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



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

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

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



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

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

Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad/Date:** Tuesday, 8 November 2022

Dear Councillor,

**COMBINED MEETING OF SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 AND  
CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

A Combined meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be **held remotely - via Microsoft Teams on Monday, 14 November 2022 at 16:00.**

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
3. Housing Position Statement 3 - 12  
Invitees

Councillor Rhys Goode – Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations

Carys Lord - Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change

Martin Morgans – Head of Performance and Partnerships

Lynne Berry – Group Manager Housing & Community

Joanne Ginn – Housing Solutions Manager

Ryan Jones – Strategic Housing Commissioning Manager

Registered Social Landlord Invitees from:

Coastal Housing Group

Hafod Housing

Linc Cymru Housing Association

United Welsh

Valleys to Coast

Wales and West Housing

4. Conclusion / Recommendations

5. Forward Work Programme Update

13 - 28

6. Urgent Items

To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Please note: This will be a virtual meeting and Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact [cabinet\\_committee@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk) or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

**K Watson**

Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Councillors:

H T Bennett  
F D Bletsoe  
S J Bletsoe  
N Clarke  
C Davies  
P Davies  
M J Evans  
RM Granville

Councillors

S J Griffiths  
M L Hughes  
P W Jenkins  
M Jones  
MJ Kearns  
W J Kendall  
RL Penhale-Thomas  
J E Pratt

Councillors

T Thomas  
G Walter  
A Williams  
AJ Williams  
I Williams  
MJ Williams

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO COMBINED MEETING OF SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 & CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 NOVEMBER 2022

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

##### HOUSING – POSITION STATEMENT

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 & Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on policy changes to the housing services and the current rehousing and homelessness position.

#### 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. **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.
2. **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 County Borough Council (BCBC) Housing Service, like all other local authorities in Wales, is required to operate within the remit of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and Code of Guidance for homelessness and the Housing Act 1996 for allocations. The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 governs how homeless applications are processed. It sets out the different levels of support to be provided based on set criteria of priority and non-priority need. Pre Covid there were 10 priority need categories, if you were deemed a priority need, you were eligible for temporary accommodation and a final homeless duty which is a duty on the Authority to secure accommodation.
- 3.2 In March 2020, an emergency homelessness response was put in place by Welsh Government (WG) in recognition of the potential impact that Covid-19 could have on people who were homeless, especially people who were rough sleeping. Welsh Government amended its guidance in relation to homelessness and introduced an 'All In' approach and directed local authorities that no-one was to be without accommodation due to the public health imperative. WG introduced a Guidance Note which extended the definition of 'vulnerable' with regards to the 'priority need'

criteria set out in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. In effect this made all homeless persons eligible for an offer of temporary accommodation.

- 3.3 This required the Housing Service to secure additional units of accommodation on an emergency and immediate basis as pre Covid the Council had only 87 units of temporary accommodation placements and the use of floor space provision for emergency purposes. To respond to the crisis the service made arrangements with local hotels to secure accommodation.
- 3.4 Additional units, such as self-contained holiday lets were also required to meet ongoing demands, including from families. Service Level Agreements (SLA's) between the hotels / other accommodation providers and the Housing Service were agreed. This was continued on the expectation that services would, within a short period of time, revert to pre Covid conditions and therefore this arrangement would not need to be continued for a long period.
- 3.5 Subsequently, whilst the emergency pandemic state has rescinded, the Housing Service remains in a critical position. WG's intention is not to revert back to pre Covid legislation when considering vulnerability and priority need for accommodation. Earlier this year, WG consulted to permanently change regulation so that rough sleepers were considered a priority need for accommodation. However, WG's change was wider than this; as of 24 October 2022, anyone that is street homeless is priority need for accommodation. Street homeless does not mean rough sleeping, street homeless is when a person has no accommodation they can occupy in the UK or elsewhere which they are entitled to occupy, which they have a license to occupy or which there is a rule of law enabling occupation. It is therefore difficult to foresee when a person will not be priority need for accommodation, on an ongoing basis.
- 3.6 The Council, as a non-stock holding authority, operates a Common Housing Register with a nomination process in place with Valleys to Coast, Hafod, Linc Cymru and Wales and West.
- 3.7 There are 9,385 social housing properties in the County Borough. Of those, 8,242 are general needs properties.

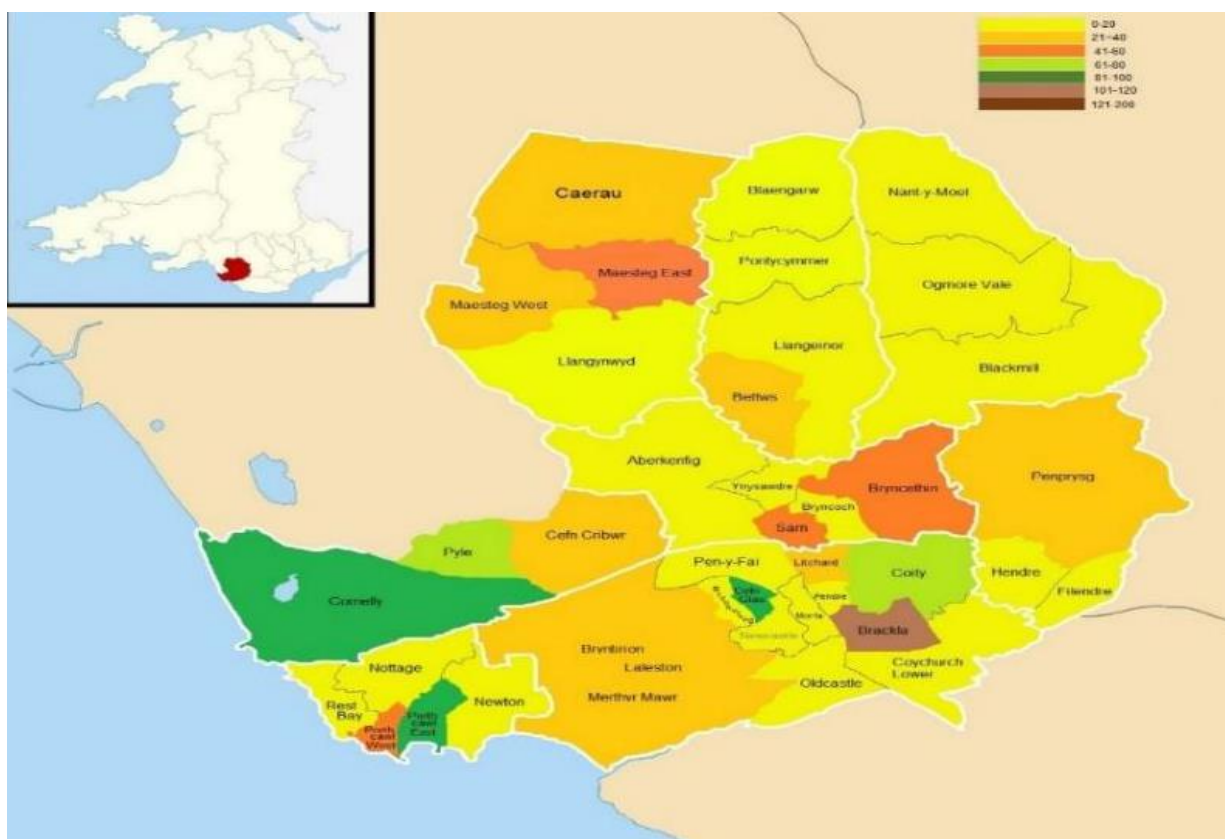
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5+ bed	Total
General needs	1497	3359	3246	134	6	8242
Supported housing (inc. sheltered)	212	197	55	9		473
Other supported housing	100	136	4			240
Extra care	49	31				80
Intermediate rent	48	139				187
Shared ownership	4	15				19
Market rent		1				1
Total	1910	3878	3305	143	6	9242

- 3.8 The table below shows the demand on the Common Housing Register across all bedroom needs. This represents a snapshot of the number of households on the waiting list earlier this year waiting to be rehoused. Looking at this in conjunction with the table at 3.7 above, one-bedroom demand is particularly acute. In order to meet one bedroom demand the Council requires almost three quarters additional properties of the total one-bedroom housing stock in Bridgend to meet demand.

Similarly, to meet demand for four-bedroom properties it requires almost double the total current four-bedroom stock. Housing demand is over and above current stock levels and expected to rise over the coming months.

	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5+ bed
Housing demand	1087	492	268	122	28

3.9 The below map shows the preferred area of choice for those on the Common Housing Register across the county of Bridgend, as of March 2022. Members will note that areas to the South and South West of the borough are those in greatest demand, whereas areas in the Garw and Ogmore valley have less demand.



3.10 The Social Housing Allocations Policy (SHAP) is a policy the Council is required to have by law which determines the prioritisation of housing needs and the banding decision given to all applicants based on presenting needs. This is an evidence-based assessment against policy to ensure the service is based on fair and equitable standards. All re-housing applicants are assessed against this policy. It is the Council's role to forward nominations for properties at which point the Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) instigate their own processes to determine whether to make an offer of accommodation to the nominees. BCBC's current SHAP has been approved by Cabinet and can be accessed via the following link - <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/5640/bridgend-social-housing-allocation-policy-v2.pdf>

3.11 Due to the impact of the Covid pandemic and to meet WG requirements to provide all homelessness cases with temporary accommodation, this policy has been supplemented by a Rapid Rehousing Protocol arrangement with partners to meet the urgent and increased demand for accommodation as a result of WG changes referred to in paragraph 3.2 above. This supports the nomination and allocation of mostly 1 bed properties to those that are in temporary accommodation. This Protocol is supported by partners and an established Homelessness Cell meets fortnightly to discuss challenging and emergency cases. Over the last three years, the support needs identified by those presenting as homeless have remained consistently high, with over 50% of applicants indicating they have support needs in addition to housing, such as alcohol or substance dependency, mental health or domestic abuse. Between 2015/16 and 2020/21, homelessness presentations (households for which assistance was provided) to BCBC increased by 163.9%. The period of 2020/21 saw the highest level of presentations recorded.

#### 4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The Housing Service has been under extreme pressure due to unprecedented demand for the service - in the 12 months to 25 May 2022, there were 1,656 household applications constituting 2,553 people including 658 children. There are approximately 1,900 households registered on the Common Housing Register. Between 24 and 30 October there were 211 households in temporary accommodation, comprising 254 adults and 143 children.

4.2 The service is unable to predict how long each applicant will need to wait before being rehoused. The average waiting time from registration to allocation will depend on the priority type, how many households are already on the waiting list for housing and what area of Bridgend the household has expressed a preference in. However, an on-line General Waiting Time Calculator is in place which attempts to give an indication of waiting list timescales to manage applicant expectations. The chart below estimates how long households were waiting before being offered a property, in the last three years.

	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4 bedrooms
2020	314 days	233 days	311 days	584 days
2021	413 days	286 days	316 days	444 days
2022	432 days	316 days	366 days	635 days

4.3 Void properties within communities lead to many queries and requests from applicants for properties. These requests cannot be met as properties must be offered to those with the most pressing housing need and who have been on the waiting list the longest in accordance with the SHAP. Some properties are void for short periods only, whilst they are being re-allocated or where maintenance is taking place. Other are classed as long-term voids.

RSL voids as at October 2022 are:

RSL	Voids in Bridgend as of October 2022	Average Void Turnover (days)
V2C	No data provided	No data provided
Linc	3	31.7
WWHA	6	35.33
Hafod	13	29.03

- 4.4 As demand for housing outweighs supply, the service is unable to meet the expectations of all applicants seeking rehousing. In some cases, staff have been subject to abuse, threats of harm, and unacceptable behaviour. This has led to increased queries and complaints with many applicants frustrated at the priority they have been given or the length of time they have been waiting.
- 4.5 The effect of this increased demand has impacted on service delivery and several operational changes have been made. Staff have taken on additional areas of work, a new Homelessness Team to focus on presentations has been agreed and support projects commissioned by 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners have been expanded to take on and support new temporary accommodation arrangements. A new Resettlement Team to support refugee resettlement is currently being recruited to. Despite these changes, the sustained volume of applications, difficulties in recruiting staff with posts being advertised numerous times with some remaining unfilled, and the increasing complexity of cases has meant that the pressure on a small team remains.
- 4.6 In addition, the service has had to work within the context of constant change and unknown outcomes. The Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 will come into force on 1 December 2022. The Act is the biggest change to housing law in Wales in decades and changes the way landlords rent their properties. Anecdotally, the service has already seen the impact of this as private landlords are selling their properties to avoid the new legislative requirements which has resulted in increased presentations to the housing department. During 2020/21 there were 326 households made homeless or threatened with homelessness due to loss of tied or rented accommodation. To date during 2021/22, 190 cases have been reported, but this is expected to increase, and the end of year figure is expected to be larger. WG are still considering changes to the legislation, but once finalised Members will be informed of its potential impact on the Council and Cabinet will receive a report.
- 4.7 Also impacting on the availability of accommodation in the private sector is the local housing allowance rate (housing benefit) for properties. This allowance is set by central government.

*Table showing local housing allowance rates, by bedrooms, for all property types. Rent averages are taken from a desktop search of properties available to rent on 1 August 2022.*

Number of bedrooms	Average rent	LHA rate	Difference
Shared room rate	£444.00	£245.61	-£198.39
1 bedroom	£492.00	£388.91	-£103.09
2 bedrooms	£807.00	£473.72	-£333.28
3 bedrooms	£810.00	£498.63	-£311.37
4 bedrooms	£1,825.00	£673.14	-£1,151.86

- 4.8 WG has introduced several policy changes over recent months. These changes include the requirement for local authorities to develop and implement a Transitional Rapid Rehousing Plan (TRRP) to move people from hotels into other forms of suitable accommodation as new guidance on the definition of 'suitability of accommodation' to be issued by WG shortly is likely to classify hotel accommodation as not meeting relevant standards. In addition, a new Homelessness Strategy is required.

4.9 Work on developing the Transitional Rapid Rehousing Plan is currently on-going and is being developed in conjunction with the development of a Homelessness Strategy. These draft documents will be reported to Cabinet in the near future seeking approval to undertake formal public consultation.

4.10 Previously the number of RSL's that were able to develop housing within particular local authority areas were determined by a zoning arrangement established by Welsh Government which limited the number for each area. This is no longer the case. Regular discussions are held with the developing RSL's and newer partners such as Coastal and Pobl are also being encouraged to develop in Bridgend. The below RSL's are part of the quarterly meeting between RSL's and BCBC at an operational level.

Valleys to Coast  
Linc Cymru  
United Welsh  
Wales and West Housing Association  
Coastal  
Pobl

4.11 The housing development opportunities have been expanded in recent years with a number of capital funding opportunities available to RSL's. These include Phase 2 Homelessness Capital Grant, increased Social Housing Grant (SHG), and Transitional Accommodation Capital Grant. Further detail on these funding streams is set out below.

4.12 Homelessness Grant Phase 2 This grant was made available by WG at the start of Covid to increase the supply of housing. Working in partnership with the RSL's Bridgend was successful in being awarded funding for five capital projects, totalling around £6.8 million through a combination of grant and RSL private finance.

4.13 Social Housing Grant. This grant (SHG) is provided by WG to RSL's for local housing development over a rolling 3-year programme called the Programme Delivery Plan (PDP).

4.14 Expenditure of this grant is approved and decided by WG after a series of concept, financial and technical scrutiny processes. The development journey can cross over many years to deliver, and a new local PI has been introduced last year to record the number of new schemes that are made available to the council for nomination purposes. Actual outturn will be available at the end of this financial year. Current estimates to date are -

- 62 units of new build accommodation has been let via the Common Housing Register this year;
- 24 units are expected to be let through the register by the end of the year;
- a further 4 units due to be completed with expectation these will be ready to let in the new year.

4.15 The PDP is a fluid and changeable plan which is updated on a quarterly basis and should not be considered a definitive position as there are many variable factors



that influence whether a scheme is brought to fruition. Factors such as viability and acceptable costs, planning approval, procurement and legal matters need to be satisfied before final approval is provided by WG. Currently there are 14 scheduled housing development schemes with an estimated 470 homes over a 2-year period. (These figures will increase when potential schemes are confirmed)

Currently –

**Year 1 - 2022/23** grant expenditure of £13,129,808 committed against schemes

**Year 2 – 2023/24** grant expenditure of £13,445,523 committed against schemes (£997,266 remains to be committed)

**Year 3 – 2024/25** grant of £13,786,299 to be committed, against potential and new schemes

4.16 Transitional Capital Grant. This has been introduced by WG as a response to the current homelessness situation across Wales. This funding is by application only and not by allocation to local authorities. Phase 2 of this funding differs from the SHG outlined above, as it seeks to deliver schemes more quickly by being flexible in such things as space standards, types of accommodation funded, acquisition of properties, and the acceptance of a 'meanwhile' use for refurbished buildings or undeveloped sites for a short/medium period of time whilst more permanent decisions are made. Discussions are on-going with RSL's to identify appropriate opportunities.

4.17 Phase 1 of this grant provided funding for RSL's to bring back into use long term voids. V2C was successful in attracting £2.1m of grant funding to bring back into use 35 long term void properties. Match funding of £530,000 has been allocated in the Capital Programme to support this project.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

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

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

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 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

Long term	Providing permanent and temporary accommodation for people who are in housing need
Preventative	Through a person centred approach preventing individuals and families being without accommodation
Involvement	Supporting people through this process and providing accommodation and outreach support if required through Housing Services
Integration	Ensure individuals have accommodation
Collaboration	Working in partnership with a range of providers

## 8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The additional expenditure incurred to meet temporary housing demands has, to date, been largely funded by the WG Hardship Grant and costs and funding received is outlined below. (Accommodation costs also include additional items such as security costs)

### Expenditure on temporary accommodation

	Financial Year	Temporary Accommodation costs	Grants received
		£'000	£'000
<b>Pre Pandemic</b>	2019-20	135	25
<b>Pandemic</b>	2020-21	2,292	2,082
	2021-22	3,130	2,794
	To date 2022-23	2,035	1,479
	Projected 2022-23	4,233	2,525

- 8.2 The projected costs of temporary accommodation in 2022-23 are £4.233 million. There is a core budget of £2.192 million for this accommodation. Additionally, WG funding of £2.525 million has been awarded in 2022-23 towards these costs, without which the service would have a projected overspend of £2.041 million.
- 8.3 Budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy setting process in February 2021 to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals providing them with accommodation. The core budget, combined with the WG funding highlighted in paragraph 3.6 totals £4.717 million resulting in a projected under spend in 2022-23 of £484,000 against the projected accommodation costs of £4.233 million. However, requests for support can change and this budget will be closely monitored for the remainder of this financial year. Without the WG funding, there would currently be a projected overspend of £2.041 million.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committees note the work being undertaken in relation to housing and homelessness in Bridgend County Borough Council and consider making comments upon the report.

**Carys Lord**  
**CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE**

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Head of Partnerships  
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**Postal address:** Civic Offices, Angel St, Bridgend CF31 4WB

**Background documents:** None

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO COMBINED MEETING OF SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 AND CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 NOVEMBER 2022

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER - LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES, HR AND CORPORATE POLICY

#### FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

#### 1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

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

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

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

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently

as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

### **3. Background**

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

#### Best Practice / Guidance

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

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

#### Forward Work Programme

- 3.6 Following the approval of the schedule of Scrutiny Committee meeting dates at the Annual Meeting of Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the scheduling of standing statutory reports to Scrutiny Committees upon: the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Performance, the Corporate Plan, Budget Monitoring, etc. were mapped to the appropriate timed COSC meeting dates into a draft Forward Work Programme.
- 3.7 The draft Forward Work Programme for each Scrutiny Committee has been prepared using a number of different sources, including:
  - Corporate Risk Assessment;
  - Directorate Business Plans;

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

3.8 There are items where there is a statutory duty for Policy Framework documents to be considered by Scrutiny, e.g. the MTFS including draft budget proposals scheduled for consideration in December 2022, following which the COSC will coordinate the conclusions and recommendations from each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in a report on the overall strategic overview of Cabinet’s draft Budget proposals to the meeting of Cabinet in February 2023.

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

#### **4. Current situation/proposal**

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

4.2 The Committee’s Forward Work Programme will also be reported to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for coordination and oversight of the overall FWP.

#### Identification of Further Items

4.3 The Committee is reminded of the Criteria Form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to maximise the impact scrutiny can have on a topic and the outcomes for people. Criteria which can help the Committee come to a decision on whether to include a referred topic, are set out below:

#### Recommended Criteria for Selecting Scrutiny Topics:

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

**ABILITY TO CHANGE:** Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence, and add value to;

**PERFORMANCE:** Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council is not performing well;

EXTENT: Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the County Borough; or a large number of the Authority's service users or its population;

REPLICATION: Work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Reasons to Reject Scrutiny Topics:

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

Corporate Parenting

- 4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a Local Authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.
- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.
- 4.7 The Forward Work Programme for this Committee is attached as **Appendix A**.
- 4.8 The Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations at the previous meeting is attached as **Appendix B**.
- 5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**
- 5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.



## 6. Equality Act 2010 implications

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

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

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

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

## 8. Financial implications

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

## 9. Recommendations

- 9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider and approve the Forward Work Programme attached as **Appendix A**;
- b) Identify any specific information the Committee wishes to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wish to attend;
- c) Identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 4.3 of this report;

- d) Note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at the previous meetings, attached as **Appendix B**;
- e) Note that the Forward Work Programme, Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet and any updates from the Committee will be reported to the next meeting of COSC.

Kelly Watson

**Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy**

8 November 2022

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**Background documents:** None.

**Forward Work Programme  
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3:**

**APPENDIX A**

<b><u>Date of Meeting:</u></b>	<b><u>Report Topics:</u></b>
Monday 18 July 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination</li> <li>- Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel</li> <li>- Draft Outline Forward Work Programme</li> </ul>
Monday 26 September 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shared Prosperity Fund</li> <li>- Levelling Up Fund</li> </ul>
Monday 14 November 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Housing / Homelessness Report to include RSL Invitees</b> (Combined meeting of SOSOC 3 and COSOC)</li> </ul>
Monday 12 December 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 and Budget Proposals *</li> <li>- Corporate Joint Committees Regional Responsibilities</li> </ul>
Monday 20 February 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A report upon Porthcawl Regeneration to include Porthcawl Regeneration projects, the PRIF (Porthcawl Resort Investment Focus), Cosy Corner and the Grand Pavilion.</li> </ul>
Monday 17 April 4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy</li> <li>- Local Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>- Future Waste Services Work Streams</li> </ul>
Date to be scheduled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A report upon accessible playground equipment in play areas and access to play areas, parks and playing field pavilions, for the disabled community across the County Borough, and the latest Assessment and Action Plan in accordance with Equalities legislation. (Cross Directorate Report requested, not yet scheduled.)</li> </ul>

\* If the Budget Settlement is received late as in recent years, the scrutiny of the Draft MTFs and Budget Proposals will need to be moved to a meeting date to be convened after Cabinet in January 2023.

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**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3**

**RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
18 July 2022	Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination	Councillor Jonathan Pratt was nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.	Scrutiny / Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy	<b>ACTIONED</b> – Membership of Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee updated and formally reported to Cabinet 19 July 2022.
18 July 2022	Nomination to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Colin Davies was nominated to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.	Scrutiny	<b>ACTIONED</b> – Membership of Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel updated and initial Briefing session arrangements underway.
18 July 2022	Forward Work Programme Update	The Committee requested the following representatives be invited for the following reports scheduled for the September meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the Shared Prosperity Fund report, the appropriate lead Officers.</li> <li>- For the Levelling Up Fund report, the appropriate lead Officers and a representative of Awen Cultural Trust, as management of the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.</li> </ul>	Scrutiny	<b>ACTIONED</b> – Requested Invitees have been invited to attend the September meeting of the Committee.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
26 Sep 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee Recommended that concern is expressed over the risks involved of both insufficient funds to complete the project in addition to achieving the project proposals within the allocated time.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
26 Sep 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee Recommended that further concern is expressed regarding the lack of resources and expertise within the Directorate and its ability to cope with the additional work associated with the project. Members did not agree that it was appropriate to transfer staff from other roles and projects as this would be counterproductive. The Committee also noted that the landscape for Local Authorities applying for funding is changing with timescales being very limited and criteria issued at a late stage in the process, meaning the Authority has a narrow timeframe to develop and formalise substantial bids. The Committee therefore recommended that priority needs to be given to resources within the Communities directorate to ensure that not only is it able to successfully take forward this project, but to ensure that the infrastructures are in place to enable the	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<p>Authority to be best placed to apply and make the most of any future funding opportunities. As well as a strategic plan being developed, Members recommend that potential projects underneath this be drafted so that when the opportunity arises, they already have the basis for the application.</p>		
26 Sep 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	<p>The Committee Recommended that strong concerns are expressed over the poor return that Bridgend County Borough had received in their allocation from the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and the unfairness around the funding mechanism behind this. The Committee therefore agreed to write directly to those within the UK Government responsible for the SPF to highlight the issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The fact that the allocation does not take into account that Bridgend is one of the fastest growing areas in Wales;</li> <li>b) The limited time the Authority has had to both put together proposals and then to utilise the fund and achieve its aims, is unreasonable and potentially puts the project and public funds at risk.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee requested that this letter be copied to both local MPs; Dr Jamie Wallis and Chris Elmore.</p>	Scrutiny / Chair of SOSC 3	Scrutiny requested contact details for the letter and will liaise with Chair of SOSC 3.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
26 Sep 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee requested a copy of any presentation made to the Town and Community Council Forum on Bridgend's Local Investment Plan proposals.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
26 Sep 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee requested further information on how claims will be processed by RCT as the Lead Authority as well as detail on the reporting and accountability process.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
26 Sept 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee requested further detail on the project proposals when available including breakdowns of the funding within each proposal.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.



Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
26 Sep 2022	Shared Prosperity Fund	The Committee requested clarification as to whether there would be clawback on the funds should the outputs as set out in the proposals, not be achieved.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager – Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
26 Sep 2022	Levelling Up Fund	The Committee Recommended similarly to the discussions around the SPF, concern is again expressed over the tight timescales surrounding the applications for the Levelling Up Fund as well as the timescales to complete the projects, particularly if there was no extension allowed. The Penprysg Railway Bridge was particularly at risk due to the level of work that this would involve to complete.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager Planning & Development Services	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
26 Sep 2022	Levelling Up Fund	The Committee Recommended that they strongly supported the work around alternative or temporary arrangements and locations during the interim period of the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl being closed. Particular emphasis, however, was placed on making sure Porthcawl would not lose footfall and revenue. Members	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager Strategic Regeneration	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<p>requested feedback on these plans and mitigating measures when available but furthermore recommended that as part of this work, a feasibility study be undertaken on the potential for a temporary facility being put in place in Porthcawl whilst the Pavilion is closed. The proposal was made to explore the option of utilising the Section 106 aspect of the development contract in relation to mitigate the impact of the building closure on the community.</p>		
26 Sep 2022	Levelling Up Fund	<p>The Committee requested the timeframe for the completion of the Maesteg Town Hall project. Concerns were raised about whether the Town Hall would be completed before the Grand Pavilion closed for redevelopment. Members also requested information on what this meant for Awen revenue.</p>	<p>Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager Strategic Regeneration</p>	<p>Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.</p>
26 Sep 2022	Levelling Up Fund	<p>The Committee requested Further information (including a possible feasibility study requested in the above recommendations) on any proposed temporary facility and alternative arrangements whilst the Pavilion is closed.</p>	<p>Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager Strategic Regeneration</p>	<p>Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.</p>

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
26 Sep 2022	Levelling Up Fund	<p>Concerns were expressed regarding the Penprysg Railway Bridge around funding, completion and the potential impact of heavy traffic in the area. The Committee requested a briefing paper once the project had been approved, illustrating the plans that were to be put in place to monitor and mitigate the impact of traffic on both sides of the proposed bridge. On the subject of parking in Porthcawl linked to redevelopment projects such as the Grand Pavilion and the aim to increase footfall in the area, the Committee were advised of a Parking study that was currently taking place in Porthcawl as part of its Regeneration and Placemaking plans. The Committee requested that they be involved in the development of a Strategic Transport Plan for Porthcawl and that this be added to the Committee's FWP.</p>	Scrutiny / Corporate Director, Communities / Group Manager Planning & Development Services	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.
26 Sep 2022	Forward Work Programme Update	<p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- expressed concern that taxis are only permitted to use the one DVSA accredited MOT station appointed by BCBC and that if the vehicle fails, the fixing work cannot be done there so the vehicle has to be booked in to another garage to get the fixing work</li> </ul>	Scrutiny / Licensing Committee	<p><b>ACTIONED</b> – referred to Chair of Licensing Committee and Bridgend's Licensing Officer. Acknowledgement received that a paper would be brought to the Licensing Committee on this topic.</p>

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
		<p>completed, then rebooked in to the permitted MOT station for an additional fee and a further test, which can result in taxi's being off the road for longer, higher costs and a significant loss of earnings. The garage is also very busy with testing of South Wales Police and BCBC vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- referred to other Local Authorities, e.g. Cardiff allowing the use of any DVSA accredited MOT station which makes things easier for operators and fairer for all DVSA registered MOT stations.</li> <li>- expressed concern about the potential further impact this may be having locally regarding the shortness of availability of taxis in the County Borough generally and particularly later at night.</li> <li>- queried how performance / reliability of taxi's was monitored through licence renewals or otherwise and how the Authority reviews cancellations, late night cancellations, availability after hours and what is being done to enable improvement and a reliable taxi fleet.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee referred the topic to the Licensing Committee for consideration and action.</p>		