038. The line chart (below right) shows the cumulative emissions** over the period 2021-2038. In both the primary and secondary scenarios, cumulative emissions are around 620-640ktCO_2.

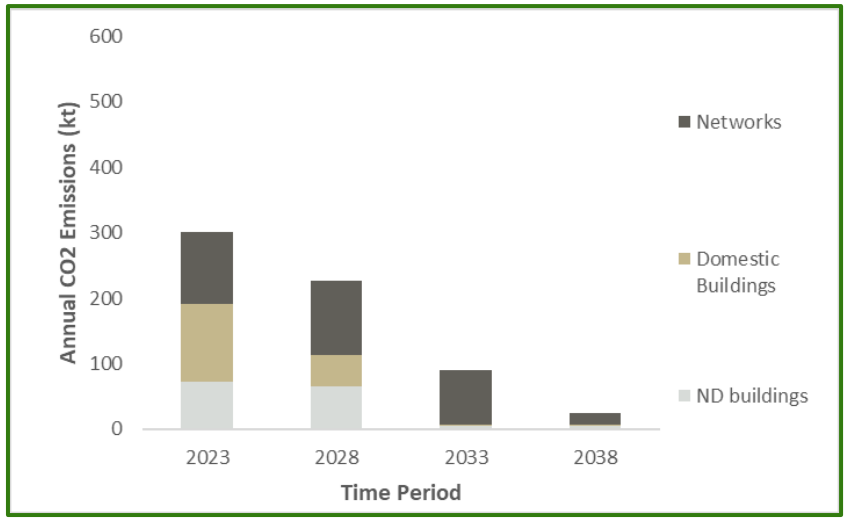
How to Interpret this Vision

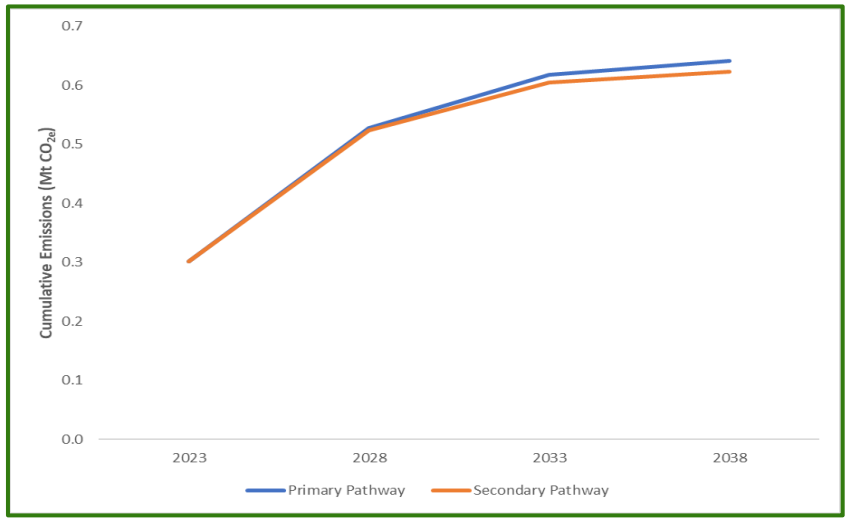
This document must be considered alongside the original Local Area Energy Plan produced by Energy Systems Catapult in 2018. This Refresh serves only to update the modelling to capture significant changes in that original plan including, but not limited to:

- The UK Government Net Zero target of 2050
- The phasing out of fossil fuel vehicle sales by 2030
- Projects scoped within Bridgend where details have been provided by BCBC.

The transition will involve whole-scale infrastructure change across Bridgend over the next two decades. Key sections of this LAEP Refresh illustrate the scale of change and investment needed, based on a primary scenario. An alternative scenario focusing on hydrogen for heat is discussed alongside where appropriate or where there are significant differences to the scenario. Given the importance of backing one view of the future (or scenario) now, this document promotes a demonstration and scale-up approach over the coming short-term, before moving to full-scale implementation. Therefore, this document highlights several 'priority areas' in which to work with citizens and stakeholders to build capacity and test approaches to delivery.

Bridgend CO_2 emissions over time





Fabric Retrofit

Many of Bridgend's dwellings receive insulation retrofit in the plan: 33,800 in the primary scenario and 30,600-33,200 in the hydrogen focused alternative scenario depending upon the cost and availability of hydrogen and level of use. This is an increase compared to the previous LAEP due to the wider use of low temperature heat pumps compared to high temperature.

Heat Decarbonisation

Three heating options are explored to decarbonise buildings: electric heating (primarily heat pumps), hydrogen to replace natural gas, and district heat networks.

In the primary scenario, planned heat networks further encourage district heat network connections in all of Bridgend Town and Maesteg with the remainder of the county moving towards electrification. Hybrid heat pumps rarely feature due to the net zero target. In the secondary scenario, Maesteg and Bridgend Town North & South remain on district heat, Ogmore Vale and Coastal Area remain electrified, however the remainder of the county either looks to transition to hydrogen or is uncertain.

Energy Generation

To reduce emissions local energy generation needs to increase significantly. Current domestic PV deployment is around 20,500m^2 however across the domestic and non-domestic stock around 1.8million m^2 will be required (circa 290MW_p). This means that most suitable, south-facing roofs will have PV installed. This could account for as much as 30% of Bridgend's electricity demand by 2033.

EV Infrastructure

The transition to electric vehicles (EVs) is expected to take place rapidly with all new vehicle sales being plug-in by 2030 and full electric by 2035. Uptake is expected to increase to around 70,000 EVs in 2040 requiring around 49,000 domestic chargepoints supported by multiple public charging stations (or hubs).

* Overall total costs are discounted using standard treasury green book assumptions. Annual costs are undiscounted.
** In-scope emissions are those resulting from domestic, industrial and commercial consumption of electricity, gas & other fuels, electric vehicle charging and process emissions from large industrial installations. Out-of-scope are emissions from agriculture and existing liquid fuels for transportation.

2. Introduction

Context

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is committed to net zero carbon emissions across the borough by 2040 and becoming a Net Zero Council by 2030. Recognising the climate emergency declared by the Welsh Government in 2019, national Net Zero* commitments and the need to translate the strategic vision to an implementable plan of action, BCBC is refreshing its Local Area Energy Plan.

Energy Systems Catapult developed the concept of Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) as a mechanism of applying a whole system approach to the planning and design of Net Zero Local Energy Systems. BCBC was one of the first Local Authorities in the country to pilot a data-driven whole system approach to energy planning, working with Energy Systems Catapult, Welsh Government, Western Power Distribution and Wales and West Utilities. Since this initial pilot, BCBC has developed a Smart Energy Plan (2019) and has committed to achieving carbon neutrality of its own activities by 2030.

Alongside this, there have been significant updates to ESC's supporting whole system modelling approach, including updating technology attributes and costs, building data and network data, changes in EV uptake projections and more detail in options for decarbonising non-domestic buildings. The most significant update has been the addition of options to repurpose the gas network for hydrogen, as an option that in certain scenarios can be used to decarbonise heat demand in domestic and non-domestic buildings. This is key as achieving the net zero target will require the transition of Bridgend's heating systems from natural gas fired boilers to a variety of heating systems including electrified heating systems and district heating networks or converting the gas network to hydrogen.

Modelling Approach

We have used the ESC-developed EnergyPath Networks tool to produce a series of future local energy scenarios for Bridgend. This tool seeks to develop a number of decarbonisation options for the local area and then uses an optimisation approach to identify the combination that best meets the carbon ambitions in a cost-effective way across the whole system. For the impact of the energy system outside the boundaries of Bridgend on the local system, the national Energy System Modelling Environment (ESME) – an internationally peer-reviewed national whole energy system model – has been used to identify the lowest-cost decarbonisation pathways for the UK energy system to then feed into the local modelling.

These scenarios have been used to inform the development of a primary pathway that illustrates a potential cost-effective vision for carbon neutrality in Bridgend. This pathway explores the actions and investments needed in different areas of Bridgend between now and 2040 to reduce its emissions in line with its net zero ambitions. The scope of emissions in this plan covers those resulting from domestic, industrial and commercial consumption of electricity, gas & other fuels, electric vehicle charging, and some process emissions from large industrial installations (emissions from the Rockwool plant have not been included). Out-of-scope are emissions from agriculture and existing liquid fuels for transportation.

It should be noted that techno-economic optimisations (i.e. the scenarios that have been considered and modelled) are imperfect. Many low carbon solutions have benefits and drawbacks that cannot be easily represented in modelling approaches. This appreciation has been used to shape this refreshed LAEP; however, as the LAEP is implemented, it is likely that further updates will be required to reflect changing situations and new insights.

Scenarios for achieving net zero in Bridgend

These scenarios explore uncertainties, considering implications of different choices and behaviours by policy makers, businesses and individuals, the development and take up of technologies and the balance between different options where they exist. Within the scenarios, the key technologies that are likely to be important in cost effective local system designs have been considered, as well as some that are more expensive but may have popular support. Technologies that consistently appear across a broad range of scenarios and are resilient to sensitivity analysis warrant prioritisation in preparing for transition; this approach has led to the identification of the priority and pioneer areas within this LAEP.

Two scenarios have been created for the purpose of this LAEP Refresh: a primary (cost-effective) scenario and a secondary (hydrogen) scenario.

The primary scenario makes assumptions around changes to behaviour and advances in technology and innovation whilst recognising uncertainty in key areas such as the potential use of hydrogen for transport and heating in homes and buildings, as well as advances in energy storage and controls. While it is not a prescriptive plan to be followed exactly, it does provide a detailed spatial evidence base and supporting data that can be used to inform the planning and coordination of activity in Bridgend over the coming years. Even if hydrogen for building heating does become available, it is expected that all the components within the primary pathway (heat pumps, district heating, solar PV, EV charging, building fabric retrofit and flexibility and storage systems) will still be needed to decarbonise Bridgend; any uncertainty is generally around the scale of deployment. Therefore, it is deemed low risk to demonstrate how to deploy these components and prepare for significant scale-up.

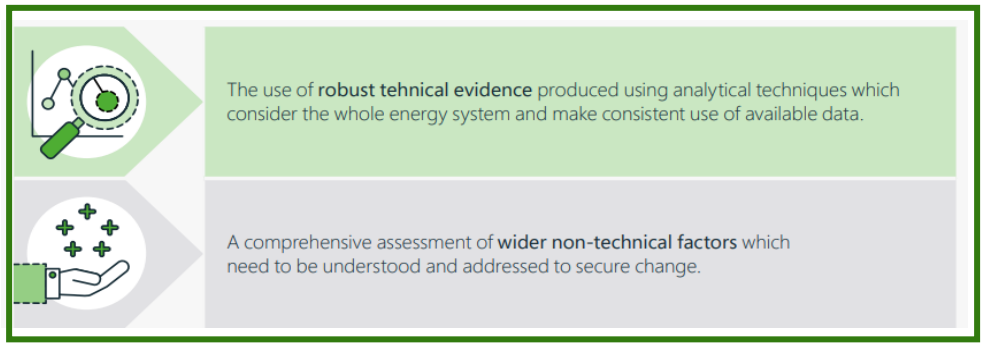
The secondary scenario introduces hydrogen to see the effect of this vector being available while accounting for the uncertainty around the likely cost and availability of 'green' (zero carbon) hydrogen.

These scenarios seek to identify the costs, benefits, uncertainties, opportunities and risks to decarbonisation by 2040. This LAEP Refresh has also considered strategically important projects which were highlighted to us prior to the start of the modelling.

* Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019

2. Introduction

In accordance with the Ofgem LAEP Method*, which provides guidance and a framework for LAEP ‘done well’ - this plan has been developed through the use of robust technical evidence which considers the whole energy system for Bridgend and consistent use of available data and assumptions. It has also sought to consider wider non-technical factors that influence the deliverability, pace and scale of change required for decarbonisation.



The next steps of the development of the plan are expected to comprise wider stakeholder and public consultation on the plan to inform its further development and its ongoing governance and delivery.



Report Structure

The report is set out in the following structure, it summarises the key aspects of the plan that have changed significantly compared to the original LAEP.

Section 1: Set out the vision and some of the key findings from the primary (cost-effective) pathway to net zero for Bridgend.

Section 2: High-level introduction to the report, the context and the approach taken to modelling, and developing the scenarios.

Section 3: Sets out the some of the key aspects of the primary scenario with regards to the low carbon heating systems, how these compare to the previous LAEP and the secondary (hydrogen) scenario.

Section 4: Sets out the some of the key aspects of the primary scenario with regards to the retrofitting of domestic dwellings and where ‘basic’ and ‘deep’ retrofits are required in order to reduce demand.

Section 5: Highlights the priority area for the decarbonisation of non-domestic buildings and the low carbon technologies that could be deployed.

Section 6: Sets out the assumptions for the transition from internal combustion vehicles to EVs and the number of domestic chargepoints that will be required to sustain the growth.

Section 7: Shows the results of the modelling of the electricity and gas networks over time and the potential constraints and demand changes due to the transition towards electricfication of heat and transport, and in a hydrogen scenario.

Section 8: Sets out the estimated system costs and investment needed for implementation of the primary plan. This includes definition of the total system costs across each zone of Bridgend.

Section 9: Summarises the key findings and recommended actions to support implementation.

* From LAEP: The method https://es.catapult.org.uk/reports/local-area-energy-planning-the-method/

4. Heating System Zones

Vision to 2040

Building characteristics inform the low carbon heating system best suited to each building, and this causes patterns to emerge between the zones across Bridgend. Also of considerations is the density or buildings, both domestic and non-domestic. Heat networks are a more viable solution in zones with a higher density of buildings, such as towns and cities, and individual building solutions are more suitable in rural areas.

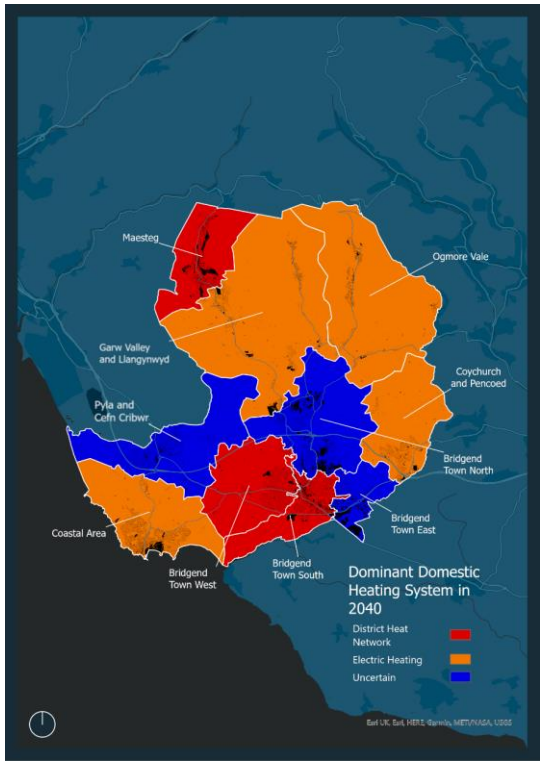
In the original LAEP, electric heating (four orange zones) and district heat networks (three red zones) were the most prevalent technologies, with the three remaining zones not having a prevalent heating technology (coloured blue), instead having a combination of approaches to decarbonisation.

In the refreshed LAEP, the primary pathway is forecast twice, once with and once without hydrogen as a fuel for boilers (due to the uncertainty of the future cost and availability of hydrogen). In the scenario without hydrogen, five zones have electric heating as the prevalent heating technology, with the remaining five on district heat networks. The heat networks developed first may initially be powered with gas boilers, but at the end of their life the expectation is that they will be replaced with large scale heat pumps. The three areas that were previously shown as being uncertain and adopting a combination of technologies, all now have a single prevalent heating technology identified.

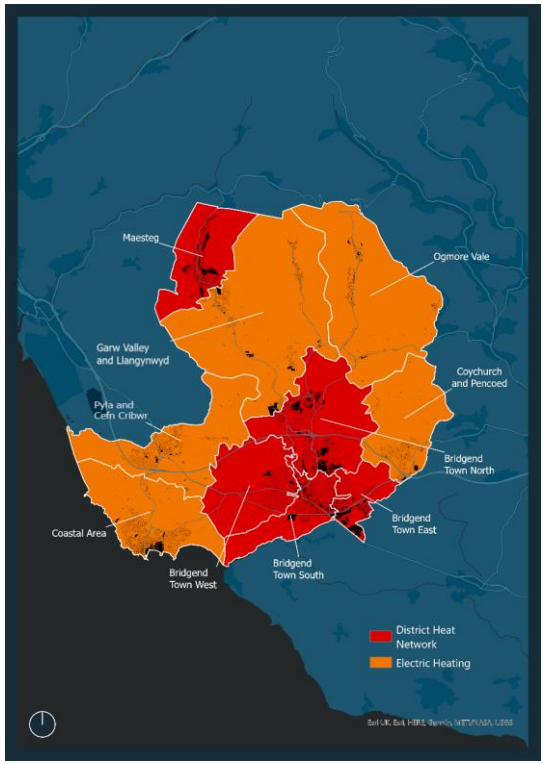
In the scenario with hydrogen, the picture is much more varied. In six zones, individual building heating solutions are prevalent, with electric heating technologies prevalent in two zones (orange), hydrogen boilers prevalent in three zones (purple), and a zone where both technologies will be prevalent (blue). Three of the remaining zones are heat networks (red); the remaining zone being a combination of heat networks and individual hydrogen boilers (pink). The availability and price of hydrogen will determine the number of properties that connect to the heat network in the pink zone, and the fuel used for district heating systems in the red zones. In the red zones, the expectation is that initially the district heating systems will be powered by large scale heat pumps; as these come to the end of their life, and hydrogen is more readily available, they may then switch to hydrogen boilers.

Across the scenarios and zones, the type of heat pump deployed in the heat networks will need further and more detailed analysis. It could be that in specific instances water source (using the River Ogmore, or mine water), air source, or ground source heat pumps could be the most suitable

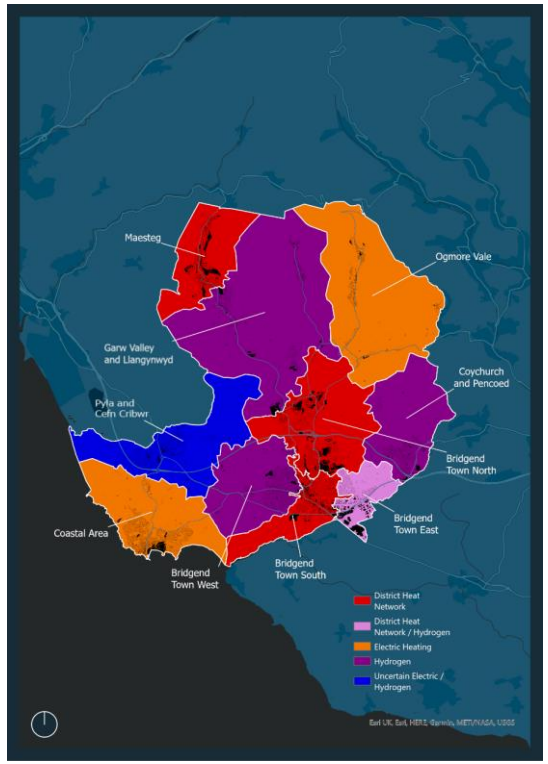
Heating zones in original LAEP



Heating zones in LAEP refresh Primary pathway – without hydrogen



Heating zones in LAEP refresh Primary pathway – with hydrogen



Air source heat pumps are typically more viable options than ground source as they have lower installation costs, and are easier installed with less of a regulatory or technical burden than river or mine water heat pumps.

Given the uncertainty surrounding hydrogen, least-regret effort in the near term is focussed on fabric retrofit, priority electrification areas, and monitoring the development of hydrogen (at national and regional levels). The installation of hydrogen-ready boilers could provide optionality given the uncertainty, at minimal additional cost.

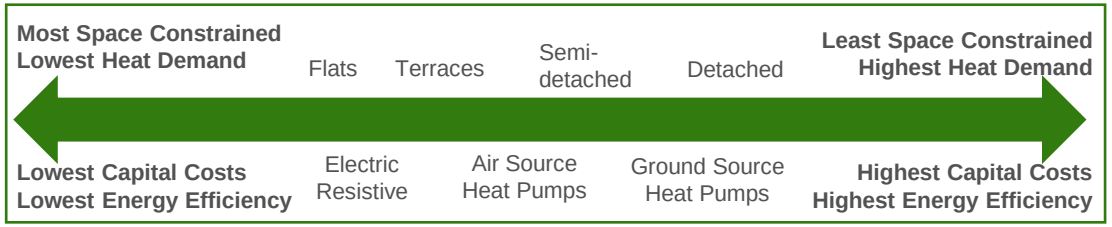
These forecasts are not definitive and represent a view of the future for each zone, to illustrate the scale of change required, it is expected that alternative solutions will be specified when exploring at a more detailed level, for example, there may be opportunities for communal / shared heating systems over the use of individual heat pumps.

4. Heating System Zones

Heating System Selection

The diagram on the right shows how heating systems are selected for different domestic building types, considering characteristics such as space availability, heat demand, costs and energy efficiency.

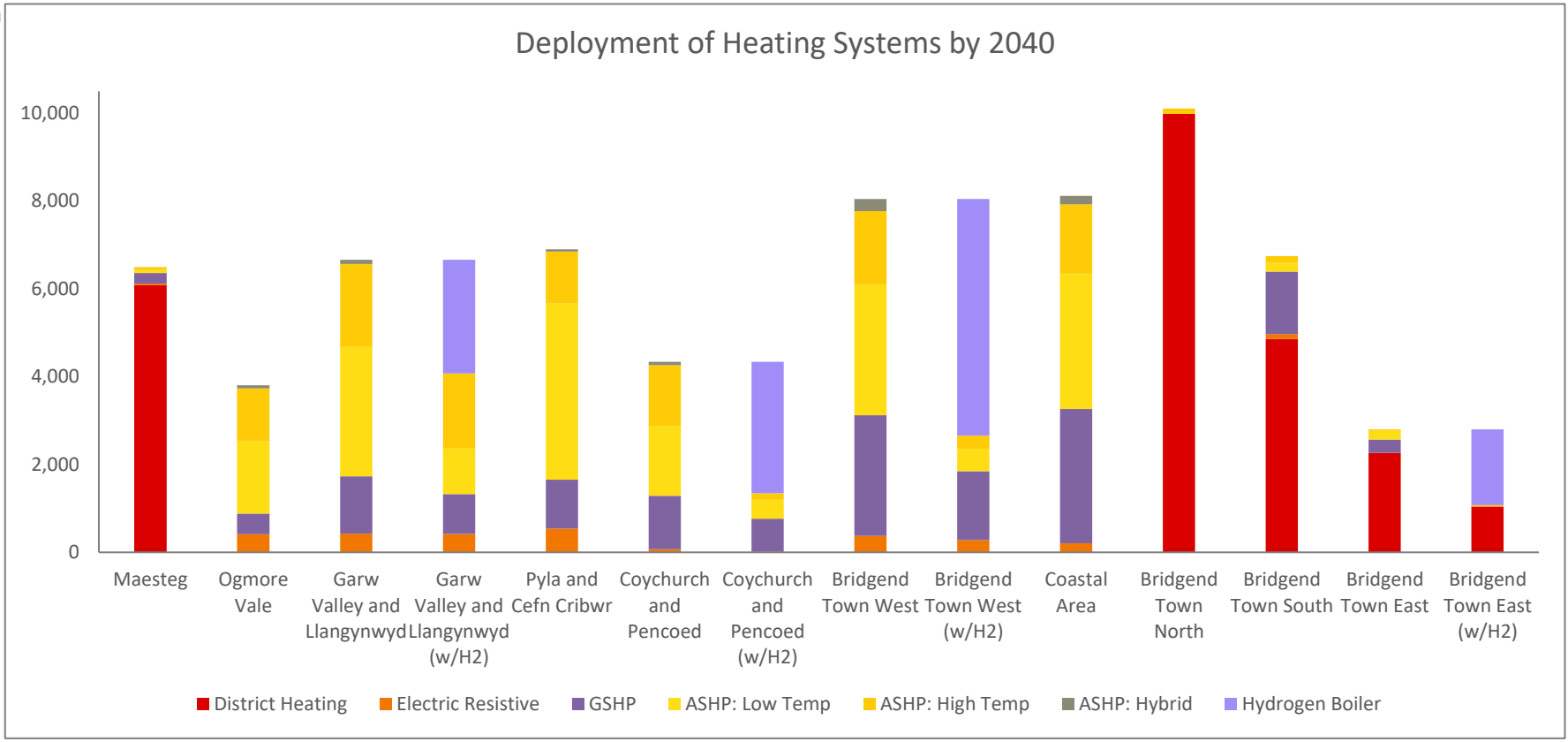
The chart below right shows the breakdown of heating technologies in each of the zones on a building-by-building basis, providing additional detail from the maps that showed prevalence on the previous slide. Four zones are included twice, one to show the breakdown without hydrogen boilers, and again to show the breakdown with hydrogen boilers.



Air source heat pumps are the most widely suited technology, though a proportion of buildings in most areas was found to be suitable for ground source heat pumps, where greater outdoor space permits the installation of a ground collector, and larger properties can justify the higher upfront cost with greater savings in running costs. These properties could also be suitable for air source if preferred. Electric resistive (conventional heaters) can be used in space-constrained buildings with low heat loads, such as modern flats.

Heat pumps are a proven and mature renewable heating technology, capable of delivering deep emissions reductions today. They can be rolled out to individual households gradually, without the requirement for large scale area transitions and buy-in from multiple households that district heating and hydrogen require. Some disruption within the home is typically required for radiator replacements and the installation of a hot water cylinder in homes which do not have one already. These indoor space requirements, together with the need to manage disruption to the household and site an outdoor unit where it will not cause noise issues for neighbouring properties, must be considered in the design, and can make heat pumps unsuitable for some properties.

Heat pumps perform best in homes with good levels of insulation; so, building fabric retrofit should be considered alongside heat pump installations. This would minimise disruption to dwelling occupants and potentially reduce overall cost due to a reduced heat demand and therefore capacity of required heat pumps and reduced need to increase radiator sizing.



4. Heating System Zones

First Steps: Priority Areas

Certain zones within Bridgend have been highlighted as having a large number of buildings well-suited to a particular heating technology, independent of pathways. Early progress can be made in deploying systems in these zones, with low risk of regret even before the UK's heat strategy becomes more certain. Prioritising these zones for early deployment as existing heating systems approach end-of-life (while avoiding the distress replacement of a failed system, which can constrain options) can help establish supply chains, delivery approach and capacity. This strikes a balance between flexibility and early progress, leaving the plan open to developments around the future of the gas network, conversion to hydrogen and UK heat strategy, ahead of a mass programme of transition in places where the best option is currently less clear.

The maps here and on the following pages illustrate suggested priority areas for demonstration and scale-up activity. Consideration will be needed to develop a programme of works that aligns with other interventions to maximise delivery efficiency and minimise disruption to residents.

Heat Pumps

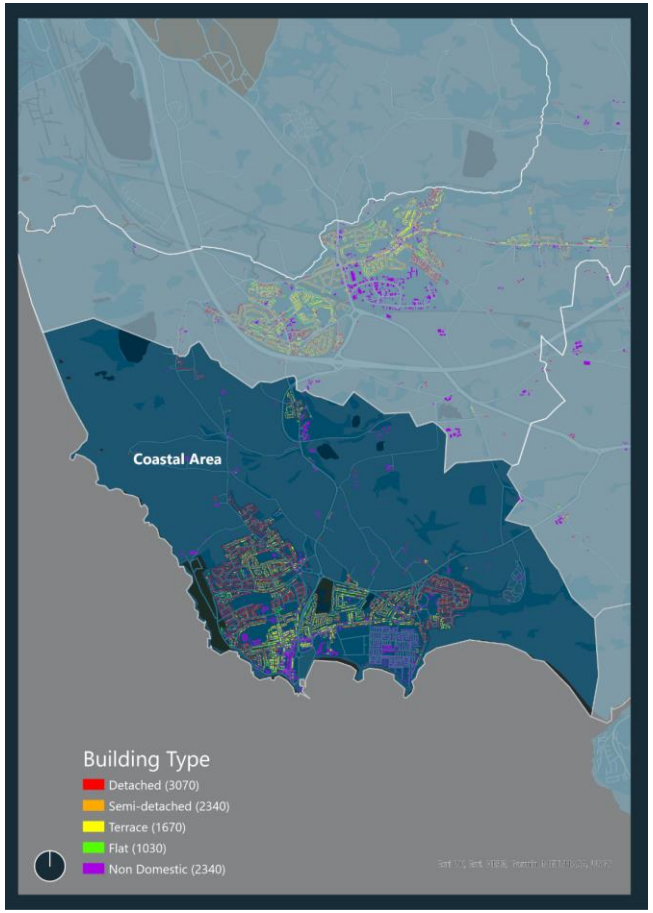
Heating Zones – Ogmore Vale and Coastal Area

In these two zones, being more rural with more dispersed housing, a mix of individual electric heating technologies is proposed in all scenarios. In Ogmore Vale, nearly all domestic buildings are best suited to either low or high temperature air source heat pumps, with a small proportion suitable for a ground source heat pump. In the Coastal Area, a much greater proportion of dwellings are suited to ground source heat pumps, with the remainder again split between low or high temperature air source heat pumps.

Heating Zone – Ogmore Vale



Heating Zone – Coastal Area



4. Heating System Zones

District Heat Networks

Heat supplied through underground pipes from a centralised energy centre tends to be most suitable for denser urban areas, particularly where there are large numbers of dwellings where it is either too expensive or to make suitable for heat pumps impractical (e.g. due to space limitations).

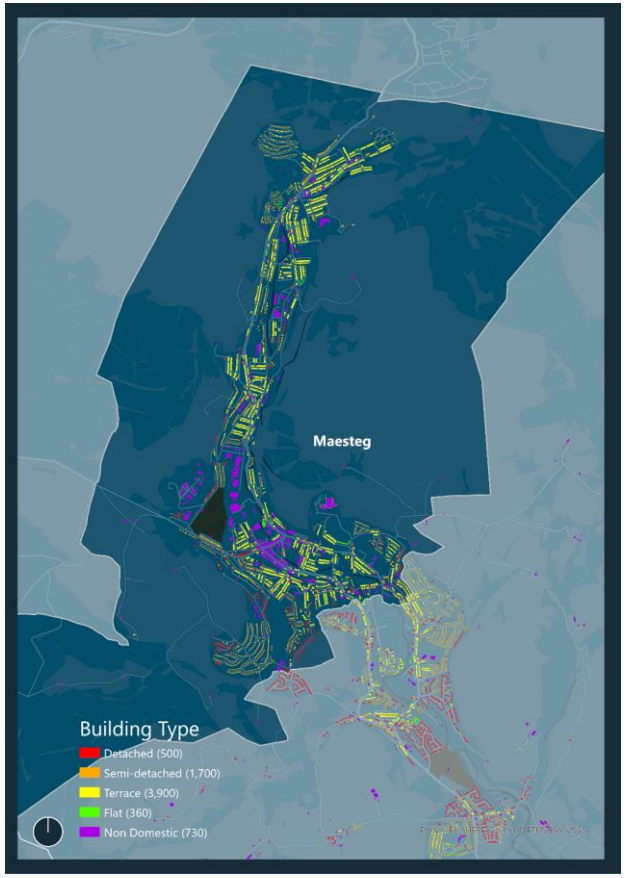
Heat networks can have the advantage of causing less disruption in dwellings during installation compared to some other options, though there are wider considerations such as disruption to roads during pipe laying.

Three zones of lowest regret* for district heating have been identified for Bridgend. These are all additions to existing plans for heat networks in these areas.

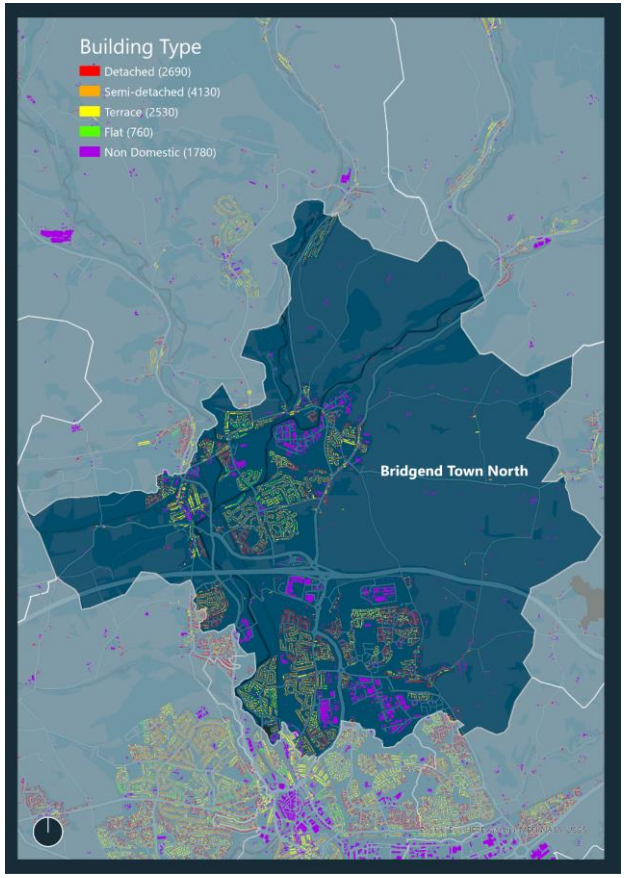
Heating Zones – Maesteg, Bridgend Town North and South.

Planned heat networks in Maesteg and Bridgend mean that a high proportion of domestic dwellings in three zones - Maesteg, Bridgend Town North and South - are best suited to connecting to these heat networks in both scenarios in this refresh. In Maesteg and Bridgend Town North, the proportion suitable is very high, whereas in Bridgend Town South the proportion is lower, with the remaining dwellings best suited to heat pump solutions.

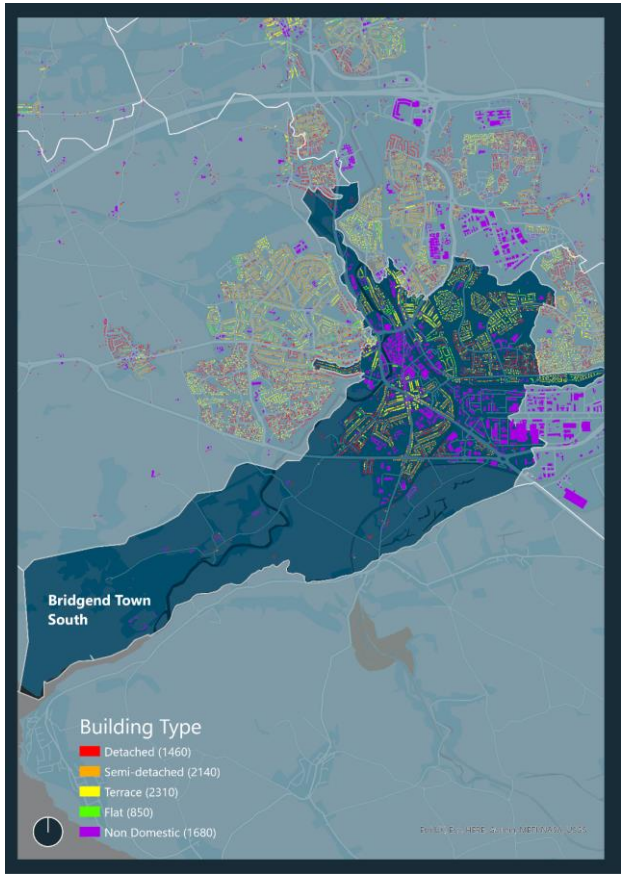
Heating Zone – Maesteg



Heating Zone – Bridgend Town North



Heating Zone – Bridgend Town South



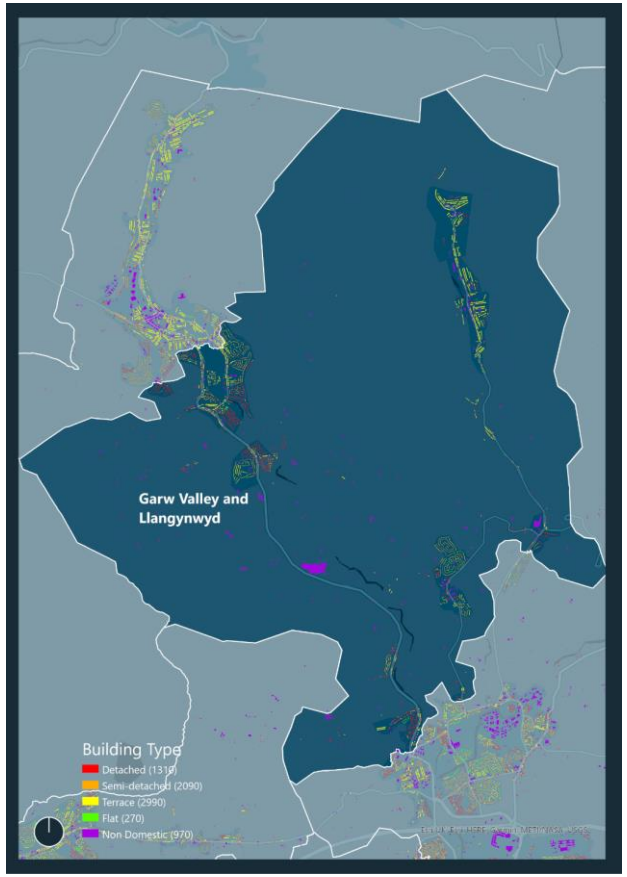
* These ‘low regret’ areas highlight where it has been identified that district heating could provide the most cost-effective dwelling heat decarbonisation system. They should be regarded as initial opportunity areas for further consideration, where more detailed feasibility assessment would be required, as would be the case with any heat decarbonisation option

4. Heating System Zones

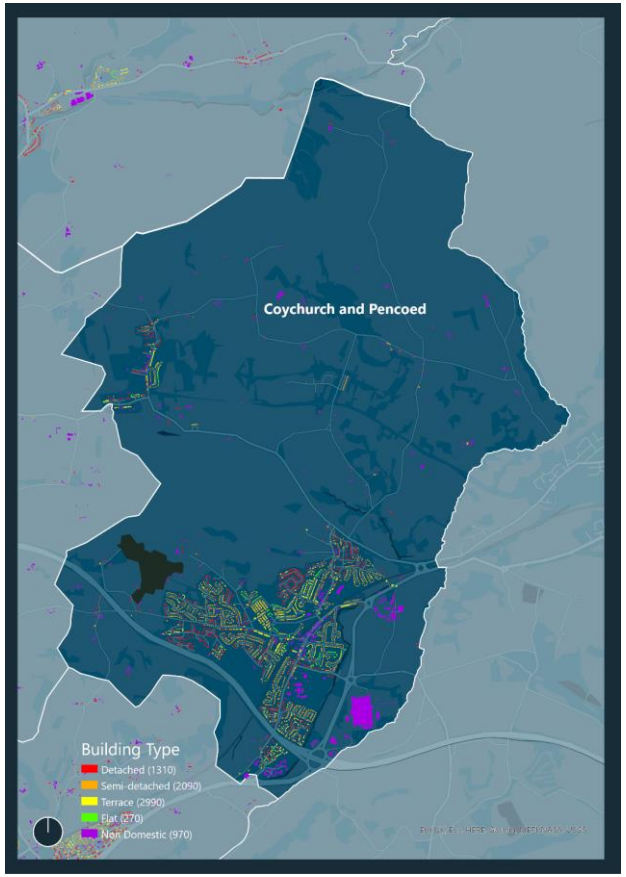
Hydrogen for Heating

The second scenario proposed in this refresh considers re-purposing of the gas grid for hydrogen. In this scenario, three zones have hydrogen boilers as their most prevalent heating technology type. A fourth zone, Bridgend Town East may have hydrogen boilers, depending on the future cost and availability of hydrogen.

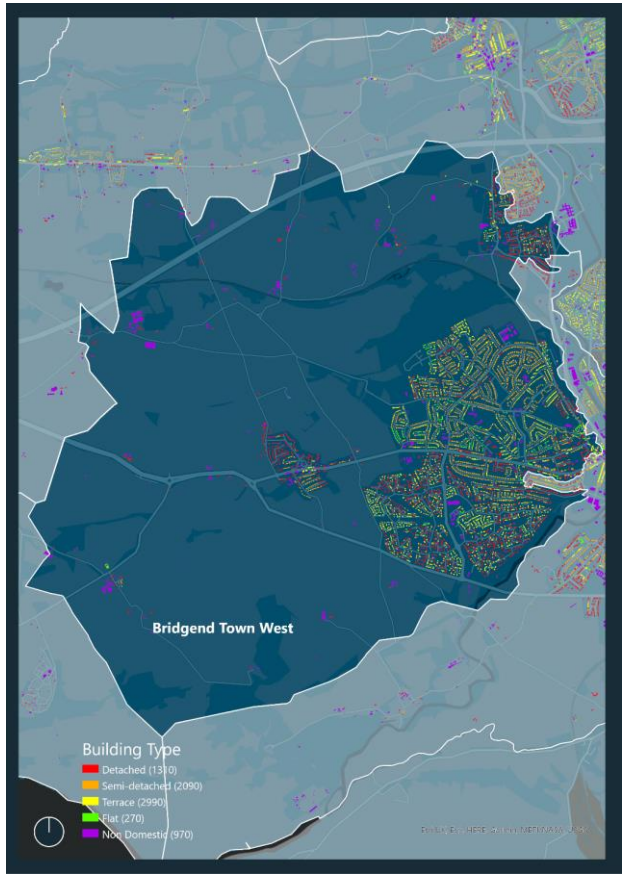
Heating Zone – Garw Valley and Llangynwyd



Heating Zone – Coychurch and Pencoed



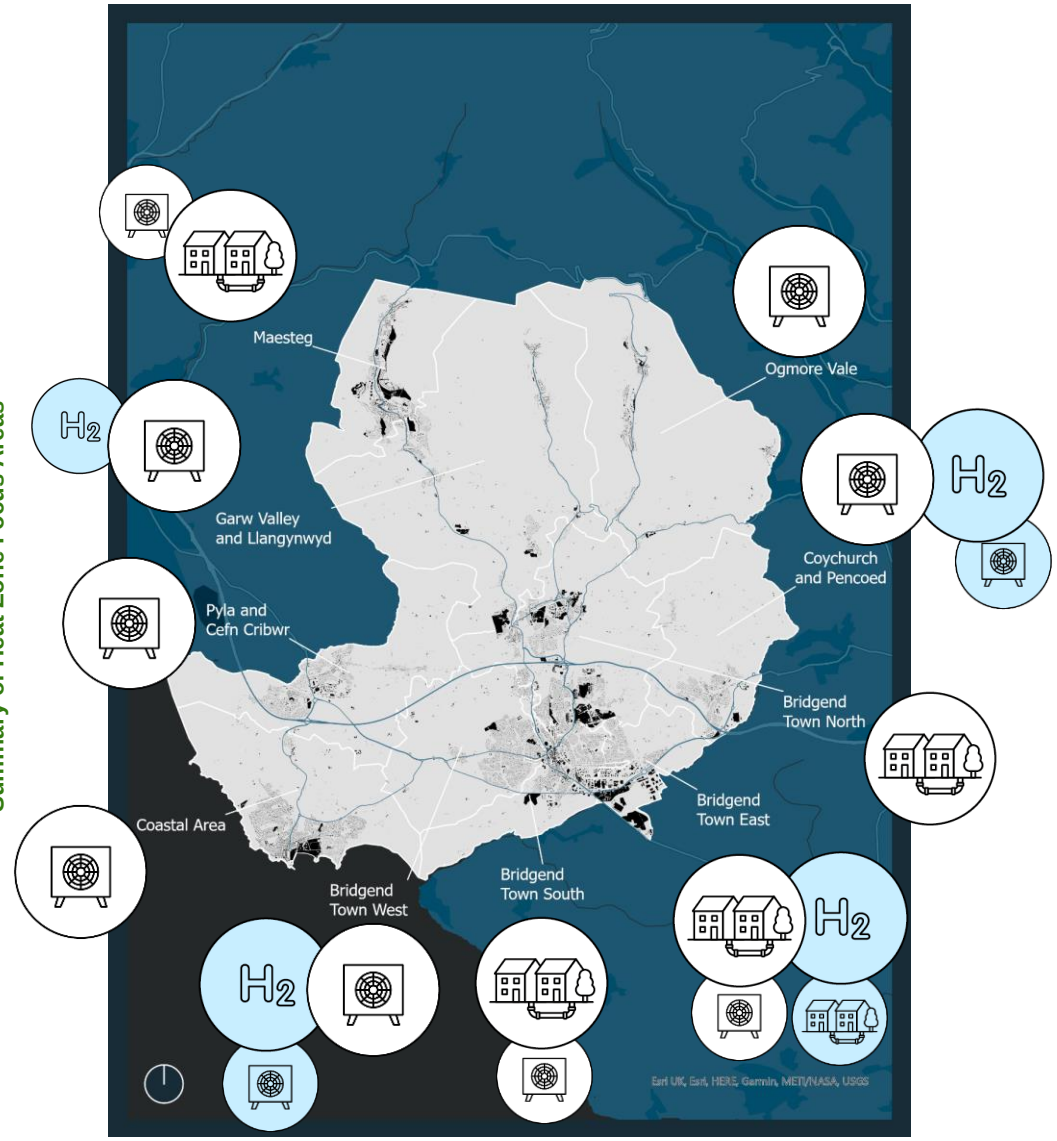
Heating Zone – Bridgend Town West



4. Heating System Zones - Summary

Zone	District Heat	Electric Heat	Hydrogen
Maesteg	Majority	Secondary	None
Ogmore Vale	None	Majority	None
Garw Valley and Llangynwyd	None	Majority	N/A
Garw Valley and Llangynwyd (w/H_2)	None	Majority	Secondary
Pyla and Cefn Cribwr	None	Majority	None
Coychurch and Pencoed	None	Majority	N/A
Coychurch and Pencoed (w/H_2)	None	Secondary	Majority
Bridgend Town West	None	Majority	N/A
Bridgend Town West (w/H_2)	None	Secondary	Majority
Coastal Area	None	Majority	None
Bridgend Town North	Majority	None	None
Bridgend Town South	Majority	Secondary	None
Bridgend Town East	Majority	Secondary	N/A
Bridgend Town East (w/H_2)	Secondary	None	Majority

Summary of Heat Zone Focus Areas



Heat Pump Primary Scenario

District Heat Network Primary Scenario

Heat Pump Secondary Scenario

District Heat Network Secondary Scenario

Hydrogen Network Secondary Scenario

3. Fabric Retrofit Zones

High-Level Overview

A high level of fabric retrofit will be needed across existing dwellings in Bridgend, with over half (53%; 33,700) requiring some level of retrofit. This is true even in areas where there is less certainty on the choice of future low carbon heating systems. Early focus and investment in fabric retrofit would be a low regret step in these areas.

Dwellings consistently identified as requiring a basic level of retrofit were the larger buildings: detached and semi-detached. Indeed, 73% (11,500) of detached dwellings will require a basic level of retrofit (e.g. cavity wall insulation and/or loft insulation) and 53% (11,900) of semi-detached. Around 8,900 of the semi-detached dwellings currently are without cavity wall insulation, and 5,200 of those also require a top-up of loft insulation (i.e. currently have <200mm).

Terraced dwellings are less likely to require a basic level of retrofit (24%; 5,100) but are the most likely to need a deep level of retrofit. 21% (1,400) of end-terrace and 10% (1,500) of mid-terrace dwellings will need investment in deep retrofit. This compares to around 8.5% (1,900) of semi-detached dwellings. Of the dwellings requiring deep retrofit, 4,200 of them currently have uninsulated solid walls.

Age of the dwelling is a reasonable indicator to both the percentage of that stock requiring retrofit and the level to which it needs to be undertaken. 65-70% of dwellings built in the last 100 years will require basic retrofit. However, 20% of those built prior to 1914 require deep retrofit compared to 0-3% of those built post-1914.

Fabric Retrofit Approach

Retrofit measures should be tailored for the individual dwelling, taking account of its type, age, construction, existing insulation and likely future heating system. For example, cavity wall insulation will only be applicable to dwellings that have suitable cavities (usually post-1920 properties) that are not already filled. Narrow cavities, common in interwar houses, are likely to be unfilled, having been considered "hard to treat" during previous rounds of cavity treatment.

The retrofit zones identified on the following pages are designed to allow the coordinated targeting of interventions across Bridgend in such a way that supports and aligns with the wider local energy system transformation.

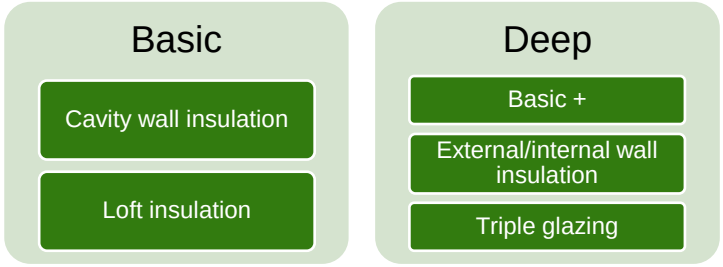
There is uncertainty in the specific measures needed and most suitable for individual homes as exact details of the existing fabric efficiency of any given dwelling are not known. Survey work will be needed before any works are undertaken.

The proposed approach centres on ensuring basic fabric retrofit measures are implemented in the vast majority of suitable homes in Bridgend, which is found to be the most cost-effective approach for the whole system. The deployment of more advanced measures is much more limited due to the additional cost and disruption to install but may prove more cost-effective on an individual house basis as part of a package of wider measures.

Typical measures included in the modelling approach used for this LAEP 'basic' and ‘deep' retrofit packages are shown in the graphic.

Supporting Low Carbon Heat

The improvement of building insulation supports the roll out of low carbon heat in several ways. By reducing the heat demand, less powerful heating systems can be installed, reducing capital costs. The reduced demand for heat will also compensate for a shift to a more expensive energy source (gas to electricity). Finally, reduced heat losses enable heat pumps and district heat networks to run at lower temperatures, improving their efficiency and running costs, and may also reduce the need for radiator upgrades in homes. It therefore makes sense to carry out retrofit either before or at the same time as heating system replacements to capture these benefits. Carrying out both activities at the same time would minimise the number of disruptions experienced by households, while insulating earlier would provide further emissions reductions compared to the modelled pathway.



3. Fabric Retrofit Zones

Deployment

The distribution of the dwellings in Bridgend expected to need 'deep' retrofit measures by dwelling type is shown below. Combined with those requiring 'basic' retrofit, around half of the 64,000 dwellings in Bridgend will require measures to be installed by 2040.

Rapid deployment of retrofit measures could be a relatively easy intervention in the near term. The rate of deployment that is possible will depend on the development of a supply chain and business models; developing this in the next few years could allow for higher deployment rates in the medium-term to support progress with decarbonisation where there may not yet be clarity on heating systems across all parts of Bridgend. However, deployment of measures should not be considered in isolation: integration with other components (such as heating system changes and PV installation) can help minimise disruption and offer cost savings, and so opportunities to develop cost-effective whole-house approaches will need to be considered during the development of any activity.

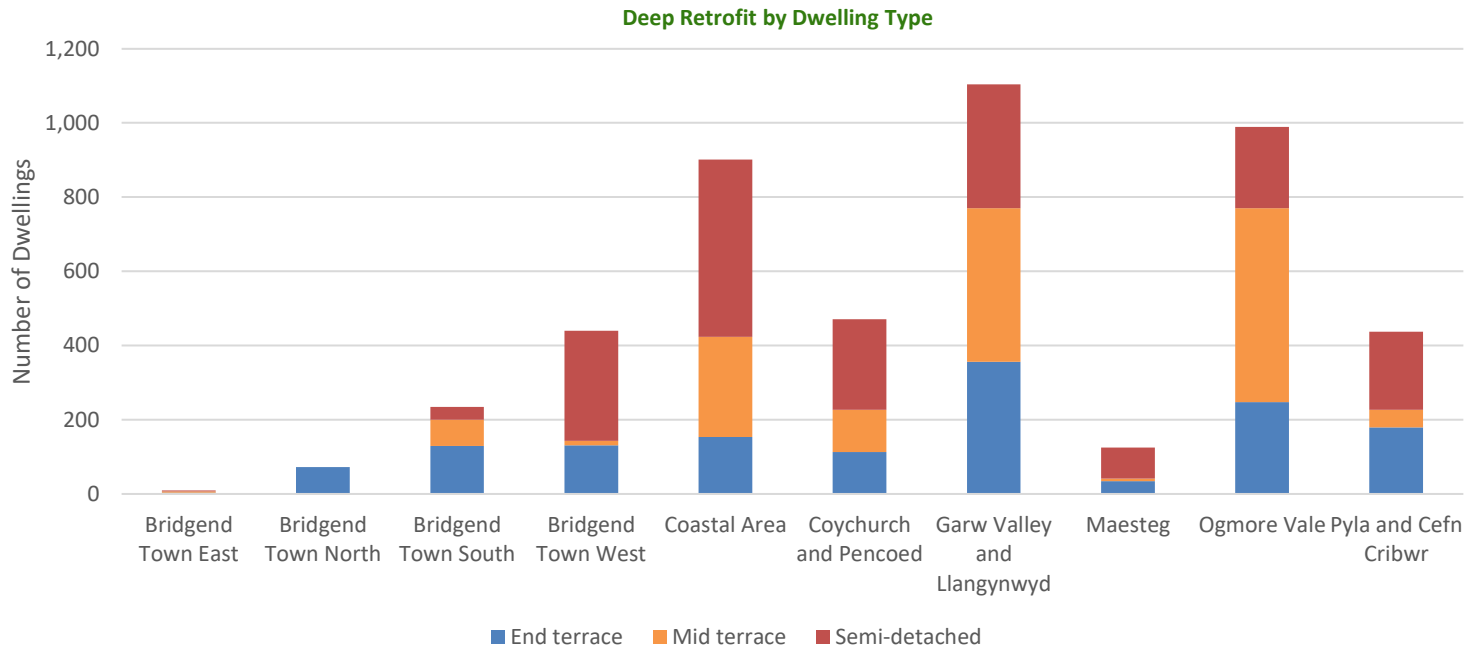
Deeper Retrofit

The approach described is based on finding the most cost-effective route for decarbonising Bridgend overall.

However, there may be strong reasons for additional retrofit work and so deeper and more extensive retrofit for individual dwellings is expected, with the potential to bring a number of benefits:

- Increased comfort and reduced running costs for individual households. This could also be important for some households to reduce fuel poverty and improve health and general quality of life
- Potential to reduce energy consumption and associated carbon emissions across Bridgend more quickly.

Carrying out basic measures in earlier years would not preclude deeper measures being installed in dwellings in later years, and so basic measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation are low regret across all scenarios and heating system selections.



3. Fabric Retrofit Zones

Priority Areas

Whilst large numbers of dwellings will need to be retrofitted, to improve energy efficiency, across all areas of Bridgend, a number of potential fabric retrofit zones have been identified. These have been selected as high levels of energy efficiency improvements are very likely to be required.

The purpose of providing these priority zones is to highlight areas where demonstration and scale-up could be prioritised over the near-term (<5 years)*.

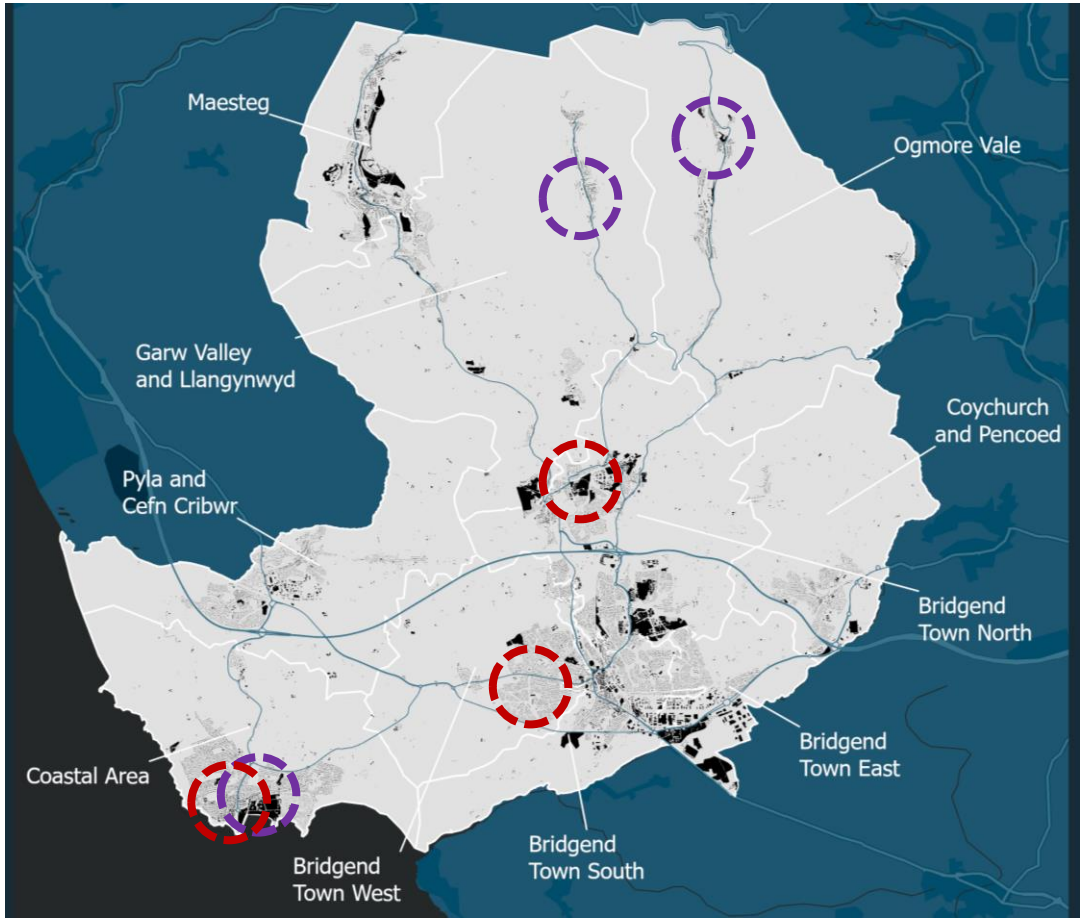
These have been split to provide 3 priority retrofit areas where 'basic' retrofit is required (i.e. loft and cavity wall insulation) and 3 priority retrofit areas where 'deep' retrofit is required (i.e. internal or external wall insulation and triple glazing in addition to the basic retrofit measures).

On the map (right) the 'basic' retrofit priority areas have been circled in red and are within the following zones:

- **Basic Retrofit Zone 1 – Bridgend Town West**
- **Basic Retrofit Zone 2 – Coastal Area**
- **Basic Retrofit Zone 3 – Bridgend Town North**

The detached and semi-detached dwellings in these three areas alone account for 38% of all basic retrofits that need to be undertaken in Bridgend.

Priority Retrofit Zones in Bridgend



A further three priority retrofit areas where 'deep' retrofit is required (i.e. external/internal wall insulation and triple glazing in addition to the basic measures) have been defined:

- **Deep Retrofit Zone 1 – Garw Valley & Llangynwyd**
- **Deep Retrofit Zone 2 – Ogmore Vale**
- **Deep Retrofit Zone 3 – Coastal Area**

These areas are circled in purple in the map (left).

The dwellings that were constructed prior to 1914 in these three areas alone account for two-thirds of all deep retrofits that need to be undertaken in Bridgend.

Conversely, Bridgend Town East and Bridgend Town North are less likely to be an immediate focus for retrofit, as they have the lowest overall levels of deep retrofit required, both having under 1% of the stock requiring this level of treatment. Equally, Ogmore Vale has the lowest proportion of the housing stock requiring basic retrofit at under 19%.

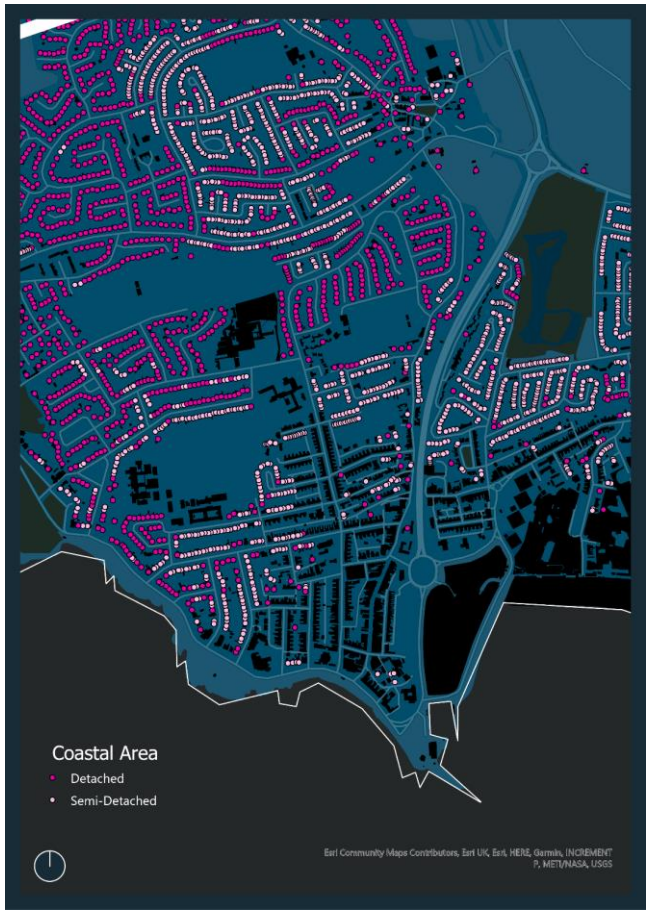
Whether or not a priority area based retrofit approach is pursued, it is essential that any delivery programme considers how to best integrate implementation with other dwelling related components e.g. heating system change.

NB: Fabric retrofit measures have been identified following a whole energy system approach, considering the cost-effectiveness of fabric retrofit measures alongside other options to achieve carbon neutrality in Bridgend. This does not mean that individual dwellings or buildings would not benefit from additional retrofit measures when considered on a case by case basis, particularly as part of a package of wider measures that could include heating system change and PV installation. During the development of any activity or plans to progress this LAEP, consideration will be needed to determine the optimum approach for deployment, when appraised alongside the approach for taking forward any of the other components of this LAEP.

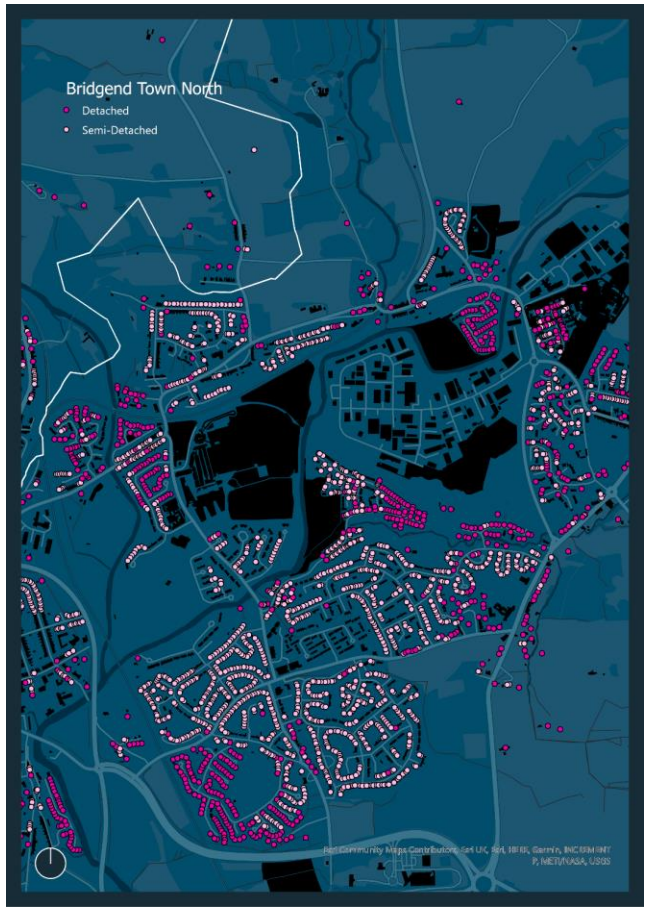
3. Fabric Retrofit Zones



Basic Retrofit Zone 1 – Bridgend Town West
A total of 4,400 dwellings requiring basic retrofit including 1,800 semi-detached and 2,000 detached. Almost all of these were constructed between 1945 and present.
The image above shows dwellings in the Bryntirion, Cefn Glas and Newcastle areas many of which are likely to require a basic retrofit.



Basic Retrofit Zone 2 – Coastal Area
A total of 4,100 dwellings requiring basic retrofit including 1,200 semi-detached and 2,400 detached. The majority of these were constructed between 1945 and 1979.
The image above shows dwellings in the Porthcawl and Nottage areas which are likely to require a basic retrofit.



Basic Retrofit Zone 3 – Bridgend Town North
A total of 4,300 dwellings requiring basic retrofit including 1,800 semi-detached and 1,700 detached. The majority of these were constructed between 1945 and 1979.
The image above shows dwellings in the Sarn, Byrncoch and Bryncethin areas which could require a basic retrofit.

Note: Numbers may not sum correctly due to rounding and omissions of small number of dwellings in different categories.
Building surveys will be required in these areas to identify exactly which buildings already have basic retrofit measures installed and which still require them.

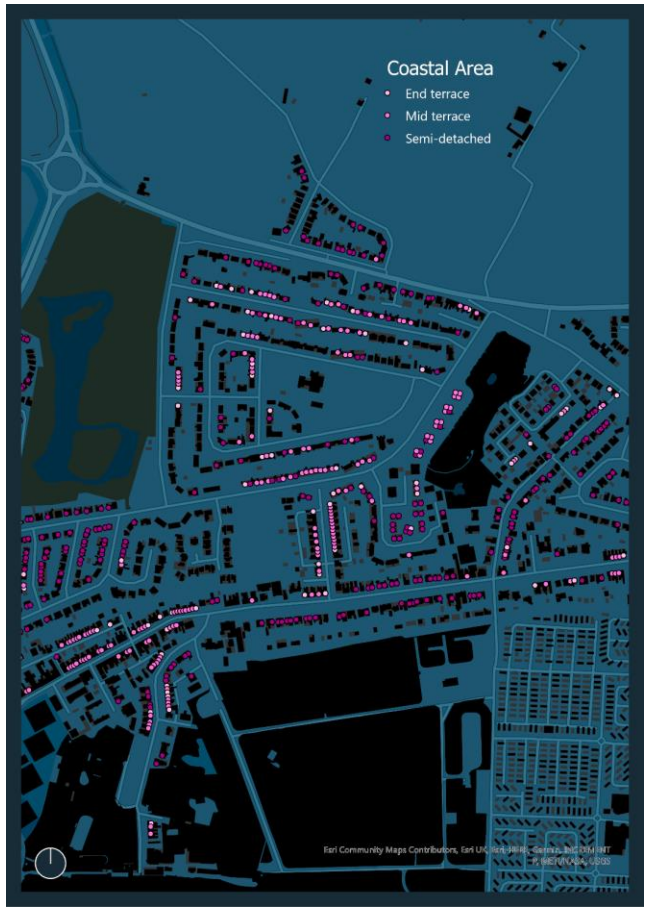
3. Fabric Retrofit Zones



Deep Retrofit Zone 1 – Garw Valley & Llangynwyd
A total of 1,100 dwellings requiring deep retrofit fairly evenly split between end-terrace (400), mid-terrace (350), and semi-detached (325) dwellings.
The image above shows dwellings in the Pontycymer area which are likely to require a deep retrofit.



Deep Retrofit Zone 2 – Ogmore Vale
A total of 1,000 dwellings requiring deep retrofit weighted heavily towards mid-terrace (520), with the remainder being end-terrace (250) and semi-detached (220).
The image above shows dwellings in the Price Town and Nant-y-moel areas which are likely to require a deep retrofit.



Deep Retrofit Zone 3 – Coastal Area
A total of 910 dwellings requiring deep retrofit weighted heavily towards semi-detached (480), with the remainder being mid-terrace (270) and end-terrace (150).
The image above shows dwellings in the Trecco Bay area which are likely to require a deep retrofit.

Note: Numbers may not sum correctly due to rounding and omissions of small number of dwellings in different categories.
Building surveys will be required in these areas to identify exactly which buildings already have basic retrofit measures installed and which still require them.

4. Non-Domestic Buildings - Summary

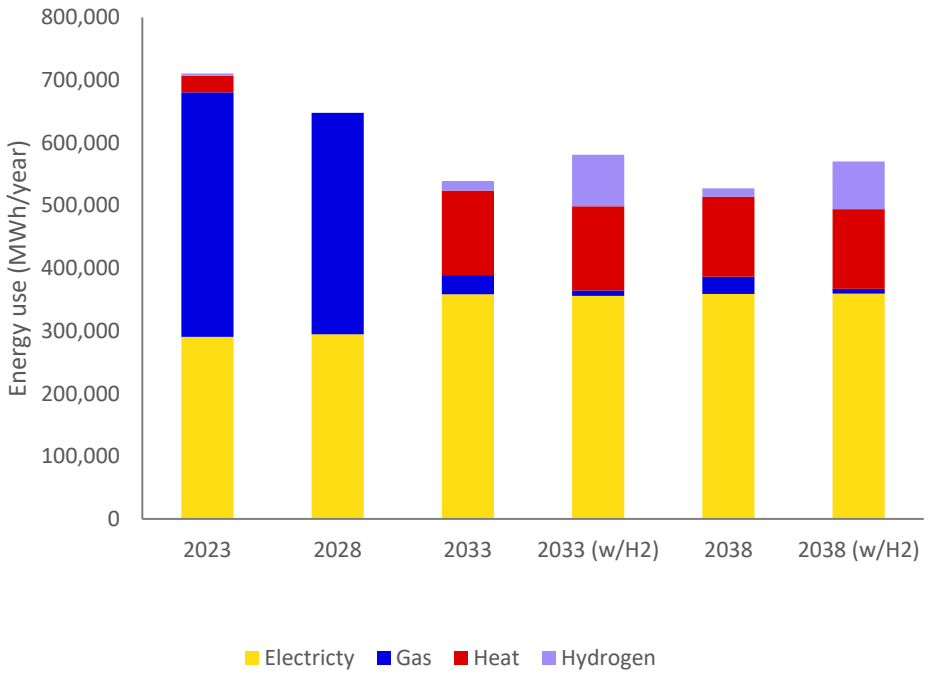
The mix of energy required for non-domestic buildings to 2038 is shown in the chart below left, in five year steps. Both 2033 and 2038 are shown twice, to show scenarios with and without hydrogen.

By 2038, the move to heat networks and the contribution of hydrogen has all but eliminated the need for gas in non-domestic buildings in Bridgend. Heat networks provide approximately 25% of total demand by 2038 in both scenarios (with and without hydrogen). To 2038, the demand for electricity grows by approximately 20%; electricity use for heating is expected to primarily be served by air source heat pumps as they are cheaper to install than alternative heat pump options (such as ground source). In larger non-domestic buildings with large outside spaces, ground source heat pumps may be suitable. Fabric retrofit contributes to a reduction in total energy demand by approximately 20% and is likely to be required in many buildings to allow a switch to heat pumps.

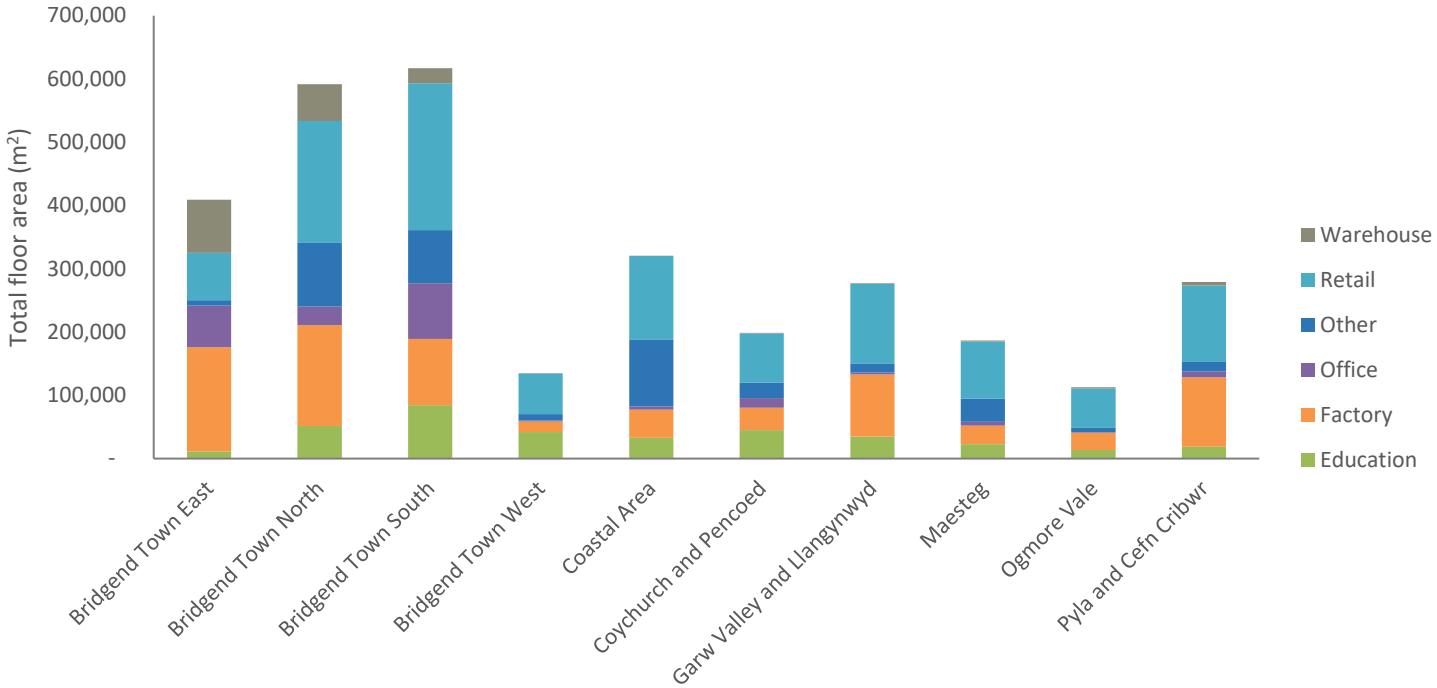
In the future scenario with hydrogen, the following zones switch to individual hydrogen boilers in the non-domestic stock: Garw Valley and Llangynwyd, Pyla and Cefn Cribwr, Coychurch and Pencoed, Bridgend Town West and Bridgend Town East. Hydrogen is also used in these areas to provide industrial heat demands (non-heating) in place of using gas. If hydrogen isn't available, then a solution for industrial heat will be required.

The chart bottom right shows the usage of the non-domestic buildings, in each of the ten zones. None of the ten zones have a particular noteworthy concentration of any particular use type, although the four zones that make up Bridgend Town account for over half of the total floor area. Over 90% of warehousing is found in three of the Bridgend Town zones.

Non-Domestic Annual Consumption by Energy Source



Building usage within Bridgend by Floor Area (m^2)



4. Non-domestic buildings

Non-domestic buildings priority area selection

Bridgend Town South has been identified as a priority area to demonstrate how to decarbonise Bridgend's non-domestic buildings before considering wider scale-up.

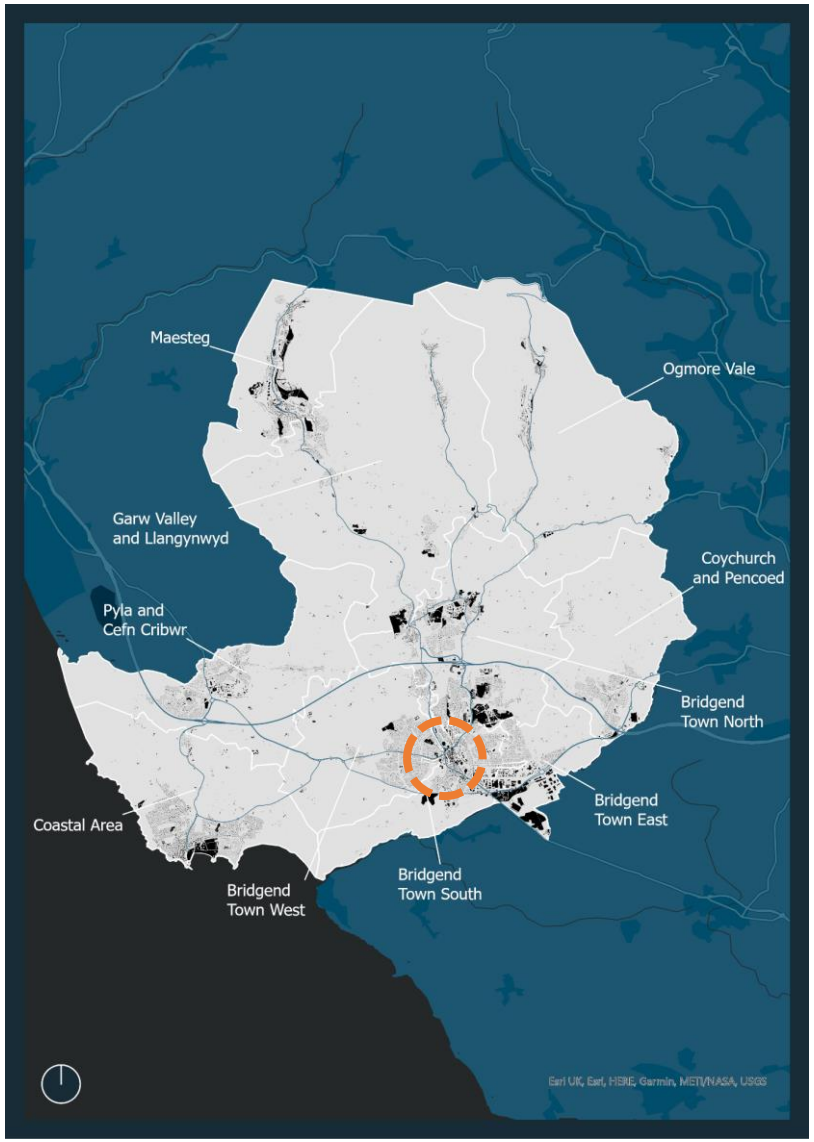
Bridgend Town South has the greatest proportion of non-domestic buildings in Bridgend, containing a large amount of education, retail and office space that mean it has been identified as a potential district heating zone. These characteristics provide a good basis for determining an approach that could later be applied to non-domestic buildings across Bridgend.



Illustrative deployment of heating system in non-domestic buildings in Bridgend Town South, showing the central Town area



Bridgend Town – Non-domestic decarbonisation priority area

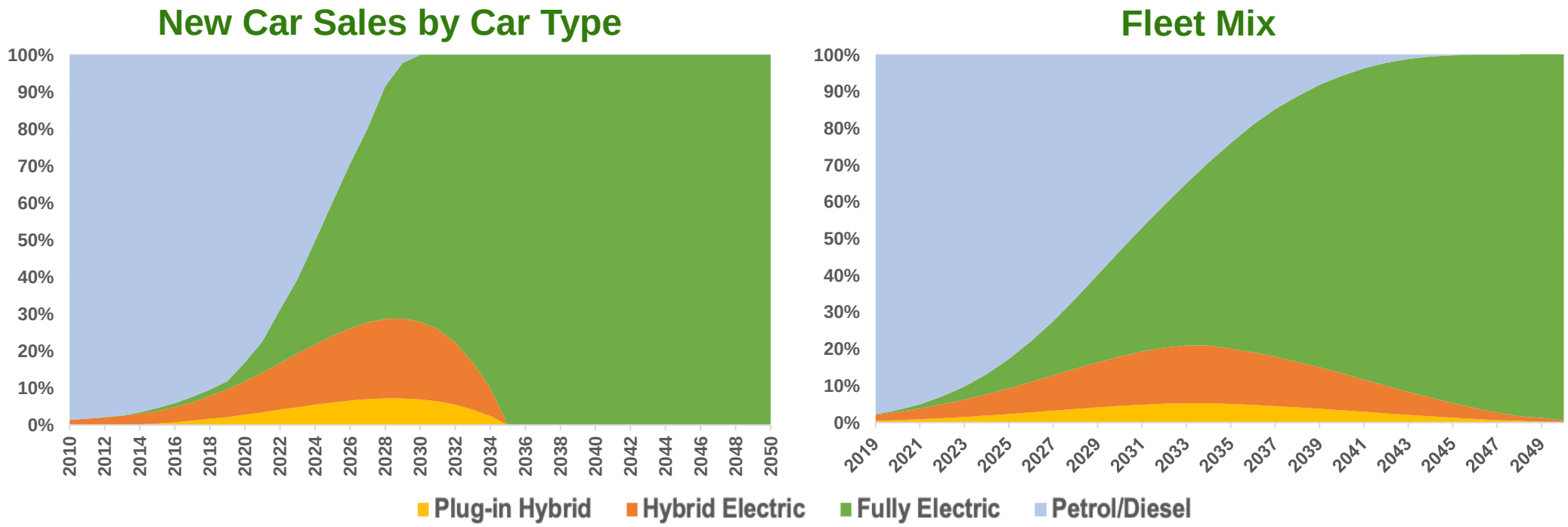


5. EV Charging

Vision to 2040

Electric Vehicle (EV) ownership is expected to grow significantly to support local decarbonisation targets and in alignment with national policy, which will see the phasing out of internal combustion engine vehicle sales by 2030 and hybrids by 2035. Fully electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs) in Bridgend are expected to grow from around 3,000 today to around 70,000 cars by 2040. The transition to electric vehicles requires support from publicly accessible and domestic chargers, and this is a consistent result across all scenarios; therefore all moves to make steps in charger deployment can be considered low regret.

Charging infrastructure will need to be installed to encourage this transition and keep up with this demand, providing confidence that owners will be able to recharge when needed. A mixture of publicly accessible (such as workplaces and shopping centres) and private residential chargers will be required to provide this amenity. At-home charging for dwellings that have off-street parking is a solution which is well developed, but for dwellings without off street parking other solutions will be needed. One solution may be public charging hubs located in residential areas with limited off-street parking. Other alternatives include developing an EV car club offer and expanding levels of workplace and destination charging provision. It is estimated that around 49,000 domestic charge points will be required.



7. Energy Networks

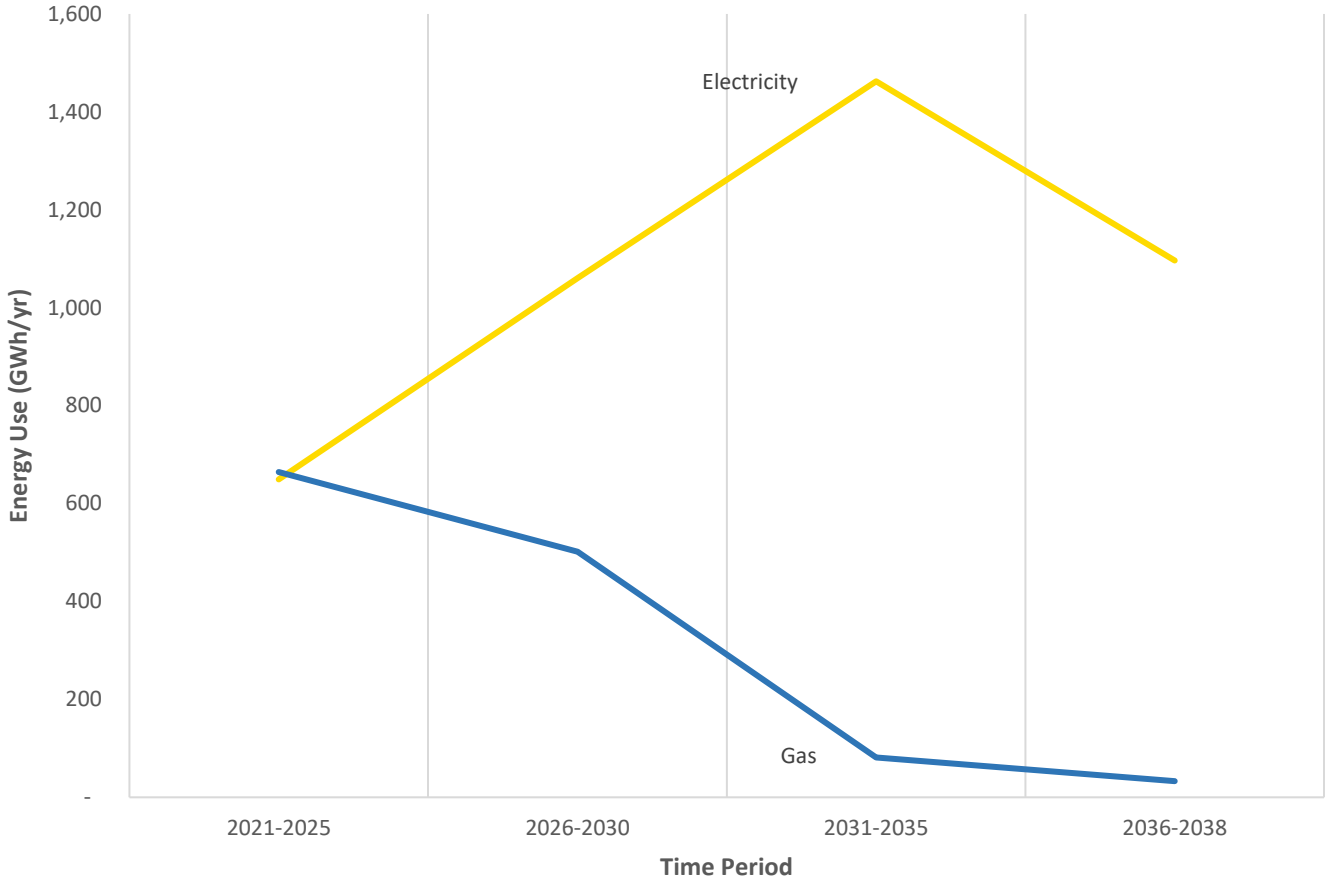
Vision to 2038

Energy networks are the backbone of Bridgend's carbon neutral future; the large scale changes in the way we use energy described in the previous sections will require networks to adapt and evolve in significant ways. Major changes to the existing gas and electricity networks will be required, as well as the development of new networks including district heat and potentially hydrogen networks to meet future demand with significantly reduced carbon emissions.

The electrification of heat and transport is likely to drive a major shift towards greater dependency on the electricity network. Greater demand for electricity will require investment in generation capacity and storage and distribution network infrastructure upgrades.

In the primary scenario, to decarbonise Bridgend by 2038 gas demand is reduced by 95% with its remaining use in some non-domestic and industrial applications which are more difficult to electrify. In the hydrogen scenario, the gas demand reduces by 98.5% due to the ability of hydrogen to decarbonise some of the non-domestic and industrial demands that cannot be electrified. There is uncertainty currently about the role of hydrogen to replace heating, including when and where it may be available, in what quantities, the associated carbon emissions, and the cost compared to other solutions.

This section of the report provides an overview of the impact on each of the energy networks of the primary scenario.



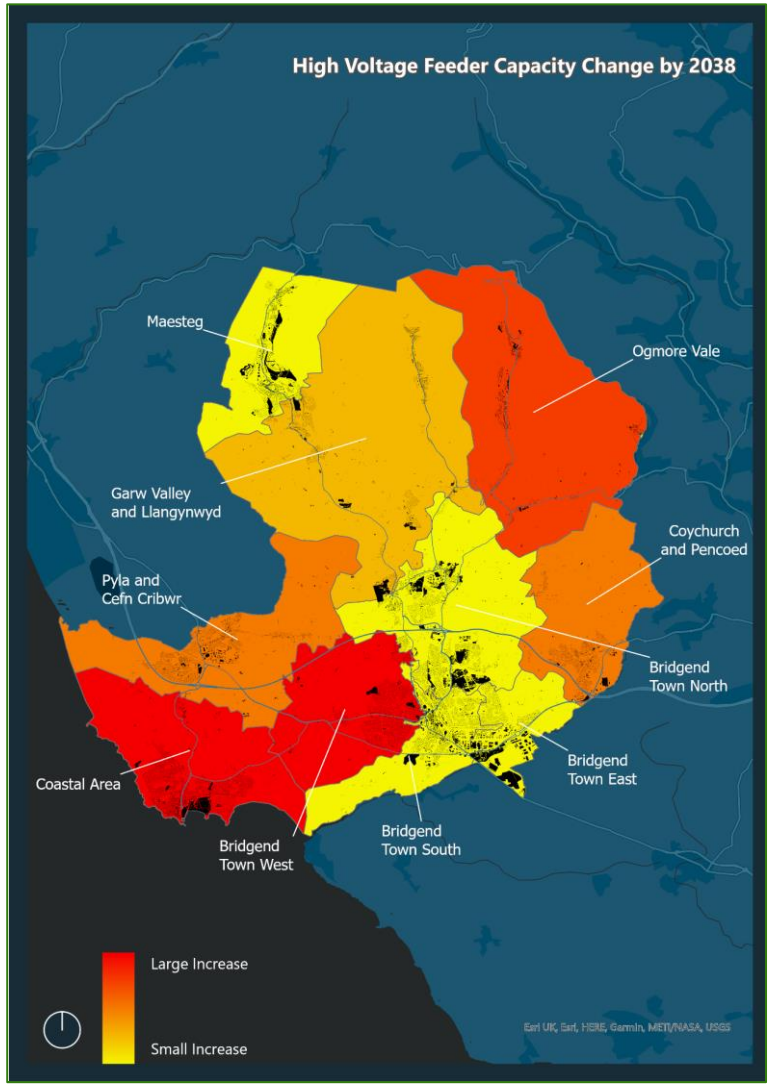
7. Energy Networks - Electricity

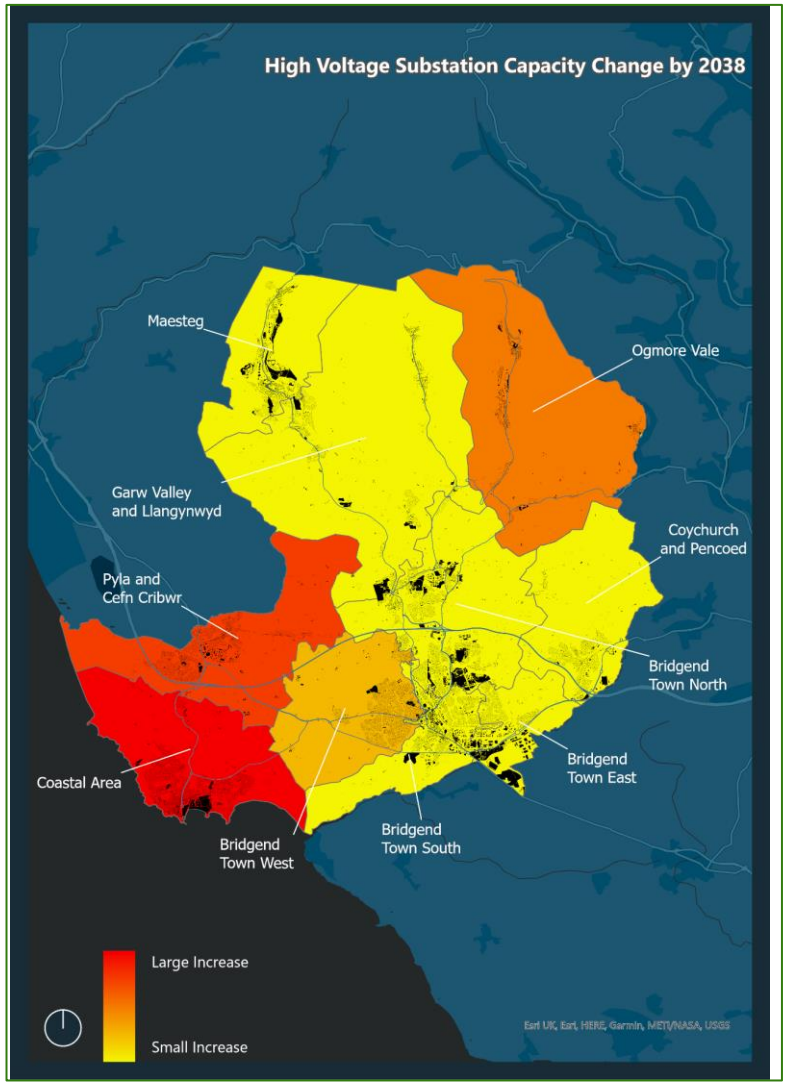
Capacity Requirements for 2038: High Voltage

The local electricity distribution network, operated under license by Western Power Distribution, supplies electricity to the dwellings and industry in Bridgend today. Modelling indicates the capacity required to meet all projected demand growth through conventional investment, but some of this demand could instead be accommodated through alternative investments, such as flexibility and storage. Hence the physical capacity increase required could be less than shown here. Areas with large increases in required capacity present opportunities for innovation and smart technology. Smart EV chargers and smart heat pump controls could make demand flexible, while storage technologies and vehicle-to-grid could help meet peaks in demand locally and provide other grid services.

The modelled capacity requirements at high voltage and low voltage (see next slide) levels are shown in the maps and tables. The distribution of these impacts is determined by a combination of factors, such as electric vehicle ownership, space for off-street parking and existing spare capacity in the current electricity infrastructure. For example, a zone may see a large increase in demand for home EV chargers, but not require large capacity increase because it currently has significant spare capacity.

	High Voltage Feeder Capacity (MW)		High Voltage Substation Capacity (MW)	
Zone	2021	2038	2021	2038
Maesteg	23	23	29	29
Ogmore Vale	13	27	14	26
Garw Valley & Llangynwyd	30	39	43	43
Pyla & Cefn Cribwr	27	50	29	74
Coychurch & Pencoed	20	37	43	43
Bridgend Town West	28	70	29	43
Coastal Area	31	83	29	86
Bridgend Town North	41	41	43	43
Bridgend Town South	44	44	86	86
Bridgend Town East	26	26	43	43



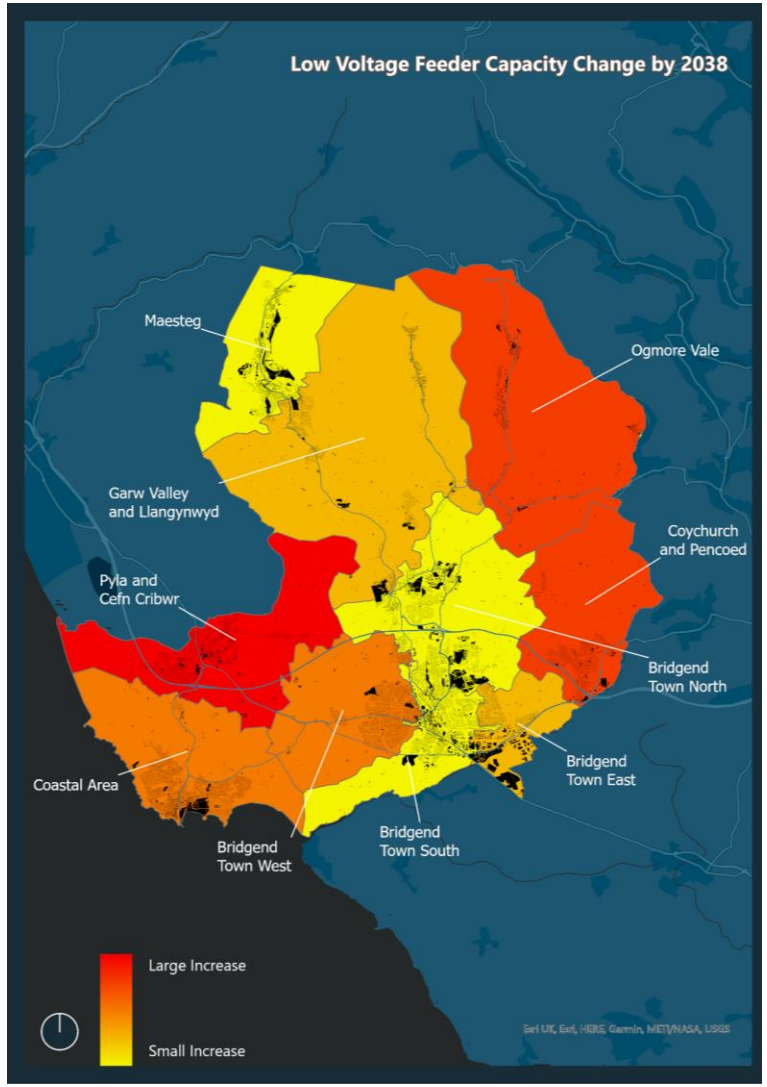


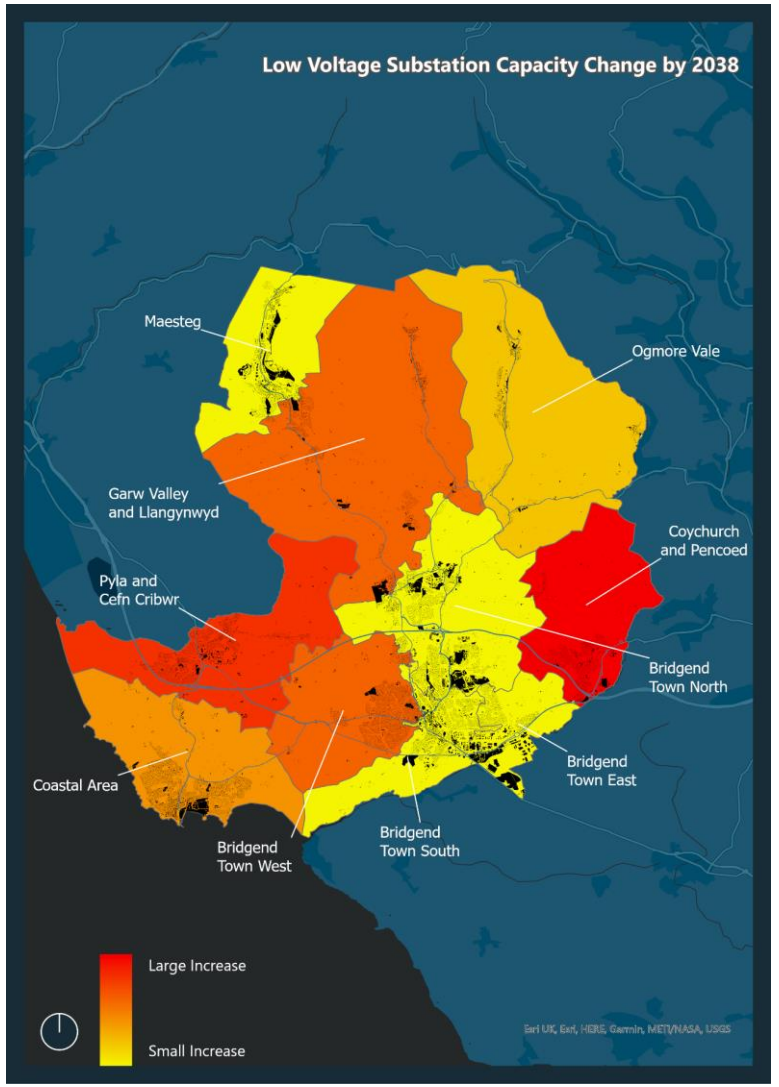
7. Energy Networks - Electricity

Capacity Requirements for 2038: Low Voltage

Low voltage feeders are the cables serving individual buildings, so upgrades to these can involve extensive roadworks and disruption. High voltage feeders, or run to substations which typically serve multiple streets, so are less disruptive to replace. Substations are located on designated plots of land, with exclusive access for the DNO.

	Low Voltage Feeder Capacity (MW)		Low Voltage Substation Capacity (MW)	
Zone	2021	2038	2021	2038
Maesteg	21	21	23	23
Ogmore Vale	12	20	12	22
Garw Valley & Llangynwyd	29	31	24	95
Pyla & Cefn Cribwr	21	58	22	97
Coychurch & Pencoed	16	34	15	91
Bridgend Town West	41	46	22	90
Coastal Area	39	43	23	82
Bridgend Town North	35	35	38	38
Bridgend Town South	36	36	36	36
Bridgend Town East	16	16	16	16





7. Energy Networks - Gas

Gas Network Today

The gas network, operated under license by Wales and West Utilities, supplies gas to the majority of dwellings in Bridgend today, predominantly for heating and hot water but also cooking. It also supports a range of non-domestic and industrial local energy demands. The current total gas consumption across Bridgend is around 660 GWh – comparable to the demand for electricity.

To deliver against BCBC's net zero target, it is expected that nearly all dwellings will no longer use natural gas by the early 2030s . Most non-domestic buildings will also transition away from gas.

Future of Gas and Hydrogen for Heat

The primary plan for Bridgend sees the majority of domestic dwellings converting their heating systems to either be:

- connected to a district heat network or, more commonly,
- converted to electric heating, predominantly in the form of different types of heat pumps depending on different factors such as location, energy efficiency and house type.

This would necessitate phased disconnection of homes from the gas network as they are converted to electric or district heating, which would need coordination.

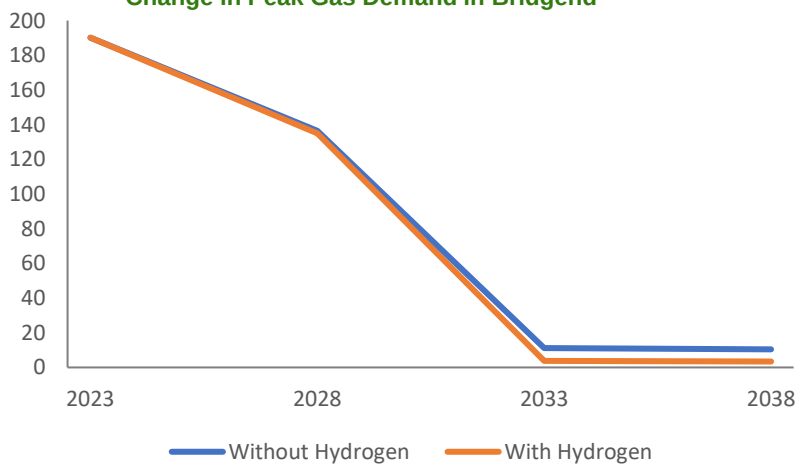
Hybrid heating (air source heat pump/gas boiler hybrid) is an option in certain circumstances – typically in larger pre-1914 semi-detached properties that are hard to heat that may not have space for a ground source heat pump and are not close to a heat network. Around 760 dwellings may be best suited for this technology, but this decreases to around 300 in the scenario with hydrogen.

The gas network may be repurposed to distribute hydrogen. Three zones in particular may look to hydrogen – Coychurch and Pencoed, Bridgend Town West, and Garw Valley and Llangynwyd in the second scenario where hydrogen is available and affordable. Equitable solutions for dealing with the ongoing gas network maintenance costs for remaining customers will need to be explored. The extent of this issue will depend on whether the gas network is re-purposed for hydrogen or not.

Most non-domestic properties will also transition away from gas, again connecting to district heat networks or converting to electric heating options. There are a small number of non-domestic properties that are harder to decarbonise, particularly with industrial uses that require high temperature process heat: these remain on the gas network in the modelling under the primary scenario.

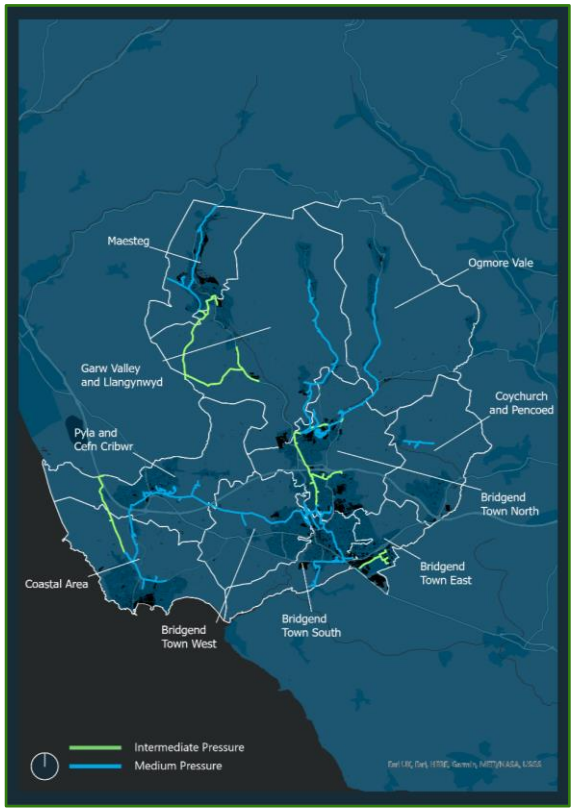
Conversion to hydrogen can be a cheaper alternative to electrification for some domestic and non-domestic properties. The total capital cost saving on buildings was estimated at £11.5 for domestic and £30m for non-domestic compared to the primary scenario.

Change in Peak Gas Demand in Bridgend



The estimated cost to re-purpose the gas network in Bridgend to hydrogen was £60m with savings of around £7m in avoided decommissioning costs.
Using hydrogen for heat also reduces the requirement to reinforce the electricity network. The capital cost saving here was estimated at £15m
An overall potential capital cost saving of around £4m was estimated for the hydrogen scenario compared to the primary scenario (0.5% of total estimated capital investment required).

Current Gas Network in Bridgend

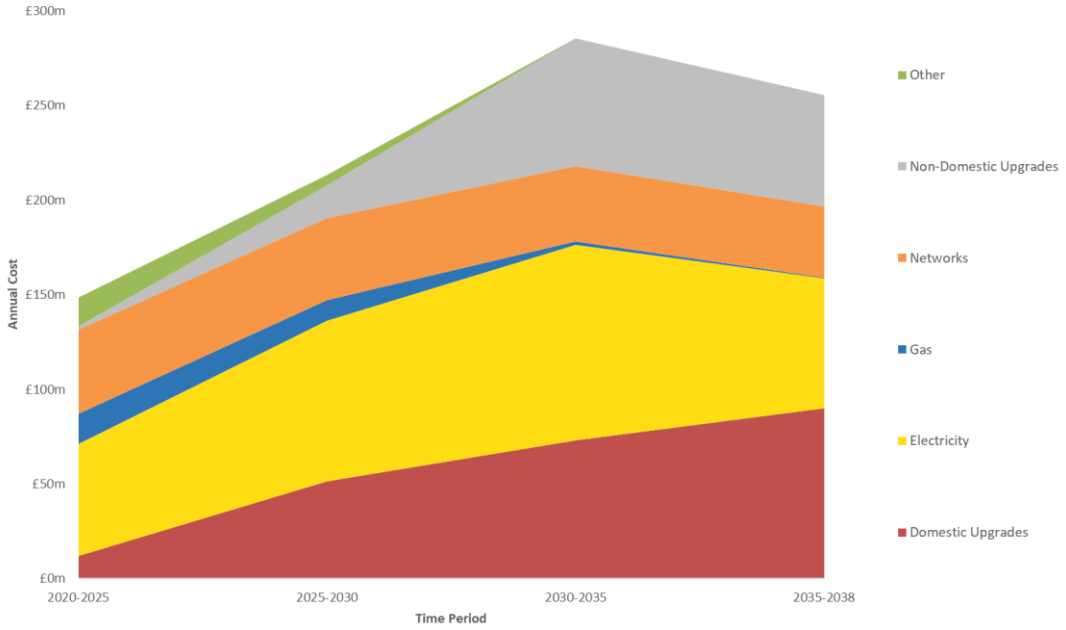


8. Cost and Investment

Total cost

The primary scenario is based on a total energy system spend of £4.5bn. The cost is attributed to investment in domestic and non-domestic upgrades, electricity, gas, networks and other. The chart below illustrates the split between these main components. Notably, a significant proportion of this cost would have been spent without accounting for decarbonisation. Money is spent every day on maintaining existing energy systems, replacing old or failed systems (e.g. gas boilers in dwellings), improving energy efficiency and paying gas and electricity bills. This update in conjunction with the original LAEP sets out an approach for redirecting some of that status quo expenditure, boosted with additional investment, to the areas needed to achieve the carbon neutral target. For example, energy costs are re-directed to electricity use in place of natural gas.

Annual Cost of Energy System in Bridgend



Investment

The tables below and the charts on the following pages illustrate the total investment (£2.8bn) needed in the energy system to deliver the primary scenario and how this is broken down by zone across Bridgend. These figures do not include energy costs.

Investment Categories

- Technologies = roof mounted PV, heat network energy centres and EV chargers
- Non-domestic buildings = heating system & insulation retrofit
- Domestic buildings = heating system & insulation retrofit
- Networks = gas, electricity and district heating network investment

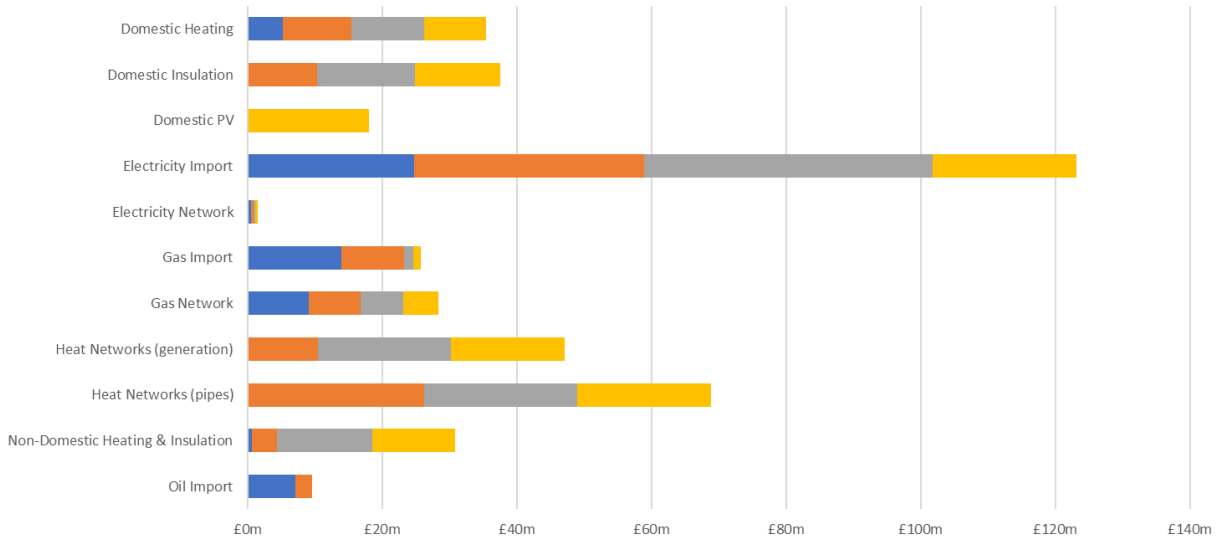
Zone	Total Investment (£m)
Maesteg	267
Ogmore Vale	170
Garw Valley & Llangynwyd	258
Pyla & Cefn Cribwr	251
Coychurch & Pencoed	183
Bridgend Town West	218
Coastal Area	300
Bridgend Town North	424
Bridgend Town South	417
Bridgend Town East	192

Investment type	Total Investment (£m)
Technologies	155
Non-domestic buildings	730
Dwellings	823
Networks	971

8. Cost and Investment

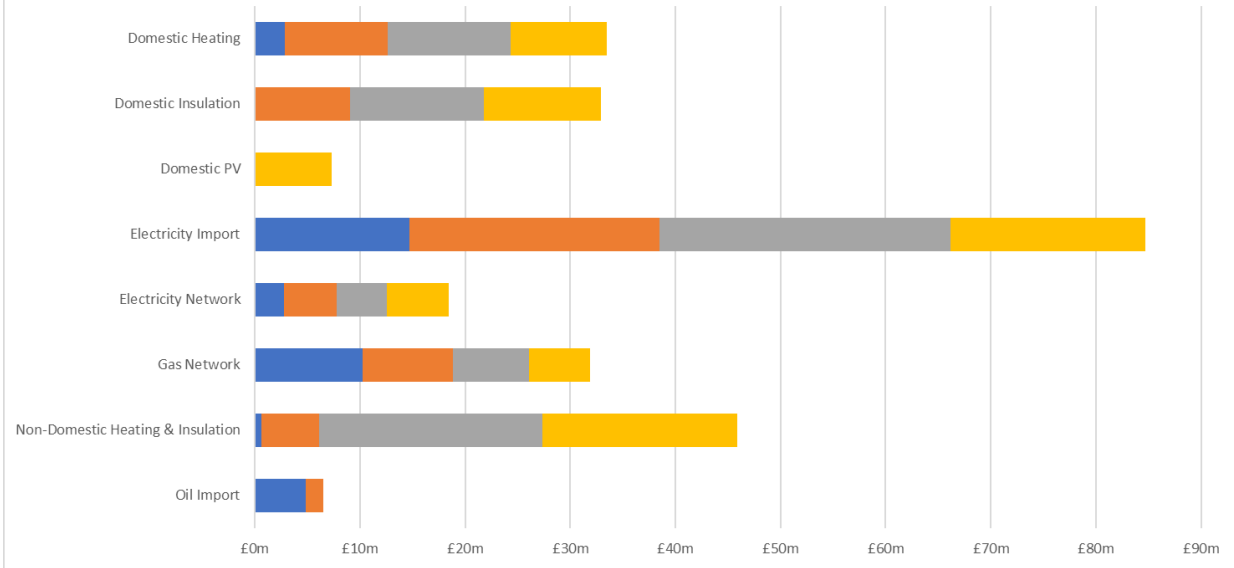
Investment in Bridgend's energy system (£m) by time period across each of Bridgend's zones

Maesteg



	Oil Import	Non-Domestic Heating & Insulation	Heat Networks (pipes)	Heat Networks (generation)	Gas Network	Gas Import	Electricity Network	Electricity Import	Domestic PV	Domestic Insulation	Domestic Heating
2021-2025	£7m	£1m	£0m	£0m	£9m	£14m	£0m	£25m	£0m	£0m	£5m
2026-2030	£2m	£4m	£26m	£10m	£8m	£9m	£0m	£34m	£0m	£10m	£10m
2031-2035	£0m	£14m	£23m	£20m	£6m	£1m	£0m	£43m	£0m	£15m	£11m
2036-2038	£0m	£12m	£20m	£17m	£5m	£1m	£0m	£21m	£18m	£13m	£9m

Ogmore Valley

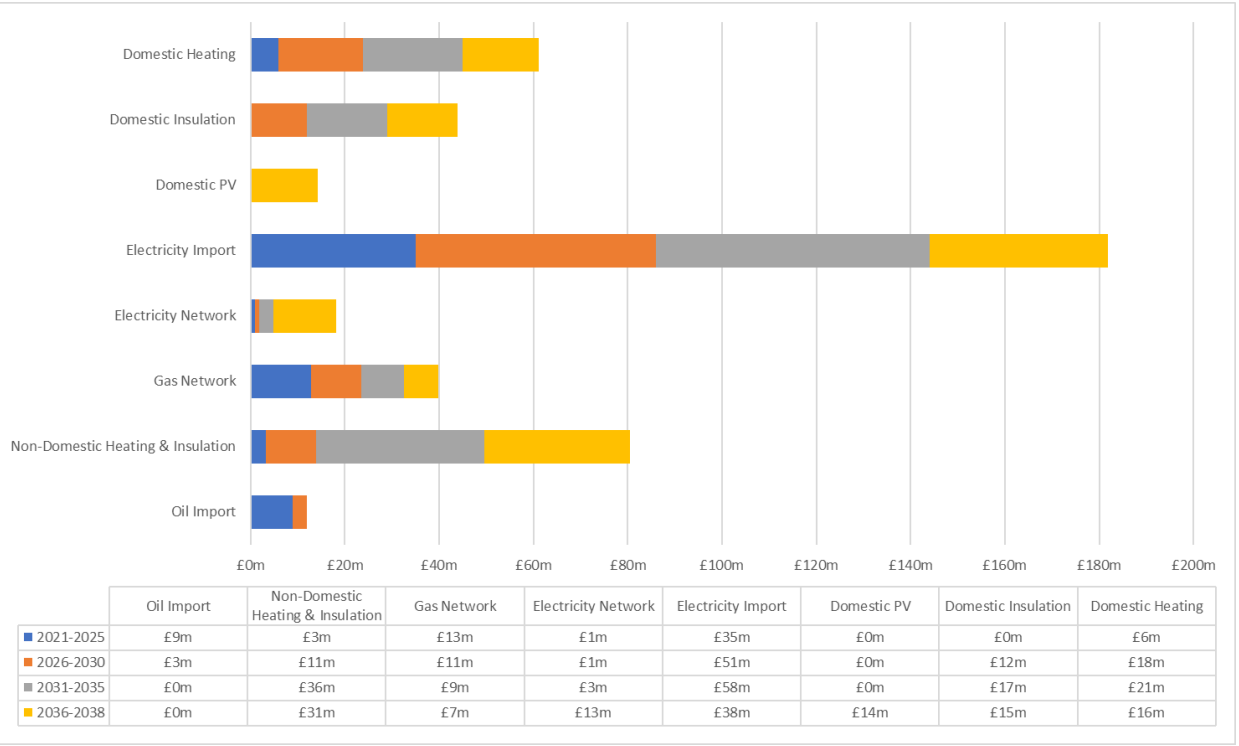


	Oil Import	Non-Domestic Heating & Insulation	Gas Network	Electricity Network	Electricity Import	Domestic PV	Domestic Insulation	Domestic Heating
2021-2025	£5m	£1m	£10m	£3m	£15m	£0m	£0m	£3m
2026-2030	£2m	£5m	£9m	£5m	£24m	£0m	£9m	£10m
2031-2035	£0m	£21m	£7m	£5m	£28m	£0m	£13m	£12m
2036-2038	£0m	£19m	£6m	£6m	£19m	£7m	£11m	£9m

8. Cost and Investment

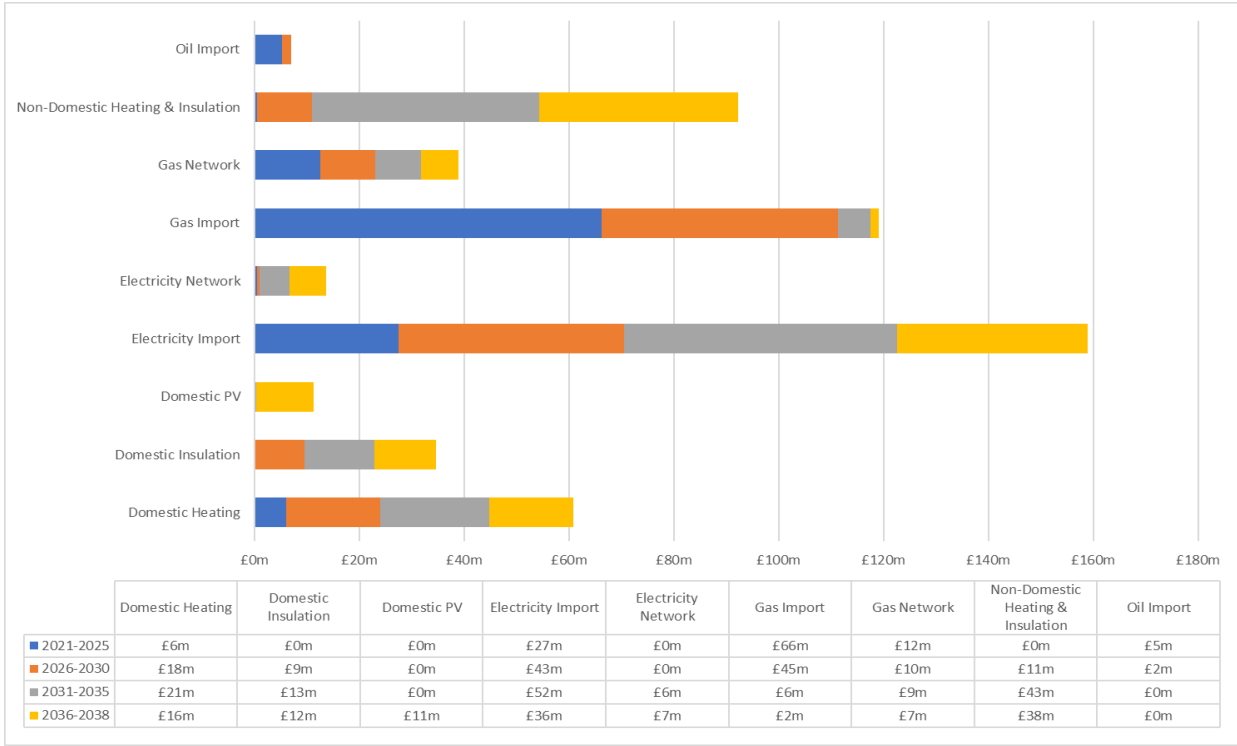
Investment in Bridgend's energy system (£m) by time period across each of Bridgend's zones

Ga[illegible] Valley and Llangynwyd



	Oil Import	Non-Domestic Heating & Insulation	Gas Network	Electricity Network	Electricity Import	Domestic PV	Domestic Insulation	Domestic Heating
2021-2025	£9m	£3m	£13m	£1m	£35m	£0m	£0m	£6m
2026-2030	£3m	£11m	£11m	£1m	£51m	£0m	£12m	£18m
2031-2035	£0m	£36m	£9m	£3m	£58m	£0m	£17m	£21m
2036-2038	£0m	£31m	£7m	£13m	£38m	£14m	£15m	£16m

Pyla and Cefn Cribwr

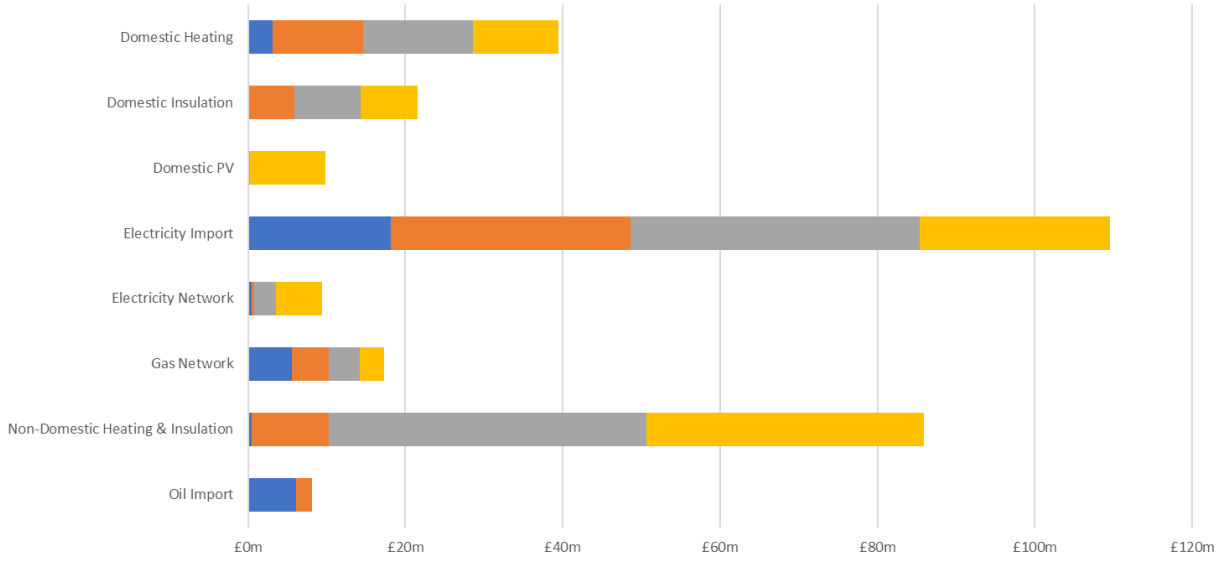


	Domestic Heating	Domestic Insulation	Domestic PV	Electricity Import	Electricity Network	Gas Import	Gas Network	Non-Domestic Heating & Insulation	Oil Import
2021-2025	£6m	£0m	£0m	£27m	£0m	£66m	£12m	£0m	£5m
2026-2030	£18m	£9m	£0m	£43m	£0m	£45m	£10m	£11m	£2m
2031-2035	£21m	£13m	£0m	£52m	£6m	£6m	£9m	£43m	£0m
2036-2038	£16m	£12m	£11m	£36m	£7m	£2m	£7m	£38m	£0m

8. Cost and Investment

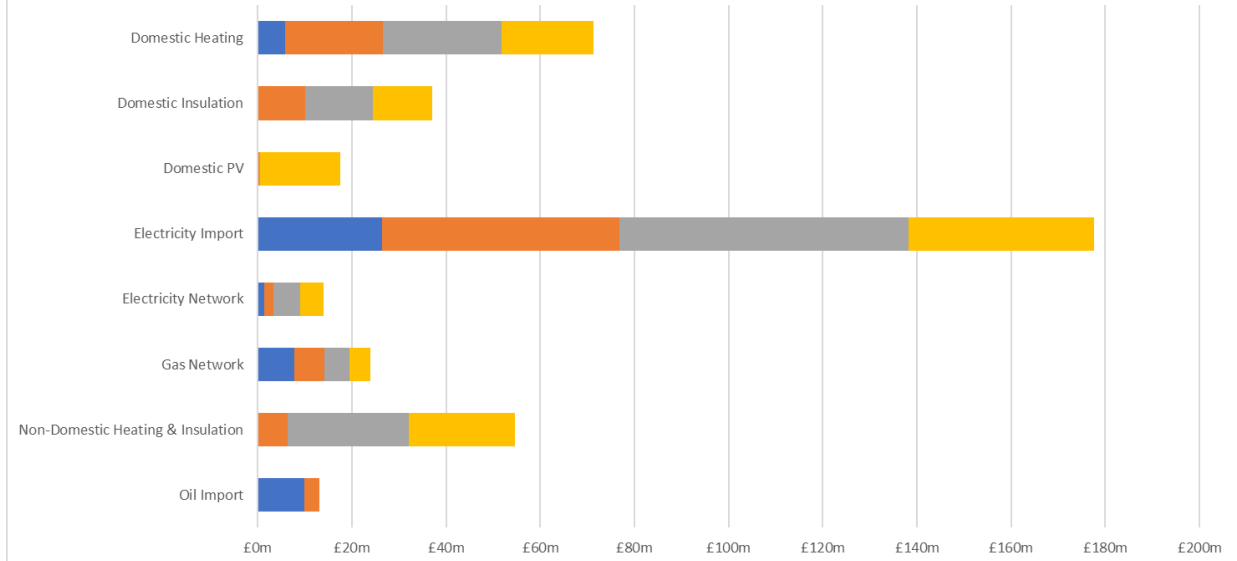
Investment in Bridgend's energy system (£m) by time period across each of Bridgend's zones

Coychurch and Pencoed



	Oil Import	Non-Domestic Heating & Insulation	Gas Network	Electricity Network	Electricity Import	Domestic PV	Domestic Insulation	Domestic Heating
2021-2025	£6m	£0m	£6m	£0m	£18m	£0m	£0m	£3m
2026-2030	£2m	£10m	£5m	£0m	£30m	£0m	£6m	£12m
2031-2035	£0m	£40m	£4m	£3m	£37m	£0m	£8m	£14m
2036-2038	£0m	£35m	£3m	£6m	£24m	£10m	£7m	£11m

Bridgend Town West

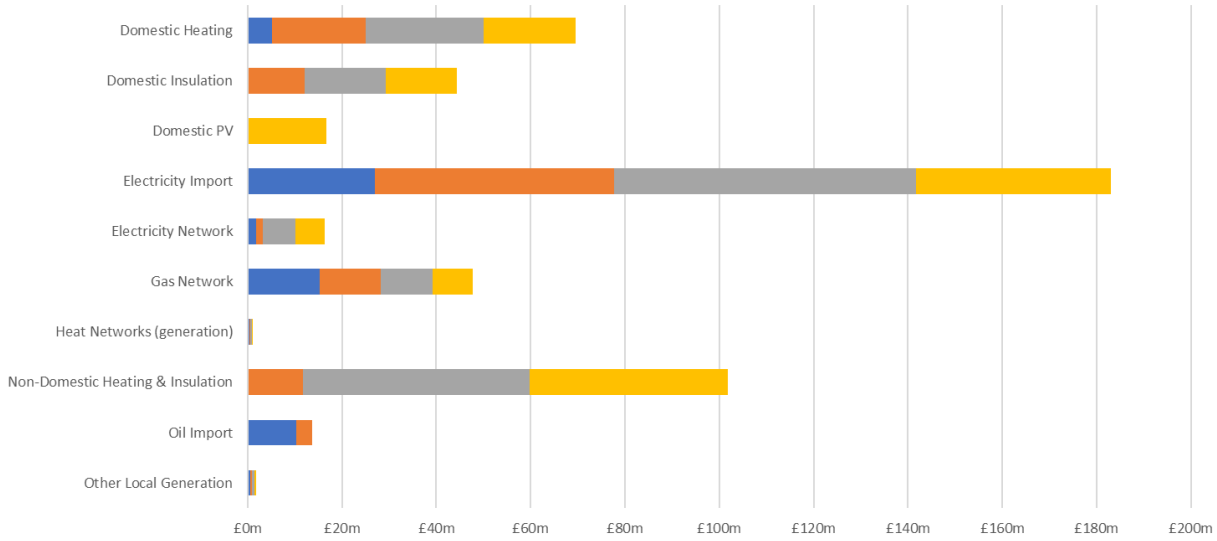


	Oil Import	Non-Domestic Heating & Insulation	Gas Network	Electricity Network	Electricity Import	Domestic PV	Domestic Insulation	Domestic Heating
2021-2025	£10m	£0m	£8m	£1m	£26m	£0m	£0m	£6m
2026-2030	£3m	£6m	£6m	£2m	£50m	£0m	£10m	£21m
2031-2035	£0m	£26m	£5m	£6m	£61m	£0m	£14m	£25m
2036-2038	£0m	£22m	£4m	£5m	£39m	£17m	£13m	£20m

8. Cost and Investment

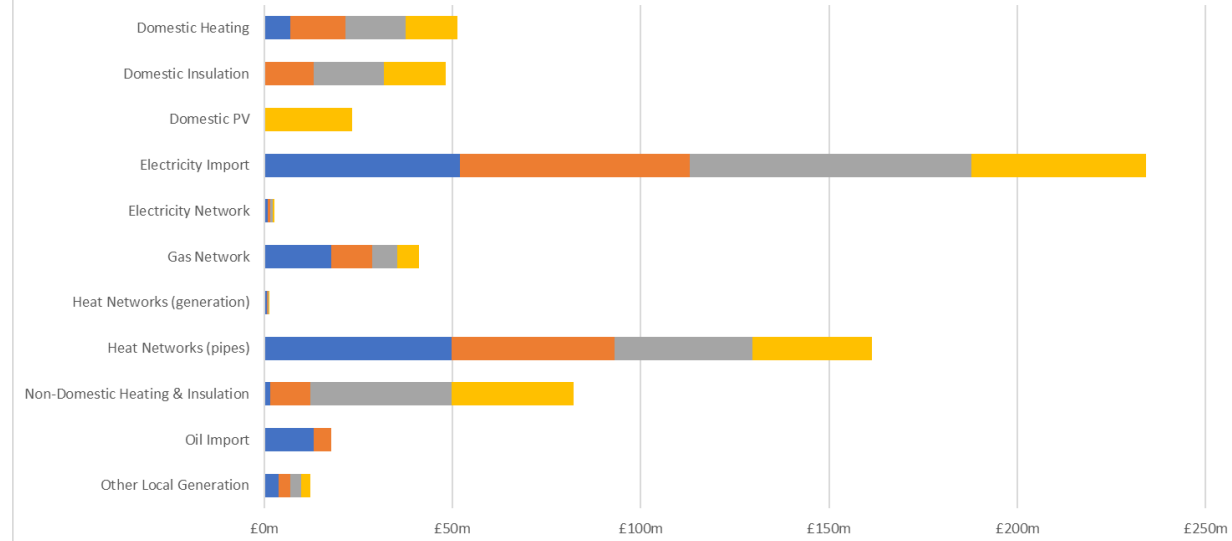
Investment in Bridgend's energy system (£m) by time period across each of Bridgend's zones

Coastal Area



	Other Local Generation	Oil Import	Non-Domestic Heating & Insulation	Heat Networks (generation)	Gas Network	Electricity Network	Electricity Import	Domestic PV	Domestic Insulation	Domestic Heating
2021-2025	£1m	£10m	£0m	£0m	£15m	£2m	£27m	£0m	£0m	£5m
2026-2030	£0m	£3m	£12m	£0m	£13m	£1m	£51m	£0m	£12m	£20m
2031-2035	£0m	£0m	£48m	£0m	£11m	£7m	£64m	£0m	£17m	£25m
2036-2038	£0m	£0m	£42m	£0m	£9m	£6m	£41m	£17m	£15m	£20m

Bridgend Town North

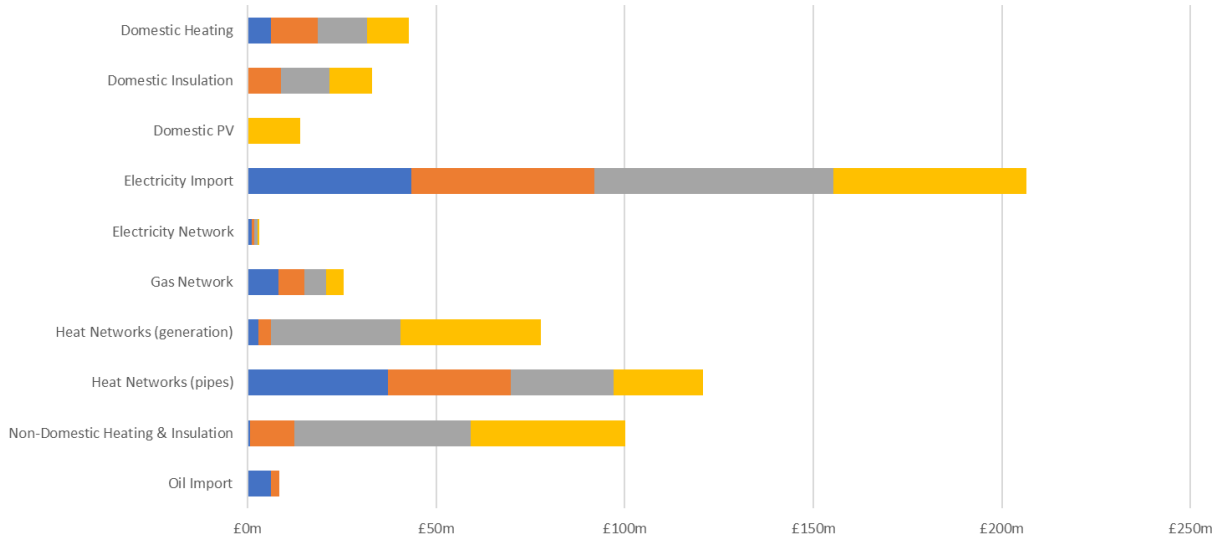


	Other Local Generation	Oil Import	Non-Domestic Heating & Insulation	Heat Networks (pipes)	Heat Networks (generation)	Gas Network	Electricity Network	Electricity Import	Domestic PV	Domestic Insulation	Domestic Heating
2021-2025	£4m	£13m	£2m	£50m	£1m	£18m	£1m	£52m	£0m	£0m	£7m
2026-2030	£3m	£5m	£11m	£43m	£0m	£11m	£1m	£61m	£0m	£13m	£15m
2031-2035	£3m	£0m	£37m	£37m	£0m	£7m	£1m	£75m	£0m	£19m	£16m
2036-2038	£2m	£0m	£33m	£32m	£0m	£6m	£1m	£46m	£23m	£16m	£14m

8. Cost and Investment

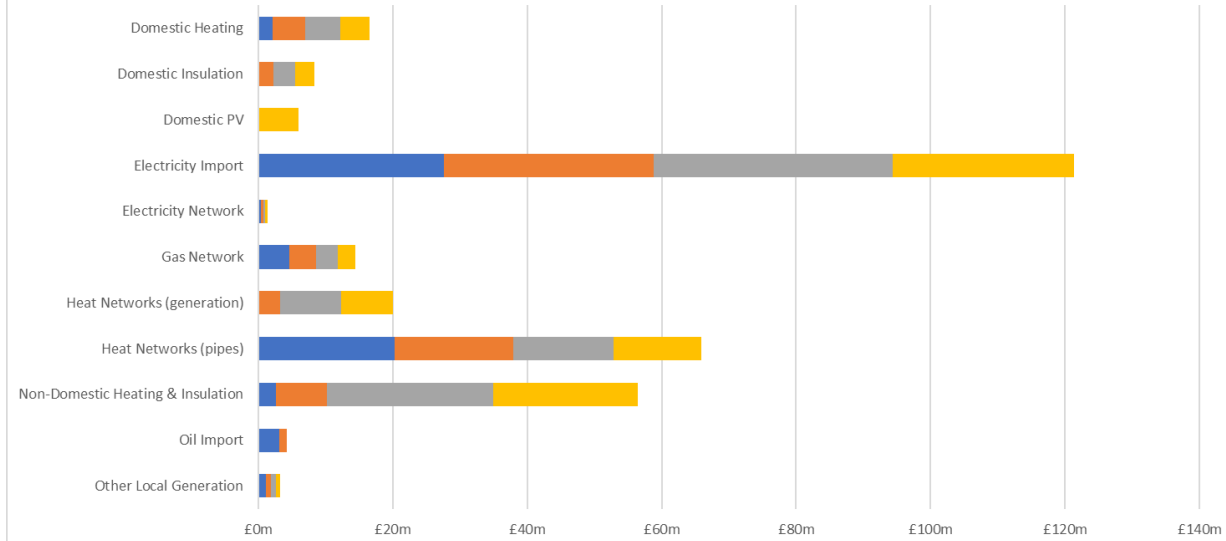
Investment in Bridgend's energy system (£m) by time period across each of Bridgend's zones

Bridgend Town South



	Oil Import	Non-Domestic Heating & Insulation	Heat Networks (pipes)	Heat Networks (generation)	Gas Network	Electricity Network	Electricity Import	Domestic PV	Domestic Insulation	Domestic Heating
2021-2025	£6m	£1m	£37m	£3m	£8m	£1m	£43m	£0m	£0m	£6m
2026-2030	£2m	£12m	£32m	£3m	£7m	£1m	£49m	£0m	£9m	£12m
2031-2035	£0m	£47m	£27m	£34m	£6m	£1m	£64m	£0m	£13m	£13m
2036-2038	£0m	£41m	£24m	£37m	£5m	£1m	£51m	£14m	£11m	£11m

Bridgend Town East



	Other Local Generation	Oil Import	Non-Domestic Heating & Insulation	Heat Networks (pipes)	Heat Networks (generation)	Gas Network	Electricity Network	Electricity Import	Domestic PV	Domestic Insulation	Domestic Heating
2021-2025	£1m	£3m	£3m	£20m	£0m	£5m	£0m	£28m	£0m	£0m	£2m
2026-2030	£1m	£1m	£8m	£18m	£3m	£4m	£0m	£31m	£0m	£2m	£5m
2031-2035	£1m	£0m	£25m	£15m	£9m	£3m	£0m	£36m	£0m	£3m	£5m
2036-2038	£1m	£0m	£21m	£13m	£8m	£3m	£0m	£27m	£6m	£3m	£4m

9. Summary and Conclusions

There are under twenty years until 2038, the date by which Bridgend aims to be carbon neutral, and less than thirty years until 2050, the latest date by which the UK must reach Net Zero emissions*.

Whilst there is some flexibility to meet this target, there is an urgency to prepare to start the transition now and over the next few years, focusing on low regret activities, building capacity and supply chains alongside training in new skills. Key decisions will need to be undertaken in the next 2-4 years in order to realistically meet the target.

The total cost of the primary pathway modelled to reach a net zero energy system within Bridgend by 2040 is £4.5bn, of which £2.8bn is capital investment.

Future Local Energy System in Bridgend

The primary scenario investigated involves strong contributions from core activities and technologies and also identified a number of key opportunities and uncertainties. This have been categorised into four key areas:

1. **Reducing energy demand in Bridgend**
2. **Increasing uptake of low carbon solutions in Bridgend**
3. **Increasing local low carbon electricity production and storage**
4. **The future role of the gas grid in Bridgend**

1. Reduced energy demand in Bridgend: Reducing emissions, energy use and energy costs through making buildings more energy efficient has been shown to play an important role in the scenarios considered.

In the primary pathway this means basic fabric retrofit of nearly 29,000 homes and deep retrofit of a further 5,000 homes requiring £340m of investment. Across both scenarios extensive fabric retrofit of existing homes is prominent in cost-effectively reducing emissions in the near term, and also enabling the future installation of low carbon heating systems. It is important to note that new demands from transport, buildings and industry (moderated by improving energy efficiency) mean that electricity demand is modelled to increase in Bridgend from around 650 GWh of electricity consumed per year to 1,460 GWh in the early 2030s before dropping off slightly back to 1,100 GWh. This drop is caused by the model adding significant amounts of solar PV in this period (see Summary Point #3).

2. Increasing uptake of low-carbon solutions in Bridgend: By the early 2030s all new cars, vans and heating system replacements in homes and businesses must be low carbon. In the primary pathway in the 2020's the majority of this shift is to battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and electric heat pumps along with development of heat networks, that are primarily served by large scale heat pumps providing the heat generation. EV charging comprises a combination of domestic charge points (c.49,000) and public EV charging hubs, targeted at priority locations. Industry in Bridgend must either adopt technologies that use zero carbon electricity or hydrogen instead of fossil fuels, or install carbon capture and storage technologies

3. Increasing production of local low carbon electricity and its storage in Bridgend: Increasing electricity demand and reducing costs of generation from renewable sources sees an increase in local renewable energy production. Solar PV could play an important and significant part in the future energy system in Bridgend. There is potential to install as much as 290MW$_p$ of solar PV capacity which could generate almost 0.5GWh of electricity (around 30% of local demand after the electrification of heating).

In our primary scenario, this capacity is installed towards the end of the decarbonisation period (after 2035) however early installation of solar PV will accelerate the decarbonisation of Bridgend and allow more time for deployment.

It is likely that different types and scales of energy storage will be required. In most houses some level of thermal storage will be required to allow effective operation of a heat pump. Domestic battery storage can also play a part, particularly when linked to solar generation. Larger scale batteries may also provide significant benefits in terms of reducing the need for electricity network reinforcement. Furthermore, thermal storage could be valuable on heat networks to help match supply and demand.

4. The future role of the gas grid in Bridgend: The role of hydrogen for heating is uncertain. Whilst there are many activities underway across the sector to develop a potential hydrogen supply, at a suitable scale, there is currently no guaranteed commitment for this to be considered a reliable means of supporting decarbonisation.

The secondary scenario shows that hydrogen could provide a viable route to decarbonisation in some areas of Bridgend depending upon the final prices and availability of green hydrogen. The cost of repurposing the gas network pathway is estimated at £60m however this cost is borne by the GDO with savings for the DNO (as some reinforcement works would not be required estimated at around £15m) with some property owners also saving money (around £11.5m for domestic and £30m for non-domestic). A hydrogen heat based future could also be more appealing to Bridgend's citizens due to the lower level of disruption within each dwelling.

The hydrogen scenario also produces a slightly reduced level of projected emissions over the next 20 years due to some of the more difficult to electrify industries being able to transition onto hydrogen.

Geographically, 'Garw Valley and Llangynwyd' and 'Bridgend Town East' are the main targets for hydrogen given their large industrial loads.

*. On 12 June 2019 the Government laid the draft Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 to amend the *Climate Change Act 2008* by introducing a target for at least a 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990 levels) in the UK by 2050

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Energy Systems Catapult on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council. Local knowledge, data, direction and guidance were provided by Bridgend County Borough Council.

Information relating to existing energy networks, and wider input to the development of this Plan were provided by the electricity distribution network operator Western Power Distribution and gas distribution network operator Wales and West Utilities.

About Local Area Energy Planning

Energy is a core part of national and local economies and infrastructure. Decarbonisation of the UK will require significant changes to energy systems, yet every local area is unique and the changes needed to decarbonise will be specific to each area. Energy Systems Catapult (ESC) pioneered a new whole system approach to Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) with pilots in three different local areas of the UK – Newcastle, Bury in Greater Manchester and Bridgend in Wales. ESC has since worked with others to evolve this approach, including with Ofgem and Centre for Sustainable Energy to define a method for LAEP* 'done well'., In this project the ESC's EnergyPath Networks toolkit has been used to perform the local analysis.

About Energy Systems Catapult

ESC was set up to accelerate the transformation of the UK's energy system and ensure UK businesses and consumers capture the opportunities of clean growth. ESC is an independent, not-for-profit centre of excellence that bridges the gap between industry, government, academia and research. We take a whole systems view of the energy sector, helping us to identify and address innovation priorities and market barriers, in order to decarbonise the energy system at the lowest cost. We work with innovators from companies of all sizes to develop, test and scale their ideas. We also collaborate with industry, academia and government to overcome the systemic barriers of the current energy market to help unleash the potential of new products, services and value chains required to achieve the UK's clean growth ambitions as set out in the Industrial Strategy.

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Review and approval:

	Name	Position
Authors	Carl Holland	Technical Collaboration Manager
	Karl Sample	Delivery & Technical Lead
Reviewer	Grant Tuff	Consultant Engineer
Approver	Rebecca Stafford	Senior Manager - Local Energy Systems

Revision history:

Date	Version	Comments
27.07.2021	0.1	Initial draft for client review
03.08.2021	0.2	Assumptions slide added.

* https://es.catapult.org.uk/reports/local-area-energy-planning-the-method/
** https://es.catapult.org.uk/reports/local-area-energy-planning/

Assumptions & Data

This report used many sources of data including national datasets, those provided by stakeholders, and ESCs modelling assumptions which have been developed over time incorporating good quality datasets from previous projects. This slide provides some of the assumptions and data that were used in the Bridgend Local Area Energy Plan Refresh 2021 Project and were requested by stakeholders, but is not exhaustive.

Cost of Energy Efficiency Measures

Source: ETI, 'Optimising thermal efficiency of existing housing project'. Note: This has then been adjusted to reflect other information ESC have received over time.

Measure	Fixed Capex (£/property)	Marginal Capex (£/m^2)
Cavity wall insulation	1500	5
Double glazing	443	285
Energy-efficient doors	0	538
External wall insulation	4800	89
Floor insulation	0	11
Internal wall insulation	1920	58
Loft insulation	126	2
Mechanical ventilation	3843	0
More than triple glazing	443	486
New build upgrade to HLR 2	2069	45
Reduced infiltration 1 (Draught proofing)	0	6
Reduced infiltration 2 (Whole dwelling)	35	6
Single glazing	443	185
Triple glazing	443	386

Cost of Renewable Energy Heating Technologies

Source: BEIS, 'Average reported costs of domestic RHI installations, Great Britain, April 2014 to December 2018'

Technology	Capacity (kW)	Cost (£)			£/kW of Capacity		
		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile	Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
ASHP	< 5	7,430	5,730	8,110	1,500	1,270	1,720
	6 – 10	7,930	6,900	10,400	1,040	880	1,310
	11 – 15	11,000	9,000	13,780	880	710	1,100
	16 – 20	12,500	9,800	15,250	780	610	940
	21 – 25	17,840	14,890	22,500	770	620	980
	26 – 30	20,000	15,910	25,450	710	570	910
	31 – 35	20,000	16,000	24,730	630	500	770
	36 – 40	-	-	-	-	-	-
	41 – 45	22,000	10,900	28,810	520	250	690
Biomass	< 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6 – 10	13,000	9,000	16,210	1,370	900	1,760
	11 – 15	11,630	9,050	15,850	810	650	1,090
	16 – 20	13,000	9,130	16,930	700	500	900
	21 – 25	15,000	10,210	18,000	620	440	720
	26 – 30	16,550	13,110	20,000	600	480	730
	31 – 35	18,000	17,600	22,400	510	510	670
	36 – 40	19,350	15,000	25,230	500	390	670
	41 – 45	25,000	18,290	33,800	570	410	750
GSHP	< 5	8,590	7,210	10,900	1,800	1,720	2,500
	6 – 10	13,500	10,800	18,000	1,800	1,390	2,330
	11 – 15	18,000	13,600	25,000	1,490	1,130	2,010
	16 – 20	25,000	19,300	32,680	1,400	1,060	1,840
	21 – 25	29,000	22,000	40,000	1,290	980	1,810
	26 – 30	38,600	28,500	53,000	1,330	1,000	1,900
	31 – 35	49,990	36,500	70,000	1,470	1,100	2,150
	36 – 40	44,000	32,670	65,000	1,120	840	1,730
	41 – 45	47,500	33,720	66,190	1,100	770	1,580
Solar Thermal	< 5	4,500	3,380	6,000	1,770	1,260	2,580
	6 – 10	6,000	4,500	8,400	930	680	1,240
	11 – 15	5,740	4,300	8,060	420	330	660

Primary Data Sources (Hydrogen)

- WWU network data received in 2017/18 was used as the source for network materials and pipe sizes.
- Network repurposing costs from H21 Leeds City Gate project and from BEIS 'Hydrogen supply chain: evidence base' *. ESC have access to the underlying data in this document which allowed us to ensure that we captured costs in the way required for EnergyPath (the published data did not allow us to do this all cases).
- Heating system costs from BEIS 'Hydrogen supply chain: evidence base' *
- ESC assumed that all hydrogen used in Bridgend would be zero carbon which implies it is entirely from electrolysis using green electricity (so favourable to hydrogen compared to electricity which still has a low level of emissions associated with generation in 2040 in our default data set).
- ESC tested a range of hydrogen costs but in all cases these were less than the cost of electricity at the same time (again, favourable to hydrogen given that the cost of hydrogen from electrolysis is highly uncertain and if demand is high it cannot be guaranteed that it can be produced with low cost electricity since there will be competition for that electricity supply).

* https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hydrogen-supply-chain-evidence-base

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

MEMBERSHIP OF THE UK 100

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a brief synopsis of UK100, what membership might mean for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and to propose that the Council seek to achieve membership.

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 Welsh Government (WG) declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019 and set out its priorities to address change for Wales to build resilience. In July 2020, the Welsh Government committed to achieving a net zero carbon public sector in Wales by 2030. This commitment includes the public sector in its entirety, including Town and Community Councils.

3.2 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) supports the net zero goal and it has adopted it into the updated 2021-22 Corporate Plan. In addition, BCBC is committed to coordinating action to help other areas of the economy make a decisive shift towards decarbonisation, by engaging in collaboration with other public sector organisations, academia, industry and the third sector.

3.3 While BCBC is showing national leadership in its drive to become carbon neutral by 2030, the Council is not yet a member of the recognised forum for local leaders on climate action.

3.4 UK100 is billed as a forum for "the most ambitious local leaders across the UK" to tackle the climate emergency. It is a private company limited by guarantee with no share capital. They work with the most ambitious members - the Net Zero Local Leadership Club - who are doing everything within their power to get their communities to Net Zero as soon as possible, and by 2045 at the latest.

3.5 It counts among its membership[1] about 60 local authorities, including Birmingham City Council, Cardiff Council, City of Edinburgh, Glasgow City Council, Bristol City Council, and Cornwall Council.

3.6 UK100 runs campaigns[2] principally around three issues: climate change, clean air and green finance. Through the collective voice of their membership, they advocate for changes that are necessary to make the transition to net zero.

3.7 Benefits of membership include:

- enabling knowledge sharing between members including meetings, webinars, roundtables and workshops, and promoting best practice via social media (Twitter and Linkedin) and newsletters
- facilitating dialogue with national politicians and senior officials across Whitehall, amplifying the voices of local leaders via collective advocacy to national government
- providing tailored insights, evidence and recommendations on the challenges and solutions to local Net Zero, inviting members to inform and participate in research
- connecting with world-leading business and industry to help plan and implement the solutions needed to reduce emissions in the local area
- demonstrating the collective ambition, commitment and ability of democratically elected local leaders to deliver Net Zero
- access to the network's members-only programmes and services, including briefings, research and publications.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 In order to become a member, BCBC must sign and adopt the net zero pledge. The net zero pledge has the following 3 commitments included in it:

- Have set ambitious Net Zero targets for greenhouse emissions of 2030 for council operations and 2045 for areawide emissions at the latest (there is an exception to this for counties and combined authorities).
- Report carbon emissions annually for scope 1 and scope 2, for council emissions and areawide emissions

[1] https://www.uk100.org/membership
[2] https://www.uk100.org/campaigns

- Commit to limiting the use of offsets and if used to be as local as possible.

The table below sets out the current status of BCBC in relation to the membership pledge and its commitments, showing an analysis of current compliance and any challenges that are currently considered to be in place based on information available at this time.

Commitment	Compliant?	Challenges?
We recognise our responsibility to tackle the climate emergency and take bold action towards net zero.	Yes. Climate Emergency statement 30 June 2020[3]	Ensure BCBC actions match the commitment.
We will bring our Council emissions to Net Zero by 2030	Yes, Welsh Government target which BCBC has committed to meet.	The scale and cost of the transformation.
We will work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider communities' emissions in line with Net Zero as soon as possible (and by 2045 at the latest)	No. A further, explicit statement of intent in relation to a 2045 area-wide goal will need to be made.	Many of the levers to achieve the 2045 target are beyond the Council's control. However, on a reasonable assumptions basis, given the wider societal drive towards net zero, a 2045 target would be a good balance between stretching ambition and prudent expectation management.
We pledge to understand our impacts on climate change, prioritise where action needs to be taken and monitor progress towards our goals.	Yes. This assessment is being undertaken as part of the BCBC decarbonisation work. The action plan will be developed as a result of the baselining work.	Continued cross-Council action to make progress on the action plan.
We will reduce our emissions at source and limit the use of carbon offsets as part of the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.	Yes, the BCBC 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy (in development) is predicated on doing exactly this.	N/A

4.3 The pathway for signing the pledge and becoming a member is as follows: Officers and cabinet members of the interested authority contact the membership team via membership@uk100.org to schedule an introductory conversation to answer any

[3] https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s21828/Climate%20Emergency%20Cabinet%20report%20220620.pdf

questions. Then, an official invitation to join the network is sent to the Leader from UK100's Network Membership Director, to which the Leader should respond confirming membership via email. The UK 100 also recommends that the Leader prints and physically signs the pledge, with a picture and quote taken for related comms when the council's membership is announced. The official invitation to join the network was received on 13 April 2021.

4.4 Therefore, this report proposes that Cabinet approve BCBC becoming a UK100 member, for the Leader to be given authority to respond via email confirming membership and, as recommended by UK100, sign the pledge and then engage in the publicity arrangements following this.

4.5 Membership does not need to be renewed on an annual basis, however membership can be terminated if a council no longer meets the criteria.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's 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. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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

7.1 The proposal to become a member of the UK 100 and the ambition of net zero emissions by 2045 (5 years prior to the UK government target) is a positive step in regard to the Council's role in complying with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. A clear ambition for wider community decarbonisation demonstrates BCBC taking a positive, proactive leadership role within the decarbonisation agenda in Wales which will ensure that the significant environmental, social and economic opportunities will be captured for Bridgend as well as the authority being able to demonstrate its compliance with national carbon reduction targets. BCBC engagement with UK100 will help build towards a movement of local authorities committed to high ambition on climate action across the UK.

7.2 In terms of meeting the 5 ways of working within the Act a statement committing the authority to a net zero target within its area and subsequent membership of and engagement with UK100 will provide the following:-

1. **Long Term**: A specific net zero community target for 2045 explicitly commits BCBC to do everything possible to not only make those changes necessary to achieve the internal 2030 decarbonisation targets, but to work with businesses, individuals and communities to ensure the widest possible involvement in our collective endeavor to reach net zero. This commitment is critical for long term climate stability.

2. **Prevention**: Likewise, a 2045 net zero commitment for the County Borough is premised on fully realising BCBC's contribution to preventing the worst

excesses of climate change. Engagement with UK100 and the other member authorities will facilitate greater action by BCBC and others to take preventative steps.

3. **Integration**: Membership of UK100 offers the opportunity to work with a wide range of partners, including local authorities right across the UK, to ensure that BCBC learns from other leading authorities in this field.

4. **Collaboration**: Working with and through BCBC staff as well as multiple external stakeholders, collaboration is critical to achieving shared decarbonisation goals.

5. **Involvement**: Working with businesses, communities and individuals borough-wide – which is a likely following step from setting out the 2045 net zero ambition – will involve working with a very variety of stakeholders, including the public we serve.

8. Financial implications

8.1 Membership of UK100 is free of charge. The Net Zero Pledge is not legally binding in that the UK100 will not take legal action if the targets are not reached. However, if the Net Zero targets are adopted by the Council and set as an official policy, the council is publicly committing to the targets and is therefore accountable in the same way the Council is accountable for other types of policies that it has publicly commits to.

8.2 Accelerating an area-wide ambition, from the UK 2050 net zero target to a Bridgend County 2045 net zero target, could lead to pressure for greater resource allocation to this area of work or a re-designing of current resources to do things in different ways. Therefore, whilst there may be a degree of additional resource needed there is also likely to be an element of using existing resources in different, smarter and more carbon efficient ways.

8.3 If any additional resources are required separate business cases will be prepared for Cabinet approval as necessary.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approves the Council becoming a UK100 member;
- Approves the Leader responding to the official invitiation received on 13th April 2021 via email confirming the Council's membership and, as recommended by UK100, signing the pledge and then engage in the publicity arrangements following this.

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES
18 January 2022

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Background documents:
None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18th JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

TRANSFORMING TOWNS (TT) PROGRAMME BUSINESS FUND IMPLEMENTATION 2021-2022

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council as lead authority for the South East Wales Local Authorities to progress the Transforming Towns (TT) programme: Business Fund within the County Boroughs 3 Town Centres of Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl.

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 focused 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 Welsh Government's (WG) TT programme is an extension of the 2018-2021 Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme and takes a wider approach to regeneration by allowing Local Authorities to widen their boundary areas and the interventions it can support and undertake. Importantly, it continues the ambitions of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the priorities identified in Local Well-being Plans and other local and regional plans for enhancing economic regeneration and community well-being.

3.2 The 14th September 2021 Cabinet report gave an overview of the success of the TRI / TT programme to date and sought approval to extend the programme to March 2022. Following approval of the recommendations set out in that report, progress has been ongoing to bring a range of projects to fruition.

3.3 Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) Project Board with representatives from Regeneration, Legal, Finance and Planning, with supporting work stream groups, was established at the beginning of the TRI programme and this is proposed to continue throughout the TT programme.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Transforming Towns: Business Fund

4.1.1 The South East Local Authorities have been successful in securing £1,166,000 to be shared among them in 2021-22, to bring projects under the following headings to fruition within the Town Centres:

- Meanwhile Projects
- Events and Marketing
- Digital Support

4.1.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) are acting as the lead body for the South East region and will report to WG and the South East Wales Regional Regeneration Board, which will comprise the *Cardiff Capital Region Regeneration Board*. RCT require BCBC and the other local authorities making up the South East region to enter into a Service Level Agreement with RCT to facilitate the drawdown of the grant funding and ensure compliance with the WG grant funding terms and conditions.

4.1.3 There is not an equal financial split across the 10 Local Authorities. Local Authorities are to bid into the funding when projects are ready to go.

4.2 Risks and issues

The risks which Cabinet need to be aware of are as follows:

- There is not a set amount allocated to each South East Local Authority. As such projects will only be awarded when ready to go and if funding is available. Robust monitoring by both BCBC and RCT officers is required.

4.3 Next Steps

4.3.1 Cabinet will need to consider the above proposals and determine whether to approve the implementation of the fund within the County Borough. If the decision is made to proceed, the next step is for BCBC to:

- Enter into the Business Fund SLA agreement with RCT

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's 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. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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

7.1 A summary of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment are as follows:

- Long Term: The regeneration planned for Bridgend's Town Centres as part of the TT programme will drive local prosperity, providing local employment opportunities and offering better environments to promote the health and well-being of those who live, work and visit town centres in the long term.

- Prevention: By improving the commercial, office and residential developments in the town centres it will strengthen the existing economic assets while diversifying its economic base. Converting unused or underutilized commercial space into economically productive property also helps boost the profitability of the district.

- Integration: The TT programme will focus on delivering a set of physical, commercial and social improvements though re-developing vacant, poor quality, under used or derelict building and premises. This will generate employment opportunities; provide prominent and suitable locations for commercial and retail use and sustain local shopping areas, increase town centre footfall and make available suitable town centre housing.

- Collaboration: The project will allow property owners, lessees and Registered Social Landlords to access funding which will allow them to tackle poor quality and unattractive properties; offering these properties a new lease of life and therefore enhancing the physical appearance of the shopping offer, streetscape and public realm.

- Involvement: Investing in a community offers a means to connect with local stakeholders. Strong, resilient communities will reinforce the regional and Welsh culture which is a key feature in promoting visits and tourists to the area.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 Welsh Government have awarded the following grant for spend in 2021-2022:

Transforming Towns Elements	Projects	WG Funding	Comments
Business Fund	Various Bridgend, Porthcawl & Maesteg Town Centres	£1,166,000	WG funding to be shared between the 10 South East Local Authorities

8.2 No match funding is required for the Business fund projects.

9. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

9.1 Delegate authority to the Director of Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services, to:

9.1.1 negotiate and enter into a service level agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taff; and

9.1.2 approve any extension or amendment to the service level agreement and to enter into any further deeds and documents which are ancillary to service level agreement.

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES
10th January 2021

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Background documents:

1. Transforming Towns Programme South ST Wales Business Fund Grant- Award of Funding Letters

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

RENEWAL OF THE LEASE OF THE BRIDGEND CRICKET CLUB CLUBHOUSE AND PAVILION AT NEWBRIDGE FIELDS, BRIDGEND PURSUANT TO SECTION 123(2A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the inclusion of a small area of additional land, comprising the existing cricket nets, store and a small parcel of land to the rear of the pavilion at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend, as part of the renewal of the lease of the Bridgend Town Cricket Club Clubhouse and Pavilion to the Trustees of Bridgend Town Cricket Club.

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**:

- **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 Bridgend Town Cricket Club (BTCC) currently occupy their Clubhouse and Pavilion by virtue of a 21 year lease that commenced on the 1st September 1998 at a peppercorn rent. The land included in this lease is shown edged red on the plan attached at **Appendix A.**

3.2 The existing lease expired on 31st August 2019 and BTCC is currently holding over under the exact same terms of this expired lease. This lease is not excluded from the security of tenure provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 and as a result, the Tenant has the automatic right to renew the lease. The area of land included in this lease extends to some 0.1582 acres (640 square metres).

3.3 Under the terms of the lease, BTCC were responsible for the construction of the Clubhouse and Pavilion. This development was partially funded by a Sportlot grant

which required that the changing facilities were made available to other sports clubs during the winter months for winter sports use.

3.4 The expired lease, therefore, included a clause that the Tenant was required to *permit the Landlord and any persons authorised by the Landlord at any time except during the months of April to August (inclusive) in every year to use that part of the Premises comprising the changing rooms and showers for the purposes of preparing for and after the playing of sport on the adjoining Newbridge Fields*. Although the Council has been responsible for the hire of the changing rooms and showers for the winter sports use by other sports clubs, this has been undertaken by way of an informal management agreement rather than as expressly set out in the lease.

3.5 Initial negotiations for the grant of the renewal lease commenced some time ago and were finalised in late 2019. The as-built building footprint does not exactly correspond with the area of land included in the expired lease, so this needed to be amended. This resulted in a slight increase in the area of land to be leased to BTCC to 0.162 acres (658 square metres).

3.6 The agreed terms of the renewal lease contains the similar provisions as per the original expired lease in that the renewal lease reserves a right for the Council and authorised persons to use the changing room facilities outside of the cricket season. The whole clause from the new lease is set out as follows:

> *The right for the Landlord and any person or persons authorised by the Landlord at any time, except during the months of May to August (inclusive) in every year of the Contractual Term to hire that part of the Property comprising of the changing rooms and showers for the purposes of preparing for and after the playing of sport in conjunction with their hire of the Landlords retained sports pitches on the adjoining Newbridge Fields.*

3.7 It was made clear in the agreed Heads of Terms with BTCC, in relation to the aforementioned reserved right in the renewal lease, that this is meant to protect existing users of the changing room facilities as well as other similar sports clubs and users. The Heads of Terms stated that '*..at the present time, the changing room facilities are regularly used by Bridgend Athletic RFC, Bridgend Sports RFC, Bridgend Tref, Bridgend Town FC and Broadlands AFC and are also booked on a less frequent basis by other users*…'

3.8 It can therefore be seen that it was the intention of the Council to protect the shared use of the pavilion for all sports clubs and users.

3.9 During these negotiations BTCC requested that the land on which their cricket practice nets are located and a small area of additional land for storage purposes to the rear of the pavilion were included in the renewal lease.

3.10 The cricket nets were installed by BTCC approximately 15 years ago at their own cost with planning consent (Planning reference P/05/238/FUL refers) and the Council's informal agreement as Landowner. The BTCC have had exclusive use of the nets and maintained them since they were installed. BTCC has advised that the nets are used by all players in the club as a fundamental part of their training and practice.

3.11 The inclusion of this additional land in the renewal lease provides the Council with an opportunity to regularise the situation and increases the total area of land to 0.2789 acres (1,128 square metres). This is shown edged red on the plan attached at **Appendix B.** Rights of access for the public will be maintained at all times over the areas shown coloured brown on the plan.

3.12 Consultations were undertaken with both the Green Spaces and Bereavement Services Manager and the Community Asset Transfer Officer and no objections were raised to the inclusion of these additional areas in the extent of the land to be included in the renewal lease.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Terms were agreed with the Trustees of BTCC and delegated powers notice CMM-PS-20-014 (dated 1 January 2020) authorised the renewal of the lease of the Bridgend Cricket Club Clubhouse and Pavilion at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend to BTCC.

4.2 It was proposed that a small amount of additional land, comprising the existing cricket nets, store and a small parcel of land to the rear of the pavilion are included in the renewal lease. As this land comprised a small area of Public Open Space, the Council advertised the proposed lease in accordance with Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4.3 This has been advertised by way of Notice for two consecutive weeks on 26th March and 2nd April 2020 in the Glamorgan Gazette in accordance with the requirements of Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to Public Open Space. The Notice was also published on the Council's website under the 'Legal Notices and Orders' webpage. The Notice required any objections to the proposed lease to be made in writing no later than 20th April 2020.

<u>Objections</u>

4.4 The advertising of the Council's intention to include additional land in the renewal lease resulted in one objection being received by the Council during the objection period.

4.5 The objection received by the Council pursuant to Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 Notice should be viewed and considered by Cabinet prior to making their decision on the extent of the land to be included in the new lease to BTCC.

4.6 The objection includes a number of concerns but these do not actually relate to the disposal of public open space. The main concerns that were raised are detailed below:-

- *35 year-lease agreement being agreed before the joint consultations take place on Community Asset Transfer via the proposed consultancy process in involving an independent consultant, users of Newbridge Fields, BCBC and the Town Council.*

- *The new lease is a major change of management of the Pavilion changing rooms with the cricket club now managing them instead of the Parks Department. This is now presenting a very complicated arrangement with Winter Sept 1st – April 30th users having to apply to two bodies The Parks Department and Cricket club with potentially 2 different hire charges. It also potentially allows the cricket club to veto any or all users from using their changing room facilities and / or favour certain users.*

4.7 Cabinet will be aware that it is proposed that an individual strategy is developed for the future management of the wider Newbridge Fields site. This is one of the sites that the Council has identified that is extensively used as a public park by members of the general public in addition to providing formal sports facilities (pavilions and playing fields). As a result, due to the size of the sites, public usage, the number of clubs involved, and/or need for improvement / development the Council has determined that alternative options in addition to the standard Community Asset Transfer to sports clubs should be considered with individual strategies being developed for each site following option appraisals.

4.8 These strategies are at an early stage but the current Covid-19 situation has highlighted the importance of such sites for the wider informal recreation and well-being benefits. As a result, a Green Open Spaces survey was undertaken by Bridgend Public Services Board to find out if, how and where residents are accessing open and green spaces across the county borough and whether this has changed since the lock down. Almost all of the people who responded to the survey (97 percent) said they had appreciated green space more during the lockdown, 93 percent said green space had helped their mental health, 81 percent said they were more aware of wildlife and 95 percent said they would use green space more in future. The information is assisting the Council to understand the use of its green spaces and will help improve them for all. This information can also be used to help inform the proposed individual strategies for Newbridge Fields and the other site/s.

4.9 However, the proposed 35 year lease is in relation to the renewal of an expired (holding over) lease on similar terms. As the lease was not excluded from the security of tenure provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, the Tenant has the right to renew. This situation is, therefore, very different from the grant of a new lease under a Community Asset Transfer.

4.10 Although there will be a change of management of the pavilion changing rooms, this is not at variance with the terms of the expired (holding over) lease and the intention of the Council to protect the shared use of the pavilion for all sports clubs. The terms of the renewal lease will ensure this continues.

4.11 None of the points raised in the objection received relate to the disposal of public open space by virtue of the inclusion of the small amount of additional land, comprising the existing cricket nets, store and a small parcel of land to the rear of the pavilion in the renewal lease. As a result, Officers are of the opinion that no valid objections to the disposal of this small area of public open space have been received.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect on policy framework or procedure rules arising from this report.

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 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 the well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 If it is determined that the land utilised for the cricket nets is not to be included in the renewal lease, then consideration will need to be given to their future management arrangements. A short-term tenancy or a Licence to Occupy could be granted to BTCC as an alternative way to regularise the current situation. However, if no agreement was reached, then then the costs to the Council to maintain and/or remove the cricket nets would need to be taken into account.

9. Recommendations

9.1 That Cabinet, having considered this Report and the lack of valid objections received in response to the Notices published in accordance with Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the inclusion of the additional small area public open space comprising the land utilised for the cricket nets and the small area of land to the rear of the existing Cricket Club Pavilion in the renewal lease to Trustees of Bridgend Town Cricket Club.

Janine Nightingale
CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES
10th January 2021

Contact officer: Philippa Kestle
Asset and Compliance Surveyor

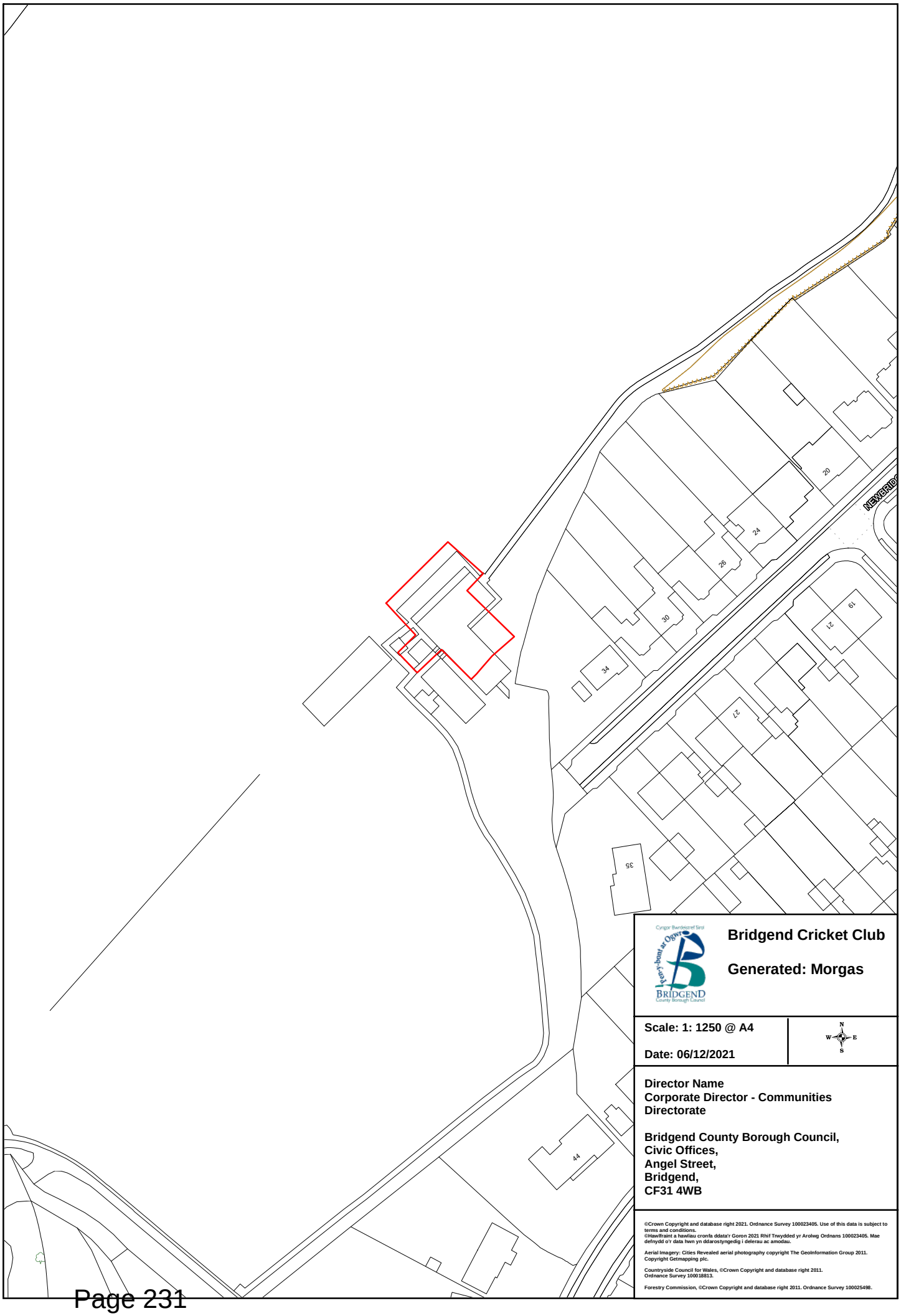
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Background documents: None

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Bridgend Cricket Club

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Date: 06/12/2021

Director Name
Corporate Director - Communities
Directorate

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CF31 4WB

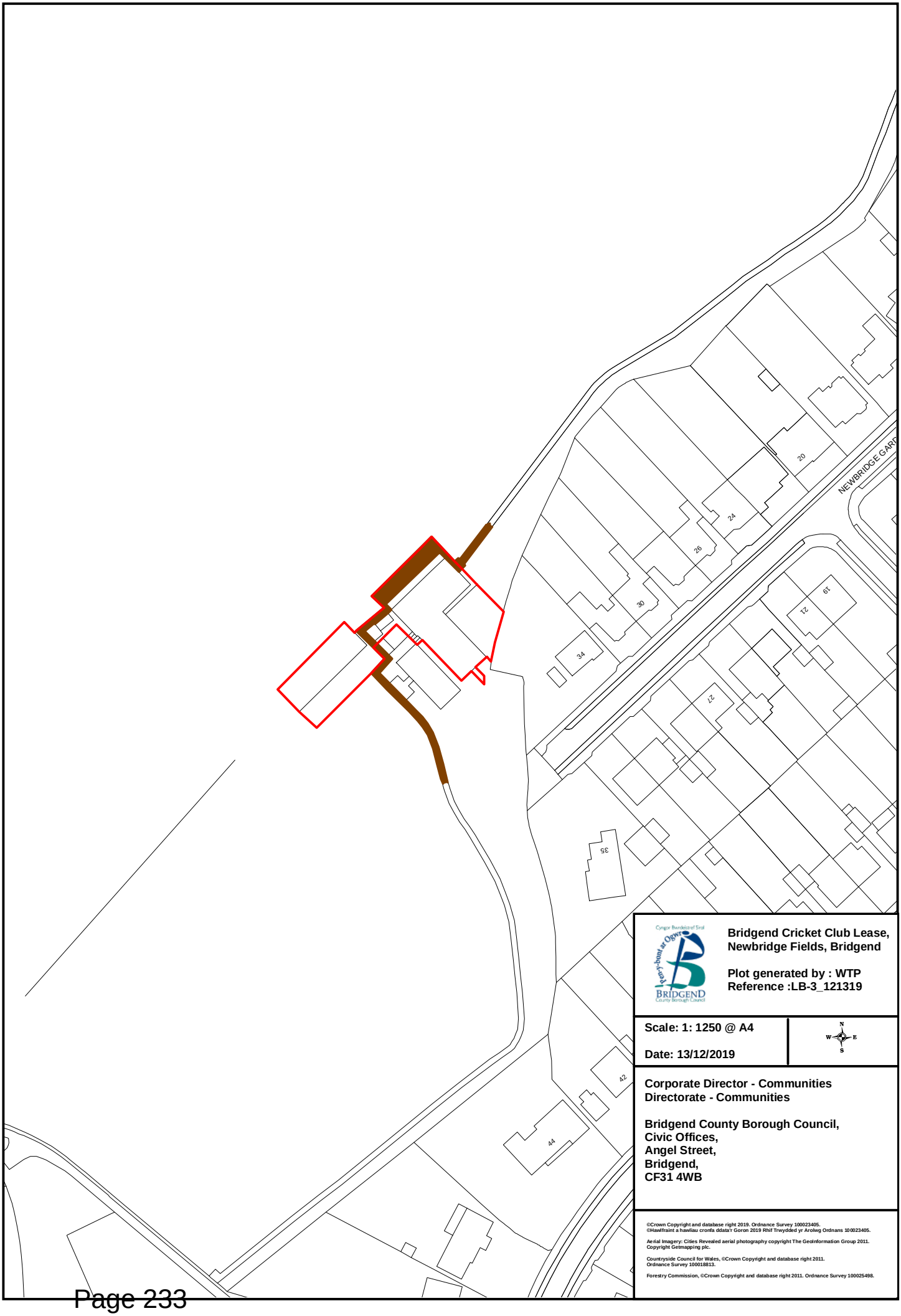
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Bridgend Cricket Club Lease, Newbridge Fields, Bridgend

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Date: 13/12/2019

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Corporate Director - Communities
Directorate - Communities

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for the appointment of local authority governors to the school governing bodies listed at paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2.

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 In accordance with the Council's 'Guidance on the appointment of local education authority governors' approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2008, officers have considered applications received for vacancies for local authority governor positions on school governing bodies, up to the end of December 2021 (see paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2, and Appendix A).

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 For the 20 local authority governor vacancies at the 16 schools in the table below, all applicants met the approved criteria for appointment as a local authority governor and there was no competition for the vacancies. Therefore, the recommended appointments are as follows:

Name of applicant	School
Mrs Mari Johns	Bryncethin Primary School
Mrs Sheila Bloomfield	Brynmenyn Primary School
Cllr David Lewis	Brynmenyn Primary School
Cllr Dr Charles Smith	Cefn Glas Infants School
Mr David Bassett	Heronsbridge School
Mr Ian Craven	Llangynwyd Primary School
Mr Christopher Major MBE	Maes yr Haul Primary School
Cllr Paul Davies	Nantyffyllon Primary School
Mr Nigel Davies	Nantymoel Primary School
Ms Lesley Clarke	Newton Primary School
Cllr Lyn Walters	Oldcastle Primary School
Mr Matthew Jones	Oldcastle Primary School
Mr Martin Smidman	Oldcastle Primary School
Mr Andrew Hardy	Plasnewydd Primary School
Miss Hannah Lewis	Tremains Primary School
Mr Andrew Morgan	Tremains Primary School
Mr Neville Williams	Tynyrheol Primary School
Mr Peter Vincent	Ysgol Bryn Castell
Mrs Lucy James	Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr
Cllr Jon-Paul Blundell	Bryntirion Comprehensive School

4.2 For the local authority governor vacancy at the one school below, the applicant met the approved criteria for appointment as a local authority governor and there was no competition for the vacancy.

Name of applicant	School
Mr Symon Kendall	Cefn Cribwr Primary School

4.3 As Mr Kendall is currently a parent governor at Cefn Cribwr Primary School and is, therefore, unable to hold two positions on the same governing body, the recommendation to appoint Mr Kendall as local authority governor is conditional upon the applicant resigning from the existing parent governorship at the school and with the appointment as local authority governor not taking effect until the resignation is formally received and acknowledged by the chair of the school's governing body and the local authority.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or 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. It is, therefore, not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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

7.1 A Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

Long-term

While it is desirable for local authority governors to have previous or relevant experience of the role, in the short-term, the local authority may support any person for such an appointment who is interested in supporting schools, is not disqualified from being a school governor and is willing and able to dedicate the necessary time to the role.

Prevention

The local authority assesses the suitability of applicants for the local authority governor vacancy/vacancies applied for. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, supports governors with a comprehensive programme of both mandatory and voluntary training and access to resources, to enable them to develop and maintain their knowledge and skills, and be successful in fulfilling the role.

Integration

School governing bodies have a strategic role in running schools and ensuring that all pupils are supported to learn and achieve so that they can access opportunities for further learning and employment, know how to maintain their wellbeing, can play active roles in their communities and can contribute positively to society as a whole.

Collaboration

School governing bodies have a strategic role in ensuring that schools safeguard the health and well-being of pupils and staff. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, provides training to governors to enable them to develop and maintain their relevant knowledge, skills and effectiveness in this respect.

Involvement

The local authority treats all applications for local authority governor vacancies fairly, to ensure equality of opportunity. School governing bodies have a strategic role in ensuring that schools safeguard the health and well-being of pupils and staff. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, provides training to governors to enable them to develop and maintain their relevant knowledge, skills and effectiveness in this respect.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the appointments detailed in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2.

Mr Lindsay Harvey
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

18 January 2022

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Background documents

None

Appendix A

Local authority governor vacancies (up to the end of December 2021)

Name of school	Number of vacancies
Abercerdin Primary School	2
Bryncethin Primary School	1
Brynmenyn Primary School	2
Cefn Cribwr Primary School	1
Cefn Glas Infants School	1
Coety Primary School	1
Croesty Primary School	1
Cwmfelin Primary School	1
Garth Primary School	1
Heronsbridge School	1
Llangewydd Junior School	1
Llangynwyd Primary School	1
Maes yr Haul Primary School	1
Nantyffyllon Primary School	2
Nantymoel Primary School	2
Newton Primary School	2
Nottage Primary School	3
Oldcastle Primary School	3
Penybont Primary School	1
Plasnewydd Primary School	1
St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School	2
Tondu Primary School	1
Tremains Primary School	2
Tynyrheol Primary School	2
Ysgol Bryn Castell	1
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr	1
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd	2
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant	2
Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr	1
Brynteg School	1
Bryntirion Comprehensive School	1
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	1
Porthcawl Comprehensive School	1
TOTAL VACANCIES	**47**

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation with stakeholders on the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

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 Section 84 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ("the 2013 Act") requires a local authority to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan ("the Plan") and outlines that a plan must contain:

a. A local authority's proposals on how it will carry out its education functions to:

i. improve the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh ("Welsh-medium education") in its area; and

ii. improve the standards of Welsh-medium education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area.

b. The local authority's targets for improving the planning of the provision of Welsh-medium education in its area and for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area;

c. Report on the progress made to meet the targets contained in the previous Plan or previous revised Plan.

3.2 Cabinet first approved the Bridgend Local Authority WESP in March 2014 and it was subsequently approved by Welsh Government Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in June 2014. The Plan has been reviewed and updated annually prior to seeking approval from Welsh Government.

3.3 Following the rapid review commissioned by Welsh Government the timescales for publication of the WESP documents have been reviewed, as reported in Cabinet report (5 September 2017).

3.4 The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing the Demand (Wales) Regulations 2013 ("the 2013 Regulations"), were the first regulations made under the section 87 powers. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019 ("The 2019 Regulations") replace those regulations and make provision for a local authority to prepare a ten-year Plan, the first to have effect from 1 September 2022, subject to the Welsh Ministers' approval.

3.5 The purpose of these regulations is to improve opportunities for local authorities to plan Welsh-medium education provision in order to support the current and future expectation for growth in Welsh-medium education. Improving the planning of Welsh-medium education will also support Welsh Government's long-term national ambition for the Welsh language as set out in Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh speakers strategy, your strategy for promoting the Welsh language in accordance with the Promotion Standards under the Welsh Language Standards (No. 1) Regulations 2015 and also the introduction of a new curriculum for Wales.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 A consultation exercise on the draft WESP was undertaken with stakeholders between 27 September and 19 December 2021.

A copy of the consultation document was also made available during this time on the Council's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

4.2 The outcome of the consultation has been analysed and a consultation report has been written (**Appendix 1**). The local authority has considered the responses received during the period of the consultation and has amended the draft WESP accordingly (**Appendix 2**).

4.3 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales Regulations 2019) were amended. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") came into force on 1 December 2020 and make changes to the start date of the next WESP cycle being moved from 1 September 2021 to a year later (to September

2022). The plan has to be submitted to Welsh Government for approval by the 31 January 2022.

4.4 The first ten-year Plan will commence on 1 September 2022 and expire on 31 August 2032. Each further Plan will commence on 1 September in the year during which the previous ten-year Plan will come to an end (ie 1 September 2032 to 31 August 2042). The Plan must include a target outlining the expected increase in the number of Year 1 learners taught through the medium of Welsh in the local authority area during the lifespan of the Plan.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The WESP is designed to deliver the key principles of equality, choice and opportunity for all. An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has been undertaken on the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which indicates that a full EIA will be required over the next 12 months which will provide monitoring data on which to base further decisions regarding the detail of the WESP.

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

7.1 The report contributes to the following goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- a prosperous Wales
- a resilient Wales
- a Wales of cohesive communities
- a globally responsive Wales

7.2 The five ways of working have been considered in the preparation of this report and are summarised below:

Long term	Supports the statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places and support the Welsh language.
Prevention	The Council has a statutory duty to promote the Welsh language. The plan will ensure that children and young people will be able to follow a Welsh-medium education.
Integration	The plan supports the promotion of Welsh education in the communities in which the children and young people live.
Collaboration	The local authority will continue to work in collaboration to ensure that it achieves its vision as set out in the draft WESP plan.
Involvement	Key stakeholders have been involved in drafting the WESP ten-year plan. Further engagement will occur with the consultation.

8. Financial implications

8.1 Local authorities are expected to work with their regional consortium to demonstrate how the Education Improvement Grant administered by Central South Consortium will support the implementation of the WESP.

8.2 With the exception of staff time there is no other financial impact on the Authority.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the outcome of the consultation with interested parties as detailed in the attached Consultation Report; and

- approve the changes to the draft WESP.

Lindsay Harvey
Corporate Director Education and Family Support
18 January 2022

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Group Manager (Learner Support)

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Background documents

None

Attachments

Appendix 1 Consultation Report Draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032

Appendix 2 Draft WESP 2022-2032

Draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032

Consultation report

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8. **Conclusion** 24

1. Overview

This consultation sought to invite views of residents, our workforce, elected members, and stakeholders on the proposed WESP 2022-2032. The results from this consultation will be used to inform our final Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032, which will be implemented in September 2022.

Bridgend County Borough Council's vision aligns with Cymraeg 2050 - A million Welsh speakers (Welsh Government, 2017). As a local authority we desire that the Welsh language thrives, and that it is used in every aspect of life. Among those who do not speak Welsh there is goodwill and a sense of ownership towards the language and a recognition by all its contribution to the culture, society, and economy of Wales.

Our vision is to secure favourable circumstances throughout the local authority that support language acquisition and use of Welsh language skills. We want to see an increase in language transmission in the family, early introduction of Welsh to every child, an education system that provides Welsh language skills for all, and greater appreciation of Welsh language skills in the workplace. At the same time, we are committed to supporting people to use Welsh socially, at work, and when accessing services.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032 will ensure that Bridgend County Borough Council's vision becomes a reality building on the progress of previous WESPs. The WESP provides the framework for the implementation of the vision.

2. Introduction

A public survey based on Bridgend County Borough Council's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032 objectives was completed over a 12-week period between **27 September 2021** and the **19 December 2021**.

The survey was available to complete online on the consultation page of the council's website and paper copies were made available upon request. The survey was available in English and Welsh. Residents could request a paper copy or another alternative format by telephone or email via the Consultation and Engagement Team.

In total, 21 questions required a reply from respondents. All survey responses offered the option of anonymity. The council's standard set of equalities monitoring questions were also included with the survey, this is recommended good practice for all public facing surveys carried out by the council.

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

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

3. Marketing and engagement methods

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

3.1 Social media and GovDelivery bulletin

The council runs the following social media accounts: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

There are currently has **14,321** followers on its English Twitter account and **310** on its Welsh Twitter account, **17,214** followers on its English Facebook page and **195** on the Welsh Facebook page, **2,940** followers on Instagram and **5,097** followers on LinkedIn and **133** subscribers on YouTube. While content is most likely to be seen by these users, it is also displayed to users who are not connected to the accounts.

Facebook and Twitter have been used to promote the consultation.

The draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 Consultation was promoted on the council's corporate Facebook and Twitter social media channels throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals.

Information was posted **six** times in both English and Welsh on **Twitter**, reaching **3,272** people with **7** link clicks through to the English consultation webpage and reaching **191** and **2** links clicks through to the Welsh consultation webpage.

Information was posted once on the English and Welsh **Facebook** pages, reaching **1,400** on the English Facebook page with a total of **18** engagements post clicks **(16)** and shares **(2)** and reaching **14** on the Welsh Facebook page with a total of **0** engagements.

In June 2020 the local authority implemented a new digital communications channel called Gov Delivery. Gov Delivery is a new email marketing system that sends messages directly to residents' email inboxes in the language of their choice. There are currently **36,539 English subscribers** and **222 Welsh subscribers** from Bridgend County Borough signed up to receive weekly update emails.

The draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 consultation was included in three weekly English and Welsh bulletins issued on the 30 September, 7 October and 25 November 2021. This generated **113** link clicks through to the English consultation webpage and **four** link clicks through to the Welsh consultation webpage, generating a total of **117** click-throughs to both consultation webpages.

Date	Language	Link clicks
30 September 2021	English	34
	Welsh	2
7 October 2021	English	28
	Welsh	0
25 November 2021	English	51
	Welsh	2
Total:		**117**

3.2 Local press

Details of the consultation were issued in a press releases emailed to local and national press to highlight the start of the consultation on **21 September 2021**.

3.3 Internal communications

Details of the consultation were not published internally in the Bridgenders weekly staff messages.

3.4 Community engagement

Details of the consultation were shared with members of the Welsh in Educations Strategic Plan Forum, Welsh-medium schools across the county borough, council members, staff and other key stakeholders.

Details of the consultation were discussed with the WESP Training and Apprenticeship Strategy sub-group on 12 October 2021 as well as members of the WESP Forum meeting on 17 November 2021. There was a total of 29 members in the WESP Forum and seven attendees to the training and apprenticeship strategy sub-group. The comments noted from these meetings can be found in section **7.4.2** of this report.

3.5 Draft Welsh Language Strategy objectives 2021-2026 survey

The survey contained 21 questions which required a reply from respondents.

The survey was available on the council's website and surveys were readily available in English and Welsh. Alternative formats were available on request.

4. Response rate

In total, there were **76 English** and **19 Welsh** survey completions. The response rate has been divided into several areas including consultation survey responses, interactions in meetings and social media interactions:

- We received **95 survey** responses in total:
- During the consultation period, there were no comments on our social media channels.
- The Consultation and Engagement team engaged with members of the WESP Forum and the WESP Training and Apprenticeship Strategy sub-group.

5. How effective was the consultation?

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

6. Headline figures

- **61% of respondents** either strongly agreed or agreed with objective one.
- **73% of respondents** strongly agreed or agreed with objective two.
- **71% of respondents** strongly agreed or agreed with objective three.
- **70% of respondents** strongly agreed or agreed with objective four.
- **70% of respondents** strongly agreed or agreed with objective five.
- **71% of respondents** strongly agreed or agreed with objective six.
- **72% of respondents** strongly agreed or agreed with objective seven.

7. Question and analysis - consultation survey

Section seven of the report looks at the questions asked in the consultation survey – with **95** respondents in total.

7.1 Language to complete the survey.

Respondents to the consultation survey were initially asked in which language they would like to complete the survey. Overall, **80%** of respondents selected English with **20%** selecting Welsh.

Language	No.	%
English	76	80
Welsh	19	20
Total	**95**	**100.0**

7.2 Draft Welsh Language Strategy objectives 2021-2026 survey

Respondents were asked to complete an about you section and were given an overview of the objectives in the draft WESP 2022-2032:

Objective one: More nursery children/ three-year-olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.

Objective two: More reception class children/five-year-olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.

Objective three: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another.

Objective four: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh.

Objective five: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school.

Objective six: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with an Additional learning need (ALN) (in accordance with

the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.

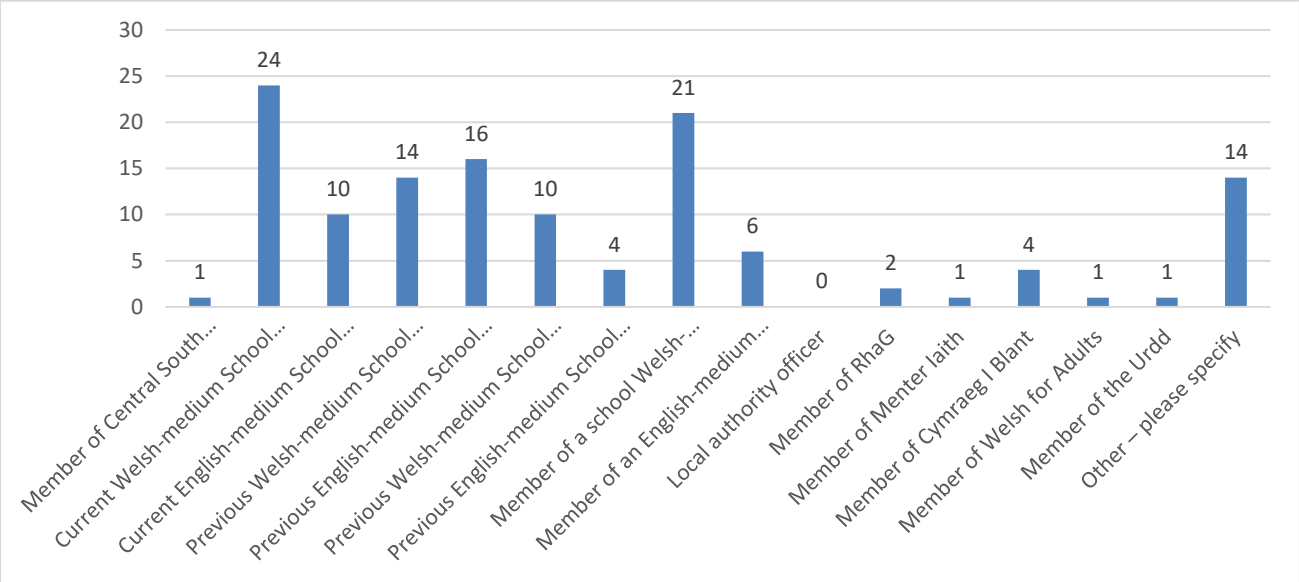
Objective seven: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh.

They were asked to tell us if they agreed with the objective and given the opportunity to comment on each objective.

7.2.1 About you

7.2.1.1 How would you describe yourself as a respondent?

There were **129 responses** to this question.

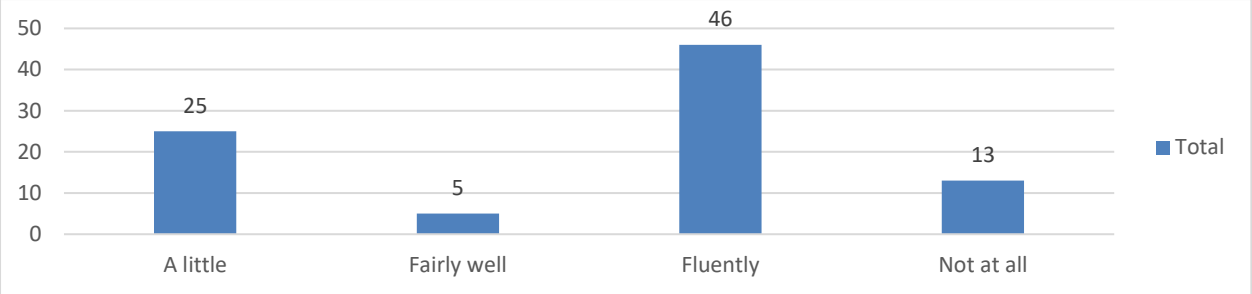


The majority of respondents 24 (19%) stated that they are a current Welsh-medium school parent/carer. 21 respondents (16%) said they were a member of a Welsh-medium school, with 16 respondents (12.5%) stated that they are a previous English-medium school learner.

7.2.1.2 Are you able to speak/read/write Welsh?

Are you able to speak Welsh?

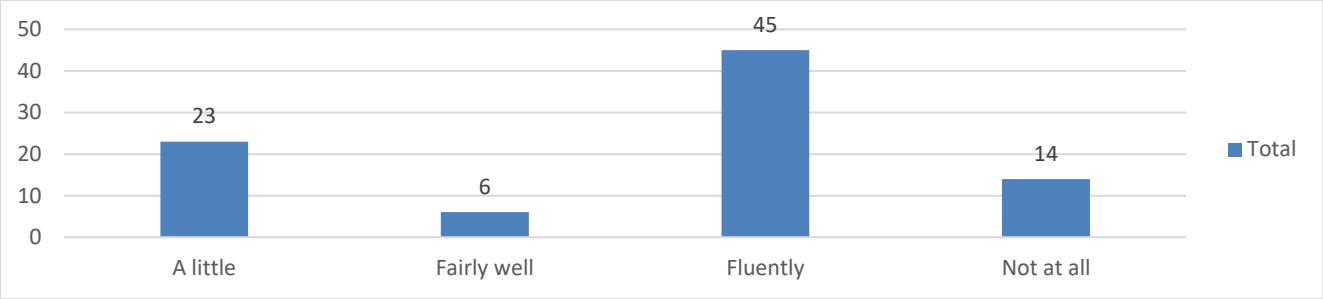
There were **89 responses** to this question.



46 respondents stated that they speak Welsh fluently, while 25 respondents said they spoke a little Welsh. Five respondents said they can speak Welsh fairly well and 13 respondents stated that they couldn't speak Welsh.

Are you able to read Welsh?

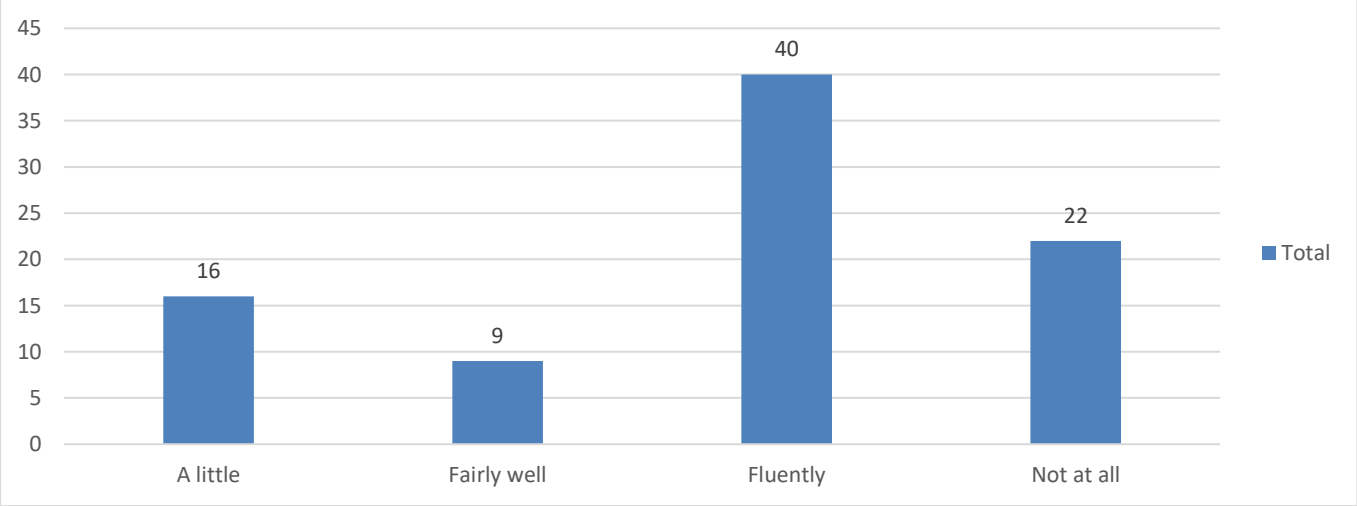
There were **88 responses** to this question.



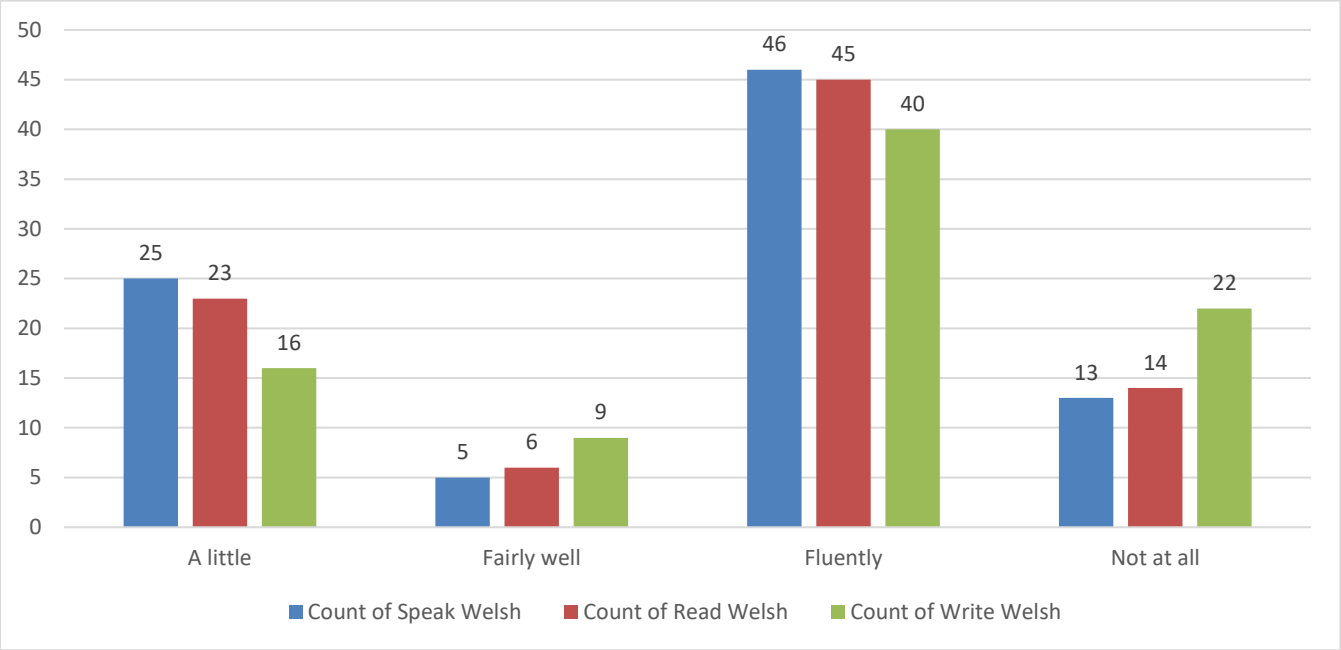
45 respondents stated that they can read fluently in Welsh, while 23 respondents stated that they can read a little Welsh. Six respondents stated that they can read Welsh fairly well while 14 respondents stated that they could not read Welsh at all.

Are you able to write Welsh?

There were **87 responses** to this question.



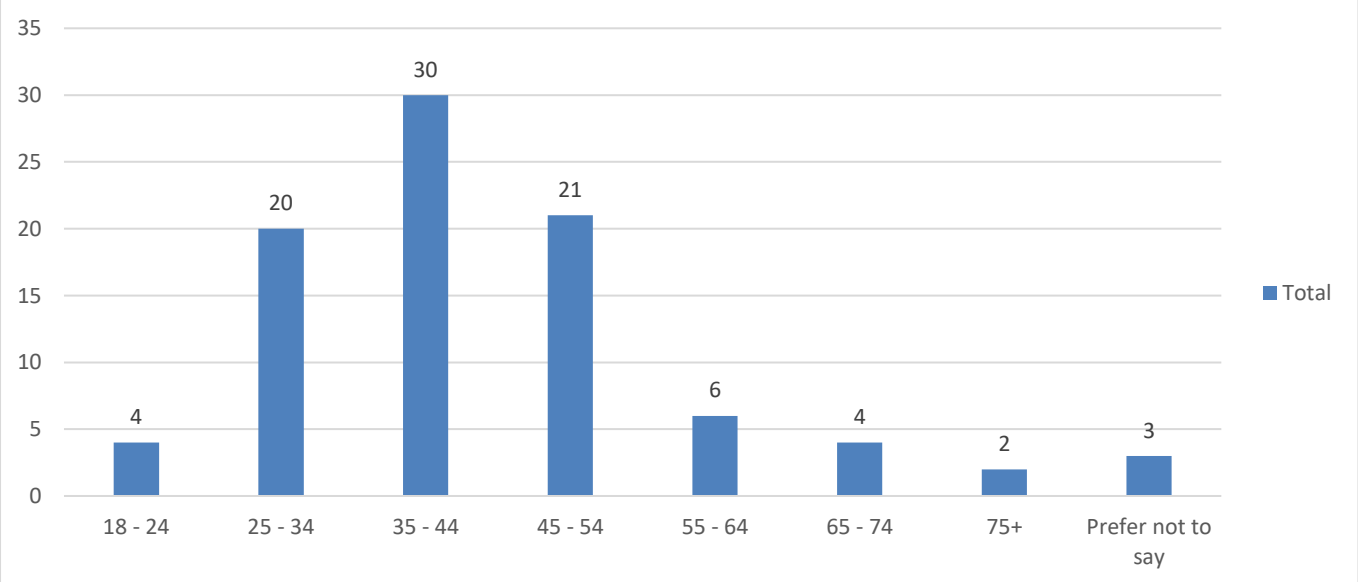
40 respondents stated that they can write fluently in Welsh, while 9 respondents stated that they can write fairly well in Welsh. 16 people stated that they can write a little in Welsh while 22 responded said that they could not write in Welsh.



The majority of respondents stated that they were fluent in either speaking (40), reading (45) or writing (40) in Welsh.

7.2.1.3 Please select your age category

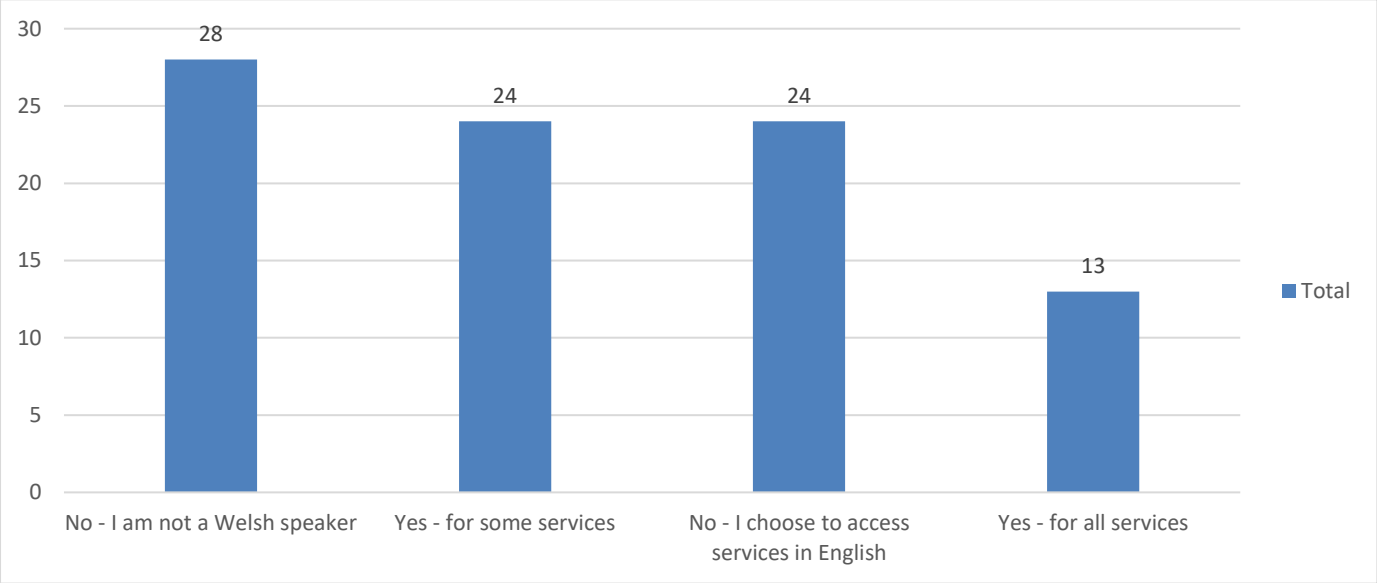
There were **90 responses** to this question.



The highest number of respondents to this survey (33%) were aged between 35 and 44 years of age. Followed by 23% who are in the 45 to 54 age bracket and 22% in the 25 to 34 age group.

7.2.1.4 Do you access council services in Welsh?

There were **89 responses** to this question.



28 respondents (31%) stated 'no' they did not access council services in Welsh as they are not Welsh speakers. 24 respondents (27%) stated 'yes', for some services and 24 respondents stated no, I choose to access services in English. 13 respondents (15%) of people stated that they do access all council services in Welsh.

If no, I choose to access services in English please tell us why

40 comments were made in relation to this question and have been themed in the table below:

Theme	Number of responses
Non-Welsh speaker	17
Not confident in communicating solely in Welsh	13
Inconsistencies in Welsh translations	3
Unaware council offered Welsh communications	2
English is easier	2
Sometimes Welsh is not available, even though is advertised	2
Yes	1
Total:	**40**

The majority of comments (17) relating to choosing to access services in English stated that respondents were non-Welsh speakers, while 13 stated that they were not confident in communicating solely in Welsh.

If yes, some services please tell us why

22 comments were made in relation to this question and have been themed in the table below:

Theme	Number of responses
Welsh is first language, it's my right etc.	12
Services should be bilingual	6
Depends on nature of service	3
Council tax	1
Total:	**22**

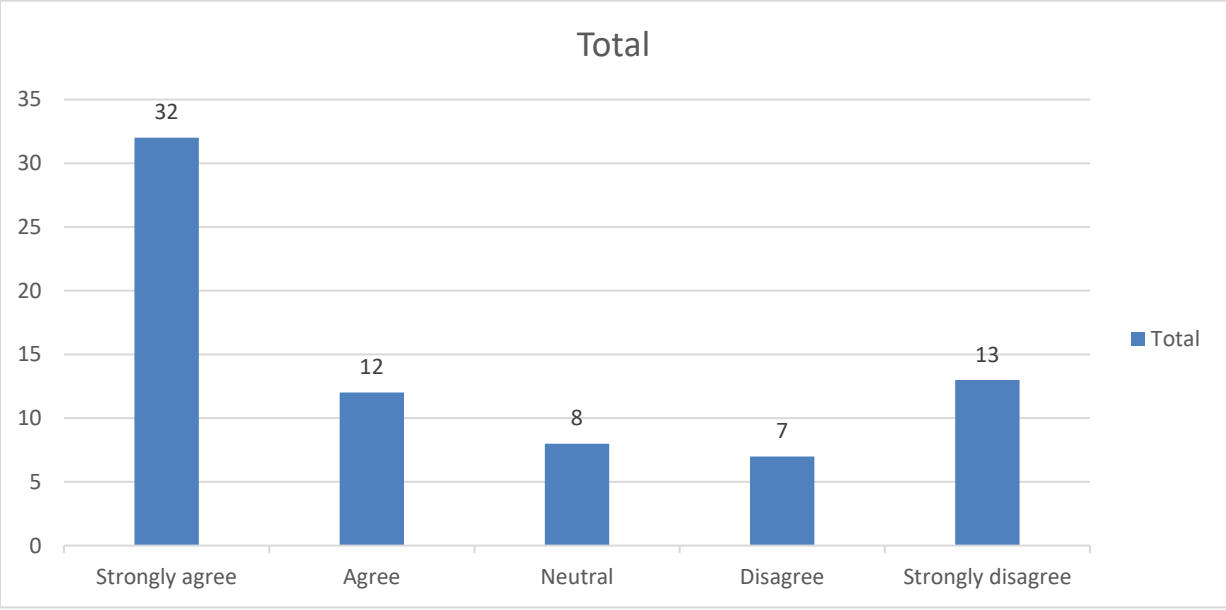
The majority of comments in relation to why respondents chose to access services in Welsh was because Welsh is their first language. Six comments related to services being bilingual.

7.2.2 Objectives

7.2.2.1 Objective one

Objective one: More nursery children / three-year-olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

There were **72 responses** to this question.



A total of 44 respondents **(61%)** either strongly agreed (32) or agreed (12) with this objective.

20 people **(28%)** either disagreed (7) or strongly disagreed (13) with objective one.

8 people remained neutral.

48 comments were provided by respondents on this objective and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

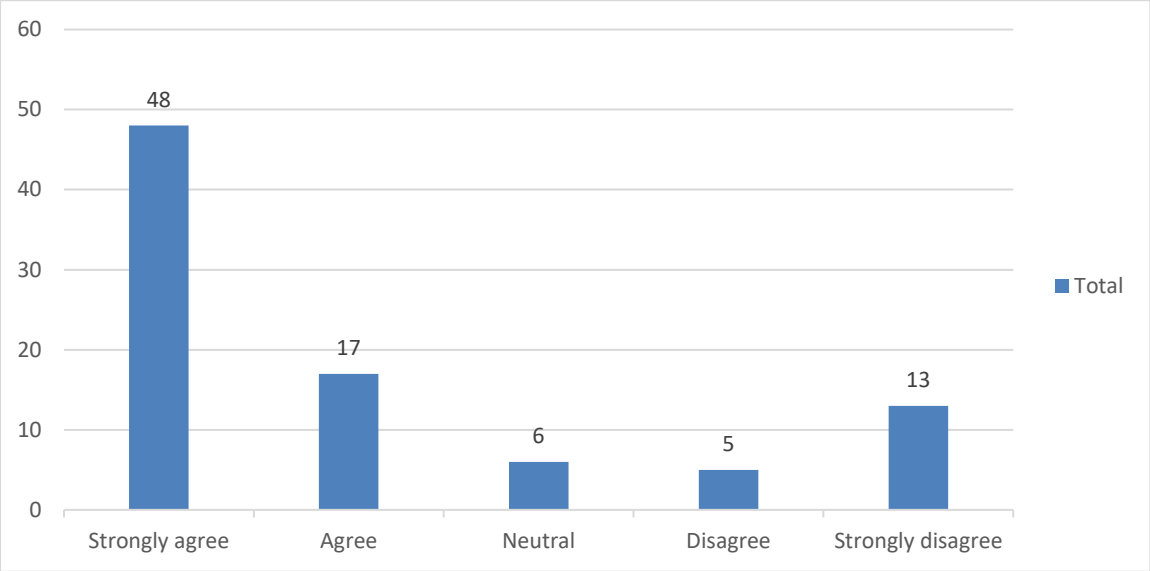
Theme	Number of responses
Welsh-medium schools need better facilities for expansion, increase capacity, are oversubscribed already	19
Increase number of Welsh-medium schools, especially in Porthcawl, Pencoed & valleys	19
Welsh is irrelevant to some families and areas, should not be compulsory	8
Funding should be given to English speaking schools also	5
Will cause discrimination against English speaking schools	2
Welsh language should be compulsory from nursery school age, and continuation throughout rest of school years	2
Welsh government agenda for devolution, targets	2
It's about time something was done	2
The proposals are not ambitious enough	2
Other international language provisions should also be provided	1
Total	**62**

The most common themes were better facilities for the expansion and increase capacity of Welsh-medium schools and increase number of Welsh-medium schools particularly in Porthcawl, Pencoed and the valleys.

7.2.2.2 Objective two

Objective two: More reception class children/ five-year-olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.

There were **89 responses** to this question.



65 respondents **(73%)** either strongly agreed (48) or agreed (17) with objective two.

18 people **(21%)** either disagreed (5) or strongly disagreed (13) with this objective.

6 **(6%)** people remained neutral.

43 comments were provided by respondents on this objective, and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

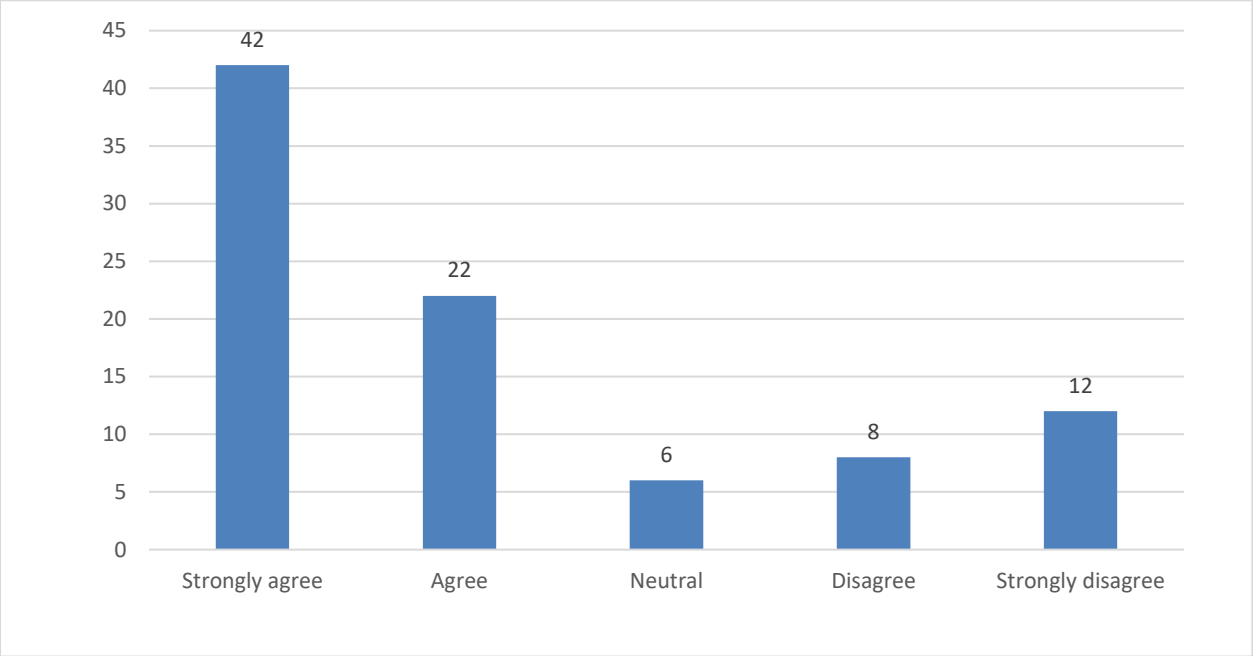
Theme	Number of responses
Welsh-medium schools need better facilities for expansion, increase capacity, are oversubscribed already	18
Increase number of Welsh-medium schools, especially in Porthcawl, Pencoed & valleys	13
Welsh is irrelevant to some families and areas, should not be compulsory	10
The proposals are not ambitious enough	3
Increase funding in other subjects instead	2
Will cause discrimination against English speaking schools	2
Whole of catchment area needs to be served, not just certain postcodes	2
Total	**50**

The most common themes were better facilities for the expansion and increase capacity of Welsh-medium schools and increase number of Welsh-medium schools particularly in Porthcawl, Pencoed and the valleys. Ten comments were made in relation to Welsh being irrelevant to some families and areas and should not be compulsory.

7.2.2.3 Objective three

Objective three: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another.

There were **90 responses** to this question.



64 respondents **(71%)** strongly agreed (42) or agreed (22) with objective three.

20 respondents **(22%)** disagreed (8) or strongly disagreed (12) with this objective.

While six **(7%)** remained neutral.

37 comments were provided by respondents on this objective, and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

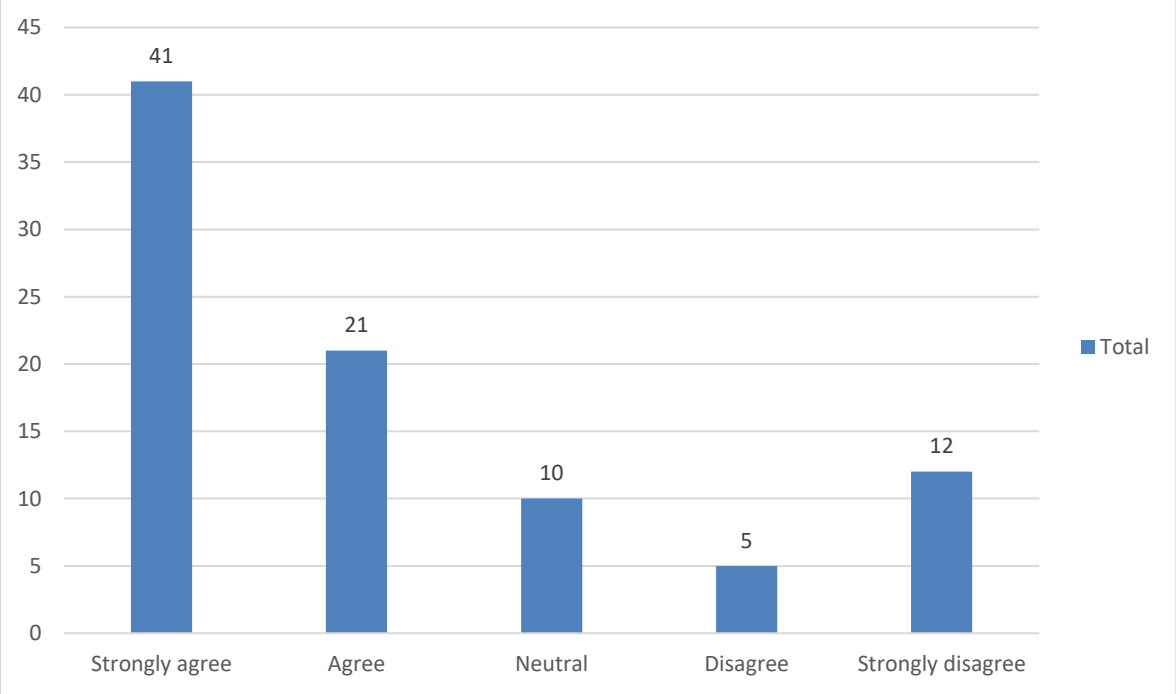
Theme	Number of responses
Needs to be done sooner rather than later	8
Increase number of Welsh-medium schools, especially in Porthcawl, Pencoed & valleys	5
The wording of 'mother' is excluding to fathers, carers etc	5
Welsh is irrelevant to some families and areas, should not be compulsory	5
Will cause discrimination against English speaking schools	3
More support for non-Welsh speaking parents whose children are in Welsh-medium schools	3
The money should be spent on other services	2
Better quality of education in English-medium schools	2
Offer Welsh education in university and workplace	1
Welsh-medium schools need better facilities for expansion, increase capacity, are oversubscribed already	1
Need to offer Welsh education to pre-school children	1
Objective is unclear	1
Total	**37**

Eight comments related to action need to be taken sooner rather than later, five comments were made in relation to increasing the number of Welsh-medium schools, especially in Porthcawl, Pencoed and the valleys. Five comments were made around the term 'mother', which was seen as excluding fathers, carers etc. Five comments were made around Welsh being irrelevant to some families and areas and therefore should not be compulsory.

7.2.2.4 Objective four

Objective four: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh.

There were **89 responses** to this question.



62 respondents **(70%)** either strongly agreed (41) or agreed (21) with objective four.

17 respondents **(19%)** either strongly disagree (12) or disagree (5).

10 respondents **(11%)** remained neutral.

28 comments were provided by respondents on this objective, and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	Number of responses
Create immersion centres	4
Improve English speaking schools for a better standard of education	5
Improve Welsh teaching in English schools	1
Need more advanced courses for parents	5

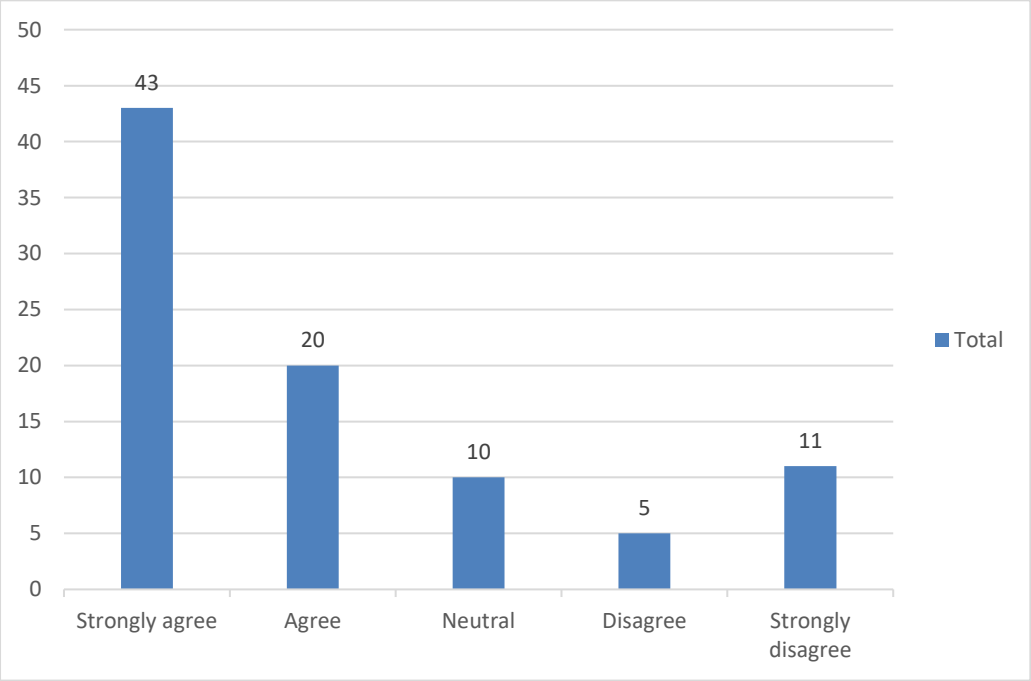
Need to meet current demands, not create more	2
No staff sabbaticals	4
Teachers should be fluent Welsh speakers	1
This is an outcome, not an objective	1
Waste of time and money	2
WG agenda for devolution	1
Yes	2
Total:	**28**

Five comments were made in relation to improving English speaking schools for a better standard of education. Five comments were made in relation to needing more advanced courses for parents. Four comments were made in relation to creating immersion centres and four comments were made in relation to no staff sabbaticals.

7.2.2.5 Objective five

Objective five: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school.

There were **89 responses** to this question.



63 respondents **(70%)** either strongly agreed (43) or agreed (20) with objective five.

16 respondents **(18%)** either strongly disagreed (11) or disagreed (5) with the objective.

10 people **(11%)** remained neutral to this objective.

25 comments were provided by respondents on this objective, and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

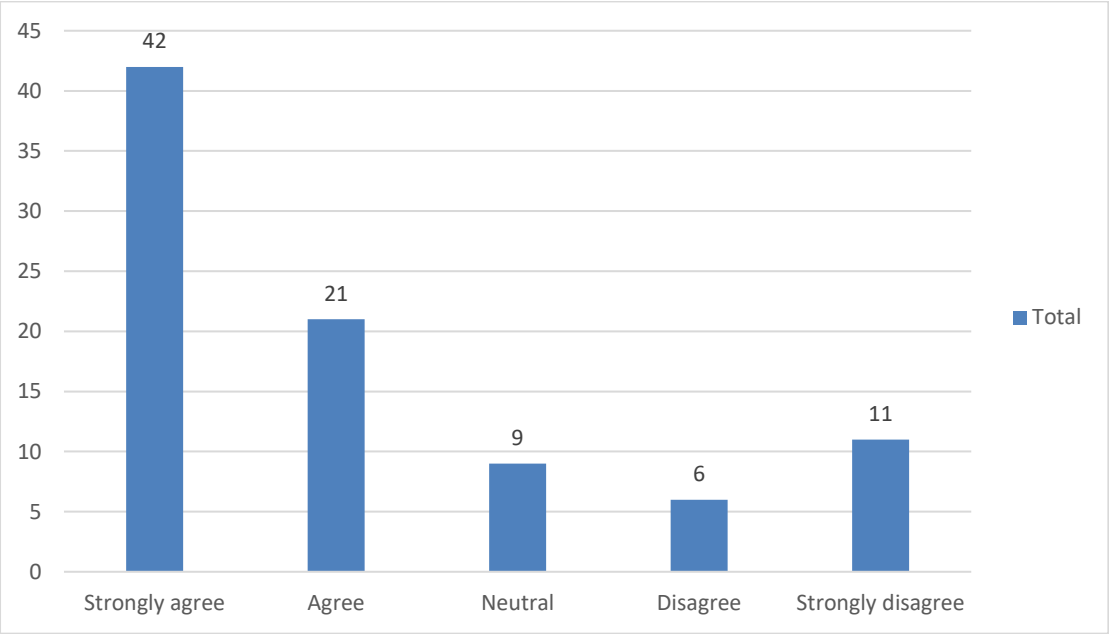
Theme	Number of responses
Child not in school yet	**1**
Discriminatory against non or poor Welsh speakers	**1**
Encourage opportunities for Welsh to be spoken socially outside school, Welsh activities etc.	**9**
Make policy easier to read	**1**
More support and Funding should be offered to help develop the Welsh language all schools	**8**
Welsh language shouldn't be compulsory to those who don't want to learn	**5**
Total:	**25**

Nine comments were made in relation to encouraging opportunities for Welsh to be spoken socially outside school, Welsh activities etc. Eight comments were made in relation to providing more support and funding to help develop the Welsh language all schools. Five comments were made in relation to the Welsh language should not be made compulsory to those who do not wish to learn.

7.2.2.6 Objective six

Objective six: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with an Additional Learning Needs (ALN) (in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.

There were **89 responses** to this question.



63 respondents **(71%)** either strongly agreed (42) or agreed (21) with objective six.

17 respondents **(19%)** either strongly disagreed (11) or disagreed (6) with this objective.

While nine **(10%)** remained neutral.

19 comments were provided by respondents on this objective, and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

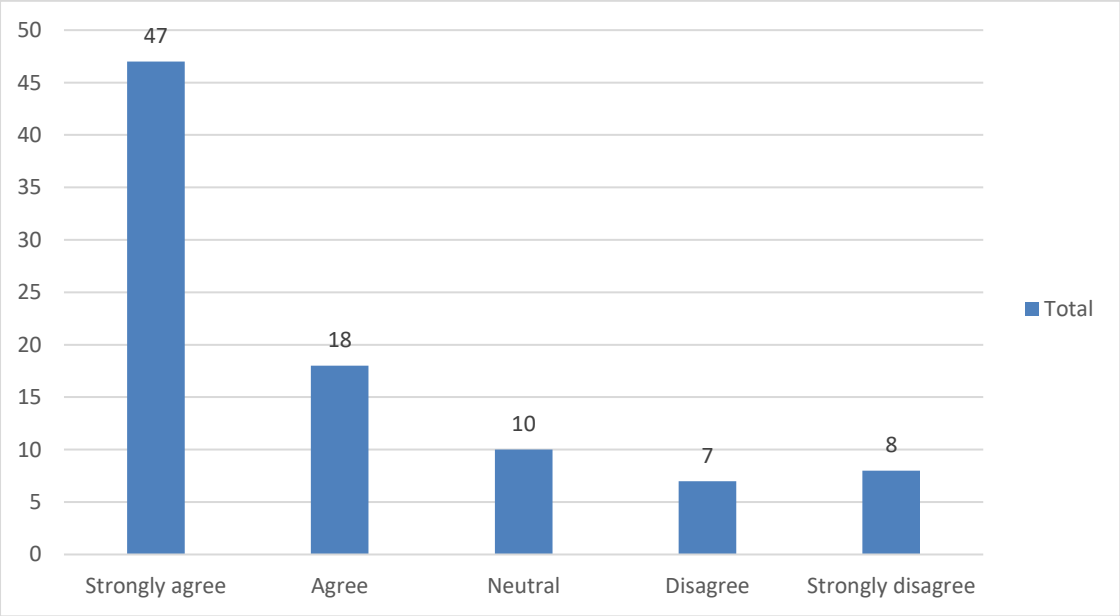
Theme	Number of responses
The same opportunities in Welsh and English-speaking schools offered to ALN pupils	**9**
ALN pupils could fall behind if Welsh is compulsory	**6**
Funding - more funding required for Welsh services or more funding should be spent elsewhere	**2**
Don't create demand	**1**
Just lip service	**1**
Total:	**19**

Nine comments were received in relation to the same opportunities in Welsh and English-speaking schools offered to ALN pupils. Six comments were made in relation to ALN pupils possibly falling behind if Welsh is compulsory.

7.2.2.7 Objective seven

Objective seven: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh.

There were **90 responses** to this question.



65 respondents **(72%)** either strongly agreed (47) or agreed (18) with objective seven.

15 respondents **(17%)** either strongly disagree (8) or disagree (7) with this objective.

Ten respondents **(11%)** remained neutral.

26 comments were provided by respondents on this objective, and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	Number of responses
Support Welsh teachers training	20
Support all teachers and pupils, not just Welsh-speaking	6
Total:	**26**

Twenty comments were made in relation to support for Welsh teacher training and six comments were made in relation to supporting all teachers and pupils, not just Welsh speaking.

7.2.2.8 Do you have any further comments to make with regards to the WESP?

Finally, respondents were asked if they had any other comments about these objectives.

14 respondents provided comments, and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	Number of responses
Focus on transport and children accessing Welsh schools	2
Focus on using Welsh in the community, as well as school	1
Funding - more funding required for Welsh services or more funding should be spent elsewhere	3
Poor quality education in Welsh-medium schools	1
Welsh education is good for cultural and heritage purposes, but shouldn't be compulsory	3
Welsh education should be compulsory	4
Total:	**14**

Four comments were made regarding Welsh education being compulsory. Three comments were made in relation to Welsh education being good for cultural and heritage purposes but should not be compulsory. Three comments were made in relation to funding and two comments were made about transport and children accessing Welsh schools.

7.3 Equalities monitoring

7.3.1 How would these proposals affect you because of your: Gender, Age, Ethnicity, Disability, Sexuality, Religion / belief, Gender identity, Relationship status, Pregnancy, Preferred language?

20 comments were provided by respondents and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	Number of responses
Positive - Welsh speaker	6
Negative - English speaker	5
No impact	5
Discrimination against non-Welsh speakers	2
Funding - more funding required for Welsh services or more funding should be spent elsewhere	2
Total:	**20**

Six comments were received with regards a positive impact for Welsh speakers, five comments were made about a negative impact on English speakers. Five response stated no impact.

7.3.2 We would like to know your views on the effects that the guidance would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

29 comments were provided by respondents and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	Number of responses
Positive - increase in Welsh speakers	**7**
Negative - stop forcing Welsh language	**5**
Should promote Welsh language in businesses and community activities	**3**
Increase Welsh-medium schools	**3**
Positive - updated Welsh curriculum	**2**
Welsh language should be prioritised over English language	**2**
Welsh-medium school transport improvements	**2**
Negative - English will always be main language in Wales as more English-speaking schools	**1**
No impact	**1**
Positive - more funding	**1**
Positive - need to include opinions staff pupils as well	**1**
Positive - people proud of Welsh heritage	**1**
Total:	**29**

Seven comments were received stating a positive impact on the Welsh language and Welsh speakers. Five comments stated a negative effect – stop forcing use of Welsh language. Three comments around promoting the Welsh language in businesses and community activities and three comments around increasing Welsh-medium schools.

7.3.3 Please also explain how you believe the guidance could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities

for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language and ensure there are no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.

19 comments were provided by respondents and these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	Number of responses
Increase Welsh-medium schools	4
Boost awareness Welsh language	3
Optional Welsh learning	3
Don't understand question	2
Welsh medium schools should be accessible to all	2
Should be further education welsh courses for adults	2
There is a bias towards Welsh speakers	1
Improve funding for Welsh language	1
Welsh language will be first language in Wales	1
Total	**19**

Four comments were made around increasing Welsh-medium schools. Three comments were made around boosting awareness of the Welsh language. Three comments were made around Welsh learning being optional.

7.4 Qualitative responses

7.4.1 Social media comments

No additional responses from social media comments were received during the survey's live period.

7.4.2 Comments made during engagement sessions

Additional responses from the engagement sessions received during the survey's live period are detailed below.

Comments from the WESP Training and Apprenticeship Strategy sub-group held on 12 October 2021:

Objective	Comments
One	• Not clear in the consultation if spaces are extra or in total. • It's a rise which is brilliant. • Yes – good to have more spaces.
Two	• The more spaces the better, but is it realistic? • Recruitment and staffing may be an issue going forward. • Has staffing been considered?
Three	• Yes please.

	• Transport issue - free transport will impact – if no free transport this will impact option 1 • Welsh medium – challenge into higher education. • All the work – no Welsh-medium colleges – individualised plans for all Welsh learners • Welsh-medium skills – already bilingual and we need to ensure they have opportunities to continue to use Welsh • Track & monitor – but in FE classes merging of peers – English speaking • Welsh Government – national centre for learning Welsh • Recommendations – research and resources post-16
Four	• Comprehensives - huge shortage of specialist teachers • Several panels to try to increase teacher training • Lack of parity with English qualifications • Over 1000 English qualifications - Welsh less than 300 • WESP needs to tie in with Careers Wales re: development • Welsh Government sabbatical – Cardiff Uni South Wales - not sure of capacity as USW no longer delivering but something happening. • 8 students Llangynwyd = placement of student in Menter Cynon South • Early years settings used to be provided with funding - now they have to fund this themselves. • Increased costs for early years settings • Is there any reason why Llangynwyd pupils couldn't go to English-medium schools? • In some primaries the Welsh language skills are quite impressive.
Five	• Until we have Welsh-medium primaries in our communities this won't work. • I went to school outside of where I lived – false communities – I didn't know anyone where I lived. • All onus on schools – not fair for staff and false for children -something they only do in schools. • Couldn't have a normal conversation as Welsh was only used in school • May not be a priority in the bigger picture of Estyn • Don't think the wording is correct
Six	• Before the act – provision was under review. ALN revision review. • Welsh-medium workforce must be considered. • Really important that we acknowledge this: Llangynwyd placed two adverts for LSOs – no applications. • Struggle to support these learners if we do not consider the workforce. • To have growth we need expertise in staffing. • Growing number of students with ALN to college need / deserve the best experience. • Students are attracted to some of the bigger schools where there is more provision. • We're one of the only counties in Wales to have only one Welsh-medium comprehensive. • Back to transport – need for taxis etc. • Another comp = crucial.
Seven	• Really agree – need to push the confidence levels.

	• Message to the learners. • Bigger school (English) more money. • Lose Welsh speakers to English sector. • Teachers on our Welsh courses in English-medium schools. • Confidence. • Message that there is a shortage. • Links to people like Dr Alex Lovell – Swansea. • BCBC/links – jobs in Bridgend. • Official letter – easier in English. • Welsh = default.

Comments from members of the WESP Forum meeting held on 17 November 2021.

Comment	Number of responses
Do not see the contribution made by RHAG in the WESP as it stands points and is disappointed that the points they have raised has not borne fruit and is not in the current plan as it stands.	
Key data needs to be available to make a fair comparison with those that received English-medium education and the pupil numbers aren't there.	
In recommendation 4, the consultation will end before the introduction of the new Welsh-language A-level qualification comes in which WG have postponed and will be unable to comment on that.	
It is extremely important that we know what the new Welsh A-level will look like and seek clarification on this before we can put this document out.	
Very supportive to bilingualism and Welsh education and Welsh language and culture in English-medium schools and think we need to make more of that in the document.	
It is it is a 10-year strategy which is a long time. It's got to be something that can be adapted and amended as we go along.	
A-levels in general have still not been properly sorted out in Wales and we do need to have continuous appendices and updates and addendums to the document.	
It is imperative that these strategies are long-term, and they last beyond the candidacy and 10 years of councillors. There is an election in May and hopefully the Welsh language will get the priority and attention it deserves.	
As a region they have listened to headteachers in terms of their concerns and confirmed they have invested a substantial amount of money to support the Welsh-medium sector to work with the WJEC too. We have also written as a region jointly with our secondary and primary Welsh-medium headteachers, to the Minister for Welsh and	

Education and shared with him what the challenges are; one of them being qualifications as well as the availability of Welsh-medium staffing etc. A response has been received and they are meeting as a region with representative headteachers next week to arrange a meeting with the Minister.	

8. Conclusion

Using statistical analysis, based on a confidence level of 95% a sample of **95** survey completions is robust to a maximum standard error of ±4.752%. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that the responses are representative of those that would be given by the total adult population, to within ±4.752 % of the percentages reported.

This means that if the total adult population of Bridgend had taken part in the survey and a statistic of 50% was observed, we can be 95% confident that the actual figure lies between 45.248% and 54.752%.

8.1 Equality Impact Assessment

The Full Equality Impact Assessment will be completed within the next twelve months for the Welsh in Educations Strategic Plan 2022 -2023.

8.2 Welsh Language Five-year strategy action plan

The feedback consultation will be used to inform our final WESP 2022-2032, which will be implemented on 1 September 2022.

WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Name of local authority
Bridgend County Borough Council
Period of this plan
2022-2032

This Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is made under section 84 of *The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the content complies with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019*[1-2]. We have given due regard to the statutory guidance issued by Welsh Ministers when setting our targets.

Signed: ..... **Date**: .....

(This plan needs to be signed by the Chief Education Officer within your local authority)

[1] The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019
[2] The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020

Notes to help you

You will need to outline your local authority's Welsh-medium education vision of the next ten years and the main strategic objectives for this period. Demonstrate how you will achieve Outcomes 1 to 7 with reference to the guidelines.

Before completing this template, please refer specifically to Part 2 of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans Guidance.

https://gov.wales/welsh-education-strategic-plans

This part sets out the statutory requirements for what must be included in your Plan (as outlined in the Schedule of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019). In addition to your overarching ten-year target, some statements in the Schedule require you to set other targets, and if so, please refer to those here.

Our ten-year vision for increasing and improving the planning of the provision of Welsh-medium education in our area

Please include your overarching ten-year target here. This target should outline the expected increase of Year 1 children taught through the medium of Welsh during your ten-year plan and a statement setting out how you will go about achieving it.

(Paragraph 1 and 2 of the Schedule to the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) Regulations 2019. Please refer to Part 2 of the Welsh Government Guidance, made under section 87(4) of the 2013 Act)

Bridgend County Borough Council's Vision

Bridgend County Borough Council's vision aligns with Cymraeg 2050-A million Welsh speakers (Welsh Government, 2017). As a local authority *we desire that the Welsh language thrives, and that it is used in every aspect of life. Among those who do not speak Welsh there is goodwill and a sense of ownership towards the language and a recognition by all of its contribution to the culture, society and economy of Wales.*

Our vision is to secure favourable circumstances throughout the local authority that support language acquisition and use of Welsh language skills. We want to see an increase in language transmission in the family, early introduction of Welsh to every child, an education system that provides Welsh language skills for all, and greater appreciation of Welsh language skills in the workplace. At the same time, we are committed to supporting people to use Welsh socially, at work, and when accessing services.

The Council's vision for provision of Welsh-medium education and support for the teaching of the Welsh language should:

- deliver the key principles of equality, choice and opportunity for all;
- respect, promote and embody the linguistic and cultural diversity of Bridgend and Wales;
- recognise a common Welsh heritage;
- reflect the social, economic and cultural needs of Wales in the 21st century;
- provide opportunity to reflect on and develop personal identity and a sense of place and community;
- be consistent with the national aspirations set out in the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy (WMES);
- take into account Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy (2016) to reach a million welsh speakers by 2050; and
- align with Welsh Government strategies.

In order to make this vision a reality, our aim is to ensure that the Council and its partners within the county borough undertake the following:

- understand their respective roles within the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) Forum in relation to formulating and monitoring the progress of the WESP;
- promote the language to create demand;
- ensure that Welsh-medium provision is available to all children of pre-school age and above whose parents/carers wish them to receive their care/education through the medium of Welsh, and this within reasonable travelling distance from children's homes;
- ensure a developing continuum from Welsh-medium primary education through to Welsh-medium secondary education, so that pupils who begin their primary education through the medium of Welsh will transfer to a Welsh-medium secondary school and progress accordingly into further and higher education and training;
- ensure all schools and settings respond proactively and with enthusiasm to new the Curriculum for Wales in relation to the languages, literacy and communication Area of Learning and Experience, so that our learners continue to gain meaningful skills and knowledge in Welsh;
- ensure that children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN) receive linguistic equality of opportunity in terms of Welsh-medium education, in line with the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act Wales (2018) and the Code of Practice for Wales;
- work in partnership with all schools in order to improve the standard of Welsh and;
- promote the wider development of pupils' Welsh language skills through specific activities and projects, in association with a wide range of partners.

Our ten- year target

To support Cymraeg 2050: a million Welsh speakers strategy, the Welsh Government has set Bridgend County Borough Council a target to increase the percentage of learners taught through the medium of Welsh from c.8% to between 14% - 18% by 2032 (based on PLASC data of Year 1 learners 2019-2020) . This is in accordance with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019.

There are currently four Welsh-medium primary schools and one Welsh-medium secondary school in the local authority. Two of the four Welsh-medium primary schools are located in the North of the county borough, one in the West and one in the South. The secondary school is based in the North of the county borough.

The Council aspires to significantly increase Welsh medium provision in Bridgend. The target % increases which have been prescribed by Welsh Government and the local authority's forecast of the pupil population over the next 10 years have been taken into account.

Currently in our Welsh- medium schools there are 162 pupil places available for reception age learners. The local authority has set a target of 300 reception places

being available for Welsh-medium learners by the end of the plan period, which is an additional 138 additional pupil places. The 300 reception places equates to 10 forms of entry, and the aim is to ensure those places are filled.

This WESP sets out Bridgend County Borough Council's plan over the next 10 years to increase and improve the planning of Welsh-medium education. It will build on progress made during our previous WESP (2017-2022) and set out the actions we will take to achieve our targets.

These include:

- Increasing Welsh-medium sessional childcare places (creating potential for 176 additional sessional sessions) by establishing four new Welsh-medium childcare hubs through the childcare offer capital grant;
- Invest in 21st Century Schools and Colleges Capital Programme to increase the number of Welsh-medium nursery school places by expanding two of our Welsh-medium schools during the first five years of the plan;
- Take forward commitments made in Cabinet to establish a 1 FE Welsh-medium provision in Porthcawl and a dual stream school in Parc Afon Awenni;
- Scope/ explore options to relocate and expand YGG Llangynwyd to a 3-19 school;
- Develop a clear and robust programme for delivering Welsh-medium latecomer provision, so that learners entering the Welsh-medium sector at a later stage (key stage 2 or key stage 3) are able to follow a course of intensive immersion learning before continuing on their education journey in a Welsh-medium school;
- Continue to work collaboratively with our Welsh in education planning forum and relevant sub-groups to continually review and improve how we provide our parents and guardians with information about Welsh-medium education and the opportunities it brings to becoming bilingual.

Welsh Language immersion

The local authority will consider collaboration with other local authorities in terms of Language Immersion Unit provision. This work will be strategically planned over a period of time with the aim of increasing the percentage of Welsh taught in English-medium schools, which will be done by targeting participants and providing the necessary support to individual schools.

Outcome 1:

More nursery children/ three year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Where are we now?

Include as a baseline, any data (numbers /%) relevant to this outcome and an overview of what has been achieved during the previous plan period.

1.1 The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) offers Bridgend a clear evaluation of the spread and availability of childcare within Bridgend County. As part of the CSA an action plan is developed. The Action Plan reflects demand and considers local factors such as suitable accommodation opportunities within the identified community areas with potential gaps.

Suitable registerable accommodation is recognised as an issue within the wider Bridgend County.

Childcare availability reflects demand with availability for childcare being denser in areas of higher employment (ie the towns within Bridgend County such as Maesteg, Porthcawl and Bridgend town itself). This more intense availability reflects the demand and therefore impacts on sustainability when considering new development.

The current plan to develop Welsh-medium childcare recognises gap areas with the planned development to be offered in the Ogmore Valley, the Garw Valley, Bridgend east and Porthcawl.

The local authority has a clear understanding of the challenges. However, the solution is identified as being highly dependent on significant levels of capital investment as was the case for the development of the Flying Start programme within Bridgend.

Booklet January 2020 E-W.pdf Booklet January 2019 E-W.pdf Booklet January 2018 E-W v2.pdf

1.2 Information contained in the School Admissions Policy for the relevant year and in the annual Starting Schools Booklet highlight the choices available to parents regarding Welsh-medium schools and the criteria for over-subscription in line with the local authority's statutory duty. Schools are categorised as Welsh-medium in the annual admissions policy. Reflected in the Starting Schools Booklet is how Welsh-medium education is provided in all schools.

The online school admissions process is in line with the local authority's legal duty to allow for parental choice. The users journey and the

intuitiveness of the system are key, although there is no separate 'journey' in the use of the system for parents/carers choosing a Welsh-medium education as this is not considered necessary or in line with legislation.

In January 2019, during the last plan period, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Calon Y Cymoedd (formerly known as Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG Cwm Garw) relocated to a new school in an area which is considered a central location to serve the Garw and Ogmore Valleys. The take-up of places by three-year-olds has increased as a result.

The local authority has developed information for parents entitled "Why Choose Welsh". Information is available via the Family Information Service. This information is available electronically. However, the local authority ensures this information is made available at each place that parents and expecting parents receive services. The availability of Welsh-medium provision and the benefits of this are supported via the 'Pam Dewis Gymraeg?' document which is available widely in both hard and digital formats. Health Visitors as part of their induction receive information to share with parents regarding the benefits of Welsh-medium childcare and education. Within Bridgend expectant parents have information attached to the ante-natal 'red book' which is sponsored by Gymraeg I Blant. Despite these actions demand for Welsh-medium provision remains lower than demand for English-language provision.

The school admissions information is clear and accessible. The School Admissions Policy is available on the website as is the Starting School Prospectus, which is an extensive information and guidance document. These documents are revised each year. The documents are all published in Welsh to the Welsh version of the local authority's website at the appropriate time. The School Admissions Policy for 2022-2023 is currently on the website. The Starting School Prospectus for 2022-2023 was published for the website in September 2021.



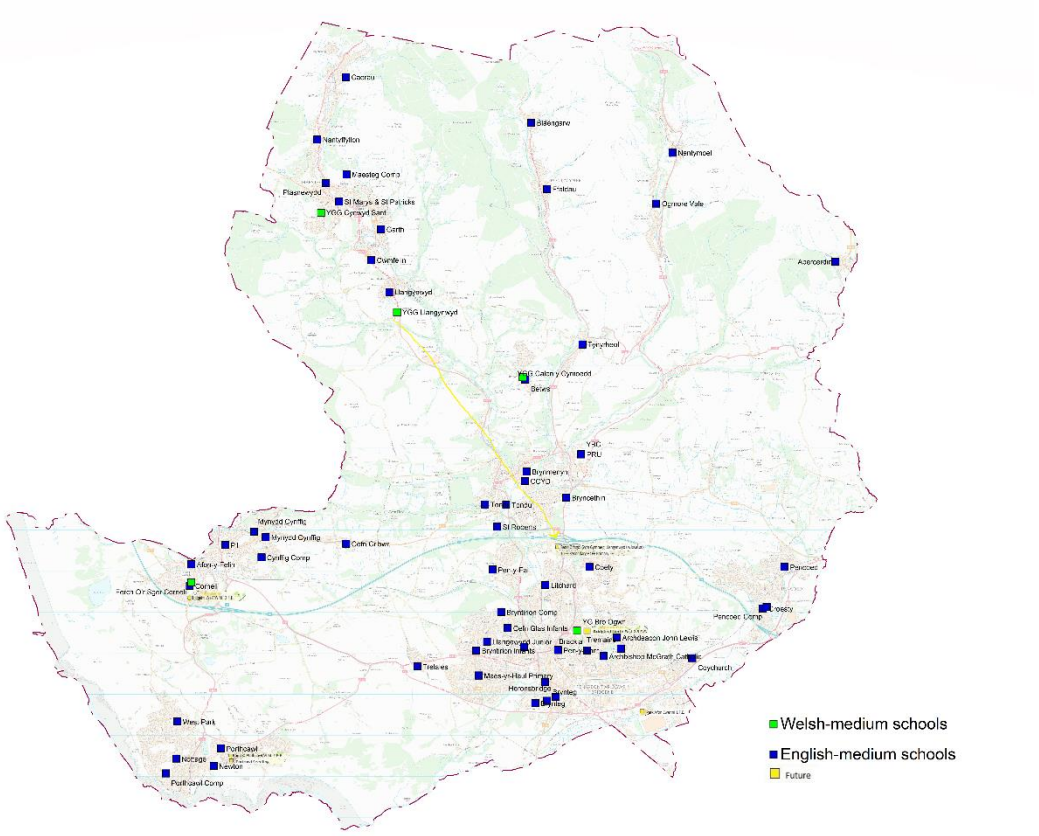
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2021-2022-starting-school-prospectus.p

1.3 In the case of Welsh-medium education, the local authority offers any pupil who is unable to be accommodated at their local Welsh-medium school, a place in the next nearest Welsh-medium school in Bridgend, if that is requested. This includes the provision of free home-to-school transport where the walking distance from home to school is greater than two miles for primary school children and greater than three miles for secondary school pupils.

The Geographical Assessment sub-group of the WESP Forum will discuss the geographical mapping within the local authority. A workshop will be facilitated to explore the use of catchments for Welsh-medium within the local authority.



1.4 Data shows that the numbers of children transitioning from Welsh-medium early years to Welsh-medium nursery provision has increased from 50% to 66%. Clearly there are matters linked to the impact of the pandemic and the suspension of early years' provision that may have had a negative impact on the data.

The data shows the transition rates from children attending early years Welsh-medium provision who then progress to a place at a Welsh-medium school for their nursery provision.

Children who access Welsh-medium nursery via part time non-maintained provision (10 hours nursery 1) will be included in the data for the following year when they move to the nursery 2 year and receive a full-time place and receive 30 hours of their nursery provision in the maintained setting.

Within Bridgend there are:

Day nurseries	21
Sessional childcare providers	9
Flying Start	10
Childminders	53
Cylch Meithrin providers (7 if you include Cylch Meithrin Blaenllynfi which is Dechrau'n Deg only)	6
Out-of-school providers	17

The number of places in each setting differs according to the ages of the children attending on any one day. However, there are approximately 2,372 English-medium childcare places and approximately 160 Welsh-medium childcare places.

The data around transition was agreed to be collected by colleagues from Mudiad Meithrin, as such the focus is on children who transition from Welsh-medium childcare to Welsh-medium education provision.

Data relating to children who move from English-medium childcare to Welsh-medium education provision is not gathered.

The reasons regarding why children do not transition into Welsh-medium education from Welsh-medium childcare are complex with no clear trend. The early years' service undertook an investigation into this transition situation a few years ago and as stated the ability to identify a trend was not possible (not helped by the fact that the numbers are relatively low).

Often parents have sought Welsh-medium childcare and do not have an intention of this being the commitment following the childcare delivery. On times the nursery places at Welsh-medium schools are not available for spring and summer term entrants and parents then decide to move the child in to English-medium provision where a place is available. Some parents have taken their child to Welsh-medium childcare as their previous child attended but do not intend the child to transition in to Welsh-medium education provision as the parent does not want the child to attend provision that is outside of their community and must travel on the transport available.

However, the situation where some of the Welsh-medium schools remain focussed on single term entry to support effective immersion into the nursery for the child does not reflect the parents desire for their child to enter as they become eligible and can lead to drift.

Clearly the low level of non-maintained providers offering an alternative in the communities where there is a single term entry at the Welsh-

medium school is also not helpful and as such the gap remains a risk around good transition rate.

The local authority has worked via a working party with early years providers and the Welsh-medium school teams to focus on improving transition from Welsh-medium childcare on to Welsh-medium education.

However, evaluation of the work has been complicated by the situation that following the work one setting closed (Cylch Meithrin Porthcawl) one setting was deregistered by Care Inspectorate Wales following an administration oversight and change of leadership (Cylch Meithrin Plant Bach Sarn) and a third setting opted to no longer being an education provider (cylch Meithrin Pencoed).

Further to this situation has been the impact of the pandemic and its considerable effect on the early years and childcare sector.

The local authority remains committed to the improvement of the transition with the commitment shared with all key stakeholders in the sector and the welsh-medium schools in the authority.

Recent developments to continue to support the sector is the development of three new Ti a Fi settings in collaboration with three of the four Welsh-medium primary schools.

Within this sector there are 19 non-maintained nursery education providers three of whom offer this provision via the medium of Welsh. There are factors that impact uptake of places at provision beyond the language of the setting some of these include the community that the provision sits within and the distance to the Welsh-medium primary school.

In summer term 2021 for Flying Start, there were seven children attending in Cylch Meithrin Sger, five in Cylch Meithrin Plant Bach and two in Cylch Meithrin Cynwyd Sant.

The following are the Flying Start budgeted places:

- 16 at Cylch Meithrin y Sger;
- 8 at Cylch Meithrin Cynwyd Sant;
- 12 at Cylch Meithrin Plant Bach;
- 12 places at Dechrau'n Deg Blaenllynfi.

The three non-maintained Welsh-medium nursery providers are located across the local authority. The providers do not wholly reflect the geography of the Welsh-medium schools and do not ensure effective location of the early years offer.

The three non-maintained education providers are:

- Cylch Meithrin Cynwyd Sant is located at Maesteg. The provision currently offers up to 8 Welsh-medium places. The setting is based within the accommodation of Ysgol Cynwyd Sant with highly effective transition reflective of this close proximity.

- Cylch Meithrin Plant Bach Sarn is situated at the Valley Gateway area this provision is not closely linked to a Welsh-medium school, however there are effective relationships in place with Ysgol Calon y Cymoedd and Ysgol Bro Ogwr and transition is effective. The setting offers 16 Welsh-medium places.

- Cylch Meithrin Y Sger is based on the same site as Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger the links for all aspects of support and transition are highly developed and transition rates are high. The setting is able to offer up to 24 childcare places.

Childcare in Bridgend reflects the community it serves. Welsh speaker numbers and the number of childcare places available are undoubtedly linked. Parents within the Flying Start eligible areas have been consistently offered information relating to the availability of Welsh-medium childcare for their child. Communities where take up of the Welsh-medium offer is highest is the community where the Welsh-medium primary school is based.

The development of the Cymraeg 2050 /Childcare Offer funded new Welsh-medium settings will also support improved access for parents within the Flying Start eligible communities. Health Visiting and wider Flying Start staff are fully able to support parents to consider the benefits of Welsh-medium childcare. Parents within the Flying Start programme have also accessed the information available in the Pam Dewis Cymraeg booklet in both digital and hard copy.

The revised Pam Dewis Cymraeg document will be circulated widely in a hard copy in January 2022. Recruitment to Welsh-medium posts in Bridgend are complex and despite focussed efforts on addressing the issue remains an area for development. All early years staffing within Bridgend received focussed training and continuous development opportunities to increase confidence around the use of the Welsh-language.

1.5 The local authority uses all opportunities to maximise information available and ensures this information is then easily available to parents and carers. The local authority will monitor use of Welsh Government marketing campaigns. A working group has been designed to identify potential improvements to the admission process.

The process is being reviewed to ensure that all parents are able to access this process effectively including parents who are seeking Welsh-medium provision. The information developed to support parents

includes a section regarding myth busting. There is also a focus to ensure that the information is clear and easy to find. Consideration is being given to those parents whose literacy skills are under developed. Also ensuring that the details of Cylchoedd Meithrin and Ysgolion Cyfrwng Cymraeg are prominent. The development of a video is also being considered.

1.6 Bridgend is fully compliant with the Welsh-language measure, all information available to parents is available in both Welsh and English. The local offer of Welsh-medium services and provision is promoted widely. The Why Choose Welsh document which was developed by the WESP Forum, offers information on both the immersion model of Welsh- medium provision and also on the benefits of a bi-lingual and multi-lingual approach. The Why Choose Welsh leaflet is widely available. However, a clear focus on the absolute benefits of the immersion approach and the clear benefits that a fully Welsh-medium education and experience can offer are very clear within the document. There are plans underway to build on the Why Choose Welsh information via an animated version this will build and increase the quality and content of information available to parents/carers.

1.7 The Cymraeg i Blant officer runs the following weekly **Parent and baby sessions** in each area:

- Welsh Rhyme, Time and Sign group;
- Baby massage and yoga group;
- Cuppa and Chat Cymraeg (online group);
- Me and my baby sessions explaining in detail the bilingual journey (online group).

The groups are advertised as being open to all, parents/carers do not need to be able speak Welsh. The officer will introduce simple Welsh rhymes and phrases on a weekly basis to help them acquire a basic knowledge as well as helping them to increase their confidence in using Welsh at home. The groups are advertised on local Facebook Cymraeg i Blant pages and Instagram and through the Family Information Service/Dewis Cymru, early years' teams, local community hubs and centres, libraries, Mentrau Iaith, Cwlwm partnership and wider. Cymraeg i Blant also works closely with the local Midwifery and Health Visiting generic and Flying Start teams and provide training and workshops on the advantages of early bilingualism to help them support and signpost parents over to our local groups. They sponsor the All Wales Maternity notes folder, the scan card and the Child Health Record book and all midwifery and Health Visitor students across Wales receive a presentation/workshop on the advantages of early bilingualism and the role of Cymraeg i Blant during the first year of their training. The following information is shared with parents attending the groups:

- how speaking or introducing Welsh can give their child more opportunities;
- how to use sign, baby massage and yoga to communicate with their baby;
- how to access Welsh and bilingual books, e-books and apps;
- how to access local Learn Welsh courses (ie the free, eight-week Clwb Cwtsh beginners course followed by the weekly Cymraeg i Blant Cuppa and Chat practise sessions);
- how to find their local Ti a Fi group after attending our groups, and how to register at the Cylch Meithrin and at their local Welsh medium school.

The following is the list of promotional material shared with prospective and new parents:

Local Being bilingual booklet

Your guide to Welsh medium education

Bilingual journey leaflet

Further information can be found on Meithrin.cymru

The Cymraeg I Blant (CiB) sessions are delivered and evaluated by the lead organisation (CiB in partnership with Mudiad Meithrin the sessions are widely promoted by the Bridgend early years digital platform. Evaluation of the service is undertaken by the Cymraeg I Blant team.

However, to further enhance the work of the Cymraeg I Blant approach the local authority now has in place three new Flying Start funded Ti a Fi groups in collaboration with the Welsh-medium primary schools and Mudiad Meithrin local development officer. This work is being evaluated and further extension of this approach is already under discussion.

1.8 There are strong relationships in place with colleagues from Mudiad Meithrin. This effective partnership enables and supports joint targets regarding the development of early years and childcare provision via the medium of Welsh.

The two services have worked very closely around the development of Welsh-medium childcare hubs which we call Cymraeg 2050 hubs.

The local authority has in place a number of grants linked to new development of provision alongside the Mudiad Meithrin support packages. Opportunities for joint development are explored and this is demonstrated by the development of Ti a Fi groups where the local authority, a local school and Mudiad Meithrin have come together to develop this jointly.

1.9 Flying Start provision within Bridgend works closely with existing Welsh-medium provision. This offers sustainability for the cylch meithrin

settings. Flying Start places are provided in partnership with Cylch Meithrin at the following areas:

- Afon y Felin provision in Welsh-medium is available at Cylch Meithrin Y Sger;
- Sarn provision in Welsh-medium is available at Cylch Meithrin Plant Bach Sarn;
- Plasnewydd provision in Welsh-medium is available at Cylch Meithrin Cynwyd Sant;
- Garth provision in Welsh-medium is available at Cylch Meithrin Cynwyd Sant.

Within Caerau, Flying Start has in place stand-alone provision at Dechrau'n Deg Blaenllynfi. Within Brackla, the Flying Start setting will be offering 50% (16 places) of the provision via the medium of Welsh from January 2022. The Cymraeg 2050 developments will also be able to offer Flying Start provision in Lewistown, Blackmill, Bettws and Brackla.

- There are 312 English-medium places available within the Flying Start programme;
- There are 77 Welsh-medium places available within the Flying Start programme;
- 19% of the Flying Start places are available via the medium of Welsh.

This number will increase in January 2022 with the decrease of 16 English-medium places at Flying Start Brackla which will be the increase of Welsh-medium places moving forward. This will bring the percentage of places available via the medium of Welsh to 24%.

While the development at Brackla has suffered from setbacks linked to staffing matters the plan remains a focus. The intention is to offer one of the daily sessions via the medium of English and the second session via the medium of Welsh.

Parents who specify a preference for Welsh-medium provision will receive a priority place in the relevant session with all eligible remaining parents offered provisions each term in either session. Parents will be supported to understand the new approach and staff will be able to encourage parents to understand the benefits of the Flying Start childcare and package of support in whichever language.

The development will be further supported by the development of a high quality Ti a Fi session within Brackla which will further offer parents the opportunity to experience the many benefits of Welsh-medium early years experiences for their child and themselves.

1.10 Effective sharing of information regarding services offered by Cymraeg i Blant and Mudiad Meithrin is in place and information is shared widely

and enthusiastically. Mudiad Meithrin is currently looking at the local authority websites in the South East to consider how accessible the information is for parents. This information will be available to be shared in autumn term 2021.

Bridgend recognises that information available via the Family Information Service will benefit from review and increase. Information for Welsh learners is shared widely on all Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) communication digital platforms including the Early Years Facebook page. Bridgend recognises this area will benefit from review and the ability to ensure that information is innovative and progressive.

1.11 Bridgend worked closely (2019) regarding assessment of childcare practitioner's skills and confidence regarding their use of the Welsh language and offered training to raise standards and skills based on the findings of the assessment tool used.

1.12 Information on the Council's website makes available information on the provision in the Welsh-medium sector and the faith schools. The Geographical Assessment sub-group of the WESP Forum will discuss the geographical mapping within the local authority. A workshop will be facilitated to explore the use of catchments for Welsh-medium within the local authority.

1.13 The commitment to the WESP and its ambitions for Bridgend runs across the early years' service. Team members are encouraged to be knowledgeable, to enable parents to receive correct and effective information. The staff who provide this information are informed but also able to seek wider support as required. Staff can always benefit from enhanced information, however the early years' service is confident that parents are able to effectively access correct and timely information. The early years' service has a team member who is able to discuss this matter with parents via the medium of Welsh.

1.14 Family Information Services are delivered via the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Customer Service Team, if this team feels more in-depth information regarding Welsh-medium provision the service will signpost parents and carers to the relevant service either within the education school admission team or the Childcare Team. Early years' services regularly seek parent's views and are focussed on ensuring that parents views and concerns are responded to effectively and on an ongoing basis.

1.15 Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr is approaching a capacity threshold of less than 10% and therefore during the first five years of the plan, the local authority is seeking to increase Welsh-medium primary school places at the school which will serve the Valleys Gateway, Bridgend and Pencoed areas of the county borough by enlarging and relocating Ysgol Gymraeg

Bro Ogwr to an alternative nearby site. As a result, there will 90 nursery places available for three-year-olds.

Where do we aim to be within the first five years of this plan and how we propose to get there?

You may wish to include a high-level timeline against any proposed commitments to increase the number/% of three-year olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh during the first five years of implementation (as a mid-way milestone), and another for the remainder of the plan.

1.16 The ambition to increase this figure to 14-18% is effective.

1.17 At the end of the first five years of the plan, additional provision for three-year-olds will be available at the following schools:

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr

- The local authority is seeking to increase Welsh-medium primary school places to serve the Valleys Gateway, Bridgend and Pencoed areas of the county borough by enlarging and relocating Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to an alternative nearby site.
- 90 places will be available for three year-olds.
- The proposal will be subject to a consultation process under the School Organisation Code during the school year 2021-2022.
- The school will be funded by Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme plus BCBC capital funding.
- The new school, if approved, is scheduled to open in September 2025.

Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr

- Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sgêr will be enlarged to a two-form-entry school
- 60 places will be available for three year-olds.
- The proposal has already been subject to a consultation process under the School Organisation Code and Cabinet approval has been received.
- Part funded by Welsh Government's revenue Mutual Investment Model funding and BCBC, the enlarged school will serve the west of the county borough.
- The new school is programmed to open in September 2024.

Porthcawl

In addition, there is an aspiration to create a Welsh-medium seedling school to serve the Porthcawl area. Currently, no funding has been allocated for the scheme. However, approval to submit an expression of

interest to Welsh Government in respect of the Welsh-medium capital grant funding is being sought from Cabinet. If successful, there would be an additional 30 places for three year-olds.

1.18 The Welsh-medium childcare hubs which we call Cymraeg 2050 hubs are progressing. The project at Betws is scheduled for completion in June 2022, with the Ogmore Valley scheme completing by September 2022. There are a further two Welsh-medium childcare projects planned for the County Borough. The Bridgend Town provision has been aligned with the Bridgend North East project, as part of Band B of the School Modernisation Programme. This Welsh-medium childcare provision will form an integral part of the replacement school for Ysgol Gymraeg (YG) Bro Ogwr. The Bridgend North East project is scheduled for completion by September 2025. In the interim period, there are plans to offer additional Welsh-medium childcare places at the Flying Start Brackla setting. The timeline for the remaining Welsh-medium childcare project planned for Porthcawl will be determined following the feasibility stage of the project.

1.19 The aim of the project is to provide 16 sessional Welsh-medium childcare places, together with 6 places for 0 to 2 provision and wrap-around/out-of-school provision, which would operate for 52 weeks of the year at each of the four settings. This will offer the local authority a potential for an additional 176 Welsh-medium sessional sessions available. Further to the above the Bridgend Childcare Team continues to work with a number of settings regarding the development towards becoming a non-maintained nursery education provider. This will include the new Cymraeg 2050 provisions and those Cylch Meithrin who are not currently registered to this offer (three potential providers).

1.20 Mudiad Meithrin is working with a company called “Flourish” to open a Cylch Meithrin in the middle of Bridgend Town. It is expected to open in January 2022.

1.21 To share information about the bilingual journey with parents as early as possible to create the demand from birth by:

- forming stronger links with the local Health Board – every new parent to receive information about the bilingual journey on leaving the hospital;
- FIS – continue to share info about Cymraeg i Blant free bilingual groups with new mums and dads – making them aware they don’t have to speak Welsh to attend;
- sharing vital information on the bilingual journey when registering the birth of the child.

1.22 To share key bilingual messages on Council social media channels/mailshots to coincide with application for nursery/school places.

To make the Welsh-medium offer an offer for all parents – ensuring that all early years' staff and local flying start teams are familiar with the #Cymraeg 2050 strategy and are confident in sharing local information with all their parenting groups. To promote the Welsh-medium offer alongside other Council events/promotions i.e. childcare offers, fun days at local community centres or hubs.

Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?

You should refer back to your ten year target and how commitments made under this Outcome supports your overall vision for increasing Welsh-medium education provision in your area.

1.23 There has been much to consider when planning for a period of ten years, the early years is still in a period of recovery from the impact of the pandemic. The service develops a CSA for Bridgend and the developments within this WESP document must align carefully with the CSA to ensure that all development within the early years sector must take place via both English and Welsh-medium in equal measure in order for the numbers of places to be equitable in both languages but also that parents are able to consider both mediums when considering provision for their child.

1.24 The proposal is to develop four new day-care settings across the borough in areas identified as 'gap' areas for both childcare and more specifically Welsh-medium provision. The proposed will developments will offer full care from potentially birth to four years with afterschool and holiday provision to offer full wrap-around care via the medium of Welsh.

The proposal will be to offer four settings across Bridgend each with 16 full-time (32 part-time) childcare places. This will then offer potentially 64 full-time or 128 part-time places. Potentially in addition to this the vision would be to develop both breakfast/afterschool and holiday childcare.

It is fair to reflect that not all communities within Bridgend currently have Welsh-medium provision currently available. However, the Cymraeg 2050 capital programme will in time address this shortfall by the development of four additional Welsh-medium settings across the borough which will offer a very real increase in both opportunity and the level of provision available.

1.25 In addition to the education provision being delivered during the first five years, the following projects are planned for delivery by the end of the ten-year plan period:

- A dual-stream, two-form-entry entry school at Parc Afon Ewenni (subject to that site being taken forward in the next Local Development Plan) (ie 30 Welsh-medium places for three year-olds)

- A one form entry school at Porthcawl (ie 30 places for three year-olds)

Also, the local authority is undertaking an options appraisal process to create an additional one form entry provision central to the Bridgend area (ie 30 places for three year-olds).

Key Data

In the table below, add annual data projections that reflect what is set out above relating to this outcome. Please comment in this box.

The following annual projections have been calculated using the base data provided by Welsh Government (ie 2019-2020) and incrementally increased in line with anticipated uptake in Welsh-medium education and the planned additional pupil places being available during the period of the 10 year plan, as programmed.

The 2031-2032 target of 275 full-time nursery learners aged 3-4 (ie 17.57%) sits between the lower and upper range target (ie 14%-18%). The number of part-time learners aged 2-3 fluctuate annually as the number of places available depends on the take-up of full-time places. Therefore, those learners have been excluded from the calculation. The target is ambitious. However, it is considered achievable, should all of the deliverables within the plan come to fruition.

Numbers and % of 3-year olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh									
2022 - 2023		2023 - 2024		2024 – 2025		2025 – 2026		2026 - 2027	
150	9.58%	160	10.22	170	10.86%	190	12.14%	200	12.78%
2027 - 2028		2028 - 2029		2029 – 2030		2030 – 2031		2031 – 2032	
205	13.10%	235	15.02%	250	15.97%	265	16.93%	275	17.57%

Outcome 2

More reception class children/ five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Where are we now?

Include as a baseline, any data (numbers /%) relevant to this outcome and an overview of what has been achieved during the previous plan period.

2.1 Currently in our Welsh-medium schools, there are 162 pupil places available for reception age learners. The local authority has set a target of 300 reception places being available for Welsh-medium learners by the end of the plan period. The 300 reception places equates to 10 forms of entry, and the aim is to ensure those places are filled.

Grant funding opportunities from Welsh Government will be maximised in order to support the targeted increase in Welsh-medium primary provision.

The local authority will also continue to explore potential opportunities for delivering certain schemes wholly or partly via section 106, as a contribution for education places to serve new housing development, where applicable.

As at 2020-2021, there were 162 Welsh-medium reception class places which were distributed accordingly:

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr	54
Ysgol Cynwyd Sant	45
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Calon Y Cymoedd	30
Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr	33

In January 2019, during the last plan period, YGG Calon Y Cymoedd (formerly known as Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG Cwm Garw) relocated to a new school in an area which is considered a central location to serve the Garw and Ogmore Valleys.

While the relocated YGG Calon Y Cymoedd' s published admission number (PAN) remained unchanged, the take-up of places at reception increased.

The following table sets out the total number of reception aged learners from January 2018 – 2021:

January 2018	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021
129	121	122	140

On average, over the period of the last plan, 79% of the 162 Welsh-medium reception pupil places available were filled.

Demand for Welsh-medium places has been more prevalent in the south east area of the county borough.

Currently Welsh-medium primary schools and the Welsh-medium secondary school manage their own late comer learners. Each school provides information and guidance for parents and carers upon request.

The development of provision for latecomers and the establishment of an immersion unit is an intention of the local authority. Bridgend was successful in obtaining recent grant funding from Welsh Government to review and plan a way forward in this important area.

The local authority will develop an overarching late comers' policy document which will aid schools, parents and carers. The document will detail the opportunities for late comers, provide guidelines, procedures, responsibility and accountability.

The policy document will be drafted and adopted within the first year of the plan period.

Learner travel

In the case of Welsh-medium education, the local authority offers free home-to-school transport where the walking distance from home to school for primary aged children is greater than two miles or more and for secondary pupils three miles or more.

If any pupil who is unable to be accommodated at their local Welsh-medium school, a place in the next nearest Welsh-medium school in Bridgend is provided, if that is requested. This includes the provision of free home-to-school transport subject to the aforementioned distance thresholds.

Where do we aim to be within the first 5 years of this Plan and how we propose to get there?

You may wish to include a high-level timeline against any proposed commitments to increase the number/ % of 5 -year olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh during the first 5 years of implementation (as a mid-way milestone), and another for the remainder of the Plan.

2.2 **Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr**

- During the first five years of the plan, the local authority is seeking to increase Welsh-medium primary school places to serve the Valleys Gateway, Bridgend and Pencoed

areas of the county borough by enlarging and relocating Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to an alternative nearby site.

- The new PAN will be 75 (ie 2.5 forms of entry).
- The proposal will be subject to a consultation process under the School Organisation Code during the academic year 2021-2022.
- The school will be funded by Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme plus BCBC capital funding.
- The new school, if approved, is scheduled to open in September 2025.
- Currently, Ysgol Gymraeg (YG) Bro Ogwr has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 54. The proposed new school's PAN is 75. Proposed additional provision identified within the draft WESP at Parc Afon Ewenni and in Bridgend is located within the traditional area served by YG Bro Ogwr. Therefore, Welsh-medium places for the whole area would be increased during 10-year plan, by the additional provision of Welsh-medium places at these schools thereby reducing the demand for places at YG Bro Ogwr.
- 90 full-time equivalent nursery places would be made available at YG Bro Ogwr providing part and full-time provision. The 90 places are broken down as follows:

  30 part-time places for learners aged 2-3 (which equates to 15 full-time equivalent places); and
  75 full-time places for learners aged 3-4.

- The Published Admission Number for learners at age 4-5 is 75, which aligns with the nursery places available for learners aged 3-4.

Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr

- Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sgêr will be enlarged from its existing PAN of 30 to 60.
- The proposal has already been subject to a consultation process under the School Organisation Code and Cabinet approval has been received.
- Part funded by Welsh Government's revenue Mutual Investment Model funding and BCBC, the enlarged school will serve the west of the county borough.
- The new school is programmed to open in September 2024.

Increasing the numbers of Mynydd Cynffig Primary School is not anticipated to have any significant impact, as Mynydd Cynffig Primary School is already admitting 2 forms of entry. The proposed enlargement resolves an existing overcrowding issue, as classrooms on the junior site are undersized.

In determining the size of the new school, the local authority considered it prudent to consider the long-term housing strategy for the area. Education and Family Support Directorate officers have determined that a 2 form-entry, Welsh-medium school is appropriate for the Bridgend West area proposal (considering the demand for pupil places that would be created by the potential future housing identified in the Local Development Plan (LDP) candidate sites register and the need to promote the Welsh language and to increase the numbers of non-maintained nursery children transitioning to a Welsh-medium primary school.

From the childcare perspective Cylch Meithrin Y Sgêr is based on the same site as Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr the links for all aspects of support and transition are highly developed and transition rates are high. The childcare setting can offer up to 24 childcare places.

The provider at Cylch Meithrin Y Sgêr works closely with the local authority early years team and the working party considering how to improve transition from early years childcare to formal Welsh-medium education.

The links are effective, and the setting and the school are working closely on the development of a Ti a fi group to further enhance increase uptake at childcare and then transition on to Welsh-medium education.

The above projects will result in the total number of pupil places for Welsh-medium reception learners increasing from 162 pupil places to 210 (ie 7 forms of entry) by the end of the first five years of implementation of the plan.

2.3 **Porthcawl**

In addition, there is an aspiration to create a Welsh-medium seedling school to serve the Porthcawl area.

Currently, no funding has been allocated for the scheme. However, approval to submit an expression of interest to Welsh Government in respect of the Welsh-medium capital grant funding is being sought from Cabinet.

This scheme would inherently connect to a longer-term proposal to create a new one form entry school in Porthcawl.

The local authority has submitted an expression of interest to Welsh Government for Welsh-medium capital grant funding to support the creation of a Welsh-medium seedling school in the Porthcawl area. Should funding approval be received, the seedling school scheme will be progressed, and a statutory consultation process would take place commencing in April 2022.

Cabinet commitment has been received to create a 1 form entry Welsh-medium school in the Porthcawl area (linked to the Porthcawl Regeneration scheme) and in due course this new school would provide the required continuum of education for the seedling school.

There is a future Cabinet commitment to create a two form-entry, dual-stream school at Parc Afon Ewenni, (which is in the south east of the county borough). The delivery dates for this schools are linked to a wider housing development coming online. The development site is a proposal which is in the process of being considered for Bridgend's new LDP.

Decisions will be made regarding the commencement of Parc Afon Ewenni and Porthcawl schemes in due course. However, as both are linked to wider housing development schemes, it is currently anticipated that they will be delivered during Band C of the programme.

The local authority is currently undertaking an options appraisal identifying potential candidate sites in respect of the Bridgend provision. Again, it is anticipated that the school would be delivered in Band C, as it is linked to a proposed relocation of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, to a more central location within the county borough. This provision would form part of a new 3-19 school. The outcome of the options appraisal will be reported to Cabinet in due course and a decision taken regarding the way forward.

The local authority would require capital financial support from Welsh Government via the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme, and in addition, BCBC would also need to commit capital resources to fund the balance of the cost of each of the projects.

At this point in time, Band C schemes are at a very early stage in the process and would be subject to statutory school organisation code consultation and Welsh Government business case processes.

The demand for Welsh-medium places in the south east of the county borough is recognised and as such will be met through the provision of a proposed dual stream Welsh-medium primary school at Parc Afon Ewenni. Once this school opens, the catchment area for YG Bro Ogwr will change, and the 1 Form Entry additional Welsh-medium provision will be made available specifically to serve the south east of the county borough.

Cabinet commitment is in place to deliver Welsh-medium provision for this area and the additional places will create capacity at the proposed replacement (and enlarged) YG Bro Ogwr. The development of Parc Afon Ewenni is proposed as part of the new LDP, and the creation of infrastructure, which includes the school, is linked to the housing being provided. Land availability has been problematic in the south east, and the development of a school at Parc Afon Ewenni would result in the area being served by a purpose-built new education facility with 210 places for learners aged 4-11, plus nursery provision.

2.4 The local authority in partnership with Central South Consortium (CSC) will provide professional learning and resources for teachers in Welsh-medium schools on how best to support latecomers. CSC will facilitate the sharing of good practice across the region in this area in collaboration with the current Welsh Immersion Unit in Cardiff and any other emerging provision going forward. Welsh in Education Officers will continue to provide bespoke support to individual or groups of schools.

2.5 A promotion plan will be discussed and developed which considers and addresses:

- the barriers to choosing a Welsh-medium education;
- accessibility; and
- proximity of provision.

The plan will cover two elements. Namely, corporate promotion and the support that the local authority can provide to individual schools at a local level. The promotional plan with demonstrate that Welsh-medium education is for everyone. It will contain a template and resources that can be shared with the local community and also disseminated via social media.

2.6 Information regarding a Welsh-medium education which is detailed on the local authority's website will be reviewed to ensure that parents applying for places can easily navigate to the correct pages and locate relevant information.

2.7 The local authority will work with CSC to support English-medium schools in developing workforce and offering apprenticeships.

2.8 The development of provision for latecomers and the establishment of an immersion unit is an intention of the local authority. Bridgend was successful in obtaining recent grant funding from Welsh Government to review and plan a way forward in this important area. The local authority will consider collaboration with other local authorities in terms of Language Immersion Unit provision. This work will be strategically

planned over a period of time with the aim of increasing the percentage of Welsh taught in English-medium schools, which will be done by targeting participants and providing the necessary support to individual schools.

2.9 It is recognised that there is a need for developing bilingualism in Bridgend. Work will be undertaken to understand how other local authorities are transitioning from English to Welsh speaking. The local authority is committed to the fact that the language spoken in the community is of a high-level to sustain the learners outside of school, and currently, this is not available within this geographical area.

2.10 The local authority has recently undertaken consultation on the new LDP. The Plan will be submitted to Welsh Government in 2022. In due course the Plan will be subject to public examination prior to adoption. It is anticipated that the process will conclude March/April 2023. It is only at the point of adoption that it would be appropriate to link it to the WESP.

Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?

You should refer back to your ten year target and how commitments made under this Outcome supports your overall vision for increasing Welsh-medium education provision in your area.

2.11 The 300 place target is applicable to each primary year group. This is essential in order to ensure continuity in education. By increasing the number of reception places from 162 to 300, it is reasonable to assume that most of those learners will transition into Year 1 and therefore, the target for both year groups must correspond.

The Welsh-medium targets have been calculated as per Welsh Government's methodology which sets out how local authorities should comply with the provisions in relation to their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans. The targets are based on incrementally growing the number of year 1 pupils taught through the medium of Welsh from the 2019-2020 baseline.
Bridgend's lower range target (provided by Welsh Government) for 2030-31 is 215 learners (14%) and the upper range is 275 learners (18%).

2.12 As detailed at 2.1, the local authority will continue to seek grant funding opportunities from Welsh Ministers for capital build projects. Business cases will be robust and will clearly demonstrate the need for investment in Welsh-medium education.

2.13 In addition to the seven forms of entry which will be delivered during Band B, as outlined, there is a Cabinet commitment to deliver the

following Welsh-medium provision during the next phase of the programme which aligns to the 10-year WESP:

- A one form entry school at Porthcawl (ie 30 PAN)
- A dual-stream two-form-entry school at Parc Afon Ewenni (subject to that site being taken forward in the next Local Development Plan) (ie 30 PAN for Welsh-medium pupils)

Also, the local authority is undertaking an options appraisal process to create an additional one form entry provision central to the Bridgend area (ie. PAN 30).

There is a future Cabinet commitment to create a one form-entry school in Porthcawl and a two form-entry, dual-stream school at Parc Afon Ewenni, (which is in the south east of the county borough). The delivery dates for these schools are both linked to wider housing developments coming online, and both development sites are proposals which are in the process of being considered for Bridgend's new LDP.

Currently, it is not possible to provide an accurate timescale for delivery of the schools. However, it is anticipated that they will be delivered within Band C of the School Modernisation Programme.

In respect of the Bridgend provision, the local authority is currently undertaking an options appraisal identifying potential candidate sites. Again, it is anticipated that the school would be delivered in Band C, as it is linked to a proposed relocation of YGG Llangynwyd, to a more central location within the county borough. This provision would form part of the new 3-19 school. At present, the local authority is undertaking an options appraisal identifying potential candidate sites. The outcome will be reported to Cabinet.

2.14 Subject to funding and the proposals detailed coming to fruition, at the end of the 10-year plan period there will be 10 forms of entry at primary school level, thereby increasing the number of places for reception age learners from 162 to 300. The Welsh-medium targets have been calculated as per Welsh Government's methodology which sets out how local authorities should comply with the provisions in relation to their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans. The targets are based on incrementally growing the number of year 1 pupils taught through the medium of Welsh from the 2019-2020 baseline. Bridgend's lower range target (provided by Welsh Government) for 2030-31 is 215 learners (14%) and the upper range is 275 learners (18%).

2.15 The local authority will have developed an overarching late comers' policy document which will aid schools, parents and carers. The document will detail the opportunities for late comers, provide guidelines, procedures, responsibility and accountability.

2.16 In October 2021, Bridgend submitted a bid for an Immersion Grant to Welsh Government which was approved.

The total amount of the bid is £97,780. The bid includes a research project with Vale of Glamorgan Council exploring Welsh-medium primary and secondary immersion, and a research project within Bridgend.

The local authority will ensure that Welsh immersion is available for late comers so that learners can become fluent in Welsh and attend mainstream Welsh-medium schools. Consideration will be given to the requirements establishing the unit within the period of the plan, and in the short-term, alternative interim measures will be put in place (ie funding schools for additional late comer support and/or collaboration with other authorities where immersion units have already been established).

Key Data

In the table below, add annual data projections that reflect what is set out above relating to this outcome. Please comment in this box.

2.18 The following annual projections have been calculated using the base data provided by Welsh Government (ie 2019-2020) and incrementally increased in line with anticipated uptake in Welsh-medium education and the planned additional pupil places being available during the period of the ten-year plan, as programmed.

2.19 The 2031-2032 target of 265 reception pupils (ie16.93%) sits between the lower and upper range target (ie 14%-18%). Should all of the planned 300 pupil places fill, this would result in 19.16% of reception age pupils would be in receipt of a Welsh-medium education. The 16.93% mid-point target is ambitious. However, it is considered achievable, should all the deliverables within the plan come to fruition.

300 places across the county borough would be available for 5-year-olds by the end of the plan period. However, it is expected that not all places would be filled, hence the target of 265.

Secondary projections have been calculated which incorporate the planned targets as set out in the WESP for reception age learners.

The projections demonstrate that the existing provision at YGG Llangynwyd is sufficient to accommodate the projected demand for places, as the targets will take a few years to feed through the system.

However, at the end of the plan period additional secondary places will be required, assuming that the targets set will be realised.

Numbers and % of 5-year olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh									
2022 – 2023		2023 – 2024		2024 – 2025		2025 - 2026		2026 – 2027	
140	8.94%	150	9.58%	160	10.22%	170	10.86%	190	12.14%
2027 – 2028		2028 – 2029		2029 – 2030		2030 - 2031		2031 – 2032	
200	12.78%	205	13.10%	235	15.02%	250	15.97%	265	16.93%

Outcome 3

More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another

Where are we now?

Include as a baseline, any data (numbers /%) relevant to this outcome and an overview of what has been achieved during the previous plan period.

The data table below tracks the numbers of pupils transferring from one year in Year 6 into Year 7 the following year. Although it shows a decrease in numbers from Year 6 to Year 7 each year, it is encouraging that the 'leakage' has reduced since 2017. The local authority regularly analyses the data to look for patterns and specific reasons for the 'leakage'. There isn't one contributing factor as to why this occurs.

Welsh Primary Schools Year 6 Pupils	YGG Llangynwyd Year 7 Pupils	Percentage increase/decrease
PLASC 2016	PLASC 2017	
122	110	- 9.84%
PLASC 2017	PLASC 2018	
119	114	-4.2%
PLASC 2018	PLASC 2019	
110	106	-3.64%

PLASC 2019	PLASC 2020	
131	125	-4.58%
PLASC 2020	PLASC 2021	
113	112	-0.88%

It is pleasing to note the growth observed in numbers after the opening of the new school YGG Calon y Cymoedd (opened January 2019) (formerly YGG Cwm Garw). Please see table below.

PLASC Data All Pupils YGG Cwm Garw/YGG Calon y Cymoedd
(opened January 2019*)

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total	
2015	31	13	23	21	17	18	18	13	154	
2016	23	31	15	21	20	17	17	18	162	5%
2017	20	21	29	14	21	17	15	17	154	-5%
2018	31	20	18	26	13	20	16	12	156	1%
2019*	27	28	21	20	28	14	20	15	173	11%
2020	35	23	29	23	21	30	13	20	194	12%
2021	35	30	25	30	28	22	29	14	213	9.7%

Welsh-medium proportion of the whole cohort for Year 3

YEAR 3 PUPILS (age 7-8) *excluding special schools and excluding dual registrations							
PLASC Year (January)	YBO	YCG/CYC (**CyC opened in Jan 2019)	YCS	YFOS	TOTAL Welsh-medium year 3 cohort	Year 3 cohort for all schools*	% Year 3 pupils in Welsh-

							medium education
2016	65	20	37	27	149	1631	9.14%
2017	41	21	37	25	124	1593	7.78%
2018	55	13	41	29	138	1694	8.15%
2019**	64	28 **	41	29	162	1780	9.10%
2020	53	21	38	24	136	1713	7.94%

- Given the small numbers involved, any difference year-on-year needs to be interpreted cautiously because a small change can impact on the proportions (eg one family move in/out of the area or a new school opens). The figures above show a similar pattern over the years with little variation. As part of our aspiration to meet ambitious targets set by Welsh Government, there has been a significant amount of promotional work designed to encourage more families to consider Welsh-medium education for their child/ren. Given that these are pitched at mothers/fathers/carers from the birth of their child/ren, we anticipate that the increase in numbers should begin to feed through to Year 3 in approximately five years' time.

- While the actual number has decreased from 2019-2020, this is reflective of the smaller cohort. The proportion of the cohort learning through the medium of Welsh has remained like previous years, although 2019 showed a slightly higher figure – potentially related to the opening of Ysgol GG Calon y Cymoedd in January 2019.

3.2 The pandemic offered the opportunity for some support for latecomers to YGG Llangynwyd. The development of provision for latecomers and the establishment of an immersion unit is an intention of the local authority. Bridgend was successful in obtaining recent grant funding from Welsh Government to review and plan a way forward in this important area.

3.3 The local authority and CSC have worked with schools to use their additional RRRS funding to employ additional staff to run intervention and catch-up groups for pupils. As a result of this pupils have begun to recover some of their oracy, reading and writing skills.

Where do we aim to be within the first 5 years of this Plan and how we propose to get there?

You may wish to include a high-level timeline against any proposed commitments to increase the number / % of learners continuing to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another during the first 5 years of implementation (as a mid-way milestone), and another for the remainder of the Plan.

3.4 As part of our aspiration to meet ambitious targets set by Welsh Government, there has been a significant amount of promotional work designed to encourage more families to consider Welsh-medium education for their child/ren. Given that these are pitched at mothers/fathers/carers from the birth of their child/ren, we anticipate that the increase in numbers should begin to feed through to Year 3 in approximately five years' time.

3.5 Promotion of strategies for the effective use of Welsh in formal and informal situations across all sectors and age ranges. They will also continue to promote local, regional, and national initiatives aimed at promoting Welsh as a subject and medium of education.

3.6 The local authority will work closely with CSC and targeted schools where transition rates may be a cause of concern and publish resources to support and reassure parents/carers regarding transition between phases.

3.7 Provide advice, professional learning and resources to specific English-medium schools identified to increase the percentage of the curriculum taught through the medium of Welsh

3.8 Support local, regional, and national programmes for Welsh Language development by providing advice, professional learning, and support to practitioners to acquire and improve their Welsh Language skills. This will increase the capacity of teachers and support staff able to teach Welsh and through the medium of Welsh across all sectors.

3.9 Collaborate with the Welsh-medium secondary sector to provide subject specific professional learning particularly in areas of Welsh-medium practitioner shortage in the following ways:

- implement Welsh Language Immersion support across local authorities;

- provide opportunities for Welsh-medium schools to engage in initiatives to monitor linguistic progression eg comparative judgement;
- facilitate collaboration between primary and secondary schools to produce resource that promote linguistic progression to parents/carers;
- provide advice, professional learning, and resources to support schools to implement Welsh across the Curriculum thus increasing the amount of learning provision offered.
- share good practice across the region in a variety of ways (eg webinars, podcasts, blogs and learning walks).

3.10 Opportunities will be provided for Welsh-medium schools to engage in initiatives to monitor linguistic progression (eg comparative judgement).

3.11 There will be facilitation of collaboration between primary and secondary schools to produce resources that promote linguistic progression to parents/carers.

3.12 Advice, professional learning and resources will be provided to support schools to implement Welsh Across the Curriculum thus increasing the amount of learning provision offered. The sharing of good practice across the region in a variety of ways (eg webinars, podcasts, blogs and learning walks).

Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?

3.13 This WESP sets out Bridgend County Borough Council's plan over the next 10 years to increase and improve the planning of Welsh-medium education.

3.14 It is the local authority's expectation that we would not lose children at critical transition points.

3.15

YGG Llangynwyd -
Amcanestyniadau Ionawr 2021-2029 / Projections Jan 2021-2029 - including WESP target

Blwyddyn /Year Oed / Age	7 11-12	97% 8 12-13	98 % 9 13-14	96% 10 14-15	99% 11 15-16	57% 12 16-17	74 % 13 17-18	Cyfanswm /Total	Cyfanswm Adeiladau Newydd Total New Build	Cyfanswm Disgyblion Newydd Total New Pupils 11 - 16	Cyfanswm Disgyblion Newydd Post 16 Total New Pupils ôl-16	Cyfanswm Diwygiedig Revised Total 11-18
2015	114	80	108	98	84	65	58	607				
2016	108	114	77	109	99	55	55	617				
2017	110	106	110	75	105	69	42	617				
2018	114	107	106	104	75	65	53	624				
2019	106	108	102	102	102	45	49	614				
2020	125	106	106	99	101	53	32	622				
2021	112	123	107	103	98	66	48	657	449	6	1	665
2022	120	109	121	103	102	56	49	660	269	4	1	672
2023	141	116	106	116	102	58	41	680	153	2	0	695
2024	122	137	114	102	115	58	43	691	60	1	0	707
2025	112	118	134	110	101	65	43	683	64	1	0	700
2026	107	109	134	129	108	58	48	693	60	1	0	711
2027	111	104	116	129	127	62	43	692	45	1	0	710
2028	127	108	106	111	127	73	46	698	0	0	0	716
2029	140	123	102	102	110	73	54	704	0	0	0	722

* Housing yield is based on the fact that on average YGG take 7% of the county's overall population. I've taken 7% of the county's overall housing yield.

% of YGG Llangynwyd vs Overall School Population (overall data taken from Comprehensive Projections 2021-2029)

	Yr 10 (age 14-15)			Year 11 (age 15-16)			Year 12 (age 16-17)			Year 13 (age 17-18)			All Years 10 - 13 (ages 14-18)		
	Llangynwyd	All	%	Llangynwyd	All	%	Llangynwyd	All	%	Llangynwyd	All	%	Llangynwyd	All	%
2015	98	1499	7%	84	1632	5%	65	1030	6%	58	806	7%	305	4967	6%
2016	109	1601	7%	99	1477	7%	55	954	6%	55	784	7%	318	4816	7%
2017	75	1445	5%	105	1564	7%	69	893	8%	42	710	6%	291	4612	6%
2018	104	1474	7%	75	1378	5%	65	897	7%	53	670	8%	297	4419	7%
2019	102	1498	7%	102	1455	7%	45	770	6%	49	723	7%	298	4446	7%
2020	99	1597	6%	101	1413	7%	53	808	7%	32	617	5%	285	4435	6%
2021	103	1515	7%	98	1555	6%	66	779	8%	48	727	7%	315	4576	7%
2022	103	1635	6%	102	1463	7%	56	857	7%	49	611	8%	309	4566	7%
2023	116	1636	7%	102	1579	6%	58	800	7%	41	673	6%	317	4688	7%
2024	102	1606	6%	115	1581	7%	58	879	7%	43	625	7%	318	4691	7%
2025	110	1626	7%	101	1551	7%	65	879	7%	43	691	6%	319	4747	7%
2026	129	1685	8%	108	1570	7%	58	855	7%	48	689	7%	343	4799	7%
2027	129	1647	8%	127	1628	8%	62	871	7%	43	677	6%	361	4823	7%
2028	111	1618	7%	127	1584	8%	73	889	8%	46	689	7%	357	4779	7%
2029	102	1529	7%	110	1563	7%	73	882	8%	54	694	8%	339	4667	7%

Outcome 4

More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh

Where are we now?

Include as a baseline, any data (numbers /%) relevant to this outcome and an overview of what has been achieved during the previous plan period.

4.1 The table below shows that the number of 14 to 16 year-old students studying Welsh as a first language (through the medium of Welsh) has remained stable at around 100 pupils per year. These numbers match the cohort size of the only Welsh-medium secondary school in the borough.

We have also included the numbers of students who have been entered for examinations in Welsh as a second language and the impact of the Welsh second language full course becoming compulsory in 2017.

	Welsh 1st Language	Welsh 2nd Language (Full)	Welsh 2nd Language (Short)
2016	98	585	784
2017	99	877	769
2018	77	1185	*
2019	99	1094	*
2020	100	1122	*
2021	99	1189	*

*In September 2017, full course GCSE Welsh second language became compulsory

4.2 The table below shows that the number of 16 to 19 year-old students studying Welsh as a first and second language declined in the year 2020. However, numbers increased again in 2021. Data is from WJEC USA files.

	Welsh 1st Language	Welsh 2nd Language
2016	9	22
2017	10	29
2018	10	14
2019	9	16
2020	2	9
2021	9	19

4.3 YGG Llangynwyd Year 12/13 population figures from PLASC 2016-2021 show there was a decrease in the numbers continuing to study through the medium of Welsh, although this may be attributed in part to the smaller cohort size. The numbers have increased in 2021.

PLASC figures for YGG Llangynwyd

January	Year 12	Year 13
2016	55	55
2017	69	42
2018	65	53
2019	45	49
2020	53	32
2021	66	48

January	Year 11	% moving from Year 11 to Year 12
	(2014/2015) 84 (1 alternative provision)	
2016	(2015-2016) 99 (2 alternative provision)	66.3%
2017	(2016-2017) 105	71.1%
2018	(2017-2018) 74	61.9%
2019	(2018-2019) 101	60.8%
2020	(2019-2020) 101	52.5%
2021	(2020-21) 101 (3 on alternative provision)	65.4%

4.4 Within key stage 4, there are currently two learners from YGG Llangynwyd who access the 'Junior Apprenticeship' scheme. One learner is on the Hair and Beauty Course and one learner is on the Construction Course. Although these specialist courses are delivered through the medium of English all the support and wellbeing are offered bilingually. At Post-16, one learner from YGG Llangynwyd is studying Criminology at Bridgend

College through the medium of English as this specialist subject is not available through the medium of Welsh. The local authority is currently working with Bridgend College to investigate opportunities for increased Welsh-medium provision at Post-16.

4.5 YGG Llangynwyd work in collaboration with Mudiad Meithrin to offer the Level 3 Diploma in Child Care. This has been an effective way of increasing the number of education support staff / nursery staff who could work in the Welsh-medium sector which is beneficial in terms of increasing capacity in the county. This collaboration has been very successful with learners returning to school and working in the primary sectors within the local authority.

4.6 There are strong collaboration arrangements already in place between Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT). There is also some collaboration with Bridgend College at Post-16. Further education institutes (FEIs) are working to investigate demand for Welsh-medium provision for younger pupils (Year 10 and up) and to look at their capacity to deliver courses through the medium of Welsh.

4.7 Collaboration has been in place between YGG Llangynwyd and Ysgol Llanhari in RCT since the sixth form was established in 2013. Collaboration affords learners the opportunity to study A/S and A-level qualification(s) that they are not able to do in their 'Home School.' Learners can travel to the 'host school' where they receive 'Hybrid Learning' in the form of face-to-face sessions as well as online lessons. This takes away the travel time for the learner, which can help with the retention of learners on courses not studied at the home school. The learners gain more independence within their studies as they must adapt to new teaching styles, a new environment along with building friendships with their new peers, which can be a daunting experience.

4.8 There is a list of courses that are offered collaboratively across both schools so that learners can have access to a wider choice of qualifications through the medium of Welsh. The following are offered annually:

Delivered at YGG Llangynwyd

- BTEC Sport
- BTEC Public Services
- Business (Vocational)
- Design and Technology
- ICT
- Physics
- Physical Education
- Drama

Delivered at Ysgol Llanhari

- Sociology

- Health and Social Care

The delivery of Music is shared across both schools.

4.9 In addition to these subjects, which form a part of the curriculum offer each year, representatives from both schools attend open evenings, provide videos etc. There is an annual review of the qualifications needed by both schools so that courses with limited numbers can still be made available. Examples of these in the past have been History and Geography. Collaboration has been successful for example, to alleviate short term staffing issues. One school delivers half the course to ensure it can keep running during maternity absence for example.

4.10 The figures below indicate the number learners involved in collaboration for 2021/2022.

Year 12

- Health and Social Care: 7 from YGG Llangynwyd attend Ysgol Llanhari.
- Sociology: 4 from YGG Llangynwyd attend Ysgol Llanhari.
- Physics: 2 from Ysgol Llanhari attend YGG Llangynwyd.
- Sport BTEC: 4 from Ysgol Llanhari attend YGG Llangynwyd.
- Public Services BTEC: 3 from Ysgol Llanhari attend YGG Llangynwyd.
  20 in total

(16.2% of YGG Llangynwyd cohort access a collaborative courses).
(22.5% of Ysgol Llanhari cohort access at least one collaborative course).
(19.8% across both schools access at least one collaborative course).

Year 13

- Health and Social Care: 6 from YGG Llangynwyd attend Ysgol Llanhari.
- Sociology: 1 from YGG Llangynwyd attend Ysgol Llanhari.
- Public Services BTEC: 2 from Ysgol Llanhari attend YGG Llangynwyd.
- Design and Technology: 2 from Llanhari attend YGG Llangynwyd.
  11 in total

(12.7% of YGG Llangynwyd cohort access a collaborative courses).
(16.7% of Ysgol Llanhari's cohort access a collaborative course).
(13.9% both schools access at least one collaborative course).

4.11 Curriculum leads for both schools have a very close working relationship and are both 'Quality Nominees' for the vocational provision. There are half termly meetings to review current provision as well as plan for the following year. Following a 'free choice' run in Year 11, both curriculum leads collaborate on creating appropriate options columns which consider

the needs of both cohorts. Schools share calendars of events as well as data deadlines so that any collaboration course is reported in the same way as all other home delivered courses including access to teachers during parents' evenings. There are timetabled meetings between both Heads of Sixth Form to discuss progress and provision and a shared secure space to share information between them and teachers and vice versa. Examination officers of both schools also have a close working relationship with procedures in place to ensure accurate registrations etc. Following the need for distance learning in 2020-2021, the provision is now hybrid – with half the lessons face-to-face with learners travelling to the other school and half provided through distance learning.

4.12 Secondary schools are supported to take steps to increase the number of qualifications that learners can study through the medium of Welsh through collaboration. The local authority funds transport costs for collaborative courses offered.

4.13 Welsh language is offered as A-level subject in schools, and schools are supported to maintain smaller class sizes through collaboration between schools to create a viable class size. Transport costs are provided by the local authority. Where the demand to learn A-level Welsh (as a second language) is not sufficient to create a viable class in a Sixth Form, it is offered as a collaborative course in column D. This means that any learner can access Welsh at advanced level through collaboration. Widening the option to another option column could be discussed with the 'Curriculum Leaders Group' annually to monitor numbers and look to expand access into A-level Welsh. Schools often make use of the 'free run' option results from Year 11 and ascertain which columns subjects would be best suited in to optimise numbers.

Below is a table listing the collaboration courses currently available as of September 2021.

Option X	**Option Y**	**Twilight**
Economics Brynteg	Physics Bryntirion	Law
French Bryntirion	Welsh Bryntirion	Criminology
Physics Brynteg	H&SC Cynffig	E-Sports
Computer Science Bryntirion	Music Porthcawl/Brynteg	Dance
Drama Porthcawl	Drama Pencoed	Film studies
Electronics Porthcawl	Textiles Porthcawl	

PE Porthcawl		
Further Maths Porthcawl		

4.14 The local authority and CSC will support English-medium primary and secondary schools to increase provision in Welsh by utilising the Cymraeg Campus Programme. The objective of Cymraeg Campus is to provide a clear framework to promote and increase the use of Welsh by children and young people in a whole school context. The programme's main aim is to promote a strong Welsh culture and ethos in schools and to provide a range of enriching activities that propel the children to enjoy learning Welsh. CSC offer a wide range of professional learning and networking opportunities across all English-medium schools that include Welsh Language Development for practitioners, whole school leadership of Welsh, support, and networking opportunities for post sabbatical practitioners.

Where do we aim to be within the first five years of this plan and how we propose to get there?

You may wish to include a high-level timeline against any proposed commitments to increase the number/% of learners studying for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh during the first five years of implementation (as a mid-way milestone), and another for the remainder of the Plan.

4.15 Improved retention and transition rates may impact on this outcome during the first five years of this plan. This will be monitored closely by local authority officers.

4.16 There may need to be a greater emphasis on blended/remote learning approaches in the first instance to ensure that pupils are able to access a wider range of courses (where there is not capacity to teach certain specialist subjects through the medium of Welsh now). Additional resources have been created by CSC specifically for Welsh speakers. Schools could draw on as part of their blended/remote learning offer if schools are required to deliver through this medium. They can be accessed via the direct teaching repository on the CSC website.

Direct Teaching Resources:

https://www.cscjes-cronfa.co.uk/repository/discovery?sort=recent&categories=53a30a9b-07e6-493b-a576-a0c20d149669&strict=0

Blended Learning Resources:

Primary:
https://www.cscjes.org.uk/repository/discovery/resource/ace3482b-6f51-43a2-8851-0e74ebcad4c6/en?sort=recent&categories=5701ee78-ee41-4abc-aa37-2c4d28aa0111&strict=0

Key Stage 3:
https://www.cscjes.org.uk/repository/discovery/resource/259ce68d-7826-442c-bacb-8ee6776f1f07/en?sort=recent&categories=5701ee78-ee41-4abc-aa37-2c4d28aa0111&strict=0

Key Stage 4:
https://www.cscjes.org.uk/repository/discovery/resource/e77682fd-cc53-48a5-af06-bd640a6a35b4/en?sort=recent&categories=5701ee78-ee41-4abc-aa37-2c4d28aa0111&strict=0

4.17 The local authority will work with secondary schools to coordinate the provision of Welsh as a subject in all settings. In Post-16 this is achieved via collaborations as most schools do not have viable numbers for a class. There could be a possibility that there is some virtual collaboration at key stage 4.

4.18 Working in collaboration with CSC the following areas will be addressed:

- ensuring high quality teaching and learning in all Welsh-medium schools;
- increase in the number of pupils transferring from primary to secondary- ensuring high transition rates from all primary feeder schools;
- promote the benefits of Welsh-medium education with parents/carers and how parents/carers can support even if they don't speak Welsh at home;
- consider use of digital technology to increase qualification offer through the medium of Welsh for example explore e-sgol;
- develop collaboration with the Welsh-medium secondary sector to provide subject specific professional learning particularly in areas of Welsh-medium practitioner shortage;
- develop and implement a strategic marketing strategy to promote Welsh as an A-level subject (use of social media, past pupil/parent experiences, promote advantages);
- work with external providers and Welsh Government on any national initiatives to promote Welsh as an A-level subject; and
- consider use of digital technology to increase the qualification offer through the medium of Welsh.

Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?

You should refer back to your ten year target and how commitments made under this Outcome supports your overall vision for increasing Welsh-medium education provision in your area.

4.19 This target will depend on current cohort numbers in the system. This outcome will be impacted by the extensive work that has been undertaken to attract early years into Welsh-medium provision. This will take time to come to fruition but should have been realised at the end of the 10-year plan.

4.20 There are various pieces of work which would have been embedded such as:

- introduction of immersion for latecomers;
- opening of the new early years' settings should be embedded;
- supporting parents to support their children.
- training for education staff to learn Welsh; and
- improve the Welsh language for teaching (eg Welsh Government sabbatical scheme).

4.21 Collaboration between YGG Llangywnwyd and Ysgol Llanhari will have proven successful. Through the The 'Hybrid' form of collaboration, YGG Llangynwyd would have explored the possibility to negotiate collaboration between YGG Llangynwyd with schools in other local authorities would have been explored.

Outcome 5

More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school

Where are we now?

Include as a baseline, any data (numbers /%) relevant to this outcome and an overview of what has been achieved during the previous plan period.

5.1 The Council is committed to inspiring children and young people to use Welsh in all aspects of their lives. There is strong collaboration with CSC and the schools to share good practice.

Since launching the Siarter Iaith in our Welsh- medium schools and the Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus in our English-medium schools, innovative work has been undertaken by the schools to increase the social use of Welsh within the whole school community.

5.2 **Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus (English-medium)**

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Number of schools	10	3	1

Siarter Iaith (Welsh-medium)

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Number of schools	4	4	

Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School and Maesteg School are currently involved in the Cymraeg Campus pilot for secondary schools.

CSC is in the process of reviewing both its business planning objectives and is undertaking a self-evaluation review. As part of both these activities, an evaluation of the project is taking place. CSC shares effective practice using a variety of sources including, twitter, CSC website and various communications.

5.3 There are various activities for children and young people to become engaged with to ensure that they can experience Welsh as a living language and within their communities. They are as follows:

- links with the Urdd (sporting, Eisteddfod, Glan Llyn, Llangrannog;

- visits into schools and regular sessions with Post-16, Cymraeg Bob Dydd);
- links with Menter Iaith Bro Ogwr, mostly with Post-16.
- school Eisteddfodau;
- Diwrnod Shwmae/Dydd Miwsig Cymru;
- trips – Tafwyl;
- visits/performances from Mr Phormula, Candela, Tudur Clocsio;
- Welsh assemblies;
- encouragement and training for staff to use Welsh in their lessons as much as possible;
- awards given by the pupils to one member of staff per half-term for the most use of Welsh in lessons;
- extra merits for pupils for use of Welsh;
- use of Welsh Swogs who consult with the Welsh department on content of learning and then deliver a section of this to their form classes;
- Criw Cymraeg;
- use of social media to encourage parents to use some Welsh too;
- use of the “Athrawes Fro”

5.4 In 2021, Bridgend County Borough Council used the Welsh Government Hwb Infrastructure Grant, to ensure all pupils attending Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend benefit from a one-to-one, pupil/device ratio.

In June 2021, Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend received the following number of Chromebook devices:

School	Number of Chromebook devices
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	544
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr	128
Ysgol Y Ferch O’r Sgêr	160
Ysgol Cynwyd Sant	192
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd	96

The Welsh Government Hwb Infrastructure Programme has also been completed at all the above schools, so they are benefitting from new Aruba switches and improved WiFi access points.

Where do we aim to be within the first 5 years of this Plan and how we propose to get there?

You may wish to include a high-level timeline against any proposed commitments to increase opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school during the first 5 years of implementation (as a mid-way milestone), and another for the remainder of the Plan.

5.5 A sub-group of the WESP will be established to drive this area of work forward. Mapping of what is available from, for example Urdd, Menter Iaith and ensure that there is good publicity is important. Youth workers and the Youth Council will be involved in this area of work to ensure that the local authority has the voice of children and young people at the core of this development. An important aspect if this work will be to explore opportunities within communities.

5.6 Develop an early engagement model of support for non-maintained settings in targeted areas to enhance children's early linguistic experiences.

5.7 High quality Welsh Language, Literacy and Communication professional learning will be evident in schools and bespoke support for individual schools/clusters.

5.8 Professional learning and support for Welsh Language Immersion.

5.9 Resources to support the new curriculum will be developed.

5.10 Language Charter data will be shared with the WESP Forum on a regular basis. Promote the resources which are on the Welsh Government website.

5.11 Provide all schools with a designated CSC lead officer to support Language Charter and Cymraeg Campus progress. Promote, support, challenge and accredit all schools to make progress with the Language Charter and Cymraeg Campus Awards. Evaluate and share best practice.

5.12 Encourage the language development and engagement with parents. The local authority will continue to work collaboratively with RHaG as members of the WESP Forum.

5.13 Consider the support that YGG Llangynwyd could provide for English-medium schools. Also consider the peer-to-peer support from the Welsh-medium primary schools, for example Bore Coffi.

5.14 Encourage the development of the digital space for children and young people and an incentive to engage with the language. For example, Minecraft, Roblox.

5.15 The local authority will ensure alignment with the Council's Five-Year Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2021-2026. The lead officer is a

member of the WESP Forum and a member of the training and apprenticeship sub-group thus ensuring partnership working and the compatibility of both strategies.

Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?

You should refer back to your ten year target and how commitments made under this Outcome supports your overall vision for increasing Welsh-medium education provision in your area.

5.1 All schools within Bridgend County Borough Council would have achieved the Gold status of Siarter Iaith and Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus.

Outcome 6

An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) (in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018

Where are we now?

Include as a baseline, any data (numbers /%) relevant to this outcome and an overview of what has been achieved during the previous plan period.

6.1 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has been fully involved and compliant with the preparation for the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act (ALNET) (Wales) 2018 for September 2021. The Council will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to continue to comply with the ALNET Act in providing a bilingual system of ALN provision and support the 0 to 25 age range in line with the ALNET Act.

6.2 The Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021 places a duty upon a local authority to keep additional learning provision (ALP) under review. The Council will consider the extent to which these arrangements are sufficient to meet the ALN of children and young people for whom we are responsible.

6.3 The Council will give full consideration to the sufficiency of the ALP in Welsh and also the size and capability of the workforce which also involves consideration of the Welsh-medium workforce.

6.4 BCBC has taken a proactive approach to reviewing their current position to respond to changes in demand and to make services fit for purpose in terms of addressing the current and future needs of children and young people with ALN. Following a procurement exercise, Peopletoo were commissioned in March 2020 by BCBC to undertake this Additional Needs Strategic Planning Review.

6.5 The review sought to:

- identify the current ALN needs of the school population and current ALN provision in Bridgend's 59 schools and pupil referral unit (PRU);
- project the likely future ALN need (demand) and future provision to meet those needs (supply);
- identify any gaps in provision;
- explore the need for a BCBC ALN pupil database;

- (if applicable) propose alternative models to meet the likely future ALN demand; and
- identify the required budget for possible options identified from the ALN provision review.

6.6 The review concluded in autumn term 2020. The local authority recognises its statutory responsibility in continually analysing demand and planning for appropriate provision to meet the needs of all learners with an ALN.

6.7 One of the recommendations from the review was improving the breadth of and responsiveness of provision. In relation to Welsh-medium the recommendation is to review and revise the model of Welsh-medium moderate learning difficulties (MLD) provision to ensure that the approach is equitable to English-medium provision. A report was submitted to Cabinet in December 2021 for permission to consult with the proposal to open a MLD learning resource centre (LRC) at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant on 1 September 2021. Permission was granted and the consultation runs from 11 January 2022 to 25 February 2022. Secondary provision for MLD through the medium of Welsh is currently being reviewed.

6.8 LRCs were opened at YGG Calon Y Cymoedd in 2019 and YGG Llangynwyd in 2018 for pupils with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). This means that if a pupil has a diagnosis of ASD and speaks Welsh, then that pupil can continue education through the medium of Welsh. This meets the demand for places.

6.9 There is currently a sensory review being undertaken across CSC to consult upon establishing a regional sensory service. The local authority is committed to consider any provision with neighbouring local authorities.

6.10 The opening of an observation and assessment class is proposed to open in conjunction with the school modernisation programme and plans for YGG Bro Ogwr.

6.11 There are local authority officers who work with and support children and young people through the medium of Welsh. There are for example, specialist teachers, educational psychologists, learning support officers (LSOs) and special needs support assistants (SNSAs) who speak Welsh.

Where do we aim to be within the first five years of this plan and how we propose to get there?

You may wish to include a high-level timeline against any proposed commitments to increase the Welsh-medium education provision for learners with additional learning needs during the first five years of implementation (as a mid-way milestone), and another for the remainder of the plan.

6.11 Analyse demand, utilising data to develop and plan for ALN provision in during the first five years of the WESP.

6.12 Ensure all reasonable steps are taken for all learners with ALN or emerging needs to access support from the local authority's mainstream schools, special schools and advisory services through the medium of Welsh to ensure that there is full compliance with the ALNET Act 2018 and a bilingual system for pupils with ALN.

6.12 A strategic overview of workforce linguistic skills across all schools will be in place.

6.13 Recruit and develop specialist staff to meet the growth and change in provision which will include early years and childcare.

6.14 In collaboration with CSC, curriculum provision and resources will be appropriate for any pupil with ALN in both Welsh-medium and English-medium schools.

6.15 Work in partnership with the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and Bridgend College to ensure appropriate additional learning provision and essential workforce.

6.16 Ensure that parents and carers are fully engaged through the various forums and consultation meetings which are in the local authority. Appropriate, accurate and timely information is on the Council website.

Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?

You should refer back to your ten year target and how commitments made under this Outcome supports your overall vision for increasing Welsh-medium education provision in your area.

6.17 It is the local authority's commitment that any child or young person who speaks Welsh and has an ALN requiring an ALP, will be able to continue their education through the medium of Welsh.

Outcome 7

Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

Where are we now?

Include as a baseline, any data (numbers /%) relevant to this outcome and an overview of what has been achieved during the previous plan period.

7.1 Percentage of teachers in Welsh-medium schools.

- The % of teachers in WM schools as a % of all teachers in Bridgend is 8.17%.

- The school staff involved in Welsh language sabbaticals are as follows:

Welsh in a year September 2019 – August 2020.

- Garth Primary School – CH
- St Mary's & St Patrick's Catholic Primary School – CM
- Nottage Primary School – MN
- Nottage Primary School – MD
- Llangynwyd Primary School – NT

Welsh in a year September 2020 – August 2021

- Newton Primary School – HJ
- Betws Primary School – JB

Entry – January 2020

- Pencoed Primary School – AD-J

- Pencoed Primary School – LH
- Pencoed Primary School – LP
- Pencoed Primary School – NC
- Penybont Primary School – BS
- St Mary's & St Patrick's Catholic Primary School – KB

Some other schools applied for the intermediate course during summer term 2020 but due to the pandemic, this had to be deferred until Summer 2021.

The intermediate course is new to the sabbatical course package and is aimed at teachers who have already undertaken one of the sabbatical courses in the past, but who may have lost confidence due to lack of opportinuty to use their skills

The following schools applied:

- Trelales Primary School – IG
- Betws Primary School - TF
- Pencoed Primary School - – AW

The format of the sabbatical changes each year depending on Welsh Government funding and priorities. Teachers and support staff have access to sabbaticals at various points and by various models, for example for a full year, term and blended learning. Currently the sabbatical is for a whole year for teachers.

In 2020, in Wales 27.2% said they were trained to work, currently work or have worked through the medium of Welsh and feel confident to do so.

In Bridgend, 144 teachers work in Welsh-medium schools (10.9%) and a further 80 teachers can work in a Welsh-medium school (6%). There are also 352 teachers working in English-medium schools teaching Welsh (26%). A total of 43% of teachers, either work or able to work and teach Welsh in schools in Bridgend.

Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend are proactively exploring ways to address the capacity of the workforce. There are examples where Welsh-medium schools are developing their own staff. For example, at YGG Llangynwyd, putting unqualified staff through the initial teacher training (ITT) route.

CSC offers a significant professional learning offer to teaching and support staff across Bridgend. There is no cap on the numbers attending from each school. It is for schools, through their own evaluation and improvement activities to decide on how many staff should attend.

School workforce annual census (SWAC) - 2020

Number of Staff and their Welsh Language Ability

	Welsh Language Ability							Total
	No Skills	Entry Level	Foundation Level	Intermediate Level	Advanced Level	Proficient Level	Info Not Obtained	
ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS	9	185	244	75	27	84	2	626
ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS	233	161	80	20	28	139	11	672
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	18	25	13	3	2	4		65
PRU	5	7	5		1			18
WELSH PRIMARY SCHOOLS					4	45		49
WELSH SECONDARY SCHOOL				1	3	52		56

Number of Staff and their Teaching/working in Welsh

	Teaching/working in Welsh				Total
	Teaching/working in Welsh in current post	Able to teach/work in Welsh but not	Unable to teach/work in Welsh	Teaching Welsh as subject only	
ALL PRIMARY SCHOOLS	**53**	**40**	**198**	**335**	**626**
No Skills			8	1	
Entry, Foundational, Intermediate	2	10	189	303	
Advanced, Proficient	51	30		30	
Info Not Obtained			1	1	
ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS	**90**	**34**	**492**		**616**
No Skills		1	232		
Entry, Foundational, Intermediate	1	10	249		
Advanced, Proficient	89	23			
Info Not Obtained			11		
SPECIAL SCHOOLS	**1**	**5**	**42**	**17**	**65**
No Skills			18		
Entry, Foundational, Intermediate	1		24	16	
Advanced, Proficient		5		1	
PRU		**1**	**17**		**18**
No Skills			5		
Entry, Foundational, Intermediate			12		
Advanced, Proficient		1			
WELSH PRIMARY SCHOOLS	**49**				**49**
Advanced, Proficient	49				
WELSH SECONDARY SCHOOL	**56**				**56**
Entry, Foundational, Intermediate	1				
Advanced, Proficient	55				

7.2 All schools are encouraging student placements in their schools which will also be a way of possibly recruiting those staff. Welsh-medium headteachers are proactively seeking students in colleges as they are finishing their courses.

7.3 Linking with the Council's Welsh Language Standards Five Year Strategy to maintain the number of Welsh speakers in Bridgend, the Welsh Language Standards Five-Year Strategy has been reviewed on an annual basis. The latest review shows the range of actions that have been taken to raise awareness and promote the use of Welsh language across the county borough. There is a new five year plan from September 2021.

7.4 Internally, there are a range of learning and development opportunities available to all employees, to improve language skills as well as raise their awareness of the language, including e-learning and courses to improve Welsh language skills. In recruiting to Welsh posts, adverts are also signposted on Menter Bro Ogwr's website.

7.5 There has been an impact on workforce planning and development because of the pandemic. There was no training was offered during March 2020 – July 2020. The 2020-2021 training programme in August 2020 and the revise delivery model was revised as face-to-face training was unable to be offered. Since August 2020 all training has been delivered remotely. The numbers who have accepted remote training will be analysed to ascertain if this would be a preferred method of training or if a blended approach would be beneficial.

7.6 In relation to Welsh Language courses, the local authority continues to offer Cwrs Mynediad Year 1 qualification through the University of South Wales and the Welsh Language Meet and Greet courses to all local authority staff twice a year. The local authority has also offered Work Welsh for the first time in 2020-2021 (as an initial pilot) delivered by the National Centre for Learning Welsh. This will be evaluated, and the outcomes incorporated into future planning. We also continue to support employees to access Welsh courses in the community under the Welsh Language Protocol.

7.7 Therefore, take up this year for Welsh Language is very similar to last year's figures in terms of qualifications offered.

Where do we aim to be within the first five years of this plan and how we propose to get there?

You may wish to include a high-level timeline against any proposed commitments to identify the teaching staff needed to teach in Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh during the first five years of implementation (as a mid-way milestone), and another for the remainder of the Plan.

7.8 Monitor those schoolteachers who can teach through the medium of Welsh and look at the reasons why teachers leave Welsh-medium schools and introduce a questionnaire/exit interview. Monitor and evaluate trends in both teaching and support staff retention.

7.9 The following activity will be undertaken by the local authority, CSC, and partners to identify and support the development of the workforce.

- provide professional learning opportunities, develop resources, facilitate the sharing of good practice, and provide bespoke support to individual or groups of schools across the region.
- Bridgend will work closely with other local authorities in CSC in planning and supporting school staff across all sectors to further improve their Welsh language skills.
- provide professional learning opportunities, develop resources, facilitate the sharing of good practice, and provide bespoke support to individual or groups of schools across the region.
- ensure that the WESP will be considered during considerations regarding the Welsh-medium education standards of its schools.
- consider school workforce annual census data on an annual basis to support workforce planning.
- use local knowledge and information gathered from CSC's Improvement Partner to supplement census data.
- undertake an analysis to understand trends in vacancies and the vacancies that are required.
- consider the training and succession planning of learning support assistants (LSAs).
- ensure that staff from Welsh-medium schools are applying for relevant national leadership development programmes including the Aspiring Headteacher Programme leading to National Professional Qualification Headteachers (NPQH) qualification.
- monitor the number of Welsh-medium applicants on the national leadership programmes including destination reports for NPQH candidates.
- continue to work closely with initial teacher education (ITE) partnerships to support student teachers and to ensure that Welsh-medium schools are identified as lead, training, or placement schools.

- work with external partners to promote initiatives on routes into teaching and share any relevant information with schools.
- professional learning and support to newly qualified teachers (NQT) teachers will be provided particularly through the role of regional induction mentors.
- analysis of the Language Framework data as a baseline for improvement required will be undertaken.
- Welsh Language Development professional learning at various levels will be provided.
- provide post-sabbatical support for practitioners engaged with sabbatical programmes; and
- provide advice, support, and guidance to schools on how to accurately reflect the Welsh language skills of staff.

7.10 Once the School Workforce Annual (SWAC) has been completed on an annual basis, an analysis will be undertaken with regards to key categories, such as age, for example so that succession planning for example for retirement can be identified.

7.11 The training and apprenticeship sub-group of WESP, using the relevant data, will write a detailed plan in relation to upskilling staff.

Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten-year plan?

You should refer back to your ten year target and how commitments made under this Outcome supports your overall vision for increasing Welsh-medium education provision in your area.

7.12 Additional staff would be required to support all the new school commitments in the 10-year plan. This would need to be prepared for in advance.

7.13 The local authority has set a target of 300 reception places being available for Welsh-medium learners by the end of the plan period, which is an additional 138 additional pupil places. The 300 reception places equate to 10 forms of entry, and the aim is to ensure those places are filled. The local authority will undertake a mapping exercise and write a plan for recruiting teaching and support staff who will be required over the 10-year period.

How we will work with others to achieve our vision

Please outline how you will work in partnership with your Welsh in Education Planning Forum (if established in your local authority area) to prepare your Plan and how the forum will oversee its implementation and evaluation.

If there isn't an established Welsh in Education Planning Forum in your local authority, please outline how you will work in partnership with other organisations that play a key role in helping you to draw up, implement and evaluate your Plan.

There is an established and effective Welsh in Education Forum in Bridgend.

In order to prepare the WESP ten-year plan, a planning day with WESP Forum members was held in summer term 2021. All WESP Forum members were invited to contribute to the plan and each outcome was led by a WESP Forum member. Templates were provided in order for members and their respective organisations to submit any further comments for the WESP by a given deadline in summer term 2021.

Monitoring will take place termly at each WESP Forum. The membership of the WESP Forum is as follows:

- Corporate Director - Education and Family Support;
- Cabinet Member - Education and Regeneration;
- Group Manager - Learner Support (Chair);
- Senior Welsh Education Planning Officer Welsh Government;
- Principal Advisor Employee Relations BCBC;
- School Programme Manager BCBC;
- Group Manager - Business Support;
- Group Manager - School Support;
- Early Years and Childcare Manager BCBC
- FIS and Childcare Development Officer BCBC;
- Consultation Engagement and Equalities Manager BCBC
- Head of Welsh for Adults Glamorgan;
- Chief Officer Menter Bro Ogwr;
- Regional Manager South East Wales Meithrin Cymru;
- Central South Consortium representative;
- Student Services and Welsh Manager Bridgend College;
- Lead Partnerships Officer Meithrin Cymru;
- Director of Development RhAG;
- Chair of RhAG Bridgend;
- RHaG representatives Bridgend;
- Lead Officer Urdd Gobaith Cymru;
- Swansea University representative;
- Headteacher - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd;
- Headteacher - Calon y Cymoedd;

- Headteacher - Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr;
- Headteacher - Afon y Felin;
- Headteacher - Pencoed Comprehensive School; and
- Head of Welsh - Brynteg School;

Monitoring will also take place in the following sub-groups which have been established:

- Welsh Language Steering Sub-Group
- Welsh-medium Childcare Sub-Group
- Training and Apprenticeships Sub-Group
- Geographical Assessment Sub-Group
- School Modernisation Capital Investment Sub-Group
- Welsh-medium Secondary School Band C Provision Sub-Group

Additional sub-groups will be established as outlined in the WESP.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BRIDGEND NORTH EAST

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to commence a statutory consultation process to make a regulated alteration to enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg (YG) Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 form entry (FE) school, with a 90-place full time equivalent nursery plus an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Ffordd Cadfan. The proposal would come into effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

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 focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

- **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 Band B Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) was submitted to Welsh Government (WG) in July 2017. In October 2017 Cabinet was presented with a report detailing the outcome of the Band B review and gave approval to discontinue the original Band B schemes identified in the November 2010 Cabinet report, and approved the revised SOP.

3.2 On 6 December 2017, the WG Department for Education gave 'approval in principle' for Bridgend's second wave of investment, which at that stage had an estimated programme envelope cost of £68.2m. Further costs were to be determined, and these would be associated with additional infrastructure capacity.

3.3 In January 2018, Council approved in principle the financial commitment required for Band B of the School Modernisation Programme, subject to sufficient resources being identified and allocated to meet the match funding commitment.

3.4 In January 2020, Cabinet was presented with the outcome of the extensive options appraisal relating to each of the approved projects.

3.5 In July 2020, Ministerial approval was received in respect of the Strategic Outline Business Case.

3.6 Cabinet approval was received to progress an on-site feasibility at Brackla Hill in respect of the preferred education option for the Bridgend North East scheme (ie 2.5-FE YG Bro Ogwr on the Brackla Hill site), the outcome of which was reported to Cabinet on 9 February 2021.

3.7 Having considered the technical complexities and potential costs associated with the development of the school at Brackla Hill, Cabinet determined to discount that site from any future consideration in respect of YG Bro Ogwr and gave approval for officers to consider alternative options for the replacement school.

3.8 Of the three alternative sites that were considered, the privately owned site at Ffordd Cadfan (considered previously as part of the options appraisal process and cost prohibitive at that time), was regarded as the most suitable for the replacement school in terms of its size, and geographical location within the catchment area.

3.9 The Council's Strategic Asset Management and Investment Manager revisited this option with the landowner who confirmed they were willing to sell the site.

3.10 A cost differential exercise in respect of developing a school at the formerly discounted Brackla Hill site compared with developing the land off Ffordd Cadfan was undertaken as a benchmark exercise, and it proved that progressing a scheme at the latter location would be more economical and cost effective.

3.11 WG approval was sought for the land acquisition at Ffordd Cadfan to be treated as an 'abnormal' in this particular instance, and approval sought for the land purchase to be funded through the Band B programme. This approach was accepted in principle by WG.

3.12 Officers were unable to confirm at what point these funds would be available and therefore Council approval was received in December 2020 to include the acquisition costs in the capital programme in order to secure the purchase initially.

3.13 In November 2021, Cabinet received a joint report from the Director of Education and Family Support and the Director of Communities, which detailed the outcome of a feasibility study in respect of the land off Ffordd Cadfan and

confirmed the site's suitability for development. At the same meeting Cabinet approval was received to proceed with the acquisition of the site.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Contracts for the purchase of the site have been exchanged. Therefore, the acquisition is now legally binding. It is important to note that should a proposal to relocate the school to that site not proceed, there would be limited financial risk based upon the likely future onward sales value (as detailed within the December 2020 Council report).

4.2 The WG Outline Business Case has received Ministerial approval.

4.3 Initially, in determining the size of school required, officers had identified the need for 75 nursery places. However, it is recognised that there is a need for an additional 15 full-time equivalent nursery places to be provided for the rising 3s. Also, officers have confirmed the need for an 8-place Welsh-medium observation and assessment class to be provided as part of this proposal.

4.4 In order to enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr (ie proposed 2.5 FE, 90-place full time equivalent nursery places plus an 8-place observation and assessment class), the School Organisation Code requires that a consultation exercise with the school governing body, staff, parents, pupils and interested parties is undertaken. This is the first step in the statutory process. If carried through to completion, it is currently anticipated that this proposal will come into effect at the beginning of the autumn term 2025. The consultation document will set out the implications of the proposal.

4.5 Following this period of consultation, a further report on the outcome of the consultation would be submitted to Cabinet to consider the result of that process. Cabinet would then need to decide whether to authorise the publication of a statutory notice. If such a notice were issued, it would invite formal objections during the statutory 28-day period.

4.6 This proposal is intrinsically linked to a potential alternative use of the residual YG Bro Ogwr school building for English-medium provision. However, the statutory process in respect of the replacement YG Bro Ogwr must conclude prior to any proposal being taken forward in this regard.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken which established that the proposal is unlikely to negatively impact on any protected group. There have been positive impacts identified, including Welsh language, gender and

age. As there have been no negative impacts identified, it will not be necessary to undertake a full equalities impact assessment.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term	Supports the statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places and promote the Welsh language.
Prevention	The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient supply of school places, and this scheme will safeguard the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge in this regard.
Integration	Should the proposal proceed in the future, construction will be competitively tendered, via a mini competition through the South East and Mid Wales Collaborative Construction Framework (SEWSCAP3) or potential future iterations of the framework. This will potentially provide opportunities for local companies to engage with the main contractor for inclusion in their supply chain, via 'Meet the Buyer' events. This would support economic activity in the area. Community benefits will be maximised.
Collaboration	The local authority would work effectively with schools, Estyn and with the Central South Consortium, health, community councils and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building would meet the short-term and future needs of the users and the community, which it will serve.
Involvement	This scheme was subject to a long list of options, which included education and site. These were systematically evaluated and have been reduced from a long list to a short list to confirm the preferred option. Further work involves the engagement of all potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners which will include third sector organisations, during the consultation exercise. There would be a full public consultation process undertaken, according to the WG School Organisation Code, should Cabinet determine to proceed with the proposal.

It is considered that there will be a positive impact upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 In December 2018, Council approved a programme envelope of £71.3m, covering Band B new school builds of £68.2m and potential highways works of £3.1m (the cost of highway works will have to be met in full by the local authority, as there is no match funding from WG). Following subsequent amendments to the capital programme, the current position is that there are budgets of £49.504m for works and £3.4m for infrastructure within the capital programme, with the remaining schemes funded via the revenue funded Mutual Investment Model (MIM).

8.2 £12.6m has been allocated in the capital programme for this project and the WG intervention rate is 65%. The additional 15 FTE places for rising 3s would need to be funded from BCBC capital and would form part of the total project costs. Contractor inflation and the impact of Covid-19 and 'Brexit' may have a detrimental impact on the scheme costs. However, this would be monitored and reviewed regularly throughout the course of the project. Any revenue implications resulting as a consequence of moving sites will not be known until the scheme is developed further. Any changes to the total cost of the scheme or council contributions will be reported back to cabinet and council as appropriate.

8.3 The cost of the feasibility study has been funded from the Band B revenue feasibility funding allocation.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to give approval to commence a statutory consultation process to make a regulated alteration to enlarge YG Bro Ogwr to a 2.5-FE school, with a 90-place full time equivalent nursery plus an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Ffordd Cadfan. The proposal would come into effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

Lindsay Harvey
Corporate Director - Education and Family Support

January 2021

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Background documents None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER - LEGAL, REGULATORY AND HUMAN RESOURCES AND MONITORING OFFICER

INFORMATION REPORTS FOR NOTING

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet 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, 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 At a previous meeting of Cabinet, it was resolved to approve a revised procedure for the presentation to Cabinet of Information Reports for noting.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Information Reports

The following information reports have been published since the last meeting of Cabinet:-

Title	Date Published
Treasury Management - Quarter 3 Report, 2021-22	12 January 2022
Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000	12 January 2022

4.2 Availability of Documents

These documents have been circulated to Elected Members electronically via email and placed on the Bridgend County Borough Council website. They are also 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 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. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. 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 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 Cabinet acknowledges the publication of the documents listed in this report.

K Watson
Chief Officer, Legal, Regulatory and Human Resources and Monitoring Officer
January 2022

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Background documents: None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

TREASURY MANAGEMENT – QUARTER 3 REPORT 2021-22

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 'Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice' to produce interim Treasury Management reports;
- report on the projected Treasury Management Indicators for 2021-22.

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.

2.2 The Treasury Management Report is integral to the delivery of all of the Council's well-being objectives as the allocation of resources determines the extent to which the well-being objectives can be delivered.

3. Background

3.1 Treasury management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council is exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.

3.2 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) 'Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice' 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) before the start of each financial year. The CIPFA Code also requires

the Council to set a number of Treasury Management Indicators, which are forward looking parameters and enable the Council to measure and manage its exposure to treasury management risks, and these are included throughout this report. In addition, the Welsh Government (WG) issued revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments in November 2019 that requires the Council to approve an Investment Strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the Welsh Government Guidance. Whilst CIPFA issued a revised Treasury Management Code of Practice in December 2021, further guidance is awaited on its implementation.

3.3 In December 2021 CIPFA published a new edition of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code). The Prudential Code requires Local Authorities to determine a Capital Strategy, which is a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments. The definition of investments covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the authority holds primarily for financial return. However, a significant change in the Code is that, in order to comply with the Code, an authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. The Code does not require existing commercial investments, including property, to be sold. However, it does set out that authorities who have a need to borrow should review options for exiting their financial investments for commercial purposes. The Council's Capital Strategy 2021-22, complying with CIPFA's requirement, includes the Prudential Indicators which in previous years were included in the TMS, along with details regarding the Council's non-treasury investments. The Capital Strategy and TMS should be read in conjunction with each other as they are interlinked as borrowing and investments are directly impacted upon by capital plans and were approved together by Council on 24 February 2021.

3.4 The Council's treasury management advisors are Arlingclose. The current services provided to the Council include:

- advice and guidance on relevant policies, strategies and reports
- advice on investment decisions
- notification of credit ratings and changes
- other information on credit quality
- advice on debt management decisions
- accounting advice
- reports on treasury performance
- forecasts of interest rates
- training courses

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The Council has complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements during 2021-22. The TMS 2021-22 was approved by Council on 24 February 2021 with the Half Year Report being approved on 20 October 2021.

4.2 A summary of the treasury management activities for April – December 2021 is shown at table 1 in **Appendix A**. Since the start of the financial year the Council has had surplus funds for investment. The Council receives two instalments of Welsh Government core funding (Revenue Support Grant) during April at £12.6 million per instalment and was able to carry forward additional grant funding from 2020-21. As a result, the balance on investments at 31 December 2021 remains at similar levels as quarter 2, at £77.50 million with an average rate of interest of 0.11%.

4.3 The Council has not taken long-term borrowing since March 2012. The TMS approved for 2021-22 included an assumption that the Council would need to borrow £30.37 million during the year, based on the Council holding £49 million usable reserves that it could use in the short term to finance expenditure. These figures were based on the assumption that the Council would need to use £10.17 million of its reserves in the final quarter of 2020-21. However, as a result of slippage in the Capital Programme 2020-21, the actual use of reserves during 2020-21 was much lower and the amount needed to be drawn down to fund the capital programme in 2021-22 significantly lower than anticipated. In addition the Council received £20.6 million from the Welsh Government Hardship Fund during 2020-21, which was more than had been anticipated during the year, as well as further additional grants from Welsh Government in the final quarter of 2020-21 which enabled the Council to set aside £27.62 million in additional reserves in 2020-21. However, it is important to note that while the use of usable reserves in lieu of new borrowing is prudent, it is a short-term position and as the reserves are used for specific projects it will become necessary to borrow in the future to finance capital expenditure. Based on the current capital programme and the expected use of reserves allocated therein, it is expected that there will not be a requirement for new long-term borrowing in 2021-22. Detail on forecast capital spend is provided in the Capital Strategy 2021-22 which was approved by Council on 24 February 2021 and the Quarter 3 Capital Monitoring report to Council on 19 January 2022.

4.4 Restructuring of the debt portfolio, and in particular the Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans has been previously considered. The LOBOs have two trigger points during the year at which point the lender may consider offering the Council the option to repay the loan without penalty. At the current interest rates the lender is not likely to exercise that option. Any renegotiation of the LOBO would result in a premium payable by the Council. At current rates the premium would far outweigh the savings achievable. The Council will continue to review its long-term lending and would take the option to repay these loans at no cost if it has the opportunity to do so.

4.5 Table 4 in section 4 of **Appendix A** details the movement of the investments by counterparty types and shows the average balances, investment income received, average original duration and weighted average interest rates from April to December 2021.

4.6 The TM Code requires the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management Indicators. The indicators either summarise the expected activity or introduce limits upon the activity. Details of the estimates for 2021-22 set out

in the Council's TMS, against current projections, are shown in **Appendix A** and these show that the Council is operating in line with the approved limits.

4.7 The Council defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- or higher and **Appendix B** shows the equivalence table for credit ratings for Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's and explains the different investment grades.

4.8 CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management requires all local authorities to conduct a mid-year review of its treasury management policies, practices and activities. The outcome of this review is that there are no changes required.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 As required by Financial Procedure Rule 22.3 within the Council's Constitution, all investments and borrowing transactions have been undertaken in accordance with the TMS 2021-22 as approved by Council with due regard to the requirements of the CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services.

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 the report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment in the production of this report. 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 well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. As the report is for information only and is retrospective in nature 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 The financial implications are reflected within the report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- note the Council's treasury management activities for 2021-22 for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2021 and the projected Treasury Management Indicators for 2021-22.

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Carys Lord
Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
January 2022

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Background documents:

None

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APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 2021-22
1 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. External Debt and Investment Position

On 31 December 2021, the Council held £96.87 million of external long-term borrowing and £77.50 million of investments. The Council's external debt and investment position for 1 April to 31 December 2021 is shown below in Table 1; more detail is provided in section 3 - Borrowing Strategy and Outturn - and section 4 - Investment Strategy and Outturn:

Table 1: External debt and investment position 1 April 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Principal 01/04/2021 £m	Average Rate 01/04/2021 %	Principal 31/12/2021 £m	Average Rate 31/12/2021 %
External Long Term Borrowing:				
Public Works Loan Board	77.62	4.70	77.62	4.70
Lender's Option Borrower's Option	19.25	4.65	19.25	4.65
Total External Borrowing	**96.87**	**4.69**	**96.87**	**4.69**
Other Long Term Liabilities (LTL):				
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)*	15.56		14.96	
Other LTL	2.33		2.37	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	**17.89**		**17.33**	
Total Gross External Debt	**114.76**		**114.20**	
Treasury Investments:				
Debt Management Office	0.00	0.00	10.30	0.01
Local Authorities	48.50	0.22	41.50	0.15
Banks	1.00	0.05	12.40	0.10
Money Market Fund**	2.05	0.02	13.30	0.10
Total Treasury Investments	**51.55**	**0.21**	**77.50**	**0.11**
Net Debt	**63.21**		**36.70**	

* (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 12.75 years remaining term
** these funds provide instant access

Where a Council finances capital expenditure by debt, it must put aside revenue resources to repay that debt in later years and this amount charged to revenue is called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2008 requires the Council to produce and approve an annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement before the start of the financial year that details the methodology for the MRP charge and this is detailed in the Council's Capital Strategy. The

underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Council's current strategy is to delay the need to borrow externally by temporarily using cash it holds for other purposes such as earmarked reserves. This is known as internal borrowing. This strategy is prudent as investment returns are low and counterparty risk is relatively high. The CFR is forecast to increase from 2020-21 levels due to the amount of prudential borrowing in the capital programme in future years. The Loans CFR (which excludes PFI & Other Long Term Liabilities) is estimated to be £167.60 million as shown in table 2 below.

The liability benchmark measures the Council's projected net debt requirement plus a short-term liquidity allowance in the form of minimum cash and investment balances. The purpose of the benchmark is to set the level of risk which the Council regards as its balanced or normal position. The forecast liability benchmark, or level of debt, as at 31 March 2022 is £76.44 million, which is lower than the estimate within the TMS. The current level of long-term borrowing is £96.87 million. As the Council has available reserves it can use them to fund capital expenditure in the short term, which is a prudent approach to managing its cash resources. Table 2 below has been produced using estimates of capital spend and forecasts on usable reserves for the current financial year. The Loans CFR ignores cash balances and may be too high if the authority benefits from long term positive cash flows which this Council does benefit from. The benchmark assumes that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £10 million at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

Table 2: Liability benchmark

	2020-21 Actual £m	**2021-22 Estimate TMS £m**	**2021-22 Projection £m**
Loans Capital Financing Requirement	158.21	166.35	167.60
Less: Usable reserves	(114.43)	(49.11)	(101.16)
Plus: Actual/Minimum investments	10	10	10
Liability Benchmark	**53.78**	**127.24**	**76.44**

2. External Context

At its meeting ending on the 16th December 2021 the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 8-1 in favour of raising the Bank Rate from 0.1% to 0.25%. Within the announcement the MPC noted that the pace of global recovery was broadly in line with previous expectations. Prior to the emergence of the Omicron coronavirus variant, the Bank also considered the UK economy to be evolving in line with expectations, however with the increased uncertainty and risk to activity the new variant presents, the Bank revised down its estimates for Q4 GDP growth to 0.6% from 1.0%.

On inflation the MPC noted mixed signals from early indicators of cost pressures. Wholesale gas prices had continued to rise, while oil prices had fallen from recent peaks. Twelve-month CPI inflation rose from 3.1% in September to 5.1% in November and was expected to remain at 5%+ throughout the winter, peaking at 6% in April 2022. This largely reflects the pass through of current rises in wholesale gas and electricity prices. Further price increases were expected in 2022 due to higher energy and wage costs.

The furlough scheme ended at the end of September 2021 with the Bank of England only expecting a small rise in unemployment. The unemployment rate fell to 4.2% in the three months to October, 0.2% below the November report forecast. Employment had increased but remained somewhat weaker than expected. It was noted that there was little sign that the end of the furlough scheme had led to a weakening in the labour market.

3. Borrowing Strategy and Outturn for 1 April to 31 December 2021

At 31 December 2021, the Council held £96.87 million of long-term loans as part of its strategy for funding previous years' capital programmes. The TMS 2021-22 forecast that the Council would need to borrow £30.37 million in 2021-22. Currently it is forecast that the Council will not need to take out new borrowing during the year, however this is dependent on the progress of the Capital Programme expenditure and the use of available earmarked reserves during the remainder of the year. More detail on forecast capital spend is provided in the Capital Strategy 2021-22 which was approved by Council on 24 February 2021 and the Quarter 3 Capital Monitoring report to Council on 19 January 2022.

The Council's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. The flexibility to renegotiate loans, should the Council's long-term plans change, is a secondary objective. Therefore the major objectives to be followed in 2021-22 are:

- to minimise the revenue costs of debt
- to manage the Council's debt maturity profile i.e. to leave no one future year with a high level of repayments that could cause problems in re-borrowing
- to effect funding in any one year at the cheapest cost commensurate with future risk
- to monitor and review the level of variable interest rate loans in order to take greater advantage of interest rate movement
- to reschedule debt if appropriate, in order to take advantage of potential savings as interest rates change
- to optimise the use of all capital resources including borrowing, both supported and unsupported, usable capital receipts, revenue contributions to capital and grants and contributions

Given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the economy and public finances in general, as well as on local government funding in particular, and the uncertainty going forward, the Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. The ever-increasing uncertainty over future interest rates increases the risks associated with treasury activity. As a result, the Council will take a cautious approach to its treasury strategy. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short term to either use internal resources or take out short term loans instead.

The Council's primary objective for the management of its debt is to ensure its long-term affordability. The majority of its loans have therefore been borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) at long term fixed rates of interest, but we will also investigate other sources of finance, such as Welsh Government and local authority loans and bank loans that may be available at more favourable rates. Following the increase in the numbers of local authorities taking out PWLB loans to buy commercial properties for yield, following a UK government consultation HM Treasury issuing revised lending terms for PWLB borrowing by local authorities in November 2020. As a condition of accessing the PWLB, local authorities will be asked to confirm that there is no intention to buy investment assets primarily for yield in the current or next two financial years. Local authorities' Section 151 Officers, or equivalent, will be required to confirm that capital expenditure plans are current and that the plans are within acceptable use of the PWLB. Whilst this in itself does not preclude the Council from investing in commercial activities, investing in assets for yield would preclude the Council from accessing PWLB borrowing. In December 2021, CIPFA published a new edition of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. A significant change to the Code is that, in order to comply with the Code, an authority must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return. It goes further to clarify that "*it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending that will increase the capital financing requirement, and so lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the authority and where any financial returns are either related to the financial viability of the project in question or otherwise incidental to the primary purpose"*.

The last time the Council took out long term borrowing was £5 million from the PWLB in March 2012. Should there be a need to borrow it is likely to be from the PWLB. For estimate purposes it has been assumed that this would be over 30 years. The Council may also take out short term loans (normally for up to one month) to cover unexpected cash flow shortages. Market conditions have meant that there has been no rescheduling of the Council's long term borrowing so far this year however, in conjunction with the Council's Treasury Management advisors Arlingclose, the loan portfolio will continue to be reviewed for any potential savings as a result of any loan rescheduling.

The £19.25 million in table 1 above relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which have a maturity date of 2054, however these may be re-scheduled in advance of this maturity date. The LOBO rate and term may

vary in the future depending upon the prevailing market rates, the lender exercising their option to increase rates at one of the bi-annual trigger points (the trigger dates being July and January) and therefore, the Council being given the option to accept the increase or to repay the loan without incurring a penalty. The lender did not exercise their option on 22 July 2021 and the next trigger point is 22 January 2022. The lender is unlikely to exercise their option in the current low interest rate environment, however, an element of refinancing risk remains. The Council would take the option to repay these loans at no cost if it has the opportunity to do so in the future. The current average interest rate for these LOBO's is 4.65% compared to the PWLB Loans average interest rate of 4.70%. The premiums payable to renegotiate the Council's Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) continues to be cost prohibitive.

The Treasury Management indicator shown in Table 3 below is for the Maturity Structure of Borrowing and is set for the forthcoming financial year to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk with respect to the maturity of the Council's external borrowing and has been set to allow for the possible restructuring of long term debt where this is expected to lead to an overall saving or reduction in risk. It is the amount of projected borrowing maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected borrowing. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing set out in the TMS 2021-22 and the projections for 2021-22 are:

Table 3: Treasury Management Indicator Maturity Structure of Borrowing 2021-22

Refinancing rate risk indicator Maturity structure of borrowing 2020-21	TMS 2021-22 Upper limit %	TMS 2021-22 Lower limit %	Projection 31-3-22 %
Under 12 months	50	-	19.87
12 months and within 24 months	25	-	-
24 months and within 5 years	25	-	12.47
5 years and within 10 years	40	-	13.45
10 years and within 20 years	50	-	16.64
20 years and above	60	25	37.57

The 19.87% shown in Table 3 above relates to the £19.25 million LOBO loans which may be re-scheduled in advance of their maturity date of 2054, as detailed in the paragraph above. The CIPFA Code requires the maturity of LOBO loans to be shown as the earliest date on which the lender can require payment, i.e. the option/call dates in 2021-22, so the maturity date is actually uncertain but is shown in the "Under 12 months" category as per the Code.

4. Investment Strategy and Outturn 1 April to 31 December 2021

Both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, balancing the risk of incurring losses from defaults against receiving unsuitably low investment income.

The major objectives during 2021-22 are to:

- Maintain capital **security**
- Maintain **liquidity** so funds are available when expenditure is needed
- Achieve a **yield** on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity

The Annual Investment Strategy incorporated in the Council's TMS 2021-22 includes the credit ratings defined for each category of investments and the liquidity of investments. The Council's investments have historically been placed in mainly short-term bank and building society unsecured deposits and local and central government. However, investments may be made with any public or private sector organisations that meet the minimum credit criteria and investment limits specified in the Investment Strategy. The majority of the Council's surplus cash is currently invested in Money Market Funds and with other local authorities, but the Council will continue to look at investment options in line with the limits detailed in the Investment Strategy. In the last 6 months Arlingclose has been constantly stress testing the financial institutions on its recommended counterparty list during the pandemic and, as a result, has removed a number from its recommended list for unsecured deposits and revised the credit rating, outlook and recommended deposit period for a number of others. This reflects the revised likely credit worthiness of the institutions from the economic and financial market implications of coronavirus. The Council takes into account updated advice from its advisors before making any investment decisions.

The Council holds surplus funds representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves and as shown in Table 1 above, the balance on investments at 31 December 2021 was £77.50 million. Table 4 below details these investments by counterparty type. The average investment rate in the period 1 April to 31 December 2021 was 0.08% (Table 4) and was 0.11% at 31 December 2021 (Table 1 – Total Treasury Investments).

Table 4: Investments Profile 1 April to 31 December 2021

Investment Counterparty Category	Balance 01 April 2021 (A) £m	Investments raised (B) £m	Investments Repaid (C) £m	Balance 31 December 2021 (A+B-C) £m	Investment income received* Apr-Dec 2021 £'000	Average original duration of the Investment Days	Weighted average investment balance Apr-Dec 2021 £m	Weighted average interest rate Apr-Dec 21 %
Government DMO	-	215.34	205.04	10.30	1.02	14	12.30	0.01
Local Authorities	48.50	53.00	60.00	41.50	65.08	217	39.94	0.15
Banks (Fixed Maturity)	1.00	27.00	25.00	3.00	2.87	32	2.95	0.07
Banks Instant Access/Notice Period Account	-	100.08	90.68	9.40	0.14	-	7.15	0.04
Building Societies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Money Market Fund (Instant Access)	2.05	63.60	52.35	13.30	2.72	-	21.68	0.02
Total/Average	**51.55**	**459.02**	**433.07**	**77.50**	**71.83**	**66**	**84.03**	**0.08**

*actual income received in year excluding accruals

The Treasury Management indicator shown below in Table 5 is for Principal Sums Invested for periods longer than a year. Where the Council invests, or plans to invest, for periods longer than a year, an upper limit is set for each forward financial year period for the maturing of such investments. The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of long-term investments. The limit on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end are set out in the TMS 2021-22.

Table 5: Treasury Management Indicator Principal Sums Invested for periods longer than a year

Price risk indicator	TMS 2021-22 £m	Projection 31-3-22 £m
Limit on principal invested beyond financial year end	15	Nil

All investments longer than 365 days (non-specified) will be made with a cautious approach to cash flow requirements and advice from Arlingclose will be sought as necessary.

There were no long-term investments (original duration of 12 months or more) outstanding at 31 December 2021. All investments at 31 December 2021 were short term deposits including Government Debt Management Office (DMO), Money Market Funds, Local Authorities, instant access and notice accounts. Table 6 below details these investments by counterparty type based on the remaining maturity period at 31 December 2021:

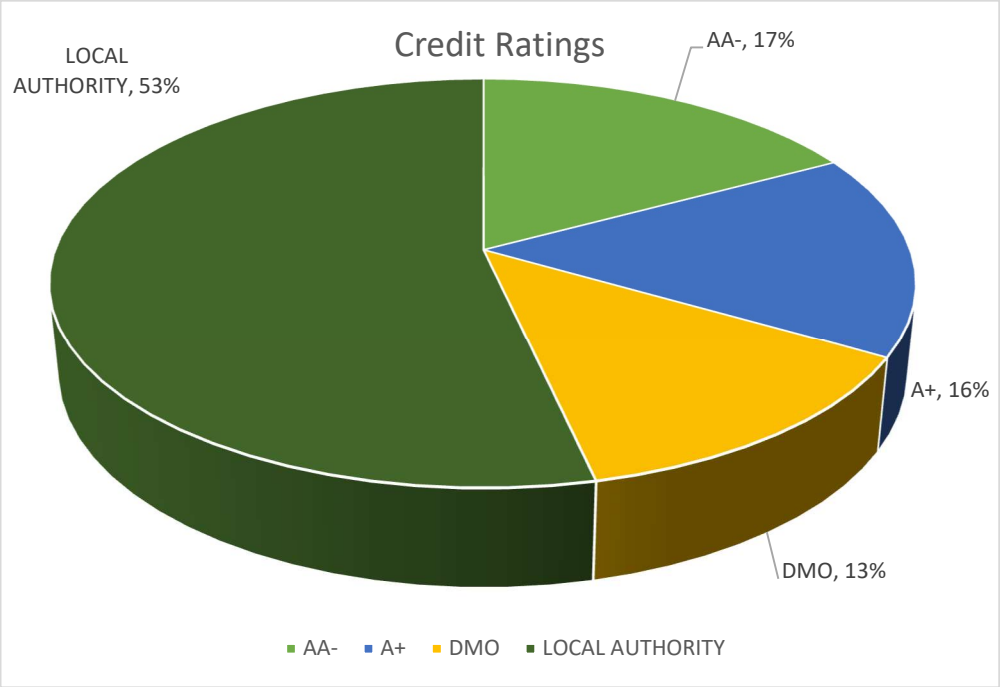
Table 6: Investments Outstanding Maturity Profile 31 December 2021

Counterparty Category	Instant Access £m	Deposits Maturing Within 1 Month £m	Deposits Maturing Within 2-3 Months £m	Deposits Maturing Within 4-12 Months £m	Total £m
Government DMO		10.30			10.30
Local Authorities		5.00	13.00	23.50	41.50
Banks	4.00	8.40			12.40
Money Market Funds	13.30				13.30
Total	**17.30**	**23.70**	**13.00**	**23.50**	**77.50**

Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from a selection of external rating agencies to ensure that this lies within the Council's agreed minimum credit rating. Where available the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account. **Appendix B** shows the

equivalence table for credit ratings for three of the main rating agencies: Fitch, Moody's, and Standard & Poor's, and explains the different investment grades. The Council defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher.

The pie chart below summarises Table 6 by credit ratings and shows the £77.50 million investments at 31 December 2021 by percentage. Most Local Authorities do not have credit ratings and the £13.30 million invested with AA- rated MMF's were on an approved counterparty by Arlingclose, whilst the remainder of the investments all had a credit rating of A or above.



5. Interest Rate Exposures – Borrowing and Investments

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. Short term and variable rate loans expose the Council to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the Treasury Management indicator in Table 7 below to manage Interest Rate Exposures.

Table 7: Treasury Management Indicator Interest Rate Exposures

Interest rate risk indicator	Indicator £'000	As at 31-12-21 £'000
One year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	(273)	(534)
One year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	474	726

This has been set as an **indicator** (not a limit) to measure the net impact over one year on the revenue account of both a 1% rise and a 1% fall in all interest rates for borrowing net of treasury investments. This is calculated at a point in time on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at rates 1% higher or lower than they would otherwise have been on their maturity dates and that the treasury investment and borrowing portfolios remain unchanged over the coming year. Interest rates can move by more than 1% over the course of a year, although such instances are rare.

The figures for the 1% fall in interest rates indicator are not the same figures as the 1% rise in interest rates (but reversed) as the borrowing relates to variable LOBO loans where it is assumed that the lender would not exercise their option if there was a fall in interest rates. All other borrowing does not have a rate reset in the next year and is with the PWLB at fixed rates

APPENDIX B

Credit Rating Equivalence Table

	Description	Fitch		Moody's		Standard & Poor's	
		Long	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
INVESTMENT GRADE	Extremely strong	AAA	F1+	Aaa	P-1	AAA	A-1+
	Very strong	AA+		Aa1		AA+	
		AA		Aa2		AA	
		AA-		Aa3		AA-	
	Strong	A+	F1	A1		A+	A-1
		A		A2		A	
		A-	F2	A3	P-2	A-	A-2
	Adequate	BBB+		Baa1		BBB+	
		BBB		Baa2		BBB	
		BBB-	F3	Baa3	P-3	BBB-	A-3
SPECULATIVE GRADE	Speculative	BB+	B	Ba1	Not Prime (NP)	BB+	B
		BB		Ba2		BB	
		BB-		Ba3		BB-	
	Very speculative	B+		B1		B+	
		B		B2		B	
		B-		B3		B-	
	Vulnerable	CCC+	C	Caa1		CCC+	C
		CCC		Caa2		CCC	
		CCC-		Caa3		CCC-	
		CC		Ca		CC	
		C				C	
	Defaulting	D	D	C		D	D

Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's and Fitch are the three most significant rating agencies in the world. These agencies rate the creditworthiness of countries and private enterprises.

"AAA" or "Aaa" is the highest rating across all three rating agencies and indicates the highest level of creditworthiness. A "D" rating ("C" rating from Moody's) indicates poor creditworthiness of a company or government. A difference is made between short-term and long-term ratings.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

INFORMATION REPORT TO CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The report provides details of the current policy under the Regulation and Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA).

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/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.

- **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 RIPA provides a framework for certain public bodies, including local authorities, to use covert surveillance to gather information about individuals without their knowledge for the purposes of undertaking statutory functions in connection with the prevention and detection of crime.

3.2 RIPA activity and authorisations are governed by Codes of Practice and Guidance issued by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) and the Home Office.

3.3 Local authorities are subject to regular inspections from the IPCO, the most recent Council inspection having taken place successfully in October 2020. During the inspection the Council was praised for the oversight and administration and a recommendation was issued in relation to training.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Members are required to review the use of RIPA and set the policy at least once a year. Elected Members cannot be involved in decisions on specific authorisations, but have oversight of the process.

4.2 The Council has always been very sparing in its use of RIPA. It is only used in cases where it is important to obtain information to support potential criminal proceedings, and only where that information cannot be obtained by any other means. There have been no authorisations for RIPA since April 2014. It is clear that the general policy is that it should not be used unless absolutely necessary.

4.3 Other reasons likely to account for the reduction in the number of authorisations being sought are:

- a reduction in the number of incidents requiring investigation, and
- increased awareness of the scope of RIPA and the alternatives to covert surveillance as a result of training delivered to all Investigating and Authorising officers.

4.4 Overall responsibility for the use of RIPA lies with the Monitoring Officer who acts as the Senior Responsible Officer. The policy attached as **Appendix 1** has been reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose and in accordance with the Codes of Practice issued by the Home Office.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.

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. This is an information report and therefore it is not necessary to carry out an EIA in the production of this report. 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 well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. As the report is for information only 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 Cabinet is recommended to note the report.

Kelly Watson
Monitoring Officer
January 2022

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Background Documents: None

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Bridgend County Borough Council

Policy on Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Contents

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Appendices

1 Identification of Senior Responsible Officer and Designated Authorised Officers

2 RIPA Authorisation Flow Chart

3 Home Office Local Authority Procedure Flow Chart: Application to a Justice of the Peace seeking an Order to approve the grant of a RIPA Authorisation or Notice.

Introduction

1.1 In carrying out its duties the Council may need to conduct appropriate investigations into allegations or concerns brought to its attention and such investigations may necessarily require covert surveillance. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) provides a regulatory framework governing interception of communications, surveillance and associated activities. This is to ensure the powers are used lawfully and in a way that is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. Through the application of authorisation procedures and Magistrates Court approval it ensures that a balance is maintained between the public interest and the human rights of individuals.

1.2 This Policy is based upon the requirements of RIPA and Home Office's Code of Practices on Covert Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources. Copies of the Home Office's Codes of Practice are available on their website. Forms to record applications and decisions in writing are also available on the website.

1.3 The Council takes its statutory responsibilities seriously and will at all times ensure that any such surveillance or use of an intelligence source carried out is authorised and in accordance with the legislation. Investigations which are not authorised could leave the Council open to challenge by individuals who consider that there has been an intrusion into their privacy.

1.4 It is considered good practice for public authorities to appoint a Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) to be made responsible for the integrity of the process in place for the management of surveillance. The current SRO for the Council is identified in Appendix 1. Whilst legislation does not preclude the SRO's use as an Authorising Officer, it is unlikely that he/she would be regarded as objective if he/she oversees his/her own authorisations.

Types of Surveillance

2.1 Surveillance can be overt or covert. Overt surveillance does not require authorisation under RIPA and covers all situations where surveillance is not covert. The use of such surveillance is to be commended where the required result can be achieved by this means.

2.2 Covert surveillance is carried out in a manner calculated to ensure that the person subject to the surveillance is unaware that it is or may be taking place.

2.3 There are three types of covert surveillance:

'Intrusive Surveillance' - t**he Council has no statutory power to grant authorisations for intrusive surveillance but it is included here to alert officers to be aware of inadvertently breaching this rule.**

Intrusive surveillance is covert and carried out in relation to anything taking place on any residential premises or any private vehicle. Anything that occurs on residential premises or any private vehicle and involves the presence of someone on the

premises or in the vehicle or is carried out by means of a surveillance device will be intrusive. If the device is not on the premises or in the vehicle, it is only intrusive if it consistently produces information of the same quality as if it were.

Residential Premises includes any premises as is for the time being occupied or used by any person, however, temporary, for residential purposes or otherwise as living accommodation. It will not include communal areas, front gardens or driveways visible to the public.

Private vehicles will be those used primarily for the private purpose of the person who owns it or a person otherwise having the right to use it.

'Directed Surveillance' – this is covert surveillance that is not intrusive and is undertaken for the purposes of a specific investigation in a way that is likely to produce private information about a person. It must be necessary and proportionate to what it seeks to achieve.

'Covert Human Intelligence Source' (CHIS) – this is the use or conduct of someone who establishes or maintains a personal or other relationship with a person for the covert purpose of obtaining information. It must be necessary and proportionate to what it seeks to achieve.

Authorisation for Surveillance

3.1 As soon as a plan of action is decided upon which involves covert surveillance or the use of CHIS appropriate authorisation should be sought in advance.

3.2 All RIPA authorisations will require Magistrates Court approval in the form of an Order to take effect. The Home Office guidance on the judicial approval process for RIPA is available on the Home Office website.

3.3 The procedure outlined in the flowchart at Appendix 2 should be followed by Officers to ensure formal quality assurance.

3.4 All applications for authorisation of directed surveillance must be in writing and stipulate:

- how the surveillance will be conducted;
- the grounds on which authorisation is sought. Authorisations cannot be granted unless specific criteria are satisfied. **For the Council, the only ground for authorisation is for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime which -**
  (a) constitutes one or more criminal offences, or
  (b) is, or corresponds to, any conduct which, if it all took place in England and Wales, would constitute one or more criminal offences.

  And the criminal offence or one of the criminal offences is or would be-

  (a) an offence which is punishable, whether on summary conviction or on indictment, by a maximum term of at least 6 months of imprisonment, or
  (b) an offence under:
  - section 146 of the Licensing Act 2003 (sale of alcohol to children);
  - section 147 of the Licensing Act 2003 (allowing the sale of alcohol to children);

- section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003 (persistently selling alcohol to children);
- section 7 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (sale of tobacco, etc, to persons under eighteen)

- a full account of the investigation or operation (including full details of where the surveillance is to take place);
- likelihood of acquiring any confidential material as a consequence of the surveillance;
- the details of any potential collateral intrusion and an assessment of the risk of such intrusion or interference. There is an obligation on officers to ensure that collateral intrusion is minimised and is not excessive in the circumstances
- the reasons why the directed surveillance is considered to be proportionate to what it seeks to achieve (including the relevant circumstances);
- the identities, where known, of those to be the subject of directed surveillance;
- an explanation of the information which it is desired to obtain as a result of the authorisation;
- where the authorisation is sought urgently, reasons why the case is considered to be urgent;
- a subsequent record of whether authority was granted or refused, by whom and the time and date.

3.5 Applications to the Court for an approval of an authorisation must be made in accordance with the requirements of the Court. Legal Services must be consulted on the application form to the Magistrates Court.

The applicant must:

- apply in writing and serve the application on the court officer;
- attach the authorisation or notice which the applicant wants the court to approve;
- attach such other material (if any) on which the applicant relies to satisfy the court of the statutory requirements;
- attach the proposed terms of the Order (Annex B court document);
- the forms and supporting documentation MUST make the case it is not enough for an officer to provide oral evidence not supported by the contents of the paper;
- provide the court (on request) with a signed Delegated Power authorising the appearance of the local authority in legal proceedings.

3.6 Appendix 3 outlines the local authority procedure for seeking an order from the Magistrates Court.

3.7 The Officers within the Council entitled to grant authorisations are specified in legislation and are those whose posts appear in Appendix 1, however; it is important that all those involved in undertaking surveillance are fully aware of the extent and limits of the authorisation in question.

3.8 Wherever knowledge of confidential information is likely to be acquired, a higher level of authorisation is needed. Confidential information consists of communications subject to legal privilege, communications between a Member of

Parliament and another person on constituency matters, confidential personal information, or confidential journalistic material. So, for example, extra care should be taken where, through the use of surveillance, if it is likely that knowledge will be acquired of communications between a minister of religion and an individual relating to the latter's spiritual welfare, or between a Member of Parliament and a constituent relating to constituency matters, or wherever matters of medical or journalistic confidentiality or legal privilege may be involved. Authorisation can only be provided by the Chief Executive or in his/her absence the Monitoring Officer.

3.9 Authorising Officers should not be responsible for authorising their own activities. Because of the number of officers designated as Authorising Officers within the Council, this situation should be avoidable.

Necessity and Proportionality

3.10 In signing the application an Authorising Officer must give personal consideration to the necessity and proportionality of the proposed surveillance prior to applying to the Magistrates for approval and must personally ensure that the surveillance is reviewed and cancelled.

3.11 Proportionality will involve balancing the seriousness of intrusion into the privacy of the subject of the operation (or any other person who may be affected) against the need for the activity in investigative and operational terms. The authorisation will not be proportionate if it is excessive in the overall circumstances of the case. Each action authorised should bring an expected benefit to the investigation or operation and should not be disproportionate or arbitrary. The fact that a suspected offence may be serious will not alone render intrusive actions proportionate. Similarly, an offence may be so minor that any deployment of covert techniques would be disproportionate.

3.12 No activity should be considered proportionate if the information which is sought could reasonably be obtained by other less intrusive means. The following elements of proportionality should be considered:

- balancing the size and scope of the proposed activity against the gravity and extent of the perceived crime or offence;
- explaining how and why the methods to be adopted will cause the least possible intrusion on the subjects and others;
- considering whether the activity is an appropriate use of the legislation and a reasonable way, having considered all reasonable alternatives, of obtaining the necessary result;
- evidencing, as far as practicable, what other methods had been considered and why they were not implemented.

3.13 If the Authorising Officer is unsure on any matter s/he should seek advice from the SRO.

3.14 Urgent authorisations should not be necessary. An authorisation is not to be regarded as urgent where the need for an authorisation has been neglected or the urgency is of the Authorising Officer's or Applicant's own making. The Magistrates Court may consider an authorisation out of hours in **exceptional** circumstances. Please refer to Appendix 3 for the procedure to be followed when an authorisation is urgent and cannot be handled the next working day.

3.15 Officers conducting covert surveillance will have a full briefing and be required to read the authorisation granted to ensure that their activity is based on what has been specifically authorised and not merely what has been requested.

Duration

3.16 An authorisation granted by an Authorising Officer will cease to have effect (unless renewed) at the end of a period of three months beginning with the day on which it took effect.

3.17 As soon as the decision is taken that directed surveillance should be discontinued, the instruction must be given to those involved to stop all surveillance. The date and time when such an instruction was given should be recorded.

Renewals

3.18 If at any time before an authorisation would cease to have effect, the Authorising Officer considers it necessary for the authorisation to continue for the purpose for which it was given, he may renew it in writing for a further period of three months. Applications for renewal should only be made shortly before the authorisation is due to expire and must be submitted to the Magistrates Court for approval before they can be effective.

3.19 Authorisations may be renewed more than once if necessary, provided they continue to meet the criteria for authorisation and are approved by the Magistrates Court.

3.20 All applications for the renewal of an authorisation should record:

- whether this is the first renewal or every occasion on which the authorisation has been renewed previously;
- any significant changes to the information as outlined in the original application;
- the reasons why it is necessary to continue with the surveillance;
- the content and value to the investigation or operation of the information so far obtained by the surveillance;
- the results of regular reviews of the investigation or operation.

3.21 In rare circumstances renewals may be granted orally in urgent cases but will still require the approval of the Magistrates Court.

Cancellations

3.22 The Authorising Officer who granted or last renewed the authorisation must cancel it if s/he is satisfied that the directed surveillance no longer meets the criteria upon which it was authorised. The cancellation should include how the surveillance assisted the investigation. When cancelling an authorisation, an Authorising Officer must ensure that proper arrangements have been made for the activity's discontinuance, including the removal of any technical equipment. Where the Authorising Officer is no longer available, this duty will fall on any one of the other Authorising Officers listed at Appendix 1.

Reviews

3.23 Reviews of authorisations should be undertaken on a monthly basis to assess the need for the surveillance to continue. The results of a review should be recorded.

Where the surveillance provides access to confidential information or involves collateral intrusion authorisations for such surveillance should be reviewed frequently.

3.24 If the Authorising Officer is in any doubt s/he should ask the SRO before any directed surveillance is authorised, renewed, cancelled or rejected.

Drive-bys

4.1 'Drive-by' surveillance may or may not need a RIPA authorisation and it is not acceptable to prescribe a minimum number of passes before an authorisation is required. Where an officer as part of an investigation, intends to drive by a property to establish the location of a property then an authorisation is unlikely to be required. However, if the drive-by is to assess for signs of occupation and a record is to be made or the drive-bys are repeated and/or systematic, then an authorisation may be required. Consideration should also be given to the likelihood of collateral intrusion.

CCTV

5.1 The use of overt CCTV cameras does not normally require an authorisation as members of the public will be aware that such systems are in use (e.g. visible signage). However, where overt CCTV cameras are used in a covert and pre-planned manner as part of a specific investigation or operation, an authorisation should be considered.

5.2 If a law enforcement agency (eg Police) wishes to use the Council's CCTV system for directed surveillance, a copy of the authorisation will be required (redacted if necessary to prevent the disclosure of sensitive information) and the equipment will only be used in accordance with the authorisation.

Internet and Social Networking Sites

6.1 Although social networking and internet sites are easily accessible, consideration must still be given about whether a RIPA authorisation should be obtained if they are going to be used during the course of an investigation. If the study of an individual's online presence becomes persistent, or where material obtained from any check is to be extracted and recorded and may engage privacy considerations, RIPA authorisations may need to be considered.

6.2 Care must be taken to understand how the social media site being used works. Officers must not be tempted to assume that one service provider is the same as another or that the services provided by a single provider are the same.

6.3 Depending on the nature of the online platform, there may be a reduced expectation of privacy where information relating to a person or group of people is made openly available within the public domain, however in some circumstances privacy implications still apply. This is because the intention when making such information available was not for it to be used for a covert purpose such as investigative activity. This is regardless of whether a user of a website or social media platform has sought to protect such information by restricting its access by activating privacy settings.

6.4 In order to determine whether a directed surveillance authorisation should be sought for accessing information on a website as part of a covert investigation or

operation, it is necessary to look at the intended purpose and scope of the online activity it is proposed to undertake. Factors that should be considered in establishing whether a directed surveillance authorisation is required include:

- Whether the investigation or research is directed towards an individual;
- Whether it is likely to result in obtaining private information about a person or group of people;
- Whether it is likely to involve visiting internet sites to build up a picture or profile;
- Whether the information obtained will be recorded and retained;
- Whether the information is likely to provide an observer with a pattern of lifestyle;
- Whether the information is being combined with other sources of information, which amounts to information relating to a person's private life;
- Whether the investigation or research is part of an ongoing piece of work involving repeated viewing of the subject(s);
- Whether it is likely to involve identifying and recording information about third parties, such as friends and family members of the subject of interest, or information posted by third parties, that may include private information and therefore constitute collateral intrusion into the privacy of these third parties.
- Conversely, where the Council has taken reasonable steps to inform the public or particular individuals that the surveillance is or may be taking place, the activity may be regarded as overt and a directed surveillance authorisation will not normally be available.

Example 1: *An officer undertakes a simple internet search on a name, address or telephone number to find out whether a subject of interest has an online presence. This is unlikely to need an authorisation. However, if having found an individual's social media profile or identity, it is decided to monitor it or extract information from it for retention in a record because it is relevant to an investigation or operation, authorisation should then be considered.*

Example 2: *The Council undertakes general monitoring of the internet in circumstances where it is not part of a specific, ongoing investigation or operation to identify themes, trends, possible indicators of criminality or other factors that may influence operational strategies or deployments. This activity does not require RIPA authorisation. However, when this activity leads to the discovery of previously unknown subjects of interest, once it is decided to monitor those individuals as part of an ongoing operation or investigation, authorisation should be considered.*

6.5 An authorisation for the use and conduct of a CHIS (see paragraph 7) may be needed if a relationship is established or maintained by the officer on behalf of the Council without disclosing his or her identity (i.e the activity will be more than mere reading of the site's content). This could occur if an officer covertly asks to become a 'friend' of someone on a social networking site.

6.6 It is not unlawful for an officer to set up a false identity but it is inadvisable to do so for a covert purpose without authorisation.

6.7 An officer should not adopt the identity of a person known, or likely to be known, to the subject of interests or users of the site without authorisation, and without the explicit consent of the person whose identity is used, and without considering the protection of that person.

Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS)

7.1 Under the 2000 Act, a person is a CHIS if:

- they establish or maintain a personal or other relationship with a person for the covert purpose of facilitating the doing of anything falling within paragraph 26(8)(b) or (c) of the Act;
- they covertly use such a relationship to obtain information or to provide access to any information to another person; or
- they covertly disclose information obtained by the use of such a relationship or as a consequence of the existence of such a relationship.

7.2 **Urgent advice from Legal should be sought should the use and conduct of a CHIS be considered. The Council is not required to seek or obtain an authorisation just because one is available. The use or conduct of a CHIS can be a particularly intrusive and high risk covert technique, requiring dedicated and sufficient resources, oversight and management**.

7.3 There is a separate Code of Practice for CHIS issued by the Home Office which officers should carefully study if a CHIS authorisation is sought. The same principles outlined above for directed surveillance apply to CHIS and should be followed including necessity and proportionality.

7.4 Officers should consider the security and welfare of the source and the foreseeable consequences to others in relation to what they are being asked to do. A risk assessment must be carried out before any authorisation is granted, at any renewal, review and cancellation.

7.5 Following authorisation and approval from the Magistrates Court, one officer is to be tasked with the day to day running of the CHIS, contact with them, giving them their tasks and keeping confidential records about what they achieve. A separate officer is to be appointed to oversee the use made of the CHIS.

7.6 An authorisation should not be granted for the use or conduct of a source unless believed that there are arrangements in place for ensuring there is at all times a person with the responsibility for maintaining a record of the authorisation and use made of source.

7.7 In deciding whether authorisation is required for a test purchase operation (for example in relation to sales of age restricted products), consideration should be given to:

- whether the activity is likely to result in the obtaining of private information about any person, and

- whether the test purchaser establishes or maintains a personal or other relationship with the seller.

In circumstances where the exercise is considered to fall outside the scope of RIPA, the reasons for this decision should be recorded.

7.8 An authorisation granted in writing by an Authorising Officer and approved by a Magistrates Court for the conduct or use of a CHIS will cease to have effect (unless renewed) at the end of a period of 12 months beginning with day on which it took effect.

7.9 Subject to legal privileged information, material obtained from a CHIS may be used as evidence in criminal proceedings whether these proceedings are brought by the Council or by another public authority.

7.10 Where the product of the use or conduct of a CHIS could be relevant to pending or future criminal or civil proceedings, it should be retained in accordance with applicable disclosure requirements.

7.11 Subject to legal privileged information, there is nothing under the Act which prevents material obtained from authorisations for the use or conduct of a CHIS for a particular purpose from being used to further other purposes.

7.12 When cancelling an authorisation, an Authorising Officer must ensure that proper arrangements have been made for the activity's discontinuance including directions for the management of the product.

7.13 An officer who conducts activity on the internet in such a way that they may interact with others, whether by publicly open websites or more private exchanges, in circumstances where the other parties could not reasonably be expected to know their true identity, should consider whether the activity requires a CHIS authorisation. A directed surveillance authorisation should also be considered, unless the acquisition of that information is or will be covered by the terms of an applicable CHIS authorisation.

<u>Collaborative Working</u>

8.1 When granting or applying for an authorisation, the officer will need to be aware of particular sensitivities in the local community where the surveillance or property interference is taking place, and of any similar activities being undertaken by other public authorities which could impact on the deployment of surveillance. It is therefore recommended that where an Authorising Officer considers that conflicts might arise, they should consult a senior officer within the police force area in which the investigation or operation is to take place.

8.2 Where possible, the Council should seek to avoid duplication of authorisations as part of a single investigation or operation. The Council may therefore work in conjunction with other agencies to carry out surveillance. It will not be necessary for each party to complete its own form of authorisation and the Council can rely upon a duly authorised form completed by another agency providing that the Authorising Officer and Legal Services are made aware and it has been approved by the Magistrates Court if required. Duplication of authorisations does not affect

the lawfulness of the activities to be conducted, but may create an unnecessary administrative burden on the Council.

8.3 A copy of the relevant forms and Magistrates Court approval should be obtained and copies kept in the same manner as an authorisation granted by the Council.

8.4 If an officer has any concerns regarding an authorisation, review or renewal completed by another agency they should refer the matter to Legal Services at the earliest opportunity.

Record Management

9.1 Authorising Officers must send the original of any authorisation, any cancellation, renewal or review to the SRO within 2 working days of the issue.

9.2 The Council must keep records relating to all authorisations, Magistrates Court approvals, reviews, renewals, cancellations and refusals in accordance with the Home Office Code of Practice. A Central Register of all authorisations, Magistrates approvals, reviews, renewals, cancellations, refusals and records of oral authorisations will be monitored and maintained by the SRO with each Department keeping their own file of copies of their authorisations.

9.3 Records must be available for inspection by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner and retained to allow the Investigatory Powers Tribunal to undertake its functions. Although records are only required to be retained for at least three years, it is therefore desirable, if possible, to retain records for up to five years. Such information will be reviewed at appropriate intervals to confirm that the justification for its retention is still valid and will be securely destroyed as soon as it is no longer needed for authorisation purposes.

9.4 There are separate and specific record keeping requirements where use is made of CHIS. Records should be maintained in such a way as to preserve the confidentiality of the source and the information provided by that source. There should at all times be a designated person in the Council with responsibility for maintaining a record of the use made of the source.

9.5 Documents created under the RIPA procedure are highly confidential and shall be treated as such. Authorising Officers, through the Data Protection Officer must ensure compliance with the appropriate data protection requirements under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Council's internal arrangements relating to the handling and storage of material. The procedures and safeguards outlined in the Home Office Code of Practice will also be applied in relation to the handling of any material obtained through directed surveillance. Any breaches of data protection requirements should be reported immediately to the Data Protection Officer.

9.6 The SRO will ensure that robust and adequate arrangements are in place for the secure handling, storage and destruction of material obtained through the use of surveillance. The Council's internal safeguards will be kept under periodic review to ensure that they remain up to date and effective. Where the material could be relevant to pending or future criminal proceedings, it should be retained in accordance with established disclosure requirements for a suitable period and subject to review.

General Considerations

10.1 The SRO will ensure that guidance and training on RIPA is provided to staff requiring it. A record of those receiving training will be kept by the SRO.

10.2 Complaints may be dealt with by means of the Council's Corporate Complaints procedure and/or by virtue of a complaint to the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT) The IPT has jurisdiction to investigate and determine complaints against the Council's use of investigatory powers, and is the only appropriate tribunal for human rights claims against the intelligence services. Following receipt of a complaint or claim from a person, the IPT can undertake its own enquiries and investigations and can demand access to all information held by the Council necessary to establish the facts of a claim and to reach a determination.

10.3 The body responsible for the oversight of RIPA is the Investigatory Powers Commissioner (IPC). The IPC are authorised to carry out inspections of the Council to review intelligence gathering procedures and administration processes.

10.4 This Policy is a public document and is operational forthwith, replacing any previous policies and procedures. It will be reviewed from time to time by the SRO and the Council's Cabinet shall set this Policy annually to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

10.5 Further advice on good practice is contained within the Home Office Codes of Practice as outlined at paragraph 1.2.

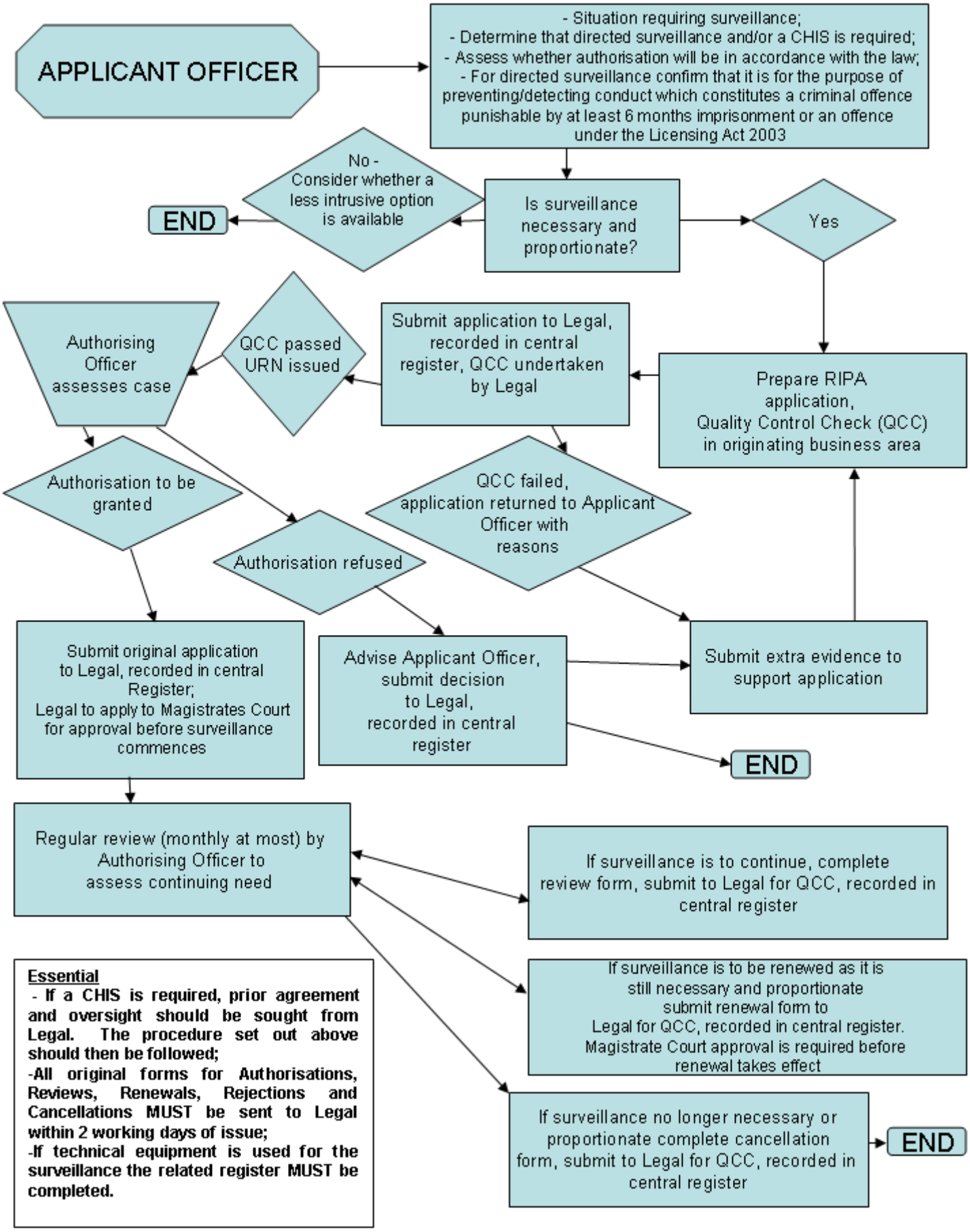
Senior Responsible Officer

The Monitoring Officer is authorised to act as the Senior Responsible Officer.

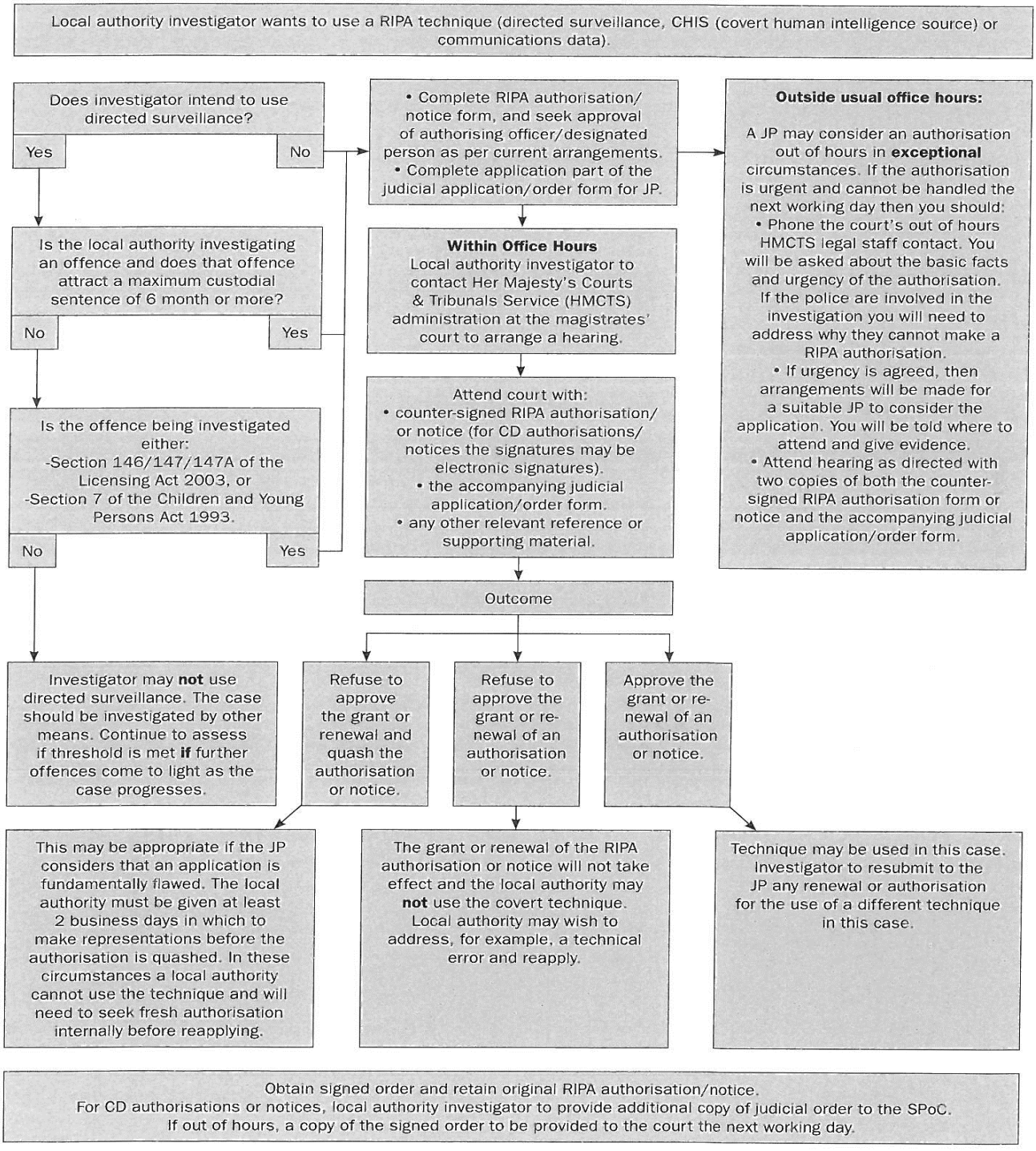
List of Designated Posts Nominated to Authorise Surveillance Activity in Bridgend County Borough Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

Post	Directorate/Department
Chief Executive	Chief Executive
Head of Partnership Services	Chief Executive
Head of Operations – Community Services	Communities

RIPA AUTHORISATION FLOW CHART



LOCAL AUTHORITY PROCEDURE: APPLICATION TO A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE SEEKING AN ORDER TO APPROVE THE GRANT OF A RIPA AUTHORISATION OR NOTICE



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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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